

ARTEFACTS



Friends of
Birmingham
Museums

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2018

BAFM

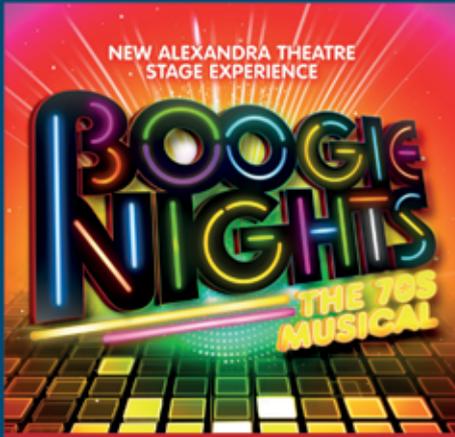
MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS

The Long Gallery, Aston Hall, 'Walls Have Ears: 400 Years of Change' exhibition in partnership with the Arts Council Collection.

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS MAGAZINE

COMING TO THE NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE

NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE
STAGE EXPERIENCE



BOOGIE NIGHTS
THE 70S MUSICAL

WED 22 – SAT 25 AUG
CAP Sat 25 Aug 2.30pm

Tiddler
and other terrific tales
JULIA DONALDSON • AXEL SCHEFFLER



LIVE ON STAGE

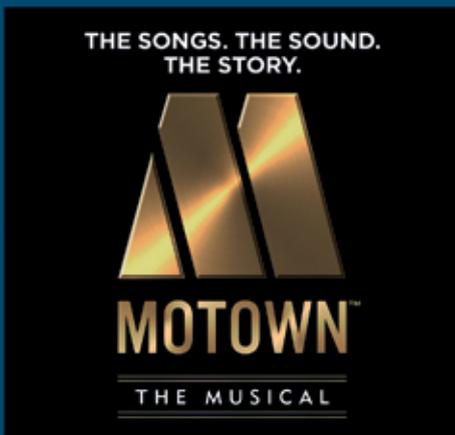
THU 30 AUG – SAT 1 SEP



SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

TUE 25 – SAT 29 SEP

THE SONGS. THE SOUND.
THE STORY.



MOTOWN
THE MUSICAL

THU 11 OCT – SAT 3 NOV
CAP Tue 23 Oct 7.30pm |  Wed 24 Oct 7.30pm
 Wed 31 Oct 2.30pm



Dirty Dancing
THE CLASSIC STORY ON STAGE

MON 5 – SAT 10 NOV



ROCK AGES

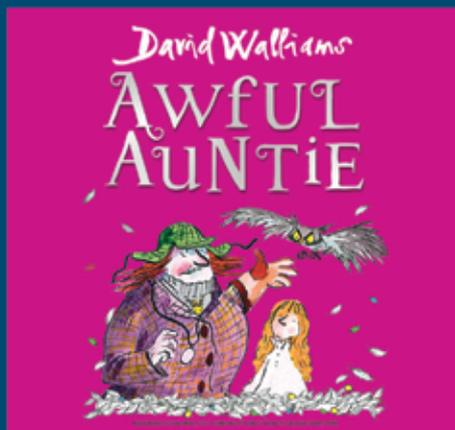
TUE 13 – SAT 17 NOV
 Thu 15 Nov 7.30pm



FAME

MON 19 – SAT 24 NOV

David Williams
AWFUL AUNTIE



TUE 27 NOV – SAT 1 DEC
R Tue 27 Nov 7pm



Benidorm
Live
by Derren Litten

MON 3 – SAT 29 DEC
 Sat 8 Dec 2.30pm |  Wed 12 Dec 7.30pm
CAP Wed 19 Dec 7.30pm

 Audio Described |  CAP Captioned |  R Relaxed |  Signed

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WORLD CLASS THEATRE

ATG TICKETS BOX OFFICE 0844 871 3011*[^]
ATGTICKETS.COM/Birmingham*

*Booking fees apply. ^Calls cost up to 7p per minute, plus your phone company's access charge.

CONTENTS

CONSERVATION OF BIRMINGHAM'S BIRD COLLECTION

PAGE **22**



CHAIR'S OBSERVATIONS	04
FRIENDS' EVENTS	06
NEWS FROM THE OFFICE	14
NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEERS	15
REPORT FROM BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS	16
FEATURE: ART THROUGH THE AGES - THE 15TH CENTURY	18
FEATURE: BUILDING A MUSEUM: 1885 TO THE PRESENT DAY	20
FEATURE: CONSERVATION OF BIRMINGHAM'S BIRD COLLECTION FOR THE DIPPY EXHIBITION	22
FEATURE: ROBERT PERRY	24
FEATURE: BIRMINGHAM FOOD TOUR	26
FRIENDS' CROSSWORD	27
BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS - WHAT'S ON	28
IN THE AREA	34
EXHIBITIONS FOCUS: THE EVERYDAY AND THE EXTRAORDINARY	38
FOCUS ON LOCAL CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS: WINTERBOURNE HOUSE AND GARDEN	40
FRIENDS' DIARY	42

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Website: www.fgmt.org.uk

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TWO SUCCESSES AND A CHALLENGE

BY DAVID FOSTER



'Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure',
in partnership with the Natural History Museum

If you haven't visited Dippy at BMAG yet, what's been keeping you? He is a sight to behold and might have been made for the Gas Hall. Facing you as you enter, Dippy is about to march straight out into the wide world again after all these millennia embedded in rock and, for the last century, stuck inside London's Natural History Museum. Seeing this display in Birmingham is the first success.

The second success is one that we, the Friends, can take particular satisfaction from. Last year we agreed to spend £15,000 of your money supporting conservation work on Birmingham's collection of bird specimens. The aim was for some of these items to accompany Dippy and illustrate the evolutionary trend from the dinosaurs of the past to the birds of today. As Alice Roberts said at the launch: 'Dinosaurs have not disappeared; they are still here today. We call them birds.' I was delighted with the resulting displays which are being shown alongside Dippy in the Gas Hall. The conservators and curators have done an excellent job of explaining the linkages between the creatures of the long past with the familiar animals of today. The choices of detailed specimens, as well as the whole birds, have been most intelligently made. Some of the birds themselves are truly spectacular, whether large or small. And – it's hard to credit – these items have been locked away in the Museum stores for a couple of decades at least. We are particularly keen that Birmingham Museums

Trust (BMT)'s excellent collection of bird specimens should be capable of appearing on permanent display, post-Dippy, to create a legacy and to help to tell an important story about the natural world. Thanks to the Friends, there is every prospect of this.

As you gaze up at Dippy, let your eyes dwell on the interior of the Gas Hall itself. This show encourages visitors to see the building and to appreciate its interior, in particular the beauty and scale of the space. Do take this opportunity to appreciate the Gas Hall's interior as there may not be many more. The current plans for the redevelopment of BMAG – the central museum and art gallery – will require BMT to surrender the Gas Hall to the City Council. After BMAG's closure for refurbishment in late 2019, it is not certain when, or in what form, we might see the Gas Hall again. I doubt if I am alone amongst Friends' members, let alone the generality of the visitors to major shows, to be anxious about its future. Over the past couple of decades there have been a number of truly spectacular shows which needed the space of the Gas Hall to do them justice. Every one of you will have your own particular favourites – *'Lost in Lace'* is my own. Not to mention that, without the Gas Hall, BMT would not have been able to accommodate Dippy!

It is not clear what the Council plans to do with the space as it is returned to them. Let us hope that they can rise to the challenge of creating a future for it that is at least the equal of its recent past. ■



'Lost in Lace', exhibition installation view



SLAVES OF FASHION

NEW WORKS BY THE SINGH TWINS

Wolverhampton Art Gallery
21 July - 16 September

Cotton: *Threads of Change* (Slaves of Fashion Series) Detail
©The Singh Twins www.singhtwins.com



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL



This exhibition has been developed in partnership with National Museums Liverpool and Wolverhampton Art Gallery in collaboration with Creative Black Country.

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.

Please note: a new rate has been introduced for non-members who wish to attend Friends Outings. Non-members will now be charged a £10 supplement (see prices for individual events).

The Friends Office is manned on Mondays and Tuesdays. If you have a query, please leave a message on the answer phone and we will be in touch.



OXFORD - A RARE COLLECTION OF SUPERB MUSEUMS

Date: Thursday 6 September 2018

Cost: £26/£36 non-members (includes donations to visited museums, coach & driver's tip)

3 Pickup points: South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 7:45am; Margaret Street (close to BMAG) at 8:15am; Yateley Road, Harborne, B15 3JP at 8:30am

Order of drop offs: Yateley Road; Colmore Row; and Sutton Coldfield.

On arrival in Oxford we will be close to the Ashmolean Museum, and will have time to wander through its galleries and find some refreshments.

Other Museums you may wish to visit:

Museum of the History of Science (MHS): MHS houses an unrivalled collection of early scientific instruments in the 'world's oldest surviving purpose-built museum building', the Old Ashmolean on Broad Street. It is both a department of the University of Oxford and an active public museum.

Museum of Natural History: The Museum of Natural History at the University of Oxford has been a centre of world-leading research and scientific debate since it opened in 1860. The Museum was the location

for the Great Debate of 1860 between Samuel Wilberforce and Thomas Huxley, and was also host to Nobel prize-winning research on the molecular structure of insulin, penicillin and vitamin B12 by Dorothy Hodgkin.

Founded as the centre for scientific study at the University of Oxford, the Museum of Natural History now holds the University's internationally significant collections of geological and zoological specimens, housed in a stunning example of neo-Gothic architecture. Among its most famous features are the Oxfordshire dinosaurs, the Dodo, and the swifts in the tower.

Pitt Rivers: The Pitt Rivers Museum was founded in 1884 when Lt.-General Pitt Rivers, an influential figure in the development of archaeology and evolutionary anthropology, gave his collection to the University. The Museum displays archaeological and ethnographic objects from all parts of the world. The General's founding gift contained more than 18,000 objects but there are now over half a million. Many were donated by early anthropologists and explorers. Today the Museum is an active teaching department of the University of Oxford. It also continues to collect through donations, bequests, special purchases and through its students, in the course of their fieldwork. The entrance to the Pitt Rivers Museum is through the Natural History Museum.

We have arranged timed slots at the above Museums, we will organise walks to visit them on the day. Please note that these visits are optional, you can do what you like in Oxford, just be at the coach at the leaving time!



'WHEN THE BUG BITES...' ~ INSECT PEST MANAGEMENT AT BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS'

Date: Tuesday 11 September 2018, 6-7pm

Speaker: Jane Thompson Webb BSc ACR, Conservation Team Leader, Birmingham Museums Trust

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

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

[NB. This event was advertised in the May-July 2018 edition of Artefacts. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.]

EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



SCIENCE SHORT



Above: Visitors to Highbury enjoying the grounds

Insect pests have been a danger to objects for millennia – moths are mentioned as destroyers of objects in the Bible. They are proving to be a major headache in the museum world and, left to their own devices, they can devastate collections. Even knowing this, dealing with insect pests is one of my favourite parts of the job. Did you know that woodworm live for only two weeks as an adult after five years as a larva living in a piece of wood? Or that moths have expensive tastes and prefer cashmere over anything else?

What insects are trying to eat collections at BMT? How do we find them when they are mostly less than 5mm long? What do we do when collection items are being munched? Why do they want to eat the collections anyway and why are motorbikes so tasty? Come along and find out the answers to these and many other bug-related questions and see if insect pests can become one of your favourite things.

As a bonus, bring your questions or specimens about insects trying to eat your own collections and I will do my best to come up with a solution!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday 11 September 2018, 7:30pm

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

The AGM will commence at 7:30pm in the John Lee Lecture Theatre and we anticipate that it will conclude by 8:30–9pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available from 7pm until 7:30pm at no cost.

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. Donation plates will also be available on the night. It is important that we know numbers for catering purposes, so please complete the Application Form and return it as soon as possible.

The AGM will follow our Science Short on dealing with insect pests in Birmingham Museums' collections, which will be led by Jane Thompson Webb, BMT's Conservation Team Leader. The Science Short will be held directly before the AGM, from 6-7pm in the John Lee Lecture Theatre at the BMI, and will cost £3 (see above).



PRIVATE TOUR WITH BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS' DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Wednesday 12 September 2018, 10am-12pm.

Cost: Free to members of the Friends

Venue: Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Birmingham Museums are inviting members of the Friends to attend a special private tour for BMT's supporters at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, hosted by the Development team. There will be a tour and tea or coffee in the Boardroom afterwards. Attendance is free, but places are limited and booking is essential. To reserve your place, please e-mail Jonathon Harris in the Development team: jonathon.harris@birminghammuseums.org.uk or call 0121 348 8293.



'WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM A FRIEND'

Date: Friday 21 September 2018, 11am

Speaker: Jane Howell

Cost: £9

Meeting point: The Round Room at 10:45am for an 11am start

NB. Guided tours are exclusively for members.

In this tour we shall look at several of the works of art that we, the Friends, have helped to acquire since we were founded in 1931. We shall also remind ourselves of one or two projects which we have supported over the years.

Whilst one of the main purposes of Birmingham Museums is to bring pleasure to the people of Birmingham and further afield, an important aim of this tour is to bring enjoyment to the members on whose support we depend.



BIRMINGHAM ART CIRCLE: INSPIRED BY WORDS

Date: Tuesday 25 September 2018, 6:30-8:30pm

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

Venue: Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, 4 Brook St, Birmingham, B3 1SA; www.rbsa.org.uk

Join us for a guided tour and demonstration of the Birmingham Art Circle's latest exhibition at the RBSA Gallery, which uses literature as a source of inspiration for their variety of original artwork.



FRIENDS WEEKEND AWAY: PLYMOUTH

Dates: Friday 5 October - Monday 8 October 2018

Cost: £362 per person. Single room supplement: £45.

This includes coach travel, hotel (3 nights dinner, bed & breakfast), lunch at SS Great Britain, all entrance charges (except National Trust Properties) and driver's tip.

A few places are still available for the Friends weekend away in Plymouth. Please contact Barbara Preece: Tel: 0121 4061145, email: barbara.preece.fbmag@gmail.com or write to the Friends' Office, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH.



TOUR OF Highbury

Date: Monday 8 October 2018, 11am

Cost: £15 per person, including refreshments

Venue: Highbury, 4 Yew Tree Rd, Birmingham B13 8QG

How to get there: By car: There is adequate parking on site and along Yew Tree Road. By public transport: take the No. 50 bus from Moor Street (outside Selfridges). Get off at Valentine Road in Kings Heath, cross the High Street and walk along Queensbridge Road to Yew Tree Road. It is a 5-10 minute walk.

Meeting Point: Inside the front door.

Please note: Numbers are limited to 15

Highbury, also known as Highbury Hall, is an exceptional example of a mansion house and grounds built by Joseph Chamberlain, wealthy industrialist, reforming Birmingham Mayor, and controversial national and imperial politician. It was the Chamberlain family residence until his death in 1914.

The Grade II* listed house was designed by the prominent Birmingham architect J.H. Chamberlain (no relation) and is remarkable for its Venetian Gothic architecture and its wealth of craftsmanship and decoration. The house and its surrounding 30-acre grounds form one of Birmingham's most important heritage assets.

The Chamberlain Highbury Trust looks forward to welcoming the Friends to Highbury and to sharing their vision for its future.



EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT

DAYTIME TALK

EVENING EVENT

GUIDED TOUR

OUTING

SCIENCE SHORT



Vladimír Kokolia

Epiphany
4 July – 9 September 2018

IKON

Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
ikon-gallery.org / 0121 248 0708
Tuesday – Sunday, 11am–5pm – free entry

Vladimír Kokolia's exhibition *Epiphany* is supported by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in London. Ikon is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered charity 528892.

DRAWN TO PERFECTION

MASTERWORKS ON PAPER
FROM THE ROYAL COLLECTION



Federico Barocci, *Head of an Old Man*, c.1575, Royal Collection Trust
© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 2018

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BIRMINGHAM

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VUILLARD AND
MADAME VUILLARD



19 October 2018 – 20 January 2019



TOUR OF THE MUSEUM COLLECTIONS CENTRE (MCC)

Date: Monday 12 November 2018, 1pm

Cost: £9 (includes tea and biscuits)

Location: 25 Dollman Street, Nechells, B7 4RQ

How to get there: By car: There is adequate parking on site. By public transport: MCC is easily accessible by train from New Street to Duddleston station (approximately 4 trains an hour, just 1 stop). Turn right out of Duddleston Station and take the 1st right into Dollman Street. MCC will be on your left. It is about 5 minutes walk. Meeting Point: At the entrance of the building where someone will be waiting to let you in. NB. This tour is exclusively for members.

The MCC is a vast storage centre housing the Trust's reserve collections. The Museum took the building over from Birmingham City Council almost 20 years ago. After some modification, collections belonging to Birmingham Museums, previously stored around the city, were moved here. Also, most of the collections from the old Science Museum which were not needed at Thinktank were moved in. Now there are almost

1,000,000 objects stored here. Over the years, they have been organised in such a way that visitors can see many of them - many being familiar objects from the past such as the electric dustcart, a Daimler Benz aircraft engine and a gas oven from the 1950s!

This tour provides a wonderful opportunity to see things not usually on display, although it does not include works from the Art collections. The absence of these is more than made up for by the fascinating collections which you will have a chance to see.

TITANIC: VOYAGE INTO DESTINY: PART 3 OF 4 - 'THE RECKONING'

Date: Thursday 15 November 2018

Speaker: Andrew Lound

Cost: £9/12 non-members

(includes entrance and refreshments)

Venue: The BMAG Board Room at 10:30am for an 11am start.

Meeting point: The BMAG Round Room at 10:30am.

News of the loss of the world's largest liner caused

EVENT KEY



Left: The 'City of Birmingham' engine arriving at the museum in Newhall Street in 1966 © Jim Andrew

shock and disbelief. Thousands waited in New York for the arrival of the Carpathia carrying the 507 survivors. In the third instalment of the series, Andrew Lound tells of the aftermath of the Titanic disaster, the response from the press, public and the two inquiries accompanied by music, SFX and images.



EVE AND MARY: THE TEMPTRESS AND THE VIRGIN

Date: Friday 30 November 2018

Speaker: Henrietta Lockhart

Cost: £9/12 non-members

(includes entrance & refreshments)

*Venue: The AV Room (at the back of BMAG's Gas Hall)
at 10:30am for an 11am start*

Both Eve and Mary have provided endless inspiration for artists over many centuries. In this talk, we will look at works of art which reveal a variety of attitudes to women, motherhood and sexuality, and discover that Mary has often been seen as the antithesis, and even the redemption, of Eve. Some of the works featured can be viewed in public collections in Birmingham.



TITANIC: VOYAGE INTO DESTINY: PART 4 OF 4 - 'RETURN OF A DREAM'

Date: Tuesday 4 December 2018

Speaker: Andrew Lound

Cost: £9/12 non-members

(includes entrance & refreshments)

*Venue: The AV Room (at the back of BMAG's Gas Hall)
at 10:30am for an 11am start*

The Titanic, although not forgotten in the minds of the people, had been lost in the physical. Many attempts have been made to try and locate the famous liner. In 1985 Robert Ballard was carrying out research using new side scan sonar on a defence project. Before returning to Woods Hole Institute in Massachusetts he made a detour to try and locate the legendary ship. On September 1st, he found it. In the last instalment of Andrew Lound's series we explore the wreck of the most famous ship in the world using images from a number of expeditions. Accompanied by music.

OPUS OFFER FOR FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS



BAR
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Opus is delighted to support Birmingham Museums Trust again for the tenth year and to extend their discount for all Friends of Birmingham Museums. Simply produce your Friends card and receive 10% off your final bill for lunch or dinner service at 2 AA Rosette Opus restaurant on Cornwall St and throughout the day at ultra modern Bar Opus at One Snowhill (complete with outdoor terrace).



THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, PRESERVING A STEAM LOCOMOTIVE

Date: Tuesday 4 December 2018, 6-7pm

*Speaker: Dr. Jim Andrew, Volunteer Curator,
Thinktank and MCC*

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

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

This locomotive, displayed in Thinktank, was designed in the 1930s for the West Coast Main Line when competing with the East Coast route to >



Above: View from the coach during the Friends trip to Sicily in 2005 © John Pownall

Scotland. The engineer, William Stanier, produced a design for the most powerful British passenger steam locomotive. This talk will look at how the design was optimised and how the locomotive has been preserved, making it the only UK steam locomotive which remains in the first class condition in which it left railway service in 1963.



FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAY TO SICILY

Dates: Monday 1 April - Monday 8 April 2019

Cost: £1,300 per person; Single Room supplement £170. Please note that all cheques for this event need to be made out to 'Tailored Travel' and sent to the Friends Office. Includes coach travel; flights; hotels (7 nights dinner, bed & breakfast); 2 lunches in Agrigento & Syracuse; and gratuities (coach drivers, Tour Manager, Guides, etc)

Next year our overseas venue will be Sicily, 14 years since our last visit. Again we will be using Tailored Travel to help us make the arrangements. There will be coach transfers from/to our usual pickup points (times to be announced when flight schedules are settled). We will be staying in three different hotels

so that we can always be close to the most important sights on this beautiful and historic island.

Our programme will include guided tours of Taormina, Syracuse, Agrigento, Piazza Armerina, the Villa Romana del Casale, the Valley of Temples, Palermo, Segesta, Erice and Cefalu; plus an optional excursion to Mount Etna. Travel Insurance is essential and can be supplied by Tailored Travel (TT) at a cost of £51 per person (maximum age 85).

