

Anne Bullen: the story goes on

Making Friends, one of the unseen works



THE equestrian artist Anne Bullen, who died aged 51 in 1963, did not live to see many of her six children's achievements—for instance, her daughter, Jane Holderness-Roddam, becoming the first British woman to win an equestrian Olympic gold medal in 1968—but neither did they realise at the time how prolific and wide-ranging her output was. Another daughter, Jennie Loriston-Clarke, a pioneer in the worlds of dressage and sport-horse breeding, discovered hundreds of her mother's sketches and watercolours rolled up in a dusty cupboard last year, many of which were shown in an exhibition at the Osborne Studio Gallery. Now, the family is to show 70 more unseen works at the same gallery, at 2, Motcombe Street, London SW1, on November 20–December 15 (020-7235 9667; www.osg.uk.com).

Victorian pottery back from the brink

MIDDLEPORT Pottery in Burslem, Staffordshire, Britain's last surviving Victorian pottery, is being given a new lease of life. Once known as the 'Model Pottery', it has been the home of Burleigh earthenware since 1889, but was at risk of closure a few years ago because the buildings were in a bad state of disrepair. In 2011, The Prince's Regeneration Trust launched a project to renovate the buildings and preserve traditional manufacturing skills and jobs. 'It's a site of national significance,' says projects advisor Harry Wardill. 'The key thing is that it's been a working pottery for almost 125 years.'

This week, Poole Pottery (www.poolepottery.co.uk) took up residence in the first new workshop and, at the



Poole Pottery's Tafulah collection

end of this month, The Kitchen Dresser Company (www.thekitchendresser.co.uk) will move into a second. There are also plans for a gallery and visitor centre (www.middleportpottery.co.uk; 020-3282 0560). *EH*

Building a future

Good news for aspiring stonemasons, carpenters, plasterers and roofers: The Prince's Foundation for Building Community (TPFFBC) has received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop a 12-month programme to encourage those aged between 16 and 18 to pursue careers in the heritage sector. The charity's Young Heritage Apprentices will be given the opportunity to train in traditional crafts and their hands-on learning will be supplemented by business-skills classes and placements with leaders in the field.

A recent survey suggested that almost 80% of those working in the heritage sector have not yet taken steps to pass on their knowledge. Edith Platten of TPFFBC believes that the industry needs an influx of young talent more than ever. 'Showing young people that you can have a successful career as a master craftsman is essential,' she says. Visit www.princeofoundation.org. *EH*



Country Mouse

An historic edition



WHEN I asked The Prince of Wales whether he would like to guest-edit *COUNTRY LIFE*, not only did he tell me how much he admires the magazine, but he chose to offer an issue to coincide with his 65th birthday. Clear this is a very special edition, both for the magazine and for our future king. His Royal Highness has made a very clear statement of his interest in, and hopes and fears for, the countryside, on this landmark birthday. When he becomes king, his opinion will not be voiced in this way. What he says at has chosen to feature is, therefore, historic.

The process of commissioning the features and editing the copy has taken almost nine months, from discussing ideas at Highgrove to going through the proofs with His Royal Highness at Clarence House. He has been closely involved throughout, doing much of the work at Birkhall over the summer. More than 500 emails have been sent and, apart from the odd moment when deciphering The Prince's handwriting proved a challenge, it has gone without a hitch. Other magazines and newspapers can only speculate about what he thinks, but, here, we can see what he truly feels. His commitment to the countryside is unmatched, and I thank him for his efforts on behalf of all of us who love it. *MH*

Town Mouse

Reflections on the river

CONSULTATION has opened for comment on a proposed new Garden Bridge across the Thames. Intended to link the South Bank—near the National Theatre—with Temple Station and the eastern end of Aldwych, it's envisaged as a purely pedestrian crossing. The brainchild of thespian Joanna Lumley and sculptor Thomas Heatherwick (he of the fiery Olympics cauldron) it would be, in effect, a slender linear park planted with trees and wildlife-friendly flowers.

London is defined by its river and I never tire of watching it, plied by barges and passenger clipper in the City, but from Kingston to Putney fleeces with scullers and coxed eights. Low tide brings in foraging waders and wildfowl and, the other day, I watched gulls noisily establishing pecking order over a washed-up eel; despite its superior size, the hungry heron that had found it was soon seen off. But my favourite time is full tide, with its general abundant waters and shimmering reflections.

The choice of trees for the Garden Bridge will be an interesting conundrum. What will grow? We don't need more of those skiny Nordic birches beloved of landscapers and London planes have limited wildlife benefit. Ash is doomed and oak cliché. How about black poplar, Britain's rarest native and the classic English riverside tree? It's an unsung national treasure. *KH*