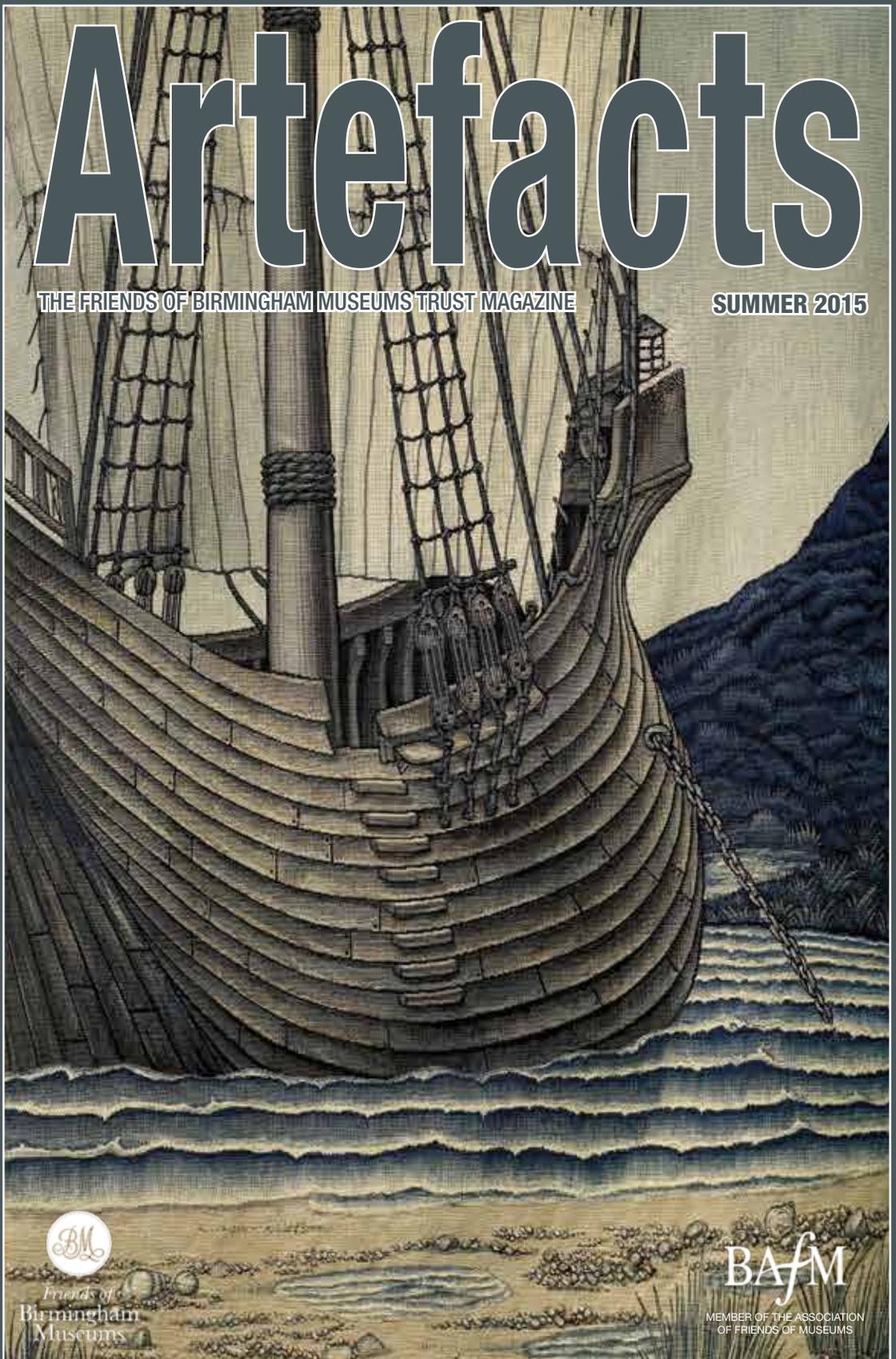


# Artefacts

THE FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2015



*Friends of*  
Birmingham  
Museums

**BAM**

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION  
OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS

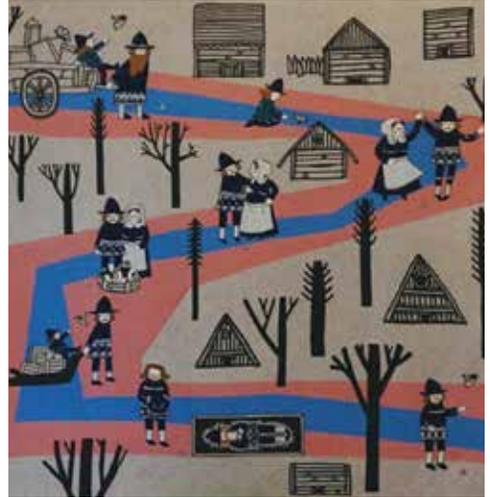
## Tilleke Schwarz Embroidery

11 July – 6 September



## The Next Verse - Stewart Easton

11 July – 6 September



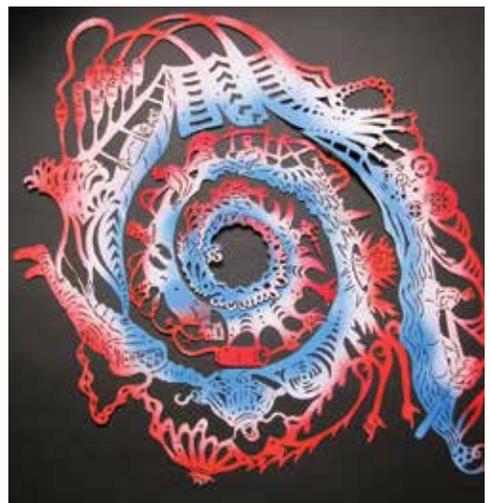
## The Hospital in the Oatfield: Paintings by Victor Tardieu

12 September – 1 November



## Burnt Out - Helen Snell

12 September - 1 November



# Our Chair

## Deborah de Haes



*It's at this time of year that I particularly appreciate BMT's six Heritage Sites and the beautiful settings in which they are placed.*

Birmingham has always been a very green city and these sites are significant contributions to this. They also give us a strong feel for how the City appeared in centuries past. The new model of Heritage Tours is settling down well and Birmingham Museums Trust (BMT) has produced a very helpful leaflet which explains exactly how these tours work (see page 23 for more information). Alternatively you can look it up on the BMT website. I strongly urge you to rediscover these beautiful places, especially if it is a while since you have been. Remember, entry is free to Friends.

We are still active in our search for new members and have now given quite a few Ambassadors' presentations, which have been well received. If you know of a local organisation who would like one of these presentations, please do contact Melissa in the Friends' Office. We offer an interesting and wide-ranging presentation that includes information about all the museums that form part of BMT, as well as about the Friends, so is of general interest to a wide group of people. We look forward to hearing from you!

We are also reviewing our Events Programme to ensure it remains relevant to our membership as a whole. In this context, I am delighted that Barbara Preece has agreed to become our new Events Co-ordinator and is embracing this agenda wholeheartedly. She comes with great energy and lots of ideas, so over the coming months you may see new types of events taking place. If you have things to suggest, I am sure she would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact the Office in the first instance.

In the last edition of *Artefacts* I mentioned the contribution the Committee had agreed to make towards the new Children's Museum in BMAG. We have now seen some early designs for this and it should be an exciting space for the under-5s and their parents and carers. It is also being designed very flexibly so that it can be used for other audiences at different times of day. It is hoped that it will be fully open in the autumn and I am very much looking forward to seeing it.

If you have not seen it yet, do go and see the 'Love is Enough' exhibition. It is an amazing example of how an inspirational curator can make works of art come alive in completely new ways. The extremely unusual juxtaposition of works by William Morris and Andy Warhol has been curated by Jeremy Deller, 2004 Turner prize winner. The result is stunning, with many iconic works in the exhibition, including of course the Holy Grail Tapestries, a rare occurrence even in their home city.

This is the last edition of *Artefacts* to be published in this format as we are planning to move to A4 format for the next edition. Now that we have such high quality images available, we will be able to produce stunning A4 size pictures which will further enhance the impact of *Artefacts*. We will also have room to include a wider range of interesting articles, including focusing on particular artists, works of art or aspects of our heritage, as well as on partner organisations, and our much-valued and hard-working volunteers. *Artefacts* will still be a primary channel for informing members of events and how to book on them, but it will be much more besides. A4 size will have the added benefit of being more attractive to our advertisers, current and future, helping the magazine to remain viable long into the future.



We are delighted that former BMT Curator, David Symons, has agreed to give our Annual Lecture this year (see

full details on page 10). A global authority on the Staffordshire Hoard, David will be updating us on what has happened so far, the progress of the research and conservation, and the stories that are unfolding about this most exciting of finds, six years on. So reserve the date (9th November), and see you there!