If you would like to secure your place(s) early, please send a cheque, made out to 'Tailored Travel', for £150 per person as a deposit (plus £51 per person if you want TT's Insurance). This can be posted with any other events bookings or alone, but please include a note with your Membership Number, Name(s) and Room Type (Double, Twin or Single). The full itinerary and an application form will be included in the next edition of *Artefacts*.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

 Tuesday 22 January 2019:

'The History of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery'
- Dr Ellen McAdam

EVENT KEY



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St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham

J S Bach:

Cantata 29 Wir danken dir, Gott
Missa Brevis in G minor BWV235
Cantata 21 Ich hatte viel bekümmernis

Conductor: Paul Spicer

Orchestra: Musical and Amicable Society

Soloists: Natalie Clifton-Griffith, Simon Ponsford,
Daniel Auchincloss & Julian Debreuil

Birmingham Bach Choir

Tickets - Nave: £18 (£16 conc) Gallery: £10
From www.birmingham.bachchoir.com
Or Ticket Officer: 07901 798442
Also from: THSH Box Office*

*fee charged

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NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

The Friends Office is staffed on a part-time basis - usually Monday and Tuesday. When the office is unattended, please leave a brief voicemail message, or email us.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING TO SUPPORT OUR EVENTS?

We are looking for volunteers to help organise and support outings and tours for the Friends. If you would like to find out more about joining our team, please contact the Friends office on 0121 348 8332; or email friends.of.bmag@gmail.com.

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, near the Museum) 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/café

- 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/café: www.stokemuseums.org.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 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: Miss AK Price, Mr J & Mrs M Nielsen, Miss SG Bennett, Mrs E Ling, Mrs PA Ellis, Mr AR Jackson. ■

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE WRITE IN CAPITAL LETTERS

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

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

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ABOVE: Birmingham Museums Volunteer of the Year 2018 Gillian on the left; with Janine Eason, Director of Engagement on the right

So what a fabulous summer the Birmingham Museums & Friends volunteer teams have had this year. The team have been achieving all sorts of things over the last few months.

In June we celebrated National Volunteers Week 2018, an annual national celebration which takes place at the start of the month to mark the amazing work of volunteers across the country. Over 23 million people volunteer in the United Kingdom and we are so lucky that over 1,000 people last year chose to volunteer with Birmingham Museums Trust and the Friends in some way.

During this celebration we held our annual Summer Picnic at Aston Hall to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers; we were very lucky with the weather and the sun shone for the team. The event was a busy one with our annual quiz, lots of tasty food, volunteers marbling their own notebooks and a fascinating tour of the Hall. This event was also an opportunity to present our Volunteer of the Year Award. This year we have the pleasure to announce that Birmingham Museums Volunteer of the Year for 2018 is Gillian Jones, who volunteers as a Heritage Interpreter at

Soho House. Volunteering for over four years with the Trust, Gillian supports the team in so many ways including delivering tours, researching the house and assisting with events.

We received such lovely nominations that Janine Eason, Director of Engagement at Birmingham Museums, also awarded two Runners Up and, for the first time ever, initiated two Highly Commended Team Awards too! The 2018 Runners Up were the Thinktank Conservation Team volunteers (David, Cecilia, Robert and Stephen) who help to look after our science and industry collection; and the Arts Council Collection volunteers (Suzanne, Trixie, Rhiannon, Charlie and Rebecca) who support the learning team and Arts Council Collection exhibitions. And our Highly Commended Teams were our Blakesley Hall volunteers and our Aston Hall volunteers. Well done to all and thanks so much for all your hard work!

And here is just a taster of the other activities which have been taking place this summer: the Friends volunteers have been working hard at the Desk, engaging people who visit the Museum & Art Gallery; the Heritage Interpreters have been out and about at the sites talking to visitors and sharing their passion for heritage; the super gardening teams have been working hard to keep our grounds looking beautiful; our historic needlework group have been making beautiful bunting to celebrate 400 years of Aston Hall and ... this list as always could go on. Thanks to everyone for a brilliant summer!

So another great few months for all things volunteering. If you would like to join the team, either by volunteering for the Friends or 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

REPORT FROM BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS

BY RACHEL COCKETT, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

As I write this the country is in the midst of a heatwave. Let us hope the sunny weather continues throughout the summer.

Dippy has worked his magic in Birmingham attracting huge visitor numbers to the Museum & Art Gallery. Supported by the Friends and Paradise Birmingham, and in partnership with the Natural History Museum *'Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure'* is wowing families, school children and big kids of all ages. It is wonderful to watch the queue of excited children (and adults!) enter the gallery and hear the 'ooo's' and 'aaah's' as they see Dippy for the first time. It is not just Dippy that is attracting attention. The city's collection of taxidermy birds - restored using a Friends grant - are also the subject of interest and delight for many visitors. Dippy is with us until 9 September, so please do pop in to see him.

Visitors to the Museum & Art Gallery can also see several redisplayed galleries. There is a new display of works by Birmingham-born landscape artist David Cox, including visitor-favourite *'Crossing the Sands'*, and Cox's only attempt at a grand historical landscape with a classical theme, *'Carthage: Aeneas and Achates'*. The redisplayed Pre-Raphaelite Gallery contains a painting that, in 18 years of working for Birmingham Museums, I have never previously seen, Ford Madox Brown's dramatic and rather fabulous *'Don Juan and Haidée'*. And last, but not least, also back on display is Edward Robert Hughes famous watercolour *'Night with her Train Stars'* (for me it is the gorgeous frame that really stands out!).

By the time you read this, our latest exhibition at the Museum & Art Gallery will have opened. *'Within and Without: Body Image and the Self'* examines how social, historical and cultural factors affect body image and how this is expressed through objects and artworks. It explores how body image has an impact on social

status, gender, stage of life, health, aesthetics, religion, politics and sexuality. The exhibition theme has been shaped by volunteers working with staff. The *'Body Image'* exhibition is a Story Lab gallery, which means we will invite you to share your thoughts and ideas to help shape the future of Birmingham Museums.

Summer is the perfect time to appreciate some art, enjoy a wander in a lovely garden, and round off the day with a cream tea or a cooling ice-cream. We have two fascinating exhibitions to help you do just that: at Aston Hall *'Walls Have Ears: 400 Years of Change'*; and *'Nature's Presence'* at Blakesley Hall. The artwork in these exhibitions, part of our Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme, draws on the historic stories of these beautiful houses and reflects on their contemporary environment.

And finally, I am delighted to share that Birmingham Museums Trust has appointed four new trustees to its board, following the release of its ambitious Ten-Year Strategy. The new appointments are Mohammed Ali MBE, artist and Artistic Director of Soul City Arts; Claire Williamson, Assistant Director of Marketing and Development at London Transport Museum; John Diviney, Director and Communications Consultant at Brunswick Arts; and Luke Southall, Managing Director at Oaks Consultancy.

The new board members bring strategic expertise from across the region and nationally at a crucial time for the Trust, as it works towards major transformational plans. We all look forward to working together to bring to life our vision and future strategy for Birmingham Museums, including the transformational redevelopment of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, which will see Birmingham's great collection reimaged for the city's young, diverse audiences. ■

EXHIBITIONS AT THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

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ART THROUGH THE AGES

BY JANE HOWELL

Continuing the series of Art through the Ages articles as illustrated by works from the Birmingham Museums collection, in this edition of *Artefacts* we are looking at a painting from the 15th century.

The Fifteenth Century

'*Christ as The Man of Sorrows*' by Petrus Christus
(Accession Number: 1935P306)

For me, one of the most powerful and moving verses from the Bible is to be found in the book of Isaiah:

*'He was despised and rejected by men,
A man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering
Like one from whom men hide their faces
He was despised and we knew him not.'*

With the discovery of oil paint in the 15th century it became possible for Petrus Christus, a Netherlandish painter and follower of Jan van Eyck, to use this new medium on panel to create a most exquisite portrayal of Christ as the Man of Sorrows. The work measures only 11.2 by 8.5 centimetres, yet it has so much detail which would not have been possible using tempera, the main medium prior to this.

Christ is depicted after the resurrection. He had been crucified, 'despised and rejected', but on the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures.

Although small, Petrus Christus manages much of the Christian doctrine within this icon. Christ is not in his tomb. Instead he is in water, symbolising baptism, an important doctrine.

He is holding open the wound which was made by the soldier who stabbed him in the side whilst he was still alive, still on the cross. This powerfully illustrates the suffering he endured in order to atone for the sins of mankind.

On either side of him are angels: the one with the frowning brow is holding the Sword of Judgement reminding us that, on the Day of Judgement, we shall be judged according to the life we have led.

But Petrus Christus gives us a second angel who

holds the lilies of Mercy, to comfort us and to remind us that in his judgement, Christ is merciful.

Because of its size, it is believed that this icon would have been a private commission, possibly by someone who travelled a lot. It could have been held in the palm of the hand and reflected upon, especially when the owner was troubled. The man or woman would know that Christ shared and understood their suffering.

The format of *'The Man of Sorrows'* or *Ecce Homo* became a frequently used aid to devotion with Birmingham's possibly being the earliest of its type. In spite of its size the detail is perfect and the water is painted with the pigment lapis lazuli, a very expensive deep blue pigment only found in Afghanistan, showing that cost was not important to the owner.

Petrus Christus was born in 1410, near Antwerp in modern day Belgium. In 1444 he became a burgher in Bruges, a major centre for Netherlandish art at this time and, as a burgher, he was able to work there until his death in 1475.

It is not known how much work he produced as only thirty of his pieces remain, of which three are in Britain. Although thought to have been well known in his lifetime, his contemporaries - Jan van Eyck and Roger van der Weyden - are far more familiar to us today.

The painting has recently been reframed. The new frame was funded with grants received from the John Feeney Charitable Trust (who also funded the original purchase of the work in 1935) and the Birmingham Common Good Trust. The new frame was made by Peter Schade, Head of Framing at the National Gallery.

The new frame is made of gilded cast bronze and sets off this small painting beautifully. It is now the

gateway object for Christianity in gallery 20, the Faith gallery. It hangs with space to study and reflect upon as intended all those centuries ago. As one looks at the symbolism and recalls the words from Isaiah, it is easy to understand what a powerful place it must

have had in its original owner's life.

The Bible quote from Isaiah is from Chapter 53, verse 3 and is taken from the New International Version, published by New York International Bible Society and first published in Great Britain in 1979. ■



Petrus Christus, *'The Man of Sorrows'* © Birmingham Museums Trust

BUILDING A MUSEUM: 1885 TO THE PRESENT DAY

Earlier this year in *Artefacts*, Major Projects Manager Julie Crawshaw told you about the exciting plans for the BMAG Redevelopment. To support these plans, Birmingham Museums have been researching the original development of the Museum & Art Gallery which has thrown fresh light on the vital role supporters have always played in developing Birmingham's outstanding museum and museum collection.



