

ARTEFACTS



Friends of
Birmingham
Museums

NOVEMBER 2019 - JANUARY 2020

BAFM

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OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS MAGAZINE

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

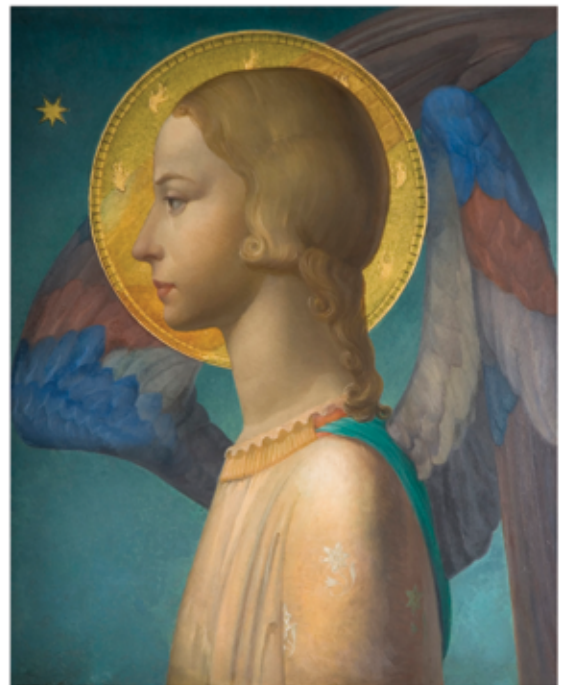
Wolverhampton Society of Artists Centenary Exhibition

Sat 14 Dec 2019 – Sun 16 Feb 2020

Wolverhampton Society of Artists (WSA) has been exhibiting at Wolverhampton Art Gallery since the Society was formed in 1919. Each year, the society presents a careful selection of members' work chosen via an open submission process. This exhibition celebrates the centenary of Wolverhampton Society of Artists and the continuous partnership of both institutions.

The exhibition documents the story of the Society featuring a selection of works by WSA's alumni including paintings, drawings and sculptures, alongside some archival material.

It also showcases contextual works highlighting the history and achievements of the WSA against the wider development of British art in the period 1919 -1929. The final section showcases works by current members of the Society.



Mary Gwenillan Gibson, *Angel*, 1920 – 1930.
© Wolverhampton Art Gallery

The Bloomsbury Effect

Sat 14 Dec – Sun 16 Feb 2020

Visitors to the Wolverhampton Society of Artists Centenary Exhibition can also enjoy a display of three prestigious early 20th century British paintings on loan from the Courtauld Gallery, London. This is part of an ongoing collaboration which celebrates the links between Wolverhampton and the Courtauld Collection through the Courtaulds textile company.



Roger Fry, *Self Portrait*, 1928. © Courtauld Trust, The Courtauld Gallery, London

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THE
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HERITAGE
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Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1DU.
www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk



BIRMINGHAM REVOLUTIONS

PAGE 38

CHAIR'S OBSERVATIONS	04
FRIENDS' EVENTS	06
NEWS FROM THE OFFICE	10
NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEERS	11
REPORT FROM BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS	12
CHANGING BIRMINGHAM - ITS PEOPLE AND PLACES: MOTHERS	14
LOVE OF LANDSCAPE: THE ART OF GLYN GRIFFITHS (1926-1999)	16
TEENS IN MUSEUMS: TEN YEARS OF THE SCIENCE AND HERITAGE CAREER LADDER	18
BEHIND THE SCENES: PATRONS' EVENT AT ASTON HALL - 7 JUNE 2019	20
BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS - WHAT'S ON	22
IN THE AREA	30
EXHIBITIONS FOCUS: BIRMINGHAM REVOLUTIONS - POWER TO THE PEOPLE	38
FOCUS ON LOCAL CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS: SAVING THE LAST BELLFOUNDRY IN BRITAIN	40
FRIENDS' DIARY	42
FRIENDS' CROSSWORD	43

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ON THE COVER

Gillian Smith's
Waistcoat with
Miner's Strike
Badges, 1980s.
Presented by Jayne
Faulkner and family,
Jayne is the daughter
of the original owner
and lender the late
Gillian Smith (Mrs.)





CHOICES, CHOICES...

BY DAVID FOSTER



Above: The Mini Museum at BMAG

Once more we approach the end of another year making it an appropriate occasion to remind ourselves of what it is that we - the Friends of Birmingham Museums Trust - exist to do. Each of us has our own response to this question: reading *'Artefacts'*; paying our subscriptions; or meeting other members in the course of learning more about aspects of Birmingham's collections and its history.

Underlying this is the basic aim of the Friends - to support Birmingham Museums. For many years we have delivered this through providing funds for Birmingham Museums Trust (BMT) to enable it to acquire items for its collection. We can be justifiably proud of our record here - we have contributed in each and every year since our formation nearly 90 years ago. Whilst I have made this claim a few times before, I have not been able to support it with hard facts. However soon you will be able to see for yourselves. Shortly you will be able to browse an online catalogue listing all of the items which the Friends have helped BMT to acquire. That this will be possible is thanks to a labour of love by Margaret Lister, building on the earlier work of our erstwhile Honorary Archivist, Margaret Boniface. These two volunteers have worked tirelessly to ensure that we have an accurate record of the Friends-supported acquisitions. This information ensures, in turn, that BMT's own database credits our contributions reliably. A report, which has been extracted from

BMT's electronic museum database, will soon be available to view in a section of the Friends' website - www.fbmt.org.uk.

Members will be interested to learn of two recent acquisitions of valuable and stimulating objects which we have enabled. BMT was offered a painting - without charge - from an owner in Sydney, Australia on condition that BMT paid for its transportation to Birmingham. It is a portrait of John Fothergill by J.S.C. Schaak. This is a particularly interesting piece since it is a companion - in at least two senses - to paintings already in the collection. Fothergill was an associate of Matthew Boulton and the painting is similar in style to portraits of Boulton in the collection. There is, I understand, some interesting personal background to the relationship between Fothergill and Boulton. We may learn more in future issues of *'Artefacts'*. In the event, we agreed to pay for the necessary transport and physical protection during the painting's journey across the globe.

Secondly, we agreed to make a contribution to the acquisition of an original piece of jewellery. The *'Birmingham Ring'* by Jeweller Vicki Ambery-Smith displays, in miniature form, a panorama of the city (complete with canal and boat!) in gold and silver on a ring. It is already in demand for forthcoming exhibitions, where we will have the chance to admire it.

As BMT has accumulated its own acquisitions fund from legacies donated since it became a charity, they may seek this scale of support from the Friends less often. In recent years, they have sought help with projects to improve their ability to present their collection to visitors. A notable example was the request a few years ago to fund the creation of the Mini Museum at BMAG. The Committee found it difficult to make the decision to support this project, since we feared that there would be no permanent evidence of the Friends' contribution. However, this display area has proved to be a considerable success, paving the way for the incredibly popular MiniBum at Thinktank. This change in the kind of support which we have previously given is going to become more common. ■



BIRMINGHAM
ROYAL BALLET



BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME

SIR PETER WRIGHT & GALINA SAMSOVA'S

SWAN LAKE

18 - 29 FEB 2020



SIR PETER WRIGHT'S

THE NUTCRACKER

22 NOV - 14 DEC 2019

Photos © Bella Kotak

brb.org.uk/whatson

0844 338 5000 Calls cost 4.5p per min plus access charge.



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.



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.

[NB. This event was advertised in the August – October 2019 edition of Artefacts. If you have already applied to attend this event please do not reapply.]

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.



COACH OUTING TO WORLD OF WEDGWOOD AND THE POTTERIES MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Date: Thursday 16 January 2020

Cost: £23/£33 non-members (includes entrance to the World of Wedgwood 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

The World of Wedgwood, situated near Stoke-on-Trent, displays the V&A Museum collection; one of the finest collections of ceramics in the world. Explore 260 years of ground-breaking design and production and discover the story of Josiah Wedgwood and his lasting influence on the industry and society.

Our entry fee will include the Factory Tour during which we will explore the manufacturing process in the heart of the Potteries, at Barlaston, the home of Wedgwood. You can see up close the craftsmanship, artisan skills and techniques honed over 260 years. The tour offers an in-depth view of all aspects of bone china and iconic Jasperware production including casting, firing, glazing, figure making, decorating and hand painting, ornamentation and gilding.

After time for lunch we will take the coach to The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery which contains the part of the Staffordshire Hoard not on display in BMAG in their Anglo Saxon Kingdom of Mercia gallery.



BIRMINGHAM REVOLUTIONS ~ POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Date: Tuesday 21 January 2020, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Speaker: Emma McMullen, Research Assistant (Birmingham History)

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

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 and 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.

This presentation will take you through the exciting and dramatic events of Birmingham's radical past, which is the focus of the newly opened testing display in Gallery 13 at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. Exploring over 250 years of activism and revolution; we will follow the history of riots, strikes, grass-root organisations and international movements that have played an important role in the city's history. The presentation will be supported by a slide show featuring the beautiful art, photography, and artefacts featured in the exhibition.

EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



SCIENCE SHORT



Above: Youth CND Badge, 1980s



TOUR OF BIRMINGHAM REVOLUTIONS ~ POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Date: Tuesday 28 January 2020, 11am

*Speaker: Emma McMullen, Research Assistant
(Birmingham History)*

Cost: £9

*Meeting Point: The Round Room in BMAG at 10:45am
for an 11am start.*

NB. Guided tours are exclusively for members

This tour will take you round the newly opened testing exhibition in Gallery 13 at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. Exploring over 250 years of protest and activism in Birmingham, we will follow the history of major campaigns, riots, strikes, grass root organisations and international movements that have played an important part in the city's history. In this tour you will be able to see some beautiful early 19th century Reform Movement banners, objects used during the 1926 General Strike and photography of the Handsworth Riots in the 1980s among many other exciting objects. There will also be a chance to offer your feedback and memories of protest to the exhibition in the engagement space.



THE 19TH CENTURY ~ AN AGE OF REBELLION?

Date: Friday 14 February 2020, 11am.

Speaker: Jane Howell

Cost: £9

Meeting Point: The Round Room in BMAG at 10:45am

for an 11am start

NB. Guided tours are exclusively for members.

