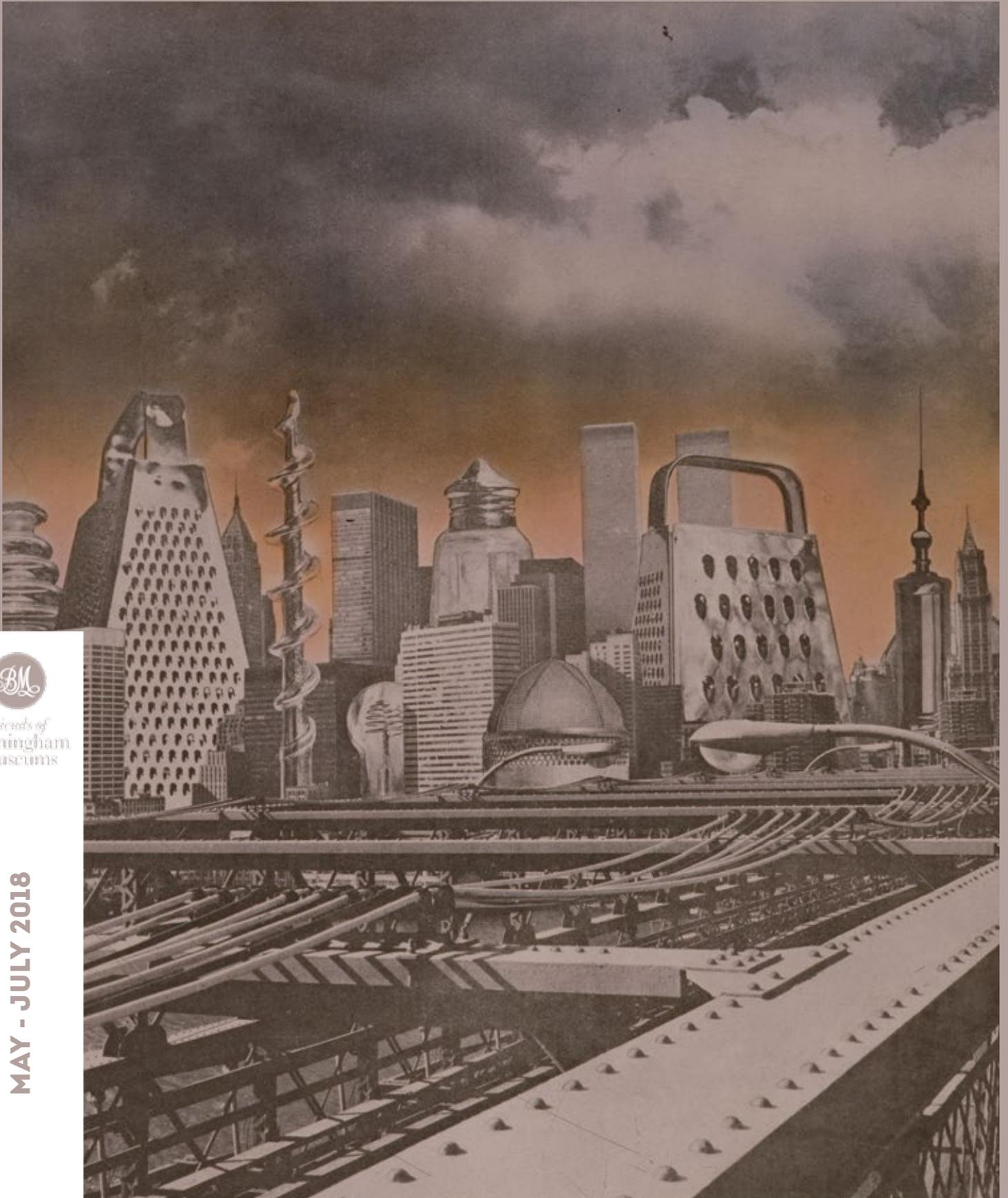


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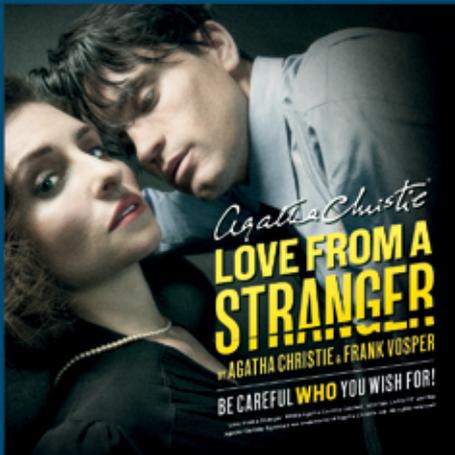


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Metropolis II, 1977, Chris Plowman © The artist's estate. Image by Birmingham Museums Trust.

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS MAGAZINE

COMING TO THE NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE



TUE 15 – SAT 19 MAY
AD SAT 19 MAY 2.30PM



MON 21 – SAT 26 MAY
THU 24 MAY 7.30PM



TUE 12 – SAT 16 JUN



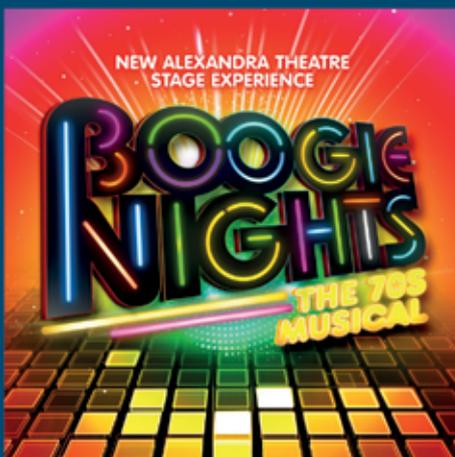
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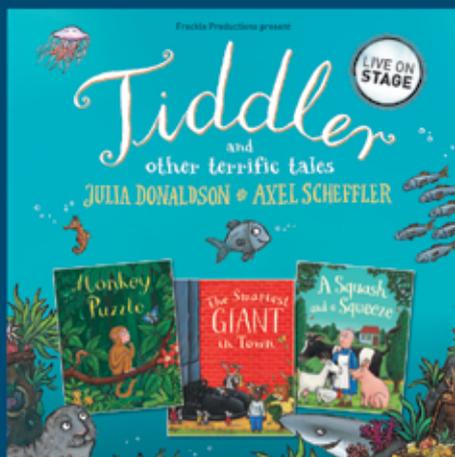
TUE 26 – SAT 30 JUN



TUE 31 JUL – SAT 4 AUG
R THU 2 AUG 2.30PM



WED 22 – SAT 25 AUG
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THU 30 AUG – SAT 1 SEP



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SUPPORTING BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS 2018~STYLE

BY DAVID FOSTER

Two years ago, in *Artefacts*, I told the story of how your Committee decided to help Birmingham Museums win an important and valuable contract with the Arts Council Collection. Over the past 18 months, this has led to a series of three major Gas Hall exhibitions and one smaller-scale event at Thinktank. These shows displayed stimulating, rewarding and challenging contemporary art works

from the Arts Council Collection, complemented by items from Birmingham's own collections. The latest one, *'Coming Out'*, will just have ended its run in Birmingham when you read these words.

Not all of the shows in this series are of blockbuster scale. The next, smaller shows are being staged at Aston Hall, Blakesley Hall and Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG). Those of you with longer memories will recall Arts Council Collection items being displayed at Aston Hall in 2012 under the theme of *'Curious Visitors'*. This summer's show, *'Walls Have Ears'*, will develop the concept of the Hall as a portrait gallery, using contemporary portraits which relate to Aston and its location, reflecting the communities who live in that area now. The past 400 years have seen many changes in the social, demographic and economic landscape that surrounds the Hall. The contemporary portraits celebrate this history alongside the portraits of the Holte family which are on permanent display there. My own abiding memory of the 2012 show was of the enormous giraffe in the library. What will be my memory of this year's show?

The Blakesley Hall show, *'Nature's Presence'*, will build on the house's historical relationship with nature. I can't wait to see what the Arts Council Collection of contemporary art will contribute to this topic.

And finally, BMAG's Galleries 12 and 13 will display *'The Everyday and Extraordinary'*. The front cover of this issue of *Artefacts* gives you a taste of the character of the items which will be presented.



Barbara Walker, *'Boundary II'*, 2000
Installation view © Deborah Smith

By writing about these forthcoming shows, I am not only publicising Birmingham Museums' exhibitions, but I am also highlighting to our members the changing ways in which their financial contributions to the Friends are used to support Birmingham Museums Trust. In the past, the Friends have primarily helped Birmingham Museums to acquire items for the collections. This is no

longer a primary need for the Trust. We are increasingly being asked for more avowedly financial support. Whilst adapting to this shift in emphasis, we want to ensure that our contributions remain clearly identifiable. And we want to avoid being drawn into contributing toward Birmingham Museums' core running costs.

The next big instance of this change in support concerns the plans for *'The Big Store'*. In her article in the last *Artefacts* Julie Crawshaw, the BMAG Redevelopment Project Manager, described why this project is so important. The aspiration is for *'The Big Store'* to be a cultural hub and an engine for regeneration in an eastern area of the city. She will be keeping us up-to-date on the project through regular articles in *Artefacts* (see page 21).

As is usual with major development projects, the process of creating the plans and raising the funds itself costs money. Birmingham City Council is meeting some of the costs of the development, but the architectural and design costs for *'The Big Store'* have yet to be covered. It is likely that the Friends will be asked to make a contribution towards this. Whilst spending on creating development plans does not apparently create a permanent result to which our contribution can be attributed, without these plans *'The Big Store'* - which will certainly be a permanent result - will not be built.

If you have strong opinions on the applicability of this work for Friends' financial support then please let us know, either via the office or through the website (fbmt.org.uk). ■

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EVENT APPLICATIONS

For members of the Friends, the event applications will be included as a supplement in the centre of this magazine. If you are not a member and would like to apply for one of our events, send a letter to the Friends' Office address on page 3 stating: the title of the event(s); and your name; address; telephone number; how many places you require; the cost; the pickup point for coach trips; and any other relevant information. Include a cheque for the total amount made out to 'FBMAG'. Please also include a S.A.E. for the return of your tickets.

Please note: a new rate has been introduced for non-members who wish to attend Friends Outings. Non-members will now be charged a £10 supplement (see prices for individual events).

The Friends Office is manned on Mondays and Tuesdays. If you have a query, please leave a message on the answer phone and we will be in touch.



GUIDED TOUR OF THE DIPPY EXHIBITION

Date: Monday 4 June 2018

Speaker: Lukas Large, Curator of Natural Science, Birmingham Museums Trust. Cost: £9

Meeting point: The Gas Hall entrance at BMAG at 10:45am for an 11am start

NB. Guided tours are exclusively for members.

Join Curator of Natural Science Lukas Large for a tour of the Dippy exhibition. Find out more about Dippy and the history of this iconic cast. In the surrounding exhibition learn about the evolution of birds from dinosaurs, exploring how the skeleton, feathers and eggs of modern birds reveal traces of their dinosaur ancestors.



'CHINA'S FIRST EMPEROR AND THE TERRACOTTA WARRIORS' ~ WORLD MUSEUM, LIVERPOOL

Date: Thursday 14 June 2018

Cost: £42/£52 non-members (includes entrance to the exhibition, coach & driver's tip)

3 Pickup points: South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 7:45am;

Yateley Road, Harborne, B15 3JP at 8:15am; Chest Clinic, Great Charles Street at 8:30am.

Order of drop offs: Sutton Coldfield; Colmore Row; and Harborne. [NB. This event was advertised in the February-April 2018 edition of Artefacts. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.]

Taking place at the World Museum from 9 February to 28 October 2018, 'China's First Emperor and the Terracotta Warriors' showcases objects from one of the world's greatest archaeological discoveries and spans almost 1,000 years of Chinese history; from the conflicts and chaos of the Warring States period, to the achievements and legacy of the Qin and Han dynasties.

For over 2,000 years, an underground army of life-sized terracotta warriors secretly guarded the tomb of China's First Emperor, Qin Shi Huang, until a chance discovery in 1974 unlocked the mysteries of a vanished empire.

The exhibition will include a number of objects that have never been on show in the UK before, including material from museums and institutes from across Shaanxi Province, excavated over the last 40 years from the Imperial Mausoleum and selected tombs. These artefacts will shed light on the Emperor's pursuit of immortality and show how he prepared for the afterlife, as well as help us to understand more about everyday life in China more than two thousand years ago.

This exhibition was organised by National Museums Liverpool, United Kingdom and the Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Bureau and Shaanxi History Museum (Shaanxi Cultural Heritage Promotion Centre), People's Republic of China.



WHAT'S THE POINT OF TAXIDERMY?

Date: Tuesday 19 June 2018, 6-7pm

Speaker: Lukas Large, Curator of Natural Science, Birmingham Museums Trust

Cost: £3 for Members of the Friends of Birmingham Museums and the BMI/£5 non-members

Venue: John Lee Lecture Theatre at the Birmingham & Midland Institute (BMI)

[NB. This event was advertised in the February-April 2018 edition of Artefacts. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.]

Birmingham Museums Trust cares for thousands of

EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



SCIENCE SHORT

taxidermied animals and they are a significant part of the natural science collection. However taxidermy is sometimes seen as old fashioned and having little value in a modern museum. This lecture will explore Birmingham's taxidermy collection and how it is being used to inspire engagement with the natural world. It will also look at how taxidermy is being used to answer scientific questions as advances in technology enable scientists to obtain new data from old specimens.



