

Artefacts

THE FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST MAGAZINE

Spring 2013



FRIENDS OF
Birmingham
MUSEUMS

BAM

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS

BONHAMS

Our Chairman

Deborah de Haes



With all the cold weather we have been having over the last three months, I am hesitant about wishing you a sunny summer! However, whatever the weather, Birmingham's museums have plenty of wonderful experiences to offer.

If you have not yet been to the Science Garden at Think Tank, do go; you will not be disappointed. The City's new linear park helps extend the 'garden' atmosphere and links Millennium Point more firmly with the City centre. While you are there, be sure to see the new 'We Made It' gallery. It makes you proud to be a Brummie!

Sarehole Mill is now milling (and selling) flour, and on special event days you can see traditional bread-baking using the original 1850s oven. The de-silting of the millpond and installation of a viewing platform really enhance the enjoyment of the site's natural beauty and varied wildlife.

Blakesley Hall's gardens always look wonderful in the summer and we will be holding our Friends' third annual garden party there on Sunday 23 June. Do be sure to come. It has been such a lovely occasion in the past and we hope it will be again.

Back at the office, we have been having 'new conversations' with Birmingham Museums Trust (BMT) about ways of working together in the future. Some of the ways we have helped in the past (such as enabling gift aid donations) are no longer needed by an independent charitable trust. Our primary aim is still 'to support and assist the Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery and to promote their use and enjoyment by the public' (as set out in our constitution). However, what this means in practice evolves over time. So, for example, our future support may be needed not only for acquisitions and large capital projects (such as the History Galleries), but also in developing curatorial expertise and supporting research and scholarship. We hope to explore these ideas further at our AGM on 30 July.

BMT is keen to find out what motivates Friends to become and remain Friends and if you have not done so already, I would urge you to complete a questionnaire about this, if invited. This will help BMT (and us) to understand better how to recruit new

Friends and Patrons. These groups provide enthusiastic and much-needed support.

You may have heard that a further 80 pieces of the Staffordshire Hoard have been found. Once their value is known, there is likely to be a fund-raising campaign to help purchase these additional items for the collection. It is particularly timely to learn that BMT has been successful in gaining over £700,000 grant from Heritage Lottery Fund towards providing permanent gallery space in BMAG, specifically designed for the Staffordshire Hoard.

Over the summer, we are financially supporting three evening openings of BMAG, one a month, to help BMT determine whether evening openings might be financially viable in the future. For these pilots, each evening will have a distinct theme and only those parts of BMAG that relate to this theme will be open. Please support us if you can and let us have your views.

We were delighted recently to help purchase 'Phases of the Moon' by Karina Thompson. These amazing pieces (29 round textile discs) were inspired by Soho House, its history and contents, and designed to be displayed around the Lunar Society dining table there. Perhaps you might get the chance to view them in Soho House this summer.



So whether the weather is sunny or not, there is plenty to do in and around Birmingham museums this summer. Enjoy!

With very best wishes. ■

Deborah de Haes

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Designed and Produced by:
PW Media & Publishing Ltd

Graphic Design: Paul Blyth

Printed By: Stephens & George

Advertising Sales:
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Wall painting of Ulysses and the Sirens
Roman, mid-1st century AD
From Pompeii, Italy
© Trustees of the British Museum

Chairman's Report

3

Friends' Events

6

Prof. Ann Sumner's Report

12

What's On

16

News from the Office

20

In The Area

22

Curator's Choice

30

Reviews

32

Friends' Diary

35

COLLEGE OF ARTS

BARBER INSTITUTE

THE ART GALLERY



Forthcoming Friends' Events

Summer Evening Openings at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

6 June, 4 July and 1 August 2013. Supported by the Friends of Birmingham Museums. The Friends are supporting a series of special Summer evening openings at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. The gallery will remain open at 5pm and will close at 8pm.

The evenings will be themed, and will be held on the 1st Thursdays during the Summer months:

- Thursday 6 June – History Gallery
- Thursday 4 July – Staffordshire Hoard
- Thursday 1 August – Pre-Raphaelites

Our expert curators will be on hand to lead tours and answer questions, live music and refreshments will be available. Please do come along – and invite your friends, family, and colleagues. A trip to the gallery is the perfect way to spend your Summer evening, perhaps relaxing after work, after shopping in the city or before a visit to the Town Hall, Symphony Hall or the theatre.

Entrance is free to the Museum, but a charge will be applied to guided tours.

Event Applications

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

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

Waddesdon Manor (National Trust)

Friday 14 June 2013. This Renaissance-style chateau was built by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to display his outstanding collection of art treasures and to entertain the fashionable world. The 45 rooms on view combine the highest quality French furniture and decorative arts from the 18th century with superb English portraits and Dutch Old Masters. We will have a private tour of the house in the morning. Afterwards you are free to explore the Victorian garden which is considered one of the finest in Britain with its parterre and fountains. There is also a contemporary art gallery in the Coach House at the Stables. There are two licensed restaurants and a café in the grounds.

Cost: £25 – Includes coach, driver's tip, tour of House. Note: Entrance is not included – NT members bring your card, non NT Members pay on the day.

Pickup Points: Yateley Road @ 8:45am, Chest Clinic, Gt Charles St @ 9:00am.

This event is open to non-members - see note on page 6.

Oxford – Town Hall, Christ Church Art Gallery

Friday 19 July 2013. On arrival in Oxford we shall be touring the Town Hall to uncover the history of this fascinating building that has been at the heart of the community since its opening in May 1897. It has a beautiful and decorative interior. We shall hear about the Royal opening, visit the medieval crypt and see the William Turner art collection.

In the afternoon we will visit Christ Church Art Gallery which has an excellent collection of Old Masters, Renaissance Baroque and early Italian art, plus hundreds of drawings. The Picture Gallery, designed by Powell & Moya, was opened in 1968 and won

widespread approval for its modernist features which is largely subterranean.

Cost: £26 – Includes coach, driver's tip, tours of the Town Hall and entrance to Christ Church Art Gallery.

Pickup Points: Yateley Road @ 8:30am or Chest Clinic, Gt. Charles St. @ 8:45am.

This event is open to non-members - see note on page 6.

British Museum – Life & Death: Pompeii and Herculaneum

Tuesday 10 September 2013. The British Museum has brought together 250 preserved objects from collections in Naples and Pompeii, celebrating the lives of the residents of Pompeii and the seaside town of Herculaneum, who died in their thousands when Vesuvius erupted in ad 79. The most arresting exhibits will be casts of the inhabitants of Pompeii in the throes of death, tragic forms that cower in terror or shield the smaller forms of children.

Note – Art Pass holders will save £3, please bring your card on the day.

Cost: £35 (£32 ArtPass holders) – Includes coach, driver's tip, entrance to the exhibition.

Pickup Points: Yateley Road @ 8:30am or Chest Clinic, Gt. Charles St. @ 8:45am.

This event is open to non-members - see note on page 6.

WEEKEND AWAY - Yorkshire

Friday 27 – Monday 30 September 2013. This year we go back to Yorkshire. It will be a mixture of old favourites and new experiences, stately homes, gardens, an abbey and a media museum plus an art

gallery and a parsonage.

Friday - Our first visit will be to Brodsworth Hall EH with its gardens and café. This house was built by Charles Thellusson in the Itallantate style in 1860. We then continue to Temple Newsam, a Tudor-Jacobean mansion which was the birthplace of Lord Darnley, husband of Mary Queen of Scots. There is a tea-room available. Then to Leeds for three nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the 4 star Marriott Hotel. All rooms have en suite facilities and free Wi-Fi. The hotel has a swimming pool and a fitness centre.