In the early part of the 19th century the art scene in Britain was dominated by the views of the Royal Academy and the teachings of Sir Joshua Reynolds. On the other side of the channel the École de Beaux Arts - especially when the artist, Adolphe-William Bouguereau was at the helm - held the art world of France in a similar grip. Increasingly, young artists wanted to break away from this. In England, the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood led the way, and in France artists such as Corbet, Manet and Pissarro did the same.

Starting with looking at works by Sir Joshua and Bouguereau, in this tour, using works on display at the time, we shall explore the growth of the rebellion and how it paved the way for the art of the 20th century.



STAINED GLASS AND ITS PLACE IN THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT

Date: Wednesday 4 March 2020, 11am.

*Speaker: Martin Ellis, Freelance Consultant, formerly
Curator of Applied Art at BMT*

Cost: £10/£13 non-members

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

Meeting Point: The Gas Hall foyer

Martin's last talk on Art in the 19th century was very well received and left members eager to hear what happened to stained glass as we moved into the



Above: Christopher Richard W Nevinson, 'Column on the March', 1915.
Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CC0.

20th century. This takes us into the Arts and Craft movement which is where Martin will concentrate this presentation and will include looking at the work of the Camms, Nora Yoxall and Elsie Whitford as he moves forward to the 1960s.



VISIT TO HUDSONS WHISTLE FACTORY

Date: Wednesday 18 March 2020, 10:30am.

Cost: £18 members/£22 non-members. The ticket includes refreshments.

Venue: J Hudson & Co (Whistles) Ltd, 244/8 Barr St, Hockley, Birmingham B19 3AH (the end nearest New John St). **How to get there:** By train or metro: the nearest station is Jewellery Quarter. By bus: inner circle 8A or 8C to New John St (also stops at Jewellery Quarter station) then about 10 minutes walk.

NB. If you would like to walk together to the factory please indicate on your booking form and meet at the Jewellery Quarter station at 10am. Otherwise meet outside the factory at 10:20am. Please note - this is an

old building with steps and uneven floors. There is no lift. A chance to visit one of Birmingham's oldest factories. Hudsons have been making whistles of all kinds for over 100 years and continue to export all over the world.



ART GOES TO WAR, 1914 - 1918

Date: Friday 27 March 2020, 11am.

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.

When the Great War turned the world upside down, the art scene in Europe was already in a state of flux, with avant-garde ideas challenging the very nature of art. What did artists make of their experiences on the front line, and what techniques did they use to depict them? This talk will explore work by acknowledged masters like Paul Nash and C.R.W. Nevinson, alongside lesser known men and women who recorded 'the war to end all wars'.

John Walker New Paintings

4 December 2019
– 23 February 2020

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

IKON

Ikon is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered charity 528892. Exhibition supported by the John Feeney Charitable Trust and the Owen Family Trust.

John Walker Rippie (2017), 84 x 66 inches



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NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

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

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

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

CHRISTMAS GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Gift membership is available all year round and includes 3 extra months free. Christmas Gift Membership (valid 1 January 2020 to 31 March 2021) could make an ideal present for a friend or relative. 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. Please ensure the form reaches us by Friday 6th December at the latest.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our new members: Mr S Taylor & Mrs B Brown, Rev R & Mrs C Price, Mr J & Mrs J Kendall, Mr G Joiner, Mr S Wood, Mr R Couchman, and Ms J Elsing.

CALL OUT FOR A CROSSWORD COMPILER!

We are on the hunt for a volunteer to compile the Friends' Crossword in *Artefacts*. Derek Street has now produced his fifteenth crossword for this edition of *Artefacts* and he would like to pass on the role to someone else. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity please contact Melissa Hughes: melissa.page.fbmag@gmail.com.

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS APPLICATION FORM

Title:	
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(Please tick)

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(full rate Includes 2 children under 16)

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DOUBLE £32

STUDENT £15

I enclose a cheque for £ or I have transferred £ to SORT CODE 30-00-06

A/C NO 00248432

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

giftaid it

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

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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: Birmingham Museums Volunteer Team at the West Midlands Volunteer Awards

It is always a pleasure to update you all regarding the activities of Birmingham Museums Trust's and the Friends' volunteers and it provides a great opportunity to look back at all that has been achieved by this wonderful team over the last few months.

In September Birmingham Heritage Week saw volunteers from across the city getting involved with a variety of events and activities which captured the heritage and stories of the region. Some of the events taking place at the Trust included the Museum Collections Centre Open Day, which saw over 1,000 visitors exploring the store; the Falconry Day at Weoley Castle, with hundreds of visitors enjoying fabulous bird of prey displays; and themed tours at Aston Hall ranging from a tour by Sir Thomas Holte himself through to a tour focusing on the lives of the servants. This is just a snapshot of events across Birmingham Museums, but also across the whole city. If you attended any of the events taking place then I am sure you would have been greeted by an enthusiastic volunteer, so huge thanks to everyone involved.

At the start of September the volunteer team were well represented at the West Midlands Volunteer Awards held at Birmingham Hippodrome. Although we didn't win this year, we are so proud of the Thinktank Conservation Team; the Works on Paper Team and Phoebe Kelly, both based at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery; and Gayle Bevan from Aston

Hall for being finalists and for all their amazing work. Thanks so much all and well done.

In October we had our second Volunteer Day Trip as a team of almost 50 volunteers, including Friends' volunteers, went on a coach trip to Leicester. It was great to get everyone together and to share passions for history, art, science, communities - and ultimately museums! Our first stop was the King Richard III Centre and we started the day with a talk about the King Under the Car Park and a look around. Our second museum of the day was New Walk Museum & Art Gallery with plenty to see. Thanks so much to everyone who came along. Here's to next year's trip!

As always, throughout the last few months, Friends volunteers have been working hard at the Friends' Desk welcoming visitors to the Museum & Art Gallery. Thank you so much to Ann, David and Jim for all your support. And a huge thanks to the wonderful volunteers in the Friends' Office too!

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 have any interest in helping to deliver Friends events or if you might like to compile the Friends' crossword for Artefacts. To find out more please email: volunteer@birminghammuseums.org.uk. ■

NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

BY REBECCA BENSON
BMT VOLUNTEER MANAGER



REPORT FROM BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS BY RACHEL COCKETT, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

You have until 18 November to catch our *Thoughts on Portraiture* exhibition at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. Through highlights of the modern art collection, it explores how artists have used a wide range of styles and imagery, including unusual animal and mythological references, to interpret complex human emotion and experiences. The star piece is the ever popular *Man and his Sheep* by Ana Maria Pacheco. This striking installation has not been on public display for over 5 years – catch it whilst you can!

And opening on 7 December, *Dressed to the Nines* is one of a series of displays inviting our visitors to help shape the future of the Museum & Art Gallery. This display is about dressing up and going out from around 1850 to the present day. It explores some of the changes in clothing worn for special occasions. Garments, accessories and outfits from the city's dress collection will be on display. These will include a 1930s evening dress covered in beads, an embroidered court uniform which belonged to Neville Chamberlain, cocktail dresses by Christian Dior and Norman Hartnell, and a lot of shoes! Most of these items have never been exhibited before. Enjoy!

Our work on Sarehole Mill progresses. Restoring heritage buildings is a complex process. Prior to works starting we commissioned a bat survey of the Bakehouse. We are pleased to say that several bat species have been recorded on the site of Sarehole Mill in the past. However, we are relieved that there is currently no evidence of bats roosting in the Bakehouse, despite the location of many tiny crevices which apparently appeal to the common pipistrelle.

As I write we have just received planning permission for the works required to the Bakehouse. We are still seeking funds to undertake a repair to a damaged bearing within the Mill machinery.

Our team at Birmingham Museums are working hard on an exciting project called *Aston Retold* which will see the reinterpretation of Aston Hall focused on retelling, reimagining and sharing stories. This will be the first significant investment and redisplay since the major redevelopment of the Hall in 2009. The first phase of this exciting four year programme of transformation will take place over the next few months. The collections and focus of the rooms will change, offering a chronological and clear narrative which will be easy for first time visitors to understand. The collections will explore our diverse history. Women and global influence will feature as a strong theme throughout the building. We hope the changes will mean we welcome many more visitors to Aston Hall from Birmingham and beyond.

We continue to work hard to bring new Friends and supporters into the Birmingham Museums family. See elsewhere in this magazine for details of our Patrons' behind-the-scenes visit to Aston Hall and to find more about our new Corporate Patrons scheme, aimed at businesses in the city. I have worked for Birmingham Museums for many years but there are still some places in our historic properties that remain unexplored, even to me. I was lucky enough to tick-off another first last week – a trip up to the roof of Aston Hall – what a fantastic view over the gardens and across the city! ■

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Hans Hartung, P11998-08, 1958, image © The Samuel Courtauld Trust, the Courtauld Gallery, London. Artwork © Hans Hartung / ADAGE Paris and DACS, London 2019.

**ARMONICO
CONSORT**

**INTIMATE EVENINGS WITH ARMONICO –
HANDELIAN PYROTECHNICS**
3rd November 2019 4:30pm, St Mary's Church, Temple Balsall
Countertenor William Towers pulls a few crackers from Handel's operatic works. Drawing upon his many years of performing these roles and drawing a few choice items from the Costume Departments of Opera houses worldwide, William breathes new life into Handel's heroes.

MESSIAH
5th December 2019 7:30pm, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
21st December 2019 7:30pm, Malvern Theatres, Malvern
Armonico Consort brings to life the world's greatest oratorio, and for so many a traditional opening of their Christmas celebrations. Performed on instruments of the period with the greatest young soloists from Armonico Consort, Handel's masterpiece continues to be held close to the heart of both Armonico Consort and the millions who adore it.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
18th December 2019 7:30pm, The Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick
20th December 2019 7:30pm, Holy Trinity Church, Coventry
Our traditional Carols by Candlelight will once again take place in the enchanted setting of the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick. Featuring our incredible AC Academy Scholars, Christmas music both centuries old and new will merge to create a sublime festive evening.

