

Artefacts

THE FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST MAGAZINE

Autumn 2013



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Our Chairman

Deborah de Haes



There are certain moments in life when you become very conscious of being in a line of succession; where you are the one currently holding the baton, but there have been so many before you and you hope there will be many, many after you. This summer has been like that for me.

We have recently been reminded of the wonderful forward-thinking approach of the Friends' Committee in the 1980s. Concerned particularly with how BMAG could approach collecting contemporary art, when they had limited funds and it was quite difficult to know whether such art would 'stand the test of time', the Committee decided to invest a small amount of Friends' funds each year to buy works in the Friends' name. After 20 years, BMAG would be offered the opportunity to choose those it would like to keep and those it would 'let go'. It deputed a well-known, internationally recognised artist and then Friends' Committee member, William Gear, to review and purchase such art. It was a brilliant decision. From 1987 to 1994, Bill purchased 62 works in a variety of media, from a variety of local artists. Twenty years on, BMAG have decided to keep the entire 'Gear Collection'. Not only is it now considered great art in its own right, but the Gear approach to collecting is also of great interest. We understand there are plans for a William Gear exhibition in 2-3 years time and some of these works will help to build that exhibition.

How do we match that? I am not sure we can, but we keep working on our daily challenges of maintaining and trying to increase membership. We have recently established a new Diversity Committee, chaired by one of our new Trustees, Jane Howell, to look at how we can reach out to those who have not traditionally seen themselves as members of the Friends. We are continuing to work with our Young Persons Advisory Panel and had a hugely enjoyable meeting recently when we gave them the opportunity to be curators for an evening! After this initial success, we hope to build further on this idea in the future. We continue to have a fantastic events programme, planned mainly by our creative team, John Pownall, Ann Crump and

Melissa Page. Do let us have your views; are there things you would like to see or places you would like to go? We would love to hear from you.

The other new Trustee we welcomed this summer is Yvonne Warner, no stranger to many, as she has worked with the Committee at two of our annual away days, and has since spent a day a week helping us put the coordination of our volunteers on a more professional footing. This is particularly important as Birmingham Museums Trust (BMT) will need increasingly to rely on volunteers to maintain its level of service to visitors. This is a similar model to many other organisations such as the National Trust, and indeed next year, 2014, BMT is looking to recruit volunteers to help staff at the Heritage Sites. If this is something that is of interest to you, do get in touch with the office.

Meantime, the new team at BMT is more or less in place. The new Director, Dr Ellen MacAdam, started at the beginning of October and the new Chair starts in November. All the senior management team have been appointed and we are looking forward to working closely with the new team for many years to come.

So as the nights draw in and the weather becomes more autumnal, we have, amongst other things, the wonderful Aston Hall by Candlelight to look forward to – do book your place soon; if you miss it you will have to wait two years for the next one!

With best wishes and thanks for your continued support. ■

Deborah de Haes

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Vermeer, The Milkmaid, 1658–1660
Oil on Canvas, 45.5cm x 41cm
Image courtesy of
Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

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Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

EXPOSED

THE BODY IN ART FROM DÜRER TO FREUD

22 NOVEMBER 2013 - 21 APRIL 2014

Pygmalion and the Image: The Soul Affairs by Edward Burne-Jones: 1878 in Birmingham Museums

An exhibition of work from the fine art collections at Birmingham Museums, exploring artistic responses to the human body.

www.theherbert.org

Adults £4

Friends of Birmingham Museums £2

18 & Under FREE

The exhibition is organised in partnership with Birmingham Museums and supported by funding from Arts Council England.

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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.

Holland and the Dutch Masters

Tuesday 8 – Monday 14 April 2014. Dutch painting was among the most acclaimed in the world during the 17th century, 'The Golden Age'. We will be based in The Hague, the seat of the Dutch government, with its many monuments and historic districts. The Hague is also known as 'the city of peace and justice' and is called 'the residence city' because of the many members of the Dutch Royal Family who reside in its chic neighbourhoods.

- All travel will be by coach, the channel will be crossed using the Eurotunnel on our outward journey. For our return we will use P & O Ferries, this gives us time to stretch our legs and get something to eat before we get back to Birmingham
- Our Tour Manager will be with us for all excursions
- Our hotel will be the 4* Park Hotel in Molenstraat, The Hague. 3 nights half board, 2 nights with meals at a nearby restaurant and one night on a B & B basis
- Included visits to: Centrum Vermeer Delft, Gemeente

Museum (With 100 of the best from the currently being refurbished Mauritshuis), Het Loo Palace National Museum, Keukenhof Flower Festival, the Panorama Mesdag, Stedelijk Museum het Prinsenhof and the Van Gogh Museum.

- Plus Guided Tours of: Amsterdam, the Rijksmuseum after its 10 year renovation, Frans Hals Museum, the Kröller-Müller Museum and Rubens House Antwerp

Park Hotel: All rooms are en suite and have tea & coffee making facilities. The hotel is less than a mile from the Escher Museum (not included).

Included: All excursions and entrances. Audio headsets, Gratuities to Tour Manager and Coach Driver.

Cost: £910 in Double Room and £1034 in a Single (£129 supplement).

Pick-up Points: Yateley Road @ 7:00am
Chest Clinic, Gt Charles St @ 7:15am

Deposit: £100 per person

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

If you would like to see the full itinerary before sending your deposit please contact John Pownall. E: friends.of.bmag@googlemail.com or T: 0121 303 3129. Otherwise one will be sent automatically with your acceptance letter.

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 letter to complete with their Passport, Insurance details, dietary requirements etc.

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

Holst Birthplace Museum and The Wilson - Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum

Friday 15 November 2013. On arrival at the Holst Birthplace Museum we will have guided tours of the house that was built in 1832 and is typical of the many smaller Regency terraced houses built in Cheltenham at that time. Gustav Holst (or Gustavus Theodore von Holst as he was until 1918) was born here on 21 September 1874 and lived here until 1882, shortly after his mother died. He died in London on 25 May 1934.

The Museum which opened in 1975 is a memorial to Holst, one of England's most respected composers, best known for his work *'The Planets'*. It is one of only two composer birthplace museums in the country (the other being Elgar's). Visitors may learn more of Holst's life, his music, his family and friendships, whilst being reminded of domestic life at the end of the 19th Century.

In the afternoon we visit The Wilson - Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum. The renamed Gallery recently reopened after 2 ½ years of restoration with a four storey extension. The new £6 million building has a dedicated picture gallery for the fine art collection, displays on Antarctic explorer Edward Wilson, as well as a reinterpretation of the museum's world-class collection of Arts and Crafts. The inaugural show is of glass pieces by local artist Colin Reid.

Cost: £24 – Includes coach, driver's tip, tours of the Holst Birthplace Museum and an introductory talk at The Wilson - Cheltenham Art Gallery.

Pickup Points: Margaret St, (side of BMAG) @ 9:00am, Yateley Road @ 9:15am.

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

Manchester Art Gallery

Tuesday 10 December 2013. Manchester Art Gallery houses many of the city's most important fine and decorative art works, which have been designated as being of national importance. Their collection covers over six centuries up to the present day, but they are especially renowned for their 19th century British paintings.

There will be a couple of excellent temporary exhibitions. *'Home, Land and Sea Art in the Netherlands 1600-1800'* is an exhibition which brings together over 50 paintings from Manchester City Galleries' exceptional 17th and 18th century Dutch and Flemish collection. It includes exquisite paintings of everyday life, portraiture, landscapes, seascapes, and still lifes by Pieter de Hooch, Gerard ter Borch, Jacob van Ruisdael and many more. An appetiser for our holiday in Holland in April 2014!

