

Artefacts

THE FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST MAGAZINE

SPRING 2015



Friends of
Birmingham
Museums

BAfM

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OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS

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Our Chairman

Deborah de Haes



So the days lengthen and our thoughts turn to getting out and about again, looking to do new things, as new shoots emerge and colour starts returning to gardens and parks.

At BMT there are many new things to see this year. The new Spitfire Gallery opens at the end of March; I am told Friends contributed significantly to the public appeal so thank you to all who have given so generously. As a Committee, we have agreed to contribute to a new Children's Museum to be located just outside the Edwardian Tea Room. Not only is this a much-needed facility, but it will also enable the Buddhas to be moved to a new faith gallery, representing many more faiths in Birmingham.

'New Art West Midlands' is always an exciting exhibition, challenging us to see art in a new way. From this year's exhibition we have agreed to purchase the self portrait that featured on the cover of the last Artefacts, a most interesting painting from an up-and-coming artist (see page 12).

At this time of year we are thinking about our AGM, not only a legal requirement but also a time to take stock and to look forward. This year it will be on Tuesday 4 August, a little later than usual, so please note the date, and do return your form to give an idea of numbers.

To raise awareness of our work, and to encourage new members, we have been giving an 'Ambassadors' Presentation' to local groups. We talk about the Friends, our work, importance, history and current role, and then talk about BMT Museums and Heritage Sites, with stories and pictures to add interest. This has been very well received so far. If you know of a group that might like the *Ambassadors Presentation*, please contact Melissa in the office who will make all the arrangements. If you would like to attend one first, do ask her and you will be very welcome to join us.

BMT are launching their own membership scheme in May, which will have two levels – silver and gold. Silver membership will give free entry to Heritage

Sites and exhibitions, as well as 10% discount in shops and tearooms (similar to Friends' membership but without Artefacts, events and social activities). Gold membership will additionally give free entry to Thinktank and its exhibitions. At present, Friends' membership will continue alongside BMT's membership scheme. We are working closely with BMT to ensure this approach remains sensible and viable. I would be glad of your views on this, now or at the AGM.

Thank you to all who have commented on the various venues we have been trialling for our programme of evening events. In this Artefacts, all the evening events are back at Edmunds. This is definitely our most popular venue, so we are going back there for now, even though there is still some uncertainty about the extent and timing of their planned future refurbishment.

I cannot possibly finish this Chair's report without saying a huge public thank you to John Pownall. This is the last Artefacts he is editing, after many, many years in the role. He has done a fantastic job, through thick and thin, and we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude. We have put together role profiles for an Events Coordinator and an Artefacts Coordinator, which are currently being advertised. If you are interested, please do contact Melissa in the office. John has generously offered to help his successor by sharing hints and tips drawn from his many years' experience. I am hoping we will still see him around (he has kindly offered to organise the weekend trip this year), and that we will still be able to benefit from his skill, good humour and ability to sort out crises without most of us knowing they had even happened! Thank you, John, and may you have every health and happiness in the next stage of your busy life.

And I wish all our Friends the same! ■

Deborah de Haes, Chair

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shire hall gallery, stafford

Tilleke Schwarz Embroidery

11 July – 6 September



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14 March – 10 May



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I exploring new places

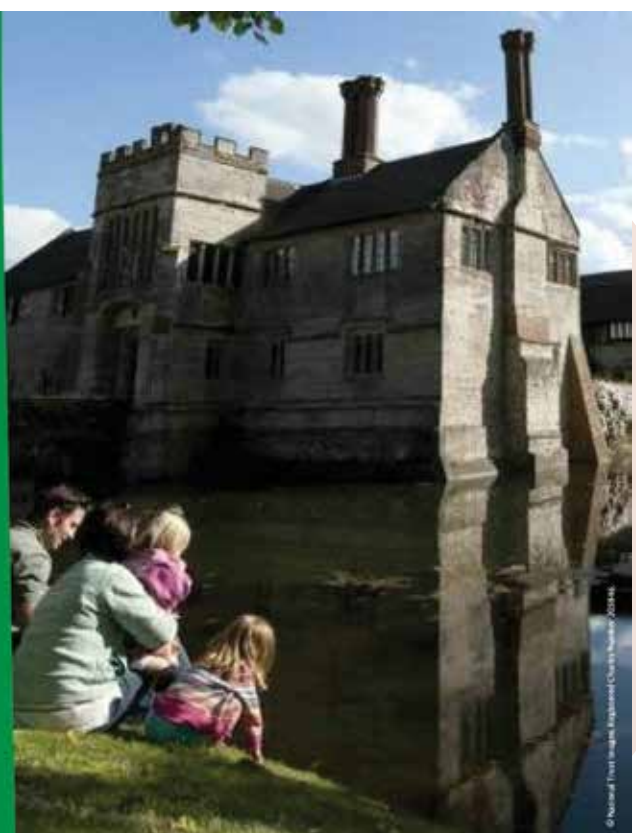
Baddesley Clinton and Packwood

Over the course of its 500 year history, Baddesley has provided refuge for those seeking to escape the outside world, never more so than when it became a place of safety for Catholic priests living in dangerous times. This year we take a closer look at their story.

Over at Packwood find out more about how the property and gardens have evolved through the collection of old photographs, watercolours, maps and plans.

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National Trust





Forthcoming Friends' Events

Event Applications

For Friends' Members the event applications will be included as a supplement in the centre of this magazine.

Note: Where applicable, if you are not a member and would like to apply for one of our events, send a letter to the address on page 4 stating the Event Name(s), your name, address, telephone number, how many places, the cost, the pickup point if a coach trip and any other relevant information. Include a cheque for the total amount made out to 'FBMAG' unless otherwise stated. Please also include a S.A.E. for the return of your tickets.

Weekend Away - Swindon

Friday 2 – Monday 5 October 2015. This year we go south, accommodation in Swindon. It will be a mixture of old favourites and new experiences, stately homes, monuments, a railway museum and a couple of surprises.

Friday: Our first visit will be to the redeveloped Reading Town Hall, a magnificent Grade II listed building. Situated within the Town Hall is the Museum of Reading housing twelve exciting galleries. Above the Galleries is Reading's full-size copy of the *Bayeux Tapestry* that came to the town in 1895. It was bought for the town by Arthur Hill, a former Mayor of Reading and was one of the first exhibits in the new Art Gallery of the Museum, which opened in 1897.

After time for lunch (not included) we will coach to Basildon Park NT. This Georgian mansion is surrounded by parkland, and was lovingly rescued by Lord and Lady Iliffe in the mid 1950s. The house you see today is a re-creation and restoration of the 18th-century mansion. They restored the elegant interior and scoured the country salvaging 18th-century

architectural fixtures and fittings. Lord and Lady Iliffe filled their comfortable new home with fine paintings, fabrics and furniture, which can still be enjoyed today.

Then to Swindon for 3 nights dinner bed & breakfast at the Lydiard Park Conference Centre.



Saturday: This morning will be spent in Salisbury, a Guided Tour of the Cathedral will be followed by free time. Entry to Salisbury Museum is included, their collections span the history and archaeology of Salisbury and south Wiltshire from prehistoric times to the present day. The Museum is designated by the Arts Council as having archaeology collections of outstanding national importance. Also within easy walking distance is Mompesson House NT. When you enter this elegant and spacious 18th-century house that featured in the award-winning film *Sense and Sensibility*, the feeling of leaving the modern world behind is deepened and you step back into a past world. The delightful walled garden has a pergola and traditionally planted herbaceous borders.

After time for lunch (not included), we will travel to Avebury NT. This site includes the Alexander Keiller Museum, Avebury Manor, a Tea Room and a shop.

In re-erecting many of the stones, Alexander Keiller uncovered the true wonder of one of the most important megalithic monuments in Europe. His fascinating finds are on display in the Stables Gallery.



Avebury Manor was the subject of a unique collaboration with the BBC. The lives and stories of the house's many owners were brought to life by the use of interior design, including the creation of many new pieces.

