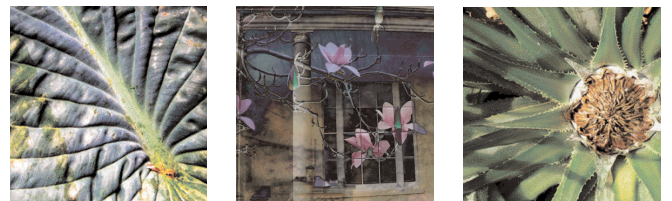




SW Area Chairman **Michael Jeans-Jakobsson** offers an insight into the tireless efforts of the Area's local Societies to generate wider interest in the work of NADFAS in all parts of the community



South West Area widens its reach

Above: Nina Giles with judges (l-r) Martin Thomas, FRSA; Nick Bibby; Ruth Lewis and Gri Harrison **Inset:** Work by (l-r) Katie Andrew; Phoebe James; Alex Ward (one of the finalists)



Approaching the end of my three years as Area Chairman prompts me to reflect on what I have tried to achieve. The job involves a great deal of detailed work and I have enjoyed it enormously. The regular meetings in London and the considerable amount of administration are more enjoyable than you might imagine, but the real work lies in visiting Societies to meet members and in organising activities in the Area. Three aspects I was keen to concentrate on were to encourage the formation of new Societies, to increase interest in Area meetings and to raise the profile of the South West.

We had a number of places in our Area with no nearby Society, so it was a real thrill to have two Societies emerge in Penzance and Okehampton, with the possibility of a third very shortly.

Our Area meetings tended to be rather exclusive with concentration on business and procedures. To address this, we have tried to widen the scope by inviting up to four members rather than just the Chairmen. We have also endeavoured to reduce the business side to increase opportunities for discussion and to have presentations that boost interest. We have had

Below: Janet Jopson (far left) next to Michael Jeans-Jakobsson, is pictured with other NADFAS members, local dignitaries and student Inez Williams at the launch of the Terrice exhibition

Below left: NADFAS Chairman of Young Arts Denise Topolski (centre), who stands between The Duke of Somerset and Phoebe James, joins local students at the Greenway exhibition launch

some great displays by our Heritage Volunteers, Church Recorders and Young Arts organisers and a much broader range of speakers. Our excellent venue provides a first-class buffet at a reasonable price and we don't charge for attendance.

Finally, following the outstanding Antiques Show organised by my predecessor, I am delighted that we have bid successfully for the next 'out of town' National AGM in 2014 at Torquay.

CONNECTING WITH THE YOUNGER GENERATION

A key Young Arts project for South West Area over the last 12 months has been a photography and art competition for A-Level students across Cornwall, Devon and Somerset in partnership with the National Trust. The project, headed up by SW Area YA organiser Janet Jopson and ably assisted by Angela Gilbert, was a NADFAS initiative that saw shortlisted entries exhibited within National Trust venues.

In October 2010, over 100 schools in the area were sent a poster and leaflet by the Young Arts team, which called for entries that had been

inspired by a visit to a National Trust property or grounds and that fulfilled the title of the competition: *Detail and Embellishment*.

From the vast number of entries, 25 finalists were selected to attend a judging day at Buckland Abbey, near Yelverton, on 2 September. The judges, who included Richard Austin, photographer; Jeff Meyers, the editor of Photography Monthly, Martin Thomas from the National Trust regional committee and art world and Gri Harrison, National Chairman of NADFAS, named Phoebe James from Churston Grammar School overall winner in the Photographic Section for her image inspired by Greenway. The runner up was Katie Andrew, a student from Newquay Tretherras with her photographic detail of a plant from Trellissick. In the Fine Art category, Nina Giles and Lizzie Beresford, both from Bridgwater College, were named winner and runner-up respectively for work that had been inspired by a visit to Barrington Court.

For Giles, taking part in the competition had a great impact on her approach to art. She commented: "NADFAS has given me a much greater insight into the world of the arts. This competition has made me realise that I can submit my own style of work rather than merely trying to anticipate what will be liked by judges, which has given me a lot more faith in my own artwork."

Following finals day, an exhibition of the outstanding 25 short-listed entries travelled to three National Trust properties in the South West – Terrice, near Newquay, Greenway near Dartmouth and Killerton House, near Exeter – throughout the autumn. The exhibition attracted a lot of coverage in the local press, which in turn was an excellent tool for generating coverage of NADFAS and its work within the arts.

The project has been received with great enthusiasm and many of the schools involved are already hoping for another instalment. Bridgwater's Head of Art, Mark Bunce, said: "The students are really delighted to be involved – they keep asking when the next competition will be!"

We welcome updates from members who would like to share details of exciting projects and initiatives that have been taking place in their Area. Please email nadfasreview@nadfas.org.uk

