



STRADFAS – a member of The Arts Society

www.stradfas.org.uk



August 2020

Dear STRADFAS Member,

Our new STRADFAS year, from September 2020 to June 2021, starts with our first lecture and AGM on **Thursday, 17th September 2020**. It is yet to be determined whether this will be in person or another Zoom on-line Lecture.

Subscription renewals

In line with our aspiration at the last AGM we plan to keep our subscription to **£45 per member**. Our increased membership, cost reductions and charitable status last year allow us to absorb increases in costs, enhanced charitable giving and slightly higher affiliation fees to the Arts Society. We consider that STRADFAS continues to offer even better value, as last year we added an extra 'bonus' lecture in July so that, after deductions for affiliation fees, our lectures were each delivered for just under £3 per member.

An exciting innovation this year is the introduction of Direct Debit for our members. This is our preferred payment option for its simplicity both for our members and our hard working committee.

The 2020-21 programme details are in our enclosed Newsletter, and our website gives even more information with any updates on our lecture and event programme. www.stradfas.org.uk

Your renewal form is enclosed. It has your information on it that we hold on our database – **you only need to enter any changes or correct any errors. I would be very grateful for prompt renewals by post.**

Please note that stapling or taping cheques to the form can result in tearing when removing them, and our bank will then reject them.

Please enclose a SAE as, given the current situation, we plan to post out membership cards this year.

Gift Aid amounts

For 2020-21 the criteria for 'gift-aiding' is that you are paying **at least £45.00** on any of Income, Savings & Investment or Capital Gains Tax for the 2020-21 tax year. Other taxes such as VAT do not qualify.

The STRADFAS charity number is 1177315.

A reminder that if you have already given us a Gift Aid form, **we hold this on file, and there is no need to submit another one. If you no longer qualify for Gift Aid, please inform me.** We strongly encourage those who have not 'Gift-Aided' but wish to do so to download it from www.stradfas.org.uk/members-documents or obtain a form from me.

Non-renewals

It is very helpful if you let me know if you are unable to re-join, so we can avoid the expense of sending out unwanted second and third reminders. If you decide to leave, you would be welcome as an occasional visitor with a £7 donation per lecture. But remember that our existing membership will have priority for Days of Special Interest, Day Visits and Extended Tours as well as receiving the excellent quarterly Arts Society magazine.

I look forward to receiving your completed membership renewal form, confirmed as paid by Direct Debit, BACS or alternatively with a cheque enclosed, payable to 'STRADFAS'.

*Best wishes, Jan Dawson Membership Secretary. 35, Vincent Avenue, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 6SR
Email : membership@stradfas.org.uk*

Gift Aid Explanatory notes:

These are taken from the HMRC and The Arts Society websites.

a) STRADFAS:

STRADFAS (a charity) has a Gift Aid scheme.

b) Gift Aid forms are available from STRADFAS, or

download from: www.stradfas.org.uk/members-documents/

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:

For a **couple** to Gift Aid, you each need to fill in a **separate form** (there are two forms on our A4 sheet).

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 current 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 on your renewal form.**

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. 2020/8)