As you know, the Council House and Museum & Art Gallery are in dire need of an overhaul to ensure they are safe and fit for the future. The building is unique but complex, with multiple changes of floor level, various dead ends and some awkward uses of the available space. For example, one of the staircases leads to a ceiling, there is a kitchen in the roof and the stationery cupboard opens onto a gallery. Fixing these problems is an enormous undertaking but it is part of the Trust's wider vision for Birmingham Museums.

Birmingham Museums Trust are currently working with architects to create a comprehensive design for the redevelopment project. In preparation for this, BMT Director Dr. Ellen McAdam recently conducted some detailed research into the original construction of the Museum and Art Gallery and, in particular, the galleries in the Council House Extension that were built as a result of the 1905 Feeney Bequest.

This research gives an insight into the original construction projects that first got the museum built and is a reminder of the scale of today's redevelopment project. The Council House Extension was built in two phases. The first phase was constructed in 1909 on the Edmund Street frontage, and took 3 years to complete. The first set of galleries was built above the Waterhall and connected to the 1885 building by a windowless bridge which is recognisable now as the Bridge Gallery. Originally designed to display the Burne Jones/William Morris tapestries of the Holy Grail, it now houses a variety of temporary exhibitions.

The second phase extended the building across to Great

Charles Street, adding a grand staircase to provide direct access to the Feeney Galleries on the first floor. Downstairs, the offices of various Council departments were crammed in ad hoc, each with separate entrances and very little intercommunication. Finished in 1915, the galleries upstairs did not open as part of the museum until 1919 and several were used in the meantime for various war functions.

The original displays in the 1885 building had focused on fine and decorative art. The expansion of the museum enabled by the Feeney Bequest turned it into the much bigger institution, with a broad range of displays, that we are more familiar with today. Whitworth Wallis, the museum's well-known first Keeper, added displays of cast iron, local history and natural history. His successor, SC Kaines Smith, broadened the scope of the collections further to include more decorative art, local history and archaeology.

The Feeney Bequest is an important part of the story of Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and continues to impact the work which the Trust does today. In the years since, the generosity of supporters has helped to conserve, research and expand Birmingham Museums' fantastic collection. The Trust has been fortunate to continue to receive gifts in the wills of its supporters and, as with the Feeney Bequest, all gifts left in wills to Birmingham Museums have an incredibly long-lasting impact.

As part of this year's Remember a Charity Week in September, the public tours at BMAG will offer a more detailed look at the Feeney galleries themselves, as well as some of the objects and art works Birmingham Museums are able to display as a result of gifts left in wills over the years.

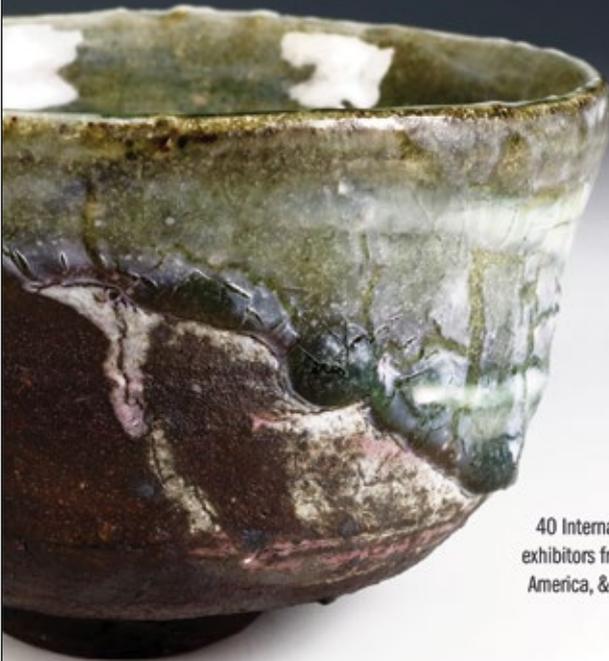
On Wednesday 12 September, from 10am-12pm, Birmingham Museums are inviting members of the Friends to attend a special private tour at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, hosted by the Development team for BMT's supporters. BMT hope you will join them for the tour and for tea or coffee in the Boardroom afterwards. Attendance is free, but places are limited and booking is essential. To reserve your place, please e-mail Jonathon Harris in the Development team: jonathon.harris@birminghammuseums.org.uk or call 0121 348 8293. ■

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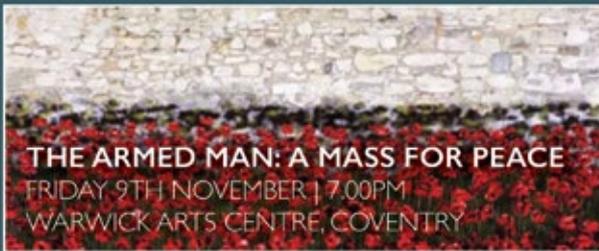
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CONSERVATION OF BIRMINGHAM'S BIRD COLLECTION FOR THE DIPPY EXHIBITION

Dippy's visit to Birmingham Museum and Gallery has been a unique opportunity to create an exhibition to accompany him using Birmingham's natural science collection.

The evolution of birds was chosen as the theme because we now know that birds are the only surviving group of dinosaurs. Birmingham has an extremely good collection of birds which includes many examples of taxidermy, study skins, nests, eggs and bones. This enabled us to create an exhibition that drew on the strengths of Birmingham's natural science collection and allowed us to interpret the collection in a new way.

Most of the birds in Birmingham's collection are more than 70 years old. Over time, they have accumulated dirt and suffered accidental damage. Therefore, the birds needed to be conserved before they could be put on display. Taxidermy birds are complex objects composed of feathers, skin, bone, metal and organic 'stuffing'. Each of these materials ages and responds to changes in the environment in a different way. This can make the birds challenging objects to conserve.

The biggest improvement in appearance is often achieved with simple cleaning. This involves using a brush to dislodge any loose dust and a low suction vacuum cleaner to remove it. Dust and dirt can also damage objects so cleaning not only improves the appearance but also helps to preserve them in the long term. Cleaning the glass eyes with cotton swabs is particularly important as dull or dirty eyes make even the best taxidermy look bad.

Living birds need to regularly preen their feathers to keep them in good condition. We have to take over this task for the taxidermy.

We used spatulas to gently rearrange the feathers back into their original shape. The amazing structure of feathers means that microscopic hooks knit them back together, returning the feathers to their original shape.

Some of the birds had more serious damage. The skin of the adult King Penguin's wing had split at a weak point near where the wing bone had been cut when it was prepared. This required the use of a strong epoxy adhesive to secure the wing in place. After the wing was glued back and the feathers had been rearranged, the join was hardly noticeable.

A common problem with taxidermy birds is that the heads become loose. This is because just a single wire supports the heads, making them vulnerable to accidental damage. The solution involves removing the head completely. This may seem radical, but it enables the stuffing material on either side of the join to be consolidated using an adhesive, creating a solid surface so that the head can be firmly reattached.

Creating new mounts for the specimens was an important part of preparing the birds for the exhibition. Many of the birds were once part of old displays which were dismantled to make them easier to store. Some were given temporary mounts but many had been left unmounted. We created new wooden mounts for many of the birds or mounted them on dowels that could be easily transferred to a permanent mount. The new mounts created for the exhibition will protect the birds for many years to come.

The Friends' generous support for this conservation work enabled 47 taxidermy birds to be conserved for the exhibition, making it the largest new display of taxidermy since the opening of Thinktank. This work will also lead to more of the collection being on permanent display, as part of the exhibition will be transferred to Thinktank once Dippy leaves Birmingham. The skills gained during this work are another important legacy of the project and with the assistance of a fantastic team of volunteers, we will continue to clean and mount the taxidermy birds that will help to preserve this important collection for the future. ■

**By Lukas Large,
Curator (Natural Sciences),
Birmingham Museums Trust**



62 Group Ctrl/Shift

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Sue in the Blue
Artist: Sue Austin © www.wearefreewheeling.org.uk
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Image: Jerson Marques Art Deco

ROBERT PERRY

SUNLIGHT, WATER, REFLECTIONS, BLUE SKIES AND TREES

This is Robert Perry's twentieth solo exhibition with the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, an indication of his single-minded dedication to his art and his seemingly inexhaustible energy. He has been no stranger to BMAG either, with his exhibition *Remembering the Somme* in 2006 and in the acquisition of a major work assisted by the Friends the same year. His popular *Black Country at Night* painting featured in the *How Art is Made* displays alongside his astonishing array of art equipment.

He was born in Brockmoor, Brierley Hill in 1944, but at the age of six months moved with his parents to Wordsley where he grew up. A rough and tumble childhood spent exploring the local woodlands, derelict buildings and scrap yards, cycling to Kinver Edge and Highgate Common or along the canal towpaths past foundries, mines and steelworks engendered an enduring love of the Black Country and a curiosity and spirit of adventure which has never left him. His interest in art and engineering emerged from this fascination with his surroundings.

Making his first 'on the spot' drawing at the age of nine was a revelation to him, 'like being given a new

pair of eyes'. He continued painting and drawing local scenes and at the age of thirteen he gained a place at Stourbridge Secondary Art School from where he progressed to Stourbridge College of Art.

He paints entirely on site working on specific themes or locations which he studies exhaustively, with numerous sketches preceding his larger scale paintings. Renowned especially for his views of the Black Country, his spirit of adventure has also taken him to locations all over Europe in his famous Renault Traffic van which he has converted into a fully equipped mobile studio. In dynamic and expressive works, he has captured the stark beauty of the Spanish Sierra

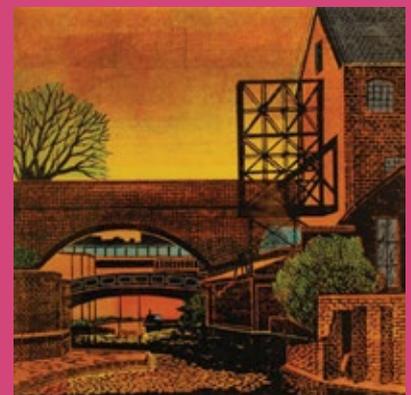
PUTTING ON A SHOW ~ RBSA CURATORS FROM 1900~2018 MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER-SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER 2018, RBSA GALLERY, GALLERY 1

The annual display of artwork from the RBSA Collection and Archive will focus this year on past Honorary Curators of the Society, including the late Paul Hipkiss. Paul's family are kindly loaning a collection of his work and some of his prints will be available to purchase.