The main part of the Manor garden includes their apple orchard. There is also the Topiary Garden, where the hedge design echoes the ornate Tudor Parlour ceiling.



Sunday: We shall spend the morning at Stonehenge NT & EH, one of the wonders of the world and the best-known prehistoric monument in Europe. Stonehenge has a transformed visitor experience, with a new world-class visitor centre, housing museum-quality exhibitions, plus five Neolithic Houses and a spacious shop and café.

After time to get lunch we visit the New Art Centre in East Winterslow that was founded in 1958. The original gallery was located in Sloane Street, London. In 1994 it was relocated to Roche Court in Wiltshire, a 19th century house in parkland. Together with the grounds, Roche Court is now used as a sculpture park and educational centre where work is shown inside and out providing a survey of sculpture for the enjoyment of the public. The New Art Centre represents various artists' estates including Barbara Hepworth, Kenneth Armitage and Ian Stephenson.

The gallery at Roche Court, designed by architect Stephen Marshall, opened in autumn 1998. It has proved to be a perfect addition to the park and has won six architectural awards including the RIBA Stephen Lawrence Prize for best small building.

Tea, coffee and home made cake will be provided before we return to Lydiard Park.

Monday: We start the day with a short drive to 'Steam', the Museum of the Great Western Railway that is housed in a beautifully restored Grade II railway building in the heart of the former Swindon railway works. The museum tells the story of the men and women who built, operated and travelled on the GWR, often referred to as 'God's Wonderful Railway'. The pioneering vision and engineering genius of Isambard Kingdom Brunel led to the GWR network becoming regarded as the most advanced in the world.

We then head for Burford and our included lunch at the Cotswold Gateway Hotel.

Our final stop will be Upton House NT. '*Banking for Victory: A country house at War*' - Upton has been transformed into the Country House Bank.

In 1939 the owners of Upton House – the Bearsteds – moved out and their family-owned bank moved in. Driven by the need to protect bank staff and assets from the London air raids, M. Samuel & Co., moved in

lock, stock and barrel for the duration of the Second World War.

From 27 March 2015, you will be able to step back in time to see how the bank staff lived and worked in their new surroundings. There will be office desks and typewriters in the Long Gallery, just as there were in the 1940s, alongside the world class paintings and porcelain collection. The property will be opening new rooms, enhancing the gardens and exploring what happened when ordinary people took over this extraordinary place.

Leaving at 5pm we will return to Birmingham arriving at approx. 7pm.

Cost: £340 per person in a double bedded room or £390 in a single. This includes travel and hotel (3 nights D B&B), driver's tip, lunch at the Cotswold Gateway Hotel, refreshments as listed above and all entrance charges (except NT properties).

Travel Insurance: To simplify refunds etc associated with cancellations we are asking all applicants to ensure that they have Travel Insurance. If you require Coach Holiday Travel Insurance please indicate on your Application, we will then send you the necessary information to apply by telephone or through the Internet, the cost for the four days will be £18.79.

To Secure Your Place(s): Send the application form with your non returnable deposit of £50 per person; also, if you require Coach Holiday Travel Insurance please indicate.

Because we have to pay some venues prior to our visit please also indicate on the Application Form whether or not you are Members of the National Trust, English Heritage and Art Fund.

Pickup Points: Yateley Road, Harborne @ 08:30am
Chest Clinic, Great Charles St. @ 08:45am

Friends Guided Tours

These tours are exclusive to Friends and cost £9. Please note that Lunch is not included in these events.

Guided Tour (126)

'Love is Enough' by Lisa Beauchamp

Tuesday 23 June 2015. See details under Evening Talks over the page.

Friends will meet in the Gas Hall reception at 11:00am.

Guided Tour (127)

'The Newly Hung Baroque Galleries' by Helen Hillyard

Friday 26 June 2015. Join National Gallery Curatorial Trainee Helen Hillyard for a tour of the newly rehung Baroque Galleries. BMT holds one of the most significant collections of 17th century European art in a UK public museum outside London. This tour will introduce key works from the collection, many of which have been in store for several years, as well as revealing the curatorial decisions behind the display.

Friends will meet in the Round Room at 11:00am.

Guided Tour (128) 'Art in the 19th century' by Jane Howell

Friday 17 July 2015. During the 19th century what could be described as a revolution occurred in the world of art. On both sides of the English Channel young artists were rebelling against the traditional methods being taught in the leading Art Schools. In this tour we shall be examining how this rebellion manifests itself in very different ways in England and France.

Friends will meet in the Round Room at 11:00am.

Guided Tour (129) - 'Galleries 12 and 13: Birmingham People and Change in the Inner City' by Jo-Ann Curtis, Curator (History)

Thursday 9 July 2015. The display in Gallery 12 is entitled *'Birmingham People'*. The display explores the ways in which ordinary Birmingham people have been represented in art during the 20th and 21st centuries. The display includes oil paintings, photographs, and film as well as sculpture from the fine art and history collection. Gallery 13's new display is called *'Change in the Inner City'*. This display explores how Birmingham's urban landscape has undergone a number of significant redevelopments since the Second World War, and the impact this has had on the city and its people. The display includes topographical material from the fine art and history collection, as well as architectural models including the 1968 Aston Expressway, and Gravelly Hill Interchange model. Friends will meet in the Round Room at 11:00am.

Evening Talks

This series of evening events will be returning to Edmunds Lounge Bar, 106-110 Edmund Street, Birmingham, B3 2ES; www.edmundsbar.co.uk. The ticket price includes a glass of wine and a slice of pizza. The talks will begin at 6:30pm and will finish by 8:30pm.

Cost: £9 (£12 non-members).

'Love is Enough' - Lisa Beauchamp, Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art

Tuesday 2 June 2015, 6:30-8:30pm. Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, Lisa Beauchamp, will discuss the ideas and framework behind the exhibition *'Love is Enough: William Morris and Andy Warhol.'* *'Love is Enough'* draws together iconic and rarely seen works by two giants of the 19th and 20th centuries. The Birmingham showing of this exhibition will see Birmingham Museum Trust's set of beautiful Holy Grail Tapestries displayed together for the first time since

2008. This is a unique chance to see these extremely rare light sensitive works. This unconventional combination of artist's work is curated by Turner-prize winning artist Jeremy Deller who cites Morris and Warhol as his two greatest artistic influences.

'An Ode to Christian Joy' - Emily Sparkes, Artist

Tuesday 16 June 2015, 6:30 pm-8:30pm. Emily Sparkes is a painter and costume-maker working in Birmingham. She completed her BA in Fine Art at Birmingham City University before being awarded full funding to study for her MA in Queer Studies in Arts and Culture. Her work is heavily influenced by 18th century Salon painting and she utilises the practice of *'tableaux vivants'* to restage elements from these works, creating questionable narratives in order to reconsider and critique both the historical and the contemporary. She is primarily interested in addressing concepts of gender performativity and queer temporality, how identity can be fabricated, and *'the personal is political'*. The theatrical; excessive fashion; and the use of the pose are all deployed as strategies to challenge heteronormative ideals and explore the artifice of painting.



Sparkes' work was chosen to be included in *'New Art West Midlands 2015'*, being shown at both the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry. Her painting *'An Ode to Christian Joy'* a self-portrait of the artist wearing a copy of an outfit made by the American costume-designer has recently been purchased by the Friends for Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery for its permanent collection.

'Change in the Inner City' Gallery 13 - Jo-Ann Curtis, Curator (History)

Tuesday 7 July 2015, 6:30pm-8:30pm. Jo-Ann Curtis will talk in more detail about the new display in Gallery 13 called 'Change in the Inner City'. This display explores how Birmingham's urban landscape has undergone a number of significant redevelopments since the Second World War, and the impact this has had on the city and its people.



'Proposal for Nechells Parkway', 1943, by Reginald E Edgecombe

AV Room Talks

At 10:40am we will meet in the AV Room at the rear of Gas Hall for refreshments. The talk will start at 11am and last about 1¼ hours.

