*Dear Friends,*

*I hope you had a pleasant Christmas season and are well embarked on the New Year.  It will be full of interest for the Friends as it will mark the centenary of the opening of the Gallery in July 1913 and the centenary of the death of Sir Alfred East in September 1913.  The Friends will be supporting the Kettering Borough Council in celebrating this* ***Double Centenary,*** *and I hope you will also support the events. They include –*

*16 May –  evening talk to the Friends on Charles Holme and Arthur Liberty who travelled to Japan with AE in 1889*

*20 June – evening talk to the Friends on the work of the architect JA Gotch, who designed the Alfred east gallery.*

*18 July – evening talk on AE by Paul Johnson to the Friends*

*31 July – Start of Centenary Exhibition at the AE Gallery, replicating the original 1913 exhibition which was opened by Earl Spencer. The works he donated to Kettering will be rehung in their original positions*

*10 August – Victorian Society of London visit to the AE Gallery and other buildings designed by JA Gotch, with a tour led by Dr Roy Hargrave*

*19 September – evening talk to the Friends on the history and work of the Kettering & District Art Society (KDAS)*

*28 September – the centenary of AE’s death; close of Centenary exhibition.*

*There will also be talks and exhibitions on Alfred East in other locations around Britain, including in July a display of his works in Northampton Museum & Art Gallery and a talk.*

*East’s paintings are also being prominently displayed in other places associated with the artist and on various websites. Further information is available on our website at* [*www.friendskagam.org*](http://www.friendskagam.org/)*.*

*The Friends, through a generous donation from a descendant of Alfred East, are assisting the Council in the production of a new catalogue for the Gallery and in restoration of some of the pictures. A Sunlit Haven is crossing the Atlantic for an exhibition by the Yale Center for British Art.*

*You will no doubt have seen the* ***new signage*** *for the gallery. I am happy to be able to tell you that a similar project is currently being worked up for the museum, and you can expect to see colourful new signage for the museum quite soon. We hope later to be able to assist the Council in extending signage to the station precinct, the market place and  the Newlands shopping centre.*

*We have continued to develop the* ***website,*** *which is becoming a significant way of publicising the Friends, and thus the Museum and Art Gallery. There is now also a Facebook and a Blog page where you can make comments and relate to other users. It is proving very popular and I do urge you to have a look; if you do not have a computer, you can go online at the library. The website has links to several other arts and history-related organisations, in particular a page devoted to the life and work of Sir Alfred East. The website and social media are still being developed and we would be glad to have your comments on them.*

*We continue to try to provide additional services for Friends. One of them is the discounts that you can now obtain form several stores in Kettering.  If you are not aware of them, please contact me or our secretary, Barbara Lewis.  Also, if you are not receiving ‘****What’s On’*** *by e-mail, you should contact the Council to put you on the e-mail list.  We will, however, continue to mail ‘What’s On’ and other items to members who do not have e-mail.*

*Renewals or new membership subscriptions can now be accepted at any time and last for 12 months from the date of joining or renewal.*

*We would also welcome corporate sponsorship for activities and events. If you know of any company or organisation that would be interested, please let us know.*

***Evening talks***

*We had a nice outing to Newton-le-Willows in the summer and we had some very interesting talks last autumn.*

·*In September, Michael Harrison took us on an internet tour of the 1851 Great*

*Exhibition which he has been commissioned to create. He will repeat a shortened version of the talk at the AGM on 18th April.*

·*In October Phil Steele looked at the geography of some of the major local*

*battlefields, and displayed model soldier versions of Bosworth and Naseby.*

·*In  November Carol East talked about Stumpwork, a traditional style of*

[*embroidery*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Embroidery)*, and showed examples of her work.*

***The programme of talks to September 2013   is as follows.***

*All talks start at 7.30 in the  Alfred East gallery. They are free to members, but non-members pay £3.*

*17 January 2013 -* ***TO CAMBRIDGE FROM KETTERING BY MIDLAND RAILWAY***

*Robin Cullup, a rail enthusiast and historian, will imagine for us a journey on the old Midland railway line that ran from Kettering to Cambridge.*

*21 February 2013 -* ***DEENE PARK – PAST AND PRESENT***

*Kelley Holland, the Administrator at Deene Park, will talk about this historic house*

*and some of its famous occupants.*

*21 March 2013 -* ***ARTHUR BELL, RWA – SON AND ARTIST OF KETTERING***

*David Boswell, an art historian, will talk about Arthur Bell, pupil of Walter Bonner Gash who was born in Kettering and attained distinction as a water colourist.*

*18 April 2013 –* ***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

*This will* ***start at 7.15*** *to allow time for the formal business. It will be chaired by our President, Philip Hollobone MP, and will be followed by a ‘virtual tour’ of the Great Exhibition of 1851. There might also be another special presentation, so do come along.*

*16 May 2013 -* ***THE SETTE OF ODD VOLUMES***

*Toni Huberman and Horace Liberty, descendants of Charles Holme and Arthur Liberty who travelled to Japan with Alfred East in 1889, will talk about the cultivated circle of friends that East was involved in.*

*20 June 2013 -* ***JOHN ALFRED GOTCH – KETTERING ARCHITECT***

*Dr Roy Hargrave  will talk on the work of JA Gotch, contemporary and friend of Alfred East, first provincial President of the RIBA and designer of the AE Gallery.*

*18 July 2013 -* ***THE LIFE AND WORK OF ALFRED EAST***

*Paul Johnson, a descendant by marriage of Alfred East, will talk on the life and work of East and his contribution to late Victorian art.*

*19 September 2013 -* ***THE HISTORY OF THE KETTERING & DISTRICT ART SOCIETY***

*Ian Luck will talk about the history and work of the Kettering & District Art Society (KDAS) which has been closely connected with the gallery during its existence.*

*You will see that this year we will be continuing the Thursday evening talks through the summer, to celebrate the Centenary. This means that Members get more for their money. Do tell your Friends about the Friends and perhaps bring them along to a talk. There will also be outings and other activities and the Committee and I look forward to your continued support of the Friends in this special year.*

*John F Wilson*

*Chairman  FKAGAM*