

# Artefacts

THE FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST MAGAZINE

AUTUMN 2014



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Birmingham  
MUSEUMS

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# Our Chairman

## Deborah de Haes



*How wonderful to see the Birmingham Municipal flag flying above Westminster Abbey on Friday 17 October, 2014, the day on which a memorial plaque to Matthew Boulton was dedicated, the first in the Abbey made of cast iron. 17 October was also the day on which the new Staffordshire Hoard Gallery was opened to the public, so quite a week for national publicity about Birmingham!*

Reflecting on this reminded me how much Birmingham Museums have to offer in scientific and industrial heritage. Sometimes I feel that we as Friends tend to focus on fine or applied art, perhaps forgetting how Birmingham was able to assemble such fine collections in the first place. All ideas on how to address this possible imbalance welcome.

I hope by the time you read this many of you will have had the opportunity to see the wonderful new Staffordshire Hoard Gallery. It is a display of amazing Anglo-Saxon craftsmanship and its interpretation. It has definitely been worth the wait and demonstrates how effectively more of the BMAG collections could be displayed with sufficient investment.

There have been some changes at the heart of the Friends since the last edition of *Artefacts*. Our Treasurer, John Nodding, who has been with us six years, has tendered his resignation on health grounds. We are hugely grateful for all the work he has done sorting out our accounts and putting new processes in place which now work very smoothly. We will miss him very much. If you know of anyone who may be interested in taking on this important role, please contact the Office.

We are also very sad that John Pownall has decided to resign with effect from next April (after the overseas trip, you will be glad to know). John has worked in the Friends' Office organising trips, editing *Artefacts*, and doing a myriad of jobs, including sorting out any IT problems, for over 20 years. We are enormously grateful to him for his enthusiasm, attention to detail and tremendous hard work, organising the high quality and interesting events, in the UK and overseas, for which the Friends have become renowned. John's shoes will be very difficult to fill but we wish him every success in his new ventures.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that Friends volunteers will from now on have access to all the training and support available to BMT volunteers. Alex Nicholson-Evans, Volunteer Development Officer for BMT, is very supportive of the work of the Friends and she and Yvonne Warner (one of the Friends' Trustees) have been working closely together to make this happen. It will mean that we shall be able to fulfil our legal obligations more easily, and there will be extended opportunities available to Friends' volunteers. This will also give us a wider pool from which to draw when we need new volunteers (as we do now), which will be a great help. We are delighted about this arrangement but will keep it under review and refine the details over time.

We still need new members, about which you will have heard me talk at the AGM. To this end, we have developed a presentation to take out to societies and groups across the City. We already have several bookings but if you know of a local group or society to whom we could give this 'Ambassadors' presentation about what the Friends is and does and how to join (not a hard sell!), then please contact Melissa in the office, who can make the detailed arrangements.

We are shortly introducing a 'PayPal' payment system, something often asked of us by the younger generation. It will be on a six month trial basis initially, so if you use it, let us know how you get on. It is a small step but we hope it may make a big difference.

BMT is facing increasing financial challenges every year and needs our support more than ever before. Let us rise to this challenge. Let us be proud of the Birmingham flag flying above Westminster Abbey and mobilise support back home. BMT needs us!

I wish you a happy autumn of browsing in the museum. ■

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# 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 FB MAG unless otherwise stated. Please also include a S.A.E. for the return of your tickets.

## The Delights of Budapest

*19-24 April 2015.* Next year's continental excursion will be to the beautiful city of Budapest. We will tour both Buda and Pest, visiting the main Museums and Galleries etcetera.

**Sunday 19:** Coach to Luton Airport for our direct scheduled Easyjet flight to Budapest where we are met by our guide who will accompany us on all transfers and included excursions. Subject to no changes to Easyjet schedules, on the way to Luton we will stop at Wrest Park, (English Heritage, Beautiful Gardens, get something to eat). From Budapest Airport we transfer to the centrally located 4\* Mercure Korona Hotel in Pest, very close to the National Museum. We will have four nights on a half board basis (including a cold plate on arrival), and one night on a B&B basis.

**Monday 20:** Our guided city tour of Budapest will reveal the characters of the once rival cities of Buda and Pest separated by the Danube. Starting in Buda, a city full of Baroque and Art Nouveau architecture, on Castle Hill we see the Coronation Church of St Matthias and the white stone Fishermen's Bastion.

In the afternoon we visit the spectacular Budapest Opera House in Pest, the work of the greatest Hungarian architect of the 19th Century Miklós Ybl, and with its neo-Classical and neo-Renaissance design it was one of the most imposing opera houses of its day.

**Tuesday 21:** Coaching North from Budapest today we explore the Danube Bend. Our first visit of the day is to Esztergom, one of the most historic towns in Hungary, which has seen a rich history, and there is not a single decade in millennial Hungarian history without reference to Esztergom's name, we visit the Basilica here.

We then continue to Visegrad, where we will enjoy free time to visit the Upper Castle, the Royal Palace and the museum in the Solomon Tower. We then travel to Szentendre where we have free time. The town is known for its museums (most notably the Open-Air Ethnographic Museum), galleries, and artists.

**Wednesday 22:** We visit the South East Asia Gold Museum with a guided tour on arrival. This museum is situated in Andrásy, this main road links the City Park to the City Centre, its design is based on the Champs Elysée and it is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In the afternoon we'll have a cruise lunch on the Danube with a welcome drink (extra drinks can be bought on board). This evening there may be an optional concert in Budapest (details TBA), or a possible chance to see the city and bridges illuminated.

**Thursday 23:** This morning we have a guided tour of the Hungarian National Gallery in the Royal Palace in Buda, which traces the development of Hungarian art from the 10th century, with an impressive selection of paintings dating from 19th and 20th century. The Museum of Fine Arts has announced it'll be closed from the 15/02/15, some of its most important works, though, will be on display in the National Gallery.

We then visit the State Parliament, for a guided tour, one of Budapest's finest architectural achievements

and the home of the Holy Hungarian Crown. We will see the splendid Session Room, the impressive central staircase and the wonderful Great Vaulted Hall.

**Friday 24:** This morning we visit the Sissi Palace in Gödöll. Built in the 1740s for the Grassalkovich Hungarian noble family by architect Andreas Mayerhoffer of Salzburg, the Royal Castle of Gödöll is a uniquely beautiful Baroque style castle and is the second biggest of this architectural genre in the world. At the end of the 19th century the castle was given to the royal couple Emperor Francis Joseph, the reigning king of Hungary, and Queen Elizabeth as a coronation gift. Queen Elizabeth, better known as Sissi, spent much time here.

Later we'll visit the Baroque Theatre, and then continue to Budapest airport for our direct scheduled Easyjet flight back to Luton and onward travel to Birmingham.

**Cost:** £930 in Double Room and £1050 in a Single (Supplement £120).

**Included:** Coach to / from airport, entrance to Wrest Park (EH), Tour Manager for transfers & day trips, 4\* Hotel (4 nights Half Board, 1 night B&B), entrance fees to Museums & places of interest on itinerary, gratuities for Tour Manager & coach drivers.

**Pickup Points:** Yateley @ 9:45am or Chest Clinic, Great Charles St @ 10:00am.

**Insurance:** Available for £36 per person – if not already held. (Maximum age 85).

An application form is included in the posted version of this magazine, please note that all cheques for this event should be made out to **Tailored Travel** and should not include monies for any other Friends' events. Applicants will be sent a form to complete with their Passport, Insurance details, dietary requirements etc (unless already known).

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

## British Museum – 'Ming: 50 years that changed China' Exhibition

*Friday 14 November 2014.* Please Note – This event was published in the Summer edition of Artefacts, there are still places available, please do not reapply if you already have tickets. This major exhibition explores a golden age in China's history. Between AD 1400 and 1450, China was a global superpower run by one family – the Ming dynasty – who established Beijing as the capital and built the Forbidden City.

