

Welcome to ADFAS



A party for new members took place back in September when we had an enjoyable evening with drinks and canapés at Lissa and Peter Wilson's house in Alton.

Tuesday, 4th February London - Temple Church and The Foundling Museum

The Temple Church lies 'off street' between Fleet Street and the River Thames, in an 'oasis' of ancient buildings, courtyards and gardens and is the church of Inner and Middle Temple, two of England's four ancient societies of lawyers. It is one of the most historic and beautiful churches in London. Here are eight hundred years of history: from the Crusaders in the 12th century, through the turmoil of the Reformation and the founding father of Anglican theology, to some of the most famous church music in London.

The Foundling Museum tells the story of the Foundling Hospital, London's first home for abandoned children and of three major figures in British history: its campaigning founder the philanthropist Thomas Coram, the artist William Hogarth and the composer George Frederic Handel. This remarkable collection of art, period interiors and social history is now housed in a restored and refurbished building adjacent to the original site of the Hospital, demolished in 1928.

Contact Lissa Wilson 01420 543892

Diary Dates 2010

Tuesday, 19th January London - Tate Britain Turner and the Masters

This unforgettable show which opened a couple of months ago places beautiful masterpieces by Canaletto, Rubens, Rembrandt and Titian next to some of JMW Turner's most dramatic paintings. It illuminates a lesser-known side of the British Romantic painter - his obsession to prove he was just as good, if not better, than the old masters who he so admired.

This exhibition is billed as the first ever to explore the full range of Turner's challenges to the past, and his fierce rivalry with his contemporaries. Many works are reunited here for the first time in hundreds of years and others have never been seen together before in this light. Sounds just the thing for a January day out!

Contact Jane Woods 01256 862469

March - date to be confirmed London - The Royal Academy

"The real Van Gogh" exhibition - this is the first major opportunity for over 40 years to get into the complex mind of the artist.

It will include 35 original letters, 30 drawings and 65 paintings will be exhibited.

Contact Lissa Wilson 01420 543892

15 - 19 April Dublin

Make a note in your diary of the dates of our popular Spring long weekend with Trueman's - details to follow.



A Smooth Handover



Our AGM back in September saw the election of a new committee which is detailed on the reverse of the 2010 programme card enclosed with this mailing.

Incoming Chairman, Peter Wilson, paid tribute to his predecessor, Tony Cross, and the continued success of ADFAS during his term of office. On behalf of his fellow committee members, Peter presented Tony with a delightful piece of wood ash glazed pottery in recognition of his Chairmanship. The pot was made by Richard Batterham, a well-known traditional potter who has his studio in Durweston, a village on the River Stour upstream

of Blandford Forum in Dorset where interestingly, both Peter and Tony originate.

Peter had done his homework well for Tony has known of the potter for over forty years and has a number of his pieces. Interestingly, there is a jug by this maker in the craft section of the ceramics display in the Allen Gallery alongside the work of Bernard Leach (1887-1979) under whom Richard Batterham (b.1936) served a two year apprenticeship at St Ives in the 1950s.

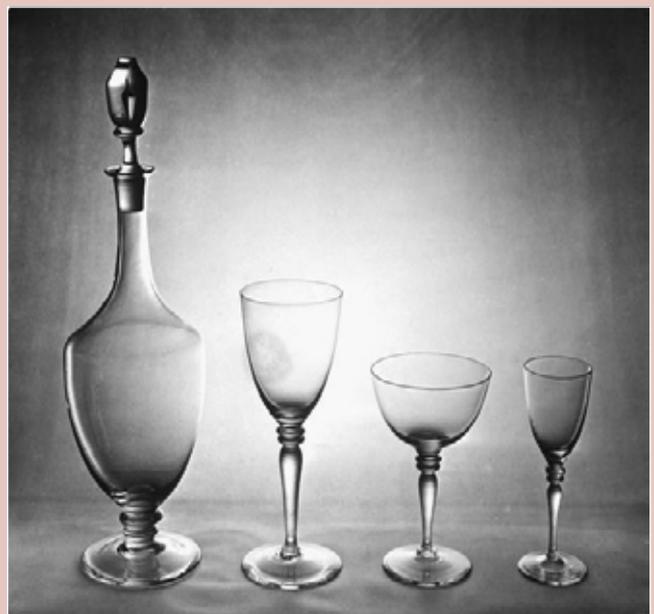
Special Interest Day

Thursday, 4th March 2010
The Golden Age of English Glass

A date for your new diary. We all have glass at home – items we use everyday and those more precious pieces used for special occasions. Caroline MacDonald-Haig will be joining us to talk on the Golden Age of English Glass, giving us an overview from the 17th to the 19th century.

Caroline started her career as a magazine journalist writing on design and the decorative arts and now lectures on a wide variety of topics. The day will be held in the newly re-furbished Beech Village Hall. Further details and a map will be available when bookings are taken in the New Year.

Therese Keogh 01420 82248



Visit to London

It seemed like a good idea. In the absence of a volunteer reporter it was suggested that everyone write a sentence about the visit. At the end of the day, as the notebook and pen slowly journeyed up the coach, the Editor had the worrying thought that 53 members writing even 20 words each would make a rather long article. In the event, the 85 minute journey back from west London was insufficient for everyone to express their thoughts and the collation below is the result.

