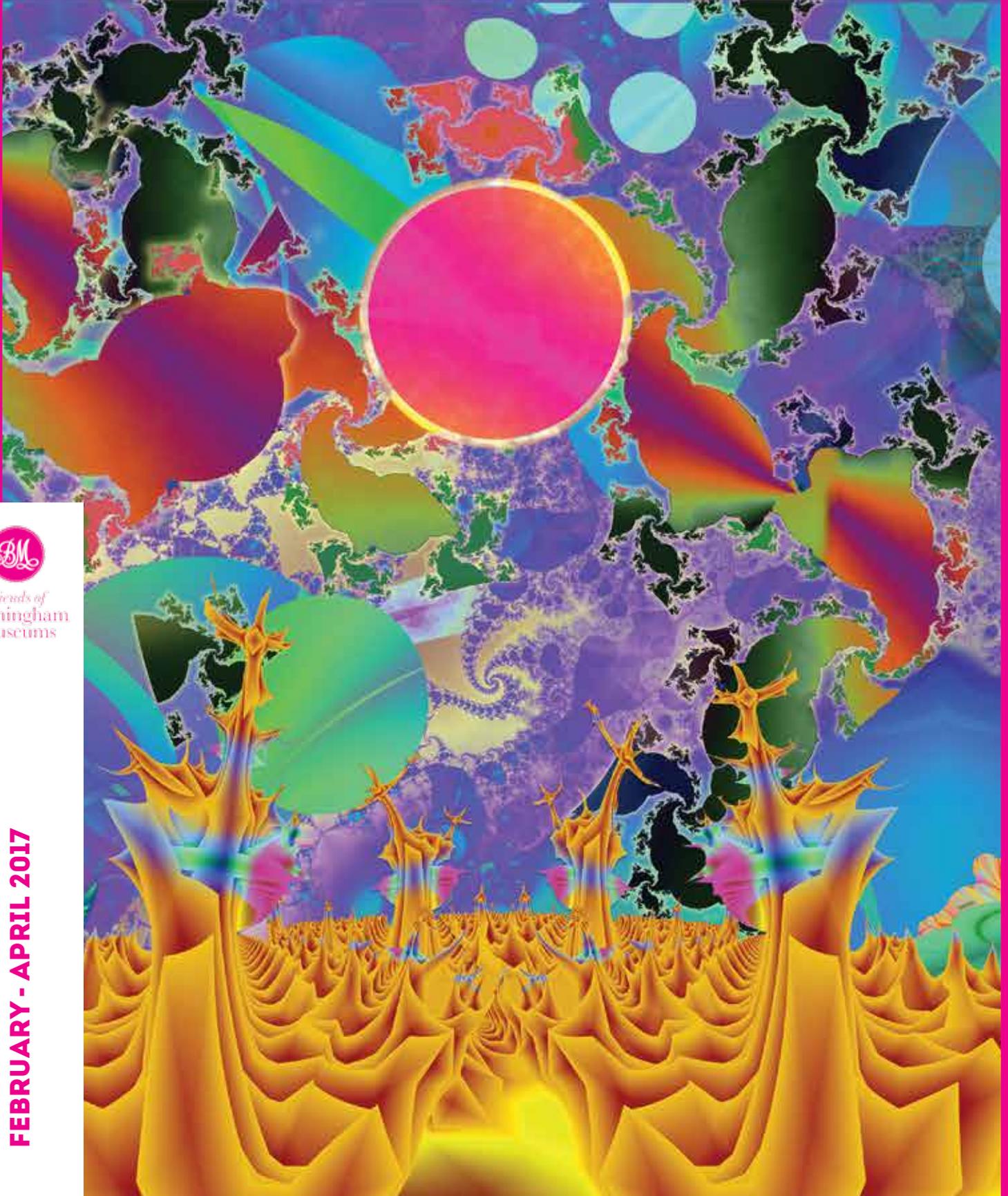


ARTEFACTS



Friends of
Birmingham
Museums

FEBRUARY - APRIL 2017

BAFM

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS

Jessica Maxfield, 'Tiera-Zon' (2016), digital ink on paper © the artist

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS MAGAZINE

THOROUGHLY MODERN
Millie

MON 13 – SAT 18 FEB

Ruth Rendell
**A JUDGEMENT
IN STONE**

MON 20 – SAT 25 FEB

VERDI
AIDA

SAT 4 MAR

WILLY RUSSELL'S
SHIRLEY VALENTINE
STARRING
JODIE PRENGER

MON 6 – SAT 11 MAR (AGES 14+)

Buddy
THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY

TUE 28 MAR – SAT 1 APR

ALL OR NOTHING
THE MUSICAL

TUE 4 – SAT 8 APR

RAY COONEY'S
OUT OF ORDER

DO NOT DISTURB
THE OLIVIER AWARD-WINNING COMEDY RETURNS!

MON 10 – SAT 15 APR

**DREAMBOATS AND
PETTICOATS**

TUE 2 – SAT 6 MAY

ARTHUR MILLER'S
THE CRUCIBLE

MON 5 – SAT 10 JUN

NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE
BIRMINGHAM

WORLD CLASS THEATRE

ATG TICKETS

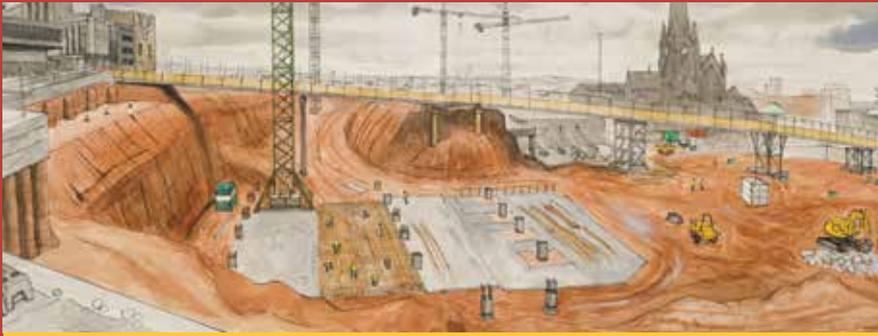
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A TALE OF THREE MUSEUMS

BY DAVID FOSTER

In October 2016 the news broke that Walsall Council, having closed its town museum in 2015, was threatening to reduce massively its grant to the New Art Gallery. Those of you who know this splendid Millennium project will be appalled at the threat both to the future of the building and to the nationally significant art collection that it houses.

Dudley Council has already closed its existing Museum building. However, it has announced plans to rehouse its nationally recognised geological and fossil collections (e.g. the Dudley 'Bug') at a new site co-located with the City archives. They are actively seeking to make the most of the tourist potential (with Dudley Castle, Black Country Living Museum) as well as the scientific value of access to the collection.

Birmingham Museums has, in the last months of 2016, produced its 7-year plan, the major elements of which are to redevelop Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG) - 'The Museum for Birmingham' - and to create a new collections centre - the Big Store. Although Birmingham Museums Trust are no longer totally dependent on it, Birmingham City Council remains a significant source of funds, as well as the owner of the museums' buildings and the collections.

As Friends of Birmingham Museums, you will draw your own conclusions from these cases which, in the range of threats, are not unique. There are three things which we can do:

Protest and sign petitions: By the time you read this, both Walsall Council's and Birmingham City Council's consultations on their budget proposals will have closed. Birmingham City Council's budget consultation paper included a bigger-than-planned-for reduction in Birmingham Museum Trust's grant. Before the deadline, we encouraged all the Friends members we could reach to join in the petition to urge the Council to reduce their grant reduction to a level which the Trust could tolerate.

Promote alternatives: Although Birmingham was not



Transport and Industry stores at the Museum Collections Centre

the first, the formation of an independent Trust here to manage, preserve and promote the collections has ensured greater confidence in the future of its museums. As we know full well, despite the difficulties in establishing the Trust, the future is much more in our own hands - 'our' in the broadest sense. We can help other museums to look at alternatives to their existing structures and funding sources.

Emphasise the strength of the collections: As Friends of Birmingham Museums, we appreciate the astonishing range and quality of the collections here, which we talk about in our Ambassadors presentations (the talks which we give to artistic and cultural organisations across the region). The collections have massive cultural value in artistic, scientific and historical terms. Museums are a huge tourist draw too, a point which Dudley Council has recognised. When they are effectively presented, as in the Birmingham History Galleries at BMAG, the collections also help to build a stronger sense of the community for citizens.

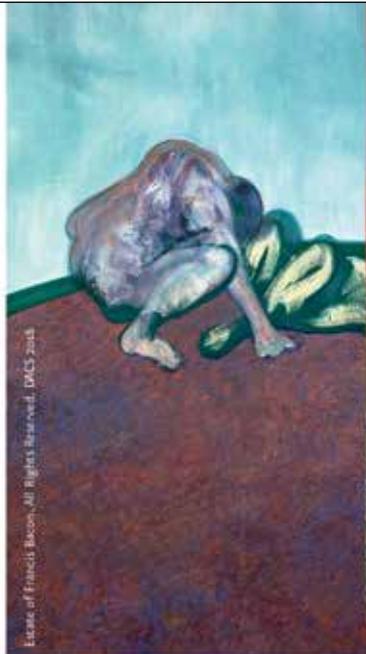
We have a strong story to tell. ■

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INSTITUTE OF
FINE ARTS
SPRING 2017

LOANS
DISPLAYS
INSTALLATIONS

Mon - Fri 10am - 7pm
Sat & Sun 11am - 5pm
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UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



TWO FIGURES IN A ROOM

Francis Bacon
on loan to the Barber

10 Feb – 26 Mar



TUMBLEWEED

Hannah Honeywill
New Art West Midlands
winner's intervention

24 Feb – 4 Jun



WORKS OF MERCY

Photographs by **Attilio Fiumarella**
Birmingham photographer
responds to Caravaggio

7 Apr – 21 May

Saturday 11 March 2017
Lichfield Cathedral 7.30 pm

JS Bach
St Mark Passion

BIRMINGHAM

BACH
Choir
Inspiring Performances

Paul Spicer – conductor

Thomas Hobbs – Evangelist

Elizabeth Cragg – soprano

Simon Ponsford – counter tenor

Jeremy Budd – tenor

Henry Neill – baritone

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Chamber Orchestra**



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www.birmingham.bachchoir.com

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*booking fee charged



EVENT APPLICATIONS

For members of the Friends, the event applications will be included as a supplement in the centre of this magazine. If you are not a member and would like to apply for one of our events, send a letter to the Friends' Office address on page 3 stating: the title of the event(s); and your name; address; telephone number; how many places you require; the cost; the pickup point for coach trips; and any other relevant information. Include a cheque for the total amount made out to 'FBMAG'. Please also include a S.A.E. for the return of your tickets.