There will be free time to spend in the British Museum or you could take the short walk to the British Library etcetera.

**Cost:** £35 – Includes coach, driver's tip and entrance to the 'Ming' exhibition at the British Museum. Note: If you do not want entrance to the exhibition please send just £23 for the coach.

**Pickup Points:** Yateley Road @ 7:45am; or Chest Clinic, Gt Charles St @ 8:00am.

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

## Museum of Carpets, Kidderminster and Morgan Motor Company, Malvern

*Thursday 11 December 2014.* The modern carpet industry was founded in the Kidderminster area in 1785 by Brintons, and the carpet industry became extremely important to the local economy, so much so that the local newspaper is still named *The Shuttle* after the shuttles used on the carpet looms. Although much declined by the end of the 20th century, the industry is still a significant employer in the area. Aided by a 2004 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the museum dedicated to the Kidderminster carpet industry was officially opened by Lord Cobham in 2012.

After time for lunch (not included), we will coach to The Morgan Motor Company in Malvern.

We have visited the Jaguar and JCB factories, now we are going to the equally well-known Morgan Motor Company, which was established in 1909 by H.F.S. Morgan with the design of the Morgan three-wheeler. A four-wheeled model began production in 1936, and Morgan cars have long become famous the world over for their unique blend of charisma, quality materials, craftsmanship and performance. We will have tours of the factory.

**Cost:** £33 – Includes coach, driver's tip, talk and tour at Museum of Carpets and tours of the Morgan Motor Company.

**Pickup Points:** Margaret St. (Side of BMAG) @ 9:15am; or Yateley Road @ 9:30am

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

## Eastnor Castle, Tewkesbury and Hanbury Hall (NT)

*Tuesday 3 February 2015.* Eastnor Castle is a 19th Century mock or revival castle, two miles from the town of Ledbury in Herefordshire, by the village of Eastnor. It was founded by John Cocks, 1st Earl Somers as his stately home and continues to be inhabited by his descendants. Currently in residence is the family of James Hervey-Bathurst, the grandson of Arthur Somers-Cocks, 6th Baron Somers. The castle is a Grade I listed building. We will have guided tours.

We will stop in Tewkesbury and have free time for lunch and a stroll around before we coach to Hanbury Hall.

Hanbury Hall is a beautiful William and Mary style house; it was built in 1701 by Thomas Vernon, a lawyer and Whig MP for Worcester. Discover the fascinating history of the key five generations of the family as you explore the house. From bigamy, love and excess,

there's something for everyone.

**Cost:** £32 – Includes coach, driver's tip and guided tour and refreshments at Eastnor Castle. Entrance to Hanbury Hall is not included, please bring you NT card, non-members pay on the day.

**Pickup Points:** Margaret St. (Side of BMAG) @ 8:30am; or Yateley Road @ 8:45am

This 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 (122) 'Walk on By' by Jane Howell

*Friday 12 December 2014.* We all have our favourite items but I wonder how often we pause to look at those works tucked away in a corner, or that just don't appeal at first glance. In this tour Jane will look at some of those neglected works and show how they can reward us for giving them a little attention.

We will meet in the Round Room at 11am.

## AV Room Talks

At 10:40am we will meet in the AV Room at the rear of Gas Hall for refreshments. The talks will start at 11am and last about 1¼ hours.

**Cost:** £9

These talks are open to non-members.

**'The Sultanganj Buddha 1864-2014' - Adam Jaffer**  
*Monday 15 December 2014, 10:40am.*



## Visit the last surviving courtyard of Back to Back houses any where in the West Midlands.

Experience the sights, sounds & smells, as well as hearing the stories of four different families who occupied the houses from the 1840's up to the 1970's.

With real coal fires in the grates & the opportunity to do the washing the Victorian way... a visit is must!

All visits are by guided tour only and advance booking is essential to avoid disappointment.

For bookings please telephone: 0121 666 7671

The property is open every day except Mon (apart from Bank Holidays) when we close on the Tues afterwards.

During school term time we are only open from 1pm on Tues, Wed & Thurs. Fri to Sun we are open 10am - 5pm. Last tour leaves at 3.45pm (maybe earlier in winter months).

### Admission Prices:

Gift Aid Adult £6.00 | Child £4.40 | Family £17.50  
Standard Adult £2.25 | Child £3.90 | Family £15.90



## IN MY CRAFT OR SULLEN ART Prints, Paintings and Drawings TESSA BEAVER

29 November 2014 - 22 February 2015



Image: Tessa Beaver, *Snow; Near Urbino II (detail)*, c.1970, oil on board

### Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

Royal Pump Rooms, The Parade,  
Royal Leamington Spa, CV32 4AA Tel: 01926 742700  
[www.warwickdc.gov.uk/royalpumprooms](http://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/royalpumprooms)



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02476 402015 | [info@coventrycathedral.org.uk](mailto:info@coventrycathedral.org.uk)  
[www.coventrycathedral.org.uk](http://www.coventrycathedral.org.uk)



## WORLD WAR ONE

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Worcestershire People

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14 March 2015

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MUSEUMS WORCESTERSHIRE



**Mattias Stom, An Old Woman and a Boy by Candlelight, Birmingham Museum Trust**

Adam Jaffer, Curator of World Cultures, will explore the significance of one of Birmingham's most important artefacts - the *Sultanganj Buddha*. His talk will reference his recent visit to Sultanganj in north east India.

**'Bringing new life to BMAG's Baroque Galleries' - Helen Hillyard**

*Friday 9 January 2015, 10:40am.* BMAG holds one of the most significant collections of 17th Century material in a UK public museum outside London. National Gallery Curatorial Trainee, Helen Hillyard, will discuss her on-going project to research and document this outstanding collection. She will provide an introduction to the Baroque period and the star works in the collection, before discussing her plans to re-display the works and the exciting new perspective

this will offer. Learn more about this fascinating era and ask your questions.

**'The Last Pre-Raphaelite? ER Hughes and Night with her Train of Stars' – Victoria Osborne**

*Tuesday 27 January 2015, 10:40am.* Nephew of Arthur Hughes, model to Dante Gabriel Rossetti and studio assistant to William Holman Hunt, the artist Edward Robert Hughes (1851-1914) lived and worked at the heart of the Pre-Raphaelite circle. The watercolours he exhibited in London just before the First World War – such as the fairy vision of *Midsummer Eve* (1908) and the gentle, floating figure of BMT's *Night with her Train of Stars* (1912) – are among the most familiar and often reproduced images in British art. Yet surprisingly, Hughes himself has remained largely overlooked. Join



**Edward Robert Hughes, *Night with her Train of Stars*, 1912 (Birmingham Museums Trust)**

Curator (Fine Art) Victoria Osborne for an introduction to this fascinating and neglected artist, and have a sneak preview of some of the paintings and drawings which will be displayed in next autumn's Gas Hall exhibition *Enchanted Dreams: The Pre-Raphaelite Art of Edward Robert Hughes*.

## Evening Talks

Edmunds, our usual venue for our evening events, is having a refurbishment, so the evening events in this edition of Artefacts will be taking place in different venues across the city centre.

**Cost:** £9 (£12 non-members).

### **'West Midlands Open 2014' – Katie Hall, Exhibitions Officer**

Wednesday 21 January 2015, 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

Venue: Six Eight Kafé. The *West Midlands Open* celebrates the diverse artistic talent of the West Midlands. There are a wide range of artistic techniques on display, including painting, sculpture, film, drawing

and printmaking. The artists range from students to established artists working internationally. Over 300 artists applied to be considered for the Open and from these an independent panel of judges selected 67 to be shown in the Gas Hall. There are three prize winners in the exhibition. Exhibitions Officer Katie Hall will discuss the *West Midlands Open 2014*, from the application process through to selection, the final exhibition and the artists themselves. (Please see 'Heritage Site Focus' on page 32 for more about this exhibition). The ticket price includes a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of cake.