After a Tuesday of really awful weather we were blessed with a dry, if windy, following day for our visit to Chiswick House and Syon House. Many had attended the lecture on Palladio last year so were 'up to speed' on the architectural features. We have had an active involvement with the Percy family through a lecture earlier in the year and a visit, for some, to their ancestral home of Alnwick Castle was useful. Some keen souls had even been inspired to visit Petworth House as well so all of this ensured that we were not put off by the long line of Dukes and Earls and large numbers of family portraits!

Two perfect houses with excellent guides and although we needed more time to enjoy the grounds, it will be easy to revisit both.

Two outstanding visits – Chiswick was an architectural gem and Syon full of beautiful paintings and furniture; even the doors and their surrounds were worth a long examination. After a very good Society lecture on Palladio, to see examples of his influence was wonderful.

We learned so much! Chiswick House was originally conceived as a temple of the arts and our erudite guides illustrated their many informed points so well that we took the knowledge into Syon House.



Chiswick was a perfect gem – it was as if it had been transported from the Veneto. The influence of Palladio was strong and the English interpretations of the revived classicism were inspirational. The story was skilfully unfolded by our enthusiastic guides.

I learnt a lot about 'pretend' Roman architecture and how to cheat in buildings.

Historical knowledge, architecture and general historical information just rolled off the tongues of our two very capable guides.

Syon was glorious – the paintings and plasterwork were stunning and wonderful to see in their original settings. Chiswick was a useful reminder of Palladio and his place in English architecture and what the value of the Grand Tour was for some young travellers. Syon was a great surprise and behind its rather bleak exterior was a treasure house.

A hugely enjoyable and very exhausting day; a great history lesson and I must return to both gardens.

Two most interesting houses owned by two influential families.

Syon House had a conservatory to die for.

A very well organised day, with coffee on arrival, a decent lunch and even time for a cup of tea before departure.

With so much secret symbolism in the architecture and the paintings associated with the Emperor Augustus, the Jacobites and Freemasonry one might expect the next Dan Brown novel to feature Chiswick House!



Parian bust of Queen Victoria

by Baron Carlo Marochetti,
Minton, 1860

Victoria died on the 22nd of January 1901. She had been Queen for sixty-three years and seven months.

After the repulsive George IV and unmemorable William IV, the monarchy was not popular when she came to the throne in 1837. But with her youth, her spirit, and especially after her fairytale marriage to Albert of Saxe-Coburg in 1840 she won almost universal affection. As a wife and mother of a large family, she was regarded as an ideal of 19th century womanhood as well as leader of what was an increasingly powerful empire.

The bust was modelled in 1860 and mass produced in Parian ware – a kind of porcelain intended to look like white marble. By then the Queen was over forty years old and had given birth to nine children. Even so it shows her as a young, confident woman, which may have been no mere flattery as she was happy and well and still deeply in love with Albert.

The disaster of her life happened only a year later. Albert died of typhoid at Windsor in December 1861. Within four days she had ordered the Frogmore Mausoleum to be built at her own expense in the gardens of Frogmore House. The Mausoleum was to contain his remains, and to be her future resting place next to him and you will have an opportunity to visit the building next September. Victoria never recovered from his loss, remaining in mourning and largely withdrawing from public view for the remaining thirty-nine years of her reign. As a result we may think of her as dowdy, humourless and elderly in attitude, whereas her nature when her husband was alive was the opposite of this, and would probably have remained so had he lived.

In a sense this small sculpture, which you can see at the Allen Gallery, is of the Victoria whose life was about to end and be followed by that of Queen whose reign would be far greyer and more forbidding.

Neil Hyman
Hampshire Museums

Forthcoming Lectures

8th December

Angels, Cherubs and the Hosts of Heaven
Frances Feldman

In a search for the individual characteristics of these heavenly creatures, for their specific charges and their relationship to man, it is only to be expected that answers can be found in some of the world's most beautiful paintings – paintings that reflect the beliefs of their time. This is a lecture for Christmas and all the seasons of the year.

12 January 2010

O YES IT IS! – a history of pantomime
Jane Tapley

This lecture examines the complex and fascinating story of how Pantomime developed out of its Greek and Roman roots through the religious plays of the middle ages to the Italian *Conunedia Dell'Arte*.

It looks at the characters of the Harlequinade and how actors like Grimaldi, the most famous clown of all with his sausages and red hot poker, and Music Hall stars like Dan Lena and Vesta Tilley, down to today's television actors have contributed to the art of Pantomime.

This lively and entertaining account is illustrated with slides from Victorian prints and playbills to production shots of Pantomime and original paintings by Beryl Cook.

9 February

Great Country Houses and Castles of Bohemia and Moravia
Barbara Peacock

For many years, the richness of the Czech architectural heritage was little known in the West. However, since the Velvet Revolution of 1989, it has become possible to enjoy an extraordinary artistic legacy, for the Czech Republic, situated in the heart of Europe and comprising the historic regions of Bohemia and Moravia, has one of the richest assemblages of great houses in Europe.

This lecture will show some of their quality and variety. We will see mediaeval castles dramatically perched on rocky hilltops, beautiful courtyard houses in the Renaissance style, sumptuous Baroque palaces, delicate Rococo pleasure pavilions, and chaste Neo-classical interiors, contrasting with the romantic fantasies of the Gothic Revival. Many examples have important collections of furniture and works of art as well as fine gardens and parks.