



**NEW NAME FOR MAFAS**

Welcome to our new look Arts Society Newsletter and new identity. MAFAS will in future be known as **The ARTS SOCIETY MARINA ALTA** in line with the changes to NADFAS of which we are a member society. At the May Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts (NADFAS), the new name of **The Arts Society** was formally adopted. The change reflects more closely the global network of local Arts Societies. It also communicates more accurately the broad nature of the lecture topics which now incorporate *all* of the arts. The monogram with interlocking A and S communicates the value at the heart of the organisation, that it connects people to the arts and to each other.

**FUTURE EVENTS:**

**OCTOBER ARTS SOCIETY MEETING**

October 5<sup>th</sup> 11.00 (Registration and Coffee from 10.00)

**Paintbrushes at Dawn**, by Barry Venning. Art Historian, OU Lecturer.



The history of art is peppered with first rate bust ups: between the great early Renaissance artists, Brunelleschi and Ghiberti, between Constable and Turner, between Salvador Dali and the Surrealist leader Andre Breton They are highly entertaining but they also tell us a great deal about key issues in art history.

Sponsored by Blevins Franks

**THE ARTS FAIR**

Celebrating Artists of the Marina Alta.

**WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPT**

at El Canor, Cami d'Assagador, Teulada



42 local artists will be exhibiting and selling their work. Come along to celebrate their achievements and enjoy an Arts Society social event

11.00-16.00

10.00-11.00 Private viewing with a glass of cava for Arts Society Members.

**NOVEMBER ARTS SOCIETY MEETING**

Nov 2nd 11.00 (Registration and Coffee from 10.00)

**Gaudi and Barcelona**, by Clyde Binfield, Professor Emeritus of History, University of Sheffield.



This lecture focuses on Antoni Gaudi (1852-1926), an outstandingly creative architect. It begins with Barcelona, exploring the myths which have gathered round Gaudi himself and then it concentrates on his major buildings and his remarkable patrons.

Sponsored by Blevins Franks and Avalon

**SUMMER JOURNALS: PICK UP YOUR COPY OF THE SUMMER JOURNAL AT THE ARTS FAIR**

## ON THE TRAIL OF VALENCIA'S OLD MASTERS

18<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017



Exploring the paintings by Old Masters in the Valencia Museums. Visiting:

- Church and Museum of The Patriarca, part of the Corpus Christie Royal College.
- Cathedral of the Holy Chalice and its Museum
- Museo de Bellas Artes

This trip is full but apply to be put on the waiting list to [javeajames@gmail.com](mailto:javeajames@gmail.com)

## FLORENCE TRIP

17 to 22 March 2018.



27 of the 30 places have been taken up for the Florence Trip. The cost per person for 2 people sharing a Classic double room in the 4 star hotel, 3 days entrances and guiding, two group meals and estimated cost of Ryan Air flights Valencia/Pisa plus connecting coach transport is 900€.

The 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 illustrated lecture "Highlights of Florence" will be an interesting introduction to our trip.

If you would like to know more about the trip contact Tony Cabban on 620 412 384 or email: [tonycherry.cabban@gmail.com](mailto:tonycherry.cabban@gmail.com)

## PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES:

### ROMANCING THE RAILS: THE GOLDEN AGE OF RAILWAY POSTERS.



On the 6th of April Charles Harris, an experienced and very amusing speaker, gave an interesting talk on one area of his specialist topic, Posters. He covered the era of 1923 -1947. This corresponded to the development of five new regional railway companies, all anxious to promote an individual identity, and attract new customers to their parts of the UK for pleasure trips and holidays, a very new concept in this era of burgeoning free time and exploration by the working communities. They had large advertising budgets and big ideas, indeed one company went so far as to commission Royal Academicians to paint a series of stunning landscapes of their area. These were evocative images and true works of art. Taking us through the concept of poster design: colour, themes and fonts, Mr Harris brought the topic to lively and often humorous life with many illustrations of this pivotal period in British social life.

Hilary Renson

## THE BENLLIURE FAMILY TRAIL

On 27<sup>th</sup> April a group from MAFAS, the Marina Alta Fine Arts Society, visited Valencia on the trail of the Benlliure Family. Jose Benlliure Gill was born in 1855 in a fishing village near Valencia and was a painter. His brother Mariano born in 1862 was a sculptor, while Jose's son Peppino was a painter in his father's footsteps. The family lived in what then was a newer part of the city near the river. In 1957 Jose's daughter Maria donated the house to the City Council for a museum dedicated to her father and brother. It was at this museum that the MAFAS group started its journey. On the ground floor we



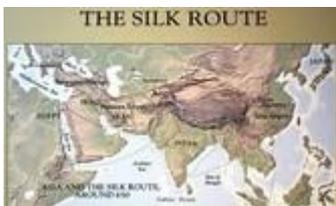
viewed the family living space fully furnished from the mid-19th century. On the walls were family portraits and those of friends like Sorolla. The first floor is devoted to the works of Jose and the second to Pepino. There are also works by Mariano. Across the courtyard of box hedges and walls decorated by mosaics we came to Jose's studio, a magnificent tranquil area where the painter could devote time to his work.

After this experience we had coffee and a visit to the nearby Carmen centre and outside in the square a beautiful bronze fountain memorial to Mariano from one of his own moulds, before going through the small streets of the old town to the Palau de La Generalitat. This is an important building which is the office and headquarters of the Valencia Comunidad President. It is not normally open to the public, but we were privileged and lucky that it was not being used for receiving important visitors to the city. All the walls are covered in marvellous historical paintings, but for us the main attraction was to see the huge bronze sculpture by Mariano of Dante's Inferno, crafted into a fireplace which represented the fires of hell. On to the Belles Artes, the Valencia Fine Arts Museum and lunch was deservedly next followed by a look into the Mariano gallery, full of sculptures of Kings and Queens and important members of the city and a very striking statue of Eugenie, Queen Victoria's granddaughter on a horse. Also a very impressive mausoleum crafted in memory of Valencia's favourite 18th century writer Blasco Ibanez. The weather was not good, but it could have been worse, and everyone seemed to enjoy the trip nevertheless.



James Hodgkinson

## TREASURES OF THE SILK ROAD.



On May 4th Christopher Bradley taught the audience a great deal about the logistics and history of the Silk Road, the route from Xian in China to the ports of Syria and on to Venice. Indeed the first fact was that there are many routes, depending on prevailing climate, season and politics. A sea route predated it by 1000 years, but a land route offered safety from the pirate attacks that caused so much loss of merchandise and life. The two years that it took to traverse was rarely undertaken by one merchant, goods being sold and resold along the way. The land route ceased to be used in the 16C, but prior to that was a superhighway for knowledge, language, religion and arts and crafts passing in both directions. The route holds a fantastic historical record in architecture and art and artefacts, and in the last 20 years is opening again for tourists. A fascinating taste of a huge subject, and one wishes there had been more time for illustrations, maybe next time.

Hilary Renson