Venue information: The talk will be held at Six Eight Kafé, 6/8 Temple Row, Birmingham, B2 5HG. [www.sixeightkafe.co.uk](http://www.sixeightkafe.co.uk) (NB: you will need to be able to use the staircase as the event will be held in the underground event space and the lift will not be available).

### **'The Jewellery Quarter: Adorning History' – Barbara Nomikos and Oliver Buckley, Property Manager, MJQ**

Tuesday 27 January 2015, 6:00-8:00pm.

Venue: Museum of the Jewellery Quarter (MJQ). Join

us at the MJQ for a fascinating talk on the history of the renowned Jewellery Quarter. The MJQ today is on the premises of the former factory of jewellery makers, Smith & Pepper, who closed their doors in 1981 after 80 years of trading, leaving behind a time capsule with all its original machinery, tools and papers. Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter is today a flashback to the early days of the development of the city, its craftsmen, manufacturers and retailers. In this illustrated talk discover the origins of Birmingham's jewellery trade and the development of the area and its jewellers. The talk will take place in the museums event space, a converted wedding ring makers factory. The ticket price includes refreshments.



**Museum of the Jewellery Quarter (MJQ)**

Venue information: The talk will be held in the Events Space at the MJQ, 75-80 Vyse Street, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HA. On arrival, you will need to come to the door on the left hand side of the main door of the Museum.

**'The Church that became a Cathedral' -  
Jane McArdle, Heritage Manager,  
Birmingham Cathedral**

*Wednesday 4 February 2015, 6:30-8:30pm.*

Venue: 1 Colmore Row - Birmingham Cathedral's Administrative offices

(NB. This is not onsite at the Cathedral).

A talk from Jane McArdle, Heritage Manager, on the history of this significant historic building, St Philip's, which was built in Birmingham in 1715, and the plans

for the celebrations of its tercentenary in 2015. The ticket price includes refreshments.

Venue information: The talk will be held at 1 Colmore Row, in Birmingham Cathedral's Administrative offices. The building next door to little Waitrose on Snowhill Plaza, on the right hand side as you approach the station entrance. You will be met in reception on arrival, from where you will take the lift up to the venue which is on the 8th Floor.

**'Enchanted Dreams: The Pre-Raphaelite Art of  
Edward Robert Hughes' -  
Victoria Osborne, Curator of Fine Art**

*Tuesday 3 March 2015, 6:30-8:30pm.*

Venue: Brewin Dolphin's offices

ER Hughes's *Night with her Train of Stars* (1912) is one of the most popular works in BMT's collection of prints and drawings, *Midsummer Eve* (1908) is another fine example of his work, but the artist who painted them has been almost forgotten. In this talk Victoria Osborne, Curator of Fine Art, will introduce Hughes's life and career and give the Friends a preview of autumn 2015's Gas Hall show *Enchanted Dreams*, the first exhibition of Hughes's work in over a century. The ticket price includes refreshments.

Venue information: 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.

## Things To Look Forward To

**Annual Lunch at the College of Food (UCB)**

*Thursday 19 March 2015.*

**Edward Robert Hughes, *Midsummer Eve*, 1908 (private collection)**





# Staffordshire Hoard

## Staffordshire Hoard Treasury Appeal

The Staffordshire Hoard was discovered in 2009, and is extraordinary in its scale, beauty and craftsmanship. Many of the Hoard pieces are extremely beautiful and incredibly detailed. The delicate decoration provides remarkable insights into the craftsmen who made and the warriors who owned these objects.

Thirty-three of the most iconic objects of the Hoard are dramatically displayed in the Treasury section of the new Staffordshire Hoard Gallery at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

### SHARING THE STORY

Birmingham Museums is partnering with the Jewellery Industry Innovation Centre, part of Birmingham City University located in the Jewellery Quarter, to create exact replicas of the iconic Hoard objects featured in the Treasury. These iconic objects will be replicated with the help of complex computer-aided design and manufacturing technology. Some replicas will be finished by hand, utilising Birmingham's longstanding tradition of jewellery-making skills. They will be displayed in the Treasury when the original objects are exhibited by other museums in the UK and abroad.

Capturing these objects digitally enables a range of replicas, including enlarged versions, to be produced for handling by visitors, including those with additional access needs. *"Being able to handle a replica artefact and examine the intricate designs close up enables visitors to experience the Staffordshire Hoard in a new way, and also critically widens access to the Hoard"* explains Staffordshire Hoard Conservation Coordinator, Pieta Greaves.

Please Give to Support this Innovative Work. It costs between £3,000 and £16,000 to create each replica, we

need to raise £150,000 to replicate sixteen key objects. To date we have raised sufficient funds to create three replicas: the Pectoral Cross, Cloisonné Eyes and Mystery Object. During the next few months we hope to raise £5,000 to create a replica of the famous Horse Head.

**£10** Receive a Thank You Staffordshire Hoard Postcard and Horse Head key ring.

**£50** A copy of the richly illustrated *'Beasts, Birds and Gods'* booklet exploring the animal art of the Hoard, signed by the authors.

**£250** Become a Staffordshire Hoard Guardian for a year, enjoy a special Staffordshire Hoard event and Bronze Patronage at Birmingham Museums Trust.

**£500** Enjoy recognition on a Replica Object Label and become a Staffordshire Hoard Guardian for a year. The perfect unique birthday or anniversary gift!

Send a cheque with a return address made out to 'Birmingham Museums Trust' with 'Horse Head Replica' on the reverse to Development Office, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square B3 3DH. To donate by card, please ring 0121 348 8293, or donate online at [www.justgiving.com/BirminghamMuseums-HorseHead](http://www.justgiving.com/BirminghamMuseums-HorseHead). ■

Thank you





# News

## From the Volunteers

### WELCOME

We welcome a new "Friend", (our previous Volunteer Coordinator) Shana Fidalgo's baby was born on 13 September 2014. We wish them all well and look forward to seeing them soon.

### APPOINTMENTS

Derek Street has joined the Personnel sub-committee representing Volunteers. He will represent the Volunteers agenda, so if you have any issues make sure they are raised at our Volunteers meetings and Ann Burness is providing the administrative support to the Committee. They attended their first meeting on 7 October and look forward to the invaluable support they will provide.

Volunteers Meetings:

- Tuesday 4 November 2014 at 2pm in the large meeting room/Birmingham Museum
- Tuesday 16 December 2014 (Christmas Party). Venue - Friends' Office.

### VACANCIES

Honorary Treasurer  
 Events Coordinator  
 Desk Volunteers  
 Organisational Ambassadors

For more information on these posts, please contact the Friends Office and leave a message for Yvonne Warner on 0121 348 8330.

### THE FUTURE

At our last Volunteers meeting we were joined by Alex Nicholson-Evans (Volunteer Development Officer-BMT) and discussions are now progressing in joining forces to work jointly on the volunteering agenda. WATCH THIS SPACE for new opportunities, developments and the exciting future. ■

Yvonne Warner  
Friends' Trustee and Volunteer

## Friends of Birmingham Museums – Annual Lecture 2014

"Not just a picture gallery"



This year we were treated to an all-too-rare chance to learn about the early history of the Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. Rita McLean, the last Director of the Museum Service (before she handed over to the Trust) gave a delightful history of Sir Whitworth Wallis, the first Director (then known as Keeper) of the Museum & Art Gallery.

