

ARTEFACTS



Friends of
Birmingham
Museums

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2019

BAFM

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS

Button selection from the Luckcock Collection, 1770 to 1830. Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CC0

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS MAGAZINE



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MINIBRUM ARRIVES IN BIRMINGHAM

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ON THE COVER

Button selection
from the Luckcock
Collection, 1770
to 1830. Photo
by Birmingham
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CONTRIBUTIONS, PLEASE!

BY DAVID FOSTER



Above: Thinktank's new Planetarium

Forward Plans

It's that time of year again – when we review what we have been doing and consider afresh what we should be planning to do in the coming months. But why now? Don't we usually have these kinds of thoughts at New Year? It is partly because we have to produce an Annual Report for the Charities Commission, which is an administrative necessity. But also because we are coming closer to our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Please make sure that you have the date firmly in your diaries – 10 September 2019 at Brewin Dolphin's offices.

The AGM is worth attending, not least because it will be preceded by a fascinating Science Short which will introduce us to the new digital Planetarium which has been installed at Thinktank. The old one was pretty amazing so I, for one, am eager to find out what the new one will be able to show us.

But that is not all. The AGM is worth attending for the valuable insights we get about the Birmingham Museums Trust's own plans. In view of the changes which were forced on the Trust towards the end of last year, how is it adapting its plans? What will happen to Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and the Gas Hall?

Are the office activities (including the Friends Office) moving out of the city centre? We might learn some of the answers during the Trust's Report - and they matter greatly to us as Friends.

More than hearing the latest news and gossip, it is necessary for members to attend so that you can make your own views heard about what the Friends is doing and offering to you, as members. The talks, visits and tours that the committee and volunteers arrange are, to a large extent, a guess at what you, the members, might want. Some events which had featured regularly in past years have been absent in the latest listings. Had you noticed? Have you said anything? If you answered 'yes' and 'no' to those two questions, please let us know.

Volunteers needed

You might be able to go further than merely saying what you think, valuable and essential as that is. Have you considered that you could contribute in practical ways too? The Friends Events only occur because people become actively engaged in order to make them happen. If the number of helpers falls away, then the numbers of events will fall away, too. What we can achieve depends crucially on the number of people who offer their time and energy - almost all volunteers. Could you help with ideas for events, or with the planning, implementation or administration?

Even if you cannot devote time regularly, you might be able to help with specific projects. For example, we could also use specialist advice in improving our office computers; and in developing our social media presence. Are you able to help here?

I can testify from personal experience that volunteering is a highly rewarding means of supporting an organisation that you admire. If you are retired from full-time employment, volunteering can replace some of the personal contacts that you might be missing. If, at the other end of the age range, you are starting the journey into employment, volunteering can add work experience and demonstrate your commitment to a sound work ethic for the benefit of your CV.

Think about it - and do enquire about joining the team! ■



2019/20 SEASON

Discover details of the rest of our exciting new season, including Peter Wright's spectacular *Swan Lake* and incoming Director Carlos Acosta's sparkling *Don Quixote*. brb.org.uk/2019-20

BRB FRIENDS

Join BRB Friends for priority booking in Birmingham and a host of other benefits. Only £4* per month! *Correct at time of going to press
Details at brb.org.uk/friends

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); 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.

Friends Office: 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.

Dietary Requirements: Unfortunately we are unable to cater for specific dietary requirements at our events.



ANA MARIA PACHECO'S 'ONE MAN AND HIS SHEEP' AND FRIENDS

Date: Tuesday 6 August 2019, 6:30-8:30pm

Speaker: Emalee Beddoes-Davis, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art

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

Please note the venue change: Venue: Brewin Dolphin, 9 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2BJ

The event will be hosted by Brewin Dolphin in their offices. The entrance to Brewin Dolphin is on the left hand side as you approach the entrance to Snow Hill station. Please enter through the revolving doors and inform the security guard on reception of your name and that you are visiting Brewin Dolphin.

[NB. This event was advertised in the May - July 2019 edition of Artefacts. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.]

Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Emalee Beddoes-Davis, talks through the process of redisplaying collection-favourite 'One Man and his Sheep' by Ana Maria Pacheco. She will share her research into the fascinating artworks selected to complement it, including pieces by Picasso and Frank Auerbach. Exploring themes of expressionism and portraiture, mythology, animals and the human image, this talk will highlight both star-pieces and lesser known gems from the collection of works on paper.



ART FROM WORLD WAR TWO

Date: Friday 6 September 2019

Speaker: Henrietta Lockhart

Cost: £10/£13 non-members

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

[NB. This event was advertised in the May - July 2019 edition of Artefacts. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.]

During the second world war, hundreds of artists applied their skills to depict all aspects of the conflict. Many of them travelled with the armed forces and experienced the horror of war at first hand. To mark the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the war, this talk will highlight some outstanding examples of war art, by both men and women, and explore the ways in which these works of art were rooted in the art historical tradition.



REACH FOR THE STARS: THINKTANK'S NEW PLANETARIUM

Date: Tuesday 10 September 2019, 6-7pm

Speaker: Colin Hutcheson, Planetarium Officer, Birmingham Museums Trust

Cost: £3/£5 non-members

Venue: Brewin Dolphin, 9 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2BJ.

The event will be hosted by Brewin Dolphin in their offices, which are located near Snow Hill station. The entrance to Brewin Dolphin is on the left hand side as you approach the station entrance. Go through the revolving doors, please inform the security guard on reception of your name and that you are visiting Brewin Dolphin. They will have a list of attendees and you will be sent up. NB. Please ensure that you pre-book for this event.

After 13 years of amazing service, and 1.2 million visitors having seen it, BMT carried out a major refurbishment of the planetarium in April. Planetarium Officer, Colin Hutcheson will reveal the side of the planetarium that the public don't see, from the top to under the floor and a look at some of the new features that are now available.

Colin Hutcheson, has been presenting in the planetarium at Thinktank for over 12 years and previously 2.5 years in At-Bristol, now We The Curious. In this time he has guided thousands of people to the wonders of the night sky, organised many events and

EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



SCIENCE SHORT



Above: Ana Maria Pacheco, 'One Man and His Sheep', 1989.
Installation view at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

recently combined his love of music and astronomy to bring a string quartet into the dome.

His other interests include singing tenor in the City of Birmingham Choir, regularly performing in Town Hall and Symphony Hall, and the local church choir. Gardening and woodworking take up the rest of his spare time! He is also a Freeman of Llantrisant.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday 10 September 2019, 7:30pm

Venue: Brewin Dolphin, 9 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2BJ. The event will be hosted by Brewin Dolphin in their offices, which are located near Snow Hill station (please see instructions above). NB. Please ensure that you pre-book for this event. The AGM will commence at 7:30pm 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.

The AGM will follow our Science Short on the new 4k Planetarium at Thinktank. The Science Short will be held directly before the AGM, from 6-7pm in the Board Room at Brewin Dolphin's offices and will cost £3 (see page six).



COACH OUTING TO ADLINGTON HALL

Date: Wednesday 11 September 2019

Cost: £37/£47 non members (includes entrance to the Hall, tea/coffee and a scone, an A4 Guide Book to the Hall and the driver's tip)

3 Pickup points: Yateley Road, Harborne, B15 3JP at 8:30am; City Centre - Chest Clinic, Great Charles Street, B3 3HX at 8:45am; South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 9:15am. Order of drop offs: Sutton Coldfield; Colmore Row; and Harborne. [NB. This event was advertised in the May - July 2019 edition of Artefacts. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.]

Adlington Hall is situated near Macclesfield and has been the home to the Legh family since 1315. During this period the Hall has had additions, alterations (and latterly subtractions) being carried out over the centuries by successive Leghs. It is partly half-timbered and partly brick. There is an impressive 'Great Hall' with a hammer-beam roof and with the largest 17th Century organ in the country.





Above: St Chad's Cathedral

The visit will include a Guided Tour of the Hall and a free flow visit to the 60 acre gardens; tea or coffee and a scone; and a Guide Book. There are no cafe facilities for lunch, but you are welcome to bring your own lunch to eat in the grounds or indoors if wet.



A TOUR OF THE HIPPODROME THEATRE

Dates: Wednesday 2 October 2019;

and Wednesday 9 October 2019

[NB. There are two dates as we are expecting a high uptake and the numbers are limited to 20 on each occasion]

Time: 10:45am for an 11am start

Cost: £14

Venue and Meeting Point: The Hippodrome, Hurst Street, Southside, Birmingham B5 4TB

Please note: This event is for members only

The Hippodrome opened as a variety theatre, known as The Tivoli, in 1900 and was renamed as the Hippodrome in 1903. In the years since that, the physical structure of the building has changed on several occasions until

the exterior was extensively rebuilt in 2001 with a new glass façade, accommodation for the Birmingham Royal Ballet and additional performance space. The seating capacity is now 1,935.