REACHING FOR THE MOON! AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES OF EXHIBITIONS 'I WANT! I WANT!'

Date: Wednesday 1 March 2017, 6:30-8:30pm

Speaker: Deborah Smith, Curator, Arts Council

Collection National Partners Programme

Cost: £9/£12 non-members. The ticket includes a glass of wine and a slice of pizza

Venue: Edmunds Lounge Bar, 106-110 Edmund Street, Birmingham, B3 2ES; www.edmundsbar.co.uk

Join BMT's Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme Curator, Deborah Smith, for a sneak preview into the world of contemporary artists using technology. In the Gas Hall 'I Want! I Want! - Art and Technology' (1 April - 1 October) presents a selection from the Arts Council Collection and other major collections dating from the last 20 years of British and international artists who have navigated and contributed to a social, cultural and technological revolution. At Thinktank

Thinkspace 'I Want! I Want! - Looking Up and Looking Down' (27 May - 1 October) looks at space and planet earth through a new Arts Council Collection commission and BMT's historical objects and artefacts. The title of the exhibitions is inspired by the etching 'I Want! I Want!' by the artist William Blake, depicting a man aspiring to travel to the moon, over two hundred years ago.

The Friends contributed £45,000 towards the Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme - so please come along and find out more about the two exhibitions the Friends are helping to create!



'NEW ART WEST MIDLANDS 2017: PSYCHEDELIC LANDSCAPES AND A GIANT RABBIT'

Date: Tuesday 14 March 2017, 6:30-8:30pm

Speaker: Lisa Beauchamp, Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art

Cost: £9/£12 non-members. The ticket includes a glass of wine and a slice of pizza

Venue: Edmunds Lounge Bar, 106-110 Edmund Street, Birmingham, B3 2ES; www.edmundsbar.co.uk

Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, Lisa Beauchamp, will give an overview of this year's 'New Art West Midlands' cohort which includes an eclectic and exciting range of artworks from figurative painting to oversized wax sculptures. Lisa will discuss the artists displaying their work in the Waterhall, the reasons behind their selection and the opportunities the 'New Art West Midlands' initiative has provided for emerging artists in the region. 'New Art West Midlands' will be open from 18 February to 14 May 2017 and thirty one

EVENT KEY



Far left: Bodnant Garden – © National Trust, E Baxendale
Left: Laburnum Arch at Bodnant Garden – © National Trust

artists will be showing their work across the following venues: The Waterhall at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery; mac Birmingham; Wolverhampton Art Gallery; and Worcester City Art Gallery.

EXPLORING 'WE BUILT THIS CITY'

Date: Wednesday 15 March 2017

*Speaker: Yvonne Price, Exhibition Creator,
Birmingham Irish Association Cost: £9*

*Meeting point: The Round Room at 10:45am for 11am
NB. Guided tours are exclusively for members*

'We Built This City' is a project which will put the contribution the Irish made to Birmingham on the map. The Birmingham Irish Association has been meeting with the many Irish people who helped to build the infrastructure of Birmingham, working on the building sites in and around the city. Their tales provide a fascinating insight into the life of young Irish immigrants in Birmingham and stories of the unique and often arduous working conditions have already been collected. This project is being led by Birmingham Irish Association's Yvonne Price, who will be leading this tour around the exhibition whilst it is on display at BMAG.

CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY: A STEP-CHANGE IN CANCER TREATMENT

Date: Tuesday 21 March 2017, 6-7pm

*Speaker: Professor Ben Willcox, Professor of Molecular
Immunology at the Cancer Immunology and
Immunotherapy Centre, University of Birmingham*

*Cost: £3 for Members of the Friends of Birmingham
Museums and the BMI/£5 non-members (NB.*

Refreshments are not provided).

*Venue: John Lee Lecture Theatre at the Birmingham &
Midland Institute (BMI)*

In this Science Short, Prof Ben Willcox from the University of Birmingham will discuss a new wave of treatments that exploit the power of the

immune system to treat patients' cancers. Such immunotherapies are starting to change the face of cancer treatment. Along the way, Ben will discuss the critical role our immune system plays in keeping us alive, why cancer represents such a challenge for the immune system, and why the next 10 years are likely to represent a 'golden age' for cancer immunotherapy.

MEMBERS ANNUAL LUNCH AT THE COLLEGE OF FOOD (UCB)

Date: Tuesday 28 March 2017 at 12noon for 12:30pm

Cost: £25 (includes three courses, wine, coffee and service)

We have arranged our annual visit to the College of Food at UCB in Summer Row and have selected two starters, two main courses and two desserts. Please ensure your selection and any dietary requirements are clearly indicated on your applications.

Your choices of Starters:

- A. Soup – Fresh Homemade Soup with Warm Baked Artisan Bread
- B. Melon – Parisienne of Galia and Canteloupe Melon, Mango Salsa, Watermelon and Blueberry Sorbet, Honey Yoghurt

Main Courses:

- C. Lamb – Slow Cooked Cornish Lamb, Mint Dumpling, Buttered Carrots, Turnips, French Beans, Peas
 - D. Cod – Baked Fillet of Cod, Tarragon and Parsley Butter, Brown Shrimp, Cucumber
- Both mains include seasonal vegetable and potatoes.

Desserts:

- E. Mi-Amère Chocolate and Griottine Mousse, Chocolate Brownie, Sour Cherry Sorbet
- F. Lemon and Ginger Baked Alaska

We will meet in the Ground Floor Reception area at UCB, Summer Row at 12noon. Please bring your ticket.



AN INSIGHT INTO 'WE BUILT THIS CITY'

Date: Tuesday 4 April 2017, 6:30-8:30pm

Speaker: Yvonne Price, Birmingham Irish Association

Cost: £9/£12 non-members. The ticket includes a glass of wine and a slice of pizza

Venue: Edmunds Lounge Bar, 106-110 Edmund Street, Birmingham, B3 2ES; www.edmundsbar.co.uk

Yvonne Price is leading the Birmingham Irish Association's Heritage Lottery Funded project, entitled *'We Built This City'*, which celebrates the Irish Community's contribution to the city of Birmingham. *'We Built This City'* focuses on the memories of the Irish people who helped build the city and their contribution to huge construction projects such as Spaghetti Junction, Symphony Hall, Star City and the old Birmingham Library.



KEDLESTON HALL, DERBYSHIRE (NT)

Date: Thursday 6 April 2017

Cost: £22 (Includes coach and driver's tip). NB.

Entrance to Kedleston Hall is not included so please bring your National Trust card with you; non-members must pay on the day. Our entry to the Garden is at 12noon; Entry to the house is at 2pm.

3 Pickup points: South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 8:15am; Margaret Street at 8:45am; Yateley Road, Harborne at 9am.

The direct journey should take approximately 1 hour 20 minutes. We leave at 5pm. Order of drop offs will be: Sutton Coldfield; Colmore Row; Harborne.

Set in naturalistic parkland, the 820 acre Kedleston estate is home to 100 ancient trees and has been owned by the Curzon family since 1297. The present house was commissioned by Sir Nathaniel Curzon (later 1st Baron Scarsdale) in 1759 and was designed by the Palladian architects James Paine and Matthew Brettingham. The gardens and grounds, as they appear today, are largely the concept of Robert Adam. The landscape gardener William Emes had begun work at Kedleston in 1756, and continued in Curzon's employ until 1760. However, in 1758 Curzon asked Adam, at the time a relatively unknown architect, to 'take in hand the deer park and pleasure

grounds' and it was Adam who was the guiding influence, producing the natural-looking landscape. Curzon was so impressed with Adam's designs that he put Adam in charge of the construction of the new mansion, and the neoclassical interior of the house was designed by Adam as 'a temple of the arts'.

In 1939, Richard Curzon, 2nd Viscount Scarsdale, offered Kedleston Hall for use by the War Department. The Hall provided various facilities during the period 1939-45, including its use as a mustering point and army training camp. It also formed one of the Y-stations used to gather Signals Intelligence via radio transmissions which, if encrypted, were subsequently passed to Bletchley Park for decryption.

The Great Kitchen Restaurant serves hot and cold lunches, teas and cakes; and there are small food kiosks in the grounds.



'IDYLLS AND IDOLS: VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN BRONZE SCULPTURE'

Date: Monday 10 April 2017

Speaker: Brendan Flynn

Cost: £9/£12 non-members (Includes entrance and refreshments)

Meeting point: The AV Room (at the back of BMAG's Gas Hall) at 10:45 for an 11am start

In 1860, British sculpture in bronze was backward and provincial in comparison with mainland Europe. By 1875, a radical new spirit had transformed it into a world leader, setting new standards for technique and invention in representing the human figure. This illustrated talk traces the origin and rise of the 'New Sculpture' in 19th Century Britain through the work of the artists Alfred Gilbert, Lord Leighton, Alfred Drury, William Thornycroft and many others. Their themes of magic, mythology and the cult of beauty offer a vivid insight into the Victorian imagination.



FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAY TO BARCELONA

Date: Monday 24 to Saturday 29 April 2017

Cost: £1,199 (Includes flight from Birmingham,

EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



SCIENCE SHORT

Right: Napier Railton Special
(See Science Short on page 11)

transfers, 5 nights half board, all coach tours, entrance fees and a tour guide throughout the holiday.) Single room supplement £249. If you would like to share a twin room with another same sex member, therefore saving the single supplement, please contact Barbara to see if this might be possible.

Full details of the tour are available on the Tailored Travel website by clicking on the 'View Your Tour' tab at www.tailored-travel.co.uk and quoting 'FRBM171'. Please contact Barbara Preece for more information: email barbara.preece.fbmag@gmail.com; or ring 0121 4061145.