J.S. BACH MASS IN B MINOR
31st January 2020 7:30pm, Lighthouse, Poole, Poole
1st February 2020 7:30pm, The Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick
8th February 2020 7:30pm, Malvern Theatres, Malvern
11th February 2020 7:30pm, Octagon Theatre, Yeovil
6th March 2020 7:30pm, St David's Hall, Cardiff
It could be argued that J.S. Bach's Mass in B Minor should have been titled 'Bach's Greatest Hits', for that is what Bach himself aimed to achieve with this masterpiece. Composed over the final 25 years of his life and completed just one year before he died, the Mass is scattered with music and references that Bach considered to be his best work, or movements which he had allowed to develop over time and had returned to 'perfect' at a later date. Never performed complete in his lifetime, the work is in effect Bach's own self-obituary; how he wanted to be remembered by the world. If you have never heard it live, this is absolutely one concert you must not miss.

For full information www.armonico.org.uk

Herbert
Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

**COVENTRY
BIENNIAL
2019 — THE TWIN**

5 October – 26 January | Free Admission
Find out more theherbert.org

2 Masks (Polak & Costley), Sculpture, artwork by Larsen Camps 2018, Photo by John Bodkin

WOTHERS



PINK
FLOYD
SUN 27 APR
BRIDING

CHANGING BIRMINGHAM ~ ITS PEOPLE AND PLACES

MOTHERS

The recent 'Black Sabbath' exhibition in BMAG's Gas Hall set off a train of thought and connections which it felt worth exploring in more detail.

In Erdington High Street there is a blue plaque to a famous music venue called 'Mothers', at which 'Black Sabbath' were a regular act on a Wednesday night. In the BMAG History Galleries there is a display all about this celebrated club which led me on to investigate further.

We are fortunate in having a well researched book by Kevin Duffy on the topic of 'Mothers' which gives a real insight into this little bit of Birmingham's cultural history. As mentioned earlier, the club was based in a Birmingham suburb - opening above a furniture shop and a gentleman's outfitters on Erdington High Street - not the most glamorous location. So exactly how did this venue, open from 1968 to 1971, come to be recognised by no less a publication than the American 'Billboard' magazine as one of the best venues in the world?

Two music entrepreneurs opened the club in August 1968. I had always thought the name came from Frank Zappa's American rock band *The Mothers of Invention* but apparently not - it was named after a venue in an American film. 'Mothers' was described by one of its regular attendees as a mini Woodstock - in both dress style and musical taste. Every underground group of that era seems to have performed at the club including Pink Floyd, who actually recorded part of the *Ummagumma* album at the venue. Canned Heat, Nice, Moody Blues, Led Zeppelin, The Who and John Mayall were just a few other groups who all had sessions there, and it was often held together by appearances from the legendary John Peel, DJ and Radio 1 presenter.

The formula was very simple: membership was 2sh 6d; a pint was 3sh (M&B of course); entry cost 15sh on a Saturday and 4sh during the week; the dress code



was casual; and there were no bouncers. Combined with ground-breaking performances it was a winning formula, growing to over 45,000 members, many from overseas. How did it all come to an end? Prosaically the lease was terminated as the furniture shop wanted to use the space upstairs for a store. Black Sabbath's last performance was a Wednesday night in April 1970 and the club closed in January 1971. One of the final performances was by Elton John who, after insisting on having a grand piano, was very put out when only an upright piano was provided. As a commentator of the time sadly concluded: 'Mothers, the Birmingham club internationally known as the home of good sounds, it is now nothing more than the home of good furniture.'

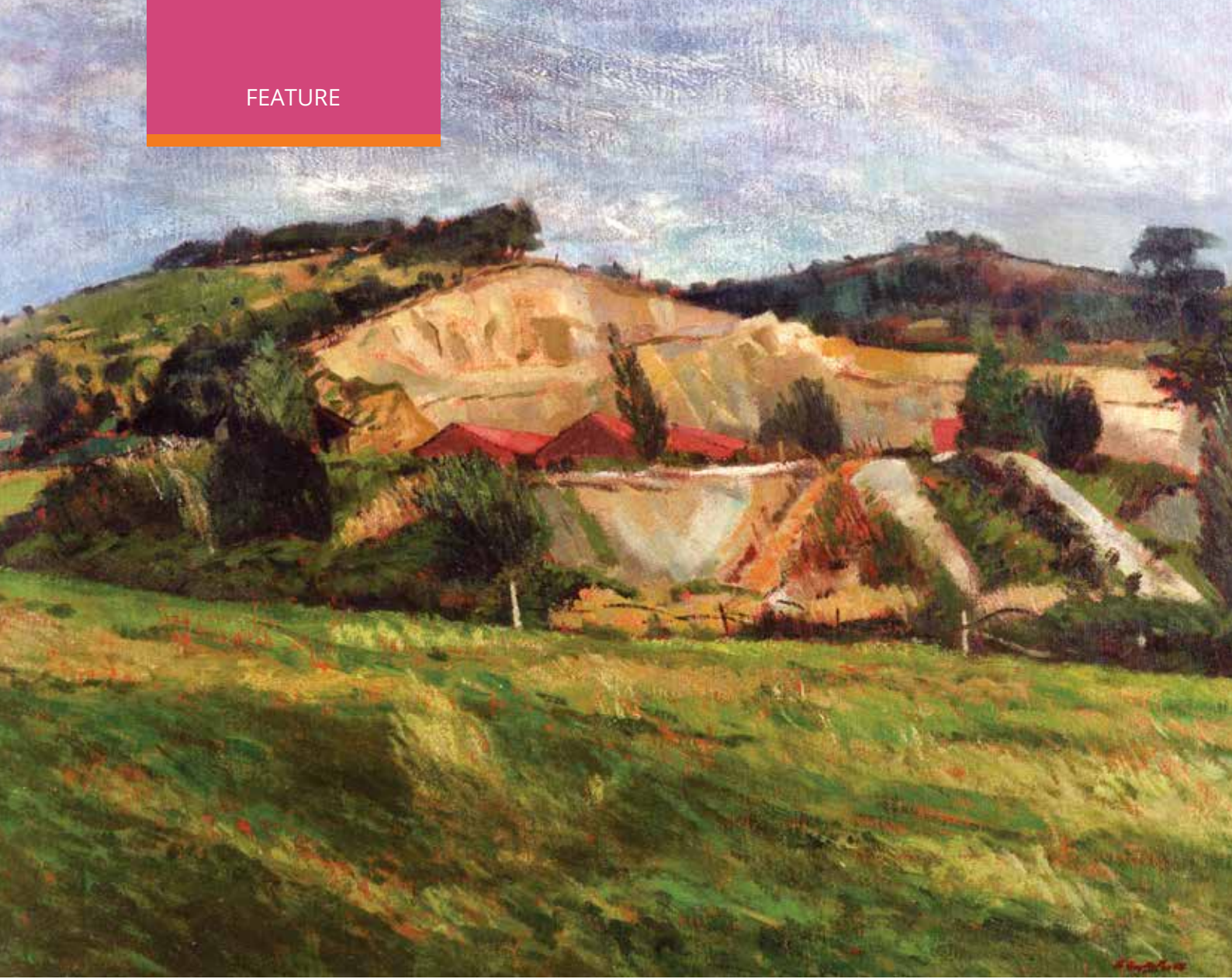
Pop into the Birmingham History Galleries to see some of the artefacts of the time, including a great poster. If you went to 'Mothers' then please do let us know via our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FriendsBMAG. ■

By Jim Wells

Further reading: Kevin Duffy, *'Mothers: the Home of Good Sounds 1968-1971'*, Birmingham City Council Department of Leisure & Co, 2008.

LEFT: Mothers of Erdington - Pink Floyd Poster, 1969. Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust

TOP RIGHT: Exhibition installation view of *'Home of Metal presents: Black Sabbath - 50 Years'*



LOVE OF LANDSCAPE: THE ART OF GLYN GRIFFITHS (1926-1999)

Royal Birmingham Society of Artists - Gallery 1, RBSA Gallery, 4 Brook Street, Birmingham B3 1SA. Monday 4 – Saturday 16 November 2109

The RBSA are hosting a retrospective of paintings and drawings by the late Glyn Griffiths celebrating his love of landscape and the Welsh borders. A frequent exhibitor at the RBSA, his direct and expressive works capture the spirit of the changing seasons and the unique character of the border landscape, its quiet fields, orchards and ancient woods.

His joyous still life paintings reveal another side to his work - the same acute observation and painterly approach but steeped in rich, joyous colour. This little exhibition offers an insight into the scope of this remarkable talent.

Glyn trained in Cardiff under the inspirational direction of Ceri Richards and went on to teach at Birmingham and Hereford schools of Art where his dedication to his work earned him the respect and affection of his students and colleagues.

Members of the Friends are invited to attend the open day on Sunday 3 November at 2:30pm to celebrate the exhibition with Glyn's family and peers. Exhibition curator, Brendan Flynn, will give a guided tour. Complementary refreshments included. ■

ABOVE: Glyn Griffiths, *The Quarry, Woodbury Hill*

The Influence Project

18 Jan - 22 Mar 2020

A photography exhibition celebrating the impact of leading black musicians on contemporary sound and culture.

London-based Congolese photographer Alexis Chabala and curator Lorayne Crawford have captured the characters of these icons and some of the contemporary artists they've influenced through beautiful portraiture, film and sound, to offer visitors a unique and important interpretation of musical history.

macbirmingham.co.uk
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Jorja Smith, London 2018 C-Type
© Alexis Chabala



City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

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Wed 18 & Thu 19 Dec, 7.30pm | Fri 20 Dec, 6pm

A CHORAL CHRISTMAS



Sun 5 Jan, 3pm

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TEENS IN MUSEUMS

TEN YEARS OF THE SCIENCE AND HERITAGE CAREER LADDER

Are museum employees representative of their city? Looking at how the Thinktank Traineeship has shaped the future of our team.

The aim of Birmingham Museums Trust is to reflect Birmingham to the world, and the world to Birmingham, but how do we achieve this? This is surely demonstrated throughout our collections, but it is vital that it is also reflected within our workforce. That is why we strive to celebrate our local community within an exemplary museum team that speaks volumes for our rich and culturally diverse city.

At Thinktank, one way we do this is through our Science and Heritage Career Ladder (SHCL), also known as our Summer Traineeship. This scheme not only celebrates and shares the importance of our culturally diverse city with audiences and workforce teams across Birmingham, but also promotes social mobility and a sharing of skills to inspire confidence within the workplace and ultimately to promote future careers within science.

