

Editorial

Once again ADFAS has been mentioned in dispatches!

In an effort to spread the word about what our society does, your Committee agreed to compile a website* and monitor its effectiveness in attracting new members – those who are familiar with using the internet and who will eventually replace us as active members in the years to come.

The text and pictures were compiled and given to a Web Designer to formulate into an attractive, interesting and usable site. This was completed in February and entered into the NADFAS Media award the following month. We have been informed that our efforts have been **Highly Commended** in the Digital Award category. Indeed, by the time you read this Sally Wykeham will have accepted the award on our behalf at the NADFAS AGM in Liverpool. If you are a regular internet user please have a look and let us know what you think of it – simply “Google” Alton DFAS into your search engine and it should turn up. The actual web address is: -
<http://www.alton-dfas.hampshire.org.uk>

If none of this makes any sense and you are not a regular ‘surfer’ then perhaps a computer-literate grandchild will help. Failing that, a visit to Alton Library, where a member of staff should be able to assist you use a computer, would be a good idea.

**A website is a collection of pages and images that is hosted on one or more web servers, usually accessible via the Internet. All publicly accessible websites are seen collectively as constituting what is generally referred to as the "World Wide Web".*

Visit to Berkshire

Thursday, 18th September 2008.

We will visit Sandham Memorial Chapel (Stanley Spencer paintings) in the morning and then go on to Basildon Park where lunch will be available. We will explore the Palladian house



and view the original studies made by Graham Sutherland for his Coventry Cathedral tapestry, Christ in Glory. In addition, the house featured in the 2005 film adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. Bookings will be taken at the May and June meetings.

For further details please contact Lissa Wilson (01420 543892)

Forthcoming Lectures

10th June

Upstairs and Downstairs - Life in the Victorian and Edwardian Country House
Dr Scott Anderson

This lecture looks at both 'upstairs and downstairs' and reminds us of a world that was to largely disappear in the changing times after World War



One. Life for the servants was not without its benefits and above stairs lack of plumbing and the responsibilities of running an estate could always be forgotten when enjoying a shooting weekend, a fashionable ball or a sumptuous banquet. A wide variety of images will illustrate the various aspects of life in the Victorian and Edwardian Country House.

8th July

10th Anniversary Garden Party and Lecture at Bury Court

Hopefully, you will already have the date of our Anniversary Evening – Tuesday, 8th July in your diary.



Enclosed with this Newsletter is an application for tickets – please complete and return the slip as soon as possible to ensure you are able to attend.

Many of you will be familiar with Bury Court in Bentley so you will know what a delightful venue it is and on a July evening it should make for a memorable event to mark the first ten years of ADFAS. After arriving for 6.30pm, there will be an opportunity for a stroll around the gardens, conversation over canapés and a glass of wine, not to mention some musical entertainment. Around 8pm Lars Tharp, our guest of honour, will talk to us about ‘Life on the Antiques Roadshow’ – a popular television programme which has been often imitated but, in my view, never equalled.

Details of how to find Bury Court, along with a map, are contained in the invitation and your Committee hope you will join with us and make this evening special.

Tony Cross, Chairman

The First Emperor Exhibition

In 246 BC the First Emperor became King of Qin. He was hugely successful in warfare using new technology and military strategy to conquer other states. He governed as one of the world's greatest rulers overseeing many reforms and enforcing strict laws. Part of his legacy has been on display at the British Museum until recently.



The impressive roof of The Great Court at the British Museum looked stunning when we were there.

What is now known as the Terracotta Army was discovered by a farmer in 1974 when he found a clay head whilst digging a well. The 7,000 warriors so far unearthed in China are standing guard at Qin's tomb. We saw a diverse selection displayed in the circular Reading Room in the centre of the Great Court and the first exhibit of an archer demonstrated the amazing detail and individualism of the warriors, even showing his hob-nailed boots. This also was the case in the main display where every face was different and at least six hair styles were apparent. There were two chariots with horses wearing detailed harness, seemingly eager to work. Silhouettes, photographs and film were projected onto the surrounding walls which added to the atmosphere. Additionally, there were display cases with artefacts of the same era and a model showing the labour-intensive method for making the figures and animals.

It was a unique experience to have such a close encounter with the historic warriors from China and was much appreciated by all.

Jenny and Trevor Blaber

Omega & Charleston; Bloomsbury Decorative Arts

Sandra Pollard, a recognised expert on the Bloomsbury Group ran a fascinating study day back in March to a capacity audience at Mill Court by kind permission of Kathy Ogilvie Thompson.

