

The ARTS & CRAFTS MOVEMENT in Surrey

ISSUE 1

E-NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021



Chairman's Editorial by Carolyn Smith

Welcome to the new e-newsletter. I hope that this new format for the Society's regular mailings will continue to keep you updated. I am very pleased to report that our events programme has re-started with a visit in May to Weirs Barn when the weather chose to be kind. The 25th anniversary of the Society at Goddards, which for so many years has been the base for our Study Days, was enjoyed by all. Twenty four members returned the Members' Survey with a range of views which helps us in planning. Thank you very much to all those who replied. Work is continuing apace on the new website. Currently, pages of the ACMS former website are being converted to WordPress. After a period of testing, we plan to launch the new website by the Autumn.

This month, I am pleased to feature an article written by Diane Crouch and would very much welcome further contributions. I have been researching William Morris for a future article and found an interesting, if overlong, piece about whether or not Morris wallpapers contained arsenic. <https://johnballblog.wordpress.com/william-morris-and-arsenic/> Worth a look.



Forthcoming events for 2023

15th June 2021 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Visit to: *Vann, Hambledon, Surrey.*

15th September. 2.30pm – 5.00pm. Visit to: *Gravetye Manor, West Hoathly, Sussex*

18th August. A Trio of Sussex Churches

5th December. Christmas lunch at The Elvetham



Chairman's Speech at 25th Anniversary Celebration by Carolyn Smith

I would like to begin by thanking you all for coming and particularly to thank all those who have sat on our various committees over the years. Denise Todd, Brian John, Sarah Sullivan,

John Surrey and Charles Gillespie are the mainstays of the society now but in the past Peter Andrews, Martin Taplin and Richard Hennessy also contributed for many years. We are pleased to welcome Olive Maggs to the events committee. Of course, special thanks are due to Denise who has been with the Society since its outset. Today I would like to recognise one role of her many over the years and present her with some flowers to thank her for Acting as membership secretary for eleven years.

I joined the Society back in 2004 on the recommendation of Jane Balfour. I had been attending one of her courses on Edwardian gardens and Gertrude Jekyll. My first ACMS event was a study day at Goddards on the subject of Oliver Hill and I was hooked. My second was to Munstead Wood with the much missed Michael Edwards. Since then, I have been to countless lectures and events which gave me a very welcome break from children at first. Eventually, I bowed to the inevitable and joined the Events Committee in 2012. I arranged the Tour of Liverpool with Denise a year later. Little did I know that in 2019, I would unexpectedly find myself as Acting Chairman and now Chairman.

Highlights for me have been all the tours on which we have a lot of fun and see a whole range of interesting Arts and Crafts sites. How glad I am that we visited Glasgow before the School of Art burnt for the second time and Hill House was put into a glass box.

I am the sixth Chairman of ACMS after John George, Ian Hamerton, Desna Greenhow, Jo Evans and Nigel Barker Mills. Whilst, I may not have the specialist knowledge of my predecessors, I am prepared to be much more hands on and to direct the Society towards a future which had been looking increasingly shaky. We are very aware of the age demographic of the Society and the need to engage with a younger audience. Through Zoom lectures we are able to reach out countrywide and have had attendees that would not have been possible in Guildford. Our need to embrace new technology has been recognised and Denise has been working with a firm called BYTEGUARD on a new website. This will allow for online bookings and purchase of our publications. The old website has been in abeyance but people have still been able to contact us about membership and enquiries. We have recently answered queries about arts and crafts fireplaces and assisted residents of Ockham asking for help with their village hall. This is an Arts and Crafts building which has now been sold. Like many Village Halls of the turn of the century, these are increasingly seen as out of date. Rather than renovate them, so called Trustees are lured by the promise of grants and seek their replacement. Sarah Sullivan will be giving a talk about these at the Arbuthnot Hall in October. Ockham Village Hall is but one example of the many planning issues that ACMS have been involved in over the years.

I would like to thank everyone who returned the Membership Survey. A wide range of views was expressed about why people joined the society and what is important to them. I know that some people have enjoyed the monthly mailings sent out over the last year. Like

many societies this will now take the form of an e-newsletter in pdf format. However, I can assure you that for the foreseeable future, the printed newsletter will continue and the latest is in its final stages of preparation. Please do submit your articles!

Last January, I reported the death of Russell Clapshaw who owned Norney in Shackleford. He memorably once told me that he would have liked to have been an Edwardian. I said 'no you wouldn't as you would have had the First World War to come.' However, I understood what he was getting at.

I recently realised that I had lost my copy of Saki's short stories. After a lot of searching, I sent off for a second hand copy as it contains one of my favourite short stories. The life of Henry Hector Munro, who used the pen name 'Saki', spans much of the Arts and Crafts period. Born in Burma in 1870, he was killed by a sniper's bullet in 1916 during the Battle of Ancre.

Saki's mother sadly died when he was two after being charged by a cow. He was brought up at Broadgate villa in Pilton near Barnstaple by his grandmother and two maiden aunts. The villa was not arts and crafts but Georgian with two side wings. The main house had a plant-entwined verandah on two floors which took away the light from inside the building.

Saki's writing career began as a journalist in 1896 when he became a political satirist and began writing short stories which satirised late Victorian and Edwardian society. Saki drew upon his childhood for a number of these.