A TOUR OF BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL

Date: Monday 25 June 2018, 2:15pm for 2:30pm

Speaker: Jane McArdle, Heritage Officer, Birmingham Cathedral

Cost: £9/£12 non-members (Including tea, coffee and biscuits which will be served at the end of the tour)

Meeting point: Inside the entrance to St Philip's Cathedral, Colmore Row

The tour will be given by Jane McArdle, Heritage Officer at the Cathedral and former caretaker-manager of Blakesley Hall.

A tour of Birmingham Cathedral exploring the history and development of a church that became a cathedral, in a town that became a city. The tour will look at the remarkable Burne-Jones stained glass windows and 'Divine Beauty', the cathedral's ambition to restore them. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served at the end of the tour.



'FUSION OF THE PAST AND PRESENT - EXHIBITIONS AT BLAKESLEY HALL AND ASTON HALL'

Date: Tuesday 26 June 2018, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Speaker: Deborah Smith, Curator, Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme

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

Venue: John Lee Lecture Theatre at the Birmingham & Midland Institute (BMI)

Join Deborah Smith, Birmingham Museums Trust's Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme Curator, for a presentation and discussion about the 5th partner exhibition at two of the Trust's Heritage Sites, Blakesley Hall and Aston Hall.



Above: Aston Hall

'Nature's Presence: Fruit, Flowers and Fauna' is an exhibition inspired by Blakesley Hall's history and its relationship with nature. Inside the Hall, wall paintings of flowers have decorated the rooms since the 17th Century. Within the Hall's grounds is a garden and an orchard which continues to flourish. The 16 artworks in 'Nature's Presence' have been selected from the Arts Council Collection, Birmingham's collection and other major collections. They range in media from film and photography to painting and sculpture.

'Walls Have Ears: 400 Years of Change' is inspired by Aston Hall's history and its surroundings. The past 400 years have seen many changes in the social, demographic and economic landscape which surrounds the Hall. This exhibition reflects these changes, interweaving the Hall's past and present. It features a selection of 16 important works from the Arts Council Collection and Birmingham's own collection, which explore themes of history, culture, class and race.

The Friends have contributed £45,000 to the Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme over three years. >



Above: Arthur Hughes, *The Long Engagement*, c.1854-9, Oil on canvas, Birmingham Museums Trust



CURATOR TOUR AT ASTON HALL: 'WALLS HAVE EARS: 400 YEARS OF CHANGE'

Date: Wednesday 4 July 2018, 11am-12pm

Speaker: Deborah Smith, Curator, Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme

Cost: £9/£12 non-members.

Venue: Aston Hall; **Meeting point:** The Cafe



'VICTORIAN RADICALS: BIRMINGHAM'S PRE-RAPHAELITES ON TOUR'

Date: Tuesday 10 July 2018, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Speaker: Victoria Osborne, Curator (Fine Art) and Curatorial Team Leader, Birmingham Museums Trust

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

Venue: John Lee Lecture Theatre at the Birmingham & Midland Institute (BMI)

BMT is about to launch the largest and most complex touring exhibition in the Museum's history. Organised in partnership with the American Federation of Arts, 'Victorian Radicals: From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts and Crafts Movement' will travel to eight venues in the United States from October this year. Join Curator (Fine Art) and Curatorial Team Leader Victoria Osborne to learn more about the exhibition, and hear about the work that has been going on behind the scenes to prepare almost 200 paintings, works on paper and decorative art objects to go on tour.



'WHAT THE VICTORIANS DID FOR US'

Date: Friday 13 July 2018, 11am

Speaker: Jane Howell. **Cost:** £9

Meeting point: The Round Room at 10:45am for an 11am start

NB. Guided tours are exclusively for members.

So, what did the Victorians do for us? It is very easy to discover this in Birmingham, a city which was largely created by the Victorians. In this tour we shall concentrate on both architecture, through looking at our own magnificent Museum and Art Gallery; and on some works of art, such as 'Work' by Ford Maddox Brown, that illustrate how the Victorians transformed lives for 'Brummies' and for the rest of the country.



EVENT KEY



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7.45pm

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POWIS CASTLE ~ NATIONAL TRUST

Date: Tuesday 17 July 2018

NB. THIS IS THE OUTING WHICH WAS POSTPONED DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS ON 1 MARCH 2018. If you booked a place on that event you will automatically be on the list for this one. Otherwise please book in the usual way.

Cost: £27/£37 non-members (includes coach & driver's tip). NB. Entrance to Powis Castle is not included so please bring your National Trust Card with you; non-members must pay on the day.

3 Pickup points: South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield – at 8am; Yateley Road, Harborne, B15 3JP at 8:30am; Chest Clinic, Great Charles Street at 8:45am. We will leave at 5pm. Order of drop offs: Sutton Coldfield; Colmore Row; and Harborne.

A medieval castle rising dramatically above the much-celebrated garden, overhung with clipped yews and sheltering rare and tender plants. Laid out under the influence of Italian and French styles, it retains its original lead statues and an orangery on the terraces. High on a rock above the terraces, the castle, originally built circa 1200, began life as a medieval fortress.

Remodelled and embellished over more than 400 years, Powis Castle reflects the changing needs and ambitions of the Herbert family - each generation adding to the magnificent collection of paintings, sculpture, furniture and tapestries. The superb collection of artefacts displayed in the Clive Museum is the largest private collection of this type in the UK, featuring more than 300 items from India and the Far East, dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries. The collection includes ivories, textiles, statues of Hindu gods, ornamental silver and gold, and weapons and ceremonial armour. The collection was created by two generations of the Clive family: Robert (who became known as Clive of India) and his son Edward, who married Henrietta Herbert, daughter of the 1st Earl of Powis (2nd creation).



'THE STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD ~ BEHIND THE SCENES'

Date: Thursday 26 July 2018

Speaker: Dr David Symons. Cost: £9

Meeting point: The Round Room at 10:45am for an 11am start. NB. Guided tours are exclusively for members.

David worked at BMAG for nearly 40 years, looking after the archaeology and numismatic collections. For the last 6 years of his career he spent almost all his time working on the Staffordshire Hoard. In this talk he will give you an insider's eye view of this exciting find, from its discovery in July 2009 to the opening of the new BMAG gallery in October 2014, explaining the significance of the hoard and revealing some of the more quirky aspects of life as part of the hoard research team.



'WHEN THE BUG BITES...' ~ INSECT PEST MANAGEMENT AT BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS

Date: Tuesday 11 September 2018, 6-7pm

Speaker: Jane Thompson Webb BSc ACR, Conservation Team Leader, Birmingham Museums Trust

Cost: £3 for Members of the Friends of Birmingham Museums and the BMI/£5 non-members

Venue: John Lee Lecture Theatre at the Birmingham & Midland Institute (BMI)

Insect pests have been a danger to objects for millennia – moths are mentioned as destroyers of objects in the Bible. They are proving to be a major headache in the museum world and, left to their own devices, they can devastate collections. Even knowing this, dealing with insect pests is one of my favourite parts of the job. Did you know that woodworm live for only two weeks as an adult after five years as a larva living in a piece of wood? Or that moths have expensive tastes and prefer cashmere over anything else?

What insects are trying to eat collections at BMT? How do we find them when they are mostly less than 5mm long? What do we do when collection items are being munched? Why do they want to eat the collections anyway and why are motorbikes so tasty? Come along and find out the answers to these and >

EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



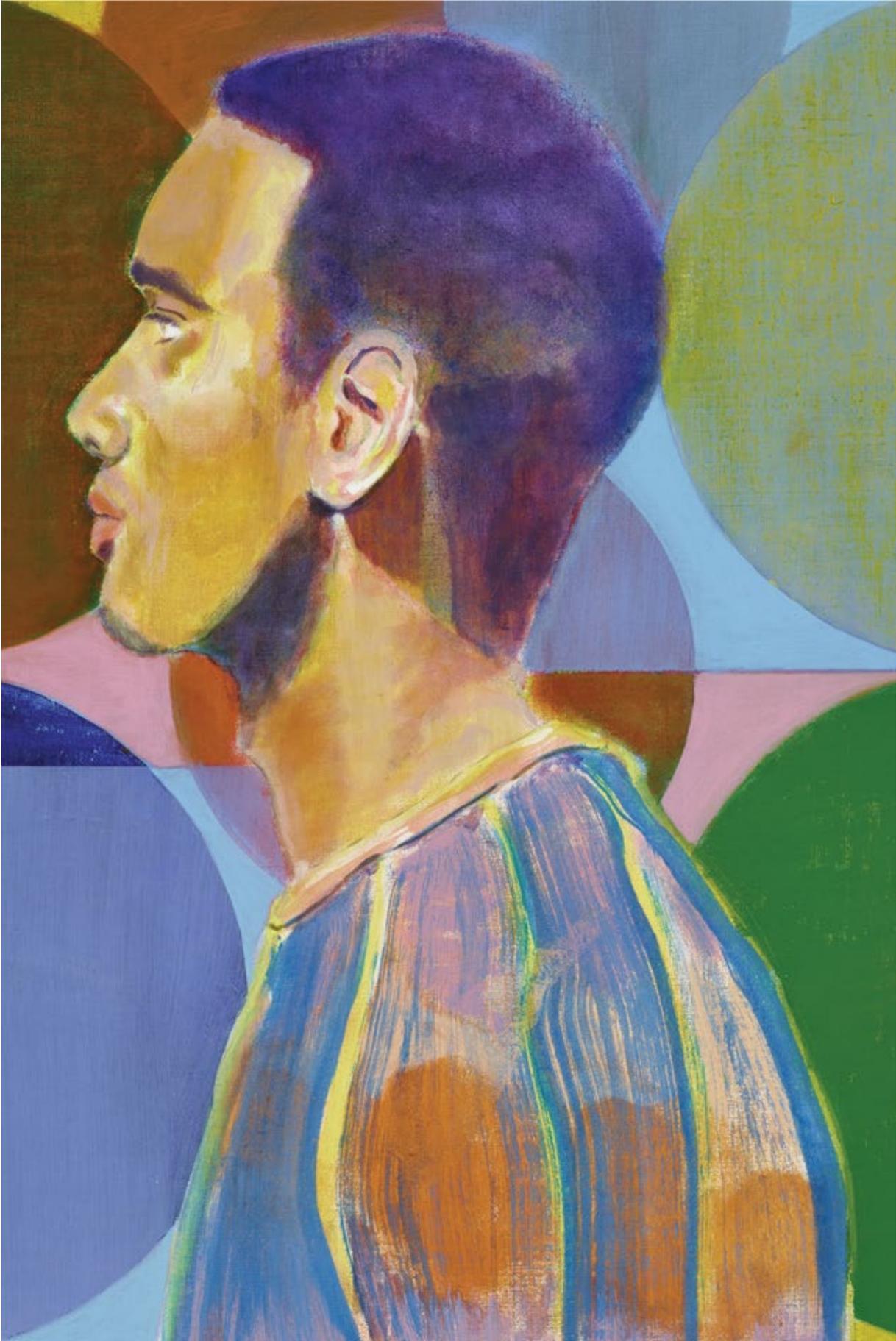
GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



SCIENCE SHORT



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many other bug-related questions and see if insects pests can become one of your favourite things. As a bonus, bring your questions or specimens about insects trying to eat your own collections and I will do my best to come up with a solution!



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday 11 September 2018, 7:30pm

Venue: John Lee Lecture Theatre at the Birmingham & Midland Institute (BMI)

The AGM will commence at 7:30pm in the John Lee Lecture Theatre and we anticipate that it will conclude by 8:30– 9pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available from 7pm until 7:30pm at no cost. If you wish to make a donation towards the costs of the meeting prior to the event please indicate the amount you are donating on the booking form, and include it

in the amount you are paying for events bookings. Donation plates will also be available on the night. It is important that we know numbers for catering purposes, so please complete the Application Form and return it as soon as possible. The AGM will follow our Science Short on dealing with insect pests in Birmingham Museums' collections, which will be led by Jane Thompson Webb, BMT's Conservation Team Leader. The Science Short will be held directly before the AGM, from 6-7pm in the John Lee Lecture Theatre at the BMI, and will cost £3 (see page 10).



FRIENDS WEEKEND AWAY: PLYMOUTH

Dates: Friday 5 October - Monday 8 October 2018

Cost: £362 per person. Single room supplement: £45.

This includes coach travel, hotel (3 nights dinner, bed & breakfast), lunch at SS Great Britain, all entrance charges (except National Trust Properties) and driver's tip.

A few places are still available for the Friends weekend away in Plymouth. Please contact Barbara Preece: Tel: 0121 4061145, email: barbara.preece.fbmag@gmail.com or write to the Friends' Office, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH. To secure your place(s) a non-refundable deposit of £60 will be required when booking.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

-  Wednesday 17 October 2018: *'Titanic: Voyage into Destiny': Part 3 of 4* – Andrew Lound
-  Tuesday 4 December 2018: *'Titanic: Voyage into Destiny': Part 4 of 4* – Andrew Lound
-  Tuesday 4 December 2018: *'The City of Birmingham, preserving a steam locomotive'* - Dr Jim Andrew

ST MARY'S COLLEGE, OSCOTT

As there is a limit of 25 on the numbers for a visit to St Mary's College, Oscott, the Friends event on Wednesday 9 May filled up very quickly. There is a Waiting List of 17 members who remain interested in a visit. A schedule for further visits will not be available until September but we do intend to arrange another visit at this time. If you are on the Waiting List you will be contacted as soon as a date has been organised. If you did not apply for the May visit but would like to attend a later visit then please contact Mary Whetnall, (details on page 3). Alternatively, please include a note of your interest when applying for the Events advertised in this issue.