Appointed at the age of 30, his credentials for the job were impeccable – born and raised in Handsworth, he was educated in museum work in the South Kensington museum (now the Victoria & Albert). He made frequent

visits to France, Germany, Italy and Egypt. After his death, still in post, at the age of 71, The Times wrote "He had curatorship in his blood".

Rita explained that Wallis was particularly successful in building the collection and extending the buildings through valuable donations by prominent local business people and other dignitaries. Especially noteworthy was the support provided by John Feeney, the newspaper man, whose funds enabled the Museum & Art Gallery to build the bridge and develop the extensive series of galleries we now know and love.

Rita showed some evocative photographs of the early years. We will not forget the scene in Whitworth Wallis' office showing him surrounded by apparent clutter including "Last of England" standing on the floor and leaning against the wall! You can still see his image on the right hand edge of the Corporation Street mural facing you at the top of the stairs from the entrance hall. ■

David Foster

# 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 (T&Cs apply):

- BM&AG and Heritage Site shops
- 50% entrance discount to Thinktank at Millennium Point [www.thinktank.ac](http://www.thinktank.ac)
- 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.museums.stoke.gov.uk](http://www.museums.stoke.gov.uk)

## CHRISTMAS GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Gift membership is available throughout the year and includes 3 extra months free. Christmas Gift Membership (valid 1 January 2015 to 31 March 2016) could make an ideal present to a friend or relative. A Gift Membership form can be downloaded at <http://www.bmag.org.uk/friends-of-bmag/christmas-gift-membership>. Alternatively, you can use the standard application form in this magazine. Complete the form with the recipient's details and send it with a covering note giving your own name and contact details. Please apply by Monday 15 December.

## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our new members: Mr N & Mrs M Finnigan, Prof P & Mrs J Jarratt, Mr SD Field & Ms C Ryall, Mrs SJ Hubbard, Mr T Dimambro & Miss R Foster, Mr R Kimberley, Miss E Clement, Mr P Spalton, Mrs P Collinson, Drs J & J Gray, Ms N Kalinsky, Mr DL Pratt, Miss R Jackson, Miss F Blakeman.

**Please note that BMT phone numbers have changed, details can be found on the contents page.**

## 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. FBMAg 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.

**DATA PROTECTION ACT -**

For membership and accounting needs your details are held on a computerised Database for Friends' Office use only.



# Director's Report

## Dr Ellen McAdam

In October we were very excited to see the launch of our new Staffordshire Hoard Gallery.

Supported with a generous donation from the Friends of Birmingham Museums Trust, the new Gallery showcases the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold ever discovered. Hundreds of newly conserved pieces from the Hoard and interactive displays will tell the story of the Hoard from its Anglo-Saxon warrior history to the cutting-edge conservation techniques continuing to unlock its secrets today.

We have launched our new brand creating a strong visual identity for Birmingham's museums. Birmingham Museums Trust as a whole is represented by a copper roundel filled with a calligraphic 'BM'. The design is based on the 1790 halfpence, struck at the Soho Mint by Matthew Boulton. Each of our sites has its own colourful logo with a design drawn from the displays and building. Watch out for the new logos on our Christmas leaflets and our brand new website. A special complementary Friends logo will be created for your next copy of Artefacts.

Our fundraising success continues with awards from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Collecting Cultures programme, Arts Council PRISM fund for conservation and redisplay of our Ichthyosaur skull, the National Historic Ships Register towards restoration of our Peacock narrow boat, and a major donation from a single private donor towards our Spitfire Gallery. We aim to raise the final £10,000 required for the Spitfire Gallery from a public fundraising campaign.

If you have yet to sample the beautiful and relaxing surroundings of the newly renovated Edwardian Tearooms, we have Anglo-Saxon broth and nettle tea winter warmers on the menu in honour of the Hoard Gallery. If that fails to whet your appetite, you can

sample locally sourced coffee, loose-leaf teas, and delicious cakes.

And finally, we are delighted to say that this year the Museum & Art Gallery will be celebrating Christmas in style. From November, our shop will sell new Birmingham Christmas cards based on our pictures from our collections, Christmas decorations and unique gifts. In December, we will have our popular Nativity Trail, a traditional Santa's Grotto and a special Christmas menu in the Edwardian Tearooms. ■

Dr Ellen McAdam

*22nd Worcester Victorian Christmas Fayre*  
27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Thursday 12 noon-9pm  
Friday 11am-9pm  
Saturday 10am-8pm  
Sunday 11am-5pm

Worcester City Centre

Email: [christmas@hwchamber.co.uk](mailto:christmas@hwchamber.co.uk)  
[www.visitworcestershire.org/christmasfayre](http://www.visitworcestershire.org/christmasfayre)  
@worcsmas

Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce  
Worcester City Council

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[www.bmag.org.uk/friends-of-bmag](http://www.bmag.org.uk/friends-of-bmag)

If you require assistance then please call 0121 348 8330  
or email [fbmagmembership@googlemail.com](mailto:fbmagmembership@googlemail.com), we will be  
pleased to help.

Passion, pleasure and participation in the Arts





# What's On Museum Events

## Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH

Opening Hours: Saturday - Thursday 10:00am – 5:00pm and Friday 10:30am – 5:00pm.

Note earlier opening on Sunday.

Contact Number: 0121 348 8000.

Explore over 40 galleries in the Grade II\* listed building displaying spectacular art and objects spanning seven centuries.

### TRUE TO LIFE? – NEW PHOTOGRAPHY FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

Open daily until 6 January 2015, Free Entry

*True to Life? - New Photography from the Middle East* encourages visitors to question the authenticity of what appears to be represented in photography, and explores what is real, staged or imaginary. The exhibition features a selection of loaned works from the British Museum and Victoria & Albert (V&A) Museum's fascinating collection of major names and emerging talents in photography from the Middle East. From Tunisia to Iran, *True to Life?* takes visitors on a journey investigating the role of photography in the Middle East and considers debates surrounding migration and the representation of women.

### SYMMETRY IN SCULPTURE – RECENT WORK BY ZARAH HUSSAIN

Open daily until 26 January 2015. Free Entry

*Symmetry in Sculpture* presents visitors with intriguing and engaging three-dimensional wall sculptures, which are inspired by the complex patterns emerging from a simple repeating shape as found in Islamic art. This will be the largest display of Hussain's work, who has spent many years perfecting the traditional techniques used to create mathematical geometric art, and adapting them to make works with a contemporary character. The exhibition has been made possible thanks to support from Arts Council England.

### WEST MIDLANDS OPEN 2014

Open daily until 15 February 2015. Free entry

BMAG is proud to be hosting the *West Midlands Open 2014* exhibition. *West Midlands Open* is a biennial public art exhibition, in which both professional and amateur artists from all disciplines can apply to have their work shown in the Gas Hall, Birmingham Museums' largest and most prestigious exhibition space. Works for display will be selected by an expert judging panel, including Turner Prize-nominated artist Roger Hiorns, Exhibitions and Artists' Projects Curator Zoe Lippett from the New Art Gallery Walsall, and Birmingham artist Barbara Walker.



Anne Guest, "I'll Wait For You (Firebird)" © Anne Guest

### STATIC – STILL LIFE RECONSIDERED

Open daily at the Waterhall until 31 December 2014.

Free Entry

*STATIC: Still Life Reconsidered* is a new display of over fifty artworks from Birmingham's collection dating from the 1800s to the present day. It brings together a range of artistic styles across painting, printmaking and sculpture, *STATIC* reconsiders artistic approaches to still life subject matter, arrangement and material, looking at how artists have approached and touched on this

genre. The display aims to open up a discussion about the genre of still life in its broadest sense, bringing together a mixture of innovative artistic approaches, styles and mediums.