COMPTON VERNEY: ART GALLERY & PARK

Date: Wednesday 10 May 2017

Cost: £30 (Includes coach, hot drinks on arrival, guided tour of the Special Exhibition, entrance to the Permanent Art Galleries, Park and driver's tip).

3 Pickup points: South Parade Car Park (opp. Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 8:30am; Margaret Street at 9am; or Yateley Road, Harborne at 9:15am.

The direct journey should take approximately 1 hour.

We leave at 5pm. Order of drop offs will be:

Harborne; Colmore Row; Sutton Coldfield.

Compton Verney's 2017 season will open with a major new exhibition - 'Creating the Countryside 1600-2017' - which explores our relationship with the countryside. The vision of a rural idyll has been shaped by generations of artists and occupies an enduring place in the national imagination. This exhibition brings together an extraordinary range of responses to rural life and landscape, revealing how ideas of the countryside have been framed in art and everyday life from the 17th Century to the present day. The work of artists including John Constable, George Stubbs, Samuel Palmer, Stanley Spencer and Clare Leighton will trace key moments in the representation of the rural, while contemporary responses by artists including Mat Collishaw, Sigrid Holmwood, Hilary Jack, Delaine Le Bas and Ingrid Pollard will offer new reflections on that most timeless of ideas, the 'green and pleasant land'.



Permanent Exhibitions include: a collection of Chinese bronzes; paintings and sculptures from Northern Europe including works by Cranach and Schongauer; British portraits including works by Sir Joshua Reynolds; a collection of Tudor portraits; and Folk Art Paintings. The Park at Compton Verney is the result of an ongoing 11 year project to restore the landscape to the one that Lancelot 'Capability' Brown designed in 1768.

At lunchtime you will find a café and restaurant serving freshly prepared sandwiches and salads alongside options including jacket potatoes and soup.

BURGHLEY HOUSE, LINCOLNSHIRE: 'ONE OF ENGLAND'S GREATEST ELIZABETHAN HOMES'

Date: Tuesday 23 May 2017

Cost: £34 (Includes coach, all day entrance to the house, Guided tour at 3pm, Entrance to the Gardens & driver's tip)

3 Pickup points: South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 8am; Margaret Street, 8:30am; Yateley Road, Harborne at 8:45am.

The journey should take approximately 2 hours which will include a 15 minute comfort break.

We leave at 5pm. Order of drop offs will be: Sutton Coldfield; Colmore Row; Harborne.

Burghley, an Elizabethan Treasure House, is perhaps best-known for its historical collections of important works of art, early tapestries, impressive Japanese ceramics and sculptures. The House sits in a unique setting amidst 13,000 acres of rolling parkland and offers groups the opportunity to experience the Cecil family home in the heart of this working Lincolnshire Estate. There is plenty to do and see, with gardens >

Left: 'We Built This City' - Spaghetti junction © Mr Brendan Farrell

and lakes to explore in addition to a guided tour of the House which is booked for 3pm. Built and mostly designed by William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth I, between 1555 and 1587, the main part of the House has 35 major rooms, over 80 lesser rooms and numerous halls, corridors, bathrooms and service areas. The lead roof extends to three quarters of an acre, the restoration and rebuilding of which began in 1983 and took nearly 10 years to complete. Visitor facilities include the Orangery Restaurant, gift shop, gardens and beautiful walks around the historic parkland laid out by Capability Brown and still occupied by a herd of fallow deer.

Viewed from the windows of the state rooms above, the South Gardens, the Sculpture Garden and the Garden of Surprises are dominated by mature oak and lime trees, planted by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1844. The yew hedges and topiary were added in the late 19th Century in a bid to reinstate some sense of a formal parterre or garden after so much was boldly swept away in the 18th Century. On entering the sculpture garden visitors are welcomed by a mixed array of trees and shrubs for all seasons, forming archways and external rooms where discreetly hidden sculptures can be found.

The 2017 exhibitions will be 'Capability Brown at Burghley', exploring Brown's influence on both the parkland and the House, and 'The Victorians at Burghley', which brings to life fascinating objects used and obtained by the family during the Victorian period.



BODNANT GARDEN, CONWY (NT)

Date: Friday 9 June 2017

Cost: £24 (Includes coach, and driver's tip) NB.

Entrance to Bodnant Gardens is not included so please bring your National Trust card with you; non-members must pay on the day.

3 Pickup points: South Parade Car Park (opp. Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 7:15am; Margaret Street at 7:45am; or Yateley Road, Harborne at 8am.

The journey should take approximately 3 hours which include a 20 minute comfort break.

We leave at 5pm. Order of drop offs will be:

Harborne; Colmore Row; and Sutton Coldfield.

Noted as one of the most beautiful gardens in Britain, Bodnant stands eight miles south of the town of Conwy and spreads over eighty acres of the Conwy Valley. The garden is world famous for its botanical collections, featuring an extensive and varied range of plants from all over the world, particularly China, North America, Europe and Japan, which are suited to the Welsh climate and soil. Bodnant is of interest to amateur and professional gardeners, artists, photographers and families alike.

The Garden has two parts: the upper garden around Bodnant Hall consists of terraced gardens and informal lawns shaded by trees, pools, rose gardens and Italianate terraces; whilst the lower portion, known as the 'Dell' is formed by the valley of the River Hiraethlyn and contains the Wild garden. It hosts a superb collection of rhododendrons, Japanese azaleas and mature specimen trees, particularly conifers, many of them planted nearly a century ago.

The famous fifty-five metre long Laburnum Arch at Bodnant is an overwhelming sight in June. Leading from the terrace there are walks lined with the colourful rhododendrons for which Bodnant is famous, with camellias and flowering trees. Bodnant has a Pavilion Tearoom, Art and Craft Studios and attached garden centre.



NATURE COMES TO BIRMINGHAM: THE MAKING OF A NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTION

Date: Tuesday 20 June 2017, 6-7pm

Speaker: Luanne Meehitiya, Natural Sciences Curator, Birmingham Museums Trust

Cost: £3 for Members of the Friends of Birmingham Museums and the BMI/£5 non-members (NB.

Refreshments are not provided).

Venue: John Lee Lecture Theatre at the Birmingham & Midland Institute (BMI)

EVENT KEY





The sixth in our series of quarterly short science talks in conjunction with Thinktank and the BMI. The natural science collection at Birmingham Museums is a library of the nature that has been built up over centuries. It contains over a quarter of a million preserved specimens from all over the world that helps us to understand animals, plants and their changing environments. Join us on a whistle-stop tour of the collection focusing on the incredible stories of some individual animals, including extinct species, casualties of war and pets and prey of the rich and famous. Find out how our relationships with animals and their display in museums has changed over the years and what the future holds for the "dead zoo".



JOHN COBB'S 400 MILES PER HOUR ON FOUR WHEELS

Date: Tuesday 19 September 2017, 6-7pm

Speaker: Jim Andrew, Volunteer at Thinktank

Cost: £3 for Members of the Friends of Birmingham Museums and the BMI/£5 non-members (NB.

Refreshments are not provided).

Venue: John Lee Lecture Theatre at the Birmingham & Midland Institute (BMI)

Continuing our series of quarterly short science talks in conjunction with Thinktank and the BMI. In 1947 John Cobb, a fur trader and amateur racing car driver, took this car to a new record of 394 mph with well over 400 mph in one direction. In 1953 the Dunlop tyre company presented the car, the Napier Railton Special, to the Birmingham collections and it is exhibited in Thinktank, the Birmingham Science Museum. This lecture will explain some of the worries about looking after such

an exhibit while also covering some of its fascinating history as a real engineering optimisation exercise.

The application form for this event will be in the next edition of *Artefacts*.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 23 September to Tuesday 26 September 2017: The Art & Historic Houses of Greenwich & South East London

3 nights at The Clarendon Hotel - Half Board throughout; to include: Kew Gardens; Guided Tour of Greenwich; The Red House; Eltham Palace; Dulwich Picture Gallery; and Wimbledon. ■

I WANT! I WANT! ART AND TECHNOLOGY FRIENDS' INVITATION TO THE PRIVATE VIEW



Rachel Maclean, *Feed Me*, 2015, Courtesy the artist.
Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London

Birmingham Museums Trust invites members of the Friends of Birmingham Museums to the Private View of

I WANT! I WANT! ART AND TECHNOLOGY
Thursday 30 March 2017 from 6pm
Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, B3 3DH

With grateful thanks for their generous support of the Birmingham Museums' participation in the Arts Council Collection's National Partners Programme.

Please reply to rsvp@birminghammuseums.org.uk or ring 0121 348 8330 and leave a voicemail message stating your name and membership number to secure your place.

INTRODUCING THE NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS AT THINKTANK

BY LUANNE MEEHITIYA, CURATOR OF NATURAL SCIENCES



■ The Norfolk Kaka (*Nestor productus*), a parrot that went extinct in 1851
© Birmingham Museums



■ A taxidermy stoat and thrush © Birmingham Museums

What do dead things in museums teach us about the living world? A new permanent gallery at Thinktank Science Museum gives people a glimpse into how we preserve and study nature.

One of the most popular galleries at Thinktank is the Wild Life gallery. I've seen many families stopped in their tracks by an encounter with a polar bear or fossil crocodile. Walking through the gallery you hear the same questions over and over again. "Is it real?" is the main one, and also "where did these animals come from?"

A new small permanent gallery, opening in February, seeks to answer these questions. It shows how a stuffed animal – or 'taxidermy specimen' as those in the know call it – is made, using x-rays to probe inside some of them. The display also includes many things other than taxidermy such as insects, pressed plants, shells, skins, things in glass jars – the list goes on and on. So we also look at how these things can be made to last for hundreds of years.

The natural science collections at Birmingham are not just the animals on display. There are over a quarter of

a million specimens in store at the Museum Collections Centre in a collection that has been built up over hundreds of years. That's around a third of Birmingham's whole collection! It's hard to imagine the scale so we try to paint a picture with behind the scenes photographs.

"Why so much, what is the point of it?" is a totally valid question which the gallery also seeks to answer. We show examples of how such collections are vital to science – both for naming living things and for protecting them. I see the collection as being like a library but made of objects rather than books. Of course you can study nature "in the field" as well as in museums and we show you a few places to start – especially if you live in a city and there are no fields to be seen.