Cost: £9. These talks are open to non-members

'The Young Turner: His art, alternative families and the women in his life' - Professor Michael Cullen

Thursday 28 May 2015, 10:40am. Michael Cullen's lecture will be based on research conducted as part of an MA he completed last year at Birmingham University. He studied Turner's watercolours from c.1790-1820 tracing the dramatic developments the artist achieved in this most English of art forms. He will propose a personal interpretation of one work in particular in which he believes Turner may have included the women in his life at that time (1815). The renowned Turner scholar and biographer Dr James Hamilton described this

interpretation as 'consistent and convincing'. He will also discuss how his early life may have resulted in Turner's inability to make secure attachments to women and hence his need for 'alternative' families.

Note: this talk will include the same content as the Evening Talk on 31 March.

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 4 August 2015. The AGM will be held in the Learning Zone, which is accessed from the Great Charles Street entrance, commencing at 6:30pm. As members will appreciate this is a very important meeting in the Friends' calendar and your Committee urges every member to try to attend. It gives you, the member, the chance to air your views on the running of your association. Once again, would you please make every effort to attend this meeting which is free of charge. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available prior to the meeting from 6:00pm, no other refreshments will be provided.

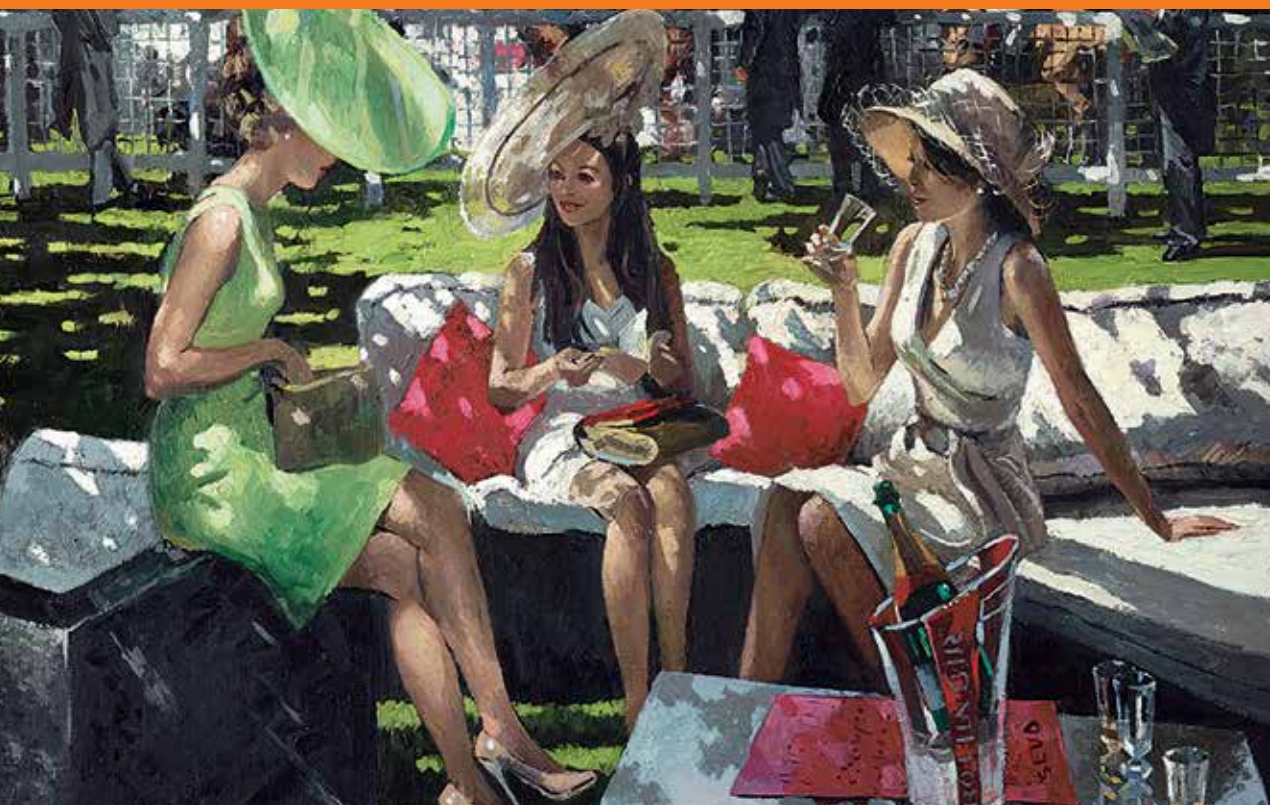
As in previous years if you wish to make a donation towards the costs of the meeting prior to the event please indicate the amount you are donating on the booking form and include it in the amount you are paying for events bookings, plates will also be available on the evening for you to make a donation if you so wish. It is however important that we know how many will be attending for room layout and catering, so please complete the Application form which is included in this mailing and return as soon as possible.

Note: Since the redevelopment of 'Paradise' began the underground parking is no longer available.

Afternoon Gallery Tour

'Figures in the landscape' - Howard Turner, Area Manager, Whitewall Galleries

Tuesday 14 July 2015, 2:30pm-4:30pm. Whitewall



'Race Day Celebrations' by Sherree Valentine Daines

Galleries represents a phenomenal portfolio of fine artists, ranging from top international names to the most exceptional new talent. This talk and exhibition looks at the work of two of their most distinguished artists, Britain's foremost modern impressionist Sherree Valentine Daines and the late L.S.Lowry.

These towering figures share a passion for painting people and characters within the context of their lives; with Daines we see high days and holidays with beaches, social and sporting events and country scenes, whereas Lowry shows us the workers of the industrial north going about their daily business, part of a completely different world. Both these artists have made a huge impact on the British Art Market, and we will explore what it is that has lifted them to the status they enjoy as two of the country's best loved and most collected artists.

Cost: £9 (£12 non-members). Includes tea/coffee and cake.

Venue: Whitewall Galleries Birmingham, 9 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2BJ, downstairs viewing room.

Dates For Your Diary

Evening Talk - 'Shaping Nature: The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists' – Viv Astling, Sculptor, RBSA

Tuesday 1 September 2015, 6:30pm-8:30pm.

An evening event, held at the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA). The evening will include an introduction to the RBSA, followed by a guided tour of the exhibition in Gallery 2 - *'Stones @ Home in the garden'*, led by the sculptor Viv Astling RBSA, whose work will be included in the exhibition.



'Pitch and Toss', by Viv Astling, sculptor, RBSA, Lincoln Silverbed on a Slate plate

An Ode to Christian Joy

2013, oil on canvas, by Emily Sparkes

'An Ode to Christian Joy' has been purchased by the Friends of Birmingham Museums Trust for BMT's permanent collection, enabling this artist's work to enter a UK public collection for the first time.

This is a striking work that always stops me in my tracks. Sparkes' painting is a self-portrait and her uneasy, almost sullen expression, complete with heavily laden pink eye make-up, is captivating. You don't normally see females depicted in a painting like this. Boldly clashing with the 18th century formal backdrop, she looks out of place, unsettled and yet powerfully challenging the status quo of female portraiture as pristine and docile. Sparkes proudly meets our gaze. Her costume is made by the artist herself and is influenced by the punk and DIY inspired costume designer Christian Joy who has made costumes for Yeah Yeah Yeah's lead singer Karen O. In Sparkes' version, 1970s glam aesthetics and Victorian theatricality combine to create a cacophony of sweeping colours, tassels, eye symbols and a seemingly glove adorned hat. The imagery of eyes and hands on her clothing perhaps signifies a way of reaching out alongside Sparkes' painful gaze.

For Sparkes, 'An Ode to Christian Joy' is a self-portrait that explores the ritualistic aspects of sexuality that have been celebrated as prevailing throughout British History – losing virginity, courting and marriage. Inspired by female painters such as Louise Élizabeth Vigée Le Brun, Sparkes says that she is always trying to reclaim oil painting for Feminist and Queer perspectives as she believes oil painting has historically typecast women in specific ways.