It is best known as the home stage of the Birmingham Royal Ballet but also hosts a variety of other performances including visiting opera and ballet companies, touring West End shows, pantomime and drama.

With a regular attendance of over 600,000 annually, the Hippodrome is the busiest single theatre in the UK and the busiest venue for dance outside London.



BOSCOBEL HOUSE (EH) AND WIGHTWICK MANOR (NT)

Date: Thursday 3 October 2019

Cost: £22/£29 non English Heritage members (non Friends members £32/£39) - please bring your membership cards (includes coach & driver's tip)

3 Pickup points: Yateley Road, Harborne, B15 3JP at 8:45am; Chest Clinic, Great Charles Street at 9am; South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 9:30am.

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

We will first visit Boscobel House (EH), a Grade II* listed building in the parish of Boscobel in Shropshire. It has been, at various times, a farmhouse, a hunting lodge, and a holiday home.

A tour is included and covers the history of this fully restored and refurbished lodge; and the important role that the house and the tree - subsequently named the 'Royal Oak' - played in the escape of King Charles II following his defeat at Worcester in 1651. A virtual tour is available in the visitor centre. The Gardens include relaxing walled and knot gardens and a choice of Victorian games including croquet, quoits, skittles and skipping ropes. There is a pleasant walk to the Royal Oak tree and a permissive path to White Ladies Priory (another of Charles's hiding places).

At around 12:30pm we will travel the short distance to Wightwick Manor (NT). Wightwick Manor was home to the Mander family (1887 – 1988) who filled it with their love for Victorian art and design, in particular Pre Raphaelite art collected in the mid-20th century at a time when it was deeply unfashionable. The house is filled with furniture and textiles from the Arts and Crafts movement along with some fine examples of paintings by leading Pre-Raphaelite artists including Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Thanks to a gift accepted in

lieu of inheritance tax, 52 drawings by Rossetti from his early career have been acquired by the National Trust. More than 20 of these pictures will be on display to the public for the first time in a new exhibition in the Daisy Room which will explore the young Rossetti.



'SCULPTURA – VISION AND FORM': MEET THE ARTISTS EVENT AND EVENING TOUR AT THE RBSA

Date: Tuesday 22 October 2019, 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 Street, Birmingham, B3 1SA; www.rbsa.org.uk

[NB. This event was advertised in the May - July 2019 edition of Artefacts. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.]

'SCULPTURA – Vision and Form' runs from 21 October until 2 November at the RBSA Gallery. This distinctive exhibition explores the unique and current sculptural practises of eight prominent artists from the RBSA. They present very different approaches to the broad ranging arena that is the Art of Sculpture – from figurative to construction; formed ceramics and cast bronzes; handcrafted fine metals and glass; stone, wood and plaster carvings.

This will be a stimulating and exciting opportunity to meet the artists and discuss the wide ranging methods and challenges of working in three dimensions and view these very diverse pieces on display.



VISIT TO ST CHAD'S CATHEDRAL, BIRMINGHAM

Thursday 31 October 2019

Time: 1:15pm (please note unusual time!)

Cost: £9 members/£12 non members (includes refreshments at the end of the tour)

Venue: St Chad's Cathedral, 3540 St. Chad's Queensway, B4 6EU

How to get there: By Train: The nearest station is Snowhill. By Bus: Buses from City Centre to Handsworth (nos 74, 78 and 79) pass St Chad's Circus. By Car: On the Birmingham Inner Ring Road (Queensway) just off St. Chad's Circus. St Chad's has its own car park in Shadwell Street. **Meeting point:** Inside the main entrance between 1pm and 1:15pm

The visit to St Chad's Cathedral in January was so oversubscribed that many members were unable to attend. As a result, in response to the many requests we have received, we are returning for another visit.

St Chad's Roman Catholic Cathedral is one of the finest neo-gothic church buildings in England, built to the design of Augustus Welby Pugin and opened in 1841. Much of the work is by Hardman and Co. The mother Church of the Roman Catholic diocese of Birmingham, it contains some splendid 19th century stained glass made by Hardman; a 16th century Flemish pulpit; and a late medieval statue of the Virgin Mary; as well as one of the largest new manual organs in the UK built by Walkers and Co. in 1993.

Please note: there are some stairs, but it is possible to sit out this part of the visit.



THOUGHTS ON PORTRAITURE

Date: Thursday 7 November 2019, 11am

Speaker: Emalee Beddoes-Davis, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art

Cost: £9

Meeting Point: The Round Room at 10.45am for an 11am start.

NB Guided tours are exclusively for members.

Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art, Emalee Beddoes-Davis leads a gallery tour of portraiture in its widest sense through the fine art collection. Starting with Ana Maria Pacheco's formidable 'One Man and His Sheep' through to historical fancy portraits, modernist experimentation and contemporary explorations, discussing ideas of psychological portraiture, image-making and identity, and why images of people have such a profound effect on us as viewers.



THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Date: Friday 29 November 2019, 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

The story about the beginning of Christianity has been one favoured by artists over the centuries. The story has been told in many ways, in many genres of art and yet the story remains the same: Christ was born in Bethlehem and was placed in a manger because there was no room at the inn.

In this tour, using the works currently on display in the Museum, we shall look at this story and reflect on the influence it has had on people's lives since the news of Christ and his teachings first became known.

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.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Free entry to special exhibitions in Gas Hall (Please note: this does not include Home of Metal's 'Black Sabbath' exhibition during August and September)
- 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. This is available for lunch or dinner, 7 days a week.

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

- BMAG and Heritage Site shops
- 50% entrance discount to Thinktank at Millennium Point: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank
- 10% discount off purchases in both shop and café at Potteries Museum & Art Gallery and Gladstone Pottery Museum: 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: Ms S Davison, Mr J & Mrs C Hague. ■

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE WRITE IN CAPITAL LETTERS

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY AND ANNUAL RATES

(Please tick)

☐ **SINGLE** £32

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

CONCESSIONARY RATES

☐ **SINGLE** £21

☐ **DOUBLE** £32

☐ **STUDENT** £15

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

Signature:	Date:
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DATA PROTECTION Your details are held securely by the Friends Office for administrative purposes only. Your email address will only be used for occasional contact. If you are willing to be contacted by post or email about appeals for donations, please give your permission I can be contacted about donations for Birmingham Museums: Yes ☐ No ☐



ABOVE: Volunteers puzzling out the answers at the annual quiz

What a brilliant summer the Birmingham Museums and the Friends volunteer teams have had this year - as always! The team have been working on so many things over the last few months that it is always a challenge to put them all down on paper.

In June we celebrated National Volunteers Week 2019, an annual nationwide celebration which takes place at the start of the month to mark the work of volunteers across the country. Birmingham Museums is supported on a daily basis by committed people who volunteer their time with us. Our volunteers and Friends volunteers help keep our gardens looking beautiful, welcome visitors to our sites, conserve our objects and unique buildings, document our fantastic collections, and go above and beyond to support our work.

During this celebration we held our annual Summer Picnic at Blakesley Hall to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers. We loved getting the team together for food, a quiz, activities and more; but most of all to say thank you! The picnic provided us with an opportunity to present our Volunteer of the Year Awards for 2019. Each year staff are invited to nominate a member of their volunteer team or teams for this award. For the first time ever we ran two awards – our Volunteer of the Year Award for 2019 and our Volunteer Team of the Year Award for 2019.

This year we have the pleasure to announce that our Volunteer of the Year for 2019 is Andrew Johnson who volunteers as a Curator's Assistant with our Fine Art Curator and also supports our Collections Team as a Documentation Registrar's Assistant. The team

said that Andrew had: "Retained his enthusiasm in the face of the many and varied tasks that we have asked him to support. It is a pleasure having him as part of the team."

Our Volunteer Team of the Year for 2019 is the Silver Project Conservation Assistant Team - Corinne Neville, Sue McGlen, Rob Hemphill and Jo Rennox - who have spent this year working on unpacking, auditing and creating conservation grade storage for a collection of 4,789 Vesta cases (match cases) which are on long term loan to Birmingham Museums. The team were described as having: "enthusiasm for the objects which was wonderful to experience."

As always we received so many brilliant nominations that we have a number of Runners Up too. So well done and thank you so much to Gloria Jenkins who supports us as a Documentation Registrar's Assistant, Aimee Hinds who volunteers as an Archaeological Finds Recording Assistant and Geoff Barnbrook who helps as a Photographer's Assistant. And a huge shout out to our Team of the Year Runners Up - the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter Heritage Interpreter Team and the Soho House Heritage Interpreter Team.

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, our Heritage Interpreters have been working hard at the sites and sharing stories of the amazing buildings we look after, the Gardening teams have been working hard to keep our grounds looking beautiful, our Activities Assistants have been supporting the running of lots of family events... this list, as always, could go on. Thanks to everyone who has got involved with volunteering this summer.