The *'Vanity of Small Differences'*, a series of six exuberant tapestries by Grayson Perry charting the 'class journey' made by young Tim Rakewell, they include many of the characters, incidents and objects Grayson Perry encountered on journeys through Sunderland, Tunbridge Wells and The Cotswolds. This will be an 'early bird' viewing as they will be displayed in BMAG next February.

Because we are not arranging tours you can please yourselves how you spend your time. The Museum of Science & Industry is less than a mile away and getting to the Lowry at Salford Quays is possible using public transport.

Cost: £23 – Includes coach and driver's tip.

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

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

The New Library of Birmingham Guided Tours

Tuesday 5 November 2013, 11:00am & Friday 22 November 2013 at 2:30pm. The new Library of Birmingham is on Centenary Square between the Birmingham Rep (to which it connects, and with which it shares some facilities) and Baskerville House. The library, which is estimated to have cost £188 million, is viewed by Birmingham City Council as a flagship project for the city's redevelopment. It has been described as the largest public library in the United Kingdom, the largest public cultural space in Europe, and the largest regional library in Europe. On our tours we will see the book rotunda, the discovery terrace (outdoor garden), the secret garden on the 7th floor with wonderful views over Birmingham and above all (literally) the Shakespeare Memorial Room.

These tours are exclusive to Friends and cost £9.

We will meet in the Library. After you have gone through the main entrance, turn left towards the Repertory Theatre, go past the shop and wait in the seating area near the Rep booking office.

Evening Talks at Edmunds

At 6:30pm we will meet at Edmunds, on the corner of Newhall Street and Edmund Street, for the talk, discussions, a glass of wine and pizza. The talks will finish by 8:30pm.

Cost: £9 (£12 non-members).

'From Jamaica Row - Rebirth of the Bullring' – Pogus Caesar

Tuesday 26 November 2013, 6:30-8:30pm. These powerful images have been selected from over 500 in the OOM Gallery Archive to illustrate the demolition of

the past and a premonition of the future for the city.

Jamaica Row is the pedestrian route situated between the Open Market and St Martin's Market. Its name derives from a pub called the Black Boy in reference to King Charles II, who was dark skinned.



Photograph: From Jamaica Row - Rebirth of the Bullring: Exhibition and Archive. Birmingham UK. 2003 Pogus Caesar/OOM Gallery Archive. All Rights Reserved

The rare archival photographs taken between June 2000 and September 2003 reveal a process of transformation, as the landmark Bullring constructed during the 1960s is razed to make way for the 21st century. Past, present and future are juxtaposed in images that show buildings of previous decades being surgically ripped open, disembowelled and laid to rest, whilst the shape of the modern city is still being determined.

Through Caesar's eyes, giant mechanical birds greedily peck at the expensive real estate. Bubblewrap swathes the Selfridges building like a sweet wrapper, whilst the camera plays toreador with the lively plaster bull.

A shopping empire declines and in its place a bullish emporium of daring design and mammoth scale claims its shadow and footfall. Birmingham sheds its concrete skin and continues to re-invent itself like no other city in the United Kingdom as it strives to become a European icon of urban success.



Writing Case. Kashmir, 19th century.
© Birmingham Museums

**Birmingham Printmakers:
Thirty Years of Printmaking 1983-2013 –
Peter Grego and Mike Allison**

Tuesday 3 December 2013, 6:30-8:30pm.

This autumn, BMAG is celebrating three decades of printmaking in Birmingham with a retrospective exhibition of work by past and present members of Birmingham Printmakers. This thirtieth anniversary exhibition includes the international exchange project *Messages*, first shown at the museum in 1999. The exhibition, organised by Birmingham Print Workshop, brings together thirty printmakers from BPW, Lichtdruck Kunst, Leipzig and the Lower East Side Printshop, New York. The printmakers selected for the show represent the latest of many hundreds in the city who have made, and continue to make, a substantial

contribution to the cultural life of Birmingham. Join Peter Grego, the Curator of the exhibition, and Mike Allison, Chair of Birmingham Printmakers, to hear more about this exhibition.

Qalam: the art of beautiful writing

Tuesday 14 January 2014, 6:30pm-8:30pm. The lead curator on this exhibition on calligraphy in Islamic Art, Dr Rebecca Bridgman, will give a behind the scenes virtual tour, explaining why the objects were selected and the rationale behind the display. Highlights of the exhibition incorporate Birmingham Museums' exceptional collection of pen cases and series of high profile loans from regional and national partners including a late 7th century Qur'an folio from the Arabian Peninsula lent by the University of Birmingham;

a 10th century Iranian ceramic bowl from the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent; and three calligraphic scrolls by contemporary Iranian artist Golnaz Fathi from the British Museum.

In this tour Jane will look at works from India, China and Japan and elsewhere and will use the opportunity to remind ourselves of how the collection reflects the diversity of Birmingham's population.

We will meet in the Round Room at 11am.

Heritage Sites

MUSEUM OF THE JEWELLERY QUARTER –

Tours and Talks

Thursday 5 December 2013. The tour will cover the history of the Smith & Pepper jewellery manufacturing firm that closed in 1981, and how the property was converted into the museum. On display will be 'Regenerated: Rajesh Gogna, Cathy Miles & Miranda Sharpe', an exhibition showcasing the work of three leading contemporary makers based in Birmingham's unique Jewellery Quarter.

We will meet at the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, 75 – 80 Vyse Street, Hockley, B18 6HA at 2:30pm for the tour, refreshments will follow.

Cost: £9, includes tour, tea/coffee and biscuits.

Guided Tour (118) 'Birmingham Printmakers' by Peter Grego and Mike Allison

Monday 9 December 2013. Celebrate 30 years of printmaking in Birmingham. See the Evening Event on page 8 for more information about the exhibition.

We will meet in the Round Room at 11am.

Luncheon Clubs

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

"Art of the Baroque"

By Jane Hornby

Tuesday 3 December 2013. The tour will explore Birmingham Museum's wonderful collection of Baroque art, looking at paintings which illustrate this extravagant art form, and the background to its emergence in Italy and the rest of Europe.

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

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 (117) 'From All Four Corners...' by Jane Howell

Friday 29 November 2013. When looking at BMAG's collections it is all too easy to forget from how far and wide around the globe they come. Too often we concentrate on the British and European works which, magnificent though they are, are only one part of the vast collection.

Things to look forward to in 2014

- Canal trip across to Llangollen Viaduct & Erddig (NT)
- Eastnor & Madresfield
- Broadway - Ashmolean Museum and Snowhill Manor (NT)
- Bentley Priory & the RAF Museum, Hendon

Reviews

Recent Events



Visit to Oxford Town Hall and Christchurch Picture Gallery

Friday 19 July 2013. On a glorious summers day we visited Oxford Town Hall with its wonderful plaster ceilings in the Assembly Rooms and other civic rooms. We were shown the old court room, jury room and judges chambers which were used when the local council was responsible for local justice. We were introduced to the Sheriff of Oxford who talked to us about his responsibilities of collecting the taxes from the commoners who graze their cattle on the common. We were taken down to the medieval crypt under the building which is the remains of the medieval guildhall which stood on the site before the present building was built where we were shown the civic silver which is used for civic ceremonies.

In the afternoon we went on to the Christ Church Picture Gallery where we saw their collection of Renaissance, Baroque and early Italian paintings.

Ann Crump

Yorkshire Weekend

I have just returned from an action-packed weekend in Leeds. I am referring to the Friends' trip to Yorkshire, very ably organised by Ann Crump & John Pownall. We all enjoyed a varied programme of visits, to suit all tastes & interests.

