



**STRADFAS – a member of The Arts Society
– welcomes new members**

www.stradfas.org.uk

May 2019

Ruth Bartlett, Membership Secretary
1 Wimpstone
Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 8NS
01789 450345

Dear Visitor

I believe you visited STRADFAS in the last couple of years, and wondered if you would like to become a full member(s) at the start of our new year, from September 2019.

Enclosed are the relevant documents for our 2019-2020 season. Joining as a member is cost effective if you come to more than half our meetings, although you are welcome to come as a visitor for as many as you like.

You may already know our basic details, our lecture programme, our Special Interest Days, Visits, Tours, and our Volunteer activities. We are one of the largest societies of The Arts Society, and thus can afford the excellent lectures detailed in our enclosed programme, and our website gives even more information (www.stradfas.org.uk).

Our programme year starts on Thursday September 19th, and our subscription is £45 per person. There is no reduction if you join later in the year. Visitor donations are £7 per lecture.

A membership application form is enclosed, if you wish to join. In any event, I hope that you will look at the programme for the next 12 months and see if anything appeals to you.

Gift Aid (optional)

We encourage our members to Gift Aid their subscriptions, although this is not mandatory! It does not cost you any extra (but it should be declared on your tax returns), and STRADFAS gains a financial advantage. You can only do this IF you are paying enough income tax/capital gains tax to cover the 'Gift Aid' part of your subscription. For 2019 subscriptions you will need to pay at least **£45.00** in tax, in the tax year 2019-2020.

There are some explanatory notes on the back of this letter, and a **separate Gift Aid form is enclosed. If a couple both wish to gift-aid, each needs to complete one of the boxes on the form.**

If you wish to join us, I look forward to receiving your completed form.

Best wishes,
Ruth Bartlett, Membership Secretary
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(Rev. 2019/1)

Enc: Newsletter, Application Form and Gift Aid Form

PTO for Gift-Aid explanations >

Gift Aid Explanatory notes:

(NB: these are taken from the HMRC and The Arts Society's websites – please look at these if you need to).

a) STRADFAS is a charity. Its charity number is 1177315.

b) Separate forms:

For a **couple** to Gift Aid, you each need to fill in a **separate form (there are two on the enclosed sheet)**. **You only need to fill the form in once**, and we will retain it on your behalf.

c) Payments from a couple: *There are some specific requirements:*

If you are a couple, in order to Gift Aid, **each** must pay sufficient tax. If only **one** of you pays tax, **only that person may Gift Aid**, and only that person fills in a Gift-Aid form.

If you have a **joint bank account**, you can pay both Gift Aid subscriptions from this.

If you have **separate bank accounts**, the subscription **must** be paid **from the individual's own bank account** to qualify for tax relief (i.e. you cannot pay a combined cheque from just one of the accounts).

d) Tax you pay:

You must be paying a sufficient amount of Income tax and/or capital gains tax which is at least equal to the tax that STRADFAS (and any other charity or Community Amateur Sports Club to which you have made a Gift Aid declaration) reclaims on your donations in the tax year. The tax must be income tax and/or capital gains tax: other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. The amount for this year is in our renewal letter (over).

e) Changed circumstances:

If in the future **your circumstances change** and you no longer pay tax on your income and/or capital gains that is equal to the tax that STRADFAS reclaims, **you should cancel your declaration by informing STRADFAS**.

f) Change of name/address:

STRADFAS will notify The Arts Society if you change your name or address. This will be on STRADFAS's annual return to The Arts Society.

g) Higher rate tax:

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code (see HMRC website).

(Rev. 2019/1)