

**BAFRA at The LAPADA Autumn Antiques and Fine Art Fair, Cheltenham Racecourse 11-14 October 2007**  
**By Michael Barrington**

Once again our stand at Cheltenham was a great success and attracted the greatest number of visitors



to the Fair, giving our Members and Associates a great opportunity to show the public what we do, how we do it and why. Our team consisted of sixteen Full members and four associates who work with BAFRA in various fields supporting our profession. Our stand was again in the gallery of the Centaur building and had a 10m. frontage.

The furniture on the stand belonged mainly to Jeremy Gow who generously funded all the stand lighting . A big bonus this year was the additional space very generously given to us in the next door stand by Fair Director Ingrid Nilson in which six pieces of



furniture were exhibited. To one side of these two stands and in the corner of the gallery was a display of BAFRA Member's cards and leaflets

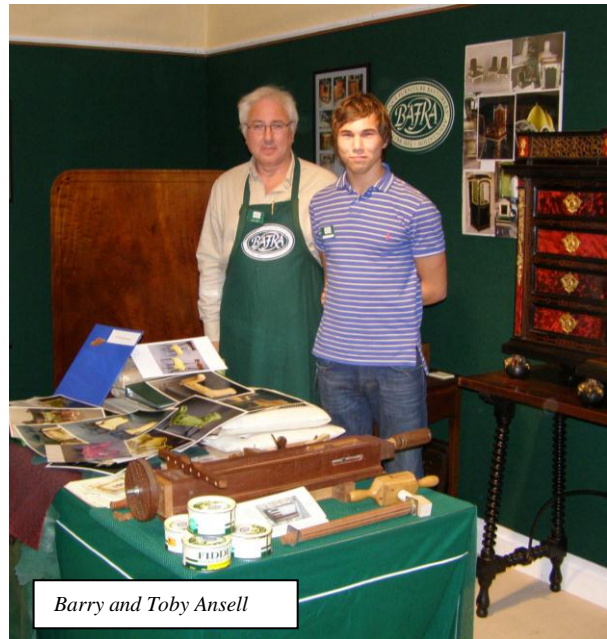


with a map of the UK showing Full Members locations together with racks of BAFRA publications which were taken by visitors in large quantities throughout the Fair; so much so that we almost ran out of Directories and one of the earlier Journals in which the Arts and Crafts

period was addressed – perhaps not surprisingly since Cheltenham is in the middle of the English Arts and Crafts Movement area..



*Mark Coray also set up his bench and ripple moulding machine alongside the publications racks and attracted large crowds of visitors*



On the stand itself members showed off tools and work examples and there were many examples of objects of furniture, barometers and clocks awaiting attention and in varying states of damage and decay. Upholstery was very well covered on two days

by Barry and Toby Ansell and Philip Wellesley-Davies. Carpet and rug conservation-restoration was demonstrated by Lenka Bashford while David Hordern attracted much visitor interest with leather lining/gilding, colouring and patination. A set of three 17<sup>th</sup> C Charles I walnut chairs in very poor condition because of serious mechanical damage and pest attack created much interest and discussion and on the Friday Paul Leary from Thermo Lignum was there to describe in detail how pest attack and damage is dealt with. We are very grateful to Thermo Lignum for their most generous contribution to our stand. One of the most eye and interest-catching skills demonstrated was Japanning and Gilding by



Rod Titian, Karen Pecenkus and Annie Clarke.

Throughout the four days our stand was full of visitors asking questions about furniture and what we do and how to find and look after the fine objects which are found in so many households, many of them inherited, and often in poor states of repair and depletion. The Fair features very high quality stands across a very wide selection of the decorative arts.



The Conservation Register, represented by Caroline Saye was present on the stand for two days and attracted a great deal of visitor interest.



We are most grateful to the new Gordon Russell Museum in Broadway for transporting the stand up to Cheltenham, along with a 1936 carpenter's bench of Nazi origin loaned to the museum and Rob Tandy for his help in breaking down on Sunday and transporting the stand back to Head Office in Dorset. The Chairman of the Gordon Russell Trust Ray Leigh visited us on the first day with his wife and readers of our May Journal will remember Ray's highly interesting article about Gordon Russell.



*Rob Tandy showing off his leg moulding box and scratchstock skills*



We have a great deal to thank LAPADA and the Fair Organisers for not just at this Fair but during the whole year. All BAFRA Full Members are registered Service Providers for LAPADA as the notice displaying the LAPADA logo shows in front of Rob Tandy in the picture above..



*Rod Titian with Admirers*



*The Entrance Hall and the Carl Linneus theme*



*More of our LAPADA Hosts at Cheltenham. On the left is Gail McGuffie public relations expert for both the Fair and for BAFRA.*

*On the right is Janet Pruce from the Fair Reception Team and once BAFRA's Directory advertising organiser*