On our journey up to Yorkshire, the first two properties we visited couldn't have been more different. Brodsworth Hall is a English Heritage house, which although it has had conservation work carried out, was still in the same state of faded grandeur as it was when the EH took it over from the owners - minus the buckets catching the rainwater coming through the roof & the insect infestations! Temple Newsom on the other hand was a beautifully conserved & cared for Tudor-Jacobean Mansion, owned & run by the Leeds City Council. Its contents include a wonderful display of furniture, pictures, ceramics & silver. The extensive parkland and colourful walled garden could also be freely visited.

The next day we were delighted to be greeted by Ann Sumner at the Parsonage in Haworth, where Ann is the Executive Director of the Bronte Society. We were given a very informative talk by the curator, about the period when the Bronte family were living there, & then we were left to freely roam the house. Next onto the bustling market town of Skipton. It has a 900 year old castle which is one of the most complete & best preserved medieval castles in England; fully roofed & in remarkably good condition. We had excellent guides to show us around. Then a short coach ride brought us to the atmospheric ruins of Bolton Abbey.

Something completely different for the next day when we visited the National Media Museum in Bradford. Its displays covered the earliest forms of cinematography & television right up to the most modern cameras, phones & computers. The Cartwright Hall in Lister Park was our next interesting stop, with its art gallery & extensive gardens. A most delightful visit to the home of Charlotte Bronte's friend, Mary Taylor, followed. Charlotte visited the Taylor family often & they became the Yorkes in her novel "Shirley".

The wonderful Harlow Carr RHS gardens in Harrogate were the first visit of our final day. They were still colourful despite the lateness of the season, with the beds packed with plants, shrubs & grasses of every variety. Betty's tea room there is worth a visit too! After a welcome lunch of fish & chips at the Hotel Mercure, organised by Ann Crump, we arrived at our final stop, Harewood house, & what grandeur. The house has Royal connections as the Queen's aunt, Princess Mary, married the 6th Earl of Harewood. The State Bed is one of Chippendale's most extraordinary creations with its gilding & drapes of green silk. The house is full of treasures: three libraries, Adam interiors, Chippendale furniture, ceramics & paintings. Turner was a friend of Beau Lascelles, whose father was the first Lord Harewood, & he painted Harewood several times. (I counted 6!).

All in all a great weekend. ■

Margaret Lister

Exposed: The Body in Art from Dürer to Freud

22 November 2013 – 21 April 2014,
Herbert Museum & Art Gallery,
Coventry

Adults £4/18 & under free. Friends
of Birmingham Museums will
receive a 50% discount on entry

This exhibition showcases over 50 works on loan from Birmingham Museums' collection to explore the varied and intriguing ways in which artists have responded to the human body over 500 years.

'Exposed' includes a significant number of works acquired with the support of the Friends including Albrecht Dürer's *'Hercules at the Crossroads'*, 1498, Lucian Freud's *'Woman with an Arm Tattoo'*, 1996, and *'Lily Cole'*, 2009, by Gillian Wearing.

Edward Burne-Jones' *Pygmalion* series features as the centrepiece, encompassing the five main themes of the exhibition. The body as a focus for observation highlights the crucial role that life drawing plays in an artist's working practice. The creation of the 'ideal' body contrasts the *'The Sleep of Venus'*, a drawing after Annibale Carracci, with modern approaches including Jacob Epstein's *'Two Studies for Genesis'*. The transformation of the body for creative purposes is vividly conveyed in both Dante Gabriel Rossetti's *'La Donna Della Finestra'* and Joe Tilson's image of Marilyn Monroe's lips in *'Transparency, The Five Senses – Taste'*. Objects such as Oliver Cromwell's death mask will show how art provides a means of remembering the human body long after death. The body is also revealed as a powerful vehicle for the artist's imagination and identity, showing works such as Helen Chadwick's *'Vanity'* and Lisa Gunn's *'Victoria'*, to bring the exploration of artistic responses to the human body up-to-date. ■



'Woman with an Arm Tattoo', 1996 by Lucian Freud © The Estate of Lucian Freud/The Bridgeman Art Library/Photo © Birmingham Museums Trust





Director of Birmingham Museums Trust

The UK's hot, sunny weather over the summer months drew above average visitors to many of the heritage sites including Blakesley Hall, Sarehole Mill and Soho House. By the end of August Birmingham Museums Trust had attracted 412,218 total visitors across its nine sites.

Our summer exhibitions programme was very popular with families enjoying the Gas Hall exhibition *A Squash and A Squeeze: Sharing stories with Julia Donaldson*. Its larger than life children's illustrated characters and hands-on exhibits attracted large crowds and was 49% above target over August. Similarly Thinktank's family blockbuster exhibition, *The Pirates! In an adventure with Scientists*, was exceedingly popular with younger visitors. The exhibition, developed in partnership with Aardman Animation, has been so successful that BMT is now planning to work with Aardman once again in Spring 2014 on the development of a new Animate permanent exhibition at Thinktank.

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's other summer exhibition, *George Catlin: American Indian Portraits* has also been well received, attracting 37,000 visitors and some very well attended talks.

The Birmingham history galleries at BMAG continue to attract large and diverse audiences, with over 175,000 visitors since they first opened in October last year; 84% above our target! BMT's learning programmes for 2013/14 are also proving to be very popular, with school bookings at 30% above target and participation levels for our events programmes at 12% above target.

We are also very pleased to announce that BMT is now able to purchase the *Portrait of Erasmus Darwin* by Joseph Wright of Derby, after the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) confirmed that it would provide £97,000 support towards the acquisition. The funding application to the HLF would not have been possible without the support of the Friends; this new acquisition can currently be viewed in gallery 23 at BMAG.

Over the summer BMT has been undergoing major changes, both to its leadership and to the structure of the organisation. Dr Ellen McAdam commenced her new role as Director of Birmingham Museums Trust on 7 October. Further to her preliminary visit in August, where she met a number of staff; she introduces herself:

"My background is in archaeology. After my doctorate I spent several years working on excavations in the Near East and carrying out post-doctoral research into prehistoric figurines in museums all over the world. I returned to British archaeology via Oxford Archaeology, English Heritage and the Museum of London and moved from there to Glasgow Museums. Perhaps not surprisingly, I have retained a strong interest in all aspects of material culture. Real objects are at the heart of the museum experience, and I have invested a lot of effort at Glasgow Museums in improving standards of collections care, research and access. I look forward to exploring Birmingham's fine collections. But learning, engagement and the quality of the visitor experience are equally important, and great museum services succeed by achieving a balance between what can sometimes become competing priorities. And, of course, we must keep an eye on income generation, fundraising and advocacy, for all of which we need Friends."

Also over the past few months, we have undertaken a major service redesign, as an opportunity to create a single integrated organisation, following the merger of Thinktank and Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery, as well as to address planned reductions in our funding. As part of this process we have now appointed a new



Simon Cane

senior management team for Birmingham Museums Trust. Simon Cane will be Deputy Director for BMT and lead the Commercial and Operations team, overseeing the operational management of the Heritage Sites, visitor services, facilities and asset management, technical services, Commercial and Trading.

Hall exhibition, *Photorealism: 50 Years of Hyperrealistic Painting*, opening on 30 November for which we are the sole UK venue for the largest international survey show on photorealism. In February we are looking forward to exhibiting Grayson Perry's stunning series of six tapestries, *The Vanity of Small Differences*, as featured in his Channel 4 TV series *All in the Best Possible Taste*.