I wish you a sunny, artistic and heritage-filled summer. ■

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support-us/friends  
Reg. Charity No. 528895

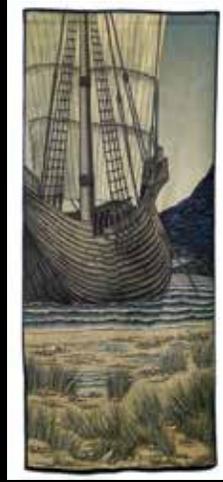
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'The Ship' Designed by Edward Burne-Jones, William Morris and J H Dearle for Morris & Co., from 1890. Woven for Mrs Middlemore, 1900. Wool, silk, mohair and camel hair weft on cotton warp. Presented by Miss Evangeline Middlemore (1947 M 52) © Birmingham Museums Trust

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Sun sparkle reflections  
in the Dysynni reed beds

# SUNLIGHT!

AN EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS  
BY ROBERT PERRY RBSA

New adventures in paint, composition, colour and location. In addition to recent examples of Perry's acclaimed Black Country Visions, this exhibition features an exciting new series focused on the phenomenon of intense sunlight and its effects in the context of coastal scenes, rivers, reflections, skies, mountains and other landscape features. As always, these paintings are completed on site during the course of Rob's travels in his famous mobile studio van. The paintings for sale range in size from A3 to 48x96 inches and are mainly in oils or gouache.

## "MEET THE ARTIST" SESSIONS

11.00am-1.00pm & 2.00pm-4.00pm Wednesdays 21st & 28th  
October 2015 & Saturday 31st October

Guided tours of the exhibition for educational or other interested groups can also be arranged at alternative times by contacting the artist direct on 01384 274751 or mobile 07951 200 513 email [robertperry.artist@btinternet.com](mailto:robertperry.artist@btinternet.com) [www.robertperry-artist.co.uk](http://www.robertperry-artist.co.uk)

RBSA Gallery, 4, Brook Street,  
St Paul's, Birmingham. B3 1SA. Tel 0121 236 4353

**EXHIBITION DATES:** 19th – 31st October 2015  
**OPENING TIMES:** Monday-Friday 10.30am-5.30pm  
Saturday 10.30am-5.00pm  
Sunday 1.00pm-5.00pm  
**Free Admission**



## At Home with Vanley Burke

22 July – 27 September 2015

Ikon Gallery  
1 Oozells Square, Birmingham B1 2HS  
[www.ikon-gallery.org](http://www.ikon-gallery.org) / 0121 248 0708  
Tuesday – Sunday, 11am–5pm, free entry

# IKON

Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon, registered charity no. 528892. Supported using public funding by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. Exhibition supported by the Mill Dam Trust and funds raised through Art Happens, the Art Fund's crowd-funding platform.



# Forthcoming Friends' Events

## 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.

## Daytrip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park



*Thursday 6 August 2015.* Yorkshire Sculpture Park is a pioneering place that aims to challenge, inspire, inform and delight, welcoming over 380,000 visitors – including 40,000 learning visits – each year.

The exhibition on display is *Henry Moore: Back to a Land*. In Partnership with The Henry Moore Foundation, it includes some original drawings. Moore was radical and influential in showing sculpture in the landscape

such as *Large Two Forms* which is displayed in the Country Park setting, against dramatic views and changing skies.

To look out across carefully designed vistas in the parkland, to chance upon a sculpture in the landscape, to make personal discoveries whilst seeing and touching sculptures by some of the leading artists of the 20th century – there is nowhere else like Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

This is a full day out starting at around 8:00am and returning back into Birmingham at approximately 7:30pm. The day will include coffee/tea and Danish on arrival. There will be plenty of free time to explore the exhibition, the grounds and the shop. There will also be time to enjoy a picnic lunch or to purchase lunch from the restaurant. A guided tour has been arranged for 2:00pm.

**Cost:** £28 – Includes coach, driver's tip, refreshments on arrival and afternoon tours.

**Pick-up Point:** Yateley Road, Harborne @ 8:00am; or Chest Clinic, Gt Charles Street @ 8:15am.

This event is open to non-members.

## The Pen Museum and the RBSA

*Monday 10 August 2015.* Birmingham was the centre of the world pen trade for more than a century, employing thousands of people and pioneering craftsmanship, manufacturing processes and employment opportunities for women. The availability of cheap pens enabled the development of education and literacy throughout the world. The Birmingham Pen Trade Heritage Association, set up after enthusiasts met during a radio broadcast, has created The Pen Museum, to ensure that this important part of Birmingham's history receives the recognition it deserves.

The RBSA has a Portrait Prize Exhibition. We will be welcomed on arrival with refreshments and, if an

exhibiting artist is available, they will be booked to discuss a selection of their portraits on display or examples of their own work.

**Cost:** £9 – Includes a talk at Pen Museum and refreshments on arrival at the RBSA.

We will meet at the Pen Museum, The Argent Centre, 60 Frederick St., Hockley, B1 3HS at 2:00pm. Buses 82, 83, 87 and 89 from Colmore Row and 101 from Livery St. pass within 50 yards – alight in Graham St.

## Friends Guided Tours

These tours are exclusive to Friends and cost £9. Please note that lunch is not included in these events. Friends will meet in the Round Room at 11am.

### **Guided Tour (130) - 'British Art in the early 20th century' by Jane Howell**

*Tuesday 22 September 2015.* In this tour we shall look at the different events, such as the First World War, that influenced British artists. We shall explore the ideas through the work of Paul Nash, Stanley Spencer and others. Hopefully, by the end of the tour, we will all appreciate what a wonderful creative period this was.

### **Guided Tour (131) - 'Stanley Sellers Bequest' by Fiona Slattery Clark**

*Tuesday 18 August 2015.* Stanley Sellers supported Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, volunteering as a Friend for many years. On his death in 2013, he bequeathed his art collection to Birmingham Museums for the people of his beloved city and beyond to enjoy.

His art collection decorated the home he shared with his lifetime partner, conductor Richard Butt (1928-2010), walls covered in prints and drawings, and bookshelves and tables filled with studio ceramics. During his retirement, Stanley became a potter and examples of his ceramics are included in this display.

Throughout his life Stanley was passionate about art. As a young man he visited St Ives in Cornwall where he met several artists including Barbara Hepworth with whom he became close friends, and Bernard Leach whose pottery inspired him to collect ceramics.

This display brings together 78 pieces of studio ceramics made by 29 potters working in England and Wales during the 20th Century. Highlights include Bernard Leach's rustic '*Leaping Salmon*' vase, Austrian-born Lucie Rie's brightly-coloured modernist bowls, and John Ward's bold, geometric pots. There are also studio ceramics made by potters in the Midlands including a raku bowl by university lecturer and published author, David Jones.

## Evening Events

This set of Friends of Birmingham Museums evening events will be held at a number of different venues. The talks will start at 6:30pm and will last up to two hours. Please see below for more information. Refreshments will be served at each event.

### **'Love is Enough' – Lisa Beauchamp, Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, BMT**

*Tuesday 28 July 2015, 6:30-8:30pm (advertised in the Spring 2015 Artefacts and rescheduled from 2 June 2015).* Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, Lisa Beauchamp, will discuss the ideas and framework behind the exhibition '*Love is Enough: William Morris and Andy Warhol*'. '*Love is Enough*' draws together iconic and rarely seen works by two giants of the 19th and 20th centuries. This exhibition sees Birmingham Museum Trust's set of beautiful Holy Grail Tapestries displayed together for the first time since 2008. This is a unique chance to see these extremely rare light sensitive works – which will not be on show again before 2020. This unconventional combination of artist's work is curated by Turner-prize winning artist Jeremy Deller who cites Morris and Warhol as his two greatest artistic influences.



**'The Failure of Sir Gawaine; Sir Gawaine and Sir Uwaine at the Ruined Chapel', part of a set woven for Laurence Hodson of Compton Hall, Wolverhampton, 1895-6, © Birmingham Museums Trust**

**Venue:** Edmunds Lounge Bar, 106-110 Edmund Street, Birmingham, B3 2ES, [www.edmundsbar.co.uk](http://www.edmundsbar.co.uk).

**Cost:** £9 for members; £12 for non-members. The ticket price includes a glass of wine and a slice of pizza. Please note – this event has been rescheduled from 2 June 2015. Those who booked for the event on 2 June need not reapply.

**'The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists' – Viv Astling, Sculptor, RBSA**

*Tuesday 1 September 2015, 6:30pm-8:30pm.* The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists (RBSA) is an artist-led charity which supports artists and promotes engagement with the visual arts through a range of inclusive activities: exhibitions, workshops and demonstrations. The Society owns and runs its own exhibition venue, the RBSA Gallery, located just off St Paul's Square, near Birmingham's historic Jewellery

Quarter and a short walk from the city centre, which is where this evening event will be taking place. The evening will begin with an introduction to the RBSA, followed by a guided tour of the exhibition in gallery 2 - *'Stones @ Home in the garden'*, led by the sculptor Viv Astling RBSA, whose work will be included in the



**Rebuilding Icons © Viv Astling**

exhibition. Viv Astling will talk about working methods, tools and materials. The Print exhibition in gallery 1 and the ground floor exhibitions and craft gallery will also be open for viewing. Ticket price includes a drink and light nibbles.

**Venue:** RBSA Gallery, 4 Brook Street, St Paul's, Birmingham, B3 1SA. (NB. Free on street car parking is available around the gallery after 6pm).

