



Treasures and surprises at the Antiques Roadshow



Stately setting: Hundreds of visitors on the lawn at Stephens House and Gardens for the Antiques Roadshow.

Reporting by Lynn Winton



On camera: Presenter Fiona Bruce during filming of one of the three episodes

Thousands of lucky ticket holders, many heaving bags with intriguingly shaped packages, flocked through the gates of Stephens House and Gardens in East End Road, N3, when the BBC filmed *Antiques Roadshow* there on Sunday 1 June. Hosted by Fiona Bruce, the programme is heading for its 48th series after being on air since 1979. And for its Finchley outing there was no shortage of people with a plethora of amazing items, willing to queue at the experts' tables for as long as three hours, many with poignant stories, and all watched by a very good-natured crowd.

The Archer spoke to local people with fascinating objects and there is a chance you might see them in one of the three Stephens House episodes that

will be broadcast when the new season starts in the autumn, when their valuations will also be revealed.

Antiques Roadshow textiles expert Ronnie Archer-Morgan was very excited to see Sharon Selzer's magnificent collection of World War Two propaganda scarves and the film crew sprung into action, arranging them as a backdrop whilst Sharon was interviewed.

These colourful scarves were manufactured to help the war effort by reinforcing patriotic messages such as 'Careless talk costs lives', 'Switch off that light' and 'Is your journey really necessary?'



Sewn messages: Sharon Selzer and her scarves

"I come from a family of costume designers, tailors, milliners and artists, and I had the first vintage fashion shop in London's East End," Sharon explained. "All my life I've collected beautiful scarves and have 1,250. I'm always looking

for ones that tell a story and I knew these were the ones to take to the roadshow.

"Ronnie was delightful and so kind. Sometimes, when I feel a bit down, I spread my scarves out on the bed and start to feel better."



Well-connected: Amanda and Jonathan Olins with their artwork

Jonathan Olins also had an exciting time being filmed. He told *The Archer*: "In 1966, as a young teenager living in East Finchley I went to St Ives on holiday with my parents. They appreciated modern art and visited a few galleries, returning with some interesting ceramics and art.

"After they passed away nearly 25 years ago, one of the pieces I inherited was a small, signed Denis Mitchell rectangular-framed picture. We knew he had a connection with Barbara Hepworth but nothing more. So we took this along and chatted to the English paintings specialist."

That specialist Lawrence Hendra was immediately interested in the piece and confirmed that Denis Mitchell was sculptor Barbara Hepworth's assistant for 10 years, before working independently, and this piece was in preparation for a 10ft bronze that was commissioned by the Foreign Office for display at the University of the Andes in Colombia.

Jonathan added:

"The mounting and framing is typical of the 1960s and even though we enjoy it far too much to sell it, we were very pleasantly surprised at its high value."



Chocolate pot: Jane Marsh with ceramics expert Will Farmer

Archer team member Jane Marsh grew up surrounded by beautiful objects as her parents owned an antique emporium in the King's Road in Chelsea. One of the porcelain pieces she inherited was something she knew nothing about, other than her mother had called it a

'chocolate pot'.

Jane said: "Ceramics expert Will Farmer explained it was Parisian, mid-19th century, and a very grand way to keep one's special drink warm, whether that was coffee, tea or chocolate. And he was quite taken with it, so that's something."



Stained-glass: Jennifer Grocock with expert Marc Allum

Church End Councillor Jennifer Grocock took along a stained-glass artwork that a friend had bequeathed to her in her will many years ago. "It was a wonderful day and the expert Marc Allum, being a stained-glass collector himself, was tremendous," said Jennifer. "As soon as he saw it he told me it had a connection to the 14th century artist Albrecht Durer, but he was not going to tell me anything else until the camera crew were ready to start filming, then he revealed it was based on the Durer woodcut original and painted by a 17th century Dutch artist. I had absolutely no idea. It was just amazing to now understand what it is."