We hope that our Friends have the opportunity to enjoy many of the BMT's seasonal events and exhibitions. Finally, we are delighted to have the opportunity to thank the Friends sincerely for their continued support and encouragement. ■



Toby Watley

Judith Wilson is the new Finance Director, responsible for finance, HR and workforce development. Toby Watley has been appointed Director of Collections, leading the exhibitions, curatorial, collections management and conservation

programmes. Janine Eason is the new Director of Engagement and leads the education, informal learning, community and digital engagement programmes as well as marketing and communications. Rachel Cockett has been appointed the new Director of Development leading on partnership development, individual giving and sponsorship, trusts and major grants. We are now in the latter phase of the service redesign and hope to have all staff appointed in their new posts by the end of October.

Despite the changes, BMT is committed to delivering an exciting and diverse programme of exhibitions and events in the coming year. These include the next Gas

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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 303 1966.

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

PHOTOREALISM

Saturday 30 November to Sunday 30 March 2014.

Adult £6.50 Child aged 5+ £3 Concession £5.50

Family £16 Unwaged £2. In late 1960s America, a new movement of artists began painting realistic depictions of everyday objects and scenes - gleaming automobiles, iconic highways, storefronts and diners - which at first glance appeared to be photographs. These artists were initially met with intense criticism but the photorealism movement has changed the way we see art forever.

BMAG is proud to be the only UK venue to display this largest European retrospective. Showcasing key photorealist artists from the 1960s to the present day, the exhibition explores the questions and debates raised by the movement on what makes an authentic image and the ways in which we perceive the world.

TALKS

Saturday 18 January 2014, 2:00 - 3:00pm. £3

Artist's talk: John Salt. Photorealist painter John Salt discusses his career, from studying at the Birmingham School of Art to developing his distinctive style in America and exhibiting around the world.

Saturday 15 March 2014. 2:00pm. £3, Ben Johnson gives a personal and illustrated introduction to his own practice and how Photorealism has helped form the direction of his work.

ART IN THE HEART

Explore world-class art at 23 leading West Midlands cultural attractions. Until December 2013 you can see work by amazing artists from Botticelli and Rembrandt to Damien Hirst and Quentin Blake in a variety of venues from Georgian mansions to contemporary art galleries.

GRAYSON PERRY: THE VANITY OF SMALL DIFFERENCES

14 February 2014 - 11 May 2014. A series of six tapestries by Turner Prize-winning artist Grayson Perry. They explore his fascination with taste and tell a story of class mobility. The tapestries were created alongside his 2012 TV series *All in the Best Possible Taste* and feature a number of people, events and objects he experienced during the filming. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre London and British Council Collection the artist. Gift of the artist and Victoria Miro Gallery with the support of Channel 4 Television, the Art Fund and Sfumato Foundation with additional support from AlixPartners.

NEW ART WEST MIDLANDS 2014

14 February 2014 - 18 May 2014. *New Art West Midlands 2014* showcases exciting new work from artists who have recently graduated from art schools in the West Midlands region. Painting, sculpture, printmaking and film will all be represented in the exhibition, demonstrating a variety of artistic approaches, influences and ideas. *New Art West Midlands* will also be taking place across three other partnership venues: Grand Union, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, and Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

BIRMINGHAM PRINTMAKERS: THIRTY YEARS OF PRINTMAKING 1983-2013

Saturday 19 October 2013 - 19 January 2014.

This exhibition showcases work by members of the Birmingham Printmakers group, documenting the history of printmaking at the Birmingham Print Workshop. The exhibition will include artists from Birmingham Museums' collection, and new work by current members of Birmingham Printmakers which will be available to purchase.

QALAM: THE ART OF BEAUTIFUL WRITING

Saturday 2 November 2013 - 26 January 2014. Free.

This exhibition brings calligraphy, a vibrant and distinctive art form, to the heart of Birmingham, showcasing historic manuscripts, decorated objects and contemporary art. Enjoy the beauty and harmony of Islamic penmanship with your family and friends and learn how its aesthetic appeal crosses borders of time, space, language and culture. Supported by the British Museum Trust Limited.

Calligraphy themed events & activities

Saturday 9 November 2013 - Expert talks on history & practice of writing in Arabic script.

Thursday 28 November 2013 - Lunchtime talk by Alba Fideli on the University of Birmingham's Mingana manuscript collection (at Cadbury Research Library, University of Birmingham).

Saturday 7 December 2013 - Dance performance and participatory event led by internationally acclaimed Kathak artist Sonia Sabri.

Saturday 18 January 2014 - Calligraphy workshop for families with Soraya Syed, leading practitioner of the art of Islamic penmanship.

Please see www.bmag.org.uk for further details.

FOR THE RECORD

Friday 14 February 2014 onwards, Waterhall. 'For the Record' explores themes of preservation and recording in the work of female artists. Works of art will be drawn from Birmingham Museum Trust's collection and the Arts Council Collection. Including painting, sculpture, printmaking and film, this exhibition will celebrate the re-opening of Birmingham Museum Trust's Waterhall gallery for the display of modern and contemporary art. 'For the Record' will bring together artists such as Estella Canziani, Ana Maria Pacheco, Lindsey Seers, Laura Knight and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye.

Community Gallery

UNLOCKED

Until Sunday 15 December 2013. An exhibition telling the stories of Birmingham women's diverse lives from the twentieth-century to the present day. Through photographs, sound, the written word and actual objects, 'Unlocked' brings to life the challenges, achievements and aspirations of women from many different backgrounds living in the city through a period of momentous change.

MAPPING MY JOURNEY

Saturday 18 January 2014 - 16 March 2014. 'Mapping My Journey' explores and celebrates the living memory and history of the Trans community in Birmingham and the West Midlands. Through compelling sound, artwork and artefacts, 'Mapping My Journey' brings to life the places, events and personal journeys.

ADULT WORKSHOP – DRAWING PORTRAITS

Sunday 24 November 11:00am – 4:00pm. £20, please book in advance. A taster workshop for beginners led by Beccy Roberts. Participants will look at the basic structure of a face, how to achieve correct proportions, and the application of light and shade.

REGENCY CHRISTMAS MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

Sunday 24 November 2013 & Thursday 19 December 2013. 30 mins sets at 11:00am, 12:00 and 1:00pm. Free. Festive performances in full period costume by Early Romantic Guitar Duo, Dodici Corde.

Birmingham Museums Heritage Sites

AUTUMN AND WINTER AT THE HERITAGE SITES

Except for the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter which is open all year round, the Birmingham Museum's award-winning Heritage Sites will close on Sunday 3

November 2013.

Look out for special tours and activities during Heritage Open Days which will continue during autumn and winter.

Ticket prices apply to all venues. For more information on all the events and activities at the sites visit www.birminghammuseums.org.uk

Aston Hall

Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD

Contact Number: 0121 303 1966.

Discover one of the last great houses to be built in spectacular Jacobean style.

ASTON HALL BY CANDLELIGHT

1, 2, 3 & 7, 8 & 10 November 2013 6pm - 8:30pm.

Experience Aston Hall at its most breathtaking, lit by hundreds of shimmering candles. Historic characters, period music and warming fireplaces add to the wonderful atmosphere of one of Birmingham's favourite winter events. £14 adults, £12 concessions, £51 family ticket (20% saving) Please book.

Blakesley Hall

Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

Opening Hours: Saturday 30 March – Sunday 3 November. Tuesday – Sunday 12:00 – 4:00pm, closed Monday except Bank Holidays. Contact Number: 0121 464 2193.

Discover this striking timber-framed house set amidst beautiful gardens.

APPLE DAY

Sunday 20 October 2013, 12:00 - 4:00pm. Free event - normal admission charges apply. Blakesley's annual celebration of the apple. Morris dancing, apple talks. plant sales, apple juice tasting and apple archery.