Saturday – The day starts with a visit to the Bronte Parsonage where we will have a talk from the curator. After this we will visit Skipton, time for lunch then meet at Castle for tours. Skipton Castle has been the guardian of the gateway to the Yorkshire Dales for over 900 years, it is one of the most complete and well-preserved medieval castles in England. Our next stop will be Bolton Abbey which is situated on the banks of the River Wharfe, you can wander along the woodland and riverside paths or explore the Abbey. Then back to the hotel for the evening.

Sunday – We shall spend most of the day around Bradford. Visiting the National Media Museum in the morning, the Museum covers the history of photography, film and television. There is a café on the site. In the afternoon we will visit the Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford's civic art gallery situated in Lister Park. The Art Gallery contains a collection of prints from Goya to William Sickert plus modern paintings by Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Richard Hamilton and Hockney. After a cup of tea in the café we will visit the Red House Museum, Gomersal, the home of Charlotte Bronte's friend Mary Taylor. Mary Taylor was an early feminist and daughter of a textile merchant.

Monday – We start the day with a drive to Harrogate to visit the RHS Harlow Carr gardens which should be displaying all their autumn colours. Refreshments can be taken in Betty's Tea Room. Late morning we will

travel to Wetherby for lunch (included) at the Mercure Hotel. Our final stop will be Harewood House for a tour of the house. The house is the home of the Queen's cousin, the Earl of Harewood. The grounds were laid out by Capability Brown. The house, designed by John Carr, features interiors by Robert Adam and furnishings by Thomas Chippendale. Leaving at 4:30pm we will return to Birmingham arriving at approx. 7pm.

Cost: £325 per person in a twin bedded room or £375 in a single. This includes travel and hotel, (3 nights D B&B), driver's tip, all entrance charges, tea/coffee and lunch as listed above.

Travel Insurance: To simplify refunds etc associated with cancellations we are asking all applicants to ensure that they have Travel Insurance. Hardings Coaches will provide Travel Insurance to cover travel and hotel for £15.50 per person if not already held. We are usually able to recover most of the other costs i.e. entrances, meals etcetera if we have had sufficient notice.

To Secure Your Place(s): Send the application form with your non returnable deposit of £50 per person, also, if you require Harding's Travel Insurance please add £15.50 per person and enter your date(s) of birth.

Pickup Points: Yateley Road, Harborne @ 08:25am
Chest Clinic, Great Charles St. @ 08:45am

An Application form is included in the posted version of this magazine.

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 30 July 2013. The AGM will be held in Waterhall commencing at 6:30pm. As members will appreciate this is a very important meeting in the Friends' calendar and your Committee urges every member to try to attend. It gives you, the member, the chance to air your views on the running of your association. Once again, would you please make every effort to attend this meeting which is free of charge.

This year tea, coffee and biscuits will be available prior to the meeting from 6:00pm, No other refreshments will be provided.

Following the formal part of the meeting Rebecca Bridgman, Curator (Islamic & South Asian Art), will help us 'Discover the Islamic and South Asian Art Collections at Birmingham Museums'. The collections range from textiles to arms to ceramics. Hear BMAGs' first specialist curator in this field, and find out more about the new discoveries she has been making over the nine months during the first mapping project of this important collection.

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

Evening Talks at Edmunds

'Doing, Watching and Enjoying - Learning at BMAG' – Julia Kirby: Edmunds, Newhall Street

Monday 10 June 2013, 6:30-8:30pm. Learning Manager Julia Kirby talks about the wide range of programming that BMAG offers for all audiences. Not only do we arrange tours, talks and school groups (you might have noticed some of these) but did you know a typical week for Learning staff might involve handling meerkats, proclaiming ancient poetry and meeting cavemen on skateboards? Come and find out more about just what we do in this illustrated talk. Lots of

CBSO

NUNEATON MUSEUM

COUGHTON COURT

time for questions and chat afterwards!

Cost: £9 (£12 non-members).

We will meet at Edmunds, on the corner of Newhall Street and Edmund Street, for the talk, discussions, a glass of wine and pizza.

**'We Made It, but how?' – Lorna Williams:
Edmunds, Newhall Street**

Tuesday 18 June 2013, 6:30-8:30pm. Lorna Williams, Exhibitions Officer, has worked at Thinktank for five years in roles within both the Education and Exhibitions teams. In February this year a new permanent exhibition 'We Made It: nuts, bolts, gadgets and gizmos' opened at Thinktank. The exhibition sits on the first floor of the museum and explores materials and their properties through objects from the Science and Industry and Natural Science collections, interactive exhibits, examples of historical working machinery and a recreated silversmiths' workshop.

Lorna spent three years working on the development and delivery of this project and will talk about the content selection, the reasons for building this gallery and the decision process that shaped its design. Throughout the project, Thinktank visitors have been a key consideration and resource that have been used to influence the content and style of the gallery. Alongside the gallery development, there was also a programme of activity, event and resource development that was heavily influenced by visitor participation and Lorna will describe how even now, with the gallery being fully open, visitors are still central to the evaluation of 'We Made It'.

Cost: £9 (£12 non-members).

We will meet at Edmunds, on the corner of Newhall Street and Edmund Street, for the talk, discussions, a glass of wine and pizza

**'When Piracy is a Good Thing!' – Clara Lim:
Edmunds, Newhall Street**

Tuesday 13 August, 6:30-8:30pm. Clara Lim, Interactive and Temporary Exhibitions Manager, has worked in a variety of science centres across the world, designing, building and maintaining interactive exhibits. Thinktank has traditionally tended to be a wet weather venue and has used a series of temporary exhibitions across the Summer to draw visitors into the museum. In 2012, Thinktank did not have a Summer exhibition, but instead opened the unique outdoor Science Garden (which Clara also 'built') and in 2013, the museum is trying a new approach to Summer exhibitions - creating its own!

In partnership with Aardman Animation (the makers of Wallace and Gromit) and Sony, and based on the Oscar nominated 'Pirates in an Adventure with Scientists' animated adventure, Thinktank is producing an interactive temporary exhibition that uses the original sets from the film, to explore the science of animation, film-making and natural sciences. But how do you turn an animated film into a temporary exhibition? Clara will discuss the opportunities and challenges that surround such an ambitious project and describe the philosophy and processes that enable us to bring Pirates into a science museum.

Cost: £9 (£12 non-members).

We will meet at Edmunds, on the corner of Newhall Street and Edmund Street, for the talk, discussions, a glass of wine and pizza

The above Evening Talks are open to non-members. See note on page 6.

**Evening Tour at ThinkTank,
Millenium Point**

Wednesday 5 June 2013, 6:00-7:30pm. Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum opened in 2001 and houses part of the city's Science & Industry and Natural

Sciences collections, as well as over 200 modern interactive exhibits, spread over 9 galleries, across four floors and the outside Science Garden. Join Learning and Operations Manager, Dr Kenny Webster, for an after hours guided tour of the museum to learn more about the stories behind the galleries but also to have time to explore the new permanent gallery *'We Made It: nuts, bolts, gadgets and gizmos'* which opened in February, and see how science, engineering and technology have helped Birmingham to develop as the Second City, in the past, through the present and into the future.

Cost: £9 (£12 non-members), includes entrance and tour.