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. In particular the Friends would love to hear from you if you would have any interest in volunteering to deliver Friends events. If you would like to find out more please email: volunteer@birminghammuseums.org.uk. ■

NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

BY REBECCA BENSON

BMT VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT TEAM LEADER

REPORT FROM BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS

BY RACHEL COCKETT, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

We are delighted to share with our Friends the good news that Birmingham Museums Trust has been crowned the Overall Winner of Excellence at The Charity Awards 2019 for our *Collecting Birmingham* project, which empowered the people of Birmingham to take an active role in developing the city's museum collection.

The Charity Awards is the longest-running and most prestigious awards scheme in the charity sector. The award recognised Birmingham Museums as 'a charity that has shown real innovation within the sector and had a powerful impact on its local community'. *Collecting Birmingham* was truly transformative and the lessons we've learnt will have a long-lasting impact on the city's collection. The way new displays are developed has changed - they are much more audience led, involving the people and communities represented, and ensuring their individual voices are fully reflected within the content. Throughout the duration of the project we have implemented changes across the way we work. A new Collections Development Policy is in development and will include, for the first time, an audience consultation approach for new acquisitions.

And yet another award! The Natural History Museum's *'Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure'* won the Partnership of the Year award at the Museums + Heritage Awards 2019. The team from Birmingham Museums joined in the celebrations as one of the host venues. Working with the Natural History Museum on the *'Dippy on Tour'* partnership was a great experience. The exhibition was extremely popular, and the impact was felt right across the city, showing the power that museum objects can have. The award recognised that the partnership celebrated UK collections and natural history, as well as delivering a legacy for the host venues and regions. Thanks to the Friends' grant towards conservation costs, Dippy's stop in Birmingham was accompanied by a fantastic exhibition drawn from our taxidermy bird collection, some of which are now on display at Thinktank.

After five years planning and development and over £2 million of fundraising *MiniBrum*, a child-sized city designed to inspire children to think like scientists and engineers, is now open at Thinktank. The project vision was 'by children for children' with schools, families and community groups being involved throughout the development process of

this unique gallery. The child-sized world features recognisable local landmarks, such as Birmingham canals, Selfridges and the Old Joe Clock Tower at the University of Birmingham.

MiniBrum was supported by the Inspiring Science Fund, which is co-funded by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and Wellcome. The gallery was made possible by a number of other donors including Millennium Point Trust, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Wolfson Foundation, Stavros Niarchos Foundation and our Patrons. We were delighted to welcome our lead sponsor, global engineering, management and development consultancy Mott MacDonald.

Alan Bain of Mott MacDonald said: 'The invitation to be involved in *MiniBrum* was one that Mott MacDonald was eager to accept. It is a fantastic opportunity to help inspire the young engineers and built environment professionals of the future at a time when the City of Birmingham is experiencing unprecedented change. We are also very happy to support Birmingham Museums Trust as we celebrate our centenary in the City and look forward to working with them for many years to come.'

MiniBrum has been well-received by those with young children. It has specially designed sensory zones for babies, and an adult-friendly slide (tested by a number of staff!). I recommend Friends take their children or grandchildren. Children can build their own dens, explore a burrow to find the hidden animals, race on a track inspired by Birmingham's upcoming Commonwealth Games, or become a builder in a construction zone with a climbing tower and a slide. You can even test out the slide yourselves!

And finally I'd like to let Friends know about Birmingham Museums Trust's new online Digital Image Resource. You can search and download images from our collection. Thousands of our out-of-copyright images are now available for all to use under a Creative Commons Zero licence (CC0) with more images being added daily. Images include topographical views of Birmingham that showcase the changing face of the city, which many people will have never seen before. My colleagues and I have been having fun looking up old images of the Museum & Art Gallery. Click on the Collections page of our website and have a go! ■

Phoenix Dance

The Rite of Spring & Left Unseen

Fri 8 – Sat 9 Nov | 7.30pm

mac
Midlands Arts Centre



© Tristram Kenton



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Midlands Arts Centre

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SHANE RICHIE

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CHANGING BIRMINGHAM ~ ITS PEOPLE AND PLACES

BUTTONS AND BIRMINGHAM

You may be asking yourself why a seemingly mundane and everyday item, such as a button, is a worthy topic for investigation?

The inspiration was a conversation with a friend whose family have been involved in the button trade since the early nineteenth century, based in the Jewellery Quarter. An initial investigation and a visit to the BMAG History Galleries quickly demonstrated the centrality of buttons to Birmingham's development.

It is thought that buttons originated in Western Europe as a result of Crusaders bringing them back from the Middle East. They certainly became a matter of high fashion and artistic design in Italy and France, many of the skills coming to England with Huguenot refugees from France. This can be seen in the continued use of French terms in the manufacture of 'mother of pearl' buttons, a point made by G. Hook in his excellent book on the industry. The high point for buttons as a fashion accessory was the Georgian period which brings us to eighteenth century Birmingham. In Matthew Boulton's papers from 1776 it is recorded that an apprentice on a wage of 7s purchased 18 silver coat buttons at £1-1s-1/2d and a further fourteen at 16s-6d. Clearly, buttons were required to be a dedicated follower of fashion, and this drove the demand which produced a thriving industry.

William Hutton, who we have encountered previously, gives us a good insight into that industry in his *'An History of Birmingham'* in 1782. Talking about the growth of the 'toy' trades, by which he means products like buckles and buttons, he says *'the first in pre-eminence is - The Button'*. In particular he describes the success of John Taylor with orders of £800 per week for buttons alone. So it is clear that, by the middle of the eighteenth century, button production was one of the most significant trades. Taylor was said to employ over 500 workers alone, although not exclusively on buttons. In addition to other 'toy' production, Matthew Boulton's Soho Manufactory had 14,000 square feet used exclusively for button production in 1789, some of it 'mother of pearl'. From a similar period we are lucky to have a portrait of James Luckcock (1765-1835), a jeweller and button maker who was based in St Paul's Square, and he collected over 500 buttons which were later donated to Birmingham Museum and Gallery. It is estimated that in 1851, even after the boom, there were 4,980 employed in this industry, second only to the brass industry.

The extensive nature of the industry is interesting for a number of reasons. We often think of the industrial revolution as characterised by large factories and

machinery, but button manufacturing was mainly small workshops using simple hand operated machinery like the stamp. Taylor and others introduced a new division of labour, in which production was divided into multiple, simple, repetitive tasks, which released productive capacity and reduced costs by allowing for the employment of unskilled labour, often in the form of women and children. As well as being a key part of the workforce, women were also significant business owners in their own right. 'Swinney's' eighteenth century trade directory for Birmingham illustrates this:

Hannah Godfree	23 Moor Street	buttons
Arabella Whyatt	7 Snow Hill	buttons
Ann Barns	23 Colemore Row	buttons

In the nineteenth century we get an authentic account of a female-owned button business through the autobiography of a Birmingham radical, George Holyoake, whose mother ran a business in Inge Street. The business had several employees and all the management tasks were carried out by George's mother during the 1820s and 30s.

Further insight into the operation of the button industry in the first half of the nineteenth century can be found in various Government Commissions, set up to investigate female and child labour in a number of industries. Recent research based on these documents, with a specific focus on Birmingham, has revealed the detail of the harsh conditions for women and children, condemned even by the standards of the time. An example would be Emma Reeves, who gave her evidence to the Commission. At twelve years old she was responsible for colouring buttons, working from 8am until 7pm - sometimes until 9:30pm, if demand was high.

The button industry continued to be part of the Birmingham industrial scene into the late twentieth century, with many people having a family connection going back several generations. Reasons for its decline are too complex to discuss here, but Hook identifies plastics, zips and changes in fashion as being significant. To find out more about this industry you can pop along to the delightful display in the local history gallery which provides a good insight, combined with some of the beautiful designs at the high end of the market. ■

By Jim Wells

Further reading: G Hook, *'The Birmingham Pearlies'*; E Hopkins, *'First manufacturing Town in the world'*; Timmins, *'Birmingham and the Midland hardware district'*, London 1866; William Hutton, *'An History of Birmingham'*; F.E Terry-Chandler, *'Compulsory industrialisation working conditions and exploitation in Birmingham during the Industrial Revolution'*, Midland History, Spring 2019; Chinn and Dick, *'Birmingham Workshop of the World'*

LEFT: 'Portrait of James Luckcock', 1800-1850, Attributed to Henry Wyatt. Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CC0

SCULPTURA ~ VISION AND FORM

An Exhibition of Sculpture by Viv Astling, Andrew Coates, Steve Evans, George Jackson, Hannah Northam, Don Ratcliffe, Rachel Ricketts and Michele White at RBSA Gallery Two, 21 October - 2 November 2019

In a 1955 Reith Lecture devoted to Mediaeval church architecture, Nikolaus Pevsner, born and educated in Leipzig, said: 'The English are not a sculptural nation.' (Pevsner, 1956/1976, p.137). On the other hand Herbert Read, born and educated in Yorkshire, wrote that in the Middle Ages, England '...contributed her full share to the formation and evolution of the Gothic style.' (1951, p.20).