In making this painting, Sparkes set up the backdrop, made the costume, modelled for it and photographed it herself. She then worked from photographs to complete the painting which took her around four months.

To have this painting as part of BMT's permanent collection is extremely exciting. It enables us to represent a young regional artist in our collection and to engage more fully with contemporary artistic practice. The painting has strong synergies to many areas of the collection and it can be shown in a variety of contexts, for example as an intervention with 18th century portraiture or as an illustration of contemporary tastes, fashion, image and identity.

Emily Sparkes is currently exhibiting in 'New Art West Midlands' at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery until May 18th and at The Herbert Art Gallery in Coventry until May 31st. Do come and hear more about the artist and her work as Emily Sparkes is giving an evening talk for the Friends (see page 9). ■

By Lisa Beauchamp
Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Birmingham
Museums Trust





News From the Office

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Free entry to special exhibitions in Gas Hall
- Free entry to all our Heritage Sites
- Artefacts magazine four times a year
- Opportunity to join the many Friends' social events and outings
- Opus Restaurant (Cornwall Street, near the Museum) is offering a 10% discount to Friends on production of a valid membership card. This is available for lunch or dinner, 7 days a week.

Plus discounts at the following venues (terms and conditions apply):

- BM&AG and Heritage Site shops
- 50% entrance discount to Thinktank at Millennium Point www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank
- Shakespeare Birthplace Trust shops (excluding admission prices) www.shakespeare.org.uk
- Ironbridge Gorge Trust shops providing a minimum of £5 is spent in one transaction. Offer excludes books, certain sales items, admission prices and café/restaurant purchases) www.ironbridge.org.uk

- Potteries Museums & Art Gallery shops/café's www.stokemuseums.org.uk

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Available all year round and includes 3 extra months free. A Gift Membership form can be downloaded at www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/support-us/friends. Alternatively, you can use the standard application form in this magazine. Complete the form with the recipient's details and send it with a covering note giving your own name and contact details.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our new members: Mrs BH Minovi, Ms K Oram & Mr A Glen-Riddell, Ms GM Coffin & B Hagglund, Miss M Gibbons, Mr P Dargan, Mrs R Rivett, Mr T & Mrs P O'Neil.

Please note that BMT phone numbers have changed, details can be found on the contents page.

APPLICATION FORM: PLEASE WRITE IN CAPITAL LETTERS

Title Name(s)

Address

.

Postcode Tel. No.

Email address

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY AND ANNUAL RATES (Please tick)

SINGLE £32 [] **DOUBLE** (full rate Includes 2 children under 16) £48 []

CONCESSIONARY RATES

SINGLE £21 [] **DOUBLE** £32 [] **STUDENT** £15 []

[] I enclose a cheque for £_____ or [] I have transferred £_____ to SORT CODE 30-00-06 A/C NO 00248432

Please tell us where you picked up a copy of Artefacts _____

☐ Yes I am a UK taxpayer and would like this and any future donations to be tax effective under the Gift Aid Scheme until I notify you otherwise. (You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that you donate to will reclaim on your gifts for that tax year. Other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. FBMAAG will claim 25p of tax on every £1 you give.)

Please send this completed form, together with your cheque made payable to F.B.M.A.G. to the address on page 4 of Artefacts.

DATA PROTECTION ACT -

For membership and accounting needs your details are held on a computerised Database for Friends' Office use only.

News From the Volunteers



As the nights get lighter we feel better, we have more energy, and we use that “spring in our step” to achieve more, and that’s just what our Volunteers continually do, so THANK YOU.

THANK YOU and a very big welcome to our 8 new Volunteers, who we recruited on 4 March and inducted into their Friends’ Desks Ambassador roles on 11 March.

Make sure you go and say hello to them on the Friends’ Desks in the Industrial Gallery and the Gas Hall, when you are next there. They bring with them many new talents and experiences but BEWARE: they will try and encourage more visitors to join the Friends; they are passionate about the Birmingham Museums and Heritage sites; and whatever time they have, they are using their skills and experience to enhance the visitor experience.

If you have any time and want to be part of our team of volunteers, then make sure you keep an eye on the new opportunities which are being advertised on: www.bmag.org.uk/support-us/volunteer.

We have two roles coming soon:

- Artefacts Coordinator
- Events Coordinator

We would love to hear from you if you have an interest in, and would like to find out more about, these roles.

I look forward to seeing you all soon – at events, whilst undertaking your volunteering duties, or welcoming you to the Friends.

Enjoy the lovely Spring-time!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friends Volunteers Meetings (which will all take place in the Large Meeting Room, in Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery):

- Thursday 30 May at 11:00am;
- Thursday 11 June at 11:00am;
- Thursday 10 September at 11:00am.

Yvonne Warner
Trustee & Volunteer



Director's Report

Dr Ellen McAdam

I do hope this edition of *Artefacts* finds all our Friends well and looking forward to a marvellous Spring. Staff here at the museums have been hard at work over the winter planning a number of developments and exhibitions that will improve Birmingham Museums' offer and the overall visitor experience.

I am delighted to announce that Birmingham Museums Trust has been successful in gaining funding of £260,254 from the DCMS/Wolfson Fund to improve the visitor experience at the Museum & Art Gallery. The funding will improve visitor facilities, attracting wider audiences and increasing engagement with the collections. The award enables Birmingham Museums to respond to the recently-commissioned evaluation funded by the Friends. The report focused on audiences and buildings, highlighting the under provision for children and families, such as interactive displays, as an area for future development.

We are very grateful to the Friends for generous funding towards a special *Children's Museum*. This will be located next to the popular Edwardian Tea Room in Gallery 3 (currently the Buddha Gallery), which will be renovated, equipped and redisplayed as an under-five's museum and safe welcoming family space. The gallery will be multi-functional with a mini-discovery museum drawing on the collections and a flexible space for pop-up activities. The Buddha will be moved to form the focal point of a new *Faith in Birmingham Gallery*.

In addition to this exciting development, we will improve and increase provision for families and carers of young children - particularly on the second floor of the Museum & Art Gallery where most of the gallery spaces are. These improvements will facilitate longer, more engaging visits for all our visitors. The external and internal welcome and signage will be standardised

with new maps and information points to enable easier navigation around the venue. New interpretation for both adults and children will invite exciting interaction with the objects on display. The improvements will be implemented throughout 2015-16.

We are excited to be exhibiting Wendy Ramshaw's critically-acclaimed *Room of Dreams* in gallery 15 from April. This stunning installation is an influential example of contemporary applied art and is made up of many parts, from tiny jewels in frames to freestanding furniture, showcasing key pieces from Wendy's fifty-year career.

Over at Thinktank, the exciting new Spitfire Gallery is now open. This gallery showcases jewels of Birmingham's Science and Industry collection - the Supermarine Spitfire Mark IX and the Hawker Hurricane Mark IV - and through interpretation and interactives chronicles the design, manufacture, use and legacy of these amazing machines. Spitfires are very much a part of Birmingham's fabric, with over 50% of all of the aircraft made being produced in the City. That legacy lives on, with the West Midlands being a hub of activity for the aviation industry. I would like to take this opportunity to thank every Friend who answered our call for help and joined the Spitfire Club, your contribution has made a real difference.

Now that Spring, with its daffodils and promising sunshine, is upon us, our Heritage Sites have reopened for the season. There are many changes afoot this year, with

different opening times and visit formats allowing for interesting seasonal programmes at each site. Aston Hall, Blakesley Hall, Soho House and Sarehole Mill will each offer pre-booked tours during the week (Tuesday to Friday) and drop-in access on weekends. The Museum of the Jewellery Quarter will continue to be open all year round on Tuesdays to Saturdays. More specific details on opening times and tour prices can be found on our website.