Exhibitions are the lifeblood of the RBSA and the role of Hon. Curator is a vital one for the smooth running of the programme – arranging the hanging and dismantling of solo, group and Open exhibitions, co-ordinating the hanging teams and working with the selectors. With a rapid turnover of exhibitions, it demands dedication, practical and organisational skill, aesthetic judgement and an ability to work to inexorable deadlines

without losing your sense of humour! A rare combination of qualities which Hon. Curators past and present have embodied. Between them they have displayed many thousands of works by hundreds of artists, but here they take centre stage. The works of Paul Hipkiss are accompanied by fine examples of work by James Priddey, the architect Richard Thornton, Roger Forbes, Marylane Barfield, the present incumbent Steve Evans and many others all drawn from the rapidly growing RBSA's permanent collection.

This exhibition coincides with *'The Beautiful City'*, which celebrates the Centenary of Birmingham Civic Society. ■



Spring on the Digbeth Branch, lino-cut
by Paul Hipkiss



Nevada, the quiet glades of Fontainbleau and the haunting battlefields of the First World War. Wherever he pitches his easel it is his ability to record the passing effects of light and weather that characterise his work as he responds to the spirit of the place.

This is certainly true of his recent series of paintings completed in the Wyre Forest, an ancient woodland straddling the borders of Worcestershire and Shropshire. Portraying the play of flashing, dappled sunlight through the tree canopy in different seasons of the year these works have a hypnotic, almost dream-like quality. His emotional engagement with the place reflects the pre-occupations of the English Romantic tradition informed by the same rigorous observation he applies to his industrial landscapes. His approach is immersive with repeated visits yielding works of ever increasing intensity.

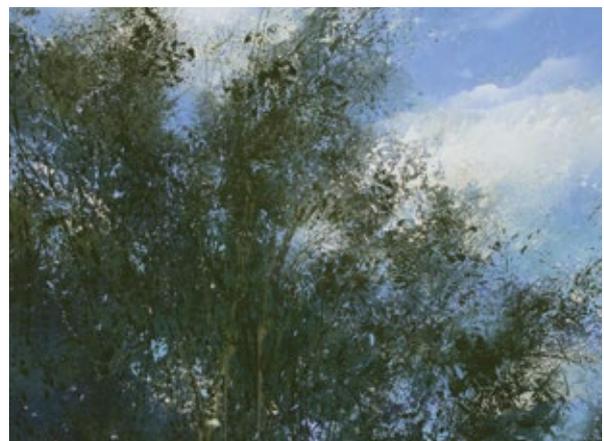
He has been painting all his life but has never allowed himself to lapse into a comfortable 'style' but pushes the boundaries of technique and materials to the limit. His spontaneous and expressive approach is underpinned by half a century of outdoor painting often on a huge scale and in all weathers. He has learned how to apply paint to maximum effect; brushing, spattering, masking and sometimes using found objects on site; leaves, grass and brushwood to attain the effects he wants boldly and decisively.

For him, landscape painting is a journey of endless excitement, experimentation and discovery. Talking to him some years ago about what motivated him he

referred me to the famous quotation of one of his heroes, John Constable: 'Painting is a science and should be pursued as an inquiry into the laws of nature. Why then, may not a landscape be considered as a branch of natural philosophy, of which pictures are but experiments?' Robert's work answers that question with a resounding, Yes!

The exhibition is at the RBSA Gallery, 4 Brook Street, St Paul's, Birmingham B3 1SA from the 8 - 20 October 2018. Open: Monday - Saturday 10:30am-5pm. Sunday 1pm-5pm. Admission Free. For further information visit the artist's website: www.robertperry-artist.co.uk. ■

By Brendan Flynn



TOP: *Black Country Night. View from Turners Hill. Dudley. 10.45pm 4 October 2005, Size 36x72 inches. Oil*

ABOVE: *Trees and Sky in Dowles Wood, Wyre Forest. 7.20pm, 16 June 2018. Size 12x17 inches. Gouache.*



BIRMINGHAM FOOD TOUR PROVES TO BE MORE THAN JUST A DELICIOUS EXPERIENCE

The Birmingham Food Tour launched in February 2017. It comprises a relaxed walking tour around the city, sampling and celebrating the local and independent food scene, while weaving tales and facts of the rich history Birmingham has to offer.

The monthly tours have been fully booked so far, and founder Rhiannon Simpson - an avid foodie and proud Birmingham dweller - has had some surprises along the way herself.

'Launching the food tour has been fun and exciting... The tour attracts a mixed range of guests - from Birmingham locals to visitors from near and far - but they all share a common interest; the pleasure of food. From cooking it, to growing it, and to munching it. There is an instant common connection that means not only does food flow but conversation too.'

Small groups on the Classic Food Tour share food across 6 venues, tasting Birmingham's culinary landscape and learning about the city's culture and heritage. The groups enjoy sample offerings from the very best of Birmingham's local independent restaurants, cafés and bars.

With the Classic Tour's growing success Rhiannon now hosts a Jewellery Quarter Tour, which takes in local breweries, museums, brunch spots and artisan pizza, as well as exploring the Quarter's rich and diverse history!

The Jewellery Quarter is a beautiful part of the city with a thriving independent scene; lots of

delicious spaces to visit with tour groups; and the neighbourhood has a very different ambience to the centre of Birmingham. It has been rewarding building relationships with the venues which I use. I am certainly not grumbling about more dining out and celebrating the ever-changing Birmingham culinary journey - it is the reason that I started the tour in the first place - to celebrate the city's fabulous people and talents they have.'

For more information see the website www.birminghamfoodtour.co.uk; email Rhiannon Simpson at birminghamfoodtour@gmail.com; or call 07875236140. ■

UPCOMING TOURS

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Jewellery Quarter Tour:

Saturday 8 August & Saturday 29 September

Gin Tour:

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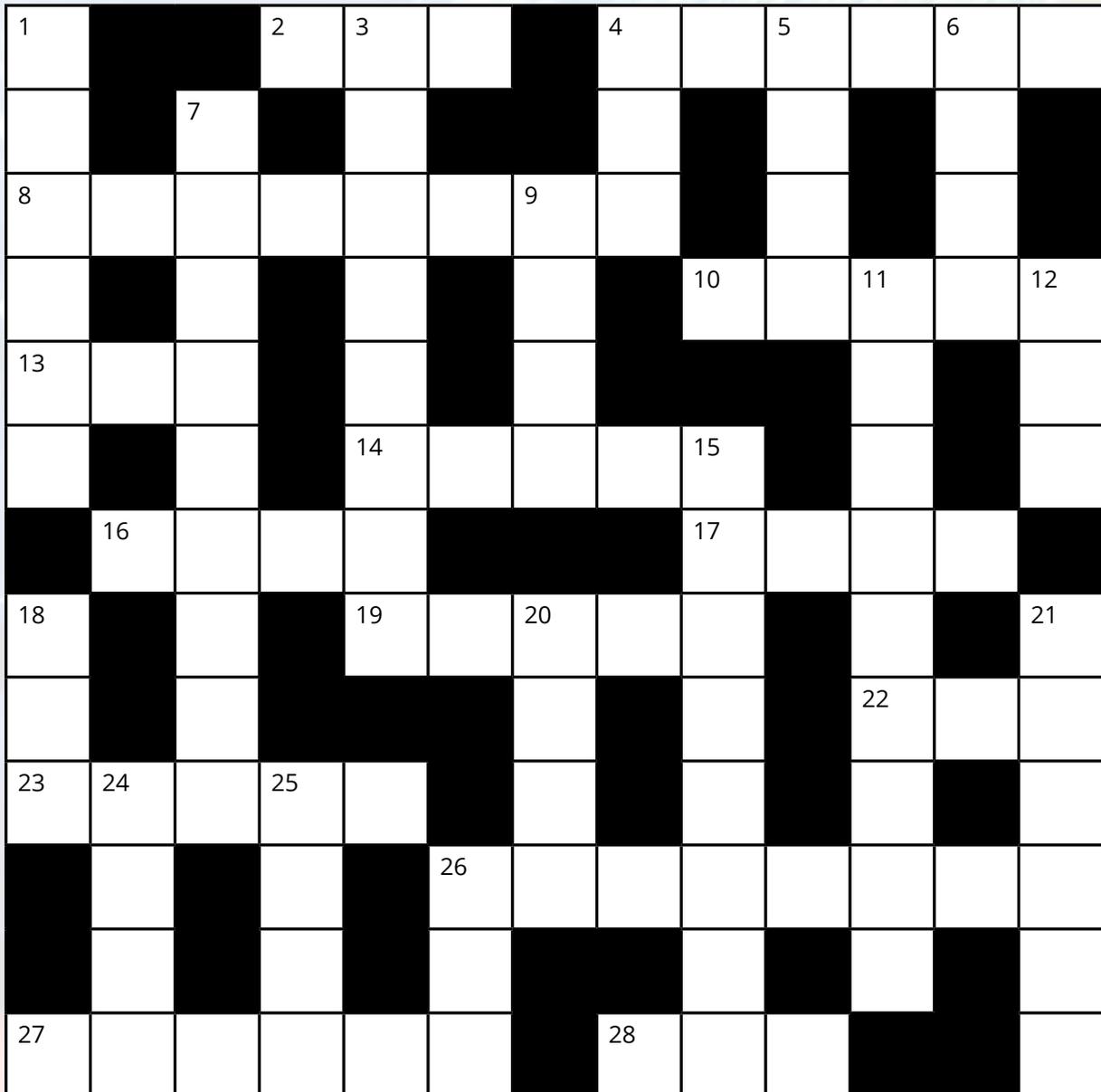
FRIENDS' CROSSWORD BY DEREK STREET

CLUES ACROSS

2. Recent computer term for a specialist download providing information or help (3)
4. A tall John with a wooden leg and a parrot (6)
8. 'Casse ---'. Tchaikovsky ballet suite (8)
10. Give cash for goods or services (5)
13. The source of Cinderella's name turns to this eventually (3)
14. A favourite dish in Britain. The result of Sparkhill influence on Bangladeshi culinary traditions (5)
16. Originally a British government venture, now merged, global and private. Initials of a motor research venture in Nuneaton (4)
17. See 19 across. Another part of the same trade mark (4)
19. Hungarian professor whose name is part of the trade mark for a three dimensional, symmetrical hand puzzle (5)
22. Music hall people do like to be beside this side (3)
23. Samuel Beckett's players have been waiting for him since 1953. Still nothing (5)
26. The cathedral home to Mappa Mundi (8)
27. Soapy film. You are upset if you get into it (6)
28. A poem, perhaps as an address or appreciation, perhaps intended to be sung (3)

CLUES DOWN

1. This John wrote 'Pilgrim's Progress' (6)
3. A watering hole for journalists (5,3)
4. One half of a piece of playground equipment that has it's ups and downs (3)
5. A diversion from and return to a main route; on a canal, road or rail line (4)
6. This valley has been the main source of Birmingham's water for more than a century (4)
7. The three spires cathedral with its own excavated angel (9)
9. William, Rossini's critically accurate bowman (4)
11. The Wolves are at Molineux. Where are the Birmingham Bears? (9)
12. 'Carpe Diem'. What is to be seized in this aspiration or instruction? (3)
15. A street the Romans left behind is still named and here in Birmingham (8)
18. Artist of 'The Travelling Companions' 1862 (3)
20. This John lay undisturbed in Derbyshire for many years. Eventually it was disturbed and it is now exhausted (4)
21. Don't get up a creek without one of these (6)
24. He built one of the earliest defensive barriers in Britain (4)
25. Approved swearing in court (4)
26. Indicates female possession (3)



ANSWERS ACROSS: 2. App 4. Silver 8. Noisette 10. Spend 13. Ash 14. Balit 16. MIRA 17. Cube 19. Rubik 22. Sea 23. Godot 26. Hereford 27. Lather 28. Ode DOWN: 1. Bunyan 3. Press Bar 4. See 5. Loop 6. Elan 7. Lichfield 9. Tell 11. Edgbaston 12. Day 15. Icknield 18. Egg 20. Blue 21. Paddle 24. Offa 25. Oath 26. Her

For events which need to be pre-booked, bookings can be made by calling 0121 348 8263 or via the website – www.birminghammuseums.org.uk (unless alternative details are given).