We will meet at Thinktank Reception on Level 0, Ground Floor Millennium Point. If directions are required please make a note on your application form.

This Evening Event is open to non-members. See note on page 6.

Friends Guided Tours

These tours are exclusive to Friends and cost £8. Please note that Lunch is not included in these events (see Luncheon Clubs).

Guided Tour (115) "Why the Pre-Raphaelites?" by Jane Howell

Tuesday 16 July 2013. We all know that the Pre-Raphaelites set their brotherhood as a reaction to what was happening in art in the mid 19th century and in this tour we shall, using the works from our collection, see if we can discover what it was that upset them so much.

We will meet in the Round Room at 11am.

Luncheon Clubs

The talks take about an hour and then we go to the Edwardian Tea Room for lunch. (You will need to bring your ticket for the lunch.) Luncheon Clubs are exclusive to Friends and cost: £14. You may attend the talk without having the lunch at a cost of £9.

"Faces in their Spaces - British Portraits from Birmingham Museums" by Michael Cullen and Jemima Willis

Tuesdays 18 June & 23 July 2013. This new display of portraits in Gallery 23 is from BMAGs' own collections, it explores the relationship between sitters and their environment. It presents paintings, prints and photographs from the 18th century to the present day by artists including Joshua Reynolds, John Singer Sargent, Stanley Spencer, Lubaina Himid and Craigie Horsfield. The display also features William Orpen's famous portrait of his fellow artist Augustus John, exhibited in 1901, which is on loan from the National Portrait Gallery.

'Faces in their Spaces' has been curated by Michael Cullen and Jemima Willis, History of Art students from the University of Birmingham, as part of their MA programme.

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

"The Inspired Artist" by Jane Hornby

Tuesday 11 June 2013. The influence from various sources, including poetry, legend, history, literature and the Bible, is very often seen in BMAG's collections. The tour will look at selected works and consider the artist's inspiration behind each one and also the message that an artist can sometimes reveal.

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

AV Room Talk

The Pen Industry by Jim Andrew

Tuesday 28 May 2013. Between 1825 and 1955 this Birmingham trade produced something like 70,000 million steel pen nibs, that is dip pens, with a weight of about 54,000 tons. This was around two thirds of the world production. Most were by hand operated machines with the price falling from twelve old pence each in 1825 to as low as two pence per gross in 1865. Without this industry adult writing and, hence the need for reading, could never have reached the levels it did while it relied on quill pens, writing slates and even pencils which were nowhere as convenient or useful.

This lecture will look at how the trade grew, how the pen nibs were marketed and finally what happened after the fountain pen and ball point were introduced. Finally the trade transferred its technical skills into many types of "small springy things" to suit everything from small electrical components to holding motorcars together and high precision presswork skills expanded into all sorts of fields including components for the Large Hadron Collider at CERN and a great many very secret government contracts.

Jim is a mechanical engineer who worked in industry and then public health before moving to the Birmingham Museum Service as a Keeper in 1974. He has been studying early steam engines for over thirty years and jointly led the excavation of the Smethwick Engine's engine house in 1984. He retired as Collections Manager at Thinktank in 2003 but is still here and planning his next retirement! He has been working with the pen trade and the pen collection for most of his time in the museum service and included some original research in his notes. We will meet in the AV Room at the rear of Gas Hall at 10:45am for refreshments.

Cost: £9.

This event is open to non-members - see note on page 6.

Heritage Sites

Soho House – Tours and Thanks

Friday 7 June 2013. Chris Rice, Head of Heritage Services, will give us a private tour of the newly refurbished visitor centre and displays at Soho House highlighting some of the recent acquisitions that have been part funded by the Friends. See centre applications in the posted version of Artefacts.

We will meet at Soho House, Soho Avenue at 11am.

Refreshments will be provided

Cost: £9

Blakesley Hall Garden Party

Sunday 23 June 2013, 2:30pm - 5pm. This event was published in the last edition of Artefacts. There are still places available, if interested contact the Friends' Office.

Cost: £9 includes refreshments (£12 non-members).

This event is open to non-members - see note on page 6.

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 30 August 2013 – The Extraordinary Leek Embroidery Society Exhibition at the Nicholson Museum & Art Gallery, Leek

Wednesday 16 October 2013 - Friends Annual Lecture - Speaker: Nicola Kalinsky (Director of the Barber Institute)

Thursday 19 September - Sarehole Mill – Talk and Tour of the recently desilted pond and the restored mill and bakery

Simon Cane

Spring Report

Firstly, thanks to the Friends Committee and Members for the 'welcome' and best wishes since I took up the post of Interim Director in January. For those of you who may not know me, I am Head of Operations at BMAG and was Rita Mclean's Deputy. I was previously the Head of Collections Care at BMAG and, amongst other things, I have been leading on the Staffordshire Hoard Project for Birmingham since its discovery in 2009. Since taking on the post of Interim Director, I have had many conversations with various Friends and been able to attend a number of meetings and am delighted at the support and encouragement I have received. I have also been very pleased to see a number of Friends' Volunteers attending the regular monthly staff meetings at BMAG – we hope that these have proved beneficial, especially for those on duty on the Friends Information desk.

I am pleased to be writing my report at the end of a successful first year for Birmingham Museums Trust (BMT) and certainly one the best since I started at BMAG nine years ago. Nine years is but the blink of an eye when you consider that BMAG has been a part of the municipal administration since Birmingham Corporation purchased Aston Hall in 1864, which at 149 years makes us one of the England's senior museum services, so the move to independent trust on 1 April, 2012 was indeed a historic moment. It has been no simple or quick task to unravel the administrative and technical systems that have become embedded over such a great length of time but we have been working hard and are cutting the last remaining administrative apron strings with the City and finding our feet.

I feel that there is new growing confidence about the organisation, a real sense of excitement at the opportunities ahead and although there is understandably some trepidation, staff are overwhelmingly positive about the move to trust. Sir Albert Bore, Leader of Birmingham City Council (BCC) spoke eloquently at Birmingham's Cultural Summit last Autumn about his belief in the importance of the role of culture in the modern city and the benefits that a vibrant and varied cultural offer brings to the

city region and its people. In creating BMT, BCC has shown real foresight through understanding the many benefits that an independent trust can bring to the City and confidence in the quality of the cultural offer and thus created the opportunity for us to start a new conversation with the City, its people, its cultural organisations and its visitors and I am very excited about that. Conversations are of course as much about listening as they are about talking and as we develop we need to start fresh conversations with all of our partners and stakeholders, tell them about our plans and aspirations and of course listen to their views. The Friends of BMAG have supported the Museum and art Gallery through both the good and the lean years, you have enabled us to keep developing the collections through new acquisitions, you have contributed to capital works and you have supported staff development and we are very grateful for your support. Although BMT has a good pedigree we are a new organisation with different governance and funding arrangements so we need to talk to the Friends of BMAG about the future, how these changes may affect our relationship and how we can continue to work together. I am pleased that I have been able to start that conversation with the Friends Committee and I can also report that we have already made good progress.