Finally, this gallery has given me a chance to show just a few of my favourite curiosities from this collection that I am lucky to work with every day. I hope you will agree that natural science specimens can be beautiful, inspiring and just plain weird!

The new gallery opens on Friday 17 February 2017. ■



ABOVE: Volunteers Thank You Party in December

As I write this we are still in January, it is freezing outside, and it is the start of the New Year. This is the perfect time to review all the amazing things which have been achieved by the Birmingham Museums' Volunteer Team over 2016. I haven't got space to include everything here, but I have picked out a few highlights below.

During 2016, over 700 volunteers supported Birmingham Museums Trust and the Friends, giving over 23,000 hours of their time. This included getting involved in all areas of the Trust from welcoming visitors at the Friends' desk at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG) to conservation cleaning at our heritage sites; and from milling at Sarehole Mill to supporting the incredibly successful Birmingham Heritage Week in September. I always say this, but this list could go on and on when I start to think about all of our volunteers' projects and hard work.

Although all of the team are stars, we had official award winners in 2016 as our Faith in Birmingham Working

Group took away the Working Together award at the West Midlands Museum Volunteer Awards. The 20 volunteer members of the group worked together to develop content and offer advice during the development of the Faith in Birmingham Gallery that opened at BMAG in February 2016. We also presented our own Volunteer of the Year award to Viv Wilkes, a Garden volunteer at Sarehole Mill, for her dedication to making the mill such a beautiful and idyllic place to visit. We gave our Student Volunteer of the Year Award to Nosheena Jabeen, for her hard work and dedication to volunteering with our Conservation Team.

We welcomed over 85 volunteers to our annual Volunteer Thank You Party in December to celebrate all their hard work in 2016, and yet more awards took place as we issued 3 and 10 year service awards to members of the team. However much time volunteers can give to us is incredibly valued but we really wanted to recognise those who had committed significant periods of time to supporting us. The party was a lovely event with food, drink and activities and it was great to get volunteers together to share experiences and have a good time.

So we are now working our way into 2017 and I can't wait to see all the things which I will have to report on next time I have the privilege of writing for *Artefacts*. One thing for certain is that there are always plenty of stories, successes and achievements to choose from.

If you feel inspired by our team's efforts and are interested in joining the team, either by volunteering for the Friends or on other projects for the Trust, then take a look at: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/volunteering. ■

NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

BY BECKY FLETCHER, BMT VOLUNTEER
DEVELOPMENT TEAM LEADER

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

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

Plus discounts at the following venues (T&Cs apply):

- BMAG and Heritage Site shops/cafés
- 50% entrance discount to Thinktank at Millennium Point: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank
- Shakespeare Birthplace Trust shops (excluding admission prices): www.shakespeare.org.uk
- 25% discount on Annual Passport Tickets at Ironbridge Gorge Trust: www.ironbridge.org.uk
- Potteries Museums & Art Gallery shops/cafés: www.museums.stoke.gov.uk

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Gift membership is available all year round and includes 3 extra months free. A Gift Membership form can be downloaded at www.fbmt.org.uk/subscriptions/. Alternatively, you can use the standard application form below. 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: Mr WG Retallick, Rev C Hibberd, Mrs J Berman, Mrs E Parr, Mrs R Lathe, Mrs J Howell. ■

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS APPLICATION FORM

Title:
Full Name:
Address:
Tel:
Email:
Where did you pick up this copy of <i>Artefacts</i> ?:

PLEASE WRITE IN CAPITAL LETTERS

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY AND ANNUAL RATES

(Please tick)

SINGLE £32

DOUBLE £48
(full rate Includes 2 children under 16)

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 sign below and send to: Friends' Office, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH, together with your cheque (if applicable) to be made payable to 'FBMAG'

giftaid it

Boost your membership subscription/donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick this box: I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Friends of Birmingham Museums (trading as FBMAG). I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature:

Date:

As we move into 2017, Birmingham Museums' Director, Dr Ellen McAdam, picks out some key highlights for the winter months.

THE YEAR AHEAD

BY DR ELLEN McADAM

As part of the Annual Appeal 2016, we held our very first Director's Dinner on 30 November. The evening raised over £11,200 from ticket sales, donations and the live auction on the night. We are very grateful to the Friends for continuing to make donations in response to our Annual Appeal letter, circulated in December.

A brand new project, *'Birmingham Manufactures'*, funded by the Arts Council England's Designation Development Fund, is now under way. The project will improve the documentation and understanding of the parts of the collection relating to Birmingham products and manufacturers. The new team have already completed a survey to discover how many objects in our collection were manufactured in Birmingham and have identified 16,717 across many different collection areas. Out of these they will be looking at around 3,000 objects in detail. We wanted to start the detailed documentation and research with a collection that was recognisable and that everyone could relate to. In these winter months the iconic Bird's Custard collection seemed like an excellent and warming choice!

As part of our ongoing *'Collecting Birmingham'* project, we are in the process of acquiring 100 photographs by one of the great Birmingham artists, Vanley Burke. This collection reflects a selected span of his photographic work from 1968 to 2011. The set was selected by Vanley Burke and curator Lynda Morris, printed from negatives and framed for the *'By the Rivers of Birmingham'* retrospective exhibition held at the mac in 2012. They depict significant events, as well as passing moments, people and places, predominantly from the West Indian community in Birmingham. Images include the 1978 anti-National Front demonstrations; the 1977 African Liberation Day rally; Easter parade; and Muhammad Ali's visit

to Birmingham. The issues that can be explored through the medium of this collection include race and racism, migration and immigrant communities, class and gender, the social-politics of Birmingham from the 1960s onwards, social history of work, religion, political activism, and culture and art. The role of these themes in the local context of Ladywood make this collection a major acquisition for us.

There will be dark deeds done at Aston Hall during our Victorian Murder Mystery Dinner on 18 February. In 1892 Anna Groves, daughter of the local Vicar, has been found shot dead in the kitchen. Next to her is a vial of cyanide. Suicide? Or a clumsily disguised murder? The local police are baffled. A cast of likely suspects has been assembled and Sherlock Holmes despatched to solve the crime. But he needs your help. Can you solve this perplexing mystery? Tickets are now available which include a two-course hot buffet – a rare opportunity to have a meal in the beautiful Grade I listed Great Hall.

At Thinktank until 5 March, curious minds of all ages are invited to step inside the complicated world of inventions by Rowland Emmet, as Thinktank hosts a temporary exhibition of some of his most significant works, including the original *'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'* car. As part of this playful exhibition, families will be able to get hands on and enjoy interactive kinetic art and exhibits from the MAD (Mechanical Art and Design) Museum and Cabaret Mechanical Theatre Collection which will also be on display.

Finally, I look forward to seeing many of you on 30 March 2017 at the Private View of the next Arts Council Collection National Partners Project Exhibition – *'I Want! I Want! – Art and Technology'*. Details of your invitation to *'I Want! I Want!'* are on page 11. ■

NEW ART WEST MIDLANDS 2017: PSYCHEDELIC LANDSCAPES AND A GIANT RABBIT

BY LISA BEAUCHAMP,
CURATOR OF MODERN & CONTEMPORARY ART

Whether it's a reaction to the new American President or to nightmares of Ed Balls doing his 'Gangnam Style' again, this year's *New Art West Midlands* artists are making work that looks to alternate realities. Colourful, playful and surreal, this year's Waterhall exhibition features fifteen talented artists whose work promises to brighten up your day, and possibly have you reaching for your sunglasses.

New Art West Midlands 2017 is in its fifth incarnation and includes artists who have recently graduated from six regional art schools – Birmingham City University, Coventry University, Staffordshire University, Wolverhampton University, the University of Worcester and, new for 2017, Hereford College of Arts. *New Art West Midlands* provides a first rung on the ladder for many emerging artists in the region and its many successes include work by two past alumni entering the nationally renowned Arts Council Collection, and Emily Sparkes' stunning self-portrait *'An Ode to Christian Joy'* being purchased by the Friends for Birmingham Museums' collection. Whilst at an early stage of their career, the *New Art West Midlands* initiative is essential to the region's arts ecology and is unparalleled in its support and development of artists recently graduating from West Midlands arts schools.

Selected by an external panel of arts professionals and artists, a Curator's task is to create a cohesive and meaningful exhibition which will convey these artists' work in the best way and that will hopefully appeal to audiences both familiar with and new to contemporary art. Following a bit of tussle with the other venues' Curators and copious amounts of tea, the artists I've chosen for the Waterhall are making work that I feel is ambitious and relevant.

Showcasing a series of works with a neo-Surrealist or other-worldly nature, Lisa Nash's *'Circle of Nature'* sculptural installation, including a giant rabbit and wax figure, will be set against Jessica Maxfield's six-metre wide psychedelic digital landscape billboard. Yazmin Boyle's steel-strap spherical sculptures and Rob Hamp's counter-relief interventions will respond to the unique interior architecture of the Waterhall and provide a counter-point to Natalie Seymour's photographic collages of an abandoned building which resonate with the Waterhall's exterior landscape. Colour, abstraction and materiality will be explored in sculpture by Bruno Grilo and painting by Pamela Fletcher and Kerry Farrell. Anthropomorphic sculpture by Damian Massey will contrast with technology inspired work by Gemma Ford and animation by Hao Zecheng, whilst Henry Rice's computer-screen scale images of artworks remind us of our digital viewing habits. Lorna Brown's pinhole and embroidered prints and Renata Juroszova's paintings of female spaces fuse with Poppy Twist's large-scale film installation *'Mic Approach'*. Exploring the uncomfortable implications of the live performance, Poppy Twist's work makes for addictive viewing.

New Art West Midlands will showcase 31 artists across four venues from 18 February 2017: The Waterhall at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery; Mac Birmingham;

Wolverhampton Art Gallery; and Worcester City Art Gallery. See what you think and enjoy! ■

If you would like more information about Jessica Maxfield's work, a detail of which can be seen on the front cover of this edition of *Artefacts*, then

please contact Jess at: jessmaxfield@hotmail.co.uk. Lisa Beauchamp, Birmingham Museums' Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, will be giving an overview of this year's *New Art West Midlands* exhibition at a Friends' Evening Event on 14 March 2017 – see page 6 for more information.