During the last decade, Thinktank Museum has been working to create a home-grown team of museum employees from in and around Birmingham. This programme allows for the recruitment of six 16-17 year-old trainees and a 16-day training period designed to develop them into valued members of the Museum Enabler team. Now in its eleventh year, the success of the SHCL at Thinktank has led to the scheme's expansion to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery as well as the Heritage Sites around the city including Aston Hall, Sarehole Mill and Blakesley Hall.

Why hire teenagers?

The main aims of the Career Ladder are to make the museum workforce more representative of the surrounding area and to provide paid opportunities for the young people in our city, especially in the Ladywood constituency in which Thinktank is located. Working from a model previously developed by the New York Hall of Science, the museum created a

robust recruitment and training framework to provide support to a number of trainees - a framework which is still in use today.

In the summer of 2008 Thinktank welcomed its first cohort of trainees: 7 teenagers working alongside the enabler team in their publicly facing roles in the museum. This included presenting demonstrations and delivering several activities from our public program. Since the inception of the SHCL, the programme has run annually and over 80 young people have worked as trainees across Birmingham Museums Trust. This has led to many going on to work as part-time and full-time employees and to entering related further education. In addition to developing work experience skills, the scheme has enabled a network of like-minded individuals to share experiences and knowledge of STEM opportunities, often leading the way to careers in these fields.

What do the trainees say?

When asked for feedback on the SHCL programme and the traineeship as a whole, participants always have something positive to say about the programme and the impact that the role has had on their lives. One previous trainee said: 'The traineeship has also significantly boosted my personal confidence, communication skills, and resilience in challenging and pressurising circumstances, public speaking skills, maturity, social intellect, productivity and creativity. I am extremely privileged and grateful to have been part of the traineeship scheme and I believe it has been central in my success in applying for medical school as well as developing me into a mature, proactive and well-rounded individual.' ■

**By Zain Iqbal, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
Teens Project Officer, Thinktank Science Museum**



ABOVE: Reuniting past trainees at a ten-year anniversary event in September 2018. Since completing the scheme, many participants have gone on to achieve further qualifications and success in their respective careers. **LEFT:** Each year, Birmingham Museums Trust recruits a number of teenage trainees to work as trainee enablers across museum and heritage sites in Birmingham



BEHIND THE SCENES

PATRONS' EVENT AT ASTON HALL ~ 7 JUNE 2019

When planning the Birmingham Museums' Patron trip to Aston Hall, the Development Team at Birmingham Museums thought it would be lovely to have a Behind the Scenes Tour and finish with a cream tea in the sunshine.

Well, of course it rained that day! But the team at Aston Hall were prepped and ready for us anyway.

Aston Hall is steeped in history: it was built between 1618 and 1635 for Sir Thomas Holte and was home to James Watt Junior from 1817-1848. Birmingham Museums' sites are run by Museum staff and manned by fabulous volunteers. We rely on visitors, donations, and people spreading the word about us to stay open and continue putting on tours and events throughout the year. Joining us on the tour were two of Birmingham Museums' Directors: Rachel Cockett and Richard Paterson.

On arrival we were greeted by Museum Manager Kimberley; staff Rik, Alex and Edward; and Volunteer Steve in the Great Hall. Steve, along with Rik, would be leading our tour group through the grand old mansion. Leaving our wet umbrellas at the door everyone was very excited to get going with the tour. Starting in the Great Hall, Steve took us through the Holte family history - spanning as far back as the 1300s they made their money as sheep farmers and land

owners. With the wool trade being England's biggest export in the early modern period they were able to build up plenty of wealth! Sir Thomas Holte started building Aston Hall when he was 47 and was 65 by the time the work was finished. He used the Great Hall as his office for tenant farmers to pay their rent.

Moving on to the first of the Behind the Scenes areas, Steve then lead us through to the Meeting room previously known as Mr. Marratt's room. The 1771 inventories suggest this was a very important room but the identity of Mr. Marratt is unknown. By the window you can see a glimpse of the 17th century frieze depicting the Holte crest (a Red Squirrel) amongst other animals, and the later addition of an elephant to symbolise the Watt family.

We were then taken up some stairs to the East Attic which is believed to be Mistress Roper's room - a room of good size and high status, described in a 1654 schedule as having a fireplace and window curtains. This room was particularly popular with our group due to the beautiful views of the grounds and, when

looking carefully, the names etched onto the glass windows of the grand old mansion's former residents!

We continued through the upstairs rooms to the South East Attic maid's room, through the costume room, until we reached the top of the Great Stairs which were richly carved and decorated to show off Sir Thomas's wealth. It is believed that he used to take his guests out to a flat roof on top of the Long Gallery which offered a stunning view of the grounds which Sir Thomas owned!

Perhaps the most impressive room in Aston Hall is the Long Gallery. This room was used for exercising during poor weather and for entertaining important guests. The length of the Long Gallery demonstrated its owner's wealth and prestige. This Long Gallery is an impressive 138 feet long including the vestibule.

Our journey through Aston Hall then took us to the servant's portion of the building; to the Housekeepers Attic and Butlers Attic; then down to one of two cellars at Aston Hall – the Beer Cellar, with walls built from blocks of red and grey sandstone and limewashed. Here Steve and Rik gave us details of the rations available to servants in 1800, which was 4 pints of beer and 2 pints of ale per day – and half of this for women. Aston Hall had its own brewhouse and malthouse, listed in the inventory made Sir Thomas Holte's death

in 1654, which was located in the north yard.

After moving through the cellars and hearing more about the wonderful history our tour ended. As the rain was still pouring down outside we climbed out of the cellar and made our way over to the café where Alex, Kim and Edward were waiting with steaming hot cups of tea, coffee and cream scones.

This is one of many events for Birmingham Museums' Patrons this year which have included a visit to Soho House; a Jewellery Quarter Ghost walk with a whisky tasting; and a presentation on our new 4k Planetarium at Thinktank.

Our Patrons share a close relationship with Birmingham Museums. Each Patron level has its own distinct focus and benefits from special access. If you are interested in joining Birmingham Museums Trust's growing family of influential and adventurous supporters please contact the Development team at development@birminghammuseums.org.uk; ring 0121 348 8293; or visit birmimghammuseums.org.uk/support-us for more information. ■

**By Harpreet Sharma, Development Executive,
Birmingham Museums Trust**

NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR BIRMINGHAM BUSINESSES

Birmingham Museums has launched a new Patrons scheme which gives businesses the opportunity to support the city's museums, heritage and world-class collection.

The new Corporate Patrons scheme was launched in September 2019. From a little as £500 per year, businesses can engage with Birmingham Museums' nine museums and historic properties, including the internationally renowned Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, and gems such as Aston Hall and the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter.

Organisations can choose to become a corporate member, patron or partner, and enjoy a range of benefits supporting their social responsibilities, development opportunities for their teams, behind-the-scenes experiences, and unique hospitality and networking opportunities. Businesses can also inspire employees with specialist talks, membership discounts, venue tickets, family events and outstanding curator-led opportunities.

As an educational charity, support from the city's businesses is vital to ensuring Birmingham Museums can care for the city's collection and heritage, enabling it to continue to inspire future generations. The museum collection, which includes everything

from steam trains and planes to fashion and fine art, is one of the most impressive in the country. The vital funds raised through the support of local businesses will help Birmingham Museums continue to share the city's rich heritage and culture with our 1.2m local, national and international visitors.

Generous support from Birmingham's business community is vital to Birmingham Museums' work and, with the launch of the new Corporate Patrons opportunities, Birmingham Museums are able to offer more to businesses so they can access world-class experiences for their employees and clients. Birmingham Museums hope to engage with new businesses who can join their existing corporate partners to become supporters of the city's heritage.

By supporting Birmingham Museums and embracing the opportunity to engage with the city's past, businesses can make an impact on the city's future and celebrate the vibrant and diverse city that is Birmingham. ■

Find out more at birminghammuseums.org.uk/support-us. Call the Development Team on 0121 348 8293 or email development@briminghammuseums.org.uk.

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-Thursday: 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.

Birmingham Interfaith Music Festival

16 November 2019, 11am-4pm. Free. Celebrate Interfaith week with music, dance and art! Faiths In Tune will hold the first *Birmingham Interfaith Music Festival* at the museum for Interfaith Week. The day will include live music and dance performances in the Round Room, an interfaith community fair in the Industrial Gallery, personal guided tours by representatives of different faith communities through the Faith in Birmingham Gallery and interactive faith-themed children's activities in the Mini Museum.

Santa's Grotto

7, 8, 14, 15, 21 and 22 December. £6.50 per child. Make your museum visit extra special by visiting the festive family grotto this Christmas. Based in the heart of the museum, the glittering grotto will get children and families in the festive spirit with everything from twinkling lights, piles of snow and of course... Santa! Every child will receive a gift and a unique memento of the occasion with a special printed photograph of their visit with Santa. Pre-booking essential. Tickets are timed and there will be a small queue during your slot allocation.

Birmingham Revolutions - Power to the People

7 December - 4 September 2020. Free. This display will explore Birmingham's vibrant and varied history of protest and activism, and the role the city has played in some of the most important campaigns and movements in British history.

Below: The Round Room at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery





Above: Thinktank's Planetarium

From the Priestley Riots of 1791 all the way through to the LGBTQ+ campaigns of today, *'Birmingham Revolutions - Power to the People'* is a chance to discover the different voices and ideas that have contributed to the fight for a better Birmingham.

'Birmingham Revolutions' aims to show all the different ways in which a person can protest and campaign, what we can learn from past protests, and show everything we, as a city, have achieved so far.

Dressed to the Nines

7 December 2019 - August 2020. Free Entry. From formal balls to a night out on the town, clothing plays an important part in special occasions. This display is about dressing up and going out from around 1850 to the present day. It explores some of the changes which have occurred in the types of clothing which are worn for special occasions, where these clothes are purchased from, and the kinds of events they are worn at.

A number of garments, accessories and full outfits from the city's dress collection will be on display. These include a 1930s beaded evening dress, an embroidered court uniform which belonged to Neville Chamberlain, cocktail dresses by Christian

Dior and Norman Hartnell, and a lot of shoes. Most of these items have never been exhibited before.

Wellbeing Christmas Choir

20 December 2019, 1pm - 2pm. Free. Join in with a Christmas sing-a-long with a difference! Each December community choirs from around the city perform at the museum, but this year we are inviting YOU - the people of Birmingham - to join in and sing along with Quinborne Choir.



Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum
Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham, B4 7XG
Open daily 10am - 5pm

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

This includes a state-of-the-art digital Planetarium, and an interactive outdoor Science Garden, a gallery dedicated



Above: Ghost Tours at Aston Hall

to the iconic Spitfire as well as a number of natural history displays. New to Thinktank in 2019 is MiniBrum, a major new mini city space where children are in charge. Open now, MiniBrum is an exciting, interactive child-sized world which has been created in collaboration with schools, families and community groups.

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

Planetarium Lates: Amaurosis

4 November 2019, 6:45pm - 8pm. £10 per person. Amaurosis is a 3D performance partly in the dark in the Planetarium, investigating what happens when music becomes your emotional guide.

Without vision, you are presented with a premise, that encourages you to become creators of your own story within the performance. A journey that surprises and ignites the imagination. Fusing cutting edge spatial sound technology and Planetarium Dome's with an innovative music score, to spark a magical shift and transport you inside the music. An audio-visual finale uses 4D textured sensorial visuals to return you home. Pre-booking is essential.

Mini Christmas

30 November - 1 December 2019, 10am - 5pm. Entry included in ticket price. MiniBrum needs decorating for the festive season and for a city designed and created by children, it only seems right to ask the children to help sort out the decorations!

Mini Christmas is a time for all young people to come together and share their own traditions as we get the gallery looking its best at this special time of the year. Activities will include tree decorating, paper chain making, snowflake cutting and lots more festive activities. We will also be inviting a special guest to visit for the weekend to give us a hand and make sure everyone is being good!

Morning Explorers

8 December 2019, 9am - 11am. Adult: £6.75, Child: £4.90, one free place for carers, BMT Membership Plus: free. If you're an adult or child with sensory or special needs and you'd prefer a quieter visit join the *Morning Explorers* sessions!

Thinktank will open early for you to explore with friends and family in a quiet and welcoming environment. Please note, from 9am-10am, the

whole of Thinktank is open only to visitors on the *Morning Explorers* session. From 10am-11am, general visitors can enter, but level 0 is reserved for *Morning Explorers* visitors only. You are welcome to stay as long as you want during normal opening hours.



ASTON HALL

Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD

See birminghamsmuseums.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.

Festive Market

24 November 2019, 11am - 4pm. *Free entry.* Looking to gift something unique and made with love this Christmas? Visit Aston Hall for the *Festive Market*. Peruse the variety of stalls before purchasing a warming drink and something seasonal from our Café. Admission to the fair is free. Usual entry fees apply for entrance to the Hall, which will be decorated for yuletide. The Festive Market will be open from 11am until 4pm. Aston Hall is open from 11am until 4pm with last entrance to the Hall at 3pm. Café and Gift Shop are open from 11am until 4pm.

Beowulf

30 November 2019, *Performance starts at 1pm. £12.* Enjoy a costumed dramatic performance of the story of *Beowulf* in the stunning setting of Aston Hall. An epic story of heroism, nobility and bravery, battling against fearsome monsters and a hoard-guarding fire-breathing dragon!

This solo performance is adapted from the original Anglo-Saxon, but remaining faithful to the original, when legends and stories would have been told by the fire by bards. This event is a rare opportunity for grown-ups and older children to indulge in a great story. The event is open to all ages. However, we are celebrating the traditional art of storytelling so please be prepared to switch off your phones, sit, hear the crackling of the fire, and thoroughly enjoy listening to this spellbinding performance.

Fairy Tale Christmas

14 - 15 December 2019, *Entry times: 2pm, 2:30pm, 3pm, 3:30pm, 4pm, 4:30pm, 5pm, 5:30pm and 6pm. Adult: £12, Child: £6.* Once upon a time, in a festive land far far away, there stood a grand old mansion filled with the magic of Christmas. Come and join in the festivities as we take inspiration from fairy tales, and pantomimes.

Explore Aston Hall and encounter some of your favourite fictional characters. See the Hall bedecked for yuletide, warm yourself by the roaring fire, and celebrate the festive season with us.

Ghost Tours

18 January 2020, *Tours at 5:30pm, 7pm, and 8:30pm. £10.* Join us for an evening ghost tour of one of Britain's most haunted buildings. Expect a few laughs and scares as we tell you all about the Hall's intriguing past. We're sure you'll be left wondering if ghosts really do exist.

This is an exclusive opportunity to venture into the Hall at night, so prepare for a scare. Due to the content of some of the stories this event is not suitable for under 12s.



BLAKESLEY HALL

Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

See birminghamsmuseums.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.

Blakesley by Night

22 November 2019, *5:30-8:30pm. Adult: £8, Concession: £6, Child: £5.* An atmospheric costumed evening tour. Find out about the 'night time' during the Tudor period and if Blakesley Hall has any ghostly tales. A rare chance to see Blakesley Hall in the moonlight. Tours at: 6:30pm, 7:15pm and 8pm. Tours last 45 minutes. Pre-booking essential. >



Above: Blakesley Hall

Father Christmas at Blakesley Hall

14 and 15 December 2019, 11am-4pm. Adult: £7, Concession: £5, Child: £3. Come along and meet Santa in the Great Hall and see Blakesley dressed for Christmas! Make a Christmas card to take home with you and write a letter to Santa.

All children receive a small present when meeting Santa! Timeslots available at: 11am, 12noon, 2pm and 3pm. Festive treats available in the tearoom too.

Free Day at Blakesley Hall

5 January 2020, 11am-4pm. Free. Come along and explore Blakesley on our first free day for 2020. Free admission for all visitors.



**MUSEUM OF THE
JEWELLERY QTR**

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.

Adult Jewellery Workshop: Silver Stacking Rings

16 November 2019, 10am - 4pm. £60. This one-day session involves learning a variety of jewellery making techniques under the careful guidance of contemporary jeweller Grace Page.

In this workshop you will learn new skills to make silver stacking rings to take home with you. A perfect activity for yourself and a loved one. The day takes place from 10am-4pm and includes all the materials you need to make your own silver stacking rings, plus light refreshments. We invite you to bring your own lunch or you are welcome to purchase something in our tea room during the lunch break. This workshop is for over 18s.

Celebration Talk & Tour:

Women's work in the Jewellery Quarter

30 November 2019, 1pm - 2:15pm. Adult: £10, Concession: £8, Child: £6. Join a special costumed guided tour, talk & toast 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, from working in the office to manual work such as press work, polishing and enamelling.

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. In addition to this tour there will be a short talk with a glass of sparkling wine (or non-alcoholic alternative) for every ticketholder, celebrating the Women of the Jewellery Quarter.

Adult Craft Workshop: Make a Christmas Wreath

7 December 2019, 12pm - 4pm. £35. Join this festive Christmas Wreath workshop at the historic Museum of the Jewellery Quarter. This fun and creative workshop will be led by Gilly Page, Designer Maker and lover of all things floral and festive with a vintage feel to create your very own decorative Christmas wreath.

You will be provided with all the things you need to create your very own bespoke wreath using a selection of materials including fabulous fabrics, silk and faux flowers, velvet ribbons, threads, buttons and festive finishing touches. Gilly will show you what to do and then it is time for your imagination to run wild! Pre-booking is essential.





Above: Demonstrations at the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter



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.

Christmas Craft Fair

1 December 2019, 11am - 4pm. Free. Visit the *Christmas Craft Fair* at Sarehole Mill where there will be a variety of crafts, vintage and handmade goods on sale for some truly unique gifts this Christmas.

Entrance to the grounds and the craft fair are free. Half price admission into the Mill all day: £3: Adult, £2: Concession, £1.50: Child.



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.

Georgian Christmas Tours

1, 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 December 2019, 12pm & 2:30pm.

Adult: £10, Concession: £8, Child: £6. Join us for special Georgian Christmas tours at Soho House this year. See the house decorated with festive greenery and find out how Boulton and his friends would have celebrated the festive season during the 18th Century. Warm yourself up with a hot drink and mince pie which are included in the price of the ticket! Tours take place at 12pm and 2:30pm and last for 1 hr 30 mins. Pre-booking is advised.

Christmas Cracker Crafting at Soho

4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 December 2019, 11am - 4pm. £2.

Visit Soho House on Wednesdays and Thursdays in December for cracker crafting, and add that personal touch to your Christmas crackers round the dinner table. Get into the Christmas spirit by designing your own cracker and make your celebrations that extra bit special.



WEOLEY CASTLE

Weoley Castle Ruins

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



Above: Museum Collections Centre September Open Day

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.



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.

Open Afternoon at Museum Collections Centre

29 November 2019, 1:30-3:30pm. Free. Among the thousands of objects stored at the Museum Collections Centre are steam engines, sculptures, an entire collection of Austin, Rover and MG motor cars and even a red phone box. It is not open to the public except by arrangement.

The open afternoons take place on the last Friday of the month at 1:30pm. Please arrive promptly for the start. The tours last for up to 2 hours.

The tour will allow you to see a vast range of objects, often with a real focus on Birmingham and the West Midlands. The contrasting mix of objects and the behind-the-scenes atmosphere at the collection centre make it an intriguing place to explore and discover more about museum stores.

Open afternoons usually book out at least three months in advance so please book early to avoid disappointment.

IN THE AREA

BARBER INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS

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

The Printed Word: Image, Text and Meaning

Until 26 January 2020. Text and image come under discussion in European prints from the 16th to the 20th century by or after artists as diverse as Samuel Palmer, Goya, Grosz and Miró. Inscriptions on portraits, literary references in historical images, lettering styles, and text as an element of composition: all these fascinating issues are explored. The display includes prints intended for many different uses, including for periodicals and posters.

The Mughals: Power and Beauty at the Indian Court

Until 2 February 2020. Courtly life, power and culture in the Indian subcontinent under Mughal rule (1526 – 1858) are explored in this fascinating display of drawings and prints, coins and manuscripts. Objects lent by the University's Cadbury Research Library (CRL) and the private Hussain-Islimi Arts Collection – alongside rarely-exhibited works from the Barber's own collection – reveal how patrons and artists developed a distinctive Mughal style that reflected their power and ideals of beauty. The display is curated by Neelam Hussain, Curator of the Mingana Collection of Middle Eastern Manuscripts at the CRL.

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 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!