PLAGUE AND PESTILENCE

Tuesday 29 October - Sunday 3 November 2013, 12:00 - 4:00pm. £4 Adults, Free for children. Plague is rumoured at Blakesley Hall! See the plague-infested Hall and wear your scariest costume.

Museum of the Jewellery Quarter

75 – 80 Vyse Street, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HA.

Contact Number: 0121 554 3598. Open all year round Tue - Sat 10:30am-5pm, closed Sun and Mon except Bank Holidays.

REGENERATED: RAJESH GOGNA, CATHY MILES & MIRANDA SHARPE

Until 11 January 2014. Exhibition as part of the regional Art in the Heart programme. 'Regenerated' showcases the work of three leading contemporary makers based in Birmingham's unique Jewellery Quarter.

GHOST WALK

Wednesday 30 October 2013 & Friday 1 November 2013, 2pm. £5. Follow historian Chris Upton through the Jewellery Quarter's Gothic buildings and graveyards to celebrate Hallowe'en. Booking essential - call 0121 554 3598.

SILVER BANGLE WORKSHOP

Saturday 16 November 2013 10am - 4pm. £50.

Design and make a stylish and contemporary silver bangle using simple techniques with jeweller Bonnie Styles. Adults only: cost includes all materials and refreshments. Booking essential - call 0121 554 3598 to book your place now! Make a unique artwork to take home.

Sarehole Mill

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

MILLING DAYS

Every Wednesday and Sunday until 3 November 2013.

Milling volunteers run the machinery and explain the process. In dry periods, please ring to confirm.

BIRMINGHAM REP AUDIO WALK

Until Sunday 3 November 2013. Free event.

Enjoy a walk in the mill grounds and Moseley bog with the REP's new audio walk - *'Light from the Shadows'*. Headsets for this self guided walk are available from the mill tearoom.

Soho House

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

Opening Hours: Until Sunday 3 November. Tuesday – Sunday 12:00 – 4:00pm, closed Monday except Bank Holidays. Contact Number: 0121 554 9122.

HANDSWORTH CULTURE SWAP

Exhibition Free – Normal admission charges apply. Renowned photographer Vanley Burke creates a dialogue between community, museum and artist. He presents a fascinating photographic portrait of Handsworth which bears testament to the hugely diverse cultural identities of the area.

Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum

Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham B4 7XG

Opening Hours: Mon – Sun, 10.00am – 5.00pm last admission 4.00pm. Contact Number: 0121 202 2222

BIRMINGHAM CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

1st Tuesday of every month, 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start. The Jekyll and Hyde (upstairs Gin Parlour room) 28 Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham B4 6BJ. An informal

pub-based event with a strong online presence - we reach up to 70,000 people through Twitter alone.

*Tuesday 5 November 2013. **Energy security in the UK** with Prof Stefan Bouzarovski.*

*Tuesday 3 December 2013. **Stress - How can Christmas make you ill?** With Dr Anna Phillips.*

TEEN TAKEOVER DAY

Saturday 23 November 2013. Join us to celebrate national Takeover Day for Children and Young People. We will be handing Thinktank over to Ignite, our Young People's Forum, to develop a day of teenager-inspired activities and events. Teenagers will also be able to visit the museum FREE for this day only (subject to our U16s registration policy).

FEBRUARY HALF-TERM

Join us between 17 and 21 February 2014 for a variety of activities for all of the family. From animal handlers to astrophysicists, we have something for everyone!

MOTHERING SUNDAY

30 March 2014. Free entry to mothers with a paying child!

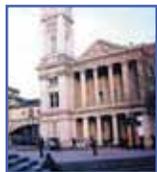
For more information on all of our events visits www.birminghammuseums.org.uk

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery

EXPOSED: THE BODY IN ART FROM DÜRER TO FREUD

Herbert Museum & Art Gallery, Coventry. Adults £4/18 & under free. 22 November 2013 – 21 April 2014,

This exhibition showcases over 50 works on loan from Birmingham Museums' collection to explore the varied and intriguing ways in which artists have responded to the human body. Edward Burne-Jones' *Pygmalion* series features as the centrepiece, encompassing the five main themes of the exhibition: Observing, Perfecting, Transforming, Remembering and Imagining. **Friends of Birmingham Museums will receive a 50% discount on entry**



News From the Office

CHRISTMAS GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Gift membership is available throughout the year and includes 3 extra months free. Christmas Gift Membership (valid 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2015) 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 Thursday 12 December.

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

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

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our new members: Mrs P Bushaway, Mrs M Stone, Revd PG Harrison, Mrs HM Musgrove, Mr R Mosse, Ms D Laurent, Mr T Fisher, Miss J Sagar, Mr R & Mrs C Ide, Miss E Wright, Mrs C Girling, Mr C Richards, Mr C Margrave-Jones, Mrs L Dickens, Ms F Pallett, Mrs B Bashford

APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE WRITE IN CAPITAL LETTERS

Title Name(s)

Address

.

Postcode Tel. No.

Email address

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY AND ANNUAL RATES (Please tick)

SINGLE £30 [] **DOUBLE** (full rate Includes 2 children under 16) £45 []

CONCESSIONARY RATES

SINGLE £20 [] **DOUBLE** £30 [] **STUDENT** £15 []

I enclose a cheque for £_____

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.

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and join the Friends
of Birmingham Museums

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

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

Passion, pleasure and participation in the Arts





In The Area

Exhibitions & Days Out

The Barber Institute

University of Birmingham
Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TS
Tel: 0121 414 7333 www.barber.org.uk

VISUALISING THE DIVINE ON BYZANTINE AND EARLY ISLAMIC COINAGE

Friday 8 November 2013 - 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 first quarter of the seventh century, the East Roman Emperor Herakleios requisitioned silver from the churches of Constantinople 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, which transformed the nature of Muslim coinage for centuries.

This fascinating exhibition explores the origins and manufacturing processes of coinage in the neighbouring Byzantine and early Muslim empires. The relationship between these two empires was characterised by a constant dialogue of trade, intellectual exchange and military confrontation. These coins show how currency was used by each to assert cultural difference and promote its own concept of the divine.

SONIC VISIONS: NEW ELECTROACOUSTIC MUSIC INSPIRED BY ART

Until Sunday 10 November 2013. Three of the Barber's most iconic paintings - as you've never heard them before! Contemporary sound installations by BEAST - Birmingham Electroacoustic Sound Theatre - responding to a stormy *Brittany Seascape* by Daubigny, Renoir's *Young Woman Seated* and Magritte's *Flavour of Tears*.

PAINTING IN LAYERS

Friday 15 November 2013 - 26 January 2014. One of the most important painters working in Britain today, London-based John Monks is as much influenced by historical art and the interiors of galleries and historic buildings as he is by the work of contemporary artists.

This set of captivating paintings – large canvases that include a triptych specially created for this exhibition – features interiors and everyday objects, depicted in such a way that they challenge the viewer to look anew at the familiar and the commonplace. Through a range of painterly processes – pouring the paint, glazing the surface in layers and scraping with a palette knife – Monks weaves and layers surfaces to imbue his subjects with a built-in history, implying atmosphere, life and change in seemingly inanimate and immutable objects and scenes.

FUNCTION 4: PORTRAITURE

Until Sunday 24 November 2013. Exciting original photographic work by students from Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, Birmingham City University, displayed among paintings the Barber's own collection.

EARLY ACQUISITIONS OF PRINTS FOR THE BARBER COLLECTION

Until 19 January 2014. The Barber Institute's collection of works on paper is famed for its exemplary quality, due in no small part to the acquisitions of its first Director, Professor Thomas Bodkin.