The Anglo-Saxon culture, sculptural examples of which can be seen at Breedon on the Hill church in Leicestershire, had been replaced by the Normans after 1066, however, and the desecration of statuary as 'Popish' idolatry was the result of the Reformation. Nevertheless, the richness of the tradition is demonstrated in the Norman Grotesques at Kilpeck church, Herefordshire, and the statues on the West front of Wells Cathedral.

The victory of Protestantism resulted in the church no longer employing native sculptors and for the next three centuries sculpture was largely imported, dominated by the artists and ideas of mainland Europe. Even the three dimensional contribution to the Vorticist movement was by American born Jacob Epstein* and the French Henri Gaudier-Brzeska*. Between the wars the distinctive nature of the work of Henry Moore* and Barbara Hepworth* marked them as the vanguard of an indigenous Modernist school.

Both worked within the traditional definition of sculpture as carved, modelled and cast; and it was only after the second world war that this was challenged, when a dynamic explosion of innovative imaginings celebrated diversity and created often radical new possibilities in both subject and medium.

Reg Butler defined space by means of a linear structure of welded wires and rods. Elizabeth Frink's abstracted birds and animals were modelled and carved in plaster before casting in bronze. Eduardo Paolozzi engineered constructions made from cast

junk. Anthony Caro joined steel and aluminium sheet and building construction materials, transforming them into brightly coloured abstract works. Direct responses, often ephemeral, to the physical and aesthetic qualities of the natural world were the stuff of artists such as Andy Goldsworthy and David Nash. Tony Cragg made carefully arranged installations from shards of plastic scrap. Work in ceramics became increasingly sculptural as it reflected the concerns of fine art, and as a result of the explorations of such as Hans Coper*, Lucie Rie* and later, John Maltby.

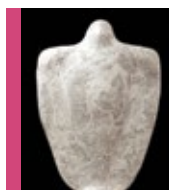
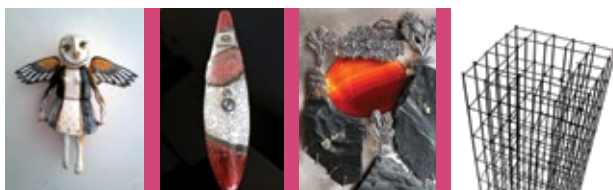
Sculptura also celebrates diversity, and each offering demands serious consideration in its search for sculptural excellence, based on an informed understanding of that aspect of the visual culture it inhabits.

Viv Astling's carvings reveal the stone's innate qualities in works based on seeds, leaves and landscapes. Andrew Coates assembles relief and free-standing works from made and natural objects. Steve Evans's linear abstractions, informed by a previous career in structural engineering, explore and extend pictorial space. Glass is George Jackson's main medium used experimentally with clay, metals and colourants. Hannah Northam carves stone and plaster, models clay and wax and casts bronze and resin towards both figurative and abstract works. Don Ratcliffe's carvings result from an aesthetic conversation with the root boles of blown down trees. Rachel Ricketts specialises in animals and birds. Her Bird dolls are in white painted clay and calf vellum. Michele White's small sculptures reflect her work as a jeweller in their use of precious metals, coloured minerals and gemstones. ■

By Andrew Coates, RBSA

* BMAG contains major works by these artists.

References: Pevsner, Nikolaus (1956/1976), *The Englishness of English Art*, Harmondsworth: Penguin Books Ltd. Read, Herbert (1951), *Contemporary British Art*, Harmondsworth: Penguin Books Ltd.



There will be a 'SCULPTURA - Vision and Form' Meet the Artists Event and Evening Tour at the RBSA on Tuesday 22 October 2019. For more information and to book please see page nine.

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MINIBRUM ARRIVES AT BIRMINGHAM

MiniBrum, a major new mini city space where children are in charge, opened to the public at Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum on Saturday 25 May.

The exciting new interactive space is a child-sized world, created with direct input from children themselves, and features recognisable city landmarks, such as the Birmingham canals, the Bullring and the Old Joe clock tower at the University of Birmingham.

During their visit children will learn about the world around them through purposeful play. MiniBrum's interactive elements and play zones will see children learning and thinking like scientists in a lifelike setting, encouraging them to explore the world of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) from an early age in a fun way.

MiniBrum has different zones including the transport area, where children can build and test cars; a neighbourhood with a house, café and shop to discover; a park area with burrows to explore and a running track inspired by Birmingham's upcoming Commonwealth Games; and a building zone with a climbing tower and a slide.

On their visit children can role play, be creative, problem solve and become confident to try new things through testing ideas, just like scientists. The space is recommended for children under 8 and specially designed sensory areas for babies feature throughout the different zones, ensuring parents can keep children of different ages engaged throughout their visit.

The space is part of a £2.1 million project which has been backed by funders, including support from the Inspiring Science Fund, which is co-funded by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS), UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and Wellcome. The new gallery is also funded by The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Wolfson Foundation (DCMS/Wolfson Museums and Galleries Improvement Fund), Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Mott MacDonald, and Millennium Point Trust.

Planning began in 2015 to ensure the gallery was created in a unique way. The team at Thinktank have collaborated with over 800 children and families across Birmingham, who had a direct input into how MiniBrum has been shaped.

Six schools across the West Midlands have been involved and the schoolchildren's ideas can be seen throughout. Children from Benson Community Primary have created their very own catchy hand-washing song, which will be played in the MiniBrum toilets. The project was a collaboration between researchers at De Montfort University and music practitioners from Birmingham City University, who helped the children bring their ideas to life.

Children from Henley Montessori School in Henley-in-Arden were also involved in curating their very own Mini Museum within the space. The children led the whole process, including choosing which objects from Birmingham's collection they wanted to display.

The new gallery also includes a new interactive classroom called 'The Den' which increases Thinktank's capacity for school group visits.

Elsewhere at Thinktank, the new 4K Planetarium is open and ready for visitors to adventure through the solar system with brighter sharper imagery and crystal-clear surround sound. Colin Hutcheson, BMT's Planetarium Officer, will be talking about the new Planetarium at the Science Short which will be held before the Friends' 2019 AGM (see page six for more information).

Thinktank's new-look cafe, Signal Box Cafe, is also open to the public, with a new tasty food menu. The cafe is inspired by the City of Birmingham steam engine which can be seen while visitors enjoy their food. ■



ABOVE: MiniBrum garage within neighbourhood zone



ABOVE: MiniBrum building site within construction zone

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).



*Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery
Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH
Open Saturday-Thursdays: 10am-5pm and Friday:
10:30am-5pm. Tel: 0121 348 8000
FREE entry unless otherwise stated*

From Renaissance masterpieces to Egyptian mummies, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery showcases a world class collection and offers fascinating glimpses into Birmingham's rich and vibrant past.

Highlights include the finest collection of Pre-Raphaelite art in the world; the Mini Museum, specially designed for little visitors; and the largest find of Anglo-Saxon gold ever discovered - the Staffordshire Hoard.

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

Home of Metal presents Black Sabbath - 50 Years

Until 29 September 2019. Adult £13; Child: £7; Family ticket: £30; Under 3s FREE. Free entry for Friends on specified dates (details below). A major exhibition exploring the legacy of Black Sabbath and their global fan base. A blockbuster exhibition, by Home of Metal, devoted to the music that was born in and around Birmingham. Music that turned up the volume, down-tuned the guitars, and introduced a whole new meaning to the word 'heavy'.

The exhibition celebrates Black Sabbath from the perspective of their fans, to show the impact and cultural legacy of the band as pioneers of Heavy Metal, and to celebrate this unique, significant part of British music heritage.

Friends receive one free visit to the exhibition on Mondays and Tuesdays in July, where the spare capacity allows on a first come first served basis. Please show membership card on entry. Unfortunately, Friends are unable to receive discount in the Home of Metal shop.

Conservation Studio Tours:

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

20 August 2019, 2pm-3:30pm. £15 per person. Join

this session for a 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 aged 14+. Pre-booking is essential - please see the website for more information.

Edwardian Tearooms Late: Drink and Draw

28 September 2019, 6:30pm-10:30pm. Free. Drink and Draw returns to The Edwardian Tearooms. A free social drawing event for anyone who likes to doodle. Pens, pencils and paper provided!

BMAG Babies

25 September 2019, 10:30am-11:30am and 11:30am-12:30pm. A regular on-gallery early years stay and play session. Creative, interactive and sensory play and fun with colours, textures and sounds. Designed for babies and toddlers aged 6 months to 2 years to play and interact with a parent or caregiver. This is a free event but please pre-book a one-hour session online to guarantee a place.