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.

Adult workshop: Dinosaur and Bird Tote Bag Printing

11 August 2018, 11am-4pm. £30 entry. Design and screen print your own colourful tote bag inspired by Dippy the dinosaur or the museum's collection of birds, nests and eggs! All materials and equipment will be provided including two plain tote bags each, plain fabric to test ideas on and bright coloured and fluorescent water-based fabric inks. This workshop is

suitable for beginners. Aprons will be provided but it is a good idea to wear old clothes as fabric inks can stain. Pre-booking is essential.

Edwardian Tearoom Late: A Story of Suffrage

11 August 2018, 7pm-9pm. £10 entry. It is 1914 and the women of Birmingham are busy campaigning for suffrage. Campaigning for the right to vote has been a hard-fought battle, with women resorting to desperate measures to get their voices heard. Will you stand with them? Join a very special evening commemorating and celebrating this landmark period of women's history.

Step back in time and witness leading Birmingham suffragettes such as Bertha Ryland and Catherine Osler fight for women's rights in Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.

Start the night with a complimentary period cocktail crafted by The Canal House using Aviation Gin. Make everything you need to show your support for the campaign. Watch the protests unfold around you. Party the night away with live band Jukebox Jazz playing music from the early 1900s with the bar staying open until late, serving Pimms, wine, beer and soft drinks.

Meet the Author: Katrina van Grouw

30 August 2018, 6pm-7pm. £7 entry. Katrina van Grouw

Below: Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery



introduces her new book 'Unnatural Selection', a stunning illustrated book about selective breeding - the ongoing transformation of animals at the hand of man. Although she has had no formal scientific training, Katrina's ornithological knowledge, including skills as a specimen preparator and taxidermist, gained her a curatorial position in the bird skin collections at London's Natural History Museum, based at Tring in Hertfordshire. She remained in this post for seven years before leaving in 2010 to concentrate on completing the book 'Unfeathered Bird', published in 2012. Pre-booking is essential.

Conservation Studio Tours:

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

11 September 2018, 2pm-3:30pm. £15 entry. Take part in this fascinating insight into the role conservators play in caring for objects and preparing them for exhibitions and loans in this behind the scenes tour. Suitable for ages 14+. Pre-booking is essential.



*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.

This includes a state-of-the-art digital Planetarium, and an interactive outdoor Science Garden, a gallery dedicated to the iconic Spitfire as well as a number of natural history displays. With an ever-changing programme of demonstrations, workshops and events, there is always something new to discover.

Spooky Science Night

27 October 2018, 6pm-9pm. £9: Child; £6.50: Adult. Join us at Thinktank as we turn the museum into a spooky party for all mad scientists, witches and wizards to come together and have some fun. See the spectacular 'Science of Fright' show, where making a monster is all a matter of choosing the right ingredients.

Make your own family light photos and create your own sample of blood to take home. Dance the night away at the silent Zombie Disco.

Plus lots more tricks and treats to take part in on this magical night out. Come in fancy dress to be entered into a fantastic prize draw on the night! Pre-booking is essential.



ASTON HALL

Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD

See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up to date opening times and prices. 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.

Tall Tales: Cinderella Story

10 August 2018, 11am-12:15pm or 1pm-2:15pm. Usual admission applies. An interactive telling of Cinderella. Meet Cinders, see her kitchen, help us equip Cinders with everything she needs, then join in the dancing at Prince Charming's ball. Before you go, try on Cinderella's glass slipper - a perfect opportunity for you to take a photograph of your little one - or yourself!

Each storytelling experience will last approximately 45 minutes, with time for craft beforehand. An enchanted way to explore Aston Hall, this event is suitable for children aged 3-8 and accompanying adults. This experience is not suitable for adults not accompanying children. This event is based on the ground floor throughout. Pre-booking is essential.

Aston Hall Late: Whodunnit?

The Case of the Cursed Mansion

10 August 2018, 7pm-8:45pm. £15 admission. Date to be confirmed: either Friday 10 or Saturday 11 August, due to a possible Aston Villa home match game. This rare opportunity to see the grand old mansion at night will put your sleuthing skills into action.



Enjoy an evening of monumental importance as you get to catch a dastardly criminal and show your friends just how clever you really are! Wander around the Hall at night, interview suspects and try to solve this most perplexing mystery, all set within the magnificent surroundings of Aston Hall. Pre-booking is essential. More vital details on the website.

400 Years of Aston Hall: Roll Up! Roll Up!

8 September 2018, 11am-4pm. Usual admission applies. Date to be confirmed: either Friday 8 or Saturday 9 September due to a possible Aston Villa home match game. Birmingham Museums is celebrating the 400th anniversary of Aston Hall with a series of events exploring this grand old mansion's rich history. Roll up for a Victorian sideshow like you've never seen before!

Be prepared to be amazed and astounded by the Palace of Curiosities. Watch their magnificent show, see a real mermaid, and be astonished by their spectacular display of curiosities. Seeing is believing!

Meet Queen Victoria as she graces Aston Hall with her presence. Find out about her two visits to the Hall; once as Princess and once as Queen in 1858. Pre-booking is recommended.



Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up to date opening times and prices. Free entry for Friends. 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. Discover the fascinating history of the Hall and enjoy the herb garden, orchard and beautiful grounds.

Knight School

12 August 2018. £1 per person. Have you got what it takes to be a Knight? Learn the art of combat, swordplay and the code of chivalry. Fantastic swashbuckling fun for all the family.

Ale, Cider & Gin Festival

8 September 2018, 11am-8pm. £5 Adults; Children

go free. Come along and join us in our picturesque gardens for the Blakesley Hall Ale and Cider Festival. Bring your friends and spend the day sampling a variety of Beers, Ales & Ciders from a host of the best Birmingham brewers. There will also be live music to enjoy as you sup and food on site should you get a little peckish. If you'd like to know your Rusted Wheel from your Hockley Gold, or your New Mechanic from your Columbus Mosaic then this is the festival for you. Visitors will also receive a free limited edition Blakesley Hall beer glass when they buy a ticket.

Apple & Cider Day

7 October 2018. £1 entry. Blakesley Hall's annual celebration of the apple. Find out about the history of the apple and how it was used in Tudor times. Taste freshly squeezed apple juice from the Blakesley orchard. Plus try a range of Ciders from Birmingham based breweries. There will be performances from the Glorishears of Brummagem Morris dancers, as well as honey and plant sales.



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 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.

Adult Jewellery Workshop – Silver Spinning Ring

22 September 2018, 10am-4pm. £50 admission. Join designer maker Grace Page to design and create your own silver spinning ring using traditional tools and techniques. Refreshments and all materials are included. Pre-booking is essential.

Jewellery Quarter Ghost Walk

27 October 2018, 6pm-7:30pm. £8 admission

Join expert guide Rupert Fisher for a spooky walk and



Above: Museum of the Jewellery Quarter

talk around Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter. Meet on Newhall Street, opposite the Queen's Head pub. Pre-booking is essential.



SAREHOLE MILL

Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B13 0BD. See birminghammuseums.org.uk opening times and prices. 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.

Summer Play Day and Boat Building Workshop
1 August 2018. £6 for the boat building activity. Water

themed family fun day and boat building workshop! There will be water play in the courtyard and a barrel race in the millrace. Boat Building Workshop Sessions at: 11am-11:45am and 1:45pm-2:30pm. Pre-booking essential for the boat building workshops.

A Miller's Tale

12 September 2018, 2pm-3pm. £6: Adult; £3: Child. What was it like to work in a watermill? Join a special talk as part of Birmingham Heritage Open Days. Pre-booking essential.

Autumn Food Fair

23 September 2018. Free entry. Come and sample some tasty food as we welcome back Taste and Liquor for this Autumn Food Fair. Entry to the food fair is free. Entry to mill is free to members; half price for non-members: £3 adults, £1.50 children.



SOHO HOUSE

Soho Avenue, off Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B18 5LB. See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up to date opening times and prices. 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.

Birmingham Heritage Week: Roof Top Guided Tour
12 and 13 September 2018, 11:20am, 1pm and 2:30pm
£10 per person. Celebrate Soho House's Heritage Open Day with costumed guided tours! Tours will include a special rooftop tour - weather permitting.

Hubble Bubble Trick or Treat. Do you dare to explore the spooky cellars at Soho?

31 October-1 November 2018. £7: Adult; £3: Child. Do you dare to explore the spooky cellars at Soho House during October half term? This Halloween take part in a children's trail and help hunt down all the bats which have escaped in and around Soho House Museum. Speak to costumed interpreters who will be telling spooky stories about the family and the house.



WEOLEY CASTLE

Alwold Road, Weoley Castle, Birmingham, B29 5RJ
See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up to date opening times and prices

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.

Art Activity: Help Build a Giant Castle

10 August 2018, 12pm-2pm. £2 per child. Come and help build a giant castle as part of your summer holiday activities. Join our friendly volunteers to create a section of the castle which will then all be joined together to make a giant cardboard castle. What will our castle look like? No need to book, just turn up and take part. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Falconry Day

16 September 2018, 11am-3pm. £3: Adult; £2: Child. Come along and see birds of prey over the ruins of Weoley Castle. The event takes place from 11am-3pm.



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.

After Hours at the Museum Collections Centre:

Casks & Curiosity

13 September 2018, 6pm-8pm. £12 entry. Join Birmingham Museums and Town Hall Symphony Hall for an exclusive opportunity to explore the Museum Collections Centre at night with live musical accompaniment.

Birmingham Museums store thousands of objects at the Museum Collection Centre, from steam engines to sculpture. You're invited to explore the ground floor of the store whilst Bostin' Brass Band bring the classic funk beats of New Orleans to Birmingham!

To complete your night of exploration and live music, you can enjoy a complimentary cocktail from Tamdhu Whisky!

