

## Heritage Volunteers



18th century view from the south of Chawton House

Chawton House Library has been holding its Summer Open Days in June and July; with Thursday, 21 August coming up followed by the Heritage Open Day (with free entry) on Saturday, 13 September, and once again our members are ably volunteering in various ways. Most are on duty in the various rooms but, also, in the garden, taking money on the gate, and manning the gift stall. On each day there are poetry readings and Regency dancing. Chawton House has been beautifully restored and work is now underway in the organic, walled kitchen garden. We provide approximately 30 volunteers for each Open Day, coffee and sandwiches are provided and we are always in need of more volunteers so do ring me (01420 543188) if you are interested.

Work on the vestments at Upper Froyle church is ongoing and Sarah Thursfield and Sheila Pym have been joined by Maureen Barnett, and their expertise is helping to preserve these beautiful garments for posterity. They meet on Wednesday mornings between 10am and 12 noon, and are also happy to welcome small groups, either in the morning or afternoon. I can arrange this if requested.

Finally, there is the possibility of more help being needed at the Military Museums in Winchester and Middle Wallop, in conjunction with Meon Valley DFAS. Our new Heritage Volunteer Area Representative, Mrs Avis Hunt is co-ordinating this.

**Rosie Sirl**

## Special Interest Day

**18th November**

**London Architecture**

**from the Banqueting House to Buckingham Palace, 1614-1914**



We all love a trip up to town and this programme, to be presented by Edward Saunders, is designed to inform us about some of the capital's well known buildings. Our venue is Mill Court, near Upper Froyle and there will be a light lunch and refreshments included in the £22 cost for the day.

Tickets will be obtainable at the September and October meetings and numbers are limited.

**Contact: Kathy Ogilvie Thompson 01420 23125**

## Diary Date

**14th October**

You may recall that for the past couple of years we have hosted a sales table of selected NADFAS items kindly provided by Una Stock from Lymington. As it seems to have been well received, we have invited Una again this year in order to provide ADFAS members with an opportunity to purchase these items before our lecture on 14th October. Please arrive a little earlier than usual, bring some money and take advantage of this useful facility – NADFAS Review usually carries an advertisement for the full range of items, but if you order from them there is a charge for postage.

# Charleston and Berwick

Back in June an ADFAS group left Alton for East Sussex, keeping a wary eye on the weather which promised to be showery. However, by good fortune the rain came whilst we were on the coach or inside the house.



Charleston

Charleston is reputed to be one of the best small museums in Britain and it certainly lived up to this accolade in every way. From 1916 when it was rented by Vanessa Bell, accompanied by Duncan Grant, his friend David Garnett, Vanessa's children Julian and Quentin, it became the home of the Bloomsbury group who were an elastic group of eminent artists and writers whose hey-days were in the 1930s and 1940s.

They were all creative and every wall, door, fireplace and furniture (much of it picked up at local junk shops) was decorated in their exuberant style which showed the influence of the Post Impressionists and Mediterranean schools of art. No detail was missed. The china was their work and used every day.

The lampshades looked at first sight to be turned up colanders, but were indeed lampshades. The whole house and its contents were a feast for the eye though the stencilled dining room in black and grey perhaps gave a hint of foreboding of the war to come in 1939. In the kitchen we saw a plaque dedicated to Grace German who was Vanessa's housekeeper for fifty years.

The garden was beautifully diverse and around every corner there was a small piece of sculpture or feature to enjoy.



Decorated pulpit

We then made our way the short distance to the village of Berwick to see the church of

St Michael and All Angels where we were greeted by the Vicar, Revd. Peter Blee who gave us an interesting talk highlighting the many murals around the walls – some painted by Duncan Grant and Quentin Bell during the last war – using local people, some of the Bloomsbury group and photographs of their children as models. In such an old church which dated from Saxon times there was much to see – one of the most intriguing being the marks made on a pillar by local people sharpening their arrows before archery practise in the Middle Ages which was compulsory.

It was an excellent, informative and enjoyable day organised to the last detail by Lissa and Peter Wilson including coffee and biscuits on arrival and a pleasant lunch which were served at Charleston, leaving us a little time to visit the shop before heading off for the church. Our thanks go to them both.

**Claire Hawkins**

## Young Arts

Over the past eight months events have included the ever popular Christmas craft day, a visit to The Tower of London and, most recently, a day at Alice Holt Forest. We had a change of venue for the craft day and Edgeborough School very kindly lent us their splendid new DT room and about twenty children made crackers, table decorations and other Christmas presents. The Easter extravaganza at Alice Holt included archery and shooting, wall climbing and a scavenger hunt. ....with a prize for the most number of things fitted in a matchbox! The children also tie dyed t-shirts using natural dyes, which proved a great success.

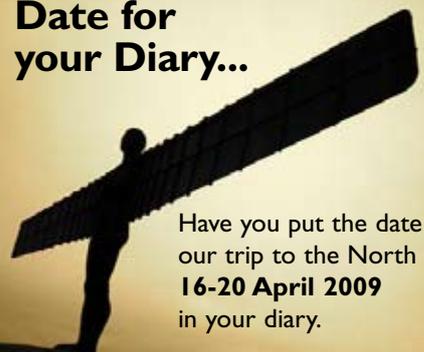
Future planned events include a pottery day and a behind the scenes visit to the BBC. The 2008 competition is entitled Change the world: art + recycling and asks entrants to design a poster that draws attention to environmental issues. The group continues to be well supported, but we would love to recruit more members. If you have children or grandchildren who may be interested please ask for details at the next ADFAS meeting.