Visit Santa! Vintage Sleigh Ride and Winter Wonderland

2 - 23 December 2019. Wander through a magical winter wonderland of festive activities and snowy scenes before taking a ride on an enchanting vintage sleigh, pulled by two trusty reindeer. Your next stop? Lapland. Meet Santa, tell him your Christmas wishes, receive a magic key and collect your gift from our elf's toy shop.

EDGAR STREET

4 Edgar Street, Worcester WR1 2LR. pittstudio.com

Enfant Terrible

7 November - 7 December 2019. *Enfant Terrible* is the thematic title for three exhibitions in three different galleries housed in the 4 storey town house in Worcester. Each space is presenting artists who court controversy and are renowned for their approach and outspoken attitudes. Basement, each month the Electric Cellar will present neon works, new media, kinetic artwork and screen films. Opening with a neon edition by Jeremy Deller - *The Strawberry Thief* 2017. On the ground and first floor Pitt Studio will show early works (1993-2001) from Tracey Emin supported by private collections, curated by Wayne Warren. On the second floor, Division of Labour will present *Walkabout* (after Nicolas Roeg), a new series of paintings by the artist John Robinson. 'Enfant Terrible' or 'unruly child' is a French expression, traditionally referring to a child who is terrifyingly candid by saying embarrassing things to parents or their peers, an unusually successful person who is strikingly unorthodox, innovative, and/or avant-garde.



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Jinney Ring

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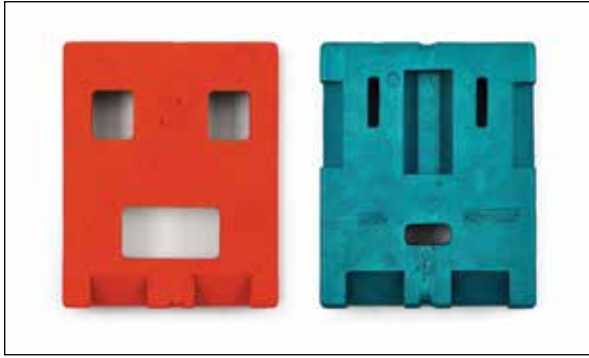
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Jinney Ring Craft Centre, Hanbury, Worcestershire, B60 4BU www.jinneyring.co.uk 01527 821272



Above: 2 Masks (Pollux & Castor), Sculpture
Artwork by Lorsen Camps 2018 on display
at the Herbert, Photo by John Bodkin'

THE HERBERT

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

Radical Drawing: Works from Coventry and the Courtauld

Until 19 January 2020. Free Admission. Radical Drawing is a unique opportunity to explore a group of remarkable drawings by artists who have pushed the boundaries of what it means to draw. The exhibits are taken from the collections of The Courtauld Gallery in London, the University of Warwick and the Herbert's own collection, and include works by George Romney, Camille Pissarro, Pablo Picasso, Art & Language, Barbara Walker and Miriam de Búrca. This exhibition offers visitors a series of encounters with works that show the radical and creative potential of drawn marks and lines. Also on display are objects from the Herbert's collections linked to the Courtaulds factory in Coventry, and a film specially produced for the exhibition featuring former employees of Courtaulds Ltd talking about their experiences of working for this significant employer in the city. This project is a collaboration with The Courtauld Gallery, London.

Coventry Biennial 2019 – The Twin

Until 26 January 2020. Free Admission. The highly anticipated second Coventry Biennial will unfold across the city from the 4 October to the 24 November 2019 with the exhibition at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum remaining open until 26 January 2020. The Biennial team and their partners invite people to learn, look, make, talk, think and walk with them. The Biennial's title this year is The Twin and it comprises a series of exhibitions, events and activities about relationships.

Coventry is an international city: Coventry and Volgograd, Russia, were the first modern twin cities

in the world and this year marks the 75th anniversary of that historic bond of friendship. Coventry now has 26 twins around the world and is known as a city that welcomes migrants and refugees. When walking the city's streets Punjabi, Urdu and Polish can frequently be heard alongside accents from across the West Midlands, nearby Warwickshire and Ireland.

The artists and groups exhibiting in *The Twin* all explore themes, ideas and processes which resonate through this international city including translation, collaboration and togetherness, while also exploring some of the difficulties presented by globalisation, political inequality and conflict.

Artists who will be presenting work at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum during Coventry Biennial 2019 include: James Bridle, Lorsen Camps, David Cheeseman, Anna Columbine, Stephen Cornford, Maud Cotter, Katrina Cowling, Paul Crook, Anne Forgan, Dylan Fox, Mona Hatoum, Andrew Jackson, Ioana Marinescu, Adele Mary Reed, Lorna Mills, Alexandra Müller, Mathew Parkin, Parmar & Piper, Matthew Picton, Duncan Poulton, Lis Rhodes, Rafaël Rozendaal, Richard Scott, Mhairi Vari, Grace A Williams.

Embedded in the wider Coventry Biennial 2019 programme are opportunities to speak to or to eat with the artists, to learn a new skill, to warm yourself by a fire, to dance through the night or to ease yourself into the day with a yoga session. It is this spirit of care and friendship which marks this as the UK's social Biennial.

IKON GALLERY

*1 Oozells Square, Brindley Place, Birmingham, B1 2HS
Tel: 0121 248 0708. www.ikon-gallery.org*

Barry Flanagan

Until 24 November 2019. This is a major survey of work by Barry Flanagan, one of Britain's most inventive sculptors, filling Ikon's two floors of gallery space entirely. Curated by Jo Melvin, it brings together a selection of Flanagan's iconic bronze sculptures (1980s–90s) alongside earlier works, offering new insights into the interconnectedness of seemingly distinct aspects of his practice. Demonstrating an ongoing experimentation with materials and their properties and a symbiosis between abstraction and figuration, the exhibition challenges the supposition that Flanagan's later works represent a marked shift in his approach to art-making. Rather, they represent the distillation of his decades-long fascination with ontology, movement and the physicality of the various materials with which he worked.



Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

26th September - 30th November 2019

Living Ruins has been curated by Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum and Meadow Arts

See website for programme of Living Ruins events and activities www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

Nominate your Living Ruin on Instagram and Twitter using #livingruin

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LIVING RUINS

Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum
Foregate Street, Worcester WR1 1DT
01905 25371

TATE



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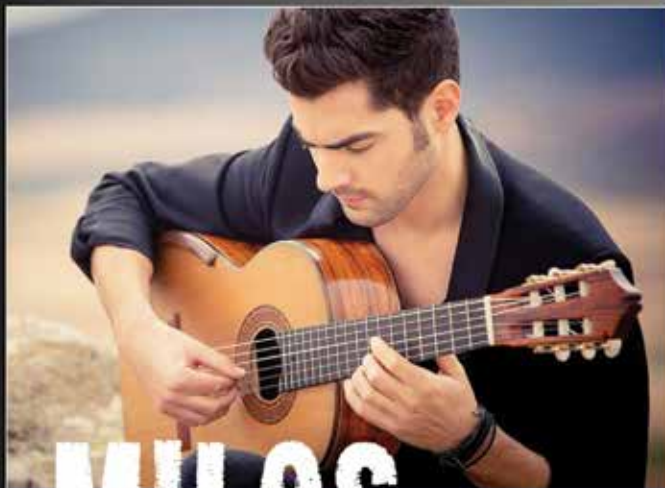


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Image © Gerd Gamm, Bild Forgetts the Seasons, (detail)



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Box Office: 01684 892277 malvern-theatres.co.uk

Meryl McMaster

4 December 2019 - 23 February 2020. This will be first UK solo exhibition by young Canadian artist Meryl McMaster (b. Ottawa 1988). She belongs to a generation of Indigenous artists who, by means of photography and a performative approach, explore First Nations' identity and their cultural horizon. McMaster trains a self-reflexive eye on the exploration of her dual heritage: Plains Cree and member of the Siksika Nation on her father's side and Euro-Canadian (British and Dutch) on her mother's side. With an ecological proposition, she presents herself in nature and sees the landscape and seasons as an integral part of the cultural context, where myth and narration go hand in hand, as summarised in a recent artist's statement: 'I want to bring specific awareness to the broad consequences of colonisation and how the mentality of greed and/or lack of foresight is still impacting us today. At the same time, my work isn't intended to resolve this dilemma but rather to create an opportunity for introspection and conversation. Each of us has a complicated relationship with the past with gaps and biases, and it is important to me to expose and explore these gaps so that we may encounter our next moments better prepared.' Meryl McMaster.

John Walker

4 December 2019 - 23 February 2020. John Walker (b. 1939 Birmingham) was the first artist to show at Ikon when it moved to new premises above New Street Station in 1972, the same year in which he represented Britain at the Venice Biennale. At that time his work was purely abstract, prior to his development of a more representational style, epitomised by his Alba paintings, shown at the Hayward Gallery in 1985. This exhibition will feature new 'anti-scenic' paintings, inspired by the landscape of Maine where Walker is now living, especially locations that are polluted, neglected or abandoned. His connection to the natural world in which he works is evident in his tendency to mix natural materials - mostly mud - into his paints. Stripes and zigzags, frequently occurring, are graphic versions of the changing rhythms of how the ocean meets the shore, as waves or tide.

JINNEY RING CRAFT CENTRE

Hanbury Rd, Hanbury, Bromsgrove B60 4BU
www.jinneyring.co.uk

Whether it be bespoke art pieces from our in-house artisans or more traditional fixtures such as paintings and sculptures in a variety of styles, mediums and themes, there is something for just about anybody



Above: Meryl McMaster, *On the*

at the Jinney Ring Craft Centre. With the holiday season fast approaching, this has never been truer, so now is the perfect time to find the ideal gift for that special someone, or even just that one difficult family member. Or hey, be naughty and just get something for yourself. 'Tis the season.

Jinney Ring Craft Centre has everything from delicate china tableware to full-sized, hand-carved benches and a kaleidoscope of goods in between. Even better, with their range of both internal craftsmen and external artists, they can guarantee quality. Their on-site artisans work out of their studios, so come in and see every bulb blown, pot shaped or stitch sewn first-hand.

Brassware and glassware. Woodwork to forged metal. Upholstery and clothing. There really is something for



Edge of the Immensity (2019) Giclée Print. © The artist

everyone here, so this Christmas season, make sure your gifts are not only high-quality, but completely personalised. Come and experience the artist's gallery where the full breadth of their hand-crafted selection is on display.