2018 Sculpture Trail

August 25th - September 30th



Selling exhibition of fine sculptures

Free admission. Open daily.

Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Hambury B60 4BU

01537 821272

www.jinneyring.co.uk



MARVELLOUS MECHANICAL MUSEUM

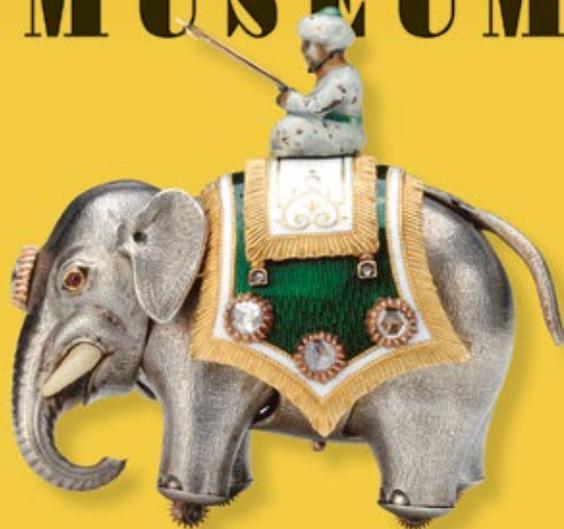


Image: Alan Sargent Associates, Royal Collection Trust / © The Ministry, Queen Elizabeth II 2018

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Created: 1978. Rebuilt & restored inside © Rodney Peppe

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IN THE AREA

APPLE STORE GALLERY

Unit 1, Rockfield Road, Hereford, HR1 2UA. Tel: 01432 263937
Email: applestoregallery@btinternet.com. www.applestoregallery.co.uk
Open Wednesday to Friday, 10am - 4pm and Saturday, 10am - 1pm. Other times by arrangement.

In Praise of Animals

Until Saturday 25 August. Apple Store Gallery (ASG) is celebrating animals this summer with an exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Mary Edwards, Jeanette Faulkener-Clarke, Geoff Jennings and William Rolls.

It's Happening Here

Wednesday 29 August - Saturday 22 September. h.Art (Herefordshire Art Week) is in its sixteenth year and ASG shall be taking part during the 'It's Happening Here!' exhibition, which runs from 29 August to 22 September. h.Art runs from 8 to 16 September and ASG shall be open each day during this time from 10am to 5pm. As well as an exhibition in the main gallery space of the studio artists' work, you will be able to meet artists in their studio and talk to them about their work. Upstairs at ASG will be a collection of collages by Rachel Hughes, winner of the ASG Exhibition Prize 2017. This award is made each year to a graduating student of Hereford College of Arts.

Reflections on Peace, Suffrage and the End of War

Wednesday 10 October - Saturday 17 November. In line with ASG's tradition of inviting artists to respond to events which are being marked or remembered, the October exhibition entitled 'Peace, Suffrage and the End of War' will invite Photographers, Fine Art Printmakers and Book Artists to create work on these themes and this will be taken during December to HARC (Hereford Archive and Record Centre) in an extended form.

BARBER INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS

University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TS. www.barber.org.uk

New York City Life

Until Sunday 16 September 2018. John Sloan was a contemporary of George Bellows, and his work – like that of his fellow Ashcanners – provides fascinating historical insights into Manhattan life in a period of rapid social change. These rare prints, a gift to the Barber from Delaware Art Museum prompted by the Barber's 2016 exhibition *Bellows and the Body*, are the only complete set outside of the US, and also have an important place in the history of fine-art printmaking.

Drawn to Perfection

Until Sunday 23 September 2018. Absolutely integral to the

processes of art, drawings have always served many crucial and varied functions. This first exhibition in an exciting new partnership with Royal Collection Trust explores their use – as prototypes for paintings and frescoes, tapestries, sculpture or architecture, and as detailed working sketches that allow an artist to explore the subject or trial compositional ideas. It includes a wealth of exquisite works on paper by brilliant Renaissance and Baroque Masters, including Bernini, Carracci, Claude, and Poussin, and is curated by students from the University's MA Art History and Curating course.

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR

www.birmingham.bachchoir.com

Brilliant Bach

Saturday 24 November at St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham. The Birmingham Bach Choir returns to its spiritual home in November after some fascinating and exciting exploration of different repertoire in recent concerts. A programme of J S Bach brings us back to home territory but singing music which the choir has not performed before. Everyone is familiar with the great B minor Mass (which the choir performed for Paul Spicer's 25th anniversary concert in 2017 in Birmingham Town Hall) but nothing like so well known are his four other settings of the Mass, the Missae Brevae. They will be singing the Mass in G minor BWV235 which is full of beautiful music, as are the two cantatas they will perform that evening to complete the programme: *Wir danken dir, Gott BWV29*, famous for its virtuoso organ introduction which will be brilliantly played by Martyn Rawles, and *Ich hatte viel bekümmernis BWV21*, one of the loveliest of Bach's cantatas. This will be a memorable concert for the performers and audience alike and we look forward to it with great anticipation.

BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

Arena Birmingham, Birmingham. Tel: 0844 33 88 222

Email: enquiries@birminghamtattoo.co.uk

www.birminghamtattoo.co.uk

Experience the pomp and pageantry of the Birmingham International Tattoo

Saturday 24 November 2018 at 6pm & Sunday 25 November 2018 at 2pm. Now in its 30th year, Britain's biggest indoor international tattoo (a type of military show), will return to Arena Birmingham in November, bringing together international military and other marching bands in a three hour spectacle for all the family. The Tattoo brings together international marching bands



APPLE STORE GALLERY



EXHIBITIONS OF LOCAL ARTISTS' WORK : WORKSHOPS
POETRY & MUSIC EVENTS : PRINTS, CARDS & BOOKS
ARTISTS' STUDIOS TO RENT
& A BESPOKE FRAMING SERVICE

IN PRAISE OF ANIMALS

MARY EDWARDS, GEOFF JENNINGS,
JEANETTE FAULKNER-CLARKE,
WILLIAM ROLLS

18TH JULY TO 25TH AUGUST



IT'S HAPPENING HERE!
ASG STUDIO ARTISTS
CELEBRATING H.ART

29TH AUGUST TO
22ND SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAYS TO FRIDAYS, 10 - 4
SATURDAYS, 10 - 1
OTHER TIMES BY ARRANGEMENT
H.ART, 8TH TO 16TH SEPT, 10 - 5

h.Art
herefordshire art week

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SAT 8 SEPT 7.30
SHAOLIN WARRIORS



WED 12 SEPT 7.30
THE DRIFTERS



THUR 13 SEPT 7.30
EARTH ANGEL INTO THE LIGHT



WED 19 SEPT 7.30
JASON DONOVAN



SAT 22 SEPT 6.00
THE LITTLE MIX EXPERIENCE



WED 10 OCT 7.30
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Rock & Roll
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FRI 12 OCT 7.30
BOWIE
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and vision



SAT 13th OCT 7.30

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BOX OFFICE 01527 65203 www.redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk



who will join our own British forces through the international language of music, with lots of pomp and pageantry thrown in for good measure. The massed bands will be joined by exciting displays including field gun, dog display teams and many other performers culminating in a spectacular grand finale featuring over 1,200 performers. Whether you prefer the massed marching bands, the skirl of the pipes and drums, the fast-paced action of the field gun or the flyball dog races, or the pomp and pageantry of the massed standard bearers, there is something for all the family at the 2018 Birmingham International Tattoo.

COMPTON VERNEY

Warwickshire, CV35 9HZ. www.comptonverney.org.uk

The Marvellous Mechanical Museum

Until Sunday 30 September 2018, 11am - 5pm. Step into Compton Verney's *Marvellous Mechanical Museum*, a world which reimagines the spectacular automata exhibitions of the 18th century and invites us to explore the boundaries of what is lifelike and what is alive, where artists, inventors and engineers collide. Automata have always been fascinating to us. Throughout history they have represented the human condition and allowed us to view ourselves and raise questions about our existence. They have also entertained and amazed us with spectacular musical performances and simulations of life. (The *Marvellous Mechanical Museum* coincides with the 200th anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, who is believed to have seen the famous 18th century automata of Pierre Jaquet-Droz before bringing her own creation to life). This exhibition will include early and rare automata and clockwork dating back to the 17th century from collections such as The British Museum, V&A and Royal Collection alongside new commissions by contemporary artists exploring our current and often complex relationship with technology. From a miniature Fabergé moving elephant to the uncanny *Crimson Prince* by kinetic artist Tim Lewis, the exhibition also includes work by Sarah Angliss & Caroline Radcliffe, Ting Tong Chang, James Cox, Pierre Jaquet-Droz, Jane Edden, Rowland Emmett, Ron Fuller, Fi Henshall, Rebecca Horn, Tim Hunkin, Peter Markey, John Joseph Merlin, Keith Newstead, Stuart Patience, Henry Phalibois, Harrison Pearce, Rodney Peppe, Sam Smith and Paul Spooner.

IKON GALLERY

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

Tel: 0121 248 0708. www.ikon-gallery.org

Ikon is open Tuesday - Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays 11am-5pm.

Francis Alÿs Knots'n Dust

Until Sunday 9 September 2018. Ikon presents a solo exhibition by Belgian-born, Mexico-based artist Francis Alÿs (born 1959, Antwerp). Organised by the Beirut Art Center, it is an outcome of Alÿs' long-term interest in current affairs in the Middle East, his frequent travelling to that part of the world - especially Iraq and Afghanistan - in order to arrive at an authentic artistic response to his direct experience. Featuring new work in a mix of animation, drawing, film, painting and photography,

the exhibition is a reflection on the notion of turbulence, from simple instability to chaos, from a meteorological phenomenon to bigger geopolitical pictures, from a simple knot in the hair to an ascending spiral.

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY

Lichfield St, Wolverhampton WV1 1DU

www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk

Melanie Tomlinson: Ghost Horses and Guns

Until Sunday 14 October 2018. Working with finely illustrated printed metal, Melanie Tomlinson creates intricate three-dimensional sculptures, some with moving parts, as an archive of urban folk tales. The enchanting pieces on show in this exhibition can be seen as illuminated manuscripts which embody Tomlinson's working class roots - something which she feels isn't well represented in museum and gallery collections. *Ghost Horses and Guns* comes from Melanie's fascination in the forgotten spaces between urban and rural landscapes. She sees them as overgrown, full of life and somehow magical corridors, and a metaphor for transformation changing identities, memory and experience. The exhibition features nine new pieces created especially for the show, alongside short stories that merge childhood memories and real-life events to reflect universal themes such as nature, destruction, transformation and hope. Generously supported by an award from the Arts Council England.

WORCESTERSHIRE OPEN STUDIOS 2018

www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk.

Twitter: *OpenStudios_WR*. Instagram: *@worcestershireopenstudios*.