Dementia Friendly Tours

22 August 2019, 10:15am-11:45am. If you, a friend or a family member is living with dementia, join this dementia-friendly tour and activity programme. Each session will be led by a member of staff who is a Dementia Friend. Sessions are all free and are designed to meet the needs of adults living with dementia, and their friends, families or carers.



*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, an interactive outdoor Science Garden, a gallery dedicated to the iconic Spitfire, as well as a number of natural history displays. New to Thinktank in 2019 is MiniBum, a major new mini city space where children are in charge. Open now, MiniBum is an exciting, interactive child-sized world which been created in collaboration with schools, families and community groups (see page 18 for more information).

With an ever-changing programme of demonstrations, workshops and events, there is always something new to discover.

Science of the Circus

14 September 2019, 11am-4pm. Entry to this event is included in the price of admission. Roll up roll up, as the circus arrives at Thinktank! Learn new skills and see how a bit of science can make each trick easier to master. The day will be delivered by the fantastic CircusMASH team who are taking over Thinktank for the day.

Discover Arts Award - James Watt

6 & 20 August 2019, 10am-4pm. £11.50 per child. Take part in the Discover Arts Award challenge day at Thinktank. This year, 7-15 year olds will be uncovering James Watt - exploring the gallery, finding out about the inventor and creating their own inventions through Lego. This event is open to families, uniform groups and holiday clubs.

Morning Explorers

21 September 2019, 9am-11am. Adult: £6.75; Child (3-15): £4.90; Concession: £4.90; Carer one free space. If you're an adult or child with sensory or special needs and you'd prefer a quieter visit to our museums, join us for one of our Morning Explorers sessions. Thinktank will open early for you to explore with friends and family in a quiet and welcoming environment.

Smethwick Engine Steaming Day

30 October, 12pm and 2:30pm. Included in the price of admission to Thinktank. Adult: £14; Child and concession: £10.25; Senior: £12; Child under 3: Free. See the oldest working steam engine in the world roaring into life at Thinktank. Using both the expansive force of steam and a vacuum at the same time and designed by Boulton & Watt, you will be able to see the power first hand. The Smethwick Engine has recently undergone an extensive restoration project and is one of the jewels in Thinktank's collection.

Spooky Science Night

31 October 2019, 6pm-9pm. Child: £9; Adult: £6.50; Concession and Senior: £6.50. Visit Thinktank as the museum turns into a spooky party for all mad scientists, witches and wizards to come together and have some fun. See the spectacular 'Trick or Treat' show, where every choice will lead to either a delightful or disgusting experiment. Make your own family light photos, enter the slime lab to experiment with making the best slime possible. Dance the night away at the silent Zombie Disco. Plus lots more tricks and treats to take part in on this magical night out. Pre-booking is essential.



Above: Aston Hall



ASTON HALL

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

Various dates through August, 11am & 1pm. Adult: £8; Child £6; Concession: £5; Free for Members. Visit Aston Hall for fun interactive storytelling sessions. This Summer the stories include 'Cinderella' on Friday 2 and Friday 30 August, 'Goldilocks' on Friday 9 August, 'Rapunzel' on Friday 16 August, and 'Beauty and the Beast' on Friday 23 August.

Birmingham Heritage Week:

Meet Sir Thomas Holte Tour

11 September 2019, 1pm - 2:15pm. Entry to this event is included in the price of admission. Sir Thomas Holte: hero, villain, murderer, or simply misunderstood? Who is the man behind the myths? Aston Hall, a stunning Jacobean Mansion was built for Sir Thomas Holte, the man with an incredible reputation, find out his side of the story as he takes you on a guided tour. Pre-booking is essential.

Birmingham Heritage Week:

A Servant's Life Guided Tour

12 September 2019, 1pm - 2:15pm. Entry to this event is included in the price of admission. Join a special guided tour which focuses on the servants at Aston Hall.

Birmingham Heritage Week: Heritage Open Days

15 September 2019, 11am-4pm. Free entry. Visit this magnificent Jacobean mansion for free as part of Birmingham Heritage Week and Heritage Open Days. This event takes place on Sunday 15 September only (Aston Hall is closed on Saturday 14 September due to the Aston Villa FC match day).

Fright Nights at Aston Hall

27 October 2019. See www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/aston/whats-on for ticket details. Spend the scariest time of year at one of Britain's most haunted buildings! Are you brave enough?

Aston Hall'oween

31 October 2019, 11am - 4pm. Entry to this event is included in the price of admission. Frighteningly good fun for families! See the Hall transformed into a haunted mansion. Meet the wise woman and her familiar. Find out about her weird cures and see a witch trial! Encounter creepy sounds and even creepier characters.



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. With its spacious gardens, family trails and activities programme, Blakesley Hall is the ideal location for a family day out.

Knight School

1 September 2019, 11am-4pm. Adult: £2; Concession: £2; Child (3-15): £2. Learn the code of chivalry and the ways of combat with swordfighter Mark Vance. Swashbuckling fun for all the family. Normal admission applies to enter the hall.

Ale & Cider Festival

7 September 2019, 11am-7pm. Early bird: £5; On the door: £6. Bring your friends along to the picturesque grounds of Blakesley Hall 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 and food on site. What could be better than a day spent in beautiful surroundings with good company and a wide selection of Beers, Ales and Ciders to sample?

Birmingham Heritage Week: Heritage Open Day

14 - 15 September 2019. Free entry. Free entry into Blakesley Hall with costumed guided tours of the Hall at 11:30am, 1pm and 2:30pm. Free events taking place all weekend as part of Heritage Open Days and Birmingham Heritage Week.

Apple Day

6 October 2019, 11am-4pm. Free. Join us for Blakesley Hall's annual celebration of the apple with garden trails about the Blakesley Apple Trees! Find out about the history of the apple, how it was used in Tudor times and take part in our Apple Trail. Taste freshly squeezed apple juice from the Blakesley orchard. There will be performances from the Glorishears of Brummegem Morris dancers.

Meet the Plague Doctor - Halloween Tour at Blakesley Hall

31 October 2019. Adult £8; Child: £5; Concession: £6. An atmospheric family friendly Halloween tour of Blakesley Hall. Join our medieval Plague Doctor for a spooky storytelling tour of Blakesley Hall. Go around the Hall on a spooky journey where you find out all about vampires, goblins and ghosts and how we can keep these evil spirits away from our homes! Tours at: 11:30am, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. Tours last 1 hour.



Museum of the Jewellery Quarter

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.

Explore the Factory Floor: Summer Edition

21 August 2019, 10:30am-1pm. Entry to this event is included in the price of admission. Don't miss this unique opportunity to experience the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter's atmospheric Factory completely free-flow! No tours necessary. Explore the factory

and offices of the Smith & Pepper Company at your own pace with guides along the way who can reveal how the factory worked and answer any questions about our fascinating history.

Kids Jewellery Workshop

29 August 2019, 1pm-3pm. £10 per child. Children can have a go at making their own piece of jewellery with the help of our friendly learning officer in this special children's jewellery workshop activity. Design and create either a bracelet or pendant, learn and use real jewellers' techniques to make something unique and personal to take home with you. Pre-booking is essential as places are limited.

Celebration Talk & Tour:

Women's Work in the Jewellery Quarter

31 August 2019, 1pm-2:15pm. Adult: £10; Concession: £8; Child (16 & under): £6. Join us for a special costumed guided tour and talk celebrating the women of the Jewellery Quarter. Hear about the work undertaken by women from the late 1800s until the 1980s and the many vitally important jobs that women worked. These women were instrumental in not only making the jewellery quarter the world's largest jewellery manufacturing area, but also making Birmingham the work shop of the world, city of a thousand trades.

Birmingham Heritage Week: Heritage Open Day

4 September 2019, 10:30am-5pm. Free. Join free costumed guided tours of the Smith & Pepper jewellery factory to celebrate Birmingham Heritage Week and Heritage Open Days. Tours are free but pre-booking is advised.

Whisky & Twilight Tours

8 October 2019, 5pm or 5:30pm. £20 per person. Guided tours with a Whisky twist, in collaboration with next door neighbours, The Whisky Club. Your first stop will be at The Whisky Club to enjoy a guided tasting of two Whiskies, from here you will begin exploring the intriguing Smith & Pepper Factory through an after-hours guided tour in the atmospheric factory and offices, learn about the unique craftsmanship our traditional workshop was famed for and see first-hand how the jewellery was made.

Jewellery Quarter Ghost Walk

25-26 October 2019, 6pm-7:30pm. £10 per person. A tour of all things grim and macabre around Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter, but only if you dare! Meet at 6pm on the corner of Charlotte Street and Newhall Street, opposite the Queen's Head pub. Pre-booking is essential as places are limited.