**Cost:** £9 for members; £12 for non-members. Refreshments will be served.

**'Paradise Birmingham – At the Historical Heart of the city' – Adam Willetts, Argent (Property Development) Services LLP**

*Wednesday 16 September 2015, 6:30pm-8:30pm.*

The most important city centre development in the UK outside of London, *Paradise* is to be transformed into a vibrant mixed use development of commercial, civic, retail, leisure and hotel space, providing major improvements to pedestrian access and greatly enhanced public realm befitting its exemplary historic setting.



**View of One and Two Chamberlain Square**

Detailed planning applications for the first two buildings in the scheme and the associated public realm, will shortly be submitted to the City Council. Adam Willetts of Argent will present details of the entire project and highlight the proposed design of One and Two Chamberlain Square together with the outstanding associated public spaces.

The significance of the historic setting of *Paradise* is, quite simply, unequalled in Birmingham and, possibly,

any other regional city. Situated amongst one of the finest collections of Victorian civic buildings to be found anywhere in the UK, *Paradise* delivers new public streets and squares to enhance the setting of these landmark buildings.

One of the biggest development schemes Birmingham has seen for a generation, *Paradise* will dramatically transform this entire area of the city. Leading Birmingham's renaissance, the transformation of *Paradise* will bring new life and vitality to the historic centre and deliver the best working environment in the city.

**Venue:** The event will be hosted by Brewin Dolphin in their offices, which are located near Snow Hill station (9 Colmore Row, Birmingham, B3 2BJ). The entrance to Brewin Dolphin is on the left hand side as you approach the station entrance – you'll see revolving doors. On arrival, if you could let the security guard on reception know your name, and that you are here to see Brewin Dolphin, and you will be sent up.

**Cost:** £9 for members; £12 for non-members. Refreshments will be served.

**'Pens, People, and Production' – Larry Hanks, Chairman, Pen Museum**

*Tuesday 29 September 2015, 6:30pm-8:30pm.*

The Pen Museum is run by an all-volunteer charity, The Birmingham Pen Trade Heritage Association, which opened the Museum in 2001 to preserve the history and legacy of the steel pen trade in Birmingham. The museum contains an amazing collection of over 5,000 objects related to the Birmingham Steel pen trades and the history of writing. Located in the Jewellery Quarter's historic Argent Centre, itself once a major pen factory, the Pen Museum attracts an average of 10,000 visitors per year. Join Chairman of the Pen Museum, Larry Hanks, for a talk about the Development of the Steel Pen Trade, and to find out more about Birmingham's role in the information revolution. The event will include a tour of The Pen Museum.

**Venue:** Pen Museum, Birmingham, Unit 3, The Argent Centre, 60 Frederick Street, Birmingham, West Midlands B1 3HS. [www.penroom.co.uk](http://www.penroom.co.uk). (See page 7 for bus information).

**Cost:** £9 for members; £12 for non-members. Refreshments will be served.

**'The Making of a Transport Museum' – Bill Lane, Board member of the Tramway Museum and Friends Trustee**



**Stone workshop then and now**

*Tuesday 20 October 2015, 6:30pm-8:30pm.* Crich Tramway Village, home of the National Tramway Museum, has grown from a disused mineral railway into an internationally recognised designated museum. This transformation has taken 50 years and the dedication of the member lead organisation that own and run it. Our Trustee and Board member of the Tramway Museum Society will guide us through this 50 year transformation.

**Venue:** Edmunds Lounge Bar, 106-110 Edmund Street, Birmingham, B3 2ES, [www.edmundsbar.co.uk](http://www.edmundsbar.co.uk).



**The street then and now**

**Cost:** £9 for members; £12 for non-members. The ticket price includes a glass of wine and a slice of pizza.

## Annual General Meeting

*Tuesday 4 August 2015, 6pm for 6:30pm.*

The meeting is free of charge. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available prior to the meeting from 6:00pm. After the meeting, Lauren Deere will talk about her role as Museum Manager at Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum, and will discuss how the museum has evolved since opening in 2001 and how it plans to develop to meet the challenges of the future. If you have not already booked please complete the application form in this mailing and return it as soon as possible.

**Venue:** Learning Zone, BMAG.

## Friends' Annual Lecture

**'The Staffordshire Hoard: The First Five Years' - David Symons**

*Monday 9 November, 6pm.* David read Ancient History and Archeology at Birmingham University and after graduating he started work in the Museum's Archeology Department where he remained for the next 38 years until he left in spring 2015. He is now a freelancer. In 2009, his life was transformed when Terry Herbert, a metal detector user, found the Staffordshire Hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold and over the next 5 years he worked virtually full time on the Hoard, collaborating on a series of exhibitions that have now been seen by over a million people. In this lecture he will explain what went on behind the scenes in the earliest days of the find, when it was vital to keep it a secret (to protect the site), and what it was like when news of the Hoard was finally made public. He will also discuss what has been learned about the Hoard so far, and describe some of the more interesting and unusual things that happened to him along the way.

**Venue:** Council Chamber, Council House

**Cost:** £13. An application form is included. The Lecture is open to non-members.



# New Baroque Galleries

Venue: Galleries 24 and 25, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Dates: From 18th June 2015

'It's been a real privilege and a great opportunity to work with the collection of Baroque art at BMT. I'm hopeful that the rehang will draw new attention to these works, and give greater prominence to what is a truly outstanding collection', says Helen Hillyard, National Gallery Curatorial Trainee supported by the Art Fund, as she reflects on the new Baroque galleries that are about to open.

The rehang represents the first major redisplay of the Baroque Galleries in nearly a decade. The spaces will be repainted and relit, creating a dramatic backdrop for masterpieces of the 17th century collection; drawing together painting, sculpture and applied arts. Over 40 works will go on display, some familiar and others less so, as nearly half are coming out from store.

Both the rehang and the trainee post itself are the products of a successful partnership with both the National Gallery and Art Fund. Launched in 2011, the traineeship aims both to support the next generation of curators and increase expertise around Old Master painting within regional museums. The traineeships are 22-months in total, with the first 6 months spent at the National Gallery and the latter part at a regional host institution where the trainees work towards a specific project. With a reduction in resources across many museums and with curators finding increased demands upon their time, the traineeships have become an important vehicle for carrying out new collections research whilst also providing a vital link with subject-specific expertise at national museums.

'Of course, visitors won't see the huge amount of research that led to the rehang', says Helen, 'I've tried to fill in the gaps in our knowledge around these paintings: who painted them, what they depict, and where they've been. I've updated our documentation and files, but ultimately the audience will only see the end product, which is what goes into the 60-word label. However, this information will be invaluable to future researchers and curators'.

Helen's research into the Dutch paintings in particular was furthered by a visit to the archives at the Netherlands Institute of Art History in The Hague, funded by the Subject

Specialist Network for Pre-1900 European paintings. For everything that wouldn't fit into the rehang, she has also created the research blog 'Birmingham Baroque' (<https://birminghambaroque.wordpress.com/>), as a way of disseminating new information on the collection.

Helen hopes that the display itself will encourage audiences to see these works in a new light: 'I want the galleries to be much more dramatic and exciting, and give a real sense of the radical artistic developments across all art forms during the period'. The final display will have more objects than previous hangs and will show paintings, sculpture and applied arts side-by-side. The presentation of sculpture is generously supported by the Henry Moore Foundation, whose grant has enabled the purchase of new cases and mounts.

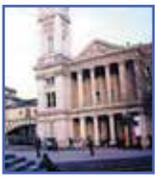
Masterpieces that will be coming out from store for the redisplay include works by some of the best-known artists of the period, including, Peter Paul Rubens' *'King James I Uniting England and Scotland'*; Claude Lorrain's *'Landscape near Rome with a View of the Ponte Molle'*; and Bartolomé Esteban Murillo's *'The Vision of Saint Anthony of Padua'*. It will also introduce some lesser known, but equally impressive paintings, such as Pierre Hubert Subleyras' *'Saint John of Avila'* (pictured).

'I'm hopeful that the redisplay will give new life to these paintings, and really encourage visitors to stop and take a closer look. I'm both incredibly nervous and excited to hear what people think!' says Helen. Visit Galleries 24 and 25 at BMAG to see the new display. ■

By Helen Hillyard, National Gallery Curatorial Trainee supported by the Art Fund, Birmingham Museums Trust

April 2015





# News From the Office

## BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Free entry to special exhibitions in Gas Hall
- Free entry to all our Heritage Sites
- Artefacts magazine four times a year
- Opportunity to join the many Friends' social events and outings
- Opus Restaurant (Cornwall Street, near the Museum) is offering a 10% discount to Friends on production of a valid 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](http://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank)
- Shakespeare Birthplace Trust shops (excluding admission prices) [www.shakespeare.org.uk](http://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](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk)
- Potteries Museums & Art Gallery shops/café's [www.stokemuseums.org.uk](http://www.stokemuseums.org.uk)

## GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Available all year round and includes 3 extra months free. A Gift Membership form can be downloaded at

[www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/support-us/friends](http://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/support-us/friends). Alternatively, you can use the standard application form in this magazine. Complete the form with the recipient's details and send it with a covering note giving your own name and contact details.

## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our new members: Mr MW & Mrs J Simcox, Mr P & Mrs E Pratt, Miss M Wilson, Mrs BA Preece, Mr M & Mrs P Harper, Mr M & Mrs A Snell, Ms C Mann, Mr G & Mrs L Mantella, Mr R & Mrs SE Gravill, Mr RF & Mrs CN Morris, Mr C Durose, Mr JP & Mrs JB Lethbridge, Mr D & Mrs P Hoskins, Mr T Ward, Mrs J Cheek.



## FRIENDS OFFER

Opus has kindly extended their offer of a 10% discount for all Friends of Birmingham Museums, on the production of your Friends card, for a further year. This can be used for lunch or dinner service at the chic, 2 AA-Rosette Cornwall Street Restaurant and Café Opus, based at the Ikon Gallery in Brindleyplace. This is part of Opus' wider corporate support of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, currently in its sixth year.

## APPLICATION FORM: PLEASE WRITE IN CAPITAL LETTERS

Title . . . . . Name(s) . . . . .

Address . . . . .

. . . . .

Postcode . . . . . Tel. No. . . . .

Email address . . . . .

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY AND ANNUAL RATES (Please tick)

**SINGLE** £32 [ ]      **DOUBLE** (full rate Includes 2 children under 16) £48 [ ]

### CONCESSIONARY RATES

**SINGLE** £21 [ ]      **DOUBLE** £32 [ ]      **STUDENT** £15 [ ]

[ ] I enclose a cheque for £\_\_\_\_\_ or [ ] I have transferred £\_\_\_\_\_ to SORT CODE 30-00-06 A/C NO 00248432

Please tell us where you picked up a copy of Artefacts \_\_\_\_\_

Yes I am a UK taxpayer and would like this and any future donations to be tax effective under the Gift Aid Scheme until I notify you otherwise. (You must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that you donate to will reclaim on your gifts for that tax year. Other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. FB MAG will claim 25p of tax on every £1 you give.) Please send this completed form, together with your cheque made payable to F.B.M.A.G. to the address on page 4 of Artefacts.

# News

## From the Volunteers



Well summer is nearly upon us and we've just had the great pleasure of celebrating National Volunteers Week 2015!

This is an annual, national celebration taking place in the first week of June to mark and celebrate all the fantastic work that volunteers do up and down the country. Each year, Birmingham Museums Trust throws an annual Summer Picnic during this week – to thank the team and to announce the Volunteer of the Year award. This year we got very lucky and actually had blue skies for the event which took place in the beautiful gardens of Blakesley Hall.

I'd like to congratulate Margaret Lister who this year was the Runner Up for our Volunteer of the Year Award, as selected by Director of Engagement, Janine Eason. Margaret has been volunteering for about 8 years through the Friends and we are so grateful for her time. Congratulations also to our Winner, Helen Glenn, who volunteers with the Portable Antiquities Scheme as an Archaeological Finds Recording Assistant.

We've even had a couple of the team recognised in the Birmingham Volunteer Centre Awards, with Art Librarian Gill Irish and Gallery Fundraiser Phil Mellanby being awarded Runner Up certificates in the Long Term

Volunteer of the Year and Fundraising Volunteer of the Year categories respectively.

All that said, everyone who volunteers is a winner in my books so thank you ever so much to all our volunteers for everything that you do!

If you'd like to join the team, either by volunteering for the Friends or on other projects for the Trust then take a look here: <http://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/volunteering>.

For those of you keeping an eye on that page you may well have seen that recently we recruited for a role within the Friends. It was tough competition but I'm thrilled to introduce Barbara Preece as our new Events Co-ordinator. Barbara has been volunteering for some time with Birmingham Museums Trust and I have no doubts will do a wonderful job. Thanks, of course, go to John Pownall who is currently passing the baton!

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friends Volunteers Meetings in the Large Meeting Room at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery: Thursday 2nd July at 2pm and Thursday 1st October at 11am. ■

Alex Nicholson-Evans  
BMT Volunteer Development Team Leader



# Staffordshire Hoard Update

## Piecing together History: The Puzzle of the Anglo-Saxon Helmet

The Staffordshire Hoard Research Project is now in its final stage. In the six years since the Hoard was discovered by metal detectorist Terry Herbert in a Staffordshire farmer's field, a range of experts at Birmingham Museums and The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, assisted by a number of independent researchers, have undertaken the intensive task of cataloguing, cleaning, documenting and conserving each of the 3,500+ pieces of the treasure. Along the way they have made many discoveries, all while keeping the Hoard on permanent public display.

It had been hypothesised early on that some 1,500 thin silver fragments – some only millimetres across in size – came from a helmet. Extensive work by archaeologists and conservators means that this is now almost a certainty but will take months of painstaking work to complete. It is, amazingly, only the fifth such helmet ever found.

By reconstructing the helmet pieces, the team know that more secrets will be unlocked. It will allow researchers to understand to whom it belonged, the time period in which it was dismantled, and the delicacy of the craftsmanship. As the friezes were gilded with gold, it seems perfectly feasible that the helmet might have belonged to a prince or even, possibly, to a king. Why it was dismantled and hoarded away is unknown but its re-emergence, 1,600 years later, is an internationally significant event.

Pieta Greaves, Staffordshire Hoard Conservation Coordinator at Birmingham Museums, explains: *"Until we started fitting the pieces together we weren't even quite sure that we had a helmet, but we are now certain that we have most of it. We are missing some pieces including the iron frame, but we should end up with an academically respectable guesstimate of what it could have looked like. I think some form of reconstruction will prove feasible."*

The team had previously reconstructed a pommel cap (pictured) from 26 individual pieces, which included tiny bits of gold, silver, glass, garnet and niello work. Unusual for its bringing together of Anglo-Saxon styles with high British and Irish influences, it really is unique and an example of a craftsman showing off his skills.

In addition to this ground-breaking reconstruction work, the final stage of research will see experts conducting

contextual research on hoarding, undertaking a comprehensive study to understand the craftsmanship of the cloisonné cellwork, and carrying out a microscopic scientific analysis of as-yet-unidentified materials.

Deb Klemperer, principal curator at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, cannot stress enough the importance of the project: *"It's a massive jigsaw which takes a lot of painstaking research. It's of great significance, of world significance. It's incredibly worthwhile research and it puts Staffordshire on the world stage."*

The cost of this work is quite significant and it cannot be achieved without help from our supporters. Birmingham Museums Trust and Stoke-on-Trent Council need to jointly raise £120,000 to complete the project. So far, in a short amount of time, we have been able to raise £26,000, which proves to us that there is still an immense support for the Hoard amongst the public and visitors.

We would love your support for this project too. Every day, the Hoard changes our understanding of Anglo-Saxon history. Discoveries are being made that will inform and inspire future generations of scholar, researcher, enthusiast, museum visitor and schoolchild. By donating, you will be ensuring that history is made once again. You can make the helmet a reality.

**WAYS TO DONATE: By cheque:** Please make cheques payable to 'Birmingham Museums Trust' and address to Staffordshire Hoard Appeal, Development Office, Birmingham Museums, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH.

**By phone:** If you would like to make a donation by card, please call the office on 0121 348 8293 (9am-4.45pm, Monday – Friday)

**Online:** You can also donate, safely and securely, via Just Giving: <https://www.justgiving.com/Staffordshire-Hoard/>

**TOP: Section of reconstructed helmet band ©Birmingham Museum Trust**  
**BOTTOM: Front view of the reconstructed pommel © Birmingham Museums Trust**





# Director's Report

## Dr Ellen McAdam

Summer took its time icumen in this year. Now it's here, and the season is full-on across Birmingham Museums' nine sites. Staff at all the sites have been working on a full programme of activities which should appeal to a wide range of audiences, from real ale at Sarehole Mill to Morris and Warhol at BMAG.

Visitor figures for Birmingham Museums Trust increased by 27% in 2014/15 compared to the same period the year before. This means that there were 1.2m visits to the Trust's sites last year, an average of 25,000 per week. This is a 14% increase in attendance since we became a charitable Trust in April 2012. Old hands tell me that we haven't seen numbers like this since 2009.

The Staffordshire Hoard is, as predicted, a huge draw for visitors. We opened the new gallery in mid-October and it has already received over 120,000 visitors. The Hoard continues to attract press interest, and the news that Historic England launched a new appeal for the final phase of research received national coverage. This will allow the experts to complete and publish their extensive programme of research into this internationally significant find. There is more information on the appeal in this edition of *Artefacts*.

The Gas Hall exhibition this summer is *'Love is Enough: William Morris and Andy Warhol'*. Curated by the Turner Prize-winning artist Jeremy Deller, the show opened at the end of April to positive reviews. The exhibition includes Birmingham Museums' series of Holy Grail tapestries by Burne-Jones and Morris, which we show only once every five years for conservation reasons. I hope that Friends will take advantage of their membership to see this thought-provoking and beautifully presented exhibition.