Facebook: *worcestershireopenstudios*

Saturday 25 - Monday 27 August 2018, 9am-6pm. Visit the creative spaces of local artists and craftspeople at 81 different venues across Worcestershire this August bank holiday weekend. Worcestershire Open Studios offers the public the opportunity to explore art and craft studios and workshops, galleries and other creative places throughout the county and meet the creatives that inhabit them. Talk directly to talented local artists whilst experiencing their intriguing workspaces. Learn more about artists' fascinating techniques, inspiration and creative stories. With the work of over 170 different artists and craftspeople on display, there's something to suit everyone! An amazingly diverse collection of original arts and crafts will be available to see and buy, from drawing, painting, printmaking and photography to ceramics, glass, jewellery, textiles and mixed media. Entry to all venues is FREE so why not go on a self-guided art tour across the county, uncovering parts of Worcestershire you've never seen before! Guides containing details of all the venues, opening times and examples of some of the work that you will be able to see over the weekend are available to download from the website or to pick up from libraries, Tourist Information Centres and other locations. Pick up a printed guide or simply follow the dark blue arrows to start your creative journey! Worcestershire Open Studios is a not for profit organisation and is sponsored by Bevere Gallery and Malvern School of Art.

GreenStage Gallery

Summer Show

continues until
Monday August 27th



h-Art Show

Belinda Hopkins &
Claire Griffiths

Has Elvis left the building?

Sept 1st to Oct 7th



GreenStage Gallery, Hop Pocket, Bishops Frome, Worcester, WR6 5BT
info@greenstagegallery.co.uk or 01885490839

www.greenstagegallery.co.uk



RBSA Art Workshops 2018

A selection of summer and autumn workshops for adults (aged 18+)

Each workshop is delivered by a professional artist at the RBSA Gallery to a maximum of 10 attendees to ensure high-quality, artist-led tuition.

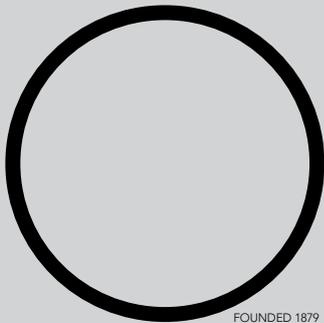
Prices start at just £30! View all 27 workshops at
www.rbsa.org.uk/workshops-learning/
Call 0121 236 4353 to book

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Royal Birmingham Society of Artists

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BIRMINGHAM ART CIRCLE



FOUNDED 1879

INSPIRED BY THE WRITTEN WORD

An exhibition by the Birmingham Art Circle
From Monday 24th September
to Saturday 6th October

Gallery 2, Royal Birmingham Society of Artists,
3 Brook Street, Birmingham B3 1SA.

www.birminghamartcircle.co.uk



THE EVERYDAY AND THE EXTRAORDINARY

The Everyday and Extraordinary, Birmingham Museums Trust's seventh exhibition as part of the three year Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme, opened at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery on 9 June and it was a pleasure, during my first few days as Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, to see the vibrant, exciting pieces from both Birmingham and the Arts Council's collection being installed.

The show was curated by my predecessor Lisa Beauchamp and freelance curator Rachel Bradley. It explores the artistic practice of working with found objects or 'objet trouvé' which has provided infinite inspiration for artists since 1913 when Marcel Duchamp exhibited his infamous work *Fountain* which was made from a urinal. By choosing an object, appreciating it visually over its function and placing it in a gallery, Duchamp altered what an artwork could be and pioneered the 'ready-made' as a valid and creative act.

Found objects have been transformed by artists in many ways and used to communicate particular ideas or concepts. Surrealists used the everyday as

an invocation of humour and satire whilst Pop Artists directly appropriated items from popular culture. Techniques of the ready-made continue to engage and inspire contemporary artists today, including the appropriation and assemblage pioneered in Conceptual Art, Surrealism and Pop Art.

Whether modified, presented in a new context or left unchanged, found objects have had an enduring impact on artistic practice. *The Everyday and Extraordinary* brings together a fusion of materials, processes and innovative ideas, celebrating the physicality of objects in a predominantly digital age. It is a vibrant celebration of the aesthetics, playfulness and wonder that can be found in the objects around us.





The next instalment of the Arts Council Collection partnership will be *Women Power Protest* opening on 10 November. This ambitious and thought-provoking exhibition will follow on from the success of *Coming Out* in exploring important everyday issues through modern and contemporary art. Marking 100 years since the first women won the vote, this exhibition uses women's Suffrage as a starting point to trace legacies of protest through poignant and powerful artworks by female artists and asks - just how much has changed for women?

Celebrating empowerment through work by female artists, this exhibition focuses on how artists past and present have channelled important messages of protest and commentary in their work as a way of raising awareness, provoking debate and demanding change. Modern and contemporary artworks, drawn largely from the Arts Council Collection, join pieces from Birmingham's collection to explore the experiences, achievements and protest-driven strategies that contribute to the position of women today.

I am excited to be joining Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery during the Arts Council England National Partners Programme and am particularly proud to be working on an exhibition as important as *Women Power Protest*. Previous to my role here, I was Curator of Art and Exhibitions at Museums Worcestershire and looked up to BMAG for the bravery of its exhibitions addressing issues that affect us as people, such as *The Past is Now* and *Coming Out*. It is a privilege to be working with Birmingham's incredible collection and the Arts Council Collection in such a meaningful way. ■

**By Emalee Beddoes-Davis,
Curator (Modern & Contemporary Art)**

LEFT: *Crow and Carrion*, 1981, Bill Woodrow © The artist.
Image courtesy Bill Woodrow

ABOVE: *Jungle Queen II*, 2003, Hew Locke © The artist.
Installation image courtesy The New Art Gallery Walsall

A HIDDEN GEM: WINTERBOURNE HOUSE AND GARDEN

‘I could move in!’ is a comment which the staff at Winterbourne hear regularly from their visitors, and Winterbourne’s original owners John and Margaret Nettlefold would have been delighted with this reaction. It was designed for comfort. Inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement, the Nettlefolds employed local architect J. L. Ball to create a house which was both traditional and modern. Its long gallery and wooden panelling evoke the 17th century, but it was equipped with the latest technology: electric lights, gas fires, and hot running water upstairs.

Winterbourne was completed in 1904. The Nettlefolds both hailed from major Birmingham industrial dynasties. John’s family ran the Nettlefolds screw empire, and John became a Director of another great Birmingham company, Kynochs. Margaret was a Chamberlain, niece of the famous Joseph. Both Unitarians, the couple were part of a powerful Birmingham network drawn together by faith, commitment to social reform, and entrepreneurship.

John was a passionate advocate for housing reform. A prolific writer and campaigner on town planning, John believed that everybody deserved the benefits of fresh air, beautiful surroundings and clean homes. He improved living conditions in the back-to-backs by removing walls to allow light into the courts, and in 1907 he created the Moor Pool Estate in Harborne.

Winterbourne’s magnificent garden was largely designed by Margaret. She was a devotee of Gertrude Jekyll, and Arts and Crafts features such as the arched ‘nut walk’ are still popular elements of the garden. The main rooms open onto a broad terrace, affording a superb view of the 7-acre plot (which would have been slightly larger in the Nettlefolds’ day).

Winterbourne changed hands in 1919, and again in the 1920s. Its last private owner, John Nicolson, was a committed gardener and created additional features, such as the pergola with its Art Deco geometric lines. When he bequeathed Winterbourne to the University of Birmingham in the 1940s, he stipulated that the garden should be maintained. Female University students were housed in Winterbourne for many years, and the house was later used for teaching.



LEFT: Winterbourne House © Susan Georgiou

TOP RIGHT: The Nettlefold Family, 1904

RIGHT: Winterbourne Garden © Susan Georgiou

FAR RIGHT: Winterbourne House in 1911



The garden became the University's own 'botanical' garden, and important research was carried out in its borders and glasshouses. The British Antarctic Survey was based at Winterbourne, and many international students from the developing world were trained in horticultural techniques which they could apply back home.

Today, Winterbourne House and Garden are open to the public. The gardens are still a haven of tranquillity, just as they were in Margaret Nettlefold's time. They are maintained in an Arts and Crafts style, with soft colour-themed planting. The glasshouses are home to many exotic species including carnivorous plants and cacti. The house has been restored to its former glory, and is presented as it might have looked when John and Margaret lived in it with their children. Fortunately, its original features have remained intact,

including plaster mouldings by George Bankart of the Bromsgrove Guild, and window fittings by Henry Hope & Sons of Birmingham.

Alongside the stunning Arts and Crafts house and garden, Winterbourne offers a range of temporary exhibitions, an excellent tea room, a gift shop and a programme of workshops and events. It even has its own printing press. If you haven't discovered Winterbourne yet, do head along soon to explore this hidden gem! ■

Henrietta Lockhart, Collections Officer

**Winterbourne House and Garden,
58 Edgbaston Park Road, B15 2RT
0121 414 3003
www.winterbourne.org.uk**

SEPTEMBER 2018

-  Thursday 6 * Daytrip to Oxford - A Rare Collection of Superb Museums
-  Tuesday 11 * *"When the bug bites..." - Insect Pest Management at Birmingham Museums'* - Jane Thompson-Webb
-  Tuesday 11 + Friends AGM
-  Wednesday 12 ## Private Tour at BMAG with Birmingham Museums' Development Team
-  Friday 21 * *'With a little help from a Friend'* - Jane Howell
-  Tuesday 25 * *'Birmingham Art Circle: Inspired by Words'* at the RBSA

OCTOBER 2018

-  Friday 5 - # Weekend Away - Plymouth
- Monday 8
-  Monday 8 * Tour of Highbury

NOVEMBER 2018

-  Monday 12 * Tour of the Museum Collections Centre
-  Thursday 15 * *'Titanic: Voyage Into Destiny': Part 3 of 4 - 'The Reckoning'* - Andrew Lound
-  Friday 30 * *'Eve and Mary: the Temptress and the Virgin'* - Henrietta Lockhart

DECEMBER 2018

-  Tuesday 4 * *'Titanic: Voyage Into Destiny': Part 4 of 4 - 'Return of a Dream'* - Andrew Lound
-  Tuesday 4 * *'The City of Birmingham, preserving a steam locomotive'* - Jim Andrew

JANUARY 2019

-  Tuesday 22 ++ *'The History of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery'* - Dr Ellen McAdam

APRIL 2019

-  Monday 1 - ++ Friends International Holiday to Sicily
- Monday 8

- * 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!
- # Included in a previous mailing, but places are still available. Please contact the Friends' office if you would like to book a place.
- + Included in a previous mailing, but places are still available. Application forms are included in posted versions of this magazine (see note on page 6).
- ++ Dates for your diary, no application forms in this mailing.
- ## No application forms for this event. Please see page 20 and contact the Development Team to book your place.

EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



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