She started her talk by saying that people either liked or loathed the work of the group. It was important, however, to consider their output, and their complicated life style

and relationships in the context of the period in which they lived. They were active in the Edwardian period, when the strictures and standards were still very much Victorian. They were popular up to the Second World War, when their standing declined until the 1980's when there was, and still is a 'Bloomsbury industry'.

They were mostly from the upper middle class with a Cambridge background, and similar values and sense of humour. They comprised, amongst others Vanessa Bell, her sister Virginia Woolfe, Duncan Grant, Dora Carrington, Lytton Strachey and E M Forster.

Roger Fry was also a very important member who alone made the British public re-think their art appreciation through an exhibition in 1910 at the Grafton Gallery which showed post-impressionist painters. This was followed by a second in 1912. It is important to realise that until this exhibition Victorian narrative paintings was the norm for the great majority of the British public.

Roger Fry started the Omega Gallery in Fitzroy Square which ran from 1913. This enabled artists of every discipline to show their work anonymously, earn some money and continue painting or designing. It never made much money and closed in 1919. Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell were leading Interior Designers between the wars, and here again their style was completely different from the run of the mill design to which most people were exposed.

After the First World War they rented Charleston in Sussex, firstly as a holiday house and then as a permanent home for Vanessa & Clive Bell, and Duncan Grant. Throughout the following two decades there were many visitors on a regular basis such as John Maynard Keynes, E M Forster and Lytton Strachey. Duncan Grant continued living there until he was 93. It was very run down and has now been expertly restored by a Trust which has placed the house in the 50s. It was a source of inspiration for many of the painters, and every surface in the house was painted or decorated.

Robin Smeeton



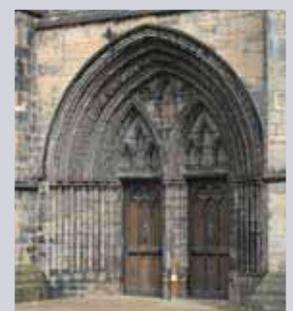
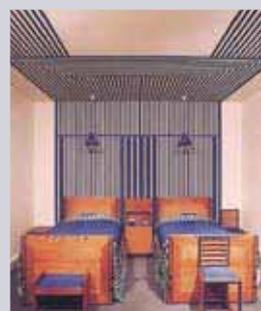
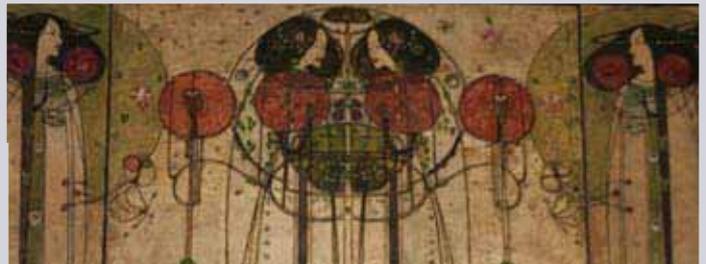
Glasgow

On the premise that a picture is worth a thousand words, the arrangement of images below aims to give an impression of the experiences of the group over the long weekend last month. Calling at The Bowes Museum in Co. Durham on the way up, we touring Glasgow taking in the Cathedral, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, The Hunterian Art Gallery, The Burrell Collection and Stirling Castle. Individuals also looked at the Transport Museum and the famous Willow Tree Rooms. Some retail therapy also took place.

There was much more to see and do and some people talked of returning for a longer stay. The drive back was broken by a visit to the delightful Rufford Old Hall in Lancashire. Thanks are due to Lissa who co-ordinated the visits and who was lobbied for a similar trip next year – the North East was mentioned – so watch this space.

Mention should be made of Ray, our most able driver, who managed to get us around the one-way system in the city and the motorway system around Glasgow – not to mention getting us there and back safely – particularly appreciated after two accidents we passed on the M6.

Tony Cross



Froyle vestment update

The Froyle Textile Conservation Group is caring for and raising money to conserve a unique collection of European Church Vestments which are exquisitely embroidered in silk, gold and silver work, or with semi precious stones and date back to as early as the 16th Century. Some are still worn with great pride by our vicar for church services.



We are absolutely thrilled that our application to the Awards for All Lottery Fund has been successful and we have been awarded £10,000 to promote our collection by housing a display cabinet in St Mary's, Upper Froyle.