## Birmingham Museums Heritage Sites

*Birmingham Museum's Heritage Sites (Aston Hall, Blakesley Hall, Sarehole Mill and Soho House) closed on Sunday 2 November 2014, but look out for special events and activities at all sites at [www.birminghammuseums.org.uk](http://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk)*

### Aston Hall

*Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD  
Open Tues-Sun 12-4pm until 2 November 2014. Entry charges apply to non-members*

Built by Sir Thomas Holte in 1618-35, Aston Hall is one of Birmingham's most treasured buildings, boasting sumptuous interiors from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Visitors to Aston Hall are invited to discover how the hall and its residents played a key part in our country's history including the English civil war. Aston Hall is hugely popular with family audiences and has a packed programme of events and activities throughout the season.

### Blakesley Hall

*Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN  
Open Tues-Sun 12-4pm until 2 November 2014. Entry charges apply to non-members*

Set amongst stunning gardens and orchards, Blakesley Hall is an exquisite example of a traditional Tudor home. The timber-framed house was built in 1590 by a member of one of Birmingham's leading merchant families, and more than 400 years later, Blakesley remains a haven of beauty and tranquillity.

## Museum of the Jewellery Quarter

*75 – 80 Vyse Street, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HA  
Open all year round. Tues – Sat 10:30am – 5:00pm.  
Closed Sun and Mon except Bank Holidays.  
Tour charges apply to non-members*

Visitors to the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter are offered a glimpse into the past, and the chance to experience the workings of a real jewellery manufacturer. When the proprietors of the Smith & Pepper jewellery-manufacturing firm retired in 1981, they ceased trading and locked the door, unaware they would be leaving a time capsule for future generations. Today the factory is a remarkable museum, which tells the story of the Jewellery Quarter and Birmingham's renowned jewellery and metalworking heritage.

### EXHIBITION: THE JEWELLERY QUARTER DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

*Free entry.* Commemorating 100 years since the beginning of the First World War, this exhibition uncovers artefacts, images and oral histories relating to; recruitment of soldiers from the Jewellery Quarter; adaptation of industries in the Jewellery Quarter; the changing role of women in the industry during war years; and employment of ex-soldiers disabled through war injuries.

### Sarehole Mill

*Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B13 0BD  
Open Tues-Sun 12-4pm until 2 November 2014. Entry charges apply to non-members*

Sarehole Mill was the rural childhood playground of author J.R.R. Tolkien, who cited the mill and nearby Moseley Bog as inspiration for his classic works *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Visitors can see a real working watermill in action, and explore fascinating exhibitions telling the 250-year story of the inspirational landmark.

## Soho House

*Soho Avenue, off Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B18 5LB. Open Tues-Sun 12-4pm until 2 November 2014. Entry charges apply to non-members*

Soho House was the elegant home of industrialist and entrepreneur Matthew Boulton from 1766 to 1809. Carefully restored, this Georgian house features period room interiors with fine collections of silver, furniture and paintings. Visitors are invited to explore this stunning building, once a regular meeting place for some of the greatest minds of the 18th century including James Watt, Erasmus Darwin, Josiah Wedgwood and Joseph Priestley.

## Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

*Science Museum Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum Millennium Point, Birmingham, B4 7XG*

*Open daily 10 - 5pm. Admission charges apply*

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 from the past, present and future. This includes a state-of-the-art digital Planetarium, and interactive outdoor Science Garden. With an ever-changing programme of demonstrations, workshops and events there is always something new to discover.

## BIRMINGHAM CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

The first Tuesday of every month from 6:30pm at the Jekyll & Hyde (upstairs Gin Parlour) 28 Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham, B4 6BJ. Café Scientifique are informal and lively discussion events around contemporary science issues.

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

# Imran Qureshi

*Deutsche Bank's "Artist of the Year"*

19 November 2014 – 25 January 2015



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

Tuesday – Sunday, 11am–6pm  
Free entry

Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon, registered charity no. 528892. Ikon is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.

Exhibition organised in cooperation with Deutsche Bank. Exhibition supported by the William A Cadbury Charitable Trust, Emerson Press and The Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust.

**IKON 50**  
FIFTY YEARS OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

In cooperation with  
Deutsche Bank



# In The Area

## Exhibitions & Days Out



### Apple Store Gallery

Unit 1

Rockfield Road

Hereford

HR1 2UA

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

We shall be taking part in *Herefordshire Photography Month* alongside Hereford College of Arts and The Courtyard Centre for the Arts from 30 October to 22 November showing work by local photographers and digital artists. The underlying theme for HPM is 'Communities' and we shall be including works by Ian Gorton, Chris Hall, Nick Helme, Brian Holley, Sam Hughes and Alex Pownall together with our guest graduate Jason Carden who recently completed a BA (Hons) in Photography at Hereford College of Arts.

This is followed by '*Christmas Delights*' from 28th November until 20 December. Lucia Davies, Jeanette Faulkener Clarke, Georgina Fowler, Linda Fowler, Ronald Moore, Beryl Morgans and Norma Smith will be exhibiting their work as part of our seasonal offering. In addition to our normal opening times we shall be open Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November, 10am to 4pm and Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 December, 10am to 4pm.

As usual, we shall be open for your Framing requirements, which includes bespoke mouldings and customised shapes as well as more conventional frames and mounts for 2D and 3D items.

Our normal opening times are Tuesdays to Fridays, 9.30 to 4.30 and Saturdays, 10.00 to 1.00. Other times by arrangement.

**BIRMINGHAM ART CIRCLE**

The Birmingham Art Circle is a group of accomplished artists working in a wide range of two and three dimensional media and represents the best of Midlands art societies. Their main annual exhibition has been held at the Royal Birmingham Society of Artists Gallery for over one hundred years.

Interested artists are very welcome to the monthly Art Circle meetings as guests. For information, including election to membership, please contact our Membership Secretary: Janet Groves, tel: 01736 361659, e-mail [jan@trink.co.uk](mailto:jan@trink.co.uk) or Hon. Secretary: Rachel David, tel: 0121 3553380, e-mail [rmdavid@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:rmdavid@globalnet.co.uk)

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

### APPLE STORE GALLERY

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

**HEREFORD PHOTOGRAPHY MONTH**  
FEATURING LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS AND DIGITAL ARTISTS  
1ST TO 22ND NOVEMBER

**CHRISTMAS DELIGHTS**  
GROUP EXHIBITION  
OF SEASONAL WORKS  
25TH NOVEMBER TO  
20TH DECEMBER

NORMAL OPENING  
TUESDAYS TO FRIDAYS  
9.30 TO 4.30  
SATURDAYS  
10.00 TO 1.00  
SEE WEBSITE FOR  
CHRISTMAS OPENING

OUR NEW ADDRESS IS  
UNIT 1, ROCKFIELD ROAD  
HEREFORD, HR1 2UA : 01432 263937  
[APPLESTOREGALLERY@BTINTERNET.COM](mailto:APPLESTOREGALLERY@BTINTERNET.COM)  
[WWW.APPLESTOREGALLERY.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLESTOREGALLERY.CO.UK)

## Barber Institute

University of Birmingham

Edgbaston

Birmingham B15 2TS

United Kingdom

Tel: 0121 414 7333

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

### FAITH & FORTUNE

*Until Sunday 30 November 2014.* Coins have always provided a stage on which the dramas of religion and politics, statehood and rebellion, marriage and succession, and triumph and desperation are played.

In the early 7th Century, the East Roman Emperor Herakleios requisitioned silver from Constantinople's churches to pay his army. The coins bore the petition 'God help the Romans'. A generation later the leader of the first Muslim Empire, the Umayyad Caliph Abd Al-Malik, created a gold coinage emblazoned with Islamic verse, establishing a blueprint for Muslim coinage for centuries. The origins, meanings and manufacturing processes of coinage in the neighbouring Byzantine and early Muslim empires are explored in this exhibition, while both beautiful and sacred, it also reflects how attitudes to depicting religious subjects differ between Islam and Christianity. The relationship between these two empires was characterised by a constant dialogue of trade, intellectual exchange and military confrontation. This display explores how currency was used by each to assert cultural difference and promote its own concept of the divine.