EVENT KEY



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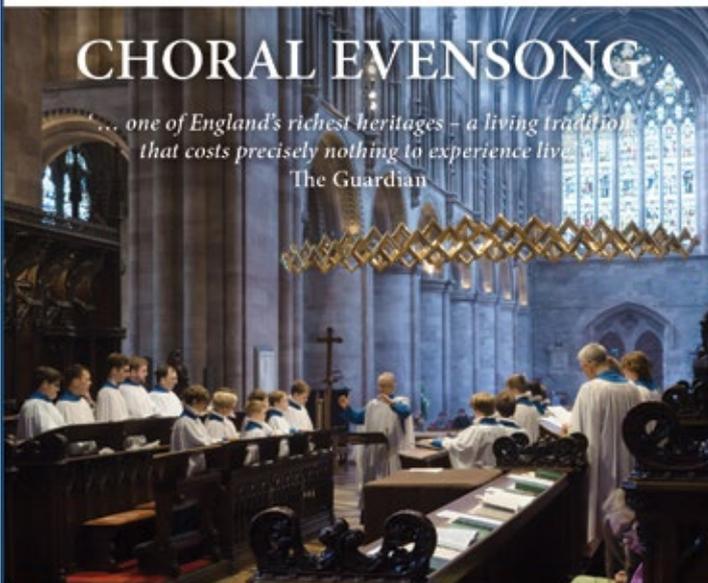
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- 50% entrance discount to Thinktank at Millennium Point: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank
- Shakespeare Birthplace Trust shops (excluding admission prices): www.shakespeare.org.uk
- 25% discount on Annual Passport Tickets at Ironbridge Gorge Trust: www.ironbridge.org.uk
- Potteries Museums & Art Gallery shops/cafés: www.stokemuseums.org.uk

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Gift membership is available all year round and

Mary, the Friends' Honorary Treasurer, deals with the events bookings: "Sorry the canary yellow's full - but I can offer you a Guided Tour in duck-egg blue!"



includes 3 extra months free. A Gift Membership form can be downloaded at www.fbmt.org.uk/subscriptions/. Alternatively, you can use the standard application form in this magazine. Complete the form with the recipient's details and send it with a covering note giving your own name and contact details.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our new members: Mr M & Mrs L Rosindale, Dr S Botchway & Mr S Murphy, Ms U Murch, Mr MJ Winstone, Mrs P McMeeking, Mrs G Byrne, and Mrs E de Sathmary. ■

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE WRITE IN CAPITAL LETTERS

Title: _____

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

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Where did you pick up this copy of *Artefacts*?: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY AND ANNUAL RATES

(Please tick)

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

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



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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

DATA PROTECTION Your details are held securely by the Friends Office for administrative purposes only. Your email address will only be used for occasional contact. If you are willing to be contacted by post or email about appeals for donations, please give your permission I can be contacted about donations for Birmingham Museums: Yes No



ABOVE: The Friends' visit The Queen's House, Greenwich

What makes the Friends of Birmingham Museums special?

For me, two key highlights stand out. You are holding one of them, namely *Artefacts*, the Friends magazine. This high-quality publication receives lots of attention throughout the West Midlands, standing out as a prominent cultural journal for the region. It is on display in many places - not only museums and art galleries, but also doctors' waiting rooms, businesses and local libraries. We hope you enjoy reading it and showing it off to your friends who may have not yet seen it.

The second highlight is our Events programme. The social buzz which we have created through the range of events we organise is welcomed by many members. For a substantial number, it is their primary reason for joining. They appreciate the high-quality programme which offers lectures, gallery tours and visits, day trips and outings to cultural and historic places, evening events and an annual holiday overseas.

Creating and managing this Events programme is a significant task which involves most of the Friends' office team. The Events Coordinator (a voluntary role) shoulders the main responsibility. John Pownall, supported by Ann Crump, fulfilled this for many years. When he stepped back, Barbara Preece was recruited

to take on this duty, and, for the last three years she has been volunteering for the Friends with great enthusiasm, and has found an amazing variety of places and events which members have been introduced to.

Unfortunately, and with huge regret, Barbara is having to resign from this position for health reasons. So, at least in the short-term, we have to decide how to proceed without her.

Constructing and managing the whole Events programme is not down to just one person but is a team effort. Barbara has been personally looking after the outings, and John Pownall has offered to take this on again (at least in the short-term) until a replacement can be found. Jane Howell has enthusiastically offered to develop a range of gallery tours and specialist talks. Melissa Hughes, the editor of *Artefacts*, has established and taken a personal interest in organising the evening events. And, naturally, she ensures that the whole programme is well promoted in *Artefacts*. Mary Whetnall, our Honorary Treasurer, handles the administration efficiently and with her customary discipline.

I have seen for myself how well everyone in the Friends' Office works together, and so there is a very good chance that the coordination of these elements will happen naturally. Whilst we have been lucky, on this occasion, that there have been volunteers in the Office ready and willing to fill the gap, this is only a temporary solution.

So, if any of you would be interested in taking on a rewarding volunteer role and in joining a successful team which is making a difference, please talk to any one of us. You can find the team's contact details on page 3 of this magazine. Don't be shy! ■

NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL
BY DAVID FOSTER, CHAIR

REPORT FROM BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS

BY RACHEL COCKETT, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

After a winter which has seen snow in the Midlands right up to Easter I am sure all our Friends will be delighted to welcome in a warmer and sunnier (we hope!) Spring.

From 26 May through to 9 September, we welcome The Natural History Museum's famous Diplodocus skeleton cast to Birmingham for *'Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure'*. Thanks to the Friends' grant towards conservation costs, Dippy's stop in Birmingham will be accompanied by a fantastic exhibition drawn from our own bird collection. Since my last update, I am pleased to announce that Paradise Birmingham have joined the Friends as a Regional Sponsor of the exhibition. As one of the biggest development schemes Birmingham has seen for a generation, Paradise Birmingham is set to dramatically improve the area of the city around the Museum & Art Gallery. We are delighted to receive this additional support from our newest neighbour.

Visitors will see major changes in displays at the Museum & Art Gallery as we undertake our largest touring exhibition ever through a partnership with the American Federation of Arts. *'Victorian Radicals'* will see 200 works from the city's collection tour the United States from October 2018. The exhibition tells the story of three generations of young artists and designers who revolutionised the visual arts in Britain: the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood; the Arts and Crafts movement led by William Morris and his associates; and artists and makers in Birmingham and elsewhere who carried and developed their ideas into the 20th Century. Now is the time to revisit your favourite displays before we start making changes in June. The tour offers us the opportunity to refresh the displays and rarely exhibited artworks have been chosen to take the place of those sent on tour. There will be a new display of paintings and watercolours by Birmingham-born landscape artist David Cox. The city has the largest collection of his work anywhere in the world, and his acclaimed watercolour and oil landscape paintings, including *'Crossing the Sands'*, will appear prominently in this new display.

The Arts Council Collection National Partners

Programme continues with three very different exhibitions. *'Walls Have Ears: 400 Years of Change'*, an exhibition of portraiture and representations of history, culture, class and race, featuring artists from the Arts Council Collection, and Birmingham's collection, will be shown throughout Aston Hall. The exhibition includes a number of Birmingham artists, including Vanley Burke, whose photograph *'Rasta Man from Handsworth'* (1968) captures a young black man growing up in Birmingham in the late 1960s. This was a period during which Britain began to face the challenges of introducing racial equality, passing the first Race Relations Act in 1965 with further amendments in 1968.

At Blakesley Hall, *'Nature's Presence'* takes inspiration from the Hall's historical relationship with nature and the garden. Historically the Hall's grounds have been both ornamental and working gardens, whilst today they are a hub of community activity. The display includes different artistic perspectives on the natural world. The works present subject matter including flowers, fruit and animals through a range of media, from film and photography to paintings and sculpture. The exhibition is accompanied by a rare series of herbarium specimen's native to Yardley.

'The Everyday and Extraordinary' opens at the Museum & Art Gallery on 8 June. The relationship between the found object as artistic material, content and subject-matter provides the basis for an exhibition that presents a Wunderkammer of modern and contemporary artworks. This exhibition presents an eclectic and surreal environment where the everyday and the extraordinary come together, from Bill Woodrow's umbrella-based sculptures to Elizabeth Wright's larger than life-size moped. This exhibition is designed to appeal to family audiences over our busy summer period and will be an accessible and engaging exhibition suitable for your children and grandchildren.

The Friends support over three years has made the Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme of exhibitions possible. With two more exhibitions to be announced for 2018 and 2019 we hope our Friends continue to enjoy the artistic programme. ■



RBSA Art Workshops 2018

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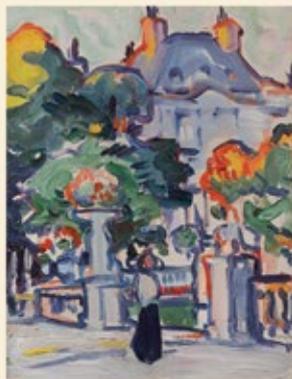


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15 June –
23 September

Federico Barocci, *Head of an Old Man*, c.1575,
Royal Collection Trust
© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 2018

ART THROUGH THE AGES

BY JANE HOWELL

In this edition of *Artefacts* I am beginning a series of brief articles about paintings from Birmingham Museums' collection, starting with a work from the 14th Century. The series will progress through the centuries until we arrive at the 21st Century in January 2020.

The Fourteenth Century

A Saint holding a Book by Simone Martini

The face looks down. It is full of grief; that point where grief has moved beyond tears. There are no more left.

This is a portrait of one of the apostles. It was part of an altarpiece, believed to be for a church in Siena. Much of it is lost but it would have followed the traditional structure of an altarpiece. In the centre of the bottom tier is the predella, an illustration of Christ in his tomb. The Saint looks towards his dead Christ. He has lost everything.

Most people know the Easter story – Christ was crucified on Good Friday on the orders of Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea. Two days later, on Easter Sunday, Christians believe that Christ was miraculously resurrected in accordance with the scriptures. He appeared on several occasions to the disciples until he ascended into heaven a few weeks later.

Christians know and believe this. But what about the disciples? They didn't know the resurrection was to happen. How did they feel on Easter Saturday? Most

had given up everything: their wives, their families and their work, to follow this man. Did they feel betrayed? Christ appeared, according to the gospels, to have made no attempt to save himself. Martini's saint portrays the grief and anguish that must have been felt that day. Their very charismatic leader had gone – and for what?

Simone Martini, c1284-1344, was born, lived and worked in Siena until he moved to Avignon where he died. Our panel is believed to have been painted in about 1320.

At this time oil paint had not been discovered so Martini and other artists worked in tempera. The pigment is dissolved in water and is mixed (tempered) with an organic gum or glue, usually egg, and was mainly for working on wood panels which had to be primed before the tempera was applied.

This panel has Martini's distinctive signature mark – an elaborately decorated halo made from gold leaf. The colours of his flesh and robe remain vivid after seven hundred years.

The altarpiece was broken up many centuries ago. In spite of many attempts to find the parts, most of it, along with much of Martini's work is still missing. The thirteen panels of the base represent a small part of the whole structure building up to the triumphant image of Christ sitting at the right hand of God the father.

It is thought that our panel may have been in a country house near Bridgnorth in the 18th Century, vanished and then reappeared again in 1947 in a basket of 'bits and pieces' in The Treasure Trove in Kings Norton, Birmingham, on sale for £2 - 10sh (£2.50). It was bought by the owner of a trucking company who had an eye for the unusual.

After ten years he approached Birmingham Museum and was offered £3000 for it. Being a businessman he took it to the National Gallery and was offered £4000. However, as a 'Brummie' he wanted his city to own it so after further negotiation, Birmingham Museum offered the £4000 and became the owner of '*A Saint Holding a Book*'.

There are only four Simone Martinis in England. Two are in the National Gallery and two are in Birmingham - one at the Barber Institute at Birmingham University and ours, here at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. At the time of writing it is hanging in Gallery 27. ■



Simone Martini, '*A Saint Holding a Book*' © Birmingham Museums Trust

VICTORIAN RADICALS: BIRMINGHAM'S PRE-RAPHAELITES ON TOUR

This summer sees big changes in the art galleries at BMAG as some of the city's most famous paintings prepare to go on tour. Pre-Raphaelite masterpieces including John Everett Millais's *The Blind Girl* and Ford Madox Brown's *Pretty Baa-Lambs* will travel to eight venues in the United States as part of a major new touring exhibition, *'Victorian Radicals: From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts and Crafts Movement'*.

