



Mosaic that was the subject of a lecture

coverage of various topics, and visits are arranged to historic houses, museums and galleries, as well as other places of interest. There are some 240 members paying a membership fee of £40 per annum.

"We run from September through to June with lectures given on every 3rd Tuesday. Topics for the coming season vary from Heath Robinson, Western Bookbinding, Jewellery featured from Downton to Gatsby, the Borgias and much more," said Glenda. "The committee meets four times a year and our programme of lectures and visits is planned a year in advance. We are always looking for new members, but at the same time we are restricted to having a maximum of 300, as that is the capacity limit for the Guildhall's lecture theatre."

"As for places to visit, the UK is full of history, be it churches, family estates, castles and homes of the landed gentry, and so forth. In September this year, we have a day visit to Burton Agnes Hall and Gardens, near Driffield in Yorkshire, and in October we will be holding a Specialist Day on Music in Art, exploring this from the Middle Ages to the 18th century, with live demonstrations of ancient instruments. Then in

November, there will be a lecture on the Duke of Buckingham, the most handsome man in 17th century Europe and his patronage of the Arts," Glenda explained.

Aside from lectures, Specialist Days and visits, The Arts Society provides expertise and grants in support of Arts Volunteering. Previous school-based projects supported by TASG have included a visit to The Hub in Sleaford to learn about the design and construction of mosaics, wire culture, and a visit to Lincoln by a school party to view the Magna Carta and participate in workshops to learn skills involved in the production of this historic document; paper-making, the creating of seals and calligraphy. There have been art competitions involving several Grantham schools and a visit to a local archaeological site to view the treasures discovered there. Heritage volunteering projects have also been piloted by TASG, such as a small group of talented, experienced needlewomen who, under the direction of Mary Sleigh, the Lincoln Diocesan Church textile advisor, completed non-invasive work on altar cloths,

frontals, copes and vestments at St Wulfram's Church, Grantham. Also, work on the archives at this church together with a rocking horse project in Grantham House. Currently, a TASG book conservation team is working with other societies at the National Civil War Centre in Newark. And, finally, The Arts Society throughout the UK sponsors History Trails which are community-run, for example, TASG has in recent years supported trails in Colsterworth and Croxton Kerrial.

TASG has "moved with the times", with the subject coverage of their offerings including not just paintings, crafts, porcelain, architecture and gardens, but also the changing social context of art over the centuries. This includes street art, the



An ancient arch in Lincoln

contribution of women artists and the Asian and African sources of art. The main objective is to enhance the membership's appreciation of our artistic and cultural heritage, both national and international, in lively company of others with similar interests.

Thank you, Glenda, for giving me an inside view of The Arts Society Grantham.

**For further information and details do visit its website:
www.theartsocietygrantham.org.uk**