This display focuses on the prints purchased for the collection in 1939, the year the Barber Institute opened, and provides a sequel to the summer display *First Thoughts*, which explored the very first prints acquired for the Barber Institute in 1936. Featuring a broad historical range of works by – or after – Dürer, Piranesi, Rembrandt, Claude, Turner, Goya, Whistler and other masters, it includes historical and figure subjects, portraits, architectural studies and landscapes. The display will also look at the different media and techniques of printing as well as delighting in the range of genres.

THE
BARBER
INSTITUTE OF
FINE ARTS

JOHN MONKS

THE PROCESS OF PAINTING

15 November – 26 January 2014

New work by one of Britain's leading contemporary painters

ADMISSION FREE
0121 414 7333
www.barber.org.uk



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

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

John Monks, 'The Owl', 2013 (detail)

T: 01905 21247
www.museumofroyalworchester.org

Open Monday to Saturday
10 am – 4 pm

Closed Christmas Day
and Boxing Day



MUSEUM OF
ROYAL
WORCESTER



GIFT SHOP

CHRISTMAS 2013

'Royal Worcester' and the C51 crown device are registered by and used under kind permission from Portmeirion Group UK Ltd to whom all rights are reserved.



RBSA Gallery presents

RBSA: Our Collection, Our Archive and You exhibition

A diverse selection of works acquired in the past five years, exploring the relationship between the Collection and the people of Birmingham, both past and present.

+ **Don't miss the free associated events!**

This exhibition launches our year-long bicentenary project, 'Celebrating 200 years of Art, Artists and Audiences in Birmingham'. This project has been generously funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art.

Exhibition on show in Gallery 1
Monday 11 - Saturday 23 November 2013

Artist walk and demonstration
Saturday 16 November
12.00-3.00pm, free
Join the curators and Paul Hipkiss RBSA at the Gallery for a walk around the local canals and a printmaking demonstration back at the Gallery.

Meet the curators and demonstration
Saturday 23 November
11.00am-1.00pm and 2.00-4.00pm, free
Meet the curators, recent graduate Chloë Lund and undergraduate Hang Nguyen and watch a demonstration by John Shakespeare RBSA.

Royal Birmingham Society of Artists
RBSA Gallery, 4 Brook Street, St Paul's,
Birmingham, B3 1SA
W www.rbsa.org.uk **Free Admission**
T 0121 236 4353 **Donations welcome**



Registered charity no 52894 Registered company no 122816

Castle Fine Arts

Cheltenham Gallery
82a The Promenade,
Town Centre
Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire,
GL50 1NB
E: cheltenham@castlefineart.com
T: 01242 806 807

Norwich Gallery
13 Back Of The Inns
Norwich,
NR2 1PT
E: norwich@castlegalleries.com
T: 01603 665978

RONNIE WOOD EXHIBITION (CHELTENHAM & NORWICH)

Until Tuesday 31 December, 5pm. Immerse yourself into the world of rock icon Ronnie Wood and enjoy an exhibition of his artworks at two of our galleries.

Comprising original works of art, hand-written song lyrics and hand-painted guitars used by Wood, the Raw Instinct exhibition provides a unique insight into the world of Ronnie Wood and The Rolling Stones themselves.

The exhibition opens Saturday 19 October, and will continue until the end of 2013.

Enjoy the exhibition at Castle Fine Art, Cheltenham and Castle Fine Art, Norwich.

Refreshments will be served.

For more details, please contact the gallery you would like to visit.

The Commandery

Sidbury, Worcester, WR1 2HU
Tel: 01905 361821
www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

STEAMPUNK AT THE COMMANDERY

Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 November 2013. Explore Victorian Science Fiction at the Commandery. Discover the world of Steampunk and the highly skilled artisans, makers and inventors in this growing community. See displays of strange curiosities, exciting contraptions and fashion & design. Goggles, pocket watches, corsets, mad scientists, contraptions, top hats and airships! On Saturday, why not make a day of it and attend the evening's Don't go into the Cellar production Holmes Alone.

DON'T GO INTO THE CELLAR - HOLMES ALONE

Saturday 16 November 2013. No Watson - all Sherlock - ner' do wells, beware...Beyond Baker Street, even retirement couldn't thwart him! Play commences 6.30pm. (Suitable for all ages) Adults £10, Children £8, Family ticket (2+2) £32.00. To book tickets please call 01905 361821

WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

Saturday 21 December 2013, 5:30-9:00pm. Begin your Christmas festivities by joining us for a solstice celebration at the Commandery and Fort Royal Park. The evening transcends into Tudor merrymaking with music, dance and sixteenth century Christmas customs. Booking essential - Please contact the Commandery. Suitable for all ages

YULETIDE CHRISTMAS

Sunday 22 December 2013, 1:30pm-5pm. Take a traditional trip back in time to the Commandery in the Victorian era this Yuletide. Join the servants Christmas party held in the Commandery kitchen. Meet Father Christmas, play games, make presents and marvel at the entertainments of the day.

TRAVEL CLUB ELITE

a whole new world...



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Free Executive Airport Lounge Offer!

Call **FREE 0800 707 6229**

KIRKER CULTURAL TOURS



Our escorted holidays consist of small, exclusive groups of like-minded travellers in the company of an expert tour leader and are designed to appeal to those with an interest in archaeology, history, architecture, art, gardens and music.

Prices are per person and include flights, transfers, accommodation with breakfast, meals & guided excursions as described and the services of a Kirker Tour Leader. Single room supplements on request.

GALLERIES AND OPERA IN VIENNA

As well as enjoying two wonderful performances at the Staatsoper there will be a full programme of sightseeing including the Imperial apartments at the



Hofburg, the stunning Kirche am Steinhof designed by Otto Wagner and a walking tour of the historic area including St Stephen's Cathedral and the Graben. Museum visits include the Liechtenstein Palais, the Belvedere where we will see Gustav Klimt's The Kiss and the Kunsthistorisches Museum - one of the finest collections of Old Masters anywhere.

Price from **£1,597 for four nights two operas & two dinners.**
13-17 January - Don Giovanni and Così fan tutte
7-11 March - Adriana Lecouvreur and Eugene Onegin
5-9 May - Norma and Nabucco

AMSTERDAM & THE HAGUE

Amsterdam has regained its position as one of the leading art capitals of the world with the reopening this year of the Van Gogh Museum, Stedelijk Museum and the spectacular Rijksmuseum. We will be visiting all three collections in the company of an expert lecturer on our three new escorted tours. Staying at the 4* NH Museums Quarter Hotel in the centre of Amsterdam, we will also visit the Hague for a day to see a major exhibition of works by Vermeer, Rembrandt and Van Dyck at the Gemeentemuseum.

Price from **£1,154 for four nights two dinners.**
Departs 20 March & 29 August 2014.



THE PALACES & GALLERIES OF ST PETERSBURG

Our six night tour to the city created by Peter the Great includes visits to the Hermitage and a selection of Imperial residences including Pavlovsk, Catherine Palace and the glittering palace at Peterhof. We also visit the Russian Museum with its unmatched collection of icons. This tour is based at the 4* superior Hotel Petro Palace.



Price From **£1,997 For Six Nights Including Five Dinners And Two Lunches.** Departs 10 April, 8 May, 4 September, 25 September & 16 October 2014.

