

A Seasonal Thank You



Chawton House

Our Heritage Volunteers were amongst those invited to a special evening at Chawton House just before Christmas to thank volunteers for their efforts over the past year at the home to early English women's writing.

Stephen Lawrence, Chief Executive of Chawton House Library, received guests, who were entertained to drinks and canapés in the main hall. Decorated for the occasion with a splendid Christmas tree, and with a warming log fire, the room made the perfect venue for this seasonal gathering. It promises to be a busy year in Chawton as 2009 marks the bicentenary of the arrival of Jane Austen in Chawton.

Since its foundation, ADFAS has provided practical support for a number of venues and Chawton House Library certainly seems to have captivated many of our members prepared to give of their time to help this most worthy project.

If you have a little time on your hands and would also like to be involved here, with the textiles at Froyle church or with the Military Museums in Winchester, please contact our Heritage Volunteer Co-ordinator, Rosie Sirl (01420 543188).

Special Interest Day



12,000 years of Japanese Art with Marie-Therese Barnett

Monday, 16th March 2009

Mill Court, near Upper Froyle, GU34 4JF

This rather special day promises to be of great interest as we will be looking at the earliest ceramic culture in the world (10,000 BC). Topics will include:- masterpieces of Buddhist Art and Treasures of the Silk Road; Refinement in Courty Arts; Simplicity in the Arts of Zen from the 9th to the 15th centuries; Arts & Crafts in the Cities from the 16th to 19th centuries which is regarded as the Golden Age of Screens; Prints and Ceramics as well as the birth of woodblock prints, so uniquely Japanese, which were to change the face of Western art.

Contact: Kathy Ogilvie Thompson 01420 23125

Church Recording Meeting



It is some time since we were able to field an active group of Church Recorders and in an attempt to complete our 'jig-saw' of NADFAS activities, there will be a meeting for those interested in working on a local church at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 31 March in the Allen Gallery. The most important attribute needed is an interest in history and there are a number of subject areas to be covered in order to generate a complete record. One does not need to be an expert to play a part, merely be able to follow guidelines and record information in a given format. Why not come along and find out what it is all about?

Paths to Fame – Turner watercolours at the Courtauld

Throughout his life, Turner pursued his career with fame in mind. Intensely ambitious, he travelled throughout Britain and the Continent in search of inspirational views which would be commercially successful. The exhibition tracked the evolution of his extraordinarily inventive and entrepreneurial approach to making watercolour landscapes. It also stressed the vital contribution of patronage and print publication and the role of collectors and friends, most notably the influential art critic John Ruskin, as champions and promoters of his work.

We saw works from across the artist's career, ranging from an ambitious early view of the Avon Gorge made when Turner was just sixteen years old to the monumental highly finished watercolours of his maturity and examples of the celebrated expressive late works. The works from The Courtauld Gallery were supplemented by loans from Tate and private collections, enabling visitors to trace the development of certain compositions from early sketches and exploratory 'colour beginnings' to finished watercolours and published prints.



Lulworth Cove, Dorset 1823

The exhibition was accompanied by a special display of selected British watercolours bequeathed to The Courtauld Gallery by Dorothy Scharf in 2007. This provided an opportunity to consider Turner's work in the broader context of British watercolour painting of the 18th and early 19th century.

Niven Baird

London Architecture

This special interest day at the Wykeham Institute in Binsted, epitomised the concept of taking a day to look at a particular topic in greater detail than is possible during one of our evening lectures. With a knowledgeable speaker, a pleasant venue and a lively audience we were introduced to the architecture of the capital from The Banqueting House in Whitehall to Buckingham Palace: from 1614 to 1914.

Having heard a lecture on Palladio and the English Palladians the previous week, we 'hit the ground running' and with two lectures before lunch, and another afterwards, we were introduced to the architects who have left their mark in London.

Edward Saunders, our guest lecturer for the day provided a wonderful commentary and enthused the audience with the famous – Inigo Jones, Wren and Adam; the less well known – Nash, Vardy and Barry; to the unknown, well to us at any rate, - Smirke, Townsend and Webb.