Above: Sarehole Mill



**SAREHOLE
MILL**

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

See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up to date 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.

Family Baking: Fairy Biscuit Baking Day

23 August 2019. £2 per child. Put your chef hat on and join us at Sarehole to make your own fairy biscuits to eat! Sessions at 11:15am, 12pm and 1pm. Pre-booking essential.

Revolution, Glorious Revolution!

25 August 2019, 1pm-2pm. £10 per adult. Join this illustrated talk about Sarehole Mill and the agricultural and industrial revolution, in the idyllic surroundings of the Mill.

Birmingham Heritage Week Tours and Talks

13-15 September 2019. Free. Take part in a free costumed tour of Sarehole Mill on 13 and 15 September. Tours at 12pm and 2pm. On 14



September join the free talk *Water, water everywhere and not a drop to mill* from 1-2pm! A free illustrated talk on waterpower at Sarehole Mill as part of Birmingham Heritage Week and Heritage Open Days.

Autumn Craft Fair

20 October 2019, 11am-4pm. Free entry. Come along to the mill courtyard to browse and buy beautiful handmade and crafted items. Half price entry to the mill on this day.



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.

Boulton goes to Bollywood

4 August 2019, 11am-4pm. Free. You're invited to our Bollywood celebrations at Soho House this summer, where we will be having a fun-filled day of Bollywood themed festivities! The Boulton family home will be experiencing an Indian Summer this August, as we are running a range of south Asian themed activities and performances in the grounds of Soho House.

Birmingham Heritage Week: Soho Rooftop Tours

4-12 September 2019, every Wednesday and Thursday. £10 per adult. Take a tour up to the roof of Soho House to take in the panoramic views of the local area. Explore the elegant Georgian home of Birmingham's foremost industrialist Matthew Boulton and the meeting place of the Lunar Society during Birmingham Heritage Week.

Hubble Bubble - Trick or Treat

31 October 2019, 11am-4pm. Entry to this event is included in the price of admission. A darkness has crept over Soho House this Halloween. Use a flashlight to guide yourself around the house as you track down all the bats that roam the halls. Be careful though, whilst you hunt for the bats, there may be some creepy things that also lurk the rooms at Soho 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.

Birmingham Heritage Week: Heritage Open Days - Guided Tour

14 September 2019, 12pm-1pm. Free. Join a free tour of Weoley Castle as part of Birmingham Heritage Week and Heritage Open Days. Pre-booking required.

Falconry Day

15 September 2019, 11am-3pm. Adult: £3; Child: £2. Come and see the magnificent birds of prey as they fly over the ruins of Weoley Castle!



MUSEUM COLLECTIONS CENTRE

25 Dollman Street, Birmingham, B7 4RQ

The Museum Collections Centre is a 1.5 hectare site which is where 80 per cent 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.

Birmingham Heritage Week: Brum Brum - Heritage Open Day

22 September 2019, 10am-3:30pm (last entry 3pm). Free. Travel through time at Birmingham's Museum Collection Centre which is home to the city's historical and cultural collection, from sculpture to steam engines; toys to costumes it is rarely open to the public. This year's focus is our transport collection.



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IN THE AREA

BARBER INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS

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

The Paper Museum: The Curious Eye of Cassiano Dal Pozzo

Until Sunday 1 September. An unquenchable curiosity and desire to document the world around him drove the Italian patron Cassiano dal Pozzo (1588 – 1657) to assemble his 'Paper Museum' – a spectacular collection of around 10,000 drawings, watercolours and prints. It covered antiquities, architecture, zoology, botany and geology, social customs and ceremonies, costumes, portraits, topography and military maps.

The Face of Fashion

Until Sunday 8 September. Portrait miniatures were popular in Europe from the early 17th-century until around the 1850s, depicting their sitters in the silks, brocades and lace that adorned the garments of the day. Often ornate and gem-like, many were designed to be worn on the body – themselves becoming fashion accessories. This display, featuring a selection of exquisite examples from two private collections on long-term loan to the Barber, explores the connections between portraiture and fashion. With examples by masters of the genre such as Hilliard, Oliver and Cosway, it also features works on paper by artists including Ingres and Beardsley that portray fine costume.

THE 2019 BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

Experience the pomp and pageantry of the Birmingham International Tattoo. Britain's biggest indoor international tattoo (a type of military show), with over 1,200 performers, will return to Arena Birmingham on 23rd and 24th November 2019, bringing together international military and other marching bands in a three hour spectacle for all the family. 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 2019 Birmingham International Tattoo.

The Birmingham International Tattoo will take place

at Arena Birmingham on Saturday 23 November at 6pm & Sunday 24 November 2019 at 2pm. Adult tickets are priced from £20 to £30 with concessions for seniors and children available from the box office on 0844-33-88-222. More information and tickets online at www.birminghamtattoo.co.uk.

BIRMINGHAM OPEN STUDIOS

www.birminghamopenstudios.com

Birmingham Open Studios is now in its 3rd year, and growing annually. From its roots in Moseley and Kings Heath, the boundaries for the event have expanded outwards in all directions - now stretching as far as Bournville, Kings Norton and Hall Green.

Dozens of artists of all standards open their homes or studios on the 5/6 and 12/13 October between 11am-5pm to allow the public to see their craft. The concept promotes the interaction between the artists and the art-lovers, allowing fans to see the environment in which the art is created; a short window into the artists' lives, ethos and methods.

COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM

*Millennium Place, Hales Street, Coventry CV1 1JD.
transport-museum.com*

Move & Play

Until Sunday 10 November. Move & Play offers a range of immersive and collaborative activities for people of all ages - a fitting celebration of the city's title as 'European City of Sport 2019' - to inspire more people to be physically active. The Move & Play exhibition consists of 19 different physical challenges designed to put your senses to the test. From disco donuts to nostalgic tennis, thermal cameras to tightrope walking - activities encourage visitors to be active through collaborative, non-sporting activities - the majority of which are accessible to visitors of all abilities. The exhibition, which was created by Heureka Overseas Productions - a division of the Finnish Science Centre - has attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors during stints in Bangkok and Hong Kong, as well as Germany and the Netherlands. Visitors will have the chance to team up in activities such as Team Stomp, a game where the more enthusiastically you stomp your feet, the faster your virtual character will advance in the competition. There



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Jim Holyoak and Matt Shane

The Hills Are Shadows

21 September - 24 November

A twenty year collaboration between Canadian artists Jim Holyoak and Matt Shane has produced immersive drawing installations depicting worlds within worlds.

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The Hills Are Shadows (2019) ink, graphite, dye and aquarelle on paper, 4.5 x 5M

mac
Midlands Arts Centre

are also individual activities, such as 'How Accurately Can You Kick?' where you must kick a ball at electronic targets to score maximum points and see if you have what it takes to be the next football star!

THE HERBERT

Jordan Well, Coventry, CV1 5QP. www.theherbert.org

Wonder

Until Sunday 15 September. Wonder features an array of work by seven artists from the UK who will take visitors to exciting new worlds and dreamlike realities. Parts of the exhibition are inspired by The Herbert's collection and will offer immersive fun for visitors of all ages through the use of paintings, light installations, prints, animations and augmented reality. The exhibition will be accompanied by a range of inspiring events and family activities during the school summer holidays. The seven artists have created works to bring the gallery to life, featuring urban landscapes, digital interactives and sensory installations:

Antonio Roberts is a new media artist who re-imagines cartoon characters to reveal the sinister side of many childhood fairy tales while discussing laws around copyright, while Davy and Kristin McGuire are inspired by Film Noir and will bring characters alive

within a series of intricate, animated, wall-mounted dollhouses and bell jars.

Ben Javens has created a life-size diorama installation, featuring his own illustrations as well as works from the Herbert's own collection. Inspired by 'Alice Through The Looking Glass', the gallery wall will open up to take visitors to an entirely new space.

Edie Jo Murray will use augmented reality to bring some of The Herbert's natural history collection to life. Only visible through the use of iPads provided, butterflies will flutter through the space alongside other insects and creatures.

Julia Snowdin has built an interactive, sensory Light Pavilion, while Lucy McLauchlan wows audiences by taking imprints of The Herbert and its physical surroundings and documenting them using canvasses painted beyond the frame edge.

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www.warwickartscentre.co.uk

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presentations and performances by some of the world's greatest glass artists. Meet Sam Herman, the founding father of the British Studio Glass Movement inspiring generations of glassmakers, whilst the British Glass Biennale exhibition brings you the very latest contemporary work. Masterclasses, auctions, valuations, alchemists and stylish Scandinavian glass. NEW for 2019, TEENAGE SKILL-UP, our fantastic festival artists offer subsidised workshops for young people to learn and get creative. Free entry to all festival venues. Free shuttlebus from Stourbridge Town. Some events are ticketed.