We have, for example, agreed that BMT's Marketing team will be more involved with the production of Artefacts and we are organising a sequence of Friends-supported evening openings over the summer to encourage new members to join the Friends and to support BMT. Developing an active volunteer force is critical to the future of BMT and this is an area where I think we can work together to ensure that we create an interested and engaged volunteer cohort, and I understand that recruitment for a new Friends Volunteer Coordinator is underway. One of the single most important developments in the City is happening on our doorstep, which will see the demolition of Paradise Forum and the transformation of the setting around Chamberlain Square. We want to take this opportunity to undertake major redevelopment of the Museum and Art Gallery to create fresh, vibrant cultural spaces that connect with the city in new ways, showcasing our outstanding collections in first class galleries alongside new accessible facilities. This is going to be a challenge in the current climate but this is a once in generation opportunity and we will work with all our stakeholders, especially the Friends, to ensure that we grasp it.

The new year has been as busy as ever at BMT and we are finishing our first year with the opening of a major new gallery, outstanding exhibitions and new and exciting collaborations.

In the Gas Hall we have been delighted with the response to *'Revealed: the Government Art Collection'*, which welcomed over 36,000 visitors - 10,000 more than forecast! Cornelia Parker's original hang surprised and delighted visitors with many returning two or three times. The quality and range of the works on display was quite remarkable and we are proud to be able to bring such quality and originality to Birmingham.

At Thinktank we opened *'We Made It: nuts, bolts, gadgets and gizmos'* that asks the question 'what links

a cow and a car'? The design and presentation of this exhibition is uniquely 'Thinktank' and fits brilliantly with the Science Garden to add real value to the visitor offer. Congratulations to the team at Thinktank for their work on delivering such a major project on time and on budget, from finding and co-ordinating the fundraising to collaboration with partners, designers and technicians. I know from watching the families at the opening event that its going to be a real hit with visitors. I would really recommend a visit to Thinktank this year to see the new galleries, to try out the interactives in the Science Garden and to experience the new Eastside Park which has transformed the Curzon Street facade of Millennium Point. You can also treat yourself to an ice cream from our new Kiosk, weather permitting of course.



At BMAG we welcomed Birmingham's Sikh Community with the opening of *'The Sikh Fortress Turban'*. This exhibition explores the importance and symbolism of the turban in Sikh faith with the stunning *'Fortress Turban'* on loan from the British Museum at its centre. This exhibition represents an important aspect of our work in engaging with Birmingham's varied faith communities and I am pleased to welcome Rebecca Bridgman, our new Curator of Islamic and South Asian Art, who worked on this excellent exhibition.

The opening of *'New Art West Midlands'* (closes on 19 May) is the first major show curated by Lisa Beauchamp, our new Curator of Contemporary Art.

This unique collaborative exhibition brings together three venues, BMAG, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts and Grand Union, five universities (Birmingham City University, University of Wolverhampton, University of Worcester, University of Warwick and Staffordshire University), and 22 artists to showcase emerging artists from across the region. It is important that we recognise our role in supporting new artists and this show is a significant step in ensuring that BMAG is working collaboratively to offer opportunities for young artists to work with curators and exhibit in major gallery spaces. I really enjoyed acting as one of the judges for this show and the buzz at the opening at BMAG was quite extraordinary.



March also saw the official unveiling and handover of the beautiful silver jug by Martyn Pugh, purchased with donations given in memory of our dear friend and colleague Jackie Swancutt. The jug is now on display in the Industrial Gallery and I want to extend special thanks to the Friends for their help with the collection. Jackie's family were delighted with the gift and it seems appropriate that Jackie's name is remembered in such a way.

I was pleased to open a newly refurbished Sarehole Mill in March, which can now mill flour and bake bread. The site and buildings have really come to life as you experience the smells, noises and vibrations of a working mill and I would encourage you to visit as I would all of our heritage sites which are now open for

the season.

The Staffordshire Hoard project goes from strength to strength and you may have seen that we have been awarded a grant of over £700,000 by the HLF to develop a new gallery. Plans are well advanced and the new gallery will open in the space that presently contains 'Greeks and Romans' in Autumn 2014.

Finally, as I type this report, I am looking forward to the opening of '*Metropolis: Reflections on the Modern City*' in the Gas Hall. This exhibition brings together work collected through the Art Fund International funded programme and is the fruition of a unique partnership approach to collecting contemporary art. It illustrates once again that BMAG is vibrant, relevant and a vital part of Birmingham's cultural life, as much about the future as the past. I hope you are able to visit.

Thank you to all the Friends for your support in what has been momentous and successful first year for the Trust. I look forward to carrying on our new conversation. ■

MAIN MUSEUM & ART GALLERY OPENING TIMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Times: Mon - Thurs and Sat 10:00am - 5:00pm,
Fri 10:30am - 5:00pm, Sun 12:30pm - 5:00pm.
Telephone Numbers: Control Room 0121 303 4215,
Reception 0121 303 2834

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

NEW ART WEST MIDLANDS

Open until 19 May 2013

Free Exhibition

Adult

Experience new art by the most exciting emerging artists to have recently graduated from art schools in the region. Themes in the exhibition include urban and domestic spaces as well as nostalgia and memory with the artists providing an insight into issues concerning our current social condition on a local and global scale.

METROPOLIS: REFLECTIONS ON THE MODERN CITY

Open until 23 June 2013

Free Exhibition

Adult

Metropolis presents visions of the modern city from artists around the world in this striking new exhibition. It brings together stunning work from 25 contemporary artists of the highest international standing including digital projection, painting, photography, sculpture and mixed media.

Collecting Metropolis

Wed 1 May, 1:00pm

£2

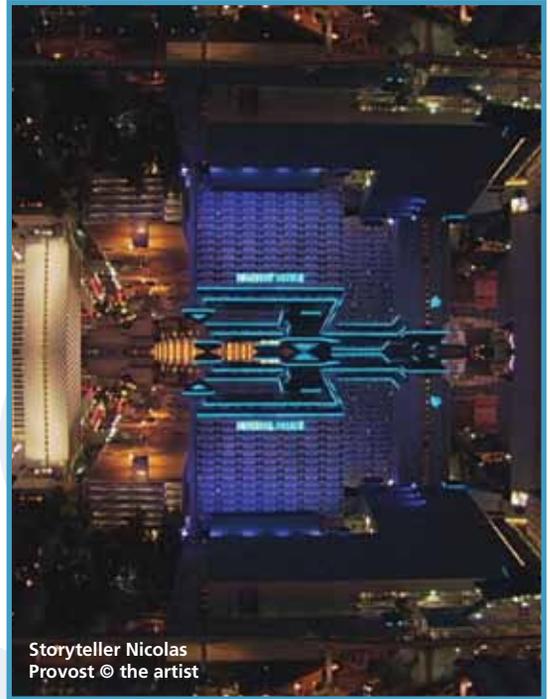
Hear how the new Metropolis collection was acquired from artists based all around the world.

Kino 10

Sat 22 Jun, 2:30pm – 4:30pm

£5

See an exciting programme of short films from around the world on the theme of Metropolis.



Storyteller Nicolas
Provost © the artist

GEORGE CATLIN

Open 12 July 2013

Copy tbc

A SQUASH AND A SQUEEZE: SHARING STORIES WITH JULIA DONALDSON

Open 20 July 2013

Charged Exhibition

Family

In this exhibition see Julia Donaldson's captivating exhibition brought to life, find out how she wrote modern day classics such as The Gruffalo, Room on a Broom and The Troll. Children and their families can share stories and explore sensory environments based on Donaldson's books.

For more information visit www.bmag.org.uk

Awaiting artwork for a squash and a squeeze

Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

Opening Times:

Thinktank is open 7 days a week, from 10:00am – 5:00pm with last admission at 4:00pm

NEW! THE PIRATES! IN AN ADVENTURE WITH SCIENTISTS! THE EXHIBITION!