'Victorian Radicals' is the largest and most complex touring exhibition ever staged from Birmingham's collection, and will showcase one of its great strengths: the city's outstanding holdings of Victorian and Edwardian fine and decorative art. The exhibition will present around 200 objects spanning almost the full range of art production during the period 1840-1910: paintings, drawings, jewellery, ceramics, printed books, textiles, enamels, metalwork and stained glass. The exhibition has been curated by a team comprising guest curators Martin Ellis (whom many Friends will remember as Birmingham Museums' Curator of Applied Art for many years) and Tim Barringer, Professor of Art History at Yale University, alongside Victoria Osborne, Curator (Fine Art) and Curatorial Team Leader at BMT, with additional contributions by Zelina Garland, BMT Curatorial and Exhibitions Manager.

The exhibition explores three generations of progressive British artists: the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and their circle; the second wave of Pre-Raphaelite artists who gathered around Dante Gabriel Rossetti from the late 1850s, including William Morris and Birmingham-born Edward Burne-Jones; and a third generation of designers and makers associated with the Arts and Crafts movement, working from the turn of the century to just before the First World War. The last section of the exhibition will have a particular focus on the importance of Birmingham and its School of Art as centres for progressive Arts and Crafts practice.

The exhibition and tour have been developed by Birmingham Museums Trust in partnership with the American Federation of Arts (AFA). Founded in 1909, the AFA is a non-profit organisation which promotes

experience and understanding of the visual arts through staging and touring art exhibitions internationally, publishing exhibition catalogues featuring new research, and developing educational programmes. The collaboration with AFA is enabling BMT to bring Birmingham's collection to new audiences across the United States, raising the profile of the city and generating income to support the BMAG capital redevelopment and help sustain the Trust for the future. It has also made possible substantial investment in collections research, object conservation and new photography, enabling BMT to stage a more complex and ambitious exhibition than would otherwise have been possible. The wide range of material included will allow *'Victorian Radicals'* both to explore the full richness and variety of fine and applied art practice during the period, and to make visual and thematic connections across different media. For example, Arthur Hughes's vibrant painting *The Long Engagement* (1859) will be shown alongside two day dresses in jewel-coloured silk, illustrating the impact of newly-invented synthetic dyes on both artists' pigments and contemporary fashion, and helping to explain why Pre-Raphaelite paintings appeared so strikingly radical and modern on their first appearance.

The *'Victorian Radicals'* tour will provide an opportunity to rehang the Pre-Raphaelite and Birmingham School galleries at BMAG, with new displays scheduled to be in place by the end of June. The galleries will retain some longstanding favourites – including Madox Brown's *The Last of England*, Burne-Jones's *The Star of Bethlehem* and Byam Shaw's *The Boer War* – alongside Victorian and Edwardian paintings unseen for a number of years, such as Albert Moore's *Dreamers*, William Powell Frith's *Garden Flowers* and

Edward Poynter's *The Bells of St Mark's*. Gallery 17 will be dedicated to a new selection of paintings and watercolours by landscape artist David Cox (1783-1859), one of the most important artists associated with Birmingham and a favourite with many visitors.

'Victorian Radicals: From the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts and Crafts Movement' opens at Oklahoma City Museum of Art on 11 October 2018. For more information about the tour venues, visit www.amfedarts.org/traveling-exhibitions/victorian-radicals/

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue published by the American Federation of Arts in association with DelMonico Books-Prestel. The book will be available from October 2018 in the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery shop and online at: shop.birminghammuseums.org.uk. ■

By Victoria Osborne, Curator (Fine Art)



George James Frampton, designer and silversmith, *The Christabel Necklace*, 1893-4. Silver gilt, champlevé enamel, pearls and opals © Birmingham Museums Trust

THE BIG STORE

In the last edition of *Artefacts*, I set out our plans for Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's re-development and a proposed brand new collection store.

Birmingham City Council is leading the architectural and engineering design work on the two Council House buildings, while Birmingham Museums Trust has been developing its plans for new interpretation and activities in the museum. As part of these plans, we are also appointing museum designers to create concepts for some of the new story displays in the refurbished galleries.

The development of the proposed 'Big Store' in east Birmingham is critical to the overall project timing and the building will be much more than just a collection storage facility. Phase 1 will house all the back of house staff who currently work in the Museum & Art Gallery, as well as the oil paintings and works on paper currently stored there; it is also proposed that a Phase 2 development will replace the existing Museum Collections Centre. The collection will be publicly accessible, and we will create a unique community hub that combines events and activities, skills development, learning opportunities, a great

café and retail. Several other cultural organisations have expressed an interest in becoming partners.

Working with Birmingham City Council, we have identified a brownfield site in the east of the city next to an area of public open space, which will be considered by the Planning Committee in due course. With the financial help from the City of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery Development Trust we have commissioned Associated Architects to design an outline scheme for Birmingham Museums Trust and potential partners and to develop initial costs. We then plan to take these to the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership and the Heritage Lottery Fund later this year in a bid for significant capital funds. Consultations will begin shortly and, to ensure a smooth transition for the Museum & Art Gallery redevelopment, we will have the Big Store ready in 2020/21 - a tight, but achievable target. ■

By Julie Crawshaw, Major Projects Manager, Birmingham Museums Trust

COLLECTIONS PURCHASED BY THE FRIENDS

Over the years, many collections of objects have been purchased for and by Birmingham Museums. Some are weird, some are wonderful, and some are really important. Below are a few for which the Friends either contributed to their purchase or bought outright.

The first collection, which I also mentioned in my article in the November 2017 - January 2018 edition of *Artefacts*, was purchased in 1932, consisting of 21 whips ranging from Ladies' carriage whips to a bullock team whip (Accession numbers: 1932F212-1932F233).

In 1933, a rather macabre collection of Hair Jewellery was purchased by the Friends. This included 25 pieces, mostly bracelets, but also a pair of earrings (Accession numbers: 1933M375-1933M396).

A huge, really important collection of coins, medals and tokens, amassed by a collector called Henry Samuel Gunn, was purchased in 1939. It comprised 133 Roman coins, and also Mediaeval and other British and foreign coins (Accession numbers: 1939C390-549 & 1939N433-622).

When the William De Morgan ceramics factory closed, all the artefacts housed there were purchased for Birmingham Museums. These are mostly tiles but also household articles and pattern

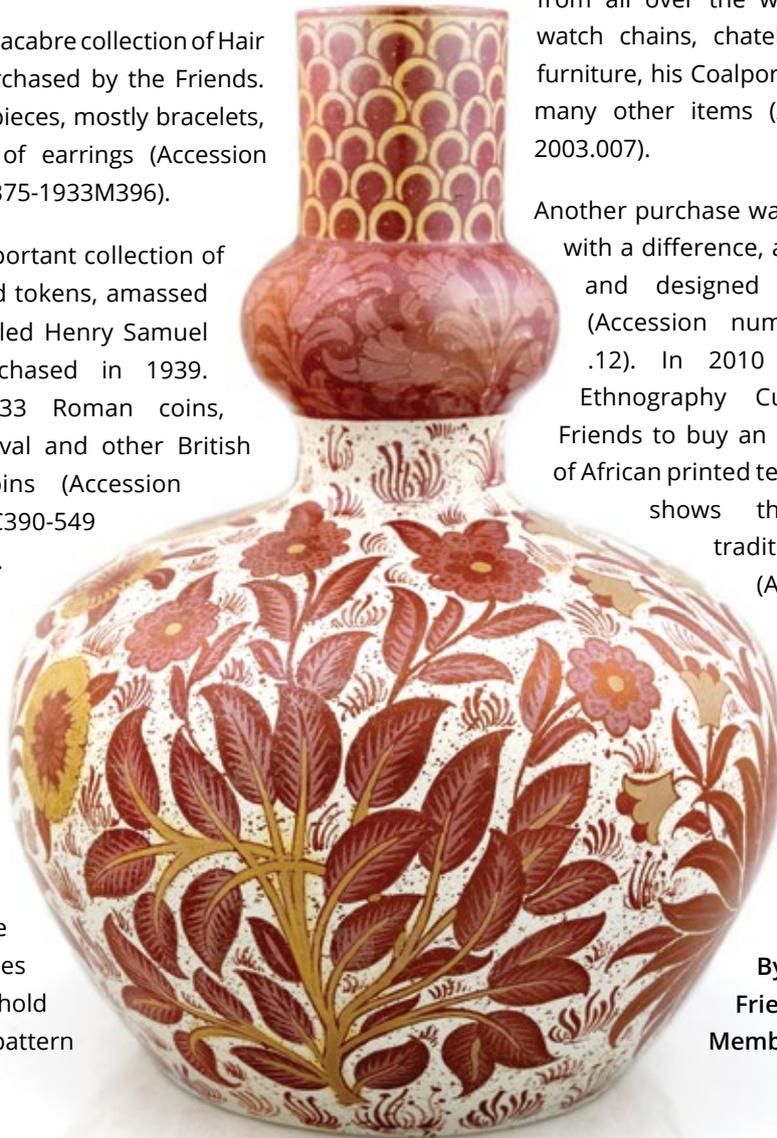
books. A very important archive (Accession numbers: 1981M10-1981M219).

James Watt junior was a great collector, and this collection was purchased from Sotheby's in 2002. It is varied and wide ranging, including wood samples from all over the world, numerous fob watch chains, chatelaines, some of his furniture, his Coalport dinner service, and many other items (Accession numbers: 2003.007).

Another purchase was 12 railway posters with a difference, as they were French, and designed by Salvador Dali (Accession numbers: 2005.3309.1-.12). In 2010 Adam Jaffer, the Ethnography Curator, asked the Friends to buy an important collection of African printed textiles. This collection shows the adaptation of traditional to new forms (Accession numbers: 2011.0046.1-.28).

Hopefully in the future Friends will be able to access all these collections through the Friends' website. ■

By Margaret Lister,
Friends Committee
Member and Volunteer



CLUES ACROSS

- 6. & 10AC.** Birmingham choir whose name means "from the chair" (authority) (2,8)
- 7.** Rossini's thief (6)
- 8.** Island in Firth of Clyde (5)
- 9.** "Cogito, ergo ...". Descartes. The answer in Latin will add up in English (3)
- 10.** See 6 across
- 11.** See 24 across
- 13.** Not quite Dippy. A very small Fairy Tale and Disney character. One of a team (5)
- 15.** This weapon finally secured the surrender of Japan and thus ended World War II (abbr) (1,4)
- 17.** French nineteenth century life scientist who has been remembered daily on British doorsteps and in British shops since early in the twentieth century (7)
- 20.** Craftsmen who traditionally kept letters associated with their business readily to hand in two cases, upper and lower (8)
- 21.** An alarm signal particularly suitable for the morse era because it was relatively easily remembered, transmitted and recognised (1,1,1)
- 22.** Escape adroitly from, or avoid compliance with, someone or something (5)
- 23.** Astronomers have given the names of Roman gods to our close space neighbours who meet this description (6)
- 24. & 11AC.** Shortly after this 1942 desert victory Winston Churchill declared '... It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.' (2,7)

CLUES DOWN

- 1.** In days of old when Knights were bold whom was a knight expected to rescue from distress? (6)
- 2.** Listed chronologically: canned pork and ham, Monty Python, junk e mail. What is the link? (4)
- 3.** 'That is' is the answer translated and then abbreviated to very familiar initials (2)
- 4.** A heavenly body in the same system as and similar to those in 23 across but not named after a Roman god (5)
- 5.** An area, for example at a docks, deemed to be outside the customs area (4,4)
- 6.** On menus can mean the dish immediately before the main course (6)
- 10.** One of at least tens of thousands produced at the Soho manufactory (4)
- 12.** In physics the combined effect of velocity and mass. In general terms ability to progress, impetus, based on existing size and power (8)
- 14.** The beer from Burton, brewers since 1777 (4)
- 16.** Traditional container for 14 down (6)
- 18.** One of the four provinces of Ireland (6)
- 19.** See 13 across. How many in the team? (5)
- 21.** Combining it with stick or tickle will raise a laugh (4)
- 23.** The ratio of circumference to diameter of a circle. 3.142 is an approximation (2)

	1		2		3		4		5		6	
7							8					
	9				10							
11			12					13				
							14					
15	16					17					18	
					19							
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	22							23				
24												



A TALK BY DAVID MOORE, 16 JANUARY 2018

WEEPING

INTERPRETING THE SYMBOLISM

It is not often that you meet a fellow enthusiast for the Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris - but more of that later. Having recently joined the Friends, this was my first experience of a Friends' evening talk, and so I was not sure what to expect and approached the evening with a degree of trepidation and excitement.

The event had been so popular that it had to be moved to the BMI in order to accommodate everyone, so clearly the topic was of significant interest. The evening started off with a very convivial glass of wine and pizza before we sat down to listen to David's presentation. It was reassuring to see so many people there and interested in the topic, as my experience to date had been that expressing an interest in cemeteries at a social occasion can be taken in the wrong way and lead to isolation!

David's background is public and social history and, as he explained, the way societies deal with burial tells you an awful lot about that society, its culture and its beliefs. Before focusing on the Victorian period we had a good summary of burial practices from the Neolithic period, through the Middle Ages and up to

the eighteenth century. The concept of 'Memento Mori', artistic or symbolic reminders of mortality as used in burials, was central to David's talk which was beautifully illustrated throughout with a range of pictures. Suddenly all those symbols that you have seen in fourteenth century tombs, Cathedrals or Victorian cemeteries start to make sense.