### 'DEGENERATE' ART

*Until 11 January 2015.* A society fractured by conflict – and poised on the brink of further social unrest – is depicted with brutal honesty in these striking early 20th Century prints by celebrated artists including

Max Beckmann, George Grosz and Egon Schiele. Complementing *Rebel Visions*, this display also explored the changing social attitudes of the most progressive German artists after Hitler's rise to power and the subsequent Nazi-led Entartete Kunst (Degenerate Art) exhibitions of the 1930s. It examines how artists' depictions of society, religion and the human body were systematically corrupted and de-valued by Nazi Propaganda.

### THE NAKED & THE NUDE

*Until 18 January 2015.* The naked body has inspired some of the greatest works of art, and the study of it was long regarded as vital to demonstrate artistic mastery in representing both the ideal and the everyday. Intended to add context to Zoffany's fascinating painting, *A Life Class*, currently on loan to the Barber, this display features strikingly different images of the unclothed human figure, with works made between 1500 and 1914 by Durer, Van Dyck and Matisse, among others.

### REBEL VISIONS

*Until 25 January 2015.* The powerful art and contradictory personality of British war artist Richard Nevinson will be explored in this groundbreaking exhibition – the centrepiece of our autumn programme. Famous for his dramatic, often haunting images of the battlefield and its soldiers, Nevinson's arresting paintings, drawings, prints and posters also acknowledged the sometimes unpalatable effects war had on British society. Always a rebel, he produced work that ranged in variety from official war propaganda to anti-war condemnation – some of which was censored. With major paintings and key drawings and prints lent by major UK public and private collections, including The Tate, the Imperial War Museum and the British Museum, this exhibition will be accompanied by a full programme of related lectures, talks and other exciting events.



**REBEL VISIONS**  
Until 25 January 2015  
The Barber Institute

CRW Nevinson, *A Star Shell*,  
about 1916 © Tate, London.

## Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Westbourne Road  
Edgbaston  
Birmingham  
B15 3TR  
Tel: 0121 454 1860  
[www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk](http://www.birminghambotanicalgardens.org.uk)

### CHRISTMAS GROTTTO

Saturday 6 & Sunday 7, Saturday 13 & Sunday 14,  
Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 December 2014. 12:00pm  
- 2pm. A truly magical time of year! Santa and his  
Elves will soon be leaving the North Pole where it is all  
sparkly with white fallen snow in their sleigh, to start  
their very special journey to The Birmingham Botanical  
Gardens. Come along and visit Santa in his Grotto and  
receive a gift from his secret toy shop! £7 per child and  
every child will receive a present. Booking essential.

## Broadfield Glass House Museum

Compton Drive  
Kingswinford  
West Midlands  
DY6 9NS  
Tel: 01384 812745  
[www.glassmuseum.org.uk](http://www.glassmuseum.org.uk)

### CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL AND CRAFT FAYRE

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November 2014, 10am –  
4pm. This year's Christmas festival takes place across  
the Stourbridge Glass Quarter attractions at Broadfield  
House Glass Museum, Red House Glass Cone and  
Ruskin Glass Centre. Admission is free and the sites  
are all within a few miles of each other, so it's an ideal  
day out for the whole family and one that's sure to get  
everyone into the Christmas spirit.

The Glass Museum has one of the best collections of

glass in the world; ranging from the 17th century to  
the present day and revealing the diversity of glass and  
the creativity of glassmakers through the ages.

As part of the Christmas festival celebrations, Santa and  
Mrs Claus will be visiting Broadfield House Glass Museum  
and children will have the chance to write and post their  
Christmas wish list, have a go at some Christmas crafts  
and enjoy some wonderful storytelling. Refreshments are  
available and charges may apply to some activities. There  
is a festive trail to take you around the Glass Museum and  
you can try your hand at decorating a glass bauble with  
the help of resident glass maker Allister Malcolm.

The gift shop offers an inspiring range of Christmas  
gifts and decorations to get your Christmas shopping  
off to a great start before making your way to the Red  
House Glass Cone in Wordsley.

## CBSO

CBSO Centre  
Berkley Street  
Birmingham  
B1 2LF  
Tel: 0121 616 6500  
[information@cbso.co.uk](mailto:information@cbso.co.uk)  
[www.cbso.co.uk](http://www.cbso.co.uk)

### FESTIVE FAVOURITES WITH HUGH DENNIS

Friday 19 - Monday 22 December 2014. Christmas is a  
time for the family, and as we bring together our family  
of musicians for favourite tunes and carols, humorous  
readings, and a chance to join in and sing along, we'll  
get your festive season off to a really heart-warming  
start. Hugh Dennis, star of *Outnumbered*, hosts this  
great Birmingham Christmas tradition, but the CBSO's  
famous choruses are the real stars of the show. The  
CBSO Youth Chorus and Children's Chorus sing with  
the CBSO Chorus in the evenings, whilst our acclaimed  
community choirs CBSO SO Vocal and Young Voices  
team up the CBSO Chorus on Sunday afternoon.



It's beginning  
to sound a lot  
like Christmas...

JOIN THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA FOR

### Festive Favourites with Hugh Dennis

Friday 19, Sunday 21 & Monday 22 December,  
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

### The Magic of Vienna

Sunday 4 January, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

Box Office 0121 345 0499  
Book Online [cbsoco.uk](http://cbsoco.uk)



## In the Firing Line

Kidderminster  
in the First World War

An exhibition looking at the impact the First World War had on the people of Kidderminster, both at home and on the Front Lines.

Lecture programme and study day by Dr Sally Dickson on the impact of war on the carpet industry and its workers.

25 OCTOBER 2014 —  
19 DECEMBER 2014



Kidderminster's living legacy

Museum of Carpet, Stour Vale Mill, Green Street,  
Kidderminster, DY10 1AZ Tel: 01562 69028

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



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## REBEL VISIONS

THE  
BARBER  
INSTITUTE OF  
FINE ARTS

The War Art of CRW Nevinson  
24 October 2014 - 25 January 2015



FREE ADMISSION

0121 414 7333 [www.barber.org.uk](http://www.barber.org.uk)  
Visit by train: University station

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

## Coventry Transport Museum

Millennium Place  
Hales Street  
Coventry  
CV1 1JD  
[www.transport-museum.com](http://www.transport-museum.com)

### CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

*Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 November 2014.* Local craftspeople, beautiful one-off gifts and a lovely day out. More than just a craft fair, these fantastic events showcase and give you the opportunity to buy the work of some of the region's most creative people. With stalls including one-off jewellery pieces and toys, paintings and photographs, artisan food products and cards, you'll be amazed to discover the range of items being created by local people from across our region.

## Leamington Spa Art Gallery

The Parade  
Royal Leamington Spa  
CV32 4AA  
Tel: 01926 742700

### IN MY CRAFT OR SULLEN ART: PRINTS, PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS - TESSA BEAVER

*29 November 2014 – 22 February 2015.* Tessa Beaver is a printmaker and painter who graduated from the Slade School of Art in 1953. Now in her 83rd year Beaver continues to paint, draw, write and pursue artistic research from her long established studio in Leamington Spa's Old Town. This exhibition, curated by Simon Kirby, includes a range of works from the mid-1960s to the present day and is the fruit of many hours spent with the artist in her studio. It is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue which also contains the artist's remarkable biographical text, *The Need to Make*, a powerful personal account of a life led, uncompromisingly, as an artist.