MIDLANDS ARTS CENTRE ~ MAC

Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham B12 9QH.

macbirmingham.co.uk

Show your Metal

Until Monday 26 August. The very essence of the Metal sound was born out of the experience and consequences of working in Birmingham's metal industry. This exhibition connects metal the material and Metal the music. Featuring local jewellers Dauvit Alexander, Daisy Grice and Jordan Herry whose work is inspired by culture and symbols associated with Metal and Rock. It also features a battle jacket with badges from gigs which took place at Birmingham Odeon in the late 70's and early 80's. Presented by Craftspace to coincide with Home of Metal.

Hand of Doom

Until Sunday 1 September. *Hand of Doom* features a collection of portraits of Black Sabbath fans wearing the ubiquitous battle jacket. The jackets are embellished, handmade and embroidered by the fans themselves, and worn to tell the story of their fandom and gig-attending history. The photographs were created with Black Sabbath fans from across the globe and show the diversity of the fan base for the influential music genre that originated in Birmingham. The exhibition features a small selection of portraits curated from a collection made over the last 3 years in Botswana, Brazil, Indonesia, Japan, Egypt, Lebanon, Netherlands, Spain and the UK.

All This Mayhem

Until Sunday 8 September. *All This Mayhem* is a major exhibition of new and recent work by internationally renowned, San Francisco-based artist Ben Venom, exemplifying his interest in the DIY aspect of punk culture combined with the tradition of quilting. Featuring large-scale textile pieces, customised jean jackets and clothing, Ben creates stunning, expansive patchwork designs that often incorporate skulls,

tigers and heavy metal lyrics - with his practice framed within wider counterculture contexts, and the legacy of post-war American art and craft.

Jim Holyoak and Matt Shane:

The Hills Are Shadows

21 September - 24 November. Taking their exhibition title from part of a Tennyson poem, the collaborative partnership of Canada based artists Jim Holyoak and Matt Shane immediately make a statement, showing the poetic and mysterious side of their drawing practice. Working together to produce large scale pieces, Jim and Matt create worlds within worlds where beached whales grow cities from their backs and creatures lurk in the lush undergrowth.

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN

orchestraoftheswan.org

Founded in 1995 and now led by David Le Page, Orchestra of the Swan (OOTS), the Stratford-upon-Avon-based orchestra internationally renowned for its unique and distinctive sound, has recently announced its new 2019-2020 season residency at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire following a successful 2018-2019 programme of concerts. OOTS's new season illustrates how it continues to challenge expectations about what an orchestra can be.

The season sees Gershwin's *'Rhapsody in Blue'* rubbing shoulders with Rossini's *'Barber of Seville'*, a festive celebration with ancient carols and winter-themed classic, the *'Intimate Voices'* of Jean Sibelius and David Bowie exchanging glances with Beethoven in *'Rebel Rebel'*, a celebration of the cultural significance and continuing legacy of these two influential artists. In 2020 OOTS celebrates Beethoven's 250th anniversary with Lauren Zhang (2018 BBC Young Musician of the Year) performing the *'Emperor Piano Concerto'* and the season ends with the celebration of new talent with the winners of both the Bromsgrove International Musicians' Competition and Conservatoire Concerto Prize.

Visit www.orchestraoftheswan.org for full details and www.ticketsource.co.uk/orchestra-of-the-swan for tickets, priced from only £18. Take advantage of discounted offers when booking and save 20% when you book more than 3 concerts or save 30% when you book more than 6 concerts in the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire series.



A detailed line drawing of a tea plant with large, serrated leaves and a cluster of buds at the end of a branch. The drawing is in a dark green color and is set against a lighter green background.

A TEA JOURNEY

from the mountains to the table

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Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

WONDER

EXHIBITION

Until 15 September 2019

FREE ADMISSION

Perpetuation (2019) by Eddie Jo Munay
CGI animation still, image © the artist



Supported using public funding by
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ENGLAND**



VITTORIA STREET GALLERY

*School of Jewellery, Birmingham City University,
82-86 Vittoria Street, Birmingham, B1 3PA
www.bcu.ac.uk/jewellery/about-us/vittoria-street-gallery*

Space/Craft

Monday 14 October – Friday 1 November. Vittoria Street Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Stephen Bottomley - a Head of School and Professor of Jewellery Cultures and Innovation at Birmingham City University (BCU). - featuring new and previously existing work. The show aims to capture material fragments and visual elements as a timeline or trail. This focuses on a slow, developmental process of material-based and practice-led enquiry that has taken place over the recent years and across several locations.

Inspired by how ancient techniques can be applied creatively and harmoniously with evolving contemporary materials and technology, Bottomley is known for his hand-made precious metal vitreous enamel jewellery that often combines industrial materials through a range of batch production techniques. His work layers embossed repetitive patterns and textures on gentle rhythmic and geometric forms. Striking colours are applied to highlight an underlying modernist aesthetic style.

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY

Lichfield St, Wolverhampton WV1 1DU. www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk

Pick of the Pops

Until Sunday 1 September. Pop Art was one of the most important and influential art movements of the 20th-century. Emerging in the 1950s, it was inspired by popular culture, the modern world, and the post-war consumer age.

Wolverhampton Art Gallery has a long history of collecting Pop Art and is home to the largest Pop collection in the UK outside London. This new exhibition showcases highlights from this culturally significant and internationally-renowned collection, including works by famous Pop artists such as Pauline Boty and Andy Warhol, alongside a selection of rarely-seen pieces.

Visitors will also have the chance to vote for their favourite artwork on display, with the results used to form our very own Pick-of-the-Pops.

Painted Ladies: An Exchange of Ideas

Until Sunday 1 September. *Painted Ladies* is a display of 20th century paintings depicting women painted

by both female and male artists including Emma Bolland, Dorette Outlaw and Alfred Egerton Cooper. Many of the works on display have not been shown for many years.

The exhibition invites visitors to think about the ways that female and male artists have represented women in art. The exhibition also invites visitors to consider the Victorian collection in the Gallery and observe how the representation of women may have changed since the Victorian era.

This exhibition is a collaboration between Wolverhampton Art Gallery and the University of Birmingham, curated by Rafailia Thiraiou, MA student in Art History and Curating.

WORCESTERSHIRE OPEN STUDIOS

www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk

23 - 26 August 2019. Worcestershire Open Studios, now in its fifth year, is an artist-led initiative that offers art adventurers the chance to speak to local artists and see where they create their work. Over 180 artists are taking part and will be inviting visitors into their home studios, shared spaces and galleries.

Sally Morgan, one of the event's organisers and a participating artist, said, 'Worcestershire Open Studios is such a fun-filled way to spend a bank holiday weekend. We've got more artists than ever taking part, so whether you're an art lover, a crafter, a budding young artist or have never set foot inside an art gallery, you'll definitely find something to interest you!'

Alongside fine art and abstract painters, visitors can discover art forms as diverse as glass fusing, printmaking on vintage machinery, handloom weaving, illuminated calligraphy, green woodworking, textile art and ceramics. Entry to all venues is free and some artists will also be offering visitors the opportunity to watch demonstrations and have a go at their art form.

Worcestershire Open Studios is also the perfect opportunity to start your Christmas shopping early or to pick up unique, locally-made art for your home, as most artists will be offering work for sale. Take a scenic drive through some of the more rural parts of Worcestershire or plan a walking route around the artistic hubs of Worcester and Malvern. Wherever you choose to go, you are guaranteed a very warm welcome and the opportunity to talk to artists and makers about their techniques and materials.

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WATT IN THE WORLD

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JAMES WATT, 1736 ~ 1819

2019 marks the 200th anniversary of the death of the steam engineer James Watt, one of the most important figures associated with Britain's industrial history.



LEFT: 'Portrait of James Watt' by Sir Thomas Lawrence, 1812. **ABOVE L-R:** Sketch of Jessy Watt's pet dog made by her brother Gregory, 1794. Gregory and Jessy were Watt's children from his second marriage (Library of Birmingham); Watercolour of Watt's home, Heathfield Hall, by Allen Everitt, c1850s; James Watt junior's pocket watch containing an earlier pencil portrait of its owner, drawn whilst he was in Paris during the French Revolution in 1792. All photography © BMT

The centrepiece of the Bicentenary programme is a temporary exhibition at the Library of Birmingham, 'Watt in the World', which I have been lucky enough to curate on behalf of the present day Lunar Society.

I first became acquainted with Watt when I was curator of Aston Hall some twenty years ago. Aston Hall had been home to Watt's son, James junior, and one of the memorable events of my career with Birmingham Museums was heading down to London armed with a million pounds of Heritage Lottery money to try to purchase a collection of important material at Sotheby's James Watt Sale in 2003. Although we didn't manage to spend all of the cash we did acquire some outstanding Watt-related objects and archives, and were able to add more in the following years.