Opens 23 May 2013

Temporary Exhibition

Family

This summer, enter the Pirate world and join us for a swashbuckling exhibition, as we celebrate the arrival of *The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists! The Exhibition!*. Meet characters from the blockbuster film, dress up in pirate finery, make your own animated movie and play your part using blue screen technology.

For more information visit www.thinktank.ac/pirates

WE MADE IT: NUTS, BOLTS, GADGETS AND GIZMOS

Now Open

New Gallery

Family

Come along and explore the connection between a cow and a car in our new hands-on gallery. From multi-media exhibits to historical objects you and your family will discover just how and why Birmingham became known as the workshop of the world

For more information visit www.thinktank.ac/wemadeit

Birmingham Museums Heritage Sites

SUMMER AT THE HERITAGE SITES

Come along and see some of Birmingham's spectacular heritage sites, now open for the summer season until Sunday 3 November 2013. From fascinating family activities to guided tours, come and explore a wide

variety of activities for all ages to enjoy including Middle Earth weekend at Sarehole Mill, Soho Steam Day (Power Up!), Animal Mania at Blakesley Hall, Jazz at the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter and the spectacular Aston Hall by Candlelight.

FAMILY HOLIDAY CRAFT ACTIVITIES

Wed and Thu, 1:00 – 3:00pm

£1 per child.

Children's craft activities take place at Soho House, Blakesley Hall and Sarehole Mill during Birmingham school holidays. For up-to-date information please visit www.birminghammuseums.org.uk. No booking required. Normal admission charges apply.

Please note: opening times and ticket prices at all venues vary. For more information visit www.birminghammuseums.org.uk

Sarehole Mill

Open until Sun 3 Nov

Tue – Sun, 12:00 – 4:00pm

Closed Mondays except Bank Holidays

FROM MORDOR TO THE MISTY MOUNTAINS

Exhibition

Open until 31 Oct

Normal admission charges apply

See selected photographic works by John Cockshaw. Landscape, architectural and macro photography are combined to illustrate locations from 'The Lord of the Rings'.

MIDDLE EARTH WEEKEND

Sat 11 May – Sun 12 May, 11:00am – 5:00pm

Come and celebrate the life of JRR Tolkien within the childhood haunts that inspired him. Take part in Archery, barrel racing, guided walks and much more. Some activities may charge.

THE ORIGINS OF MIDDLE-EARTH

Guided Walks

Sun 30 Jun, Sun 28 Jul,
£6. *Booking essential*

Follow in the footsteps of the young J.R.R Tolkien, author of 'The Lord of the Rings' and 'The Hobbit' as we take you on a guided walk. Discover the childhood playground of Tolkien and learn about the places and people who would inspire 'The Shire'.

Soho House

Open until Sun 3 Nov
Tue – Sun, 12:00 – 4:00pm
Closed Mondays except Bank Holidays

BOULTON'S SHEFFIELD PLATE, WITH GORDON CROSSKEY

Talk
Fri 26 Apr, 6:00 -7:30pm
£3, *booking is essential*

Find out more about Boulton's pursuit for perfection in the art of silver plating from one of the country's leading experts.

POWER UP!

Mon 6 May
Free event

The Soho steam day returns, with a twist ... Come along and find out more about the energy that fuelled Boulton's business, and discover more about the power that drives business today.

Blakesley Hall

Open until Sun 3 Nov
Tue – Sun, 12:00 – 4:00pm
Closed Mondays except Bank Holidays

VINTAGE AND HANDMADE FAIR

Sat 4 May, 12:00 – 4:00pm
Free event

Find fabulous vintage goodies and beautifully

handcrafted treasures. Normal admission charges apply to visit the Hall.

ANIMAL MANIA

Sun 26 May, 12:00 - 3.30pm
£1

Come and meet Animal Mania's cute and furry friends.

GARDEN PARTY

Sun 23 Jun, 12:00 – 4:00pm
Celebrate Blakesley's wonderful gardens with traditional garden games and sounds of the summer by the Divertimento choir.

FALCONRY DAY

Sun 16 Jun, 12:00 – 4:00pm
Falcons, Hawks and Owls take to the air with the Hagley Falconry Centre. Free. Normal admission charges apply to the house.

JAZZ AT BLAKESLEY

Sun 7 Jul, 12:00 – 4:00pm
Enjoy an afternoon of jazz performed in Blakesley's beautiful grounds as part of the 29th Birmingham International Jazz Festival. Free.

Aston Hall

Open until Sun 3 Nov
Tue – Sun 12:00 – 4:00pm
Closed Mondays except Bank Holidays

Horrible at the Hall!
Sun 26 May, 12:00 – 4:00pm
£2

Discover everything ghastly from unusual animals to Civil War wounds. Along the way speak to a barber-surgeon, or find out about the pests eating the Hall today!

DIG FOR HISTORY ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

Wed 31 Jul, 12:00 – 4:00pm

£2

Get hands-on with archaeology and take part in activities for all the family.

Museum of the Jewellery Quarter

Open all year round

Tue – Sat, 10.30am – 5:00pm

Closed Sundays and Mondays except Bank Holidays

ADULT JEWELLERY WORKSHOPS

11 May, 20 July, 10:00am – 4:00pm

£60 booking is essential

Design and make a stylish and contemporary piece of jewellery using simple techniques. Adults only; cost includes all materials.

FAMILY CRAFT WORKSHOP

Wed 29 May, Fri 31 May, 1:00 – 3:00pm

£3 booking is essential

Artist and designer-led creative workshops. Make unique artwork to take home.

CHILDREN' HOLIDAY CRAFT ACTIVITY

Thu 30 May, 1:00 – 3:00pm

£1

'Make and take' children's craft activities.

No booking required. Normal admission charges apply to the museum.

JEWELLERY QUARTER HERITAGE WALK

Sat 29 June, 2:00pm

£5 booking essential

A lively guided talk and walk around Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter.

JAZZ IN THE COURTYARD

Thu 13 Jul, 12:00 – 3:00pm

Free

Live music from the Birmingham International Jazz and

Blues Festival 2013. Normal admission charges apply to the rest of the museum.

Weoley Castle

TALK AND WALK

Sat 18 May, Sat 29 Jun, 1:00 – 3:00pm

£5 booking essential

In-depth talk on the history of the castle, followed by a tour of the ruins.

Tea and coffee provided. To book call Blakesley Hall on 0121 464 2193

LIVING HISTORY DAY - 'KIRTLES, COURTS AND KITCHENS'

Sun 28 Jul, 1:00 – 4:00pm

Free event

Come along and meet the re-enactors and learn about medieval manorial roles

BIG BRUM BUZ

Birmingham's 'Big Brum Buz' will be running its open-top guided bus tours on the first Sunday of each month, alternating between the 'Manufactories and Mansions' and the 'Tolkien and Tudors' tour.

MANUFACTORIES AND MANSIONS (ASTON HALL, SOHO HOUSE, PEN ROOM)

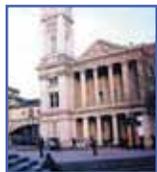
Sun 5 May, Sun 7 Jul

TOLKIEN AND TUDORS (BLAKESLEY HALL AND SAREHOLE MILL)

Sun 2 Jun

First bus 11.30 from Victoria Square.

Tickets: £3 adults, children free. No pre-booking available. Operated by Birmingham Tours.