ABOVE: Lisa Nash, *'Circle of Life'*, © Ilona Zielinska

BIRMINGHAM'S PEN MUSEUM

Thanks to a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant and match funding, the Pen Museum has now launched a new entrance, exhibition, shop and more. The Lord Mayor of Birmingham officially opened the new area of the museum on 10 November 2016 in a ribbon-cutting ceremony. At the same ceremony, the museum's volunteers were formally presented with the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS).

The Pen Museum received £175,000 from a number of funders during 2015-16 including the HLF, Arts Council England, the Association of Independent Museums and the Foyle Foundation, towards a twelve-month project – 'A Flourishing Museum' – set to see the museum secure its future and introduce new generations to the steel pen trade, a largely unknown part of Birmingham's past. The project has developed the museum's spaces and includes a new entrance, exhibitions, a retail area and an activity/meeting room.

The QAVS is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work in their communities. The awards were created in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee and winners are announced each year on 2 June – the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation.

Anthony Hayes, the Pen Museum's Volunteer and Operations Manager said: *"The museum's new exhibition has been such an incredible project to be involved with. Our visitor facilities and expanded space now mean that we can offer a much better presentation of the fascinating stories behind one of Birmingham's core industries. I look forward to welcoming both new and returning visitors and encourage everyone to come along and discover a fascinating chapter in this city's history."*

Vanessa Harbar, Head of the HLF West Midlands, said: *"We're delighted that, with HLF support, the Pen Museum has been able to better preserve and promote the story of the steel pen trade in Birmingham. Thanks to National Lottery players, the museum has transformed their visitor experience, allowing everyone to explore this important part of the city's industrial heritage and its profound impact, both locally and across the world."*

Jim Parkin, the Project Director (Leach Studio), said: *"Our team was delighted to be involved in this project. It's been a really special opportunity to preserve part of Birmingham's industrial history and social heritage. Alongside the tireless efforts of the volunteers and the charm of the original manufacturing equipment in the Pen Room, this project will help to ensure that these stories can continue to be shared with many more generations of visitors."*

Minister for Civil Society, Rob Wilson, said of the QAVS award: *"I would like to congratulate all groups who received this year's Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, in recognition of their fantastic achievements. The huge amount of work and commitment these organisations put into their local communities is surpassed only by the passion and motivation of the individuals who volunteer. I hope these groups continue to inspire others to get involved and make a positive impact so that we can continue to build a more compassionate society."*

Visit the Pen Museum, immerse yourself in the exciting world of pens and calligraphy and explore the amazing collection of over 5,000 objects related to the Birmingham steel pen trade and the history of writing. The Jewellery Quarter was home to over 100 factories manufacturing the 'Birmingham pen', which supplied 75% of the world's pens during the 19th Century. The Pen Museum's opening hours are Tuesday to Saturday: 11am to 4pm; Sunday: 1pm to 4pm. The admission charges are now £5.00; £4.00 for concessions; and for children under 16 admission is free. For more information please visit the website: www.penmuseum.org.uk or ring 0121 236 9834. ■

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. See 6 down (7)
- 7. How many "Famous" ones in the Enid Blyton stories series (4)
- 9. Non-alcoholic indulgent treat supplied and promoted by famous English Quaker families in the 19th and 20th Centuries (9)
- 10. One of two giant sons of Poseidon, God of the sea (4)
- 12. Mined for metal (3)
- 13. Famous king in Britain of long ago who would have "had to leave" the 'Great British Bake Off' (6)
- 14. On stage; the last words in a speech to be then followed by the next player (3)
- 15. Birmingham River, but well hidden, in Digbeth (3)
- 17. Arthurian wizard, also the Rolls Royce engine in both the Spitfire and the Hurricane (6)
- 18. In debt (3)
- 19. An informal eating place normally serving drinks and light meals (4)
- 24. Not the fastest way of preparing a meat eater's dinner (4,5)
- 25. Word used as a name (4)
- 26. Make one of these for the most direct route, and not just for honey (7)

CLUES DOWN

- 2. Every one of two or more items taken individually (pronoun) (4)
- 3. This word can link with many others: try north, south and greasy (4)
- 4. It is not a star in a planetarium but its rings are a major attraction (6)
- 5. Which Englishman said in 1805: "Roll up that map (of Europe); it will not be wanted these ten years"(4)
- 6. (and 1 across) The new ballet from Birmingham Royal Ballet, October 2016 (3,7)
- 8. Sculptor of bronze 'Lucifer' (7)
- 11. Mercian leader who built a barrier dyke near what is now the Welsh border (4)
- 13. Continental origin of Equiano, the leading anti-slavery campaigner (7)
- 14. This old king called for three fiddlers (4)
- 16. Divide (six dozen dozen) by (half a dozen dozen) (6)
- 20. £sd/slang: How many hundred tanners (6d) in a tenner (£10)? (4)
- 21. Armed forces common usage abbreviation for unauthorised absence (4)
- 22. and 23. Founder of a Birmingham hospital whose portrait by Reynolds hangs in BMAG (4,3)

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		11				12				
13									14	
15					16		17			
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				24						
25										
				26						

For events which need to be pre-booked, bookings can be made by calling the Gas Hall reception on 0121 348 8038 or via the website: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk unless alternative details are given below. Winter opening times apply until 7 April 2017. Please see the website for the Summer opening times.



MUSEUM &
ART GALLERY
BIRMINGHAM

Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH

Open Saturday-Thursday: 10am-5pm and Friday:

10:30am-5pm. Tel: 0121 348 8000. FREE entry

From Renaissance masterpieces to Egyptian mummies, 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; the Mini Museum, specially designed for little visitors; 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.

Night in the Museum: Ryan Gander curates the Arts Council Collection

Until 12 February 2017. Gas Hall. FREE entry. Leading British artist, Ryan Gander, curates an exhibition from this world class national collection of modern and contemporary British art, as part of the celebrations for the Arts Council Collection's 70th anniversary. Gander has selected artworks which appear to be involved in the act of looking and presents them so they gaze at works

Below: Jeweller's bench at The Museum of the Jewellery Quarter



featuring the colour blue; a colour integral to Gander's work and which, for him, represents the abstract ideas often found in modern and contemporary art.

Gander's approach provides a fresh view of the Arts Council Collection and challenges traditional methods of selection, prompting us to rethink the role of the curator, the art object and the spectator. The exhibition includes work by Patrick Caulfield, Jacob Epstein, Roger Hiorns, Henry Moore and Ben Nicholson.

Birmingham Big Art Project

Until 23 April 2017. FREE entry. Birmingham Big Art Project is commissioning a major new work of public art for the city of Birmingham. The exhibition of the shortlisted artists' proposals is coming to Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery for the final leg of the tour. It's the last chance to see the models and have your say.

Birmingham Big Art Foundation is supported by Birmingham City Council and The Birmingham Civic Society. This exhibition is generously supported by Arts Council England, Birmingham City University, Millennium Point, Birmingham Museums Trust and the Library of Birmingham. Eastside Projects are the Commissioning Agents for Birmingham Big Art Project. For more information please visit the Birmingham Big Art Project website: www.bbaf.org.uk.

Connected Histories:

Muslims in the First World War

Until 5 March 2017. FREE entry. This exhibition explores the untold stories of the more than 400,000 Muslim

soldiers in the First World War, and features personal stories and loans from relatives of those who served. The exhibition has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Library of Birmingham and links historical research with personal testimonies from Birmingham people whose Muslim relatives served in the First World War.

Lunchtime Guitar Concert

3 March 2017. FREE entry. The Lunchtime Guitar Concerts are a unique and popular event on the Birmingham music scene. The concerts alternate between Frances and Leo as a duo, or Leo as a soloist; and feature some of the most compelling and exciting guitar music from the Spanish, Latin and Classical repertoire. The concerts take place in the beautiful setting of the Round Room.

Leo and Frances have explored music outside the classical repertoire: Frances with the world famous flamenco guitarist Paco Pena; and Leo with jazz guitarists John Etheridge and Mundino Reinhardt - adding a colourful dimension to their performances. Together they have performed in master classes with John Williams and Sergio Abreu. For further information visit: www.leoturner.com.

The concert takes place in the Round Room at 1:10pm and features Leo Turner as a soloist. Admission is free and there is no need to book.



75-80 Vyse Street, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HA
*Open all year round. Tuesday-Saturday: 10:30am-5pm.
Closed Sunday and Monday except Bank Holidays.
Free entry for Friends. 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



Left: The Chitty Chitty Bang Bang car featured in the 'Mechanical Things' exhibition at Thinktank



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

Winter opening times until 7 April 2017:

Wednesday-Thursday: 11am-4pm and open first

Sunday of the month: 11am-4pm.

Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members.

Discover the splendour of a grand Jacobean mansion. Explore majestic state rooms, including the imposing Long Gallery, as well as the servants' quarters and beautiful gardens. Uncover captivating stories about the people who visited the Hall and learn about its central role in the English Civil War. The exciting events programme and child friendly access makes Aston Hall the perfect place to visit with all the family.

Victorian Murder Mystery Dinner

18 February 2017, 7pm-10pm. Pre-booking essential, Price per adult: £45.00. At Aston Hall in 1892 the members of staff are worried. Anna Groves, daughter of the local Vicar, has been found shot dead in the kitchen. Next to her is a vial of cyanide. Suicide? Or a clumsily disguised murder? The local police are somewhat baffled. A cast of likely candidates have been assembled and Sherlock Holmes has been despatched to solve the crime, but he needs your help. Interview the suspects and try and solve this most perplexing mystery whilst enjoying delicious food in the magnificent surroundings of Aston Hall.

Your ticket includes a 2 course hot buffet of steak pie 'n' mash, or vegetarian pie 'n' mash, followed by a hearty pudding and coffee.

Unlike most murder mystery dinners you will be eating inside the beautiful Grade I listed Great Hall.

Victorian costume is strongly encouraged but not essential. Please dress warmly and do not wear stiletto heels because they damage the historic floor, unless you have protective heel covers.

Each table seats up to 10 people. Arrival is from 7pm, performance starts at 7:30pm.

Please arrive in good time for the performance. Latecomers may not be admitted, and tickets will not be refunded.

Tickets are non-refundable. Suitable for ages 16+. For more details visit the website.



BLAKESLEY HALL

Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

Winter opening times until 7 April 2017: Wednesday-

Thursday, 11am-4pm and open first Sunday of the

month, 11am-4pm. February 2017 Half Term Opening:

21-26 February, 11am-4pm.

Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members.

Experience one of Birmingham's finest timber-framed

Far Left: Blakesley Hall

Tudor houses. Built in 1590 for Richard Smalbroke, a Birmingham merchant, Blakesley Hall is a peaceful haven set in an urban location. Discover the fascinating history of the Hall and 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.

Half Term Craft: Animal Masks

23 February 2017, 12:30pm–3:30pm. Price per child: £1.50. Create animal masks as part of Blakesley Hall's animal themed half term. Use a range of craft materials to make your own animal mask to take home. Animal themed quiz and trails also available.

Animal Mania

24 February 2017, 11am–3:30pm. 'Animal Mania' comes to Blakesley Hall. The animals include lizards, snakes, chinchillas, hedgehogs, giant bunnies, tortoises and creepy crawlies! £2 per person to see the animals or free with entry to the Hall. 'Animal Mania' usually consists of around 8 to 12 small animals that children can see and interact with in slots of 20 minutes.

Times are: 11am, 11:20am, 11:40am, 12 noon, 12:20pm, 12:40pm, 1pm, 1:20pm, 1:40pm, 2pm, 2:20pm, 2:40pm, 3pm, 3:20pm. Please note: Due to the unexpected number of visitors at our last animal mania day, this event can now be pre-booked. If you have not reserved your places prior to your visit, we cannot guarantee entry to see the animals.

Please call 0121 348 8120 to reserve your places to see the animals.



SAREHOLE MILL

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

Winter opening times until 7 April 2017: Wednesday–Thursday, 11am–4pm and open first Sunday of the month, 11am–4pm. February 2017 Half Term Opening:

21–26 February, 11am–4pm

Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members.

Explore the idyllic childhood haunt of J.R.R Tolkien. Sarehole Mill is one of only two surviving working watermills in Birmingham and provides 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

Winter opening times until 7 April 2017. Wednesday–Thursday, 11am–4pm and open first Sunday of the month, 11am–4pm. February 2017 Half Term Opening: 21–26 February, 11am–4pm.

Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members.

Discover the elegant Georgian home of the Birmingham industrialist and entrepreneur, Matthew Boulton. Get a glimpse into Boulton's world, including the family and servants' rooms as well as the lavish spaces in which he received his eminent guests – 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.

A Very British Romance

15 & 16 February 2017. Tours at 11:30am, 12:30pm & 2pm. £7 per person. Do you love the romance of Jane Austen and Georgette Heyer? Visit a special Valentine tour at Soho House celebrating the birth of Georgian romance. Tours at 11:30am, 12:30pm and 2pm. Pre-booking advised, please call 0121 348 8263. ➤



WEOLEY CASTLE

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

Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham, B4 7XG

Open daily 10am-5pm. Half price entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members.

Thinktank offers an extraordinary, fun-packed day out for all the family. From steam engines to a talking robot, this exciting museum is home to thousands of fascinating objects, and over 200 hands-on displays on science and technology.

Visit the state-of-the-art digital Planetarium and the interactive outdoor Science Garden. With an ever-changing programme of demonstrations, workshops and events, there is always something new to discover.

Now Open! Thinktank Ichthyosaur and Marine Worlds Gallery

New research has allowed us to display the Thinktank

Ichthyosaur skeleton in full for the first time. This amazingly preserved skeleton is over 3.5 metres long and is nearly 200 million years old! Find out about this giant swimming reptile and other creatures who lived in the sea in the new Marine Worlds Gallery.

Tim Peake's Photos from Space

Until 5 March 2017. Free with Thinktank entry ticket. To celebrate Tim Peake's mission to the International Space Station (ISS) Thinktank is hosting an exhibition of Tim's own photos taken whilst aboard the ISS. The images show remarkable landscapes on Earth taken from space and life on board the space station. The exhibition consists of 19 images and is located in the Planetarium corridor.

Mechanical Things: Adventures and Inventions from the World of Rowland Emett

Until 5 March 2017. Free with Thinktank entry ticket. Curious minds of all ages are invited to step inside the whimsical and wonderful world of inventions by eccentric English inventor Rowland Emett, as Thinktank hosts some of his most significant works, including the original 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' car.

As part of the playful exhibition, families are able to get hands on and enjoy interactive kinetic art and exhibits from the MAD (Mechanical Art and Design) Museum in Stratford upon Avon and the Cabaret Mechanical Theatre Collection, which are also on display.

Quirky machines from other artists, many of whom were influenced by Rowland Emett's automata style, are on display, showcasing the amazing legacy of this true British icon.

Alongside 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang', the centrepiece of the magical exhibition is 'A Quiet Afternoon in the Cloud Cuckoo Valley' which is Rowland Emett's last and largest machine.



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.

Open Afternoons

24 February & 31 March 2017, 1:30pm-3:30pm. Places at the open afternoon must be booked in advance. The tour will allow you to see a vast range of objects, often with a real focus on Birmingham and the West Midlands. The contrasting mix of objects and the behind-the-scenes atmosphere at the Museum

Collections Centre make it an intriguing place to explore and discover more about museum stores.

There is a free car park at the Museum Collections Centre.

To book or to find out more information please email: MCC@birminghammuseums.org.uk

Please note that the number of places on the Open Afternoon is limited to 6 people per booking. For larger group visits please contact the Museum Collections Centre to arrange a guided tour and a group visit on another day. ■

For more information on all events, exhibitions and other activities please visit: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk. To book for events, please call the Gas Hall reception on 0121 348 8038 or visit the website unless alternative details are given.

A LIFE OF ART: ARTHUR AND GILLIAN LOCKWOOD

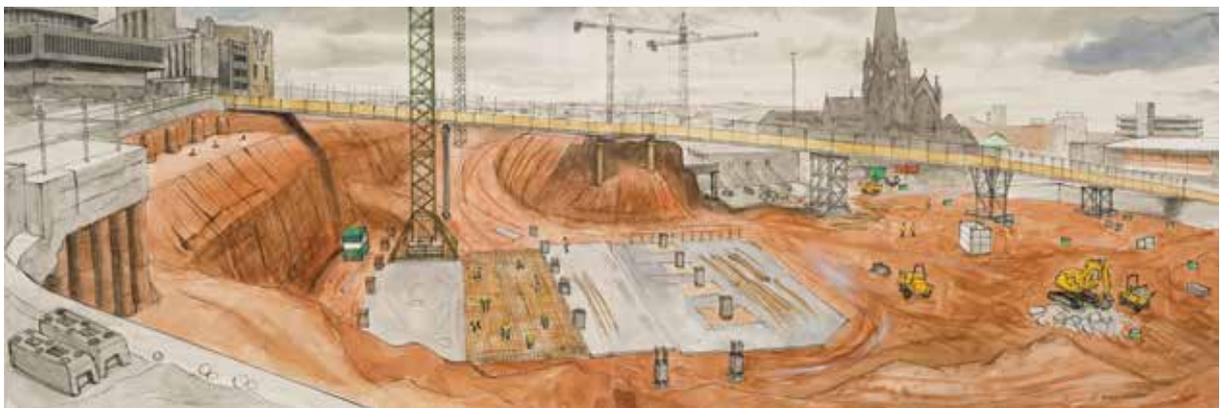
A spotlight on two local artists who have helped support and develop the Midland Art Scene for over 30 years.

Arthur and Gillian Lockwood are two artists who have been part of the Midland art scene since they moved here from London in the late 1980s. They are long-standing members of the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA) and the Birmingham Art Circle, contributing regularly to exhibitions. Arthur is also a Member of the Royal Society of British Artists and the Royal Watercolour Society.

During their time as RBSA Members, Arthur and Gillian have seen significant changes, including the move of the Society's gallery from New Street to its current location on Brook Street, located just off St. Paul's Square in the Jewellery Quarter. This move took place under the leadership of the then president, Marylane Barfield (President from 1995 - 2001) and the new gallery was opened by Prince Charles in 2000. The gallery has three floors of exhibition spaces which display a range of fine art, designer-maker craft, and jewellery. The upper-floor gallery spaces also display the RBSA's annual 'Open' and 'Prize' exhibitions, which all artists can enter.

Gillian is a potter who works in a variety of ways. Her stoneware pots are inspired by seed forms and her figurative work is made in porcelain. She exhibits regularly at the RBSA Gallery and has a ground-floor solo show of her decorative ceramic work from Monday 30 January until Saturday 25 March 2017. Gillian has also been an active supporter of the RBSA Gallery's family workshop programme and has delivered numerous workshops to help get children involved in making art using clay.

Arthur was born in Birmingham and has contributed greatly to the city's art heritage. He studied book illustration at Birmingham College of Art and then graphic design at the Royal College of Art, where he met Gillian who was also studying graphic design. Arthur draws in pen and paints in watercolour – a skill he learnt from his father, Frank Lockwood, who was an active Member of the RBSA. Their work can be seen in *'The Story of Birmingham'* exhibition in the History Gallery at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. Arthur donated a large number of Birmingham-themed artworks by himself and his father to Birmingham





ABOVE: The Derelict School Oozells Street 1998. Now Ikon Gallery **FAR LEFT:** The Bullring Development 2001

Museums Trust, which can be seen on the Trust's website. Arthur and Gillian have also donated numerous examples of their artwork and artworks by other artists to the RBSA's Collection, several of which have been included in the RBSA Gallery's annual exhibitions of works from the Collection.

Arthur's work was shown in 2004 at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery in *'Paintings of a City: Paintings by Arthur Lockwood'*. He has held exhibitions at Dudley Art Gallery; the Herbert Art Gallery, Coventry; and the National Coal Mining Museum for England. Arthur paints onsite and chooses subjects that record parts of Birmingham that are vulnerable to change or being re-developed, such as the Bull Ring. He has also focussed on recording the traditional metal-working

factories throughout Birmingham and the Black Country. Now, in his early 80s, he spends more time working in his studio on paintings of people – some of which might find their way to the RBSA 'Open' exhibition in March 2017. ■

BELOW: Sculpture 'Durian' and Arthur Lockwood
RIGHT: 'Apple Picking'



IN THE AREA

BARBER INSTITUTE

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Two Figures in a Room

10 February - 26 March 2017. Francis Bacon (1909-1992) is celebrated as one of the greatest iconoclastic modernists of the 20th century and one of the most significant painters ever to have worked in Britain. *Two Figures in a Room, 1959*, on loan to the gallery from the Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts at the University of East Anglia, is one of Bacon's finest works in any UK public collection, and is the first ever to go on display at the Barber. This disquieting image from Bacon's middle years features two naked figures, usually interpreted as male lovers, and was daring and provocative at the time of its creation, when homosexual acts in private between men were still illegal in the UK. Works by Matisse, Degas and Michelangelo have been suggested as sources for the two figures – and its display among the old master paintings of the permanent collection simultaneously suggests the debt and influence of historic art on modern painters.