Their transition to a proper purveyor of artisanal products has only just been fully realised this last year, so use this opportunity to get ahead of the crowds and find that perfect something. Jinney Ring Craft Centre is not just a shopping centre; where else could you find beautiful steel garden sculptures alongside hand-sewn haberdashery?

Come down to the Jinney Ring Crafts Centre in Hanbury, where we're dedicated to making art not only accessible and affordable, but an experience.

LEAMINGTON SPA ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Royal Pump Rooms, The Parade, Royal Leamington Spa,
Warwickshire, CV32 4AA

www.warwickdc.gov.uk/royalpumprooms

ARTIST ROOMS: Diane Arbus

Until Sunday 1 December 2019. Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum is delighted to partner with National Galleries of Scotland and Tate to present *ARTIST ROOMS Diane Arbus*.

Diane Arbus was born in 1923 in New York and is considered one of the great figures of American photography. She pioneered a photographic approach that bridged the gap between documentary and fine art, through her commitment 'to photograph everybody'. Arbus built up relationships of trust with people to create portraits of astonishing intimacy. She was fascinated by the diversity of human life, and her psychologically acute images document the extraordinary variety of the lives, inner emotions and exotic appearances of ordinary people.

The exhibition brings together works made from the mid-1950s up to Arbus' tragic death in 1971. The exhibition includes examples of her early work with a 35mm camera, and a rare opportunity to see one of Arbus' earliest photographs, *Self-Portrait pregnant* from 1945, taken at the very beginning of her photographic career. These formative images are shown alongside legendary portraits in the distinctive square-format she adopted from 1962, as she evolved her subject matter to produce the haunting and evocative imagery for which she is recognised worldwide.

This exhibition is the first time Arbus' work has been shown in the West Midlands and is drawn from the world-class holdings in *ARTIST ROOMS*. This touring collection of over 1,600 works of modern and contemporary art by 42 major international artists is jointly owned by Tate and National Galleries of Scotland. The collection is displayed across the UK through a programme of solo exhibitions, and supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, by Art Fund and by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland.

MIDLANDS ARTS CENTRE ~ MAC

Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham B12 9QH.

macbirmingham.co.uk

Graham Chorlton: Suburb

Until 10 November. An exhibition of new paintings by >



Above: Jake & Dinos Chapman, *The Good and The Bad*, on display at the University of Warwick

Birmingham-based Graham Chorlton that look at the suburbs that make up a large part of our cities and towns. Often overlooked or even dismissed as places where nothing happens, the reverse is true; this can be the location for dreaming, desire and imagination to grow. Artist Talk and Tour – 6 Nov, 6:30pm. Free, book online.

Jenna Naylor: The Botanical Menagerie

Until 17 November. MAC and Bedlam Arts and Mental Health Festival 2019 have commissioned artist Jenna Naylor to create a menagerie of strange creatures drawn directly onto walls. Taking inspiration from botanical illustration, her drawings are a hybrid of scientific study and fantastical science fiction. In response to *The Big Draw*, Jenna will explore mark making and drawing as a life-enhancing tool.

Jim Holyoak and Matt Shane: The Hills Are Shadows

Until 24 November. A twenty-year collaboration between Canadian artists Jim Holyoak and Matt Shane has created immersive drawing installations depicting worlds within worlds. Amalgamating notions of studio, gallery and domestic space, the drawings are made in a marathon fashion, expanding across entire walls. The artists sketch animals (real, imagined and extinct), landforms and architecture, and then gradually flesh out metamorphic landscapes with pencils, inky brooms, brushes, stencils, spritzers and atomizers.

Arts Markets

3 & 30 November, 1, 7 & 8 December. 11am – 5pm. MAC Arts Markets showcase the work of local designer

makers, including handmade ceramics, jewellery, paintings and crafts. Drop by and find the perfect festive gift.

The Influence Project

18 January – 22 March 2020. A photography exhibition celebrating the impact leading black musicians have had on contemporary sound and culture. The exhibition chronicles pioneering voices of the mid to late 20th century music scene and their impact on music, from direct forms of sampling, to the role of mentors and role models, exploring the range of ways these musical innovators have influenced today's artists, creatively, socially and politically. Congolese, London-based photographer Alexis Chabala and curator Lorayne Crawford have captured the characters of both icons and contemporary artists through beautiful portraiture, film and sound, to offer visitors a unique and important interpretation of musical history.

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN

orchestraoftheswan.org

Tickets available: www.ticketsource.co.uk/orchestra-of-the-swan.

Upon a Midnight Clear

Tuesday 10 December 2019, 7:30pm at Stratford PlayHouse; or Wednesday 11 December 2019, 2:30pm at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Join Orchestra of the Swan for a celebration of the festive season. Upon a Midnight Clear is a musical journey through the heart of winter. A mesmerising tapestry of ancient carols, popular songs and winter-themed classical favourites.

Intimate Voices

Tuesday 21 January 2020, 7:30pm at Stratford PlayHouse; or Wednesday 22 January 2020, 7pm at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. *Intimate Voices* explores the musical and personal landscape of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius through his own words and compositions. From the stark simplicity of *Scene with Cranes* to the bold, distilled complexity of the *Seventh Symphony*; Sibelius is revealed through the intimate thoughts in his letters and the dark, awe-inspiring qualities of his musical imagination. Tamsin Waley-Cohen makes a welcome return to perform as soloist in the seldom heard *Humoresques*.

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL
www.warwickartscentre.co.uk/mead-gallery/

Jake and Dinos Chapman: The Good and The Bad
Until Sunday 6 September 2020. Free Admission. The University of Warwick has become temporary home to two giant corten steel dinosaurs: *The Good and The Bad* (2007) by the two of the best-known British artists working today - Jake and Dinos Chapman. Originally, the dinosaur grouping was three: *The Good*, *The Bad* and *The Ugly*, named after the 1966 Spaghetti Western directed by Sergio Leone and starring Clint Eastwood. These dinosaurs each measure more than eight metres in length and tower up to seven metres high. Representing the Chapmans' first large-scale outdoor sculptures, the works resemble outsized children's model-making kits and appear clumsy and lovable.

The Good and The Bad form the focus of *Walking Through Time*: two new art and history trails leading across the University of Warwick campus. The trails incorporate new and existing sculptures from the University of Warwick Art Collection; they also provide fascinating, at times gruesome, facts about the history of the site. Details of *Walking Through Time* can be found on a beautifully hand-drawn map by the illustrator Helen Cann; this map is available for collection from Warwick Arts Centre and can be downloaded from the website. Helen Cann has also illustrated two children's guides to the respective routes, with drawing activities to do along the way and themed around 'dinosaurs' and 'highway robbers'. In addition, free children's rucksacks - containing drawing materials, books and picnic blankets - and designed for families to make the most of their visit, are available to borrow at weekends and during school vacations. For further information about curator-led guided walks and other events, please check the website.

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

Handmade by Machines:

Seized by the Means of Production

Wednesday 20 November 2019. The School of Jewellery, Birmingham City University will be hosting the 2019 Handmade by Design one-day symposium 20 November 2019 and an accompanying exhibition 11 November - 6 December 2019. This symposium will seek to highlight and provoke discussion/debate on the implications/influence of technology in creative craft practice. Handmade by Machines: Seized by the Means of production will collate the most recent and cutting-edge thinking about the impact that digital technology has had on the craft world with a special focus on the way in which the technology has been seized by makers as a means of production, and the impact that this has had on what the term 'handmade' actually means.

The symposium will be the inaugural event of the new Birmingham City University research cluster, Craft Cultures, and an online publication of the proceedings is planned to follow. An exhibition will run alongside the symposium, and this will form the backdrop to the evening's lightning talks. The cost of attending the symposium is £35, including morning and afternoon tea and coffee. For more information and to book your place visit: blogs.bcu.ac.uk/vittoriastreetgallery/handmade-by-machines/

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY

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

Keith Piper: Body Politics. Work from 1982 - 2007

Until 1 December 2019. Covering a wide range of subjects from the objectification of the 'black body', through politics of the moment, to slavery, this exhibition confronts issues of race and class, that are at the heart of the legacy of Britain's racialised empire.

Piper, a core player in the Black Art Movement and British contemporary art, first exhibited at Wolverhampton Art Gallery in 1981 in the groundbreaking exhibition *Black Art an' Done*. This new solo show *Keith Piper: Body Politics. Work from 1982 - 2007* demonstrates the shift in his practice from painting, print and collage towards new media.

A detailed oil painting of an elderly woman with short, wavy, light-colored hair. She is wearing round, thin-rimmed spectacles and a dark blue, high-collared military-style jacket with brass buttons and a star on the lapel. The background is a soft, textured wash of warm tones.

EXHIBITIONS FOCUS

BIRMINGHAM REVOLUTIONS POWER TO THE PEOPLE

‘Power in the hand of ignorance, is an edge-tool of the most dangerous kind’

– William Hutton, Birmingham Historian (1781)



LEFT: 'Portrait of Sophia Sturge' (1849-1936), pioneering peace campaigner by Lawrence Deller (1889-1918), conscientious objector. Painted in Dartmoor Prison, 1917. **ABOVE L-R:** Birmingham Women's Suffrage Society Banner, 1908. *La Patrie* by CRW Nevinson, 1916. Birmingham Women's Suffrage Society Banner, 1908. Benjamin Zephaniah's Typewriter given to him in the 1970s. All Photos by Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CC0

From the Priestley Riots of 1791 all the way through to the LGBTQ+ campaigns of today, *'Birmingham Revolutions - Power to the People'* is a chance to discover the different voices and ideas that have fought for a better Birmingham.

BMT's new Dynamic Storytelling programme is a brand new project designed to try out the new displays and ideas for future museum galleries. Galleries 12 and 13 will become a testing space to see what visitors want to experience at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

'Birmingham Revolutions' will be one of the first testing exhibitions to be held in this space. This display will explore the city's vibrant and varied history of protest and activism and the role Birmingham has played in some of the most important campaigns and movements in British history. It will look at a range of campaigns from the past 250 years including voting reform, nuclear disarmament, trade unionism, anti-racism and environmentalism and how each campaign has explored the relationship between people, protest and objects. Through this our display will discuss issues such as police brutality, violence, discrimination and human rights. *'Birmingham Revolutions'* aims to show all the different ways in which a person can protest and campaign, what we can learn from past protests and show everything that we, as a city, have achieved so far.