We saw pictures of numerous buildings – many of which we recognised, some of which ADFAS had already visited and learnt much about the men who had designed them. We discovered something of the difference between Classical and Greek, were introduced to 'balanced calm magnificence with verticality and horizontally' and the confidence of the Edwardians in designing buildings that were eclectic, elegant, ornamental, coloured, asymmetrical, sculpted and innovative in construction. Who would have realised that the Ritz was the first major building to have a metal frame which was clad with Norwegian Granite? We learnt of the importance of electricity which transformed theatres at the start of the 20th century and most of the ones we frequent today, originated at this time.



Hampton Court

Department stores such as Selfridges and Harrods, became temples of consumerism. This was a day to savour and inwardly digest, ready to utilise the knowledge on trips up to town.

Kathy and her team of helpers responded to the challenges of catering for fifty, transforming the lecture theatre to a refectory and back again and cleared up – all without a murmur. As one participant commented – 'the ADFAS Committee is like a well oiled machine' – they are not wrong and no one appreciates that more than me!

Tony Cross

College Report



Daisy Dixon (left)
and Vanessa Garlick

We have both nearly completed our second term of our Art Foundation course which has done us both so much good already. Students are encouraged to try many new techniques and as we are both primarily painters, learning to weld and make films has significantly broadened our skills.

We were both thrilled and excited to have been awarded the ADFAS Scholarships, which will significantly enhance our CVs and our confidence as artists. Right now, we are both preparing portfolios for university interviews and are both looking in to pursuing a Fine Art degree. We cannot wait to attend the ADFAS lectures and events and we look forward to contributing and learning new things with ADFAS.

Finally, we would like to thank you all for showing such confidence in us.

Daisy Dixon and Vanessa Garlick
ADFAS Scholars at Alton College

Getting the Bacon...

It was a lovely, crisp, sunny morning when we set out for London on 4 December for our visit to the Francis Bacon Exhibition at Tate Britain and our backstage tour of the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden. We were all grateful for the comfort of our shiny, new Trueman's Coach, driven by the ever-patient Ray, as the traffic entering London was very slow, thanks probably to the State Opening of Parliament. Nevertheless, there was plenty of time to wander at will around the Francis Bacon Exhibition. Despite Lissa's warning that we might all need anti-depressant pills to get us round, everyone really did seem to enjoy seeing the paintings. "Enjoy" is perhaps the wrong word, as Bacon's work is strange, dark and troubled, but it was certainly a worthwhile experience.

After an hour and a quarter or so of free time to enjoy the delights of the Piazza at Covent Garden, we all found ourselves inside the Royal Opera House, divided into two groups for our guided tours, conducted by informative guides who showed us fascinating glimpses of dance studios, costume

Young Arts

The second half of 2008 was an exciting and varied time for the group. In October we took a group of children by coach to the BBC Studios. The children were of varying ages but each gained valuable "behind the scenes" knowledge as we were shown around by excellent tour leaders. We were able to watch a show being recorded, walk into the vast studios and see the huge array of lighting and props used for various shows. The Blue Peter Garden was popular as everyone was familiar with the setting, but it was not quite as glamorous as appears on television. It was explained that they didn't worry about the grass too much, but increased the green for colour TV! The weather rooms were intimate and everyone was given a chance to present the weather; it is not as easy as looks on TV. The weather people run their own show and camera as well as writing the script.

We then bravely decided to introduce a rather more gritty theatre outing, Billy Elliott! We drew parent's attention to the fact that the language is strong and so it was to be at their discretion. Needless to say the children fully enjoyed and appreciated the performance! We had quite a lot of explaining to do about the Miner's Strike, which none of them had heard of. So it also proved to be an enlightening modern history lesson for them as well.

Our last trip of the year was a diversion from Christmas crafts to the 'hands on' making of chocolate which took place at a small, but exquisite, site in Rowlands Castle. The youngsters were shown hand making of superior chocolate and learnt the finer points of how chocolate is produced. They each chose moulds and painted their own selection of fine chocolates. Lots of delicious presents were made.

If you have children or grandchildren in the area who may be interested in Young Arts activities please contact me (01420 520708).

Claire O'Donnell



Tate Britain

departments, complex backstage workings and of course the auditorium itself.

A tired but happy bunch arrived safely back in Alton just after 6 p.m., and I am sure that I am not alone in wanting to say a heartfelt thank-you to Lissa for organising yet another great day out.