RAVENNA, URBINO & THE COURTS OF NORTHERN ITALY

MODENA - FERRARA - PARMA - MANTUA

This fascinating holiday is based in two sharply contrasting art cities - Ravenna, last capital of the Western Empire and famous for its dazzling mosaics, and Modena. In Ravenna visits will include the Mausoleum of Galla Placidia and the great Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo. From Modena we will go to the power-bases of the great dynasties of the Este, Farnese and Gonzaga families, as well as visit the hill top town of Urbino with its great art collection.

Price from **£1,946 for eight nights including four dinners and one lunch.** Departs 3 May & 21 September 2014.



This is just a small selection from the wide range of holidays that we feature.

0800 707 6229



info@TravelClubElite.com Clarks Courtyard, 145 Granville Street, Birmingham B1 1SB

Coventry Cathedral

1 Hill Top

Coventry,

CV1 5AB

Tel: 024 7652 1200

www.coventrycathedral.org.uk

FREE CONCERT – FREDDY VELDKAMP AND HIS MALE VOICE CHOIR (NETHERLANDS)

Thursday 28 November 2013, 7:30pm. In the Netherlands, Freddy Veldkamp and his Male Voice Choirs are well known both for their concerts and their television appearances. Together, they have toured all over the world and love to share their enjoyment of music with others. On 28 November they will be in Coventry with the famous baritone soloist, Ard Kamphuis. The programme is designed to give you a foretaste of Christmas.

Coventry Transport Museum

Millennium Place,

Hales Street,

Coventry, CV1 1JD

Tel: 024 7623 4270

www.transport-museum.com

WAR EFFORT

Until Sunday 5 January 2014. *War Effort*, our major temporary exhibition for 2013, throws the spotlight on the British motor industry's huge contribution to the wartime production, during World War II.

The exhibition tells the incredible story of how in the 1930s and 40s, the UK's motor companies supported the military, by building so-called 'shadow factories', and turning over production to building thousands of military vehicles, aircraft, munitions and other military equipment.

When you visit the War Effort exhibition, you will be taken on a personal journey through the lives of some of the people who worked in these factories, shedding particular light on the fascinating stories of the women who were drafted to work in the factories, many for the first time in their lives.

RBSA

Royal Birmingham

Society of Artists

RBSA Gallery

4 Brook Street

St Paul's

Birmingham B3 1SA

Tel: 0121 236 4353

www.rbsa.org.uk

BIG DRAW DEMONSTRATION

Saturday 2 November 2013, 11:00am-1:00pm and 2:00-4:00pm. As part of The Big Draw campaign, Ron Law RBSA and Brian Fletcher RBSA will display their sketchbooks and show how they create their drawings.

ARTIST WALK AND DEMONSTRATION

Saturday 16 November 2013, 12:00-3:00pm. To coincide with *RBSA: Our Collection, Our Archive and You*. Join the curators and Paul Hipkiss RBSA on a tour of the local canals. Paul will stop at locations that have inspired his prints, providing guidance on how to capture scenes using sketches and photos. Back at the Gallery, Paul will demonstrate how he makes his prints and the curators will offer insights on their selection.

MEET THE CURATORS AND DEMONSTRATION

Saturday 23 November 2013, 11:00-1:00pm and 2:00-4:00pm. Your chance to speak to the curators of *RBSA: Our Collection, Our Archive and You*. They will also be accompanied by John Shakespeare RBSA who will demonstrate the techniques he used to create his diploma work in the exhibition.



Selly Manor Museum



Two ancient timber-framed buildings, rescued by George Cadbury and moved into Bournville village.

The museum is home to the outstanding Laurence Cadbury Collection of Oak Furniture and surrounded by an authentic Tudor garden.

Open Tuesday to Friday 10am to 5pm

www.sellymanormuseum.org.uk



0121 472 0199



Birmingham Repertory Theatre Company presents

A Christmas Carol



By Charles Dickens
Adapted by Bryony Lavery
Music and Lyrics by Jason Carr

Charles Dickens' much-loved Christmas classic bursts onto The REP stage to provide the perfect festive treat.

Tickets £7 to £35
(Concessions & family prices available)

Box Office:
0121 236 4455

Online:
birmingham-rep.co.uk



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ENGLAND

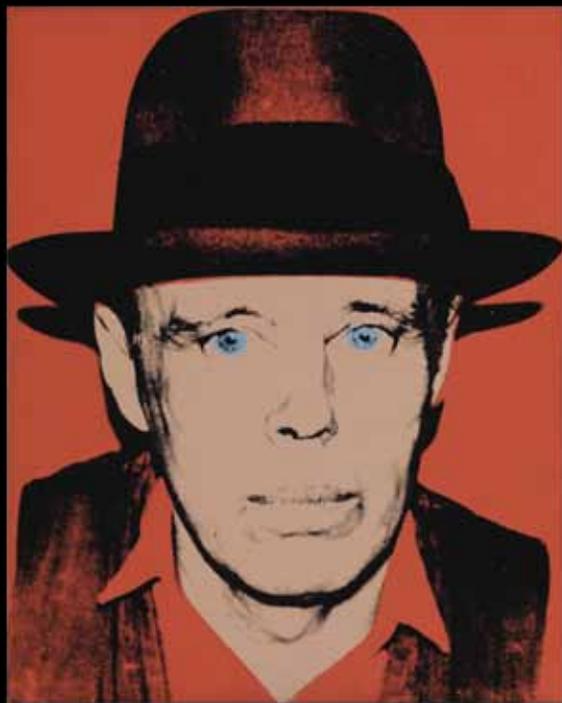
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27 November to
4 January



THE REP

Birmingham Repertory Theatre



Worcester City Art Gallery & Museum

ARTIST ROOMS Joseph Beuys

26 Oct 2013 – 1 Feb 2014
Open Mon – Sat 10.30 – 4.30

Free entry

For details of talks and tours see
www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

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

Tel: 01905 25371

Andy Warhol Portrait of Joseph Beuys 1980. © 2013 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

ARTIST ROOMS
ON TOUR WITH

TATE

NATIONAL GALLERY
ENGLAND



ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

ArtFund

MUSEUMS
WORCESTERSHIRE
Art • Heritage • Events

CELEBRATORY OPEN EVENT

Saturday 30 November 2013, 2:00-4:00pm. Join us to celebrate the range of work on display in the Open all Media exhibition. Complimentary drinks provided.

DEMONSTRATION

BY JOHN GRAHAM REEVE ARBSA

Saturday 7 December 2013, 11:00-1:00pm and 2:00-4:00pm. John will use examples of his work to show how he uses nature as a source of inspiration.

DEMONSTRATION BY CAROLE BAKER RBSA

Saturday 14 December 2013, 11:00-1:00pm and 2:00-4:00pm. Come and see how Carole creates her colourful and vibrant paintings.

Worcester City Museum & Art Gallery

Foregate Street,

Worcester,

WR1 1DT

Tel: 01905 25371

www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

VINTAGE & CRAFT CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 30 November 2013. Taking place during the Worcester Christmas Fayre, Second Hand Rose and The Worcester Flea are bringing a Vintage & Craft Christmas Bazaar to Worcester Art Gallery & Museum. Around 15 traders selling genuine vintage clothing and accessories, as well as handmade craft and gift items. There will be plenty of ideas on offer for unusual and individual Christmas presents.

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

Lichfield St,

Wolverhampton,

WV1 1DU

Tel: 01902 552055

www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk

PAULINE BOTY: POP ARTIST AND WOMAN

Until Saturday 16 November 2013. The work of Pauline Boty (1938-1966), a key member of the British Pop Art movement, both celebrates and critiques mass cultural experience, exploring themes of female sexuality, gender, race and politics.

This is the first public exhibition to survey her career as a whole, reinstating her at the forefront of British Pop Art.