As I reported in the last issue of *Artefacts*, we have secured a grant of £260,254 from the DCMS/Wolfson Fund to make a range of improvements to the Museum and Art Gallery, ensuring it is more accessible to people with disabilities and improving the overall visitor experience. The museum manager, Gurminder Kenth, is managing the project, which will happen over the summer and into the

autumn. Changes will include new automatic doors, crucial toilet upgrades, better wayfinding and interpretation, and the Friends-funded Children's Museum. There will be some disruption across the Museum and Art Gallery while this happens but staff are ensuring that it is kept to a minimum. Please bear with us while we make these exciting, and much-needed, improvements.

To coincide with National Volunteers' Week, we held our first Volunteers' Picnic in the gardens of Blakesley Hall in June. We wanted to say thank you to our great volunteers, who gave a staggering 3,429 hours of their time last year. Their generous contribution – in roles ranging from gardener or ambassador to conservation assistant, fundraiser and tour guide – is very much appreciated by Birmingham Museums Trust. They enable us to continue providing an excellent visitor experience in the face of challenging times. We are grateful to them for their dedication, passion and commitment.

Finally, I want to draw your attention to the redisplay of the Baroque Galleries. We have been hosting Helen Hillyard, our National Gallery Curatorial Trainee, supported by the Art Fund throughout her placement. Helen has curated the redisplay, supported in part by the Henry Moore Foundation. Alongside old favourites, it will bring out paintings and sculpture from store that have not been on display for some time. This is one of our most important collection areas, and certainly worth a summer visit (see the article on page 12 for more information).

I hope that the sun will shine on us all this summer and that I will see some of you in our museums over the coming months. Thank you to all our Friends for continued and unwavering support. ■

# APPLE STORE GALLERY



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# What's On Museum Events

## Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

*Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH*  
*Open Sat - Thu 10am-5pm and Fri 10:30am-5pm*  
*0121 348 8000*  
*FREE entry*

From Renaissance masterpieces and cutting edge contemporary art to Egyptian mummies and the iconic HP factory sign, 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 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.

### LOVE IS ENOUGH: WILLIAM MORRIS & ANDY WARHOL

*25 Apr - 6 Sep 2015*

*Gas Hall*

*FREE for Friends of Birmingham Museums*

*Admission charges apply for non-members*

This summer, take a once in a lifetime opportunity to see world famous masterpieces by two giants of art history, right in the heart of Birmingham.

Curated by Turner Prize winning artist Jeremy Deller, 'Love is Enough' brings together his two greatest artistic influences - William Morris and Andy Warhol.

Making surprising connections between this unlikely pairing, the spectacular exhibition explores the artists' common interests in mass production, popular culture and mythology.

Highlights include Warhol's iconic portraits of Marilyn Monroe and Elizabeth Taylor, plus archival material including a signed photograph of Shirley Temple posted to a 13-year-old Andy in 1941.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is Birmingham's series of Holy Grail Tapestries, produced by Morris & Co., and the only set in a UK public collection. Displayed together for the first time since 2008, don't miss your chance to view these rare and light sensitive works.

In partnership with Modern Art Oxford and supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England's Exceptional Award programme.

## Birmingham Museums Heritage Sites

This season, Birmingham Museums is proud to launch a new programme of Heritage Tours at its Heritage Sites. For prices, opening times and for more information, see [birminghammuseums.org.uk](http://birminghammuseums.org.uk)

## Museum of the Jewellery Quarter

*75-80 Vyse Street, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HA*

*Open all year round. Tue - Sat 10:30am-5pm. Closed Sun and Mon except Bank Holidays.*

*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.

## Aston Hall

*Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD*

*Open 28 Mar - 1 Nov 2015. See website for opening times and booking details.*

*Tour charges apply to non-members*

Discover the splendour of a grand Jacobean mansion on the 'Aston Experience' tour.

Take a tour through majestic state rooms, including the imposing Long Gallery, as well as the servants' quarters and beautiful gardens.

Hear captivating stories about the people who visited the Hall and learn about its central role in the English Civil War. Plus, don't miss the chance to get to grips with genuine 17th-century objects.

The exciting events programme and child friendly access makes Aston Hall the perfect place to visit with all the family.

## Blakesley Hall

*Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN*

*Open 28 Mar - 1 Nov 2015. See website for opening times and booking details.*

*Tour 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.

The Blakesley tour reveals the fascinating history of the

Hall and allows you to 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.

## Sarehole Mill

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

*Open 28 Mar - 1 Nov 2015. See website for opening times and booking details.*

*Tour charges apply to non-members*

Explore the idyllic childhood haunt of J.R.R Tolkien.

Take a tour around one of only two surviving working watermills in Birmingham and gain a unique insight into the lives of the millers who once worked here. On Wednesdays and Sundays, our volunteer millers demonstrate the mill in action.

Find out about J.R.R Tolkien's early life in Birmingham. Both the mill, and nearby Moseley Bog, were inspirations for his classic works *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*.

Today, the mill retains its tranquil atmosphere and the millpond provides a haven for kingfishers, moorhens, newts and herons.

## Soho House

*Soho Avenue, off Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B18 5LB*

*Open 28 Mar - 1 Nov 2015. See website for opening times and booking details.*

*Tour charges apply to non-members*

Discover the elegant Georgian home of the Birmingham industrialist and entrepreneur, Matthew Boulton.

The Soho tour provides a glimpse into Boulton's world, taking you into family and servants' rooms as well as lavish spaces in which he received his eminent guests, including 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.

## Weoley Castle Ruins

*Alwold Road, Weoley Castle, Birmingham, B29 5RJ*

The ruins at Weoley Castle are over 700 years old and are the remains of a moated medieval manor.

The site has been inhabited from the 12th century and, according to the Domesday Book, was part of the estates of William Fitz Ansculf. Weoley changed hands several times between 1485 and 1531 when it began to fall into disrepair. In the centuries that followed, stone from the castle was removed to build a nearby farm and the Dudley no.2 canal.

Today the site is a scheduled Ancient Monument of national importance.

The ruins can be viewed from a viewing platform. Direct access to the ruins is only available on special event days or, for groups and schools, by a pre-booked guided tour. Please call 0121 348 8120 for further information.

## Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

*Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham, B4 7XG*

*Open daily 10am-5pm Tel:0121 348 8000*

*Admission charges apply. Friends receive 50% off the entrance charge to Thinktank on production of a valid membership card.*

Thinktank offers an extraordinary, fun-packed day out for all the family. From steam engines to intestines, 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. With an ever-changing programme of demonstrations, workshops and events, there is always something new to discover.

## NEW Spitfire Gallery

*Now Open*

*Entry included in admission charge*

Uncover Birmingham's Spitfire Story - a new gallery opens sheds light on the Supermarine Spitfire Mark IX that hangs from the ceiling at Thinktank. Learn how Spitfires were built and about the science behind how aeroplanes fly.

Delve into the history of the Castle Bromwich factory and the local men and women who brought over 10,000 Spitfires to life. Plus, discover why the Spitfire is still so important today.

## Museum Collections Centre

*25 Dollman Street, Birmingham, B7 4RQ*

The Museum Collections Centre is where 80% of Birmingham's collections are stored.

There are free open afternoons from 1:30pm-3:30pm on the last Friday of every month. These must be booked in advance. Guided tours are also available by arrangement on other days. Please call 0121 348 8231 for more information or to book.

**For more information on all events, exhibitions and other activities, visit [birminghammuseums.org.uk](http://birminghammuseums.org.uk)**



## Birmingham Museums HERITAGE TOURS

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
<b>Museum of the Jewellery Quarter</b>	Closed*	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Closed	Open all year 10.30am–5pm
<b>Aston Hall**</b>	Closed*	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open 28 March – 1 November 2015 11am–3pm***
<b>Blakesley Hall</b>	Closed*	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	
<b>Soho House</b>	Closed*	Open in School Holidays	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	
<b>Sarehole Mill</b>	Closed*	Open in School Holidays	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open 28 March – 1 November 2015 12–4pm***

Please check the website before your visit to ensure the site is not closed for private hire. \*Except Bank Holiday Mondays \*\*Aston Hall is closed on the date of Aston Villa home games and for the Rugby World Cup (26–27 September 2015). \*\*\*Pre-booked tours only on term-time weekdays.

### Heritage Tours

In-depth tours led by expert guides.

<b>Available weekdays in term-time</b>	<b>Aston Hall</b>	<b>Blakesley Hall Soho House Sarehole Mill</b>
<b>Adult</b>	£8	£7

**Pre-booking essential on 0121 348 8263**

### Heritage Highlights Tours

Tours perfect for families.

<b>Available weekends and school holidays</b>	<b>Aston Hall Blakesley Hall Soho House Sarehole Mill</b>
<b>Adult</b>	£6
<b>Concession</b>	£5
<b>Child (under 16)</b>	FREE

**No need to pre-book**

### Museum of the Jewellery Quarter Tours

<b>Available Tue-Sat all year</b>	<b>Admission to galleries</b>	<b>Heritage Tour</b>
<b>Adult</b>	£6	£7
<b>Concession</b>	£5	£7
<b>Child (3-15 years)</b>	FREE	£3
<b>Child (under 3)</b>	FREE	FREE

## FREE ENTRY

- to visitor centres, cafés and grounds
- on community open days (see website for dates)
- on Heritage Open Days (Sat 12–Sun 13 September 2015)

Friends of Birmingham Museums are able to visit the Heritage Sites and attend the Heritage Tours free of charge on production of a valid membership card.