News

From the Office

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Free entry to special exhibitions in Gas Hall
- Free entry to all our Community Museums
- Artefacts magazine four times a year
- Opportunity to join the many Friends' social events and outings

Plus discounts at the following venues:

- BM&AG and shops at our Historic Houses
- 50% entrance discount to Thinktank at Millennium Point www.thinktank.ac
- Shakespeare Birthplace Trust shops (excluding admission prices) www.shakespeare.org.uk
- Ironbridge Gorge Trust shops providing a minimum of £5 is spent in one transaction. Offer excludes books, certain sales items, admission prices and café/restaurant purchases) www.ironbridge.org.uk
- Potteries Museums & Art Gallery shops/café's www.museums.stoke.gov.uk

THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who renewed so promptly for 1 April.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our new members:

Mrs J Inscker, Dr FGE & Mrs JF Irwin, Mrs JM Atkinson, Ms L Timoney, Mr P & Mrs J Farrow, Mrs J Searle, Mr T Wort, Mr P & Mrs J Simkins, Mr MJ & Mrs ML McHenry, Dr SEF Jones, Mr GA & Mrs A Jones, Mr N Hughes, Mr JF & Mrs ME Marcham, Mrs KA Bushnell.

iLove

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Birmingham

**Put your money
where your
heart is!**

and join the Friends
of Birmingham Museums

Membership forms can be found at
www.bmag.org.uk/friends-of-bmag

If you require assistance then please call 0121 303 3129
or email fbmagmembership@googlemail.com, we will be
pleased to help.

Passion, pleasure and participation in the Arts





In The Area

Exhibitions & Days Out

IKON Gallery

1 Oozells Square
Brindleyplace
Birmingham
B1 2HS
Tel: 0121 248 0708

FRANÇOIS MORELLET

1 May – 14 July 2013. This exhibition by acclaimed French artist François Morellet (b.1926) comprises a selection of paintings made in 2006 which replicate works by him from 1952, magnified to a scale of 4:1. They exemplify the profound influence of Pacific barkcloth (tapa) on Morellet's distinct style of abstraction, and visitors have an opportunity to compare them at Ikon through the simultaneous presentation *Tapa: Barkcloth Paintings from the Pacific*, from the great collection of the Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Cambridge, in our first floor galleries.

Arising out of modernism, François Morellet's work embodies a knowing playfulness that appeals both conceptually and aesthetically. Born in Cholet, France, in 1926, he received no formal artistic training and taught himself to paint, his early works of the 1940s marked by semi-figurative painting and sculpture. Later, in the 1950s, he turned to abstract art, heralding a prolific and lengthy career marked by simple geometric forms encompassing drawing, painting, sculpture and installation. Often using systems or rules to create compositions, Morellet's work turns away from the conventional notions of inspired mark-making which are supposed to signify fine art, and it is this sensibility that made him susceptible to tapa.

This exhibition comprises a selection of works from his show *'Blow Up'*. *Quand j'étais petit je ne faisais pas grand* at the Musée d'art modern de la Ville de Paris in 2007. In each of the enlarged versions of paintings made in 1952, the influence of tapa is clearly evident.

He has said "my first love was focused on the art... of the islands of Oceania and especially tapa from Fiji and the Solomon Islands, that contain everything that I loved and I still love: precision, rigour, geometry...". On the question of the size of the original paintings, Morellet is incisive: "Why in 1952 did I not choose larger sizes? It is, of course that I and many European 'post-war' artists suffered from three crippling obstacles: lack of space, lack of encouragement and perhaps also the lack of courage."

This new series, made more than fifty years later, can be seen as an adaptation to fit a new cultural environment. As a gesture the new series of paintings is completely in keeping with Morellet's artistic proposition: it is repetition by an artist for whom repetition is a trade mark.

There will be an exhibition catalogue, comprehensively illustrated and featuring texts by Morellet himself.

TAPA: BARKCLOTH PAINTINGS FROM THE PACIFIC

1 May – 14 July 2013. Ikon presents the first major European gallery exhibition of tapa, the great painted barkcloths from the islands of the Pacific. For millennia, Pacific Islanders have made traditional cloth from the bark of trees. Often taking on ceremonial significance, its decoration is extraordinary, with patterns that are enjoyed for their abstraction as much as their symbolism. Curated by Nicholas Thomas, material for this exhibition is drawn from the world-class collection of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Cambridge, dating from the 18th century – including barkcloths obtained through the voyages of Captain Cook – up until the present day.

Barkcloth is made by soaking and beating the inner bark of specific trees, most commonly the Paper Mulberry (*Broussonetia papyrifera*). Across the region, from New Guinea to Hawaii, barkcloth has been decorated, in some places in the form of huge sheets

WORC MUSEUM
(HARTLEBURY)

APPLE STORE

IKON GALLERY

featuring optically dynamic abstract patterns, while elsewhere barkcloth garments feature plant and animal life, sacred creatures and mythic narratives. Some barkcloths were wealth objects, spectacular fabrics many metres in width and length which operated as vital valuables, presented by one clan to another on great ceremonial occasions. Others marked sacred spaces, or were incorporated into masks and other ritual assemblages. Cloth was often understood as a kind of skin, a powerful wrapping for the body which revealed its inner state and identity. Primarily created by women using inherited clan designs, the manufacture of barkcloth formed a major vehicle for both creative expression and social cohesion, maintaining and communicating the artists' deep connection to their ancestors and country.

This exhibition includes cloths spanning over 200 years, from Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands and elsewhere in the Pacific. On display are several large Fijian barkcloths which feature complex geometric patterns, a kind of Oceanic Op art. These huge fabrics can be literally dazzling, their motifs seeming to dance; brilliant expressions of the energy and vitality of a people. A rare and spectacular cloth from the tiny island of Niue combines abstract patterns with naturalistic motifs of animals and plant life, whilst a cloth from the island of New Britain, off the coast of Papua New Guinea, was originally intended to be part of a powerful ceremonial mask. A large cloth from Tonga is decorated with images of flying foxes, animals deemed to belong to the Tongan monarchy, suggesting this cloth may have belonged to a chief or individual of high rank.

Although the painted barkcloths collected by European museums have remained largely hidden from public view, the tradition remains alive in the Pacific. Ikon's exhibition includes several works from the small Ömie community who live in the mountains of Oro Province, Papua New Guinea. There, a remarkable group of women are adapting the ancient tradition to create work for the contemporary world. They have emerged

as brilliant painters, each with highly distinctive and personal styles.

Simultaneously to this exhibition, in our second floor galleries, Ikon presents a survey of paintings from the acclaimed French artist François Morellet (b.1926), demonstrating the profound influence of Pacific barkcloth on Morellet's distinct style of abstraction.

This exhibition is accompanied by an original publication.

Worcester County Museum

Worcestershire County Museum

Hartlebury Castle

Hartlebury

Kidderminster

Worcestershire

DY11 7XZ Tel: 01299 250416

E-mail: museum@worcestershire.gov.uk

'HOARDS, HANDBAGS & HIGHWAYMEN'

The County Museum at Hartlebury Castle has just launched their new temporary exhibition 'Hoard, Handbags and Highwaymen' which looks at how people have made, saved, moved, used & lost their money over the last 1,000 years.

The exhibition features the first full display of the Bredon Hill Hoard, a treasure trove of nearly 4,000 Roman coins which was discovered by metal detector enthusiasts in June 2011 on Bredon Hill in the Vale of Evesham. The coins have recently been returned to the county from the British Museum and are still in an un-conserved state. Throughout the course of the exhibition Museums Worcestershire staff will be conserving the coins a small section at a time.