As you might have seen over the Winter, the 'Support Birmingham Museums' campaign took place in response to the proposed 15% budget cut outlined in Birmingham City Council's White Paper. We were so pleased that over 7,200 people, including many Friends, signed the petition to pledge their support for the Trust. In addition, a number of organisations put pen to paper in order to plead our case. I am happy to report that following the consultation period, a lesser cut of 10% has been set for 2015/16.

Finally, I am delighted to say that we have been awarded just over £123,000 from Arts Council England to continue pioneering work in the field of Islamic and South Asian Art. The three-year grant will enable the Subject Specialist Network for Islamic Art and Material Culture, chaired by BMT's own Dr Rebecca Bridgeman, to give assistance to other regional museums in providing practical support in unlocking the potential of their own Islamic Art collections and using them to help engage diverse communities. This is a wonderful project and I am proud that BMT is leading the way in such an important area.

I want to once again thank all of our Friends for their staunch support of our museums and I hope you find something over the coming months to interest and excite you. ■

Dr Ellen McAdam

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www.samueljohnsonbirthplace.org.uk

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Cutting Edge: Contemporary Hungarian Glass exhibition
Talks, tours, workshops, displays, events & lots more
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Lukács

Broadfield House Glass Museum
Compton Drive, Kingswinford,
West Midlands DY6 9NS
01384 812745
www.glassmuseum.org.uk

Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council



What's On Museum Events

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH
Open Sat - Thu 10am-5pm and Fri 10:30am-5pm
0121 348 8000

FREE entry

From Renaissance masterpieces and cutting edge contemporary art to Egyptian mummies and the iconic HP factory sign, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery showcases a world class collection and offers fascinating glimpses into Birmingham's rich and vibrant past. Highlights include the finest collection of Pre-Raphaelite art in the world and the largest find of Anglo-Saxon gold ever discovered - the Staffordshire Hoard.

Don't miss the Birmingham History Galleries – packed with artefacts, local treasures and interactive displays that reveal captivating stories of Birmingham from the last 500 years.

Community Gallery

FAITH & ACTION: QUAKERS & THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Until Sunday 7 June 2015 in the Community Gallery.
FREE entry. Using original photographs, film, interviews and artefacts, 'Faith & Action' tells the compelling stories of Quaker men and women during the 1914-18 conflict and its aftermath. The exhibition examines the impact of the war on Quaker artists, businesses, families and communities in Birmingham and beyond. With rare archival material, 'Faith & Action' explores Quaker humanitarian, medical and relief work in Britain and Europe, and brings to life the dilemmas experienced by young Quaker men deciding whether to fight, face imprisonment or serve in other ways. In partnership with Central England Area Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).

NEW ART WEST MIDLANDS

Until Sunday 17 May 2015 in Gallery 20. FREE entry. This popular exhibition returns for a third year, showcasing

the best work by new graduates from the region. Visitors will not fail to spot a six foot sock monkey puppet created by Vicky Roden, plus other humorous and unnerving animal hybrid sculptures by Jade Simpson and human-like sculptures by Lisa Marie Williams. Visitors should also look out for work by Michael Carr, whose street map of Coventry references the city's Ska heritage. There is also video and performance art by Emma Starkey and Sarah Thorley, the latter made in response to time spent working alongside the museum's cleaning team. Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery in partnership with Turning Point West Midlands.

ART FROM ELSEWHERE: INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY ART FROM UK GALLERIES

Until Sunday 31 May 2015 in the Waterhall Gallery.

FREE entry. Showcasing 26 artists whose work was recently collected as part of the Art Fund International scheme, this exhibition considers themes of global change and failed utopias. A Hayward Touring exhibition supported by the Art Fund.

LOVE IS ENOUGH: WILLIAM MORRIS & ANDY WARHOL

Saturday 25 April - Sunday 6 September 2015 in The Gas Hall. Adult £7, Concession (student/senior) £6, Child (3-15 years) £3, Child (under 3) Free, Family (2 adults & 2 children) £17. 'Love is Enough' brings together iconic and rarely seen works by two giants of art history - William Morris and Andy Warhol. This spectacular exhibition, curated by Turner Prize winning artist Jeremy Deller, and conceived by Modern Art Oxford, runs throughout the summer. A highlight of the show is Birmingham's collection of Holy Grail Tapestries - produced by Morris & Co. - displayed together for the first time since 2008. Don't miss this rare opportunity to see these beautiful works. In partnership with Modern Art Oxford and supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England's Exceptional Award programme.

SPECIAL EVENING EVENT

Wednesday 14 May 2015, 6-7:30pm. Join Jeremy Deller, (Turner-prize winning artist and Curator of

'Love is Enough') and Fiona MacCarthy OBE (British biographer and cultural historian) for an evenings talk and discussion on the artists William Morris and Andy Warhol. The talk will take place in the exhibition space amongst Birmingham's series of stunning Holy Grail Tapestries, produced by Morris & Co in 1898.

This is a unique opportunity from Jeremy about his approach to creating an exhibition about his two greatest artistic influences, William Morris and Andy Warhol. Fiona MacCarthy will share her expertise and insight into the life and work of William Morris, as the author of the definitive biography 'William Morris: A Life of our Time.' A book signing will also take place as part of this event. Tickets are £10 per person (includes separate entry into the exhibition at another time). Pre-booking essential, to book phone 0121 348 8038 or book online via the BMAG website.

Birmingham Museums Heritage Sites

This season, Birmingham Museums is proud to launch a new programme of Heritage Tours at its Heritage Sites. For prices, opening times and for more information, see birminghammuseums.org.uk

Museum of the Jewellery Quarter

75-80 Vyse Street, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HA
Open all year round. Tue - Sat 10:30am-5pm. Closed Sun and Mon except Bank Holidays.

Tour charges apply to non-members

Step back in time to a perfectly preserved jewellery workshop. When the owners of the Smith & Pepper jewellery factory decided to retire after 80 years of trading, they simply locked the door leaving a time capsule for future generations. Enjoy a lively factory tour (available all year round) that includes demonstrations of traditional jewellery making and offers a unique glimpse into working life in Birmingham's famous Jewellery Quarter.

Aston Hall

Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD

Open 28 Mar - 1 Nov 2015. See website for opening times and booking details.

Tour charges apply to non-members

Discover the splendour of a grand Jacobean mansion on the 'Aston Experience' tour. Take a tour through majestic state rooms, including the imposing Long Gallery, as well as the servants' quarters and beautiful gardens.

Hear captivating stories about the people who visited the Hall and learn about its central role in the English Civil War. Plus, don't miss the chance to get to grips with genuine 17th-century objects. The exciting events programme and child friendly access makes Aston Hall the perfect place to visit with all the family.

Blakesley Hall

Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

Open 28 Mar - 1 Nov 2015. See website for opening times and booking details.

Tour charges apply to non-members

Experience one of Birmingham's finest timber-framed Tudor houses. Built in 1590 for Richard Smalbroke, a Birmingham merchant, Blakesley Hall is a peaceful haven set in an urban location. The Blakesley tour reveals the fascinating history of the Hall and allows you to enjoy the herb garden, orchard and beautiful grounds. With its spacious gardens, family trails and activities programme, Blakesley Hall is the ideal location for a family day out.

Sarehole Mill

Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B13 0BD

Open 28 Mar - 1 Nov 2015. See website for opening times and booking details.

Tour charges apply to non-members

Explore the idyllic childhood haunt of J.R.R Tolkien. Take a tour around one of only two surviving working

watermills in Birmingham and gain a unique insight into the lives of the millers who once worked here. On Wednesdays and Sundays, our volunteer millers demonstrate the mill in action. Find out about J.R.R Tolkien's early life in Birmingham. Both the mill, and nearby Moseley Bog, were inspirations for his classic works *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Today, the mill retains its tranquil atmosphere and the millpond provides a haven for kingfishers, moorhens, newts and herons.

Soho House

Soho Avenue, off Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B18 5LB. Open 28 Mar - 1 Nov 2015. See website for opening times and booking details.