NB: You will need to book a time-slot for your Tour if appropriate.



# In The Area

## Exhibitions & Days Out

### Barber Institute

University of Birmingham  
Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TS  
Tel: 0121 414 7333  
[www.barber.org.uk](http://www.barber.org.uk)

#### INHERITING ROME

Until Sunday 24 January 2016. Look at one of the coins you're carrying today: you'll see the Queen's portrait facing right and Latin script around the royal head. It seems our coins have looked this way forever - and that's nearly true. But why? This exhibition uses money to explore and question our deep-seated familiarity with the Roman Empire's imagery. Britain is not the only nation, empire or state to channel ancient Rome in this way: the Barber's excellent collection of coins from the Byzantine Empire - as well as examples from Hungary, Georgia and Armenia - illustrate both the problems and possibilities of being genuine heirs of Rome.

Attempting to uncover the political uses of Rome's legacy, this exhibition encourages the visitor to ponder why we are so often told of the empire's importance - and whose interests such imagery serves.

### Ikon Gallery

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace,  
Birmingham, B1 2HS  
Tel: 0121 248 0708  
[www.ikon-gallery.org](http://www.ikon-gallery.org)

#### AT HOME WITH VANLEY BURKE

Wednesday 22 July - Sunday 27 September 2015. Ikon is pleased to present *At Home with Vanley Burke*, a unique exhibition from Birmingham-based artist Vanley Burke. The project sees the entire contents of Burke's flat in Nechells, north-east Birmingham, transported to Ikon's main exhibition space. Referred to as the

*"Godfather of Black British photography"*, Burke (b. Jamaica, 1951) is also a dedicated archivist and collector of objects relating to black culture in Britain. His flat's distinctive interior is an embodiment of his compulsive acquisitiveness. Displaying a vast collection of printed material - posters, flyers, publications - clothes, records, ornaments and countless other items, it provides an invaluable insight into Britain's African Caribbean communities. The countless objects that fill Burke's space, serve as a portrait of religious and political beliefs, artistic activities, fashions, leisure pursuits, food, health issues and many other aspects of everyday life. This exhibition reveals Burke too as a subject of his own enquiry.

Burke's collection stands as one of the most significant bodies of material in the city of Birmingham's Archives, and exists in part within the Library of Birmingham; the majority, however, remain in his flat near the city centre. From 22 July to 27 September these items are on public exhibition at Ikon, revealing a shared human experience and community identity that has long been hidden from view.

Burke's extraordinary career as an artist has carried him from capturing the streets of Handsworth, Birmingham during the disturbances of the 1980s to recording black life at the end of apartheid in South Africa. Arriving in Britain in 1965, Burke has documented the experience of black people in the UK for over 45 years, producing what is regarded to be the greatest photographic record of African Caribbean people in post-war Britain.

Commenting on the project, Vanley Burke explained: *"This flat is many things, it's an archive, it's a gallery, it's my home, it's where I collect a part of our history. History is part of a lived experience... it's those objects which might look so insignificant, so kitsch, but to a lot of people it contains so much information about how their parents lived."*



## AT HOME WITH VANLEY BURKE

Wednesday 22 July - Sunday 27 September 2015  
Ikon Gallery

A catalogue accompanies the exhibition – illustrated by the artist – alongside texts by Peter James, Curator of Photographs at Library of Birmingham, and artist Marlene Smith. *At Home with Vanley Burke* is supported by funds raised through Art Happens, the Art Fund's crowd-funding platform, and the Mill Dam Trust.

## The Herbert

Jordan Well, Coventry, CV1 5QP

Tel: 024 7623 7521

[www.theherbert.org](http://www.theherbert.org)

## THE STORY OF CHILDREN'S TELEVISION FROM 1946 TO TODAY

Friday 22 May 2015 - Sunday 13 September 2015.

Everybody has a favourite children's television programme or character. Television has helped to shape our lives, and many of its characters and stories have become woven into our culture.

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 Evesham Town Council

[www.battleofevesham.co.uk](http://www.battleofevesham.co.uk)

*The Story of Children's Television* is a highly interactive and family friendly exhibition which traces the fascinating history of children's television from its earliest days to the multi-channel world of today. The exhibition allows us to explore our relationship with these programmes, and how they were at the forefront of technological advancements in the wider world, looking in detail at animation, drama, puppets and factual programmes.

The exhibition brings together objects, memorabilia, merchandise, clips and images from iconic children's programmes. The original objects and characters span the decades, from *Mummy Woodentop* to the original *Tracy Island* model created on *Blue Peter*, *Gordon the Gopher*, *The Wombles*, *Rastamouse* and the singing veggies from *Mr Bloom's Nursery*.

The exhibition has been created by the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry and is supported by the *BBC*, *ITV*, *Kaleidoscope*, *The University of Warwick Department of Film and TV Studies*, *Ragdoll Productions* and the *Children's Media Foundation*.

## The Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum

Breadmarket Street

Lichfield

WS13 6LG

Tel: 01543 264 972

[www.samueljohnsonbirthplace.org.uk](http://www.samueljohnsonbirthplace.org.uk)

### A SPLASH OF INSPIRATION: BIRTHPLACE ARTISTS ON DISPLAY

Saturday 20th June – Monday 31st August, 10.30am – 4.30pm, Free entry. Encounter striking paintings and unexpected techniques by Art Workshop students displayed around the historic building

## Three Choirs Festival

Three Choirs Festival Office

7c College Green, Gloucester

Tel: 0845 652 1823

[www.3choirs.org](http://www.3choirs.org)

### THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL 2015

Saturday 25 July – Saturday 1 August 2015. For visitors and audience members, the Three Choirs Festival is a unique, immersive experience. Events take place throughout the day during festival week: you can start with a guided walk around the historic host city, take in an art exhibition or enjoy a lunchtime recital in a beautiful church, get on a coach for an afternoon concert somewhere in the surrounding countryside, be back in time for Choral Evensong or a tea-time talk, listen to an awe-inspiring choral and orchestral performance in a glorious cathedral setting, and finish with jazz and a drink at one of our more informal late night events.

Ticketing arrangements include season ticket options for the main cathedral concerts. The various cathedral services during the week are at the heart of the festival and are not ticketed; admission is free and all are most welcome.

Not everyone will want to sample everything that's on offer, of course, and there are plenty of options for those who prefer to enjoy the festival week at a more sedate pace. A range of catering is available in our Festival Villages and cathedral closes, which also offer shopping opportunities including selling exhibitions by local craft guilds. Further afield, Hereford, Gloucester and Worcester are all full of fascinating old buildings, museums and galleries to explore, together with a good selection of independent shops and plenty of pubs, cafés, wine bars and restaurants.



# The Samuel Johnson

*Birthplace Museum & Bookshop*

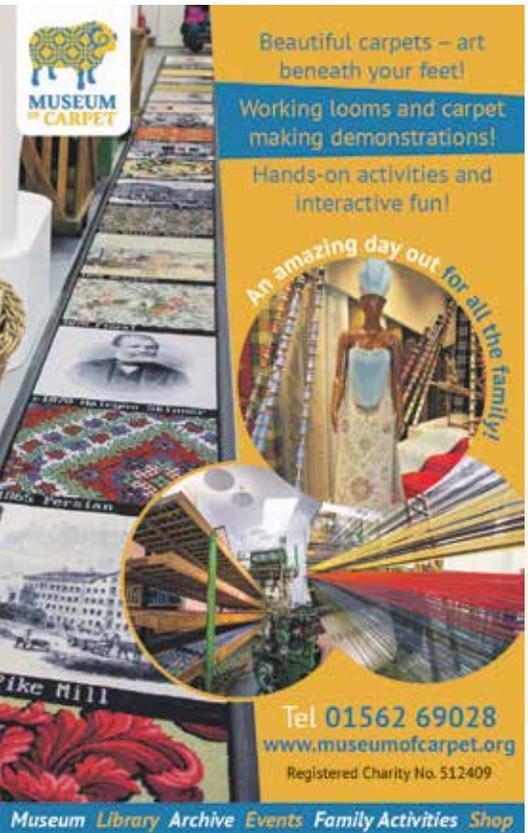
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The Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum  
Broadstreet Street  
Lichfield WS13 4LG  
call: 01543 264972  
email: [sjmuseum@lic.bhfd.gov.uk](mailto:sjmuseum@lic.bhfd.gov.uk)  
[www.samueljohnsonbirthplace.org.uk](http://www.samueljohnsonbirthplace.org.uk)

