THIS PROJECT PERFECTLY REFLECTS THE GROWING NEED FOR CONSERVATORS TO BE TRAINED TO UNDERSTAND AND OPERATE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY FIELDS

SUMMER RESIDENCY 2019

24TH JUNE – 30TH AUGUST 2019

WALL PAINTINGS, MONUMENTS & POLYCHROMY AT ST. MARY’S CHURCH, LYDIARD TREGOZE

SUPPORTED BY THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND
Summer Residency 2019
WITH JANE RUTHERFOORD AND EDDIE SINCLAIR

THE PROJECT
Located near Swindon, in north Wiltshire, St. Mary’s is well known for its extensive medieval wall paintings and the abundance of other decorative features that include some elaborate architectural polychromy and the superb collection of monuments to the St. John family.

Over the course of 10 weeks, Eddie and Jane will be taking on students (in 4, 6, 8 and/or 10-week stints) to work on the medieval wall paintings in the nave, the polychromy on the chancel screen, with its double-sided Stuart Royal Arms (wood), and most of the polychromy in the chapel (architectural and monuments). Full-time tuition will be provided on the materials and techniques used in the conservation of these historic surfaces.

While individual tasks will be selected to broaden students’ natural aptitudes, experience and, as far as possible, specific interests, this project will introduce participants to new challenges and to tasks they have not met before and/or had the opportunity to practise.

What will you learn?
By the end of the project, and depending upon the length of participation, students should be familiar with the principles and some of the techniques for:

Wall paintings
- the preparation of materials – slaked lime-putty mortar, slurry (for grouting) and toned limewashes
- how to recognize the tell-tale signs of paintings surviving behind layers of limewash
- the removal of over-paint, plain limewash, distemper and surface deposits from underlying paint layers and historic surfaces
- identifying, analysing and assessing old repairs
- removal of old repairs
- stabilizing decayed/delaminating plaster/limewash (grouting/re-adhering loose layers)
- filling losses with slaked lime-putty:sand mortar
- re-integrating losses with toned limewash
Polychromy

- surface cleaning and removal of grease deposits
- stabilisation of detaching support and paint layers
- surface repairs - filling of losses and cracks
- application of isolation layers and protective surface coatings, e.g. varnish
- re-integration and in-painting of losses and repairs

The project will provide an excellent opportunity to practise these techniques, together with essential, related skills – for which dedicated time is always in short supply within the overall time restraints of a set course.

Other aspects to be covered will include

- recognizing and accepting your limitations and when to stop and seek advice
- paint analysis - the analysis carried out as part of the preliminary investigations revealed a rich and complex painting history and periods when the church appeared radically different to today
- how to take paint samples
- documentation of condition, findings, interventive processes carried out
- sustainable conservation (especially 're-treatability') and maintenance

As part of their overall work experience, trainees will be encouraged to study the history behind the project – e.g. the art history and, as an institution, the Church's long patronage of arts and crafts – and to build their confidence by taking opportunities to engage with the wider public.
Fees, facilities and practicalities

What IS paid for…

The training and accommodation are funded by the HLF

- **Accommodation** is in Lydiard Park’s Conference Centre, attached to Lydiard House, and next to the churchyard. Trainees will share twin-bedded rooms, each with their own bathroom.
- **Breakfast** on weekdays is included: the Conference Centre will provide large breakfasts in house or ‘take-away’ breakfasts that can be eaten later.

What IS NOT paid for…

- **Travel** Public transport to Swindon is easy, by train or bus. Drivers with their own car will be encouraged to share journeys but only on the basis of their passengers sharing fuel/mileage costs!
- **Lunch and dinner** Students will be responsible for their own lunch and dinner. They will have the use of a small, separate building (next to churchyard and Conference Centre) which contains basic kitchen facilities (a microwave oven and 2 fridges). Nearby, and part of the Park’s facilities, there is a café for lunches/teas. Within reasonable walking distance and only a few minutes by car there is a large shopping precinct for food and everything else.

YOUR INSTRUCTORS

Collectively, our clients include abbeys, cathedrals, churches, city councils, synagogues, colleges, historic houses, museums, private owners, schools, trusts, CADW, English Heritage and The National Trust.

**Eddie** (instructor) did her initial apprenticeship at Exeter Cathedral, working on the conservation of the west front and interior medieval polychromed roof bosses and wall paintings, as well as training as a stone carver and mason.

She went freelance in 1983; concentrating in the southwest of England, developing an interest in the materials, techniques and conservation needs of historic painted decoration in the region. Eddie was accredited in 2000 by the Institute for Conservation.

For nearly forty years, Eddie has focused on the conservation, research and analysis of historic painted surfaces, often on large-scale decorative schemes such as cathedral west fronts and rood screens.

For further information see [www.historicpaintconservation.co.uk](http://www.historicpaintconservation.co.uk)

**Jane** (instructor and project leader) undertook most of her training abroad, firstly in Florence and subsequently in Munich and Vienna. She has been running her own practice since 1982 and has specialized in the conservation of wall paintings, architectural polychromy and ‘easel’ paintings in the UK and Europe.

For the last 18 years, Jane has been inviting trainee practitioners and conservation students to join her on various projects for professional tuition, supervised work experience and specific research/practical projects as part of university courses.

Jane has been appointed an examiner of bachelor and diploma students with the Conservation & Restoration Faculty of Hildesheim University of Applied Arts & Sciences (Germany). She is a Fellow of The International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC).
APPLICATIONS

The deadline for applications is 9th March 2019.

Selection criteria

This project will suit students at all levels, with varying amounts of hands-on experience.

Our objective is to put together a team of individuals who are enthusiastic for this type of experience and keen to explore a career that is focused on the study and care of architectural and other historic surfaces, be they paintings, polychromed sculpture, plain/ornamental plaster, stone, etc.

Application process

Please write 3 bullet points explaining why you would like to join the project. As this is a training opportunity, applicants are encouraged to be candid about any aspects of their study and hands-on skills that they would especially like to focus upon and/or to develop.

Please send these 3 bullet points, together with:

- your CV, and
- the names and contact details of two referees (one of your referees should work or teach in the conservation field), ...

... to jane_rutherfoord@btconnect.com AND eddie.sinclair@talktalk.net with “Lydiard Training” in the subject line.

CONTACT DETAILS

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We look forward to hearing from you!

With best wishes,

Jane Rutherfoord & Eddie Sinclair