Elsewhere in the exhibition visitors can also see other unique coins from as far back as the Anglo Saxon period, as well as one example minted here at

SAMUEL JOHNSON

CASTLE BROMWICH

SELLY MANOR

BACK 2 BACKS

Hartlebury Castle during the Civil War. Other aspects of the theme of money are explored through a wide range of objects including Iron Age currency bars, some Royal Maundy money and a selection of antique cash tills. The exhibition also looks at the role of the highwaymen and includes an original 17th century horse pistol.

Visitors will also get a rare chance to see a beautiful collection of vintage handbags, purses and other coin-carrying accessories. Ranging from the 1830s to the 1950s the handbags on show are made from a variety of materials including silk, leather, ivory, velvet and wool and are decorated using materials such as beads and sequins and techniques including embroidery, crochet and embossing. There are also a number of purses constructed from silver-mesh and a very unusual handbag made from a real turtle shell.

Rachel Robinson, Museums Worcestershire's Visitor Experience Manager said: *"We are really looking forward to our new exhibition this year as it allow us to showcase some of our beautiful handbags, purses and other accessories from the Museum's costume collection which have never been on display before. We are also very pleased to be able to display for the first time the complete Bredon Hill Coin Hoard and tell visitors all about this new conservation project."*

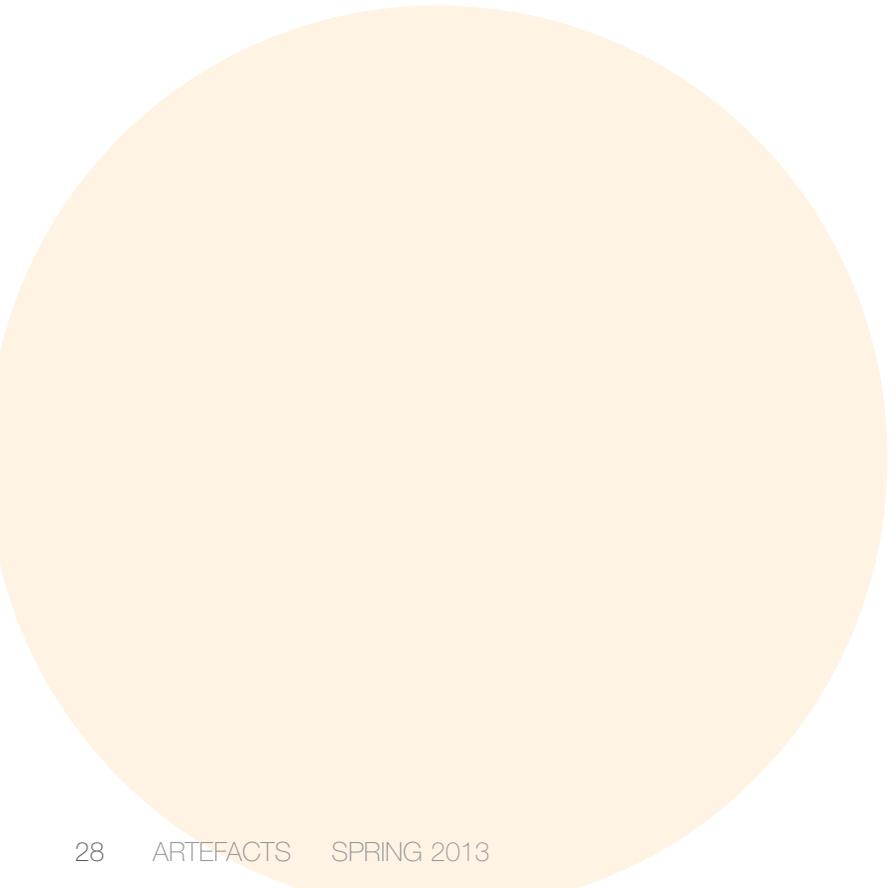
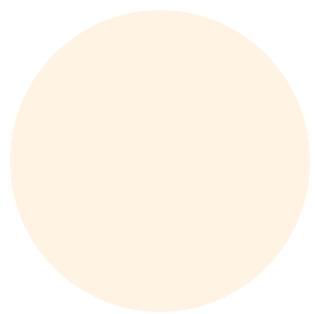
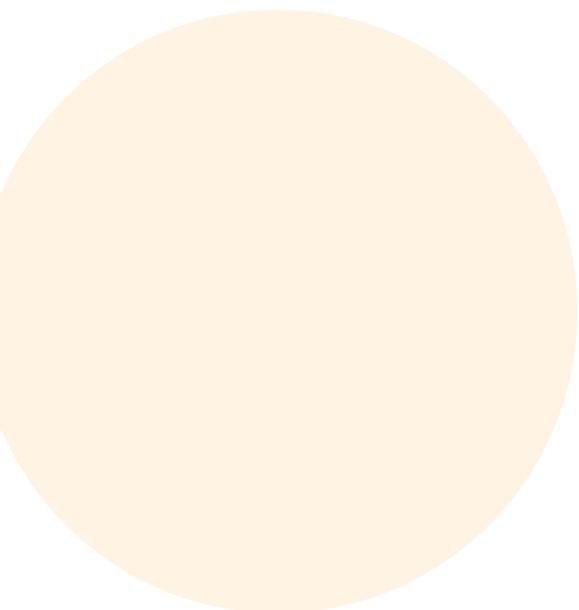
The exhibition is open during all normal museum hours from now until the end of the year and is included in the normal Museum admission price.

ELGAR BIRTHPLACE

HARVINGTON
HALL

BLACK COUNTRY
MUSEUM

WOLVERHAMPTON
GALLERY





Rock Drill

Artist: Sir Jacob Epstein

Date: 1913 (1974)

Exhibitions Officer Katie Hall gives us the lowdown on a must-see BMAG piece

Considered "shocking" and "disgusting to audiences", the original incarnation of Sir Jacob Epstein's 'Rock Drill' from 1913 was dismantled. It was not until 1974 that the public was more ready to view this piece, that it was recreated on commission.

Katie Hall explains: *"This recreation of the original, and now lost, 'Rock Drill' was commissioned for a 1974 exhibition at the Hayward Gallery in London that surveyed the radical achievements of the Vorticist movement. The Friends' contribution purchased this immensely powerful sculpture for BMAG in 1982."*

The original, Katie points out, was only exhibited in a gallery once in 1915. She says: *"It shocked and disgusted audiences. After this exhibition Epstein removed it unsold back to his studio and began to dismantle it. BMAG's sculpture was reconstructed by Ken Cook and Ann Christopher using photographs from Epstein's studio."*

'Rock Drill', which can be found in Gallery 21, resonates with Katie so much because it is strikingly powerful and aggressively mechanical. This angular white



plaster figure sits atop a real miner's rock drill and is imposing, at more than three metres in height. *"The figure appears robotic, faceless and at one with the machine it wields. In its ribs is an embryonic form, suggesting that this horrific vision of humanity will continue to reproduce itself,"* Katie states. *"I think it's still shocking for audiences today, even though it was made a century ago. The shock and horror experienced by audiences in 1913 must have been extreme, particularly in the context of the First World War."*

She explained that this radical sculptor, whose previous work had been viewed as highly inappropriate, was undoubtedly inspired by movements such as Futurism and Vorticism. *"However, with the*

advent and brutal development of the First World War it seems that Epstein became less enamoured with the faceless aggression of the machine and this, along with the deaths of friends in the trenches, must have influenced his decision to dismantle the sculpture," Katie adds.