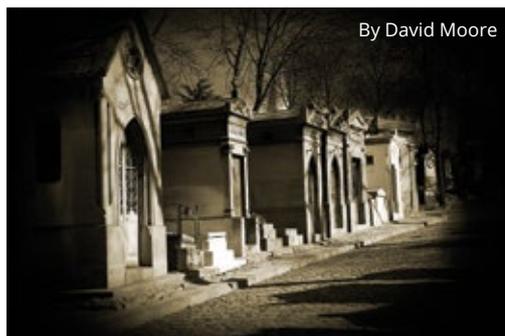
We will come back to an explanation of some of the symbols after a short digression. By the end of the eighteenth century and into the nineteenth century, a combination of population growth and urban expansion meant church cemeteries were getting extremely overcrowded. Our own St Phillip's has an estimated 80,000 burials alone, hence the high level of the ground; it does makes you think twice about eating your sandwiches there. St Martin's had



By Joanna Packwood



By Joanna Packwood



By David Moore

ANGELS: OF THE VICTORIAN CEMETERY

REVIEW BY JIM WELLS

expanded into Park Street to ease matters, which is currently being excavated in preparation for HS2. The solution to this overcrowding was the concept of the garden cemetery, which brings us back to Père Lachaise in Paris and our own Key Hill (Non Conformist) and Warstone (Anglican) cemeteries in Birmingham. On a spring afternoon in Paris there is nothing better than setting off for a stroll round Père Lachaise. Maps are for sale as you go in, with a guide to all the famous people buried there. Much visited is Jim Morrison (The Doors) who will be familiar to those readers of a certain generation. In Parisian culture it is seen as quite a normal and respectable activity to while away an afternoon viewing all the tombstones, many of which are architectural masterpieces in their own right, and enjoying the beautiful gardens. Closer to home, David recommended Key Hill and Warstone in the Jewellery Quarter, a short hop on the tram, both of which give an insight into Victorian Birmingham and the significant families that shaped our city.

David concluded with a detailed explanation of the key symbols used in the Victorian period and further recommendations for visits. The evening finished with a lively question and answer session, as the

presentation had stimulated much interest amongst the audience. We all left the event better informed and with a greater understanding for a leisurely walk around Père Lachaise, or closer to home in the Jewellery Quarter. ■

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR VISITS:

St Michael's, Lichfield
Key Hill and Warstone cemeteries, Birmingham
Père Lachaise, Paris
St Mary's, Moseley

A SELECTION OF SYMBOLS:

Angels are seen as a symbol of spirituality. They guard the tomb and are thought to be messengers between God and man.

Cornucopia symbolises an abundant and fruitful life.

Cherubs are angelic and signify innocence.

Dogs represent loyalty, fidelity and vigilance when used on tombs.

Lily of the Valley represents purity, innocence and virginity.

For events which need to be pre-booked, bookings can be made by calling 0121 348 8263 or via the website (unless alternative details are given).



Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH

Open Saturday-Thursdays: 10am-5pm and Friday:
10:30am-5pm. Tel: 0121 348 8000. FREE entry

From Renaissance masterpieces to Egyptian mummies, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery showcases a world class collection and offers fascinating glimpses into Birmingham's rich and vibrant past.

Highlights include the finest collection of Pre-Raphaelite art in the world; the Mini Museum, specially designed for little visitors; and the largest find of Anglo-Saxon gold ever discovered - the Staffordshire Hoard.

Don't miss the Birmingham History Galleries - packed with artefacts, local treasures and interactive displays that reveal captivating stories of Birmingham from the last 500 years.

The Past is Now: Birmingham and the British Empire
Until 25 June 2018. Free Entry. 'The Past is Now' explores Birmingham's relationship to the British Empire. This exhibition challenges the typical colonial narrative used to present the history of the British Empire. By focusing on a few key events and themes, the exhibition examines the museum's own bias in telling difficult narratives and explores other perspectives, which have been historically misrepresented.

This exhibition will be shown in our new gallery Story Lab. Story Lab is a space that will test different storylines and ways of creating museum displays. We encourage visitors to interact, feedback and engage in conversations with us and each other. Your responses to this exhibition will affect how the museum displays these topics in the future. #ThePastIsNow

Vanley Burke: Photographing Birmingham (1968 - 2011)

Until 1 July 2018. Free entry. Vanley Burke is one of the most important British photographers. He was born in Jamaica and arrived in Birmingham in 1965 aged 15. Here he began photographing the lives and experiences of the African Caribbean community. His work has been described as the greatest photographic document of Caribbean people in post-war Britain.

Bottom Left: Dippy on Tour
Bottom Right: Tours of Museum of the Jewellery Quarter



This display shows how Burke has documented the poignant and everyday moments of life in Birmingham. Burke's photographs capture scenes of childhood, crowds, community and faith, power and protest, as well as portraying influential men and women of our time.

Conservation Studios Tour

8 May 2018. 2pm. £15 per person. Join us for a fascinating insight into the role conservators play in caring for objects and preparing them for exhibitions and loans in this behind-the-scenes tour. More details are available on the website.

The Shadow of Death

13 May 2018. 11am - 12pm. Free entry. Birmingham Museums holds objects from across time and across the world that tell the story of death. Join us for a free tour taking in everything from Roman cremation chests to paintings of poisonings. You are welcome to stay afterwards for a Death Cafe to discuss death and dying over tea and cake. This tour is part of the national Dying Matters week.

Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure

26 May - 9 September 2018. Free entry - pre-booking advised. The Natural History Museum's famous Diplodocus, known as Dippy, is taking a road trip to Birmingham from 26 May until 9 September 2018. The British icon is on a mission to inspire five million natural history adventures, encouraging families to explore nature on their doorstep. 'Dippy on Tour' is a free ticketed event. Advanced booking is strongly advised as this will be a very popular exhibition.

The Everyday and Extraordinary

9 June - 9 September 2018. Free entry. 'The Everyday and Extraordinary' explores the potential of objects to be transformed and seen in new and insightful ways. Showcasing over seventy modern and contemporary artworks, this exhibition celebrates the wonder of physical objects in a pre-dominantly digital age where artistic creativity helps us all to see the world in extraordinary ways.

'The Everyday and Extraordinary' is a touring exhibition conceived by Birmingham Museums Trust as part

of the Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme 2016-19. Following its showing in Birmingham, 'The Everyday and Extraordinary' will tour to Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne, where it will be on display from 28 September 2018 until 6 January 2019.

Body Image

22 July - 1 February 2019. Free entry. 'Body Image' examines how social, historical and cultural factors affect body image and how this is expressed through objects and artworks. It explores how body image impacts on issues such as social status, gender, stage of life, health, aesthetics, religion, politics and sexuality.

The theme has been shaped into a single narrative selected by volunteers working with staff on the exhibition's development. The 'Body Image' exhibition is the second to take place in the Story Lab gallery. This space invites visitors to help shape the future of the museum.



75-80 Vyse Street, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HA
Open all year round. Tuesday-Saturday: 10:30am-5pm.
Closed Sunday and Monday except Bank Holidays.
Free entry for Friends. Tour charges apply to non-members.
Step back in time to a perfectly preserved jewellery workshop. When the owners of the Smith & Pepper jewellery factory decided to retire after 80 years of trading, they simply locked the door leaving a time capsule for future generations.

Enjoy a lively factory tour (available all year round) that includes demonstrations of traditional jewellery making and offers a unique glimpse into working life in Birmingham's famous Jewellery Quarter.

Family Fun Day

31 May 2018. 1pm - 3pm. Adult: £8, Concession: £6, Child: £4. A fun filled afternoon at the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter! Take a family friendly guided tour of the Smith & Pepper jewellery factory and then enjoy a fun craft activity in our Education Space. Pre-booking essential - call 0121 348 8263.



Jewellery Quarter Heritage Walk

5 May, 2 June, 7 July 2018. 2pm - 3:30pm. £7 per person. Join expert guide Rupert Fisher on a lively walk and talk around Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter. Meet on Newhall Street opposite the Queen's Head pub at 2pm.

Jewellery Quarter Festival

21 July 2018. 10:30am - 5pm. Visit for free costumed guided tours of the Smith & Pepper jewellery factory, live jewellery demonstrations at the jeweller's bench in the museum shop and live music in the courtyard! Guided tours of the Smith & Pepper factory are free on 21 July but pre-booking is advised – call 0121 348 8263 to reserve your space on the tour.



ASTON HALL

Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD

Open Tues–Sun and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am–4pm

Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members.

Discover the splendour of a grand Jacobean mansion. Explore majestic state rooms, including the imposing Long Gallery, as well as the servants' quarters and beautiful gardens. Uncover captivating stories about the people who visited the Hall and learn about its central role in the English Civil War. The exciting events programme and child friendly access makes Aston Hall the perfect place to visit with all the family.

Walls Have Ears: 400 Years of Change

Until 30 September 2018. Adult: £8, Concession: £6, Child (3-15): £3. Celebrating its 400th anniversary, inspired by this great house and its location, 'Walls Have Ears: 400 Years of Change' is an exhibition of contemporary portraiture and representations of history, culture, class and race, featuring artists from the Arts Council Collection and Birmingham's collection.

Walls Have Ears: Aston's Art Masterpieces – 400 Years of Portraiture

25 May 2018. 12pm - 1pm and 2pm - 3pm. Entry to this event is included in the admission price. Experience Aston Hall on a walking tour that looks at its beautiful art collection. Celebrating 400 years of Aston Hall and its history, this combines the new Arts Council Collection

exhibition 'Walls Have Ears' with 16th and 17th Century artwork. Whether you're new to art or passionate about the subject, this tour is for you. See the Hall and its collection in a new light with like-minded people in a safe and warm environment to share ideas. Tours will last about an hour. Please be advised this tour contains the use of stairs and may contain adult themes.

400 Years of Aston Hall:

A Royal Visit - King Charles I

24 June 2018. 11am - 4pm. Entry to this event is included in the admission price. Travel back to the year 1642 when Sir Thomas Holte is honoured by a visit from King Charles I. Celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Hall with a series of events exploring this grand old mansion's rich history. What will the King make of his stay at Aston Hall? Join us to find out as you meet the formidable Sir Thomas, his servant, and the King himself. Please remember to bow and curtsy in the presence of his majesty! Don't worry we'll give you some tips on 17th century etiquette.

Operation Earth Roadshow

26 July 2018. 11am - 3:30pm. Free. Visit Aston Hall for the Operation Earth Roadshow. Become an Environmental Scientist and learn about the different jobs and volunteering opportunities people do to investigate and explore their natural environment. Activities include an indoor nature survey, air analysis and a microscopic look at the world around us.



BLAKESLEY HALL

Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN. Open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 4pm.

Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members.

Experience one of Birmingham's finest timber-framed Tudor houses. Built in 1590 for Richard Smalbroke, a Birmingham merchant, Blakesley Hall is a peaceful haven set in an urban location. Discover the fascinating history of the Hall and enjoy the herb garden, orchard and beautiful grounds. With its spacious gardens, family trails and activities programme, Blakesley Hall is the ideal location for a family day out.

Nature's Presence

Until 30 September 2018. Adult: £7, Concession £5, Child (3-15): £3. 'Nature's Presence' is an exhibition inspired by Blakesley Hall's history and its relationship with nature. The exhibition is set within the Hall and the Visitor Centre. The artworks in 'Nature's Presence' have been selected from the Arts Council Collection, Birmingham's collection and other major collections. They range in media from film and photography to paintings and sculpture. The artists look at the natural world through presenting flowers, animals and fruit from different artistic perspectives.

Animal Mania

30 May 2018. 11am - 3:40pm. £2 per person - pre-booking essential. Another chance to see *Animal Mania* at Blakesley Hall. The animals can include lizards, snakes, chinchillas, hedgehogs, giant bunnies, tortoises and creepy crawlies! *Animal Mania* usually consists of around 8 to 12 small animals that children can see and interact with in slots of 20 minutes. Pre-booking is essential. Please visit the website or ring the bookings team on 0121 348 8263.

Tudor Weekend

2 - 3 June 2018. Adult: £7, Child: £3. A weekend of Tudor fun as re-enactors visit Blakesley Hall delivering talks, drama and demonstrations. Have a go at Tudor games, Quill pen writing, and Tudor dancing. Also listen to traditional Tudor musicians in the Hall and dress up as a Tudor.

Falconry Day

17 June 2018. 11am- 4pm. Adult: £3, Child: £2 (or free with entry to the Hall). Visit Blakesley Hall and take the opportunity to get really close to some seriously impressive Birds of Prey. Buzzards, Owls, Hawks, Kites and even Vultures take to the air in spectacular flying displays. Flying displays are at 11:30am, 1pm and 3pm. Pre-booking is available. Please visit the website or ring the bookings team on 0121 348 8263.

Outdoor Theatre: Emma by Jane Austen

7 - 8 July 2018. 5pm - 8pm. Adult: £12, Concession/Child: £8. The Crescent Theatre visit Blakesley Hall to perform Jane Austen's classic 'Emma'. Performances

will take place out in the peaceful Blakesley gardens on a (hopefully) warm July summer evening. Performance will start at 5pm. There will be a short interlude halfway through. Anticipated running time: 2 hours.



