

ARTEFACTS



Friends of
Birmingham
Museums

MAY - JULY 2019

BFM

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS

Installation view of Faisal Abdu'Allah and Kofi Allen's *The Last Supper II*, 2010/1996 in the 2018 exhibition *'Walls Have Ears: 400 Years of Change'* at Aston Hall, Birmingham, featuring artists from the Arts Council Collection and Birmingham Museums Trust as part of the Arts Council Collection's National Partners Programme. Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust.

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS MAGAZINE

COMING SOON TO THE ALEXANDRA



★★★★★ 'THEATRICAL GOLD'
★★★★★ 'INTOXICATING'
★★★★★ 'JOYOUS'

JAKE QUINN
DARYL HAYES

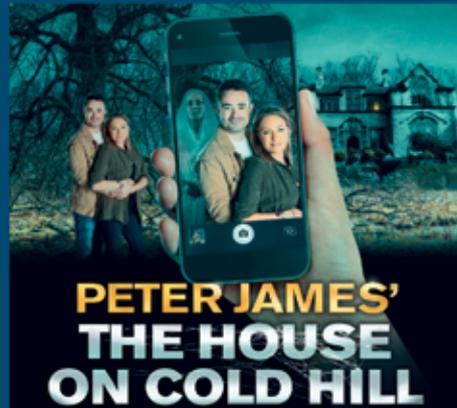
HAIR

THE MUSICAL 50th ANNIVERSARY

LET THE SUNSHINE IN!

MON 29 APR – SAT 4 MAY

£g Wed 1 May 7.30pm



PETER JAMES' THE HOUSE ON COLD HILL

MON 6 – SAT 11 MAY

£g Wed 8 May 2.30pm



THE ALEXANDRA ROCK-ROLL MUSICAL

RICHARD O'BRIEN'S

ROCKY HORROR Show

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MON 13 – SAT 25 MAY

THRILLER Live



MON 3 – SAT 8 JUN



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SINGAL THEATRICAL COMPANY
DREXELIA

HALF A SIXPENCE

TUE 11 – SAT 15 JUN

HORRIBLE HISTORIES

TWO SHOWS LIVE ON STAGE!

TERRIBLE TUDORS

AWFUL EGYPTIANS



WHO'S THE CROSS?

WED 3 – SUN 7 JUL

R Sun 7 Jul 11am



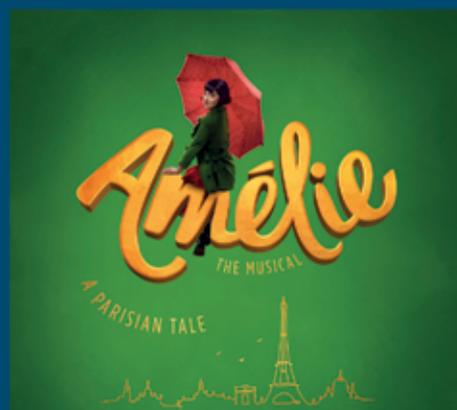
Little Miss SUNSHINE

A ROAD MUSICAL

EUROPEAN THEATRICAL AWARDS 2019

TUE 16 – SAT 20 JUL

AD Thu 18 Jun 7.30pm



Amélie

THE MUSICAL

A PARISIAN TALE

MON 22 – SAT 27 JUL

THE ALEXANDRA STAGE EXPERIENCE

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN



WED 21 – SAT 24 AUG

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ITS PEOPLE AND PLACES -
WILLIAM AND
CATHERINE HUTTON

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ON THE COVER



Installation view of
Faisal Abdu'Allah and
Kofi Allen's *The Last Supper II*, 2010/1996 in the 2018
exhibition 'Walls Have Ears: 400 Years of Change' at
Aston Hall, Birmingham, featuring artists from the Arts
Council Collection and Birmingham Museums Trust as
part of the Arts Council Collection's National Partners
Programme. Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust.
See pages 16-17 for more information.



INFORMING PERCEPTIONS

BY DAVID FOSTER



Above: Installation view of Faisal Abdu'Allah and Kofi Allen's *The Last Supper II*, 2010/1996 in the 2018 exhibition 'Walls Have Ears: 400 Years of Change' at Aston Hall, Birmingham, featuring artists from the Arts Council Collection and Birmingham Museums Trust as part of the Arts Council Collection's National Partners Programme. Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust.

How can we be sure that people hear, absorb and remember news? This dilemma came to my attention recently when a friend (NB lower case!) said 'Oh, but the museum is closing soon'. Those of us who are daily engaged with Birmingham Museums Trust (BMT) learned in November 2018 that the closure of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (BMAG) had been deferred until after 2022. So by March 2019 we were no longer preoccupied with the implications of closure; for us, those worries were already old news. Clearly for many folk 'out there' that is not the case, and they still believe in BMAG's imminent closure.

We Friends (upper case this time!) play our part in revising such erroneous beliefs when we come across them. Incidentally, the BMT website is an authoritative source of information on the current state of planning for the BMAG refurbishment and the Big Store proposal (continuing to be based on the Pool Way site). As we learn more, we will find the best ways to share this with you.