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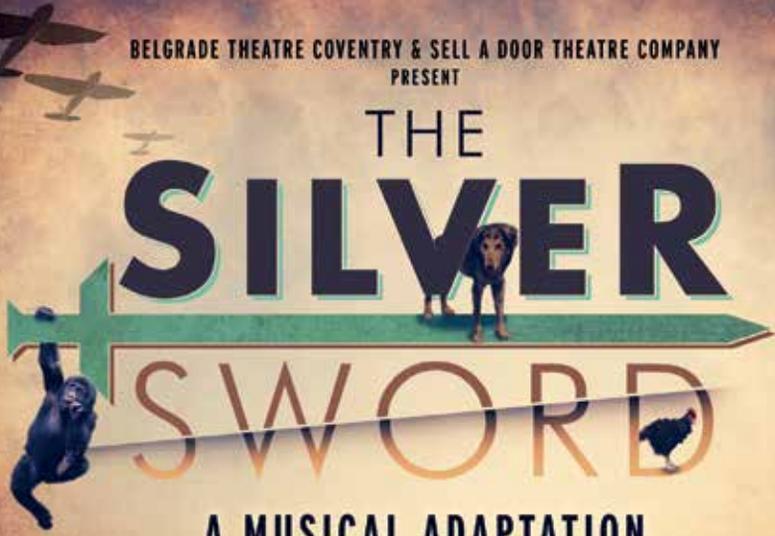
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## Worcester Museum & Art Gallery

Foregate Street, Worcester, WR1 1DT

Tel: 01905 25371

[www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk](http://www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk)

### WAY OF THE WARRIOR

Until Saturday 5 September 2015. A visually-stunning exhibition of arms and armour from epic historical movies including *Gladiator*, *Last Samurai* and *War Horse*. The armour and costumes are highly accurate reconstructions of warrior equipment and weapons spanning the last 2500 years. Put yourself in the picture by trying on some of our handling armour, from a gladiator helmet to a World War II backpack.

### AN ENGLISHMAN ABROAD

Until Saturday 31 October 2015. From pilgrimages made by the devout to the grand tours enjoyed by the upper classes, the men and women of Worcestershire have always wandered far from home. This exhibition examines the changing focus of these travellers and the countries that it has taken them to.

## Worcester Open Studios

Creative spaces across Worcestershire will be opening their doors to visitors this August bank holiday weekend as part of the inaugural Worcestershire Open Studios.

Over three days, from 29 - 31 August, the public are invited into the studios, homes and shared spaces of 70 local artists at 27 different locations. Access to all venues is free.

Worcester-based painter and print maker, Sally Morgan, who is one of the event organisers, said, "*Worcestershire Open Studios is a great way to meet local artists and view their work in an informal setting. Whether you're an art lover or someone who wouldn't normally set foot in a gallery, we encourage you to visit some of the venues near you.*"

In Worcester, a wide range of styles will be on show - from Heather Sweet Moon's quirky, mixed media figure sculptures and Frans Wessleman's stained glass to Karen Stone's fine art and Cherrie Mansfield's bold, abstract paintings. There's an opportunity to view some of the colourful and vibrant work created by internationally recognised artists, Paul Powis and Sara Hayward, and work from the Narrative collective of contemporary artists will be exhibited at two venues

Over in Inkberrow, visitors to John Harris' open studio are in for a treat. John regularly exhibits at several UK galleries and in the Middle East. Essentially a landscape painter, he has an abiding interest in subtle light, reflection and the transitory aspects of weather conditions. Wintertime, sees John adjusting his palette to the sun bleached vistas of Africa and the Middle East, where the unique atmosphere of desert, wadi, mountains and coastlines provide a refreshing change of scene.

In Shelsley Beauchamp, figurative painter, Melanie Williams will be opening up her studio. The countryside, in its many guises, is at the heart of her bold and uncompromising art. When she is not in her studio, Mel is out and about in the county's fields, farms and barns. Her intimate knowledge of nature and its ways is reflected in the freshness of her landscapes and in the solidity of the sheep, cattle, horses and cats that inhabit her paintings.

Work from Paul Langford's Thursday art class will be on display in the Boffy at David's Garden Centre, at Martin Hussingtree. And in Malvern, a group of print makers are teaming up for an exhibition of their etchings, relief prints and drypoint work at St Peter's Church, Cowleigh Bank.

Established art spaces like the Kestrel Gallery in Worcester, the Jinney Ring Craft Centre in Hanbury and Bridge House Art in Upton-upon-Severn will also be participating.

A full list of artists can be found at [www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk](http://www.worcestershireopenstudios.org.uk).



**THE THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL 2015**

Saturday 25 July – Saturday 1 August 2015

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Museum of Royal Worcester  
 Severn Street  
 Worcester WR1 2ND  
 T: 01905 21247

Open Monday to Saturday  
 March to October:  
 10am – 5pm  
 November to February:  
 10am – 4pm

[www.museumofroyalworchester.org](http://www.museumofroyalworchester.org)

Take a journey  
 though time with our  
 free audio tour and  
 mix with past Royal  
 Worcester Artists  
 who regularly work in  
 our galleries. Special  
 'Behind the scenes  
 visits', refreshments  
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 available for groups.



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**MUSEUM & ART  
 WORCESTER  
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**"Wedding Dresses  
 from Film and TV"**  
 18 July – 6 September

Wedding dresses worn by  
 Keira Knightley, Kate Winslet  
 and Meryl Streep. A must  
 see for the summer.

For further details please visit  
[www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/museum](http://www.nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk/museum)



# Focus On

Local Cultural Organisations

## National Trust in the West Midlands

Stephen Spinks is General Manager for the National Trust in the West Midlands and has responsibility for three properties in the area. These are Baddesley Clinton, Coughton Court and Packwood House. Here, he discusses his role and what it entails on a day to day basis together with the more general aims of the National Trust.

The role of General Manager is a very broad one. I oversee and lead properties focussing on conservation of historic collections and buildings maintenance, all commercial activity, gardens and estate management as well as overseeing the visitor experience in the broadest sense from whether we are telling our stories in exciting and innovate ways, down to whether the toilets look presentable and welcoming. I think the toilets and the basics are in fact some of the most important areas, as whilst the big picture keeps us focussed in our duty to protect the nation's heritage for ever for everyone, clean toilets, good food and tidy properties is what our 460,000 visitors a year also care about.