**Susie Robertson**

## Alton College Studentships

Back in May we selected our two new ADFAS Studentships at Alton College for the academic year 2008-9. Daisy Dixon and Vanessa Garlick were the lucky pair and you will be able to read a little about them in a future issue of our *Newsletter* and meet them at one of our Spring meetings.

### Date for your Diary...



Have you put the date of our trip to the North East  
**16-20 April 2009**  
in your diary.

# Now we are 10...

It was 6 o'clock - the scene was ready, the magnificent floral arrangements in place, the wine chilling, the food beautifully arranged on trays, the Jazz Quartet were in place and best of all - the rain held off allowing members and guests to explore the gardens at Bury Court at our 10th anniversary 'bash' last month.

Masterminded by Cline Kilner, the founding Chairman of ADFAS all those years ago, everything came together on the night with your Committee working overtime to make sure the well-oiled ADFAS machine performed in its usual, efficient way. The contribution of our speaker, Lars Tharp, ensured that everyone had the most entertaining 'ADFAS experience' in ten years!

He had us rolling in the aisles with his tales, both behind and in front of the camera, of the popular BBC programme *Antiques Roadshow*. Whilst his knowledge was obvious - he had been talking to members who had brought a range of fascinating objects for him to examine before his talk, his 'stage manner' was delightful, whilst his wit and humour were greatly appreciated.

The evening was a fitting celebration of the contribution ADFAS has made to the local arts and heritage scene over the past ten years through lectures, study days, exhibition visits, volunteering to help various heritage venues, church recording and perhaps the most important - supporting projects to encourage young people to explore and enjoy the arts and carry on the tradition long after we are gone.

Members came together to enjoy the venue, the company of like-minded individuals, a glass of wine and an interesting speaker - long may such simple pleasures continue.

**Tony Cross**



# Cave Canem

## Beware of the 2,000 year-old dog!



Cave Canem (Latin - 'Beware of the Dog!') The dog we are here being warned about probably lived in England in the second quarter of the 19th century, but it must have had ancestors in Italy nearly two thousand years ago, because this is a copy of a mosaic found in Pompeii – hence the Latin – buried in volcanic ash when Vesuvius erupted on 24th August AD79.

The 'House of the Tragic Poet', excavated in 1824-25, is named after other mosaics discovered there depicting scenes from the theatre. However, it was the dog mosaic found in the entrance hall that seized everyone's imagination – including some enterprising sort who saw a potential profit in selling copies to tourists. An unknown number were made, most likely in or around Naples, and sold to visitors, amongst whom the English were prominent.

The only others known to Hampshire Museums are two sets which guard the entrance to Bantry House, overlooking Bantry Bay in Ireland. They were taken there by Viscount Berehaven, son of the first Earl of Bantry, some time before 1840. Until then he had been travelling in the tradition of the 18th century 'Grand Tour', during which young aristocrats were expected to acquire knowledge of European culture and quantities of art and antiques.

The early history of our tile panel which is on display in the Allen Gallery is unknown, but it shows signs of having once formed part of a threshold. One wonders how many callers, not well up in their Latin, came away from it bloodied and better informed.

**Neil Hyman**  
Hampshire Museums

## Forthcoming Lectures

**9th September**

**Art in Paris 1850-1900** - the most decadent city in the world!

**Linda Collins**

At the beginning of this period academic art was held up as the ultimate in good taste, finely painted with evidence of craftsmanship and painstaking labour - and yet by the end of our period Picasso was painting early Cubist works. This lecture asks the question of what happened during this 50 year period in Paris that allowed such changes in taste to be acceptable.

We consider the tremendous energy in Paris at this time - the cabarets, the can-can girls and the bohemian life in Montmartre that fostered such a huge colony of artists. We look at the various routes each of these artists decided to take once liberated from academia - Picasso, Van Gogh, Gauguin, Seurat and many others - not forgetting personalities like La Goulue, the original 'tart with a heart' who danced for Toulouse Lautrec at the Moulin Rouge.

**14th October**

**Ocean Liner Art: Ships that Shaped our lives 1800 -1950** featuring Isambard Kingdom Brunel

**James Taylor**

The vision and engineering genius of Isambard Kingdom Brunel underpins this global story of hopes and dreams, disasters and triumphs. This talk will feature a wide range of ships, including *Great Britain* and *Great Western*, *Lusitania* and *Mauretania*, *Olympic* and *Titanic*, as well as the shipping lines and personalities behind them brought to life through historic and contemporary artworks.

**11th November**

**Andrea Palladio and English Paladians**

**Launce Gribbin**

The stone mason Andrea di Pietro della Gondola, was already thirty years old when he was given the nickname "Palladio" by a humanist patron, who adopted him as protégé when working on his villa. The name stuck. Deeply interested in antiquity, Palladio published his famous *Four Books of Architecture in Venice* in 1570. There were already several books on how to build like the Romans, but one came without pictures and did not match the classical ruins, and none of the others was at all clear what to do in practical situations. Palladio, however, made only suggestions which would work on site, since he was a practical man, and his illustrations were clear to follow. So his books on architecture, though not the first, proved extremely popular.

Inigo Jones and Christopher Wren owned copies, but the real fashion for Palladio began in the 18th century when his books were seen as the builder's bible by the Palladian movement. Thus nearly two centuries after he had published them, his volumes were translated into English, and one can hardly visit a National Trust house without coming face to face with his influence.