Tour charges apply to non-members

Discover the elegant Georgian home of the Birmingham industrialist and entrepreneur, Matthew Boulton. The Soho tour provides a glimpse into Boulton's world, taking you into family and servants' rooms as well as lavish spaces in which he received his eminent guests, including the leading 18th-century intellectuals of the Lunar Society. Don't miss the visitor centre displays which explore Boulton's output from button making and coin minting to silverware and steam engines.

Weoley Castle Ruins

Alwold Road, Weoley Castle, Birmingham, B29 5RJ

The ruins at Weoley Castle are over 700 years old and are the remains of a moated medieval manor. The site has been inhabited from the 12th century and, according to the Domesday Book, was part of the estates of William Fitz Ansculf. Weoley changed hands several times between 1485 and 1531 when it began to fall into disrepair. In the centuries that followed, stone from the castle was removed to build a nearby farm and the Dudley no.2 canal. Today the site is a scheduled Ancient Monument of national importance. The ruins can be viewed from a viewing platform. Direct access to the ruins is only available on special event days or, for groups and schools, by a pre-booked guided tour. Please call 0121 348 8120 for further information.

Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum

Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham, B4 7XG

Open daily 10am-5pm Admission charges apply

Tel: 0121 348 8000

Thinktank offers an extraordinary, fun-packed day out for all the family. From steam engines to intestines, this exciting museum is home to thousands of fascinating objects, and over 200 hands-on displays on science and technology. This includes a state-of-the-art digital Planetarium, and an interactive outdoor Science Garden. With an ever-changing programme of demonstrations, workshops and events, there is always something new to discover.

NEW SPITFIRE GALLERY

Opens 28 March 2015. Entry included in admission charge. Uncover Birmingham's Spitfire Story. A new gallery opens in March 2015 to shed light on the Supermarine Spitfire Mark IX that hangs from the ceiling at Thinktank. Learn how Spitfires were built and about the science behind how aeroplanes fly. Delve into the history of the Castle Bromwich factory and the local men and women who brought over 10,000 Spitfires to life. Plus, discover why the Spitfire is still so important today.

Museum Collections Centre

25 Dollman Street, Birmingham, B7 4RQ

The Museum Collections Centre is where 80% of Birmingham's collections are stored. There are free open afternoons from 1:30pm - 3:30pm on the last Friday of every month. These must be booked in advance. Guided tours are also available by arrangement on other days. Please call 0121 348 8231 for more information or to book.

For more information on all events, exhibitions and other activities, visit birminghammuseums.org.uk

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In The Area

Exhibitions & Days Out

Barber Institute

University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TS
Tel: 0121 414 7333
www.barber.org.uk

INHERITING ROME

Until Sunday 24 January 2016. Look at one of the coins you're carrying today: you'll see the Queen's portrait facing right and Latin script around the royal head.

It seems our coins have looked this way forever - and that's nearly true. But why? This exhibition uses money to explore and question our deep-seated familiarity with the Roman Empire's imagery. Britain is not the only nation, empire or state to channel ancient Rome in this way: the Barber's excellent collection of coins from the Byzantine Empire - as well as examples from Hungary, Georgia and Armenia - illustrate both the problems and possibilities of being genuine heirs of Rome.

Attempting to uncover the political uses of Rome's legacy, this exhibition encourages the visitor to ponder why we are so often told of the empire's importance - and whose interests such imagery serves.

GODS & HEROES

Until Monday 25 May 2015. Epic ambitions underpin this display inspired by Hercules and Caucis, the magnificent chiaroscuro woodcut by Hendrick Goltzius, recently acquired for the gallery.

Gods and Heroes includes prints after Titian, Michelangelo and Rubens, featuring subjects drawn from both ancient mythology and the Judo-Christian tradition. It seeks to uncover the methods and motives behind the representation of the superhuman and supernatural in art.

REVOLUTIONISING FASHION

Until Sunday 26 April 2015. The frivolous and extravagant fashions of the Ancien Regime were brought to a swift and bloody end at the onset of the French Revolution in 1789.

In the ensuing years, a taste for simpler, classically inspired clothing migrated across from Revolutionary France into Britain. This display explores the depiction of fashionable dress in an array of elegant 18th- and early 19th-century British miniatures by the likes of Richard Cosway, George Engleheart and John Smart. On loan from two outstanding private collections, these delicate little paintings are complemented by prints from the Barber's own collection.

Broadfield House Glass Museum

Compton Drive,
Kingswinford,
DY6 9NS
Tel: 01384 812745

LADIES' DAY

Monday 25 May 2015. A day dedicated to celebrating the role of women in the glass industry. Historic pictures and films often show male glassworkers in action and neglect their female colleagues, but women were a vital resource for the great manufacturers, often working in the decorating and finishing departments.

Following in the footsteps of such pioneers as Mrs Elizabeth Graydon-Stannus, women are at the cutting edge of contemporary glass creativity. Enjoy demonstrations by leading female glassmakers, talks and tours plus hands-on crafts that delve into this topic. Everyone is welcome on Ladies' Day.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF GLASS 2015

Monday 25 - Sunday 31 May 2015. The International Festival of Glass is the UK's only festival celebrating the



RPS INTERNATIONAL PRINT 157

Until Sunday 10 May 2015

Shire Hall Gallery

Photo Credit: 'Menina' by Jaqueline Roberts

spectacle and diversity of glassmaking. The Festival hosts or is partner to over 80 exhibitions, events, workshops and lectures, culminating in its renowned Public Festival.

In 2010 it welcomed over 13,000 people to the Stourbridge Glass Quarter. In 2012, the year of the 400th anniversary of glassmaking in Stourbridge and 50 years of studio glassmaking worldwide, saw approximately 20,000 visits to individual sites. Organisers are busy making plans for an even more exciting and interesting festival and will be releasing details in plenty of time for you to book up your diaries

PAPERWEIGHT DAY

Sunday 31 May 2015. Watch stunning demonstrations of paperweight making - if you can find a space! These are always a big draw, with crowds filling the Hot Glass Studio to see the best names in action. Then browse the Paperweight fair for a unique gift and view the American Weights exhibition organised by the Paperweight Collectors' Circle. There will be hot glass demonstrations by Vic Bamforth and Darren Weed.

Wolverhampton Archaeology Group will also be on site, excavating Broadfield's past, watch them at work on the lawned area outside. The Friends of Broadfield House Glass Museum will be selling refreshments.

Museum of Carpet

Stour Vale Mill

Kidderminster

DY10 1AZ

Tel: 01562 69028

www.museumorcarpet.org

A CENTURY OF SURGEONS

Until Saturday 11 July 2015. Discover the story of the Stretton family doctors – three generations of doctors caring for Kidderminster over 100 years.

From innovative inventions to revolutionary developments, the Stretton doctors dedicated their lives to improving the health and living conditions in Kidderminster and beyond. Through interactive displays, audio recording and hands-on activities, uncover the hidden history of iodine and learn how the Stretton doctors helped shape modern medicine.

The exhibition is kindly supported by the John Weston Stretton of Kidderminster Charity, www.johnwestonstretton.co.uk

Shire Hall Gallery

Market Square

Stafford

ST16 2LD

Tel: 01785 278345

RPS INTERNATIONAL PRINT 157

Until Sunday 10 May 2015. The Royal Photographic Society invites professional, student and amateur photographers worldwide to submit their work for the Annual International Print Exhibition.

Now in its 157th year, the exhibition has gained a reputation for showcasing a wide range of genres and styles of photography from documentary, portraiture, landscape and fine art.

A panel of professionals have this year selected 100 images from over 6,000 entered from across the world.

A fully illustrated catalogue of all the images plus selector's comments will be available from the Gallery during the exhibition..



Visit the last surviving courtyard of Back to Back houses any where in the West Midlands.

Experience the sights, sounds & smells, as well as hearing the stories of four different families who occupied the houses from the 1840's up to the 1970's.