### DARK AGE WARWICK & THE WARRIOR QUEEN

*Until Sunday 11 January 2015, 10:30am - 5:00pm.* This year Warwick celebrates the 1100th anniversary of its foundation in AD 914 by the Lady Aethelflaed, ruler of Mercia. Or does it? Warwick was founded in the 'Dark Ages' and the evidence poses many questions. Was the fortress built by Aethelflaed the origin of the town or was there earlier settlement? Why was she called a 'Warrior Queen' and what part did the new fortress play in her wars with the Vikings? What does myth tell us about the history of the town and its warrior heroes like Sir Guy of Warwick? All of these questions and more are explored in *Dark Age Warwick & the Warrior Queen*.

## Museum of Carpets

Stour Vale Mill  
Green Street  
Kidderminster  
DY10 1AZ  
[www.museumofcarpet.org](http://www.museumofcarpet.org)

### IN THE FIRING LINE: KIDDERMINSTER IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

*Until Friday 19 December 2014.* An exhibition of two parts, *In the Firing Line* explores the impact the First World War had on the people of Kidderminster – both at home and on the Front lines. Part one chronologically documents the events of the First World War and how they affected the people and industry of Kidderminster. Part two focuses on local soldiers who fought on the Front Lines, using letters, reports and poems published in local newspaper, *The Kidderminster Shuttle*, to tell the story of those who experienced the War first-hand.



**IN MY CRAFT OR SULLEN ART:  
PRINTS, PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS**  
29 November 2014 - 22 February 2015  
Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum

## Worcester Museum & Art Gallery

Foregate Street

Worcester, WR1 1DT

Tel: 01905 25371

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

### WORLD WAR ONE: IN THE WORDS OF WORCESTERSHIRE PEOPLE

*Until 14 March 2015.* Explore the words and mementos of Worcestershire people brought together in public for the first time for a new exhibition featuring letters, diaries, poems and unusual objects. *World War One: in the Words of Worcestershire People* will bring a personal insight into the First World War at Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum.

*World War One: in the Words of Worcestershire People* is part of the *Worcestershire World War One Hundred* project and funded through Heritage Lottery Fund. *Worcestershire World War One Hundred* is one of the largest programme of events across England commemorating the First World War.

Visitors to Worcester Art Gallery and Museum can read and experience first-hand accounts from the front line in diaries kept by soldiers to cherished letters telling of a soldier's bravery and bringing comfort to the families of the deceased who remained at home waiting for news.

Objects on display include a Cello made from an oil can which was played in the trenches alongside the words from Rupert Brooke's 'A little piece of England in a foreign field' which has its own local connection, published for the first time in Ledbury. Local artefacts have been loaned to the exhibition including the silver mounted hooves of Jerry, a German horse rescued at the Western Front by the Worcester Regiment,

who lived out his life giving rides to local children off Pitchcroft.

Philippa Tinsley, Senior Curator Worcester Art Gallery and Museum said: *"In researching this exhibition we have come across so many moving, personal stories of soldiers at the front and those who waited for them at home. We are so pleased that we are able to bring them together in this way and we hope the exhibition is a fitting tribute to all those who played their part in the Great War."*

Visitors to the exhibition can also take a view of the whole of World War One with a key events timeline on display, with a particular focus on events relevant to Worcestershire, encouraging a modern audience with no experience of conscription to consider at what point during the War they would have joined up, would it have been a local or national event that prompted them to enlist.

Activities and events will take place at key moments to accompany the exhibition including a Family Remembrance Day on Saturday 8 November which will include drop-in workshops with artist Kate Brookes, performances by the Stringcredibles, music by Merrinoyse and poetry workshops with Fergus the Poet as well as an opportunity to experience the World War One with Discover Histories.

Whilst visitors are enjoying the exhibition they can also visit the Worcestershire Soldier display, which is also based at the Art Gallery and Museum and houses collections and objects from the Worcestershire Regiment, Worcestershire Yeomanry Cavalry and Museums Worcestershire, bringing to life 300 years of Worcestershire's military history.



## Hurricane Aircraft

Elisabeth Chard-Cooper, Science and Industry Curator, looks to the skies for a slice of living history.

**Date: 1943**

**Hawker Hurricane, designed by Sydney Camm**

For Elisabeth Chard-Cooper the decision between the “dependable workhorse” and the “glamorous race horse” is a simple one and explains why she has selected Thinktank’s Hurricane over its “feisty Spitfire MK9” as her item of choice. She says: “*The Hurricane is the last of the old breed of fabric covered fighters, she was designed for speed and for reliability. Not a race horse like the Spitfire, but a steady workhorse instead.*”

She, for Elisabeth insists this piece of aviation history is, in fact, female, was built by Hawker Hurricane to Sydney Camm’s designs. Once off the production line she took to the semi-frontline before being moved around the country and finally being assigned to training duties later in her life. The remarkable thing about this septuagenarian is that she still possesses her full flight log and service history so all of her missions, locations, and even pilots are recorded. Elisabeth enthuses: “*Ours is one of the oldest still with its log book. Original Hurricanes are now so rare that she is one of only a handful in the world. Much rarer than the Spitfire!*”

What’s more, the curator asserts: “*They shot down more aircraft during the Battle of Britain than any other type. German pilots would often lie if they were shot down by a Hurricane, preferring to say it was a Spitfire as that was the aircraft they wanted to beat.*”

The Hurricane was also a favourite with its pilots and was well-known for being easy to repair, and for its ability to fly even after taking severe damage. Elisabeth explains: “*Their pilots loved them and often called them the ‘best multi-purpose aircraft’ as they could be*



*fitted with bombs, rockets or guns. Ours still has its rocket rails under its wings.”*

This reliable and durable lady of the skies will be on display in the newly interpreted Spitfire Gallery from March 2015. Works to renovate the gallery were made possible thanks to the support of the Friends, who also contributed personal stories and history relating to the aircraft for the new space. Help also came in the form of funding for the conservation cleaning of both aircraft, which took place in situ, at height, in October. Not only was this deep clean a boon for the gallery, it was also a spectacle for the public, who had the rare opportunity to see a conservation clean in real-time over several days with men in harnesses and cherry pickers working on the planes suspended from the gallery ceiling.

If you cannot wait to see the Spitfire Gallery in all its newly improved glory, Elisabeth would also recommend logging on to the Royal Air Force’s Battle of Britain Memorial Flight website at [www.raf.mod.uk/bbmf/](http://www.raf.mod.uk/bbmf/) for Hurricane information, visiting The Imperial War Museum, London, or the Spitfire at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent. ■

By Jane Kubiesa

# Heritage Site Focus

## Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH.

Opening times: Monday to Thursday, Saturday and Sunday  
10am - 5pm. Friday 10:30am - 5pm

Big things are happening at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) and Friends' members are being urged to schedule a visit. Over the coming months both established artists and those at the very beginning of their careers will be showcasing their work at the West Midlands Open exhibition and Exhibitions Officer Katie Hall is tipping this show as one to watch.

The exhibition is the result of BMAG's art contest in partnership with Wolverhampton Art Gallery. It is open to artists from Birmingham and the surrounding counties and sees sixty-seven artists represented in eighty-one pieces. *"We have a range of artists featured in the Open, from students starting out to people who are well established like Oliver Jones, who has just had a show in LA, and David Paul Gleeson, who has work in public collections and regularly shows work in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition,"* Katie says.

The exhibition is unique, as the curator explains: *"Unusually for us, this is a selling show and most of the pieces are for sale. Any Friends looking to snap up a piece of art could come along and have a look."*

Works for the exhibition were selected by a panel of three judges, including artist Roger Hiorns. *"Roger is a Turner Prize nominated artist from Birmingham who studied at Bournville College of Art,"* Katie says. *"It was great to have his involvement."* A further panel of three judges selected the contest winners, which were announced as Artefacts goes to print. The exhibition opens on October 25 2014, running until February 15 2015, and includes paintings, printmaking and digital art.