SAREHOLE MILL

*Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B13 0BD
Wednesday - Sunday, 11am - 4pm. Open Bank Holiday
Mondays and Tuesdays during Birmingham school
holidays, 11am - 4pm. Free entry for Friends. Charges
apply to non-members.*

Explore the idyllic childhood haunt of J.R.R Tolkien. Sarehole Mill is one of only two surviving working watermills in Birmingham and provides a unique insight into the lives of the millers who once worked here. On Wednesdays and Sundays, our volunteer millers demonstrate the mill in action.

Find out about J.R.R Tolkien's early life in Birmingham. Both the mill, and nearby Moseley Bog, were inspirations for his classic works *'The Hobbit'* and *'The Lord of the Rings'*. Today, the mill retains its tranquil atmosphere and the millpond provides a haven for kingfishers, moorhens, newts and herons.

May Day!

7 May 2018. 11am - 4pm. Adult: £6, Concession: £4, Child (3-15): £3. Enjoy May Day as we dance around the maypole and celebrate the Bank Holiday! Morris dancing, Maypole dancing, games and more!

Summer Food Fair

24 June 2018. 11am - 4pm. Come and sample some tasty food as Taste and Liquor return for this Summer Food Fair. Entry to the food fair is free. Entry to the mill is half price: Adults £3, Children £1.50.

Victorian Day

8 July 2018. 11am - 4pm. Go back in time and go all things Victorian in this working water mill to celebrate the industrial heritage of Sarehole Mill.





SOHO HOUSE

Soho Avenue, off Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B18 5LB. Wednesday and Thursday, 11am - 4pm. Also open on the first Sunday of the month, 11am - 4pm.

Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members.

Discover the elegant Georgian home of the Birmingham industrialist and entrepreneur, Matthew Boulton. Get a glimpse into Boulton's world, including the family and servants' rooms as well as the lavish spaces in which he received his eminent guests - the leading 18th-century intellectuals of the Lunar Society. Don't miss the visitor centre displays which explore Boulton's output from button making and coin minting to silverware and steam engines.

Eid Mela - Free Family Fun Day

1 June 2018. 11am - 4pm. Free. You're all invited to Soho House for a fun-filled day celebrating Eid Mela! Activities will include Henna, face painting, crafts, sports activities and even a bouncy castle! Eid Mela celebration is in partnership with Active Parks Birmingham, Handsworth Community and Beat the Street.

National Picnic Day

20 June 2018. 11am - 4pm. Free. Celebrate International Picnic Week at Soho House Museum by bringing a picnic to enjoy in the beautiful surroundings of the Soho gardens. Half Price entry inside Soho House Museum on this day if you bring along a picnic!



WEOLEY CASTLE

Alwold Road, Weoley Castle, Birmingham, B29 5RJ

Ruins can be viewed from the viewing platform which is open every day. Direct access to the ruins and our new community education centre is available on event days or for groups and schools by a pre-booked guided tour.

The ruins at Weoley Castle are over 700 years old and are the remains of a moated medieval manor. The site has been inhabited from the 12th century



and, according to the Domesday Book, was part of the estates of William Fitz Ansculf. Weoley changed hands several times between 1485 and 1531 when it began to fall into disrepair. In the centuries that followed, stone from the castle was removed to build a nearby farm and the Dudley no.2 canal. Today the site is a scheduled Ancient Monument of national importance. Direct access to the ruins is only available on special event days or for groups and schools by a pre-booked guided tour. Please call 0121 348 8120 for further information.

Medieval Open Day

29 July 2018. 11am - 4pm. Come along and explore the ruins of Weoley Castle and learn about what it was like in Medieval England in this free event.

Operation Earth Roadshow

29 July 2018. 11am - 3:30pm. Free. Visit Weoley Castle for the Operation Earth Roadshow. Become an Environmental Scientist and learn about the different jobs and volunteering opportunities people do to investigate and explore their natural environment. Activities include an indoor nature survey, air analysis and a microscopic look at the world around us.



Above: Open Day at the Museum Collections Centre



Millennium Point, Curzon Street, Birmingham, B4 7XG
 Open daily 10am – 5pm. Half price entry for Friends.
 Charges apply to non-members.

Thinktank offers an extraordinary, fun-packed day out for all the family. From steam engines to a talking robot, this exciting museum is home to thousands of fascinating objects, and over 200 hands-on displays on science and technology. This includes a state-of-the-art digital Planetarium, and an interactive outdoor Science Garden, a gallery dedicated to the iconic Spitfire as well as a number of natural history displays. With an ever-changing programme of demonstrations, workshops and events, there is always something new to discover.

Steam Power Weekend

9 - 10 June 2018. 10am - 5pm. Entry to this event is included in the price of admission. Marvel as engines thunder into action and hear the fascinating tales of the engineers behind these ground-breaking machines at Thinktank! There will also be special

science busking, demonstrating some of the key concepts of steam power, arts and crafts activities linked to our mighty engines and an i spy trail of the 'Power Up' gallery for everyone to enjoy.

Mini Builders Weekend

16 - 17 June 2018. 10am - 5pm. Entry to this event is included in the price of admission. From LEGO Workshops, to crafts and story-telling, there's something to keep all budding engineers busy. This day has been specially designed for under eights to experience the fun and adventure of building different structures, models and trying new crafts whilst having a great day at Thinktank. Activities will include building giant structures, launching rockets and building the ultimate Duplo machine.



MUSEUM
 COLLECTIONS
 CENTRE

25 Dollman Street, Birmingham, B7 4RQ.

The Museum Collections Centre is where 80% of Birmingham's collections are stored. There are free open afternoons from 1:30pm-3:30pm on the last Friday of every month. These must be booked in advance. Guided tours are also available by arrangement on other days. Call 0121 348 8231 for more details or to book.

Open Afternoons

25 May, 29 June and 27 July 2018. The Museum Collection Centre is a 1.5 hectare site that holds 80% of Birmingham Museums' stored collections under one roof. Among the thousands of objects stored here are steam engines, sculptures, an entire collection of Austin, Rover and MG motor cars and even a red phone box. The open afternoons take place on the last Friday of the month at 1:30pm. Please arrive promptly for the start. The tours last for up to 2 hours. The tour will allow you to see a vast range of objects, often with a real focus on Birmingham and the West Midlands. The contrasting mix of objects and the behind-the-scenes atmosphere at the collection centre make it an intriguing place to explore and discover more about museum stores. Please email MCC@birminghammuseums.org.uk or phone 0121 348 8231 to book or for more information.

IN THE AREA

APPLE STORE GALLERY

Unit 1, Rockfield Road, Hereford, HR1 2UA. Tel: 01432 263937
Email: applestoregallery@btinternet.com. www.applestoregallery.com
Open Wednesday to Friday, 10am - 4pm and Saturday, 10am - 1pm. Other times by arrangement.

New to ASG

Wednesday 25 April - Saturday 2 June. Local painters Denise Fordyce and Maria Hayward-Cook showing recent work alongside artist blacksmiths Sam Snelling and Daniel Johnson and marquetry artist Catherine Paquette.

Ronald Moore

Wednesday 6 June - Saturday 14 July. Eminent painter, Ronald Moore, who is well known for his nostalgic oil paintings of Birmingham's industrial landscapes, has created a new body of work featuring 'Forest Landscapes' for a solo exhibition. This will be an opportunity to see Ron's evolving technique which is bringing a new sense of mystery to familiar views of Herefordshire's Golden Valley and the surrounding Marches.

In Praise of Animals

Wednesday 18 July. Featuring Mary Edwards and Geoff Jennings from the Royal Forest of Dean. This is a precursor to FarOpen the open studio event in the Forest. Their work will be accompanied by paintings by Jeanette Faulkener-Clarke renowned for her studies of horses. William Rolls will also contribute his delightful ceramic studies of dogs.

BARBER INSTITUTE OF FINE ARTS

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

Sounding Images

Until Sunday 17 June 2018. The Barber's art works as you've never heard them before. As part of their Sounding Images module, University of Birmingham music students have created new electroacoustic pieces inspired by works in the Barber collection. Listen to four paintings in the gallery on this audio tour, and experience these visual works from another perspective.

New York City Life

Friday 25 May - Sunday 16 September 2018. John Sloan was a contemporary of George Bellows, and his work – like that of his fellow Ashcanners – provides fascinating historical insights into Manhattan life in a period of rapid social change. These

rare prints, a gift to the Barber from Delaware Art Museum prompted by our 2016 exhibition *Bellows and the Body*, are the only complete set outside of the US, and also have an important place in the history of fine-art printmaking.

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR

www.birmingham.bachchoir.com

Espressivo!: Sun-Drenched Italian Choral Music spanning four centuries

Saturday 30 June 2018. 7:30pm. St Alban The Martyr, Highgate, Birmingham. What is it about anything Italian? Sun-drenched Italy has produced some of the greatest artists and musicians of all time. For its summer concerts this year, Birmingham Bach Choir has chosen to celebrate a wide-range of Italian choral music spanning four centuries. Exuding warmth, passion and brilliance the programme will explore both sacred and secular pieces. Highlights from the programme include madrigals by two of the greatest Italians of their day: Claudio Monteverdi and Carlo Gesualdo, Prince of Venosa, who is as well known for having murdered his wife and her lover on discovering them in the act, as for his amazingly expressive compositions. A programme of unusual music by famous composers will include Lotti, Gabrieli, and Rossini ending with three magical part songs by the 20th century choral master, Ildebrando Pizzetti. The concert will be performed in the wonderful acoustic of the Church of St Alban the Martyr, a magnificent building tucked away just outside the city centre in Highgate - Stanhope St, Birmingham B12 0YF. This programme will also be performed on the 16 June in the atmospheric Great Malvern Priory, originally a medieval Benedictine Monastery, right in the heart of Great Malvern. Interval drinks will (of course) include sun-drenched Italian wines! £16 (£14 concessions). Visit the website or tel: 07901 798442 to book tickets.

THE BMI

9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS. www.bmi.org.uk

Read to Write: Analyse Great Novels to Improve Your Writing with Polly Wright

From Thursday 3 May for 5 weeks. 6:30pm - 8:30pm. £99/£89 for Members of the BMI. Join a reading group with a difference to enhance your own fiction writing skills by modelling on a Master or Mistress of the art. You'll be asked to read or re-read two novels prior to the course, and through discussion, we will



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THE BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND INSTITUTE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 11 May

Literature Study Day
Shakespeare Live on Stage!
10.15am - 4pm

£18/£16 Members of the BMI
In celebration of the 21st birthday of Shakespeare's Globe on London's South Bank, we shall step back from recent controversies about its artistic direction to take stock of its distinctive merits. We shall analyse its success in relation to work in Stratford-upon-Avon's remodelled Royal Shakespeare Theatre as well as give attention to what has been achieved across the Atlantic at the Stratford Festival Theatre, Ontario.



Monday 21 May

An Introduction to Gothic Literature with Dr Serena Trowbridge
1 - 2pm/£5* or FREE for Members of the BMI
Drop in, no need to book
This lecture will offer an introduction to Gothic Literature, its tropes and taboos, from Horace Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto* to the present. The lecture will explore the significance of Gothic as a literary genre, and how it has changed over the last 250 years.

Saturday 30 June

Day School: Eminent Women
10.30am - 4pm, John Lee Theatre
£33/£30 for Members of the BMI and the Friends of the Centre for West Midlands History (includes lunch and refreshments)
Spend the day finding out about the contribution of women to the history of the West Midlands. Join Dr Kate Croft who will be talking about Sabrina Sidney, and Dr Stan Roberts who will share her research on Birmingham Quaker women and their humanitarian and social welfare work during the two world wars.

TO BOOK, VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE BMI.ORG.UK

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9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS, 0121 236 3591
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CREATED IN CONFLICT

BRITISH SOLDIER ART
FROM THE CRIMEAN WAR TO TODAY



Thomas William Wood, *Nurse Thomas Wood, 1854*. © The British Museum, London. www.britishmuseum.org

RAVILIOUS & CO.

ENGLISH ARTIST DESIGNERS 1922-42



Eric Ravilious, *The Greenhouse Cyclamen and Tomatoes, 1935*. Presented by Sir Geoffrey and Hon. Lady Fry in memory of the artist 1943. © D&B

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reflect on the novels' structure, use of dialogue and character development, imagery and humour. You'll then have plenty of time to write in response to the works and share your pieces with the rest of the group. You'll learn how to analyse a great novel for not just the plot but also the key components of a novel, which will allow you to model those in your own writing. This course is ideal for fiction writers looking to improve on their existing work or hoping to develop a new idea in this genre. Books are chosen for their potential as interesting models from which to write.

COMPTON VERNEY

Warwickshire, CV35 9HZ. www.comptonverney.org.uk

Ravilious & Co: The Pattern of Friendship.

English Artist Designers 1922-1942

Until 10 June 2018. 11am – 5pm. Eric Ravilious (1903-1942) is now recognised as one of the most important and popular British artists of the 20th century. This major new exhibition explores the influence of Ravilious and his circle and their remarkable impact on British art and design in the 1930s and 1940s. Based on new research and telling a previously untold story, it chronicles the personal and professional relationships between Ravilious and artist-designers such as Paul Nash, John Nash, Enid Marx, Barnett Freedman, Eileen 'Tirzah' Garwood, Thomas Hennell, Douglas Percy Bliss, Peggy Angus, Helen Binyon, Diana Low, and one of his closest friends, Edward Bawden. Ravilious & Co brings together nearly 500 paintings, prints, drawings, engravings, books, ceramics, wallpapers, and textiles – many rarely shown and previously unknown – and highlights key moments in the artists' lives and work from first meetings at the Royal College of Art, to the evolution of their artistic practices into commercial and industrial design. The exhibition has been created to mark the 75th anniversary of Ravilious' tragic early death in Iceland during the Second World War and it finishes on a remarkable series of works from his time as an official war artist. Curated by Andy Friend and the Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne.