With real coal fires in the grates & the opportunity to do the washing the Victorian way... a visit is must!

All visits are by guided tour only and advance booking is essential to avoid disappointment.

For bookings please telephone: 0121 666 7671

The property is open every day except Mon (apart from Bank Holidays) when we close on the Tues afterwards.

During school term time we are only open from 1pm on Tues, Wed & Thurs. Fri to Sun we are open 10am - 5pm. Last tour leaves at 3.45pm (maybe earlier in winter months).

Admission Prices:
 Gift Aid Adult £6.00 | Child £4.40 | Family £17.50
 Standard Adult £7.25 | Child £3.90 | Family £15.90

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The Herbert

Jordan Well,
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Tel: 024 7623 7521
www.theherbert.org

THE STORY OF CHILDREN'S TELEVISION FROM 1946 TO TODAY

Friday 22 May 2015 - Sunday 13 September 2015.

Everybody has a favourite children's television programme or character. Television has helped to shape our lives, and many of its characters and stories have become woven into our culture.

The Story of Children's Television is a highly interactive and family friendly exhibition which traces the fascinating history of children's television from its earliest days to the multi-channel world of today. The exhibition allows us to explore our relationship with these programmes, and how they were at the forefront of technological advancements in the wider world, looking in detail at animation, drama, puppets and factual programmes.

The exhibition brings together objects, memorabilia, merchandise, clips and images from iconic children's programmes. The original objects and characters span the decades, from *Mummy Woodentop* to the original *Tracy Island* model created on *Blue Peter*, *Gordon the Gopher*, *The Wombles*, *Rastamouse* and the singing veggies from *Mr Bloom's Nursery*.

The exhibition has been created by the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry and is supported by the BBC, ITV, Kaleidoscope, The University of Warwick Department of Film and TV Studies, Ragdoll Productions and the Children's Media Foundation.

Sonia Sabri

Tel: 0121 622 3135
mel@ssco.org.co.uk
www.ssco.org.uk
Twitter: [soniasabrico](#)
Facebook: [Sonia Sabri Company](#)

BEAT STREET

June and July 2015. Supported by **Birmingham City Council**. A foot tapping and beat popping extravaganza in Birmingham City Centre, which will take all shoppers and bystanders by surprise in the first week of the Summer Holidays. Be prepared to be stunned by an array of young people dancing and beat boxing through the streets. Led by Sonia Sabri's company of young dancers and musicians, Kathakaars; involving over 50 young people not usually engaged in the arts. If you want to find out more about this project or get involved please contact the company as above.


LOK VIRSA: BEYOND BORDERS

Saturday 26th July, 10am - 10pm. At **the mac** Birmingham. Admission free. www.birmingham.co.uk. Sonia Sabri Company celebrates the rich combination of the arts; music, poetry, crafts and dance rooted in the lands of the Indian subcontinent.

India and Pakistan share a rich and robust cultural heritage, which even today unites the people of each country, despite modern borders and political differences. This living heritage has spread across the globe, influencing much of our contemporary arts today: a testament that any form of segregation does not affect the spirit of the arts and culture. In fact, it is the arts that enable us to rise above material matters and celebrate our existence, beyond what words can describe.


Internationally acclaimed Sonia Sabri Company invites some of the most inspirational artists originally from

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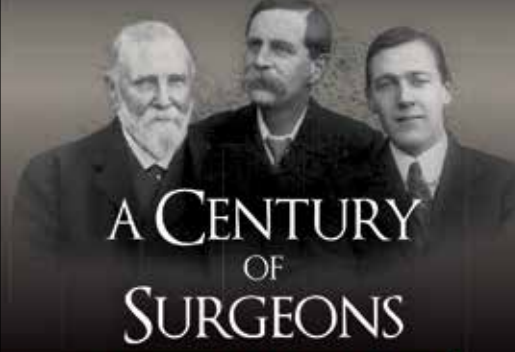
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DY10 1AZ Telephone: 01562 69028
www.museumofcarpet.org



**Forthcoming Tour Dates
April – July 2015**

Black Country Touring, Cast, Oldham Coliseum and Southbank Centre Present



occasionally we skype »»

A new theatre and dance production created by
Black Country Touring and Sonia Sabri Company

Saturday 16th May
Purcell Room at
Queen Elizabeth Hall
Southbank Centre, Belvedere Rd
London SE1 8XX
Box office: 0844 875 0073
www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Saturday 23rd May
Oldham Coliseum
Fairbottom Street, Oldham OL1 3SW
Box office: 0161 624 2829
www.coliseum.org.uk

Friday 29th & Saturday 30th May
Arena Theatre
Wulfruna Street
Wolverhampton WV1 1SE
Box office: 01902 321 321
www.wlv.ticketsolve.com

Saturday 6th June
Cast
Waterdale
Doncaster DN1 3BU
Box office: 01302 303 959
www.castindoncaster.com

LABYRINTH Tuesday 23rd June
The Curve Theatre Rutland Street, Leicester, LE1 1SB
Box Office: 0116 242 3595 www.curveonline.co.uk

www.scco.org.uk

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Pakistan to collaborate on unique presentations and participatory workshops. Lok Virsa features a rare chance to experience regional song, poetry, visual arts, calligraphy, music and dance from different parts of Pakistan.

Come and experience a flavour of South Asian Arts for all ages. A chance to join in with the fun and experience something new.

The Three Choirs

Three Choirs Festival Office
7c College Green
Gloucester
Tel: 0845 652 1823
www.3choirs.org

THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL 2015

For visitors and audience members, the Three Choirs Festival is a unique, immersive experience. Events take place throughout the day during festival week: you can start with a guided walk around the historic host city, take in an art exhibition or enjoy a lunchtime recital in a beautiful church, get on a coach for an afternoon concert somewhere in the surrounding countryside, be back in time for Choral Evensong or a tea-time talk, listen to an awe-inspiring choral and orchestral performance in a glorious cathedral setting, and finish with jazz and a drink at one of our more informal late night events.

Ticketing arrangements include season ticket options for the main cathedral concerts. The various cathedral services during the week are at the heart of the festival and are not ticketed; admission is free and all are most welcome.

Not everyone will want to sample everything that's on offer, of course, and there are plenty of options for those who prefer to enjoy the festival week at a more sedate pace. A range of catering is available in our Festival Villages and cathedral closes, which also offer

shopping opportunities including selling exhibitions by local craft guilds. Further afield, Hereford, Gloucester and Worcester are all full of fascinating old buildings, museums and galleries to explore, together with a good selection of independent shops and plenty of pubs, cafés, wine bars and restaurants.

Worcester Museum & Art Gallery

Foregate Street
Worcester, WR1 1DT
Tel: 01905 25371
www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

AN ENGLISHMAN ABROAD

Until Saturday 31 October 2015. From pilgrimages made by the devout to the grand tours enjoyed by the upper classes, the men and women of Worcestershire have always wandered far from home. This exhibition examines the changing focus of these travellers and the countries that it has taken them to.

STANHOPE FORBES' ENGLAND

Until Saturday 6 June 2015. Explore an idyllic slice of English life through the eyes of the much-loved landscape painter, Stanhope Forbes. The exhibition investigates Forbes' work, life and influences and includes some iconic coastal scenes as well as revealing depictions of England's rural communities, green landscapes and new railways.

WAY OF THE WARRIOR

Saturday 13 June - Saturday 5 September 2015. A visually-stunning exhibition of arms and armour from epic historical movies including *Gladiator*, *Last Samurai* and *War Horse*. The armour and costumes are highly accurate reconstructions of warrior equipment and weapons spanning the last 2500 years. Put yourself in the picture by trying on some of our handling armour, from a gladiator helmet to a World War II backpack.