Art, music, literature, clothing and objects will be used in each section of the Gallery for visitors to discover the long history of gatherings, riots, strikes and movements that have occurred in the city.

This exhibition has been carefully developed with the help and input from a select group of Birmingham academics, researchers and activists past and present who have shaped *'Birmingham Revolutions'* into a display of community engagement and joint creation.

In the gallery you will see the banners used by the Birmingham Political Union in the 1830s, CRW Nevinson's 1916 anti-war painting *'La Patrie'*, news bulletins from

the 1926 General Strike, placards from the 2000 Rover demonstrations and many other incredible objects from Birmingham Museums Trust's collection!

For the first time a Gibson custom Les Paul guitar played by Basil Gabbidon from Steel Pulse will be on display. Formed in Handsworth in 1975, Steel Pulse became one of Britain's most successful roots reggae bands. Their first album *'Handsworth Revolution'* (1979) spoke of the racism, violence and discrimination experienced by black people in Birmingham in the 1970s and 1980s. They performed at the *'Rock against Racism'* concert in Victoria Park, London in 1978 and went on to win a Grammy for their 6th album *'Babylon the Bandit'* (1986).

However, this exhibition is by no means complete. Part of the gallery will be an engagement area, where visitors will be invited to play an active part in the development of this exhibition. BMT want your ideas, opinions, feedback, and even your objects to help develop *'Birmingham Revolutions'* further. There will be a community notice board where you can place material from campaigns and movements that are currently happening in the city and a timeline where you can add your own memories of protest.

We are also planning to run a series of talks, tours and events to support the exhibition including craftivism workshops, a panel discussion focusing on the extremes of protest and a special evening event with live music plus much more! ■

By Emma McMullen
Research Assistant - Birmingham History

'Birmingham Revolutions - Power to the People'

Opens on 7 December 2019
Gallery 13 at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

Emma McMullen will be giving an evening event about *'Birmingham Revolutions'* on Tuesday 21 January (see page 6) and a guided tour of the exhibition on Tuesday 28 January (see page 7).

SAVING THE LAST BELLFOUNDRY IN BRITAIN

Loughborough Bellfoundry awarded crucial development funding but £1 million still needed to help save it.

The Loughborough Bellfoundry, also known as John Taylor's Bellfoundry, is the last major bellfoundry in the UK and Commonwealth. Its bells can be heard by hundreds of millions of people around the world in more than 100 countries, from London's St Paul's Cathedral to Washington National Cathedral in the US capital, and from the National Carillon in Canberra, Australia to Cape Town City Hall in South Africa.

More than a staggering 25,000 bells have been cast since the present bellfoundry was built in 1859, but this important part of Britain's industrial heritage is now under threat. Without urgent repairs and a sustainable plan for the future, the bellfoundry – which is in the heart of Loughborough, Leicestershire – could be lost forever.

To avoid the considerable loss of traditional craftsmanship and the seismic impact on historic buildings around the world, the team behind the restoration project is seeking £1 million from members of the public and any organisation wishing to help secure the bellfoundry's future for generations to come.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund recently awarded the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust, owner of the bellfoundry, nearly £300,000 of Development Phase funding to allow it to work up detailed proposals for its two Grade II* listed buildings. The project is also being supported by the Architectural Heritage Fund, which has pledged £30,000.

The Trust is hoping to secure final approval next year from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for a grant of £3.7 million to deliver its plans. However, in order to be eligible for this, the Trust must secure match funding of circa £1 million before the application goes in. If funding is not raised, the project will cease.

The full funding package will not only repair and restore the bellfoundry's buildings, onsite museum and equipment, but will also enable the Loughborough Bellfoundry to become the pre-eminent centre for bell research, development and

manufacturing, ensuring that processes pioneered by John Taylor's over centuries are sustained whilst exploring how 21st century technology can add value to this timeless art.

Education and skills will play a major part too, with the project ensuring that the unique skills that go into bell founding are preserved, by training future craftsmen and women and enabling public access to the world's most significant archive of bell material.

Andrew Wilby, trustee of the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust, said: 'Loughborough Bellfoundry is the home of bell founding and is the only working vestige in the country of an ancient industry that creates bells for thousands of buildings around the world.

'At least 20 million people in Britain and hundreds of millions worldwide hear a Taylor bell every day, with generations experiencing a ring of Taylor bells to mark significant events such as weddings, funerals and moments of national importance such as the end of world wars.

'Our vision is for Loughborough Bellfoundry to become the global centre for the art of bell making and learning, and to secure the legacy of its bells to make sure future generations on every continent can be brought together by a 'Ring of Taylor bells'. We have been very fortunate to have benefited from funding from Historic England over the last few years to address the most urgent repairs but we need to take our efforts to the next level and secure the site once and for all.

'Without this funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the buildings would continue to deteriorate and could lead to closure of the bellfoundry for good, so we're extremely grateful to begin undertaking the necessary work to save the site and, in turn, to help secure the future of the industry in Britain and protect the unique art of bell founding.

'We truly hope we can secure the match funding we need to progress with the project, and appreciate any



donation from the public to help us reach our goal. We have already lost one bellfoundry within the last two years, let's not lose the last.'

The first to perfect the harmonic tuning of bells, the Loughborough Bellfoundry was built 160 years ago as the first ever purpose-built bellfoundry. With the unfortunate closing of the Whitechapel Bellfoundry – famous for iconic bells such as Philadelphia's Liberty Bell and London's Big Ben – in 2017, it is now the only remaining site in Britain large enough to cast, repair and re-hang major rings of bells for cathedrals, churches and secular buildings across the globe.

If the bellfoundry buildings cannot be comprehensively repaired, the Loughborough Bellfoundry could suffer the same fate as Whitechapel. This would mark the closure of the last remaining bellfoundry in Britain and the Commonwealth with the loss of hundreds of years of art, craft and tradition.



Should it be forced to close, it is also possible that the archive of technical material relating to thousands of bells and buildings would no longer be accessible to architects and engineers to support their day-to-day work repairing and caring for sites around the world.

The project therefore deals with heritage not just at the Loughborough Bellfoundry, but in tens of thousands of historic buildings across the globe, touching tens of millions of people every day.




Dr Ben Robinson, Historic England's Partnerships Team Leader in the Midlands, said: 'The bellfoundry complex is a unique collection of buildings listed for their significance at Grade II*, putting them in the top 8% of all listed buildings in the country. Historic England has provided substantial grants over several years to address some of the most urgent repair problems, but we always knew that a much larger project was needed to secure this important site's future. We would love to see the funds raised and these exciting plans come to fruition so that the foundry can finally be removed from the Heritage at Risk Register.' ■

To find out more about or to donate to the Loughborough Bellfoundry Trust's vital campaign, please visit: www.loughboroughbellfoundry.org. The Friends are planning a trip to visit the Bellfoundry in Spring 2020 - details will be in the February - April 2020 edition of *Artefacts*.


NOVEMBER

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




2020 JANUARY

-  Thursday 16 * Coach Outing to World of Wedgwood and The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery
-  Tuesday 21 * *Birmingham Revolutions - Power to the People* -
Emma McMullen, Research Assistant (Birmingham History)
-  Tuesday 28 * *'Tour of Birmingham Revolutions - Power to the People'* - Emma McMullen

FEBRUARY

-  Friday 14 * *'The 19th Century - an Age of Rebellion?'* - Jane Howell

MARCH

-  Wednesday 4 * *'Stained Glass and its place in the Arts and Crafts Movement'* - Martin Ellis
-  Wednesday 18 * Visit to Hudson's Whistle Factory
-  Friday 27 * *'Art goes to War, 1914 - 1918'* - Henrietta Lockhart

- * 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

FRIENDS' CROSSWORD BY DEREK STREET

CLUES ACROSS

1. Saint to whom the mother church of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham is dedicated (4)
3. Hall now making a grand entrance to Centenary Square (8)
8. To carry out one of the essential body functions for survival (3)
9. Early British motoring organisation (3)
10. A plucked string instrument of antiquity and of the middle ages (4)
12. Sound equipment which delivers information, normally a warning of danger, over a wide area (5)
13. Explosive abbreviation (3)
14. Common abbreviation for name of a unit of electric current. The full name is that of a French mathematician (3)
15. Good land to search for the elusive flame of Will o' the Wisp (5)
17. Put a match to this word to fill vesta boxes or even to start a dating agency (5)
21. In addition (3)
22. A defined geological or other period (3)
23. In music the first note of a scale and which forms part of the scale name (5)
25. One who has performed an act of bravery or outstanding achievement (4)
26. Traditional British brew (3)

27. Distress call. Now largely replaced by MAYDAY or M'AIDEZ (3)
28. The annual service of nine lessons and carols at King's College Chapel is described by this title word (8)
29. Most populated continent (4)

CLUES DOWN

1. Entertainment John who was famously sold a dead parrot (6)
2. Word which applies frequently to crossword answers (5)
4. Vessels, usually seagoing, designed primarily for leisure use by their owners and guests (6)
5. W.S.Gilbert. Frederic was apprenticed in error to a Penzance pirate. What seafarer should he have been apprenticed to? (5)
6. Competing runners and riders try to do this to rivals (7)
7. Dried plums (6)
11. An optimist will say that when something is down this is the only way to go (2)
16. Formal speech from a person in authority usually to a preselected or specialised audience (7)
18. Striking feature of Dasher and Dancer and the team (6)
19. Don't slip up with this monkey favourite. Green turning brown. Not round, not straight (6)
20. Artistic Director of Birmingham Royal Ballet (6)
21. Another early British motoring organisation (2)
22. Faces or symbols commonly used in text messages? (5)
24. Useful for keeping to grindstones (5)

1		2			3	4		5		6		
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21				22				23		24		
	25					26				27		
28									29			

ANSWERS ACROSS: 1.Chad 3.Symphony 8.Eat 9.RAC 10.Lute 12.Siren 13.TNT 14.Amp 15.Marsh 17.Maker 21.And 22.Era 23.Tonic 25.Hero 26.Ale 27.SOS 28.Festival 29.Asia DOWN: 1.Cleese 2.Alter 4.Yachts 5.Pilot 6.Outpace 7.Prunes 11.Up 16.Address 18.Antler 19.Banana 20.Acosta 21.AA 22.Emoji! 24.Noses



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