I heard the story 'The Lumber Room', as a child on holiday, sitting in the car because of the usual pouring rain, listening to the radio. I have never forgotten it. In this story, a small boy is forbidden from visiting the seaside by his aunt because he had put a frog in his bowl of bread and milk. Whilst his siblings go off to the beach, his aunt is determined that he should not go into the gooseberry garden. He has no intention of doing so. His aim is to sneak into the Lumber Room and examine the unimaginable trove of riches to be found there. His aunt, however, spends the afternoon on self-imposed sentry duty in the fruit garden until she accidentally slips into the rainwater tank whilst looking for him. Here she stays until rescued by a kitchen maid. The siblings have had a very unsuccessful day by the sea but the boy.....

Arts and crafts covers so much – architecture, gardens, textiles, paintings, ceramics, silver and we are all drawn to the subject for many different reasons. However, for me, I am always in search of a feeling of the past embodied in the work of the Arts and Crafts artists. 'The Lumber Room', with its depiction of an Edwardian childhood, evokes exactly this feeling. As does Goddards, where it is easy to imagine the ladies of small means enjoying their holiday. I hope that you too are all able, through the Society, to conjure up this same feel for the past and the Arts and Crafts period.

Thank you. I will now cut the cake and we will toast the future of the Society. 'To the next twenty-five years'.



A Chance Find in London 2020 by Diane Crouch

As I emerge from Tower Hill Underground Station, I notice opposite a walled garden. I could see that gardeners were planting up a bed and so I go over to have a look. From a plaque in the garden it becomes apparent that the garden is part of a memorial site commemorating men and women's lives lost at sea during the World Wars.

Suddenly everyone stands still, I look at my watch - it is 11 o'clock on the 11th day of the 11th month. Then a bugler starts playing the "Last Post". It was a very poignant moment for me as, in April 2020, I had lost my brother who had been in the navy, was a silver bugler with the Guildford Sea Cadets Band and one year played at the Royal Tournament.

Sometimes fate seems to have a hand in putting one in a place at the right time – **The Tower Hill Memorial**. This is a pair of Commonwealth War Graves Commission memorials in Trinity Square, on Tower Hill in London, England. The memorials, one for the First World War and one for the Second, commemorate civilian merchant sailors and fishermen who were killed as a result of enemy action and have no known grave.

The first memorial, the one that I visited on this chance trip to London, is the **Mercantile Marine War Memorial**, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and unveiled in 1928; the second, the **Merchant Seamen's Memorial**, was designed by Sir Edward Maufe and unveiled in 1955. A third memorial, commemorating merchant sailors killed in the 1982 Falklands War, was added to the site in 2005. The **Mercantile Marine War Memorial**,



The Mercantile Marine Memorial

of interest to Arts and Crafts members, was commissioned in light of the heavy losses sustained by merchant shipping in the First World War—more than 17,000 lives were lost and some 3,300 British and Empire-registered commercial vessels sunk as a result of enemy action. The Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC) commissioned Lutyens, who initially designed a massive arch on the banks of the River Thames but this was rejected by the authorities, to Lutyens' disdain. A compromise was struck, as a result of which the memorial was constructed in Trinity Square Gardens on Tower Hill, a site further from the river but with a long maritime history. The site was Crown land, meaning a special Act of Parliament was required to allow the construction. Queen Mary unveiled the memorial on 12 December 1928 at a ceremony broadcast live on the radio, her first use of the medium.

The memorial is a vaulted corridor reminiscent of a Doric temple and similar to Lutyens' structures in cemeteries on the Western Front. The walls are clad with bronze panels which bear the names of the missing. The memorials to the world wars are listed buildings—the Mercantile Marine Memorial is grade I and part of a national collection of Lutyens' war memorials.

First World War *TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND TO THE HONOUR OF THE MERCHANT NAVY AND FISHING FLEETS WHO HAVE NO GRAVE BUT THE SEA.*



Property for Sale

Harry Inigo Triggs and W.F.Unsworth designed Sparsholt Manor in Hampshire in 1922-23. The Arts and Crafts gardens are a particular feature and pick up the theme of Carolyn Smith's forthcoming lecture on the influence of the Italian Renaissance on Arts and Crafts gardens. Postponed from the start of the first lockdown, this lecture will be given in November.

<https://www.knightfrank.co.uk/properties/residential/for-sale/sparsholt-winchester-hampshire-so21/WIN170083> Use the links to download the brochures.

Barry Parker designed Clock House, Cowfold, West Sussex in 1913.

<https://www.hamptons.co.uk/for-sale/property/8-bedroom-detached-house-cowfold-rh13-ref-5467441/> Five Ashes, Mayfield, East Sussex was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1926-7.

<https://search.savills.com/property-detail/gbtwrstus210017>



Other organisations – Events of interest.

The William Morris Society

Coffee with a curator. The monthly half hour talks continue. The latest two were on MacDonald, Ruskin, Morris and The Retreat followed by The Gardens of William Morris.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHZuRzQyET7l2Wm1YROYUoA> No charge.

The Lutyens Trust

The latest webinars from the Lutyens Trust America feature Lutyens's work in New Delhi and A Homage to the Salutation.

<https://lutyenstrustamerica.com/about/webinars/> No charge.

Maison & Atelier Horta, Brussels

Read about this wonderful museum in the June edition of *Apollo Magazine*.

https://www.apollo-magazine.com/victor-horta-brussels/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=APMU%20%2020210622%20%20AL&utm_content=APMU%20%2020210622

Court Barn Museum, Chipping Camden

Exhibition: 'Pioneers: 101 years of the Leach Pottery'. 10 July – 25 September 2021

As always, we would welcome any ideas for events, visits and lectures that you would like to propose to the Events Committee and any news or articles that you might like to submit for the Society e-newsletter or printed newsletter. Also, if you are aware of any planning applications relating to Arts and Crafts buildings in Surrey we should be pleased if you would bring them to our attention.

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