THE HERBERT

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Jordan Well, Coventry, CV1 5QP
www.theherbert.org

Pop! British & American Art 1960 -1975

Until 3 June 2018. Explore how art found its POP! in this transatlantic showcase of the movement's most iconic artists. Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Peter Blake, Pauline Boty and others, arrived on the scene in a riot of colour, with no manifesto or shared aims, absorbing and borrowing from popular culture as they went, and challenging notions of originality and what it meant to create art. The classic Pop Art on show include an eight-metre-long fighter plane by James Rosenquist, Andy Warhol's Campbell's Soup tin, a lament for Marilyn Monroe by Pauline Boty, Joe Tilson's iconic images of Che Guevara and prints by Peter Blake. Featuring recognisable works from both

sides of the Atlantic, this exciting exhibition offers an insight into the modern age's most important art movement. This show has been developed as a partnership between the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum and Wolverhampton Art Gallery.

IKON GALLERY

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.

Tel: 0121 248 0708. www.ikon-gallery.org

Ikon is open Tuesday - Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays 11am-5pm.

Max Eastley: Aeolian Harp and Sculptures for Perrott's Folly

Thursday 10 May - Sunday 10 June 2018. Perrott's Folly is located 20 minutes' walk from Ikon and 5 minutes from Hagley Road. Please note the Folly is only accessible via steep spiral staircase. Please wear flat and sensible footwear. Max Eastley is an internationally recognised artist who combines kinetic sculpture and sound into a unique art form. His sculptures exist on the border between the natural environment and human intervention and use the driving forces of electricity, wind, water and ice.

Having first worked with Ikon in 1979, he returns to make an installation involving eight lightweight Aeolian harps mounted on the roof of Perrott's Folly, a landmark 18th century tower in Birmingham's Ladywood district. The sound made by wind blowing through the harps is amplified and fed to a number of loudspeakers at lower levels to combine with the sounds emanating from a number of acoustic sculptures, transforming the interior of the tower into an immersive aural experience. Audio engineering by Dave Hunt. Presented in partnership with RE:Future Collective. This exhibition forms part of *Looping the Loop*, and is supported by Arts Council England Strategic Touring, Michael Marsh Charitable Trust, W.A. Cadbury Trust, Grantham Yorke Trust, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and the Canal and River Trust.

JEWELLERY QUARTER FESTIVAL 2018

Friday 20 - Sunday 22 July 2018. The JQ Festival is a celebration of all things Jewellery Quarter bringing together local businesses, residents and communities for a three-day extravaganza that showcases the very best of the Quarter.

This historic Birmingham neighbourhood has been the home of goldsmiths and silversmiths for over 200 years and grew out of other metal working industries. Today it is a diverse community of jewellers, makers, professional services, students, food and hospitality, as well as a growing population of residents nestled in and amongst historic buildings.

In July the JQ Festival will showcase and highlight this diverse community and the programme is filled with music, entertainment, workshops, tours, food and much more giving visitors a chance to sample what the Quarter has to offer.

- Explore St Paul's Church situated in the last remaining Georgian Square in Birmingham



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Ex Cathedra

Jeffrey Skidmore conductor

Tue 19 & Wed 20 June,
8.30pm

Birmingham Cathedral

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or www.excathedra.co.uk

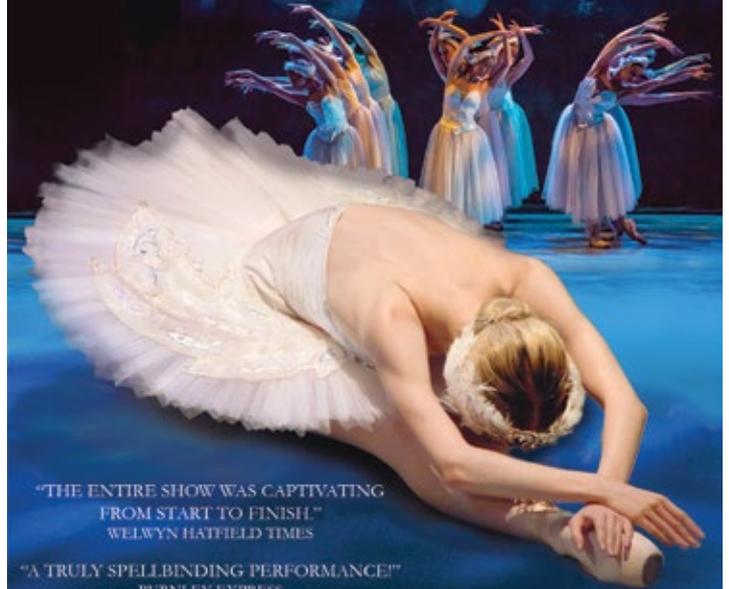


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VIENNA FESTIVAL BALLET SWAN LAKE



"THE ENTIRE SHOW WAS CAPTIVATING
FROM START TO FINISH!"
WELWYN HATFIELD TIMES

"A TRULY SPELLBINDING PERFORMANCE!"
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Espressivo!

Sun-drenched Italian choral music

Sat 16 June Great Malvern

Sat 30 June Birmingham

Paul Spicer conducts Birmingham Bach Choir

Concerts start 7.30 pm:

Great Malvern Priory (16 June)

St Alban's Church, Highgate, Birmingham (30 June)

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* fee charged

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- Take a tour and discover over 200 listed buildings and two Victorian Cemeteries
- Sample the unique selection of restaurants, bars and pubs

Situated a short 20 min walk from Birmingham City Centre the Jewellery Quarter is easily accessible with a dedicated train station, buses, and two metro stops as well as public car-parks on Vyse Street and Newhall Street. There truly is something for all ages so come and explore this unique neighbourhood in Birmingham and find out why today's Jewellery Quarter is the best place to live, learn, work and visit in the city! To find out more visit our website www.jewelleryquarter.net/jq-festival or follow us on social media.

The Jewellery Quarter festival is organised by the Jewellery Quarter Business Improvement District (JQBID) and supported by local businesses. The JQBID is dedicated to improving the business environment and experience for local visitors, residents, workers, students and other users and aims to keep the Jewellery Quarter safe, clean, and welcoming.

ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN BROMSGROVE

Beethoven's Choral Symphony at Worcester Cathedral

The Orchestra of St John, Bromsgrove will perform Beethoven's magnificent Ninth Symphony "The Choral" in Worcester Cathedral on Saturday 5th May 2018 in a concert that celebrates the conclusion of the orchestra performing all nine of Beethoven's symphonies. This enterprising Orchestra, under the leadership and direction of Richard Jenkinson, normally performs in the magnificent St John's Church in Bromsgrove, but to mark this special achievement, they will also give this celebratory concert in the 'home' of the diocese, Worcester Cathedral, a building of magnitude with wonderful acoustics.

The Orchestra will be joined by the Chorus of the Orchestra of St John and members of Worcester Festival Choral Society, and the programme will also include Elgar's Violin Concerto played by orchestra leader, Charlotte Moseley.

The Orchestra has not turned its back on its home venue for this landmark event and will be performing the same programme the week before in St John's Church, Bromsgrove, on Saturday 28th April 2018. The Worcester Cathedral concert takes place on Saturday 5th May 2018. Tickets for St John's Church are priced at £12 in advance or £14 on the door and at Worcester Cathedral range in price from £10 to £25 with accompanied children attending either event for free. More information and links to buy tickets visit www.osjbromsgrove.org

PRITI PATEL

*International New School Gallery, Unit 1,
The Jubilee Centre, 130 Pershore Street, B5 6ND
www.priti-patel.com/insights*

Insights

Saturday 26 May - Sunday 3 June 2018. Open evening Friday 1 June 6pm - 8:30pm. Sunday - Monday 12pm - 4pm, Tuesday - Thursday, Saturday 11am - 5pm. Insights brings together artists exploring and reflecting on a diverse range of themes and concepts, ranging from microplastics, the microscopic world of moss and the sublime effects of lighting on porcelain to the human condition, memories and remnants of time that has passed. Each artist has a story to tell, revealing elements that often go unnoticed or are hidden; in doing so they give us new insights by helping us look at the world around us from a new perspective, giving it new context and meaning.

This exhibition is an exciting collaboration between HND Fine Art graduates and students from BMet Sutton Coldfield College and artists from the West Midlands. The work being exhibited includes sculptures, installations, video projection, paintings and prints.

WORCESTER CITY ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

*Foregate Street, Worcester, WR1 1DT. Tel: 01905 25371.
www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk*

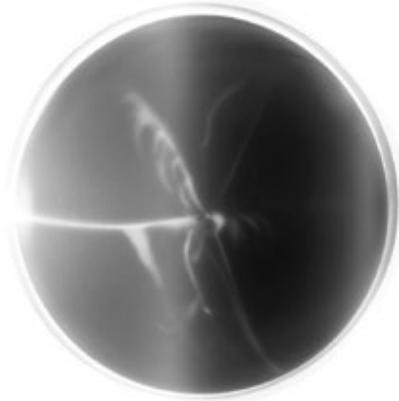
Open Monday - Saturday, 10:30am - 4:30pm.

Benjamin Williams Leader: Blest by the Suns of Home

Until 2 June 2018. Free entry. Benjamin Williams Leader: *Blest by the Suns of Home* brings together important and rarely displayed artworks by Worcester's most famous artist, placing them in the context of the First World War. Benjamin Williams Leader was 83 when World War One broke out, changing lives across the world forever. He'd had a happy year personally with the birth of a new grandson and the sale of his painting *The River Llugwy* near Bettws-y-Coed to King George V. However, the war led to tragedy in Leader's life when his son Benjamin Eastlake Leader, who was also a painter, was killed in action. This exhibition will explore how the war impacted the elderly Leader's life, the reception of his paintings and the country's relationship with the landscape around them. With artworks from the Worcester City collection as well as loans from private and public collections, including *The River Llugwy* near Bettws-y-Coed generously lent by Her Majesty The Queen from the Royal Collection, the exhibition is a testament to Leader's ability to create vast and stirring rural visions in paint. *Benjamin Williams Leader: Blest by the Suns of Home* is part of Worcestershire World War One Hundred. Funded through Heritage Lottery Fund, Worcestershire World War One Hundred is one of the largest programmes of events across England commemorating the First World War involving cultural and heritage organisations County-wide from 2014 until 2018. There will also be a bite-sized talk taking place on 12 June, 1-1:30pm called *Art from the Front* and costs £3.

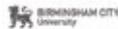
Insights

26 May - 3 June 2018
Open Evening 1 June 6pm - 8.30pm



International New School Gallery
Unit 1, The Jubilee Centre, 130 Pershore Street, B5 6ND

www.priti-patel.com/insights



Brick Built 21 July - 2 September

This exhibition celebrates the world's favourite toy and the endless variety of things that you can build from these little plastic bricks.



Big Build Event I 21 & 22 July

Create, Build, Learn Workshops
1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 August

Forge Mill Brick Show
19 August

Big Build Event II 1 & 2 September



For further info, opening times and prices please see www.forgemill.org.uk



Forge Mill Needle Museum & Bordesley Abbey Visitor Centre
Needle Mill Lane, Riverside,
Redditch, Worcs, B98 8HY
Tel: 01527 62509

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL



23 AUG - 8 SEP THE COMEDY ABOUT A BANK ROBBERY

The dynamite new comedy
from the creators of *The Play That Goes Wrong*



30 OCT - 10 NOV THE LOVELY BONES

The stage première of
Alice Sebold's world-
famous novel adapted for
the stage by Bryony Lavery



24 NOV - 13 JAN THE WIZARD OF OZ

Follow the yellow brick
road for the ultimate family
adventure this Christmas



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE (OUR) HOME THIS SEASON

AUTUMN & WINTER 2018



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CONTEMPORARY ART AT BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST HERITAGE SITES

The exhibitions at Aston Hall and Blakesley Hall are the fifth in the series of the Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme.

'Nature's Presence' at Blakesley Hall

'Nature's Presence' is an exhibition inspired by Blakesley Hall's history and its relationship with nature. The exhibition is set within the Hall and the Visitors Centre. Blakesley is a timber-framed Tudor house located in Yardley, a residential suburban area a few miles outside Birmingham city centre. It was built in 1590 by Richard Smallbroke, who was from one of Birmingham's leading merchant families.

Wall paintings of flowers have decorated the rooms of the Hall since the 17th Century. Within the Hall's grounds is a garden and an orchard which continue to flourish. In the past the gardens have been used by the Hall's families in different ways and today they are a hub of community activity.

From inside the Hall to out in the gardens, nature has always been present at Blakesley. This has inspired the choice of artworks in *'Nature's Presence'*, which have been selected from the Arts Council Collection, Birmingham's collection and other major collections. They range in media from film and photography to painting and sculpture. The artists observe the natural world, looking at flowers, animals and fruit from different artistic perspectives.