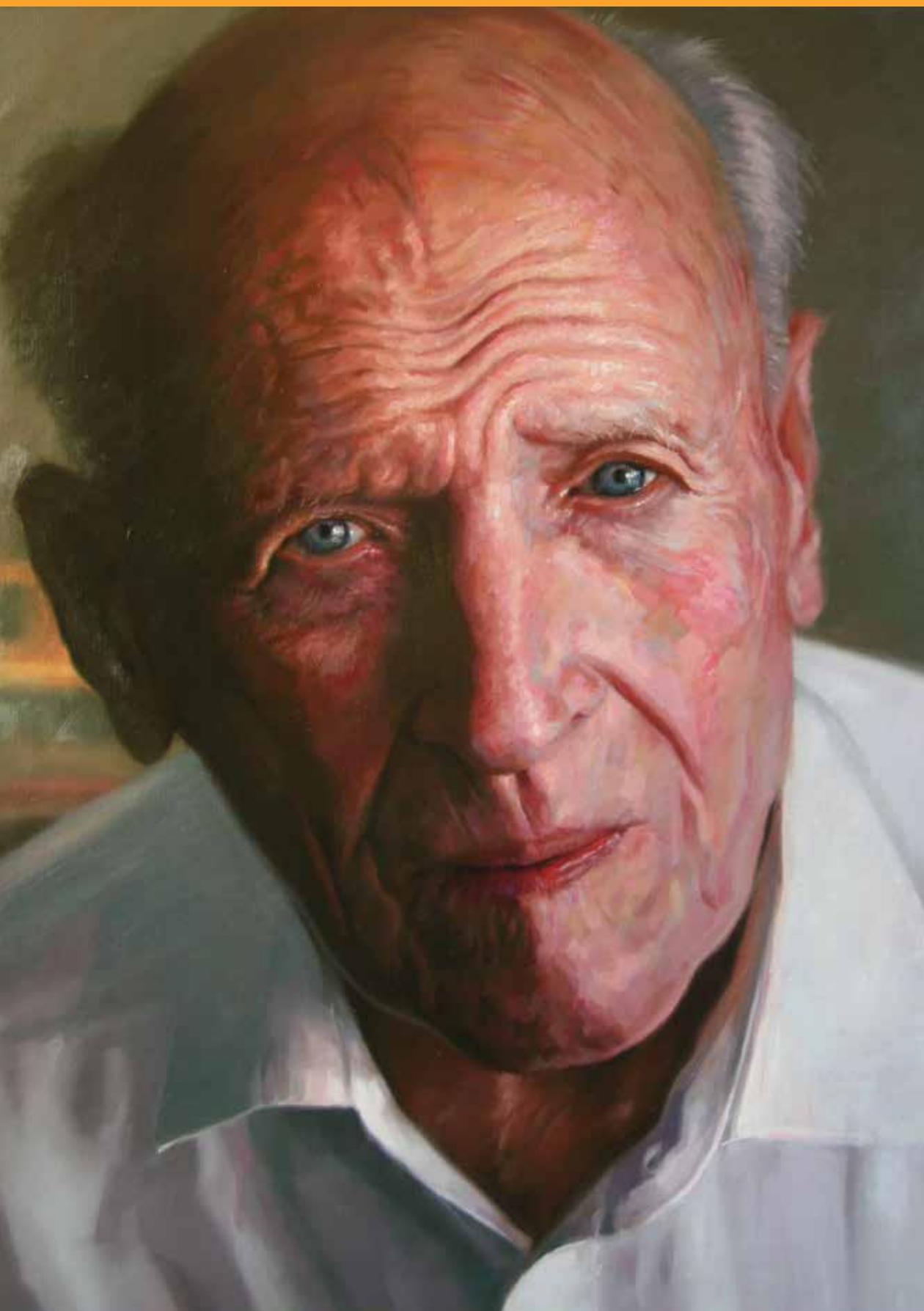
BMAG has even more in store for fans of the arts over the coming months: *"After West Midlands Open we have Love is Enough curated by Turner Prize-winning Jeremy Deller, showcasing the work of Andy Warhol and William Morris. It is an unusual combination but they are both inspirations for Jeremy. He includes pieces which have inspired him and he draws parallels between the artists in a range of areas including celebrity and myth, politics, pattern and production methods. It is a very interesting exhibition."*

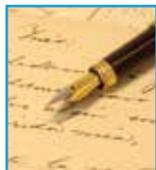
Katie explained that BMAG has not had a Warhol exhibition before and added that this was also a rare opportunity to view a selection of the *Holy Grail Tapestries* by Morris. The exhibition is being staged from spring until the end of summer and offers the chance to view the work of these two illustrious artists side by side for the first time in Birmingham. The exhibition will include pieces sourced from public collections from the UK and the United States.

*"Of course, the renovated Edwardian Tearoom and the Staffordshire Hoard also need a mention here. Friends should really have lunch or afternoon tea in the tea room to appreciate the renovation. And the new Staffordshire Hoard Gallery is now open with a different approach to revealing the Hoard's story and discovery. It's a very exciting time for BMAG,"* Katie concludes. ■

By Jane Kubiesa

Robert Neil "John" © the Artist





# Friends' Diary Dates

## November

- 14 # British Museum - 'Ming: 50 years that changed China' Exhibition
- 18 # AV Room Talk - David Johnson - 'From "Perfidious Albion" to "Our Oldest Ally": Britain's relationship with Portugal at the turn of the 20th Century'

## December

- 2 # Luncheon Club - David Symons - 'New Staffordshire Hoard Gallery' (1)
- 5 \*\* Luncheon Club - David Symons - 'New Staffordshire Hoard Gallery' (2)
- 11 \* Kidderminster Museum of Carpets & Morgan Motor Company
- 12 \* Guided Tour (122) - Jane Howell - 'Walk on By'
- 15 \* AV Room Talk - Adam Jaffer - 'The Sultanganj Buddha 1864-2014'

## 2015 - January

- 9 \* AV Room Talk - Helen Hillyard - 'Bringing new life to BMAG's Baroque Galleries'
- 21 \* Evening Event - Katie Hall - 'West Midlands Open 2014'
- 27 \* Evening Event - Barbara Nomikos and Oliver Buckley - 'The Jewellery Quarter: Adorning History'
- 27 \* AV Room Talk - Victoria Osborne - 'The Last Pre-Raphaelite? ER Hughes and Night with her Train of Stars'

## February

- 3 \* Eastnor Castle, Tewkesbury and Hanbury Hall (NT)
- 4 \* Evening Event - Jane McArdle - 'The Church that became a Cathedral'

## March

- 3 \* Evening Event - Victoria Osborne - 'Enchanted Dreams: The Pre-Raphaelite Art of Edward Robert Hughes'
- 19 + Annual Lunch at the College of Food (UCB)

## April

- 19-24 \* The Delights of Budapest

- \* 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  
Winter 2015  
edition will be  
published  
in January



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# Birmingham International Piano Festival 2015

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6-8th  
2015

In its inaugural year, Birmingham International Piano Festival brings some of the world's finest pianists to the City of Birmingham over three days, and showcases the piano, not only as a solo instrument, but also for its role in chamber music and jazz.

March 6 2015, 1.10pm **Piano4Hands**

March 6 2015, 7.30pm **Cropper Welsh Roscoe Trio**

March 7 2015, 7.30pm **Francesco Piemontesi**

March 7 2015, 7.30pm **Back to Basie Orchestra**

March 8 2015, 3.30pm **Nikolai Demidenko** with the European Union Chamber Orchestra

## Tickets and information

 [birminghampianofestival.com](http://birminghampianofestival.com)

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