Excavating Empire: Gold, Silver & Bronze in Byzantium

16 March 2017 - 18 March 2018. Discover Byzantium - the once-great empire whose glittering capital was the city of Constantinople (today's Istanbul) through this intriguing exploration of its coinage and economy. Constantinople's majesty astounded visitors from across the medieval world. However, the Byzantine empire was eclipsed in popular imagination by its earlier Roman incarnation and the glory of its Ottoman successor – and its significance is even today still re-emerging. This exhibition reveals the artistic beauty of Byzantium's gold coins, the surprising life-cycle of its silver coins and the curiosities of its bronze. There is a coinciding exhibition *Excavating Empire: David Talbot Rice and the Rediscovery of Byzantium* in the Green Gallery's Print Bay from 10 February - 11 June 2017.

Tumbleweed

24 February - 4 June 2017. The intricately ornamented and gilded historic picture frames that surround so

many of the paintings in the Barber's galleries are the starting point for this new sculpture by Hannah Honeywill. An emerging London-based artist and recipient of prestigious Wellcome Trust Arts Award funding, Honeywill combines the exploration of the function and form of everyday items with research into queer theory. After exhibiting in *New Art West Midlands 2016*, she was selected to produce a work in response to the Barber's collection - *Tumbleweed* is the exciting result.

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Tel: 024 7623 7521. www.theherbert.org

Face to Face: Portraits Through Time

3 February - 4 June 2017. Explore a centuries-old fascination with capturing our own image. Snapshots of ordinary people sit alongside Henry VIII, Marilyn Monroe, David Bowie and Princess Diana. Investigate why we make portraits and the hidden messages that they are trying to convey. Featuring paintings, photographs, sculptures and interactive activities. The National Portrait Gallery has generously supported this exhibition with ten loans from the Collection. The Arts Council Collection, The Courtauld Gallery and Photo Archive Miners have also kindly loaned works for the exhibition.

Coventry Arts Consortium 2017

1 - 23 April 2017. The fourteenth exhibition of work by local artists showcasing a broad variety of themes, artistic styles and techniques.

IKON GALLERY

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.

Tel: 0121 248 0708. www.ikon-gallery.org. Ikon is open Tuesday to Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays 11am - 5pm.

Jean Painlevé

15 March - 4 June 2017. Ikon presents the first UK solo exhibition of work by French filmmaker Jean Painlevé (1902 - 1989). His moving imagery of marine life, in particular, commanded the respect of many



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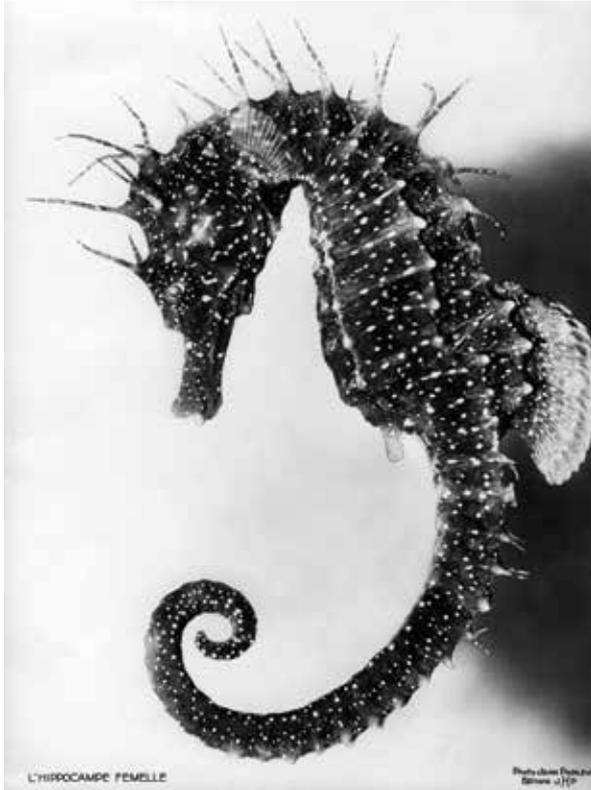
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MUSEUMS 
WORCESTERSHIRE



JEAN PAINLEVÉ

IKON GALLERY: 15 March - 4 June 2017.

Promotional postcard for the jhp brand, 1936.

© Archives Jean Painlevé, Paris

renowned avant-garde artists working in 1920s Paris such as Luis Buñuel, Sergei Eisenstein, Man Ray and Alexander Calder. The exhibition includes a number of seminal films alongside a selection of photographs and jewellery, exemplifying Painlevé's passion for making science accessible. Painlevé was especially taken with cinema's ability to transform microscopy into an experience that audiences could share, condensing and expanding duration in order to demystify processes of the natural world.

His pioneering nature films tend to focus on single organisms, capturing crucial moments in their life cycles, and in doing so he often expressed his free thinking. Audiences will get the opportunity to experience them for themselves through a screening accompanied by music by the Birmingham Contemporary Music Group which forms part of the Flatpack Festival.

Oliver Beer

15 March - 4 June 2017. The second exhibition is the most comprehensive exhibition to date of work by British artist Oliver Beer. Through film and sculpture, with a strong emphasis on sound, it exemplifies Beer's preoccupation with both the physical properties and emotional value of objects. At the heart of this

exhibition is a new work, commissioned by Ikon, *Reanimation (I Wanna Be Like You)*, (2017) which is a "re-animation" of a scene from Walt Disney's *Jungle Book*. 2,500 children, from early years until the age of 13 from Birmingham, were involved, each drawing a single film still put in order of the children's ages, so that the animation becomes increasingly "grown up". There will be the opportunity to meet Oliver and hear more about his artistic practice on 18 May, 6-7.30pm in a free talk held at Ikon. Tickets must be reserved in advance via Ikon's website or by calling the gallery.

The Friends of Birmingham Museums are invited to the official opening of these exhibitions at Ikon on Wednesday 15 March, 6-8pm.

MUSEUMS WORCESTERSHIRE

www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

County Treasures

The County Museum at Hartlebury Castle celebrated its 50th anniversary in May 2016, born out of the 'Tickenhill Collection' of domestic and social history items, exploring themes of home-life and childhood, as well as decorative fine arts and items which illustrate the rich agricultural and industrial history of the county. Over its lifetime, thanks to donations from the people of Worcestershire and beyond, the museum has grown into a treasure trove of eclectic collections that allow you to explore the breadth of Worcestershire's history, from daily domestic life to agriculture, craft and transport. With such a lot to discover at Hartlebury it can be difficult to know where to start, which is why the Museum has put together its not to be missed highlights covering curious collections, amazing architecture and local lives.

The highlights are a starting point for hunting out hidden gems in a collection that can connect you with and transport you back to the past, whether as a nostalgic reminder of days gone by or as a tangible link to the communities who have shaped modern day



DAVID COX AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES



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Worcestershire. The Museum's highlights, or County Treasures, have been chosen to show off what's special about the Museum's collections, from its unique collection of Gypsy caravans to its atmospheric room sets that transport you back to life below stairs in Victorian England. Other highlights are characteristic of life in Worcestershire and include a Steiff teddy bear, part of the historic toy collection, and an end over end butter churn – a staple of the agricultural life that was Worcestershire's industry for many years.

Two of the quirkiest treasures in the Museum are a pair of Queen Victoria's drawers, part of the amazing costume collection that the museum holds, if you look closely you can see the VR monogram on them; and Bernard Sleight's Mapped of Fairyland.

Over the next 12 months Hartlebury Castle, in which the County Museum is based, is undergoing a multimillion pound HLF project to transform the former bishop's residence into a new visitor attraction. The transformation of the former bishops' residence will not only tell the stories of the bishops and their families, but will enable access to the site's further highlights, which include the beautiful Gothic Chapel and the inspiring Hurd Library. The Chapel is the work of architect Henry Keene, former surveyor of Westminster Abbey, and is considered to be one of the most significant early works of the Gothic Revival period. While the Hurd Library is the perfect example of an enlightenment era library and, best of all, has a superb collection of historic books still on the shelves that were built for them.

David Cox and His Contemporaries

11 February - 3 June 2017. Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum is celebrating one of the midland's best loved artists, Birmingham born David Cox. Bringing together the Gallery's extensive collection of paintings by Cox with high profile loans of work by Constable and Turner from the British Museum, the exhibition explores Cox's position in the great age of British watercolour painting.

Born in Deritend in 1783, Cox initially worked as an apprentice to a miniature painter and as a scene painter in theatres in Birmingham before becoming a drawing master in Hereford and London. Although as early as 1805 Cox's work was regularly selected for the Royal Academy summer show, it wasn't

until the 1840s that he had established a strong enough reputation for watercolour painting to give up teaching and paint full-time. During these last two decades of his life Cox experimented with oil paint and colour, creating the landscapes that he has become best known for. Alongside Turner and Constable, Cox is widely considered as one of Britain's best watercolourists and has been named as a precursor to the impressionist movement.

Bringing the exhibition into the 21st century, part of the watercolour gallery will be dedicated to recent graduate work selected for *New Art West Midlands 2017*. It will be the first time that Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum has hosted the prestigious graduate show that includes work from universities across the West Midlands. The celebration of the best graduate art in the West Midlands will demonstrate the Midland's long history of art, from creating to collecting it.

David Cox and his Contemporaries is free to visit and open Monday – Saturday 10.30am – 4.30pm from 11th February to 3rd June. For more information contact the Art Gallery and Museum on 01905 25371 or visit www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk. ■

INTERNATIONAL IMAGES FOR SCIENCE

8 February - 22 March 2017, The Hive, Worcester

An exhibition of the world's best scientific photography with beautiful and striking images of interest to all.