Artists include John Blakemore, Oliver Clare, Ruth Claxton, Brian Duffy, Kaff Gerrard, Nerys Johnson, Sam Taylor-Johnson, Josef Herman, Ivon Hitchens, Georgie Hopton, Thomas Henry Kendall, Pradip Malde, Margaret Mellis, Helen McQuillan, Hayley Newman and Stanley Spencer. In the Visitor Centre, the exhibition is accompanied by a presentation of rare herbarium specimens which are native to Yardley. A work by Paula Rego will also be on display in Gallery 21 at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.

'Walls Have Ears' at Aston Hall

Celebrating its 400th anniversary, Aston Hall is a magnificent Jacobean mansion located in a public park in

the ward of Aston, a diverse local community in inner-city Birmingham. The Hall was built between 1618 and 1635 for Sir Thomas Holte and leased in the 19th Century by James Watt Jr, son of the engineer James Watt. It is furnished with the city's collection of fine and decorative art – furniture, textiles, ceramics, metalwork and portraits – dating predominantly from the 17th Century.

'Walls Have Ears' is inspired by this great house and its surroundings. The past 400 years have seen many changes in the social, demographic and economic landscape that surrounds the Hall. This exhibition reflects these changes, interweaving the Hall's past and present. It features work by 16 artists, in a variety of mediums, selected from the Arts Council Collection and Birmingham's own collection, which explore themes of history, culture, class and race.

Pick up a guide illustrated by local artist Malukah Holder to navigate around the Hall where you will encounter works by Richard Billingham, Faisal Abdu'Allah and Kofi Allen, Vanley Burke, Lisa Cheung, Sylvester Jacob, Mawuena Kattah, Ryan Mosley, Eugene Palmer, Paul Rooney, Zineb Sedira, Donald Rodney, Stephen Earl Rogers, Emma Rushton, Barbara Walker, Richard Wilson and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye.

Deborah Smith will be leading a Friends' Curator Tour of *'Walls Have Ears'* at Aston Hall on 4 July 2018 (see page 8); and a Friends' Evening Event about both the exhibitions which will be held at the BMI on Tuesday 26 June 2018 (see page 7 for more information).

The exhibitions at Aston Hall and Blakesley Hall are on until 30 September 2018 (admission costs apply). The next Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme exhibition is *'The Everyday and The Extraordinary'* in Galleries 12 and 13, 9 June - 9 September 2018. ■

By Deborah Smith, Curator of Birmingham Museums Trust's Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme

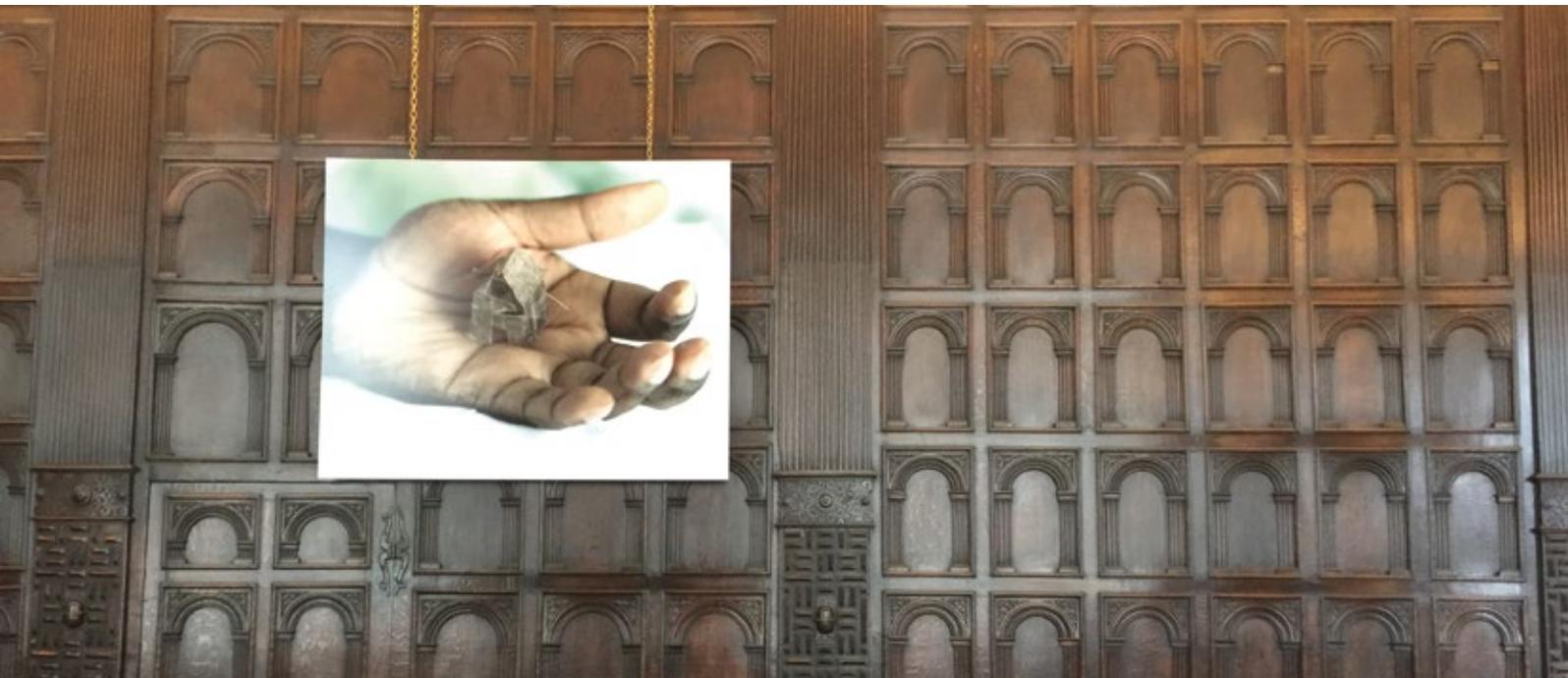


LEFT: *Lilies - Orange, Pink and Green on Grey Ground*, Nerys Johnson. Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © Nerys Johnson Estate

CENTRE: Donald Rodney, *In The House Of My Father*, 1997, Birmingham Museums Trust © Donald Rodney Estate

BOTTOM LEFT: Clockwise - Mawuena Kattah, *Auntie Comfort*, 2016, Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © the artist; Mawuena Kattah, *Me and Mum Looking at the Pots*, 2016, Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © the artist; Richard Billingham, *Untitled (RAL 49)*, 1995 © the artist, courtesy Anthony Reynolds Gallery, Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre

BOTTOM RIGHT: Stephen Earl Rogers, *Aston Murals*, 2012, Birmingham Museums Trust © the artist



MAC

BIRMINGHAM

Less than two miles from Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, in Edgbaston, is an art centre which VisitEngland recognises as the 11th most visited non-paying attraction in the country; number one in the West Midlands. Last year Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) received over 1 Million visits to its Cannon Hill Park and every person was able to experience great art in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

First opened in 1962, MAC is a pioneering arts complex originally conceived as a cultural haven for Birmingham's children and young people. Today, the organisation serves the whole community: its mission simply to make art an important part of people's lives. MAC tries to keep its ticket prices as low as possible and all of the exhibitions are free to enjoy. Open 364 days a year, there's plenty of opportunity to call in and explore.

Specialising in contemporary work, there's a busy year round programme of theatre, dance,

independent cinema, music, spoken word, comedy, festivals, exhibitions and special events, as well as a wealth of practical classes in all aspects of creativity, from playing musical instruments to ceramics and jewellery-making.

Perhaps the best thing about an arts centre is that it's all under one roof meaning there's always something to enjoy and collaborations between art forms can be surprising and delightful. Although it's not all under a roof really - the outdoor Arena - hand built



LEFT:
Midlands Arts Centre
Birmingham

TOP RIGHT:
Phoenix Dance -
Friday 4 & Saturday 5
May 2018

FAR RIGHT:
Griff Rhys Jones at
MAC on Thursday 5
July 2018



by students in the 1960s (but structurally sound) is home to a summer programme of theatre, music and outdoor film screenings.

Beyond its touring and self-produced programme, MAC works extensively to support emerging and mid-career artists either with creating and presenting new work in their spaces, or through the hundreds of courses every year taught by practising artist tutors. MAC is a national leader in developing work with children, families and young people of all backgrounds. It is also home to *MAC Makes Music*, a strategic partner of Youth Music and an award-winning programme providing innovative music making opportunities for children and young people in challenging circumstances across five different regions.

The next few months at Midlands Arts Centre are all about celebration and partnership, both with artists and other charities. It's a busy season with an appeal that reflects MAC's visitors and this beautiful city we call home. Forthcoming highlights include *Birmingham International Dance Festival*, *Sensibility*

Festival with Sense UK and MAC's very own season; *Beyond Windrush*.

It's been 70 years since the *SS Empire Windrush* arrived in Portsmouth carrying 492 Caribbean passengers. MAC will celebrate the Windrush Generation and its impact on British society over three months of cross artform work including exhibitions, dance, spoken work, music, creative courses and even a rum tasting evening! New commissions include work from acclaimed Birmingham artists Andrew Jackson and Vanley Burke.

When you come to MAC be sure to visit the café or bar. Proudly displaying a 5 star environmental health rating, it provides Fairtrade beverages, an extensive standard menu with an exciting range of daily specials. You can even take some used coffee grounds which make excellent fertilizer for the garden! ■

If you want to find out more about MAC and its activities visit www.macbirmingham.co.uk, call 0121 446 3232 or pop in for a chat with the lovely staff who'll be happy to help you find out more.

MAY

 Wednesday 9 ** St Mary's College, Oscott

JUNE

 Monday 4 * *'Guided Tour of the Dippy Exhibition'* - Lukas Large

 Thursday 14 + *'China's First Emperor and the Terracotta Warriors'* - World Museum, Liverpool

 Tuesday 19 + *'What's the point of taxidermy?'* - Lukas Large

 Monday 25 * *'A Tour of Birmingham Cathedral'* - Jane McArdle

 Tuesday 26 * *'Fusion of the past and present - exhibitions at Blakesley Hall and Aston Hall'* - Deborah Smith

JULY

 Wednesday 4 * Curator Tour at Aston Hall:

'Walls Have Ears: 400 Years of Change' - Deborah Smith

 Tuesday 10 * *'Victorian Radicals: Birmingham's Pre-Raphaelites on Tour'* - Victoria Osborne

 Friday 13 * *'What the Victorians did for us'* - Jane Howell

 Tuesday 17 * Powis Castle - National Trust

 Thursday 26 * *'The Staffordshire Hoard - Behind the Scenes'* - Dr David Symons

SEPTEMBER

 Tuesday 11 * *'When the bug bites...'* - *Insect Pest Management at Birmingham Museums'* - Jane Thompson-Webb

 Tuesday 11 * Friends AGM

OCTOBER

 Friday 5 - Monday 8 ## Weekend Away - Plymouth

 Wednesday 17 ++ *'Titanic: Voyage into Destiny':* Part 3 of 4 - Andrew Lound

DECEMBER

 Tuesday 4 ++ *'Titanic: Voyage into Destiny':* Part 4 of 4 - Andrew Lound

 Tuesday 4 ++ *'The City of Birmingham, preserving a steam locomotive'* - Dr Jim Andrew

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

** Fully booked, sorry!

Included in a previous mailing, but places are still available. Please contact the Friends' office if you would like to book a place.

+ Included in a previous mailing, but places are still available. Application forms are included in posted versions of this magazine (see note on page 6).

++ Dates for your diary, no application forms in this mailing.

No application forms for this event. Please contact Barbara Preece to book your place.

EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



SCIENCE SHORT

Beyond Windrush

May - July 2018

mac
Midlands Arts Centre



Exhibition | Andrew Jackson: From a Small Island

Looking back to look forward

Enjoy exhibitions, shows and selected **FREE** events, in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush from the Caribbean

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MAC gratefully acknowledges the support of Arts Council England, The Mill Dam Trust, The Roughley Trust and The Postcode Culture Trust. With thanks To Autograph ABP and Light Work.



John Myers: The World is not Beautiful Until 17 June

John Myers' black and white photographs present a clear and incisive recording of Britain in the 1970s. This unique record of the people and landscapes of the West Midlands is attracting significant critical attention.

John Myers will be in conversation on Thursday 24 May. Visit: www.ticketmaster.co.uk/WAG for details.

Worker, Sidney Smith & Sons, Stourbridge,
(Detail) 1983



Viking Heroes 12 May - 8 July

THE
JORVIK
GROUP

Learn how real-life Viking heroes were celebrated and what stories the archaeological evidence can tell us.

Genuine Viking relics, replicas and reconstructions provide an insight into the Viking world.

Tickets are £4 adults, £2 children aged 2 and under and £3 concessions. Book in advance at:

www.ticketmaster.co.uk/WAG



Melanie Tomlinson: Ghost Horses and Guns 30 June - 14 October

Melanie Tomlinson works with illustrated printed metal to create intricate three-dimensional sculptures, some with moving parts, as an archive of urban folk tales.

The pieces in *Ghost Horses and Guns* come from Tomlinson's fascination with the overgrown spaces between the city and rural landscapes.

Ghost Horses and Guns ©Melanie Tomlinson
Photographer: Richard Batye



Wolverhampton Art Gallery

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