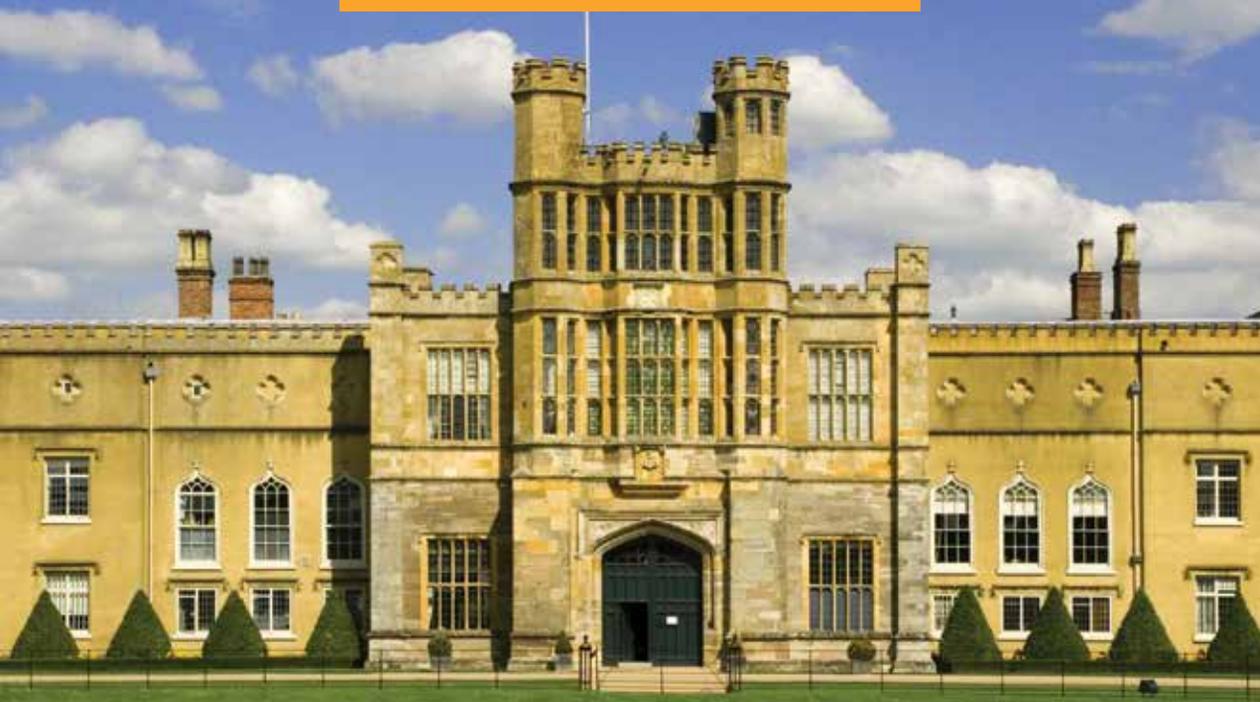
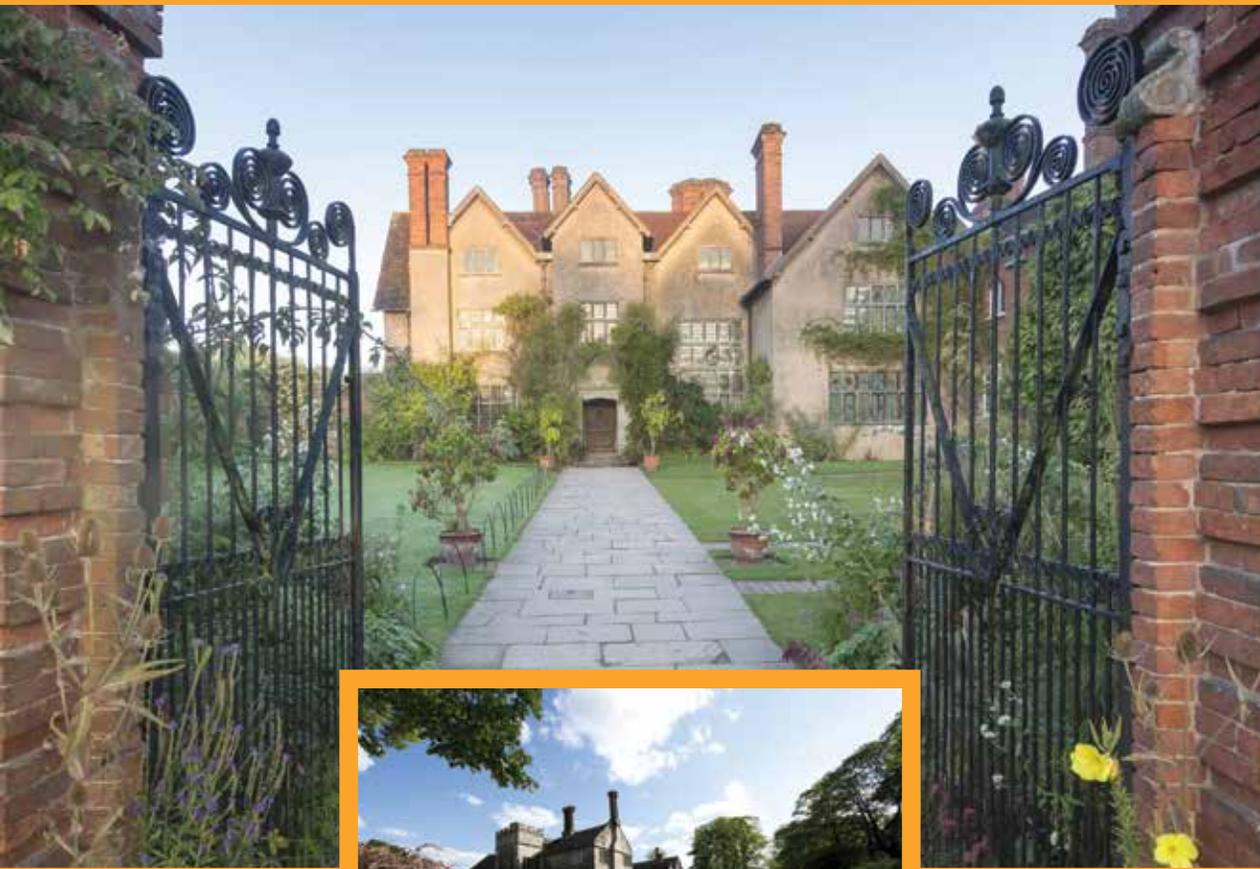
I have had the privilege of working at all three properties in my care in different roles for almost eight years, but it is only in the last year, since I started in my current role, that I have been able to lead all three together. Coughton Court, which was the first National Trust property I worked at in 2007 is a bit like your first love, unforgettable! Coughton is full of stories of Catholic intrigues, connections with the Gunpowder Plot of 1605 and is a house stuffed full of treasures. Baddesley Clinton, which I managed after Coughton, is magical as it is a Tudor manor house surrounded by a moat hidden in a valley of trees. It's a refuge where one can still truly seek solace from a busy world, and my many emails! At Packwood House, the breath taking Yew Garden with trees standing proud like giants of history makes my imagination run wild and I often end up thinking about Shakespeare's *'Midsummer Night's Dream'*. Picking a favourite is truly impossible.

Running historic properties always keeps you busy. All three properties are undergoing or have recently completed re-servicing works. Essentially, we are rewiring and carefully updating the medieval plumbing and heating systems to ensure the buildings are safe and fit for purpose. It creates many challenges. In the next couple of years we may need to reroof part of Coughton Court and this will be an ideal opportunity to look at an aspect of the property so rarely seen.

It is a very exciting time at the National Trust at the moment as we have a very clear mission to safeguard the nation's heritage for ever and for everyone. We are always looking at ways of opening our doors as much as possible throughout the year, and reaching out to a broad audience from all walks of life. We want to show off the properties so that people feel connected to them; whether that's a traditional visit to the gardens and historical collections, meeting friends for lunch in the café, taking a summer stroll or attending an outdoor theatre night or art class. There is nothing more satisfying when visitors, inspired by what they have seen, want to join the National Trust either by taking out membership, volunteering or taking up employment with us. I could not imagine working anywhere else. ■

By Jill Warren

For further information on the National Trust and its properties, please visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)







**North Prospect by William Westley 1732**

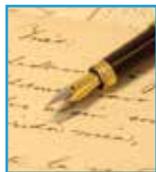
features photographs and details of the famous stained glass windows in the cathedral designed by Birmingham born pre-Raphaelite artist Sir Edward Burne-Jones and manufactured by the firm of William Morris & Co. They demonstrate Burne-Jones' immense skill and the fine craftsmanship of William Morris & Co. They are known for their vibrancy, the life-likeness of the figures, their ability to tell a story and their inspiring and dramatic qualities. The windows are an inspiration for both artists and Christians.

The Dean continued "We are grateful to our generous supporters and funders who have supported us in our

tercentenary this includes The Heritage Lottery Fund, The Arts Council and all of the cathedral volunteers and the wider community within Birmingham who have all played important roles." The Dean concluded with "I would like to welcome you to join us in this special, sacred place this year and may God bless you." ■

By Jill Warren

For details of forthcoming events at the cathedral please visit the website at [www.birminghamcathedral.com](http://www.birminghamcathedral.com) or contact Jane McArdle on [mcardle@birminghamcathedral.com](mailto:mcardle@birminghamcathedral.com)



# Friends' Diary Dates

## July

Tuesday 28 \* Evening Event: 'Love is Enough' – Lisa Beauchamp (rescheduled from 2 June)

## August

Tuesday 4 \* AGM  
Thursday 6 \* Daytrip to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park  
Monday 10 \* Daytime event: The Pen Museum and the RBSA  
Tuesday 18 \* Guided Tour 131: 'Stanley Sellers Bequest' – Fiona Slattery Clark

## September

Tuesday 1 \* Evening Event: 'The Royal Birmingham Society of Artists' – Viv Astling  
Wednesday 16 \* Evening Event: 'Paradise Birmingham – At the Historical Heart of the city' – Adam Willetts  
Tuesday 22 \* Guided Tour 130: 'British Art in the early 20th century' – Jane Howell  
Tuesday 29 \* Evening Tour: 'Pens, People, and Production' – Larry Hanks

## October

Tuesday 20 \* Evening Event: 'The Making of a Transport Museum' – Bill Lane

## November

Monday 9 \* Friends' Annual Lecture: 'The Staffordshire Hoard. The first five years' - David Symons

- \* 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  
Arterfacts: the  
Autumn 2015  
edition will be  
published  
in October



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## Barber Evening Concerts

Autumn 2015

*Celebrating 70 years of Barber Concerts*



Wednesday 28 October 7.30pm

### Binchois Consort: The Battle of Agincourt

Andrew Kirkman director

The Binchois Consort mark the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt (25th October, 1415), one of England's greatest military victories. The programme also brings the focus onto its victor, Henry V. Great warrior though he was, Henry – typically for his time – was also a major patron of the arts. Like early fifteenth-century life itself, the music of Henry's time is colourful and surprisingly varied: a world of energy, rhythm, drive and brilliance.

Wednesday 25 November 7.30pm

### Quartet Lab

György Kurtág  
String Quartet No. 1  
Bartók  
String Quartet No. 4  
Beethoven  
Quartet, Op. 127

Plus additional short chamber surprises, to be announced from the stage.

**"THESE ARE ALL SEASONED INNOVATORS. THEIR COMBINED VIRTUOSITY TOOK THE BREATH AWAY."**  
THE INDEPENDENT



Wednesday 9 December 7.30pm

### Pascal and Ami Rogé piano

**B** Birmingham International Piano Festival launch concert

Fauré  
Dolly Suite  
Debussy  
6 preludes (solo)  
Schubert  
Fantasie in F minor,  
Op. 103, D940

Mozart  
Sonata in C, K521  
Dvořák  
Four Slavonic  
Dances

**"Peerless pianism. The range of colours conjured up by the Rogé's was dazzling."**  
The Arts Desk

The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TS.

Admission: £18, £15 concessions, £12 Barber Friends, £5 students

Available from Barber Reception (0121 414 7333)

or via [www.barber.org.uk/concerts](http://www.barber.org.uk/concerts)

**barber.org.uk**