BEAT STREET

June & July 2015
Sonia Sabri



Exhibitions

Feature

Love is Enough: William Morris and Andy Warhol

Venue: Gas Hall

Dates: 25 April – 6 Sep 2015

'My time working with Jeremy Deller and Modern Art Oxford has been exciting and fast paced – a whirlwind of psychedelic flower prints, Holy Grail tapestries and Morris & Co wallpaper' is how Lisa Beauchamp, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, describes the forthcoming exhibition.

'Love is Enough: William Morris and Andy Warhol' comes to us from its first showing at Modern Art Oxford. Here the exhibition takes on a larger scale in the Gas Hall and includes many more works from Birmingham's extensive William Morris collection including the series of Holy Grail Tapestries, produced by Morris & Co from 1895-1900.

The exhibition examines common themes between two key figures of the 19th and 20th centuries – William Morris and Andy Warhol, an idea that may not at first seem likely. However when you start to delve further and think more broadly about their approaches to making in relation to mass production, design processes and manufacturing techniques, as well as shared mythologies, obsessions and politics, the connections become clear.

Jeremy Deller, artist, Turner-Prize winner and Curator of the exhibition, cites William Morris and Andy Warhol as his two greatest artistic influences. Deller has previously referenced Morris in his own artwork. Deller says *'there's a quote from William Morris that goes: "In the future, the best thing will be a mixture of the artist and the designer." Basically that's what Warhol was.'*

The exhibition is titled after William Morris' play of the same name, *'Love is Enough'*. Written in the style of a medieval morality play in 1871-72, *'Love is Enough'* suggests that love is more valuable and important than power or wealth – a view that Warhol may have indeed shared. The artist's very different upbringings are compared in the first section of the exhibition called *'Camelot'* which sees visually stunning juxtapositions between Warhol's iconic screen-prints of Hollywood starlets and Morris' epic Holy Grail tapestries.

Other areas of the exhibition focus on the artist's relationship to politics, mass production and the iconography of flowers in their work. Even though their work is from a different timeframe, it's clear that both artists have parallels in many areas.

'Hopes and Fears for Art' examines Morris and Warhol's relationship to politics and their shared belief in the existence of art in daily life. Morris' political leanings are well known. He converted to Socialism in 1882, prompted by a reading of Marx. Warhol's political stance is harder to pin down, yet his work of the 1960s to 1980s documented the social and political changes happening in the USA at the time.

The exhibition culminates in an immersive cacophony of flower imagery by both artists. Morris' floral designs are well known and flowers were the second most depicted motif in Warhol's entire output. Displayed on Morris & Co acanthus wallpaper, *'Flower Power'* feels like a flamboyant clash of the titans at their best.

This exhibition is illuminating in many ways and it is striking to see how Warhol-like some of Morris' designs were. Deller's aim for the show is *'To make Morris seem contemporary and relevant, and revolutionary as an artist and as a thinker. And for people to think of Warhol as less of a money artist and, and more as a true artist, and someone who had a very interesting career that took in many different elements.'* Has he done that? – see what you think! ■

By Jill Warren

Lisa will be giving a Guided Tour of the exhibition (see page 8) and will be discussing the exhibition at an Evening Event (see page 9).

'Acanthus' design for wallpaper by William Morris, 1879-81, purchased from Morris & Co by the Friends of Birmingham Museums Trust, 1941 © Birmingham Museums Trust





Focus On

Local Cultural Organisations

The Birmingham Pen Trade Heritage Association

At a time of financial uncertainty for museums and galleries a unique, volunteer-run Birmingham museum has received a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant to help it plan for a sustainable future.

The Pen Museum is run by an all-volunteer charity, The Birmingham Pen Trade Heritage Association which opened the Museum in 2001 to preserve the history and legacy of the steel pen trade in Birmingham. It is located in the Jewellery Quarter's historic Argent Centre, itself once a major pen factory and now attracts an average of 10,000 visitors per year.

Dr Carl Chinn, MBE, President of the Pen Trade Heritage Association, said, *'I am delighted to learn that the Pen Museum has gained a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to help secure its future. The Museum is a superb and interactive centre at the heart of Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter'.*

The Lottery grant will be used to develop a robust business plan supported by an improved Museum shop which will hopefully create an extra revenue stream. The shop is being developed in conjunction with the private sector and the money is also being used to fund the 'best practice' which will also be supported by allied training.

The museum opened in 2001 and contains an amazing collection of over 5,000 objects related to the Birmingham Steel pen trades and the history of writing. The collections include items of factory machinery plus other hands-on objects which are displayed in three ground floor gallery spaces and include a community meeting room which is available for hire. There are plenty of activities for families including a Victorian school room, special museum trails and interactive machines. It tells the story of Birmingham's part in the information revolution. The Museum also runs various courses and activities including calligraphy classes, demonstrations and workshops. Visit their website:

www.penroom.co.uk for more information.

The Pen Museum relies on membership, donations and sales for its income and has one very famous Brummie as Patron! Jasper Carrott OBE counts a visit to the Museum as one of his favourite things to do in the City and recites the fact that Birmingham made 4-5 billion pen nibs at the height of the trade. You can buy boxes of nibs by the gross from the shop and as any budding cartoonist knows they are ideal for drawing. The Disney cartoonists preferred the 'supreme' Gillott nibs. Visitors get an opportunity to make their own nib when visiting the museum or to take home their name written in braille as an unusual souvenir.

Paul Sabapathy, Lord Lieutenant West Midlands, said, *'Despite being an adopted Brummie of nearly 50 years standing, I only recently discovered the wonderful treasure that is the Pen Museum. This fantastic museum helps celebrate Birmingham's rich industrial heritage and is run by a dedicated band of volunteers and I am therefore delighted to hear that the Museum have been awarded this grant to help secure their future'.*

Reyahn King, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund West Midlands, said: *'Our transition funding is available to previous Heritage Lottery Fund grantees wishing to carry out projects that will increase their organisational resilience and secure our investment for the long term. The Pen Museum showcases a fascinating aspect of Birmingham's industrial history and it is important to support this small organisation to continue telling the story that otherwise could be overlooked.'* ■

By Jill Warren





Friends' Diary Dates

April

- 19-24 ** The Delights of Budapest
28 # Evening Event - Colin Hutcheson, Planetarium Officer - 'Life Inside the Dome' -
 At the Coffin Works, 13-15 Fleet Street

May

- 14 \$ BMAG Special Evening Talk - Jeremy Deller, Fiona MacCarthy OBE - 'William Morris and Andy Warhol'
19 ** Evening Event - Simon Buteux, Director, Birmingham Conservation Trust -
 'Newman Brothers coffin fittings works: Birmingham's newest heritage attraction'
28 * AV Room Talk - Professor Michael Cullen - 'The Young Turner: His art, alternative families and
 the women in his life' (Note - This talk will be the same as the Evening Event on 31 March)

June

- 2 * Evening Event - Lisa Beauchamp - 'Love is Enough'
16 * Evening Event - Emily Sparkes - 'An Ode to Christian Joy'
23 * Guided Tour (126) - Lisa Beauchamp - 'Love is Enough'
26 * Guided Tour (127) - Helen Hillyard - 'The Newly Hung Baroque Galleries'

July

- 7 * Evening Event - Jo-Ann Curtis - Gallery 13 - 'Change in the Inner City'
9 * Guided Tour (129) - Jo-Ann Curtis - Galleries 12 and 13 - 'Change in the Inner City'
14 * Afternoon Gallery Tour - Howerd Turner - 'Figures in the Landscape' - Whitewall Galleries
17 * Guided Tour (128) - Jane Howell - 'Art in the 19th Century'

August

- 4 * Friends Annual General Meeting

September

- 1 + Evening Event - Viv Astling - 'Shaping Nature: The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists'

October

- 2 - 5 * Weekend Away - Swindon

- * Details are enclosed with this mailing, and application forms are included
in posted versions of this magazine (See note on page 6)
** Fully booked, sorry
+ Dates for your diary, no applications in this mailing
Included in a previous mailing, but still some places available
\$ These events are not arranged by the Friends, applications are not included

The next
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