The chasuble of the white and gold set of French vestments of 1770, that we are aiming to restore.

We shall have a rolling display of our vestments that will reflect the different 'seasons' of the church, along with explanations of the reason for these colours and information on the individual items that are on view.

By publicising this we aim to raise awareness of this fantastic collection and so encourage people to visit our church, our village, and hopefully support us in fund raising for our target of £20,000 to have an extremely frail set of white and gold vestments which are beautifully embroidered in silver and gold thread, conserved so that they may be worn again on high days and holidays.

Once again we will be holding an exhibition of a number of our wonderful items on Saturday, 31st May and Sunday, 1st June from 2pm- 6pm, along with Open Gardens under the NGS scheme and teas in the village hall. If you would like any more information on our unique collection - we do enjoy showing our treasures to private groups - don't hesitate to contact us.

Linda Bulpitt - 01420 22725

Egypt at O2

On a bright but chilly day back in February, we set off for the O2 bubble in Greenwich expecting the journey to take hours, and were pleasantly surprised that it didn't.



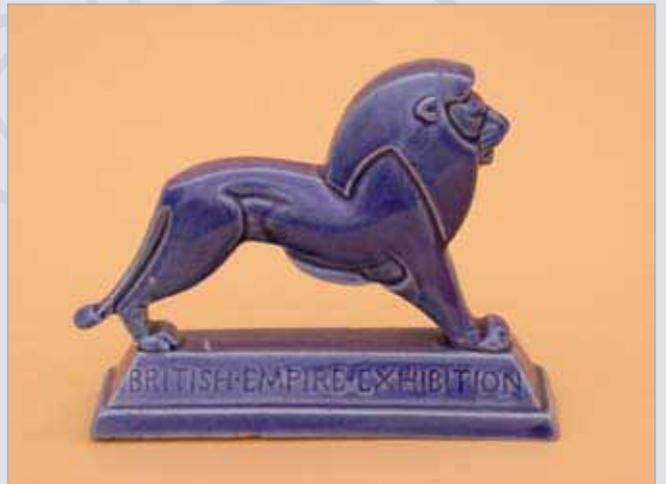
It was the first time the treasures of Tutankhamun have visited London in over 30 years comprising an extensive exhibition of more than 130 artefacts from the tomb of the celebrated Pharaoh and other Valley of the Kings ancestors.

The exhibition was riveting with details of life in ancient Egypt at the time of the young King Tutankhamen displayed and explained with great clarity. Extraordinary objects from the tomb were on display – made of pottery, gold, glass, stone, wood and semi-precious stones they were in the most remarkable condition. Many items such as furniture and household objects were totally unscathed having been entombed for over 3500 years.

Interestingly, London is the only European city to host the treasures and the show runs until the end of August although it seems to be quite difficult to obtain tickets.

Susie Grandfield

A souvenir of the British Empire Exhibition of 1924



Amidst the nostalgia for the old Wembley Stadium few are aware that it was originally the centrepiece to a vast international exhibition intended to bring together and strengthen the bonds between all the countries of the British Empire. The site chosen was then a golf course, but had seen various uses, including the first 200 feet of a projected 1,150 foot tower to rival Monsieur Eiffel's in Paris. However, when it opened in 1924 The British Empire Exhibition was to include over fifty pavilions and exhibits from more than forty nations.

The symbol of the Exhibition was a lion. There were a number of different styles, but the most common was this, designed by a little known artist, F C Herrick. It appears here as a pottery souvenir made by Ashstead Potters Ltd. in Surrey. An artist who worked more often for Ashstead was Percy Metcalfe, who designed a similar, for some reason more celebrated, crouching lion, often identified as the 'official' Exhibition symbol.

Ashstead Potters and the British Empire Exhibition were both created in response to the First World War. Ashstead to provide work for wounded ex-servicemen; the Exhibition to bolster an Empire made hard to govern by growing independence movements and Britain's post-war exhaustion. Sadly neither was totally successful. The Empire survived another war before being substantially lost, but Ashstead closed during the depression of the 1930s.

Some of the buildings of the British Empire Exhibition remained for many years, including the British Government Pavilion, which was demolished in 1973, as well, of course, as Wembley Stadium itself. Now the original Stadium too is no more, demolished in 2002. It could be said that this is when souvenirs come into their own; providing a channel to something distant or inaccessible, strangely unaffected when the actual thing or event reaches its end.

Neil Hyman
Hampshire Museums