Wendy Crozier

A loving cup from Wellow

Despite February bringing St Valentine's Day, the kind of love referred to in the term 'loving cup' was really the kind belonging



to friendship rather than romance – picture a communal feast, not too gentrified, the brimming cup of ale passing hand-to-hand and swig-by-swig along the benches.

The loving cup shown here was made in the 1850s. The brown stoneware is enlivened by 'sprigs' (3-dimensional applied ornament), including one of Toby Fillpot, an amiable drunkard of fiction who is supposed to have inspired the first Toby Jugs. So far nothing unusual; in appearance it's like many other loving cups made in the mid-19th century. However, turn it up and you see it didn't come from one of the main stoneware manufacturing areas – London, Nottingham or Derbyshire – but ostensibly from Wellow in Hampshire. For many years this has been a mystery because no other pot exists with the "H Canning / Wellow Pottery / Hants" mark and there is no documentary evidence of such a pottery having been in the village.

On the other hand, there is evidence that for a short time in the mid 1850s a Henry Canning of Greenwich together with one Cornelius Beavis of Southampton ran a brickworks in Wellow where the current A36 meets the Wiltshire border. Still, stoneware manufacture calls for more advanced technology. Though the local clay might have been suitable there would have been no local know-how. Even the look of the cup suggests a London maker, adding weight to the theory that the mark is a ploy – that the item was made elsewhere in order to drum up money for a projected transformation of the brickworks into a stoneware pottery that didn't quite come off.

Maybe after that Canning went back to Greenwich. There is no other trace of him in Hampshire. Coincidentally, loving cups start to disappear at about this same time. Though they continued to be made they were more often novelty items or commemoratives rather than normal accompaniments to merry-making. And now too the living tradition surrounding that use is lost, just as in the case of an earlier class of loving cup from Dorset which featured an integral moulded whistle – now what, as the younger generation are inclined to say, was that all about?

Neil Hyman
Hampshire Museums

Forthcoming Lectures

10th March

Constantinople & Istanbul - A Tale of Two Cities
Sue Rollin

Constantinople and Istanbul, two names for one city, which straddles two continents, Europe and Asia, Byzantine imperial capital for 1000 years then capital city of the Ottoman Turks. Minarets and domes of Turkish mosques dominate the skyline, the waters of the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus lap its shores, and a stroll through the streets reveals the city's diverse and magnificent heritage. Byzantine churches with colourful mosaics, Ottoman mosques with beautiful tile work, the luxurious palaces of the Sultans, elegant fountains, bathhouses and bustling covered markets make Istanbul one of the most fascinating cities in the world.

14th April

A Family Affair - Florence and the House of Medici
Jo Walton

The names 'Florence' and 'Medici' go together. From the late 1300s to 1737, the Medici family was an integral part of the world of Florence. They advised, ruled, were exiled, returned, ruled again - in continuing cycles - eventually stamping their authority on the city with autocratic firmness.

At the same time, they were largely responsible for creating one for the most exciting and vibrant artistic centres of the Renaissance. They supported and patronised painters, sculptors and architects, beautifying the city and bringing it lasting renown as a place of cultural excellence. Artists such as Donatello, Botticelli and Michelangelo were looked after, and encouraged. Literature, philosophy and science were cultivated.

This is a story full of great characters and stirring historical events, beautiful images alongside assassinations. Cosimo, the canny and astute banker who consolidated their fortunes, and his remarkable grandson, Lorenzo the Magnificent are well known figures, but their descendants spread throughout the royal houses of Europe.

There were two important Medici Popes and two Medici Queens of France. Children and grand-children married into the royal houses of Spain, England and the Holy Roman Empire, while their Florentine cousins - long past their apogee, eccentric and strange - presided over the decline of a once great city.

12th May

Pretty Witty Nell - Mistress, Mother and Matriarch
Peter Dewar

This lecture will be given by her seven times great-grandson, who will recount Nell Gwyn's fascinating rise from rags to riches. She was indeed both pretty and witty and it is no wonder that her infectious repartee made her the favourite mistress of King Charles II. Her elder son was created Duke of St. Albans, and there are some 2,000 living descendants.