BMAG has other sculptures by this thought provoking artist, including the iconic Lucifer in the Round Room, which Katie describes as *"difficult to miss"*. She recommends paintings in Gallery 21 that relate to the themes of 'Rock Drill', such as Emmy Bridgewater's *'Night Work is About to Commence'* (1940-3) and *'Merlyn Evans' 'Paesaggio Tragico'* (1945). Of course, lucky members of the Friends group may have viewed the gallery in one of their special exhibition talks and tours which staff relish so much. Katie enthuses: *"We really enjoy being able to share the huge variety of exhibitions that we have at BMAG with them on the tours."*

'Rock Drill', Katie explained, was acquired due to the Friends' generosity and has been in demand from international touring exhibitions ever since. She adds: *"The Friends play an important role in exhibitions; having a Friends table in the Gas Hall to discuss the exhibition with visitors and promote the great work that the Friends do."* ■

by Jane Kubiesa

Heritage S

Sarehole Mill, Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, B13 0BD Reopened: Saturday 30th March

It is a site of international pilgrimage, it has recently been restored to its former working glory and now Sarehole Mill invites the Friends of BMAG to pay a visit on Thursday 19 September to discover the wonders of Victorian industry in a remote Birmingham setting.

Sarehole Mill, Hall Green, was built in the eighteenth century and has links to illustrious locals like Matthew Boulton and J.R.R. Tolkien, bringing tourists from as far afield as Japan. This watermill has recently undergone an extensive programme of

works including renovating the mill roof, restoring the bake house and mill mechanisms, and general improvements around the site.

"Our biggest achievement this year is the dredging of the mill pond," explains Curator Manager Irene de Boo. *"It was completely overgrown and now it's as it originally looked in Victorian times and it means the mill now works. The view from the pond to the mill, with the building reflected in a proper mill pond that is something worth seeing."*

With the help of 11 millers, flour can now be milled on site. Irene comments: *"We are currently training volunteer millers. None of them knew anything about milling, but who does these days? We are being trained by the miller from Charlote Park who has more than 35 years' experience."*

Once the volunteers have honed their skills, it is hoped that milling will take place on Sundays and Wednesdays and flour produced on-site will go on sale. In tandem with the milling work, bread could soon be baked in the newly restored mid-Victorian oven, which can hold 60 to 80 loaves and which was last used in 1871. Irene says: *"The oven is now working and we*



Site Focus



want to bake bread and eventually sell it. We have fired it and it works and we will be baking bread on an event basis over the summer."

Whilst the majority of visitors to Sarehole are locals who stay for tea and cake after enjoying nearby walks, this number is added to with tourists flocking to a place Lord of the Rings author J.R.R. Tolkien was so fond of. Irene explains: "A lot of our visitors are coming here because of the links with Tolkien. He said how much the mill meant to him and it inspired him for the mill in Hobbiton." With this in mind, visitors from Canada, New Zealand and Japan visit this influential site and up to eight thousand people attend the annual Tolkien weekend.

But the visitors Irene is really keen to encourage are the Friends group: "We are looking for closer links with the Friends. We know that individual Friends visit us and have also organised an event to introduce our site to the group.

"This is a bit of a different site to the others as we are a working building with cogs and machinery, but I would advise people to hear the machinery working because it is an experience so unknown today. We would really like the Friends to visit our events or come on a Sunday and see the mill working to get the full effect." ■

by Jane Kubiesa



Reviews

Recent Events

Guided Tour (113) "In Three Dimensions" by Jane Howell

Friday 18 January 2013. This day had the worst weather of the winter so far, only four of the expected Friends managed to get to BMAG. Jane kindly agreed to give her talk and tour again on Friday 1 February, this time with the full complement.

The Government Art Collection in London

Tuesday 5 February 2013. Our tour of the Collection began at 2pm so there was time before and after to visit other attractions; the British Museum and the Wallace Collection seem to have been the favourites. The GAC talk and tour was given by Julia Toffolo, Deputy Director and Senior Registrar at the GAC. Julia told us how, why and when the GAC was formed; and what financial constraints were currently in force. In the Gallery most of the art was appropriately views of London. There was also a cabinet containing a selection of silver writing sets, with diminishing amounts of silver as time passed by.

Downstairs are the main collections with many pictures, all neatly stored and well labelled. Julia seemed to select a picture randomly and was then able to hang an interesting story onto it.

The conservation areas had examples of the problems caused by humidity and we saw how Julia and her staff are using a thin aluminium foil to seal the backs of frames before they are despatched to humid cities abroad.

STEAM and Lydiard Park

Tuesday 12 March 2013. Our guide Michael Stubbs joined the coach on the way to Swindon so that we could be shown the Village that Brunel built for his staff using stone excavated from the Box Hill tunnel excavations. At STEAM we were treated to an introductory talk about the history of the Swindon Railway Works and the creation of the museum. The museum displays cover all aspects of the industry, the Offices, the Works, the GWR Network and the men and women that worked there.

At Lydiard Park we split into two groups, one toured the house first, the other St Mary's church. The house was once the ancestral home of the Viscounts Bolingbroke. We discovered a wealth of history as we toured round the beautifully-restored State Rooms, with their original furnishings, ornate plasterwork and family portraits. Next door, St Mary's Church is packed with intriguing monuments to the St John family, including the unique St John Family triptych and the Golden Cavalier statue.



Friends' Diary Dates



April

23 # Evening Event at Edmunds - Lisa Beauchamp - New Art West Midlands

May

3 ** Guided Tour (114) - Jane Howell - With Your Help

21 ** Hampton Court Palace

28 * AV Room Talk – Jim Andrew – The Pen Industry

June

5 * Evening Tour at Thinktank – Kenny Webster – “We Made IT, etcetera”

7 * Soho House - Tour and Thanks

10 * Evening Event at Edmunds –Julia Kirby – ‘Doing, Watching and Enjoying - Learning at BMAG’

11 * Luncheon Club - Jane Hornby – The Inspired Artist

14 * Waddesdon Manor (NT)

18 * Luncheon Club – Michael Cullen & Jemima Willis – “Faces in their Spaces” (1)

18 * Evening Event at Edmunds – Lorna Williams - “We Made It, But How?”

23 # Blakesley Hall Garden Party

July

16 * Guided Tour (115) – Jane Howell – Why the Pre-Raphaelites?

19 * Oxford – Town Hall Tour & Christ Church Art Gallery

23 * Luncheon Club - Michael Cullen & Jemima Willis – “Faces in their Spaces” (2)

30 * Friends Annual General Meeting

August

13 * Evening Event at Edmunds– Clara Lim – When Piracy is a Good Thing!

30 + Leek Embroiders

September

10 * British Museum – Life & Death: Pompeii and Herculaneum

19 + Sarehole Mill – Tour and Talk

27-30 * Weekend Away – Yorkshire

October

16 + Friends Annual Lecture – Nicola Kalinsky, Director of the Barber Institute

* Details are enclosed with this mailing, and application forms are included in posted versions of this magazine (See note on page 6)

** Fully booked, sorry

+ Dates for your diary, no applications in this mailing

Included in a previous mailing, but still some places available

\$ These events are not arranged by the Friends, applications are not included

The next Artefacts,
the Summer 2013
edition will be
published in July

TAILORED TRAVEL