Science has always been an important interest of the Royal Photographic Society in terms of showing the beauty of science through art and in supporting science, medicine and engineering through the application of new imaging techniques.

The exhibition is in the Atrium at The Hive and is free for all.
For full details: www.thehive.worcester.org/arts-exhibitions and www.worcester.ac.uk/discover/achievements-upcoming-events

Sclerotinia sclerotium Sporulation
by Graham Shephard

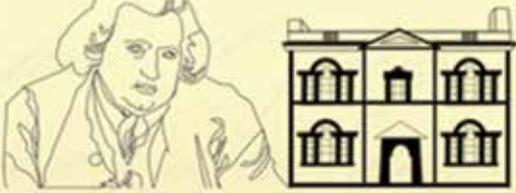
University of Worcester The Hive

The exhibition is supported by Siemens as part of an engagement programme to bring science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) to life.

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Promotional postcard for the JHP brand, 1936
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‘I WANT! I WANT!’

‘ART AND TECHNOLOGY’, GAS HALL, BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM & ART GALLERY AND ‘LOOKING UP LOOKING DOWN’, THINKTANK, THINKSPACE

BY JILL WARREN

The series of exhibitions *‘I Want! I Want! – Art and Technology’* feature a selection from the Arts Council Collection, and other renowned collections, of work by contemporary artists using technology. Curator Deborah Smith talks about some of the exhibits and the concept behind the exhibitions.

The Arts Council Collection contains over 8000 works by British based artists which extends back to 1945. Deborah Smith was tasked with delving into this extensive resource to search for links and the stories behind the exhibits. *I Want! I Want!* is the thematic title covering two separate exhibitions; the other is entitled *‘I Want! I Want! - Looking Up Looking Down’* and opens a little later in the year in Thinkspace at the Museum’s Thinktank. It explores, through old and new technologies, what we might see when looking to outer space from Earth, and from outer space back to Planet Earth.

The starting point for both these particular exhibitions and from where they take their title, is an etching by William Blake from 1793 of a man standing on earth next to a ladder that stretches



to the moon. It illustrates how man was striving for things that were out of reach over 200 years ago yet, in the intervening years, technology has improved beyond all imagination and turned the fantastical into an everyday occurrence. Technology has played an important role in all the exhibiting artists’ work – as inspiration, in the process of creating the work or in how it is presented and engages the audience.

Some examples of these ideas include the work by Jon Thomson and Alison Craighead entitled *Triggerhappy (1998)* which is inspired by the classic *Space Invaders* game. The ‘alien’ figures in the game are replaced by sections of text taken from Michel Foucault’s essay *‘What is an author?’* where the writing is slowly deleted as you play the game. Another is by Marcus Coates who specialises in work featuring the natural world. In *Dawn Chorus (2007)*, he recorded several samples of birdsong and then overlaid them on short films of people engaged in conversation during their everyday working life – a doctor’s surgery for example – so people are literally ‘tweeting’!

In the second exhibition, a special room is planned to feature *Totality* a work by Katie Paterson, one of 8 commissioned in 2015 by the Arts Council Collection. Sparkling from an oversize rotating mirror ball are 10,000 images featuring every single solar



ABOVE: *Trigger Happy*, 1998 Jon Thompson and Alison Craighead, Courtesy the artists and Carroll/Fletcher © Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London.

RIGHT: *Dawn Chorus*, 2007, 14 Channel Video Installation, 18:00 minutes looped, Marcus Coates. Courtesy the artist and Kate Macgarry © Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London.

LEFT: *Totality*, 2016, Katie Paterson. Installation view Somerset House. Photo © Flora Bartlett.

© Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London.



eclipse found on the Internet. This installation will be exhibited alongside items from the Birmingham Museums Trust including telescopes, John Russell's pastel drawing of *The Face of the Moon* (1793 - 1797) and Andreas Gefeller's *SV 01-8* (2012) featuring modified satellite images of urban settlements producing stunning aerial photographs of cities as viewed from space.

Both these linked exhibitions are to mark the Arts Council Collection's 70th anniversary and Arts Council England has invested in a network of four National Partner museums and galleries across England including Birmingham Museums Trust. Artworks from the Collection will be displayed in

these galleries between April 2016 and March 2019, enabling more people – particularly children and young people across England – to see and enjoy them. The Birmingham exhibitions also incorporate a rich, integrated education programme with events and workshops. Jon Sleigh is responsible for this wider learning programme that forms partnerships with other organisations across the city.

The exhibitions provide free entry and run as follows: '*Want! I Want! - Art and Technology*', Gas Hall, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery from 1 April - 1 October 2017 with a Private Viewing on 30 March (see page 11 for details of your invitation to this Private View). '*Want! I Want! - Looking Up Looking Down*' - Thinktank, Thinkspace from 27 May - 1 October 2017. ■

LIVE & LOCAL

BY JILL WARREN

Live & Local is a not-for-profit arts organisation working with a network of voluntary groups across Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Rutland to provide a range of support for arts activities that keep people in touch with their communities and enhance their quality of life.

John Laidlaw, Executive Director of Live & Local, expanded on the role of the organisation and its aims. Rather than a charity, Live & Local is a not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee. It has a voluntary Board of Directors (5-9 members), which is drawn from funders, staff, users and artists involved with the organisation's activities. Their Community Performance Schemes help voluntary groups to choose and promote high quality professional performances in their local community venue. Their work is funded partly by Arts Council England as it is a National Portfolio Organisation and partly by the local authorities in each county. In addition some 40% of their income comes from the revenue produced by the local box office events who have committed to pay a proportion of their takings to Live & Local. There are 30 similar schemes across the country,

with Wales having its own, although the brand names may vary from county to county. Live & Local alone supports around 500 live performances a year with 100 different shows across 260 venues.

Live & Local thrives on providing 'Surprising Shows in Surprising Places' to bring people together to enjoy high quality, affordable, memorable and uplifting live entertainment. These shows can be music, drama, storytelling, dance or arts events and may involve local groups, national or even international artists. The shows can be aimed at a younger audience or an older one but many will have a wide appeal to attract and cater for the greatest range possible. Live & Local publish a list of carefully researched artists and events which is distributed to participating venues where local promoters can choose the ones they feel are appropriate to their

TOP RIGHT:

'Spiltmilk Say
Dance'

RIGHT: Farnham
Maltings 'It's a
Wonderful Life'

BOTTOM RIGHT:

Publick Transport
'We Are Brontë'

FAR RIGHT:

Box Tale Soup
'Manalive'



requirements and audience. Local promoters include village hall committees, parish councils and school/parent/teacher groups. The venues themselves can be just as varied from school halls, village halls and community centres to small arts centres or churches. All the relevant information for booking and running an event is included with size recommendations, approximate time for setting up the venue, availability of the artists/show and the subsidised cost of the performance. Live & Local has fieldworkers to recruit



and support local promoter groups and they will also advise on marketing and provide guidance on writing press releases. It is up to the individual venue to sell the tickets so they can make a small profit via the box office and on bar sales, coffee, raffles etc.

A new initiative by Live & Local is discoverstories.org an interactive story-trail website offering a unique insight into a heritage site's past through historical and folklore stories and personal reminiscences. These are gathered by local musicians and transformed into vivid story-songs shared with you on this website. Don't just visit, be part of the story! Featured is Chedham's Yard in Warwickshire and the aim of the website is to increase footfall to the actual site itself, enhance the visitor's experience and to help support and improve the local economy. Heritage sites exist in their stories; every nook and cranny, every hammer and tong has a story to tell, some fact, some fiction, some myths, some superstition.

Live & Local exists to provide access for all to high quality arts events in rural communities thereby promoting community cohesion, enhancing the community spirit, improving the rural economy and ensuring health and wellbeing by keeping people active and engaged. ■

For more information on how to join the Live & Local scheme either as a performing artist or as a voluntary organisation or to book tickets for shows visit www.liveandlocal.org.uk



FEBRUARY

-  Thursday 2 # Newark House Museum and the Abbey Pumping Station
-  Tuesday 7 # A talk by Cameron Addicott: Author and Retired Undercover Officer

MARCH

-  Wednesday 1 * *'Reaching for the moon! An introduction to the series of exhibitions 'I Want! I Want!'"* – Deborah Smith
-  Monday 6 # Selly Manor
-  Tuesday 14 * *'New Art West Midlands 2017 – psychedelic landscapes and a giant rabbit'* – Lisa Beauchamp
-  Wednesday 15 * *'Exploring 'We Built This City'"* – Yvonne Price
-  Tuesday 21 * *'Cancer Immunotherapy - a Step-Change in Cancer Treatment'* – Professor BE Willcox
-  Tuesday 28 * Annual Lunch at the College of Food (UCB)
-  Thursday 30 \$ Private View of *'I Want! I Want! - Art & Technology'*

APRIL

-  Tuesday 4 * *'An Insight into 'We Built This City'"* – Yvonne Price
-  Thursday 6 * Kedleston Hall, Derbyshire
-  Monday 10 * *'Idylls and Idols: Victorian and Edwardian Bronze sculpture'* – Brendan Flynn
-  Monday 24 - Saturday 29 + Friends International Holiday to Barcelona

MAY

-  Wednesday 10 * Compton Verney: Art Gallery & Park
-  Tuesday 23 * Burghley House, Lincolnshire

JUNE

-  Friday 9 * Bodnant Garden, Conwy
-  Tuesday 20 * *'Nature comes to Birmingham'* - Luanne Meehitiya

SEPTEMBER

-  Tuesday 19 ++ *'John Cobb's 400 miles per hour on four wheels'* - Jim Andrew
-  Saturday 23 - Tuesday 26 ++ Weekend Away: The Art & Historic Houses of Greenwich & South East London

- * Details are enclosed with this mailing, and application forms are included in posted versions of this magazine (see note on page 6).
- # Included in a previous mailing, but places are still available. Please contact the Friends office if you would like to attend.
- + No application forms for this event. Please contact Barbara Preece to book your place.
- ++ Dates for your diary, no applications in this mailing.
- \$ These events are not arranged by the Friends, applications are not included.

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DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



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King Henry VIII by Unknown artist, oil on panel, 1592-1616. © National Portrait Gallery, London.



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