This vibrant display of paintings, collages and ephemera from public and private collections includes some pieces that have not been exhibited for 40 years.

Worcester County Museum

Hartlebury Castle,

Hartlebury,

Kidderminster,

DY11 7XZ

Tel: 01299 250416

www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

CHRISTMAS AT THE CASTLE

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Electroformed Cricket Ball *Birmingham City University*

Lorna Williams, Exhibitions Officer at Thinktank, puts a spin on the everyday.

When asked which one thing she would recommend to the Friends of Birmingham Museums at Thinktank, Exhibitions Officer Lorna Williams was in no doubt: the *Electroformed Cricket Ball*. This ball, along with its partner, started life at Warwickshire County Cricket Club before

being donated so that it could be electroformed at Birmingham City University's School of Jewellery.

It now has pride of place alongside its untreated counterpart with what Lorna describes as: "accessioned objects, large working machines,

handling opportunities, props, networks, interactives, and text and audio visual elements." She continues: "The piece sits within my favourite example of the range of interpretation in the gallery working together to provide varied access points to the audience, and link materials, machinery, process and finished product together."



Thus the cricket ball sits with a selection of Elkington ware, which is plated in silver; a heavy electrical machine called a Woolwich generator which made the silver plating industry possible; and an interactive which mimics the way the generator would work and which reveals the main steps in silver plating at the turn of a handle.

"In terms of the whole gallery, the cricket ball represents one of the concepts within the We Made It gallery, of using familiar objects but presenting them or treating them in an unusual way, playing on perceptions of what is valuable and which materials are suitable for which purpose."



Lorna cites this as one of the reasons she finds the *Electroformed Cricket Ball* so appealing. She explains that there are other contemporary items in the gallery which have connections with precious metals, such as the Jaguar Land Rover catalytic converter with rhodium and palladium inside or the silver in medical plaster, but this item has an undeniable attraction for her.

The process of turning an ordinary cricket ball into one electroformed with a coating of silver is complex. Firstly the leather surface is sealed to make it watertight, and then it is sprayed with conductive silver ink and submerged in an electroforming tank for 12 hours to acquire a 0.5mm thick coating of copper. Finally it is submerged in an

electroplating tank for 30 minutes until it has a coating of silver a mere 0.03mm thick.

As Lorna points out, unlike traditional electroplating, this method does not need a base of metal to build upon which means all manner of objects can now be plated. *"There's something appealing about it being a cricket ball that ordinarily would end up scuffed, muddy and worn,"* Lorna explains. *"But instead it's displayed with, and has something in common with, historical Elkington products. This object acts as a link to a manufacturing process and provides a contemporary equivalent to technology used in the 19th century."*

The *Electroformed Cricket Ball* and the other items mentioned by Lorna can be found in the *We Made It*

gallery on level 1 of Thinktank. ■

by Jane Kubiesa

Apple Store Gallery 

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Local Artists' Exhibitions

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Heritage Site Focus

If you have ever fantasised about the romantic medieval era, or perhaps you yearn for the chance to get hands-on with a building of period construction, or are simply looking to gain a closer relationship with one of Birmingham's historic sites, then Weoley Castle Property Manager Jane McArdle has just the opportunity for you.

The Friends of Birmingham Museums are being offered the chance to strengthen their links with Weoley Castle by acting as volunteer 'Castle Keepers'. The ruins of the former manor house, which are more than 700 years old, are cared for by a team of Castle Keepers who carry out a range of duties.

Jane explains: *"What is quite important about Weoley is the group of volunteers that have been in existence for about ten years now. They give up their time and*

help maintain the site, carry out research, promote the site in the vicinity and at open days, they steward the events and they give guided tours. They are really important and if it wasn't for the fantastic work of the Castle Keepers we wouldn't be able to operate the site in the way that we do."

The site, which is Grade 1 listed and a scheduled monument, was formerly home to the Lords of Dudley and now hosts community events throughout the year. One of the most recent of these was a falconry display, which Jane says attracted around 500 visitors. It is events like this that make volunteers so invaluable to Weoley Castle.

"But it is not just at Weoley that we are looking for volunteers, we are looking for volunteers for all sites. I would certainly urge Friends to get in touch about



Weoley Castle, Alwold Road, Birmingham, B29 5RJ

volunteering, there are lots of different ways they could help," Jane adds.

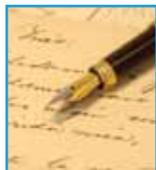
The close relationship between Weoley Castle and the Friends group was evident in 2010 when the Friends were the first group to visit the site following its redevelopment funded by Birmingham City Council, Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage. Works included the consolidation of stonework, an increase in CCTV cameras and the addition of a new viewing area and an education centre.

Thanks to the hard work of staff and volunteers, Weoley Castle provides a portal through which to view Medieval Birmingham. Jane explains: *"Visitors tend to be less familiar with Birmingham's medieval past so are very keen to see this ruined moated manor site."*

Some of the artefacts excavated from the Castle during the 1930s and 1940s are on display in the History Galleries at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery and these offer what Jane describes as a *"very substantial body of evidence about the people that lived at Weoley Castle."*

For further insight into that world, and the workings of the former moated manor house with its six towers and high, curtained walls, why not become a Castle Keeper? To volunteer, telephone 0121 464 2193 or email kirsty.nichol@birminghammuseums.org.uk. Opening times: The viewing platform is open daily and direct access to the ruins is available on event days or for pre-booked group guided tours. ■

By Jane Kubiesa



Friends' Diary Dates

November

- 5 * The New Birmingham Library Guided Tours (1)
- 15 * Holst Birthplace Museum and The Wilson - Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum,
- 19 ** Evening Event at Edmunds - Andy Horn - Photorealism exhibition
- 22 * The New Birmingham Library Guided Tours (2)
- 26 * Evening Event at Edmunds – Pogus Caesar – From Jamaica Row - Rebirth of the Bullring
- 29 * Guided Tour (117) – Jane Howell – From All Four Corners

December

- 3 * Luncheon Club - Jane Hornby - Art of the Baroque
- 3 * Evening Event at Edmunds – Peter Grego and Mike Allison – Birmingham Printmakers
- 5 * Museum of the Jewellery Quarter – Tours and Talks
- 9 * Guided Tour (118) - Peter Grego and Mike Allison – Birmingham Printmakers
- 10 * Manchester Art Gallery

2014 - January

- 14 * Evening Event at Edmunds – Rebecca Bridgman – Qalam

2014 - April

- 8-14 * Holland & The Dutch Masters

- * Details are enclosed with this mailing, and application forms are included in posted versions of this magazine (See note on page 6)
- ** Fully booked, sorry
- + Dates for your diary, no applications in this mailing
- # Included in a previous mailing, but still some places available
- \$ These events are not arranged by the Friends, applications are not included

The next Artefacts,
the Winter 2014
edition will be
published in
January

Barber Evening Concerts

Tine Thing Helseth 6 November 7.30pm



Tine Thing Helseth *trumpet*
Kathryn Stott *piano*

Celebrated Norwegian trumpet player Tine Thing Helseth is joined by pianist Kathryn Stott for a recital featuring 20th century trumpet works by Bull, Enescu and Hindemith, song transcriptions by Sibelius, de Falla and Weill, and a new commission for the duo by Graham Fitkin *Helical Strake*.

Simón Bolívar String Quartet 4 December 7.30pm



Alejandro Carreño *violin*
Boris Suárez *violin*
Ismel Campos *viola*
Aimon Mata *cello*

The string principals of the vibrant Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela perform Romantic works by Mendelssohn and Brahms alongside the Argentinean folk music-inspired *Quartet No. 1* by Ginastera.

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