Watt in the World features some of the material bought at Sotheby's as well as important acquisitions from other sources. Together they help us to shine a light on Watt's life, career and achievements - and hopefully separate the man from the myth.

Although he was born and spent the first half of his life in Scotland, Watt settled in Birmingham in 1774 after being offered a business partnership by the industrialist Matthew Boulton. Their Boulton & Watt steam engine was to become, quite literally, one of the drivers of the Industrial Revolution in Britain and around the world.

Whilst best known for his improvements to the steam engine, Watt was a man of many other talents - scientific instrument maker, civil engineer, chemist, inventor and member of the renowned Lunar Society.

The exhibition looks at these various different activities as well as his home and family life. The latter was tinged with sadness as he outlived his first wife and all but one of his children.

During his lifetime James Watt was famous, and after he died he was elevated to the status of a national hero alongside the likes of Nelson and Shakespeare. This was largely due to the efforts of his son, James junior, who vigorously protected and promoted his father's memory. The career of Watt junior and his contribution to the creation of the Watt myth are also explored in a section of the exhibition.

In all the exhibition comprises more than 100 items, including paintings, works on paper, furniture, silver, personal possessions, photographs, documents, notebooks and letters.

Whilst the core of the exhibition is made up of archival material from the Library of Birmingham, both the Assay Office and Birmingham Museums Trust are lending some outstanding objects. Birmingham Museum's loans include Sir Thomas Lawrence's 1812 portrait of Watt, silverware by Matthew Boulton, Watt's chair, lunch pail and walking stick from his home at Heathfield Hall, a bust of the engineer by Sir Francis Chantrey and furniture commissioned by James Watt junior for Aston Hall.

The exhibition concludes with a section illustrating the impact of Watt on popular culture in the 19th and 20th centuries. This features numerous items from Dr Malcolm Dick's private collection of Watt-related memorabilia, ranging from whisky bottles to mouse mats! ■

By Chris Rice, Museums & Heritage Consultant

Watt in the World: The Life and Legacy of James Watt
12 July - 2 November 2019

The Gallery, Level 3, Library of Birmingham, Broad Street, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Free admission.
For more information on the James Watt Bicentenary programme visit www.jameswatt2019.org

CULTURE COVENTRY

A visit to some of Coventry's finest visitor attractions brings to life the story of the city, its people, and newfound inspiration.

Culture Coventry Trust manages the world's largest publicly owned collection of British road transport, an award-winning museum which celebrates culture, and a fully excavated and partially reconstructed turf and timber fort.

The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum is the perfect place to delve into Coventry's history and engage with art and culture. Investigate the natural world, modern art, and the Old Masters. Wander through dazzling interactive displays and enjoy the latest exhibitions while admiring the building's unique architecture. As well as the art gallery's ever-changing displays which are often created in partnership with national museums, the Herbert offers a wide range of detailed talks, fantastic events and inventive workshops for adults and families. The Herbert Art Gallery encourages creativity, exploration and fun.

Its permanent galleries range from the Visual Arts to Social and Industrial History, Archaeology and Natural History - there is something for every visitor. The Herbert is also home to Coventry Archives, the city's destination for historical documents, photographs, maps and archival materials. Visit the Herbert to gain a fresh perspective on the legend of Lady Godiva, discover your ancestors' history in the Coventry Archives, and explore British & European paintings from the 1500s onwards. And all of this is just a stone's throw away from Coventry Cathedral.

The Coventry Transport Museum houses the largest publicly owned collection of British vehicles on the planet and tells the story of a city which changed the world through transport.



LEFT: 'Pioneers' Coventry Transport Museum

ABOVE: 'Landspeed Exhibition' Coventry Transport Museum

TOP RIGHT: 'Old Masters' Herbert Art Gallery and Museum

RIGHT: Herbert Art Gallery and Museum

BOTTOM RIGHT: The Lunt Roman Fort, Ramparts



Visitors can expect captivating displays, interactive galleries, and highly immersive exhibitions - a day to remember. 14 fully accessible galleries are home to the fastest vehicle in the world, pioneering bicycles, transport champions and many of the most innovative, memorable and luxurious vehicles of the last 200 years. For those seeking more adventure, walk through The Blitz experience or enjoy a ride in one of three 4D simulator rides.



Aside from the collection itself, the programme includes touring exhibitions from across the globe, hands-on family activities and a wide range of events from Breakfast Clubs to fusion festivals. Coventry Transport Museum is not just a destination for

transport enthusiasts; it's a destination for storytellers and escapists; speed freaks and thrill seekers; history buffs and families. With an award-winning coffee house, picnic areas throughout the museum and an exceptional gift shop, it makes a fantastic day out!





If you want to know more about Coventry, prepare yourself for a trip back in time at the Lunt Roman Fort. The one of a kind turf and timber fort allows visitors to explore original Roman fortifications and imagine training horses in the gyrus. It is worth noting that the fort is only open during Coventry school holidays. You can also book special tours of the Old Grammar School and Medieval Undercroft should you wish to explore Coventry's rich history further. ■



AUGUST

-  Thursday 1 ** *'19th-century Stained Glass in Birmingham and the Midlands'* - Martin Ellis
-  Tuesday 6 + *'Ana Maria Pacheco's 'One Man and his Sheep' and friends'* - Emalee Beddoes-Davis



SEPTEMBER

-  Friday 6 + *'Art from World War Two'* - Henrietta Lockhart
-  Tuesday 10 * *'Reach for the Stars: Thinktank's new Planetarium'* - Colin Hutcheson
-  Tuesday 10 * Friends AGM
-  Wednesday 11 + Coach Outing to Adlington Hall

OCTOBER

-  Wednesday 2 * Visit to the Hippodrome
-  Thursday 3 * Boscobel House (EH) and Wightwick Manor (NT)
-  Wednesday 9 * Visit to the Hippodrome
-  Tuesday 22 + *'SCULPTURA - Vision and Form'*: Meet the Artists Event and Evening Tour at the RBSA
-  Thursday 31 * Visit to St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham

NOVEMBER

-  Thursday 7 * *'Thoughts on Portraiture'* - Emalee Beddoes-Davies
-  Friday 29 * *'The Christmas Story'* - Jane Howell

- * 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).

EVENT KEY

ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



SCIENCE SHORT

THE NEXT ISSUE OF ARTEFACTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2019

FRIENDS' CROSSWORD BY DEREK STREET

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Familiar shortened name of a Birmingham theatre founded in 1901 as Lyceum but quickly renamed using the name still used today (4)
- 3. William, Arts and Crafts ceramic artist with several works at Wightwick Manor (2,6)
- 8. Sink or subside under a weight or pressure. For example of a fabric or a rope (3)
- 9. Donkey (3)
- 10. Due as part of a bargain but not yet exchanged (5)
- 12. Cricket: bowler's approach to delivery, or Food: quick preparation of a simple item (3,2)
- 13. Supporter and wearer of the white rose (7)
- 14. 19th Century Prime Minister, the MP for Tamworth, involved in ensuring that the Birmingham to London rail service could stop at Hampton in Arden (4)
- 15. Phenomenon and suitable descriptive word from the 20th Century. A cocktail of pollution and, often still, water saturated air (4)
- 19. People who are expert in law (7)
- 21. Detection and navigation using electromagnetic waves (5)
- 23. The colour for envy (5)
- 24. That's fishy, long and wriggly (3)
- 25. Much of this about nothing according to the Bard (3)

- 26. Coventry theatre built following World War 2 and named to record and remember a valuable timber gift from a European capital (8)
- 27. Lowest ranking chess piece (4)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Country famed for music, dance, mountains and coffee houses (7)
- 2. The Earl collected marbles (5)
- 4. Relatively short items of written prose on almost any subject (6)
- 5. Scientific or polite term for a smell, nice or nasty (5)
- 6. Powerless flight (7)
- 7. English elderly fictional detective Jane (6)
- 11. You should be quoted this if you "ask a policeman" the time in Britain in winter (abbr) (3)
- 14. English 17th Century composer Henry (7)
- 16. American duchess Meghan (6)
- 17. Reported mood of the maid who milked the cow with the crumpled horn (7)
- 18. Mount upon the throne in a coronation (6)
- 19. Could be the lead in to a merry dance (3)
- 20. Detection and navigation using sound waves (5)
- 22. A primary offering from theatres (5)

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FROM 11 OCTOBER

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

A MUSEUM IN BAGHDAD

HANNAH KHALIL



ILLUSTRATION BY JULIEN PACAUD. ORIGINAL PHOTOS BY AL FOOTE III & RICHARD LAKOS

A STORY OF TREASURED HISTORY, DESPERATE CHOICES
AND THE REMARKABLE GERTRUDE BELL

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Miranda Curtis - Season Supporter, Swan Theatre Winter 2019



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