Other perceptions can be harder to revise, however. One of these - in the field of art and culture - is the nature and purpose of contemporary art. Over the last three years, the series of exhibitions which emerged from the partnership and collaboration between Birmingham Museums and the Arts Council Collection might have helped to illuminate and educate us. I am proud that the Friends had a crucial role in enabling this series. You will remember how, nearly three years ago, BMT called on the Friends for help in securing this partnership contract. Thanks to our matching funds, this three-year partnership has

now reached a successful climax with two striking and challenging modern art shows running together: *'Women Power Protest'* and *'Too Cute!'*.

You will each have your own highlight memories from the various events over the intervening years: *'A Night in the Museum'*, with its quirky, captivating and illuminating pairs of sculptures; *'I Want! I Want!: Art and Technology'* showed how modern technology can create a wide range of artistic experiences; *'Coming Out'* developed the widening concepts of sexual identity in the modern world, and included a Turner Prize-winning exhibit; *'The Everyday and Extraordinary'*, where nothing was quite what it seemed; *'Women Power Protest'* built on the centenary celebration of the women's suffrage movement to show both how far we have come as a society and how very much further we have yet to travel. And finally, the visual exuberance of *'Too Cute!'*. In between these major shows at BMAG there was *'Totality'* at Thinktank; *'Walls Have Ears'* at Aston Hall (I was particularly impressed by the modern mural in the Great Parlour, which so closely mirrored the room's Jacobean layout); and *'Nature's Presence'* at Blakesley Hall.

Whilst I am not competent to draw profound conclusions on the purpose of contemporary art that I posed earlier, I am content to reflect on the series of exhibitions which we have been privileged to share. It is enough that, through our encounters with these events, we now know a great deal more about the world, our fellow citizens and ourselves. ■



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**'TREASURES OF THE MUSEUM'**

Date: Monday 10 June 2019, 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 is a treasure? Who makes that decision? Is there actually a list entitled 'Treasures of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery'? This title has been used over many years; so many that it slips glibly off the tongue and is never queried.

In this tour we will look at what is meant by 'a treasure' and find out what you, the Friends, consider to be our treasures. Will we finish up with the most familiar works; or will there be some surprises?

If you already have a definite idea for a treasure attach a note to your application form or email Jane beforehand (see 'Contacts' on page 3 of *Artefacts*).

**'WIRE IN THE BLOOD'**

Date: Tuesday 11 June 2019, 6-7pm

Speaker: Sandy Robertson, Archivist for Webster & Horsfall Limited

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), 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS

[NB. This event was advertised in the February - April 2019 edition of *Artefacts*. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.]

Webster & Horsfall is famous for the development and manufacture of steel wire and steel wire rope. Founded in Birmingham nearly 300 years ago it continues to produce steel wire today. The company has influenced world history in subtle but remarkable ways. It was founded before the age of steam and was amongst the first to use steam as a source of power. Its products have been central to the developments of the Industrial Revolution. In transport from the horse to the aeroplane, in armaments from the sword to the missile. It has served the mining, food, surgical, construction and telecommunications industries.

The talk will cover the history and development of its products which includes the manufacture of the wire for the first successful Trans Atlantic Telegraph Cable in 1866 and its invention of Locked Coil winding ropes which revolutionised deep cast mining world wide.

Today the Company is also leading the Midlands commercial development in alternative energies

and low carbon emission technologies at its Tyseley Energy Park site adjacent to its works.

**THE WINTERBOURNE COLLECTION ~ AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR AND HANDLING SESSION FOR THE FRIENDS OF BMT**

Dates: Wednesday 19 June 2019; and Wednesday 17 July 2019 (NB. There are two dates as we are expecting a high uptake and the numbers are limited to 20 on each occasion). Time: 10:30am for 10:45am start. Host and guide: Henrietta Lockhart, Collections Officer, Winterbourne House

Cost: £11 for the tour and handling session (Please note: The entrance fee is separate as many members of the Friends are also members of Winterbourne. For those who aren't, please pay at reception: Adults: £8; Over 65s: £7). NB. This event is limited to members only

Venue: Winterbourne House and Gardens, 58 Edgbaston Park Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2RT.

Meeting Point: The reception in Winterbourne.

How to get there: By car from city centre: Along the Bristol Road, turn right into Edgbaston Park Rd and then past the University. Winterbourne is on the right. There is a 50 space car park and 2 blue badge spaces beside the house. By bus: The X20, X21 and X22 buses stop just round the corner from Winterbourne. They pick up from the city centre by Moor Street station. More details about frequency and other stops can be found at the National Express website: www.nxbus.co.uk

Winterbourne House and Garden has a collection of around 4,000 objects. During this handling session, participants will be given exclusive access to items from this collection which are not normally on display to the public. The selection will include 19th and early 20th century letters, diaries and photographs relating to the Nettlefold and Chamberlain families. The event will also include a brief tour of Winterbourne House.

**CENTREPIECE: IN CONVERSATION**

Date: Tuesday 2 July 2019, 6:30-8:30pm

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

Venue: John Peek Room, The Birmingham & Midland Institute (BMI), 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS

Centrepiece Jewellery was formed in 1997 and is a collective of contemporary jewellery designer makers based in and around Birmingham's historic jewellery quarter.

EVENT KEY

ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



SCIENCE SHORT

In celebration of 21 years of Centrepiece, four jewellers from the group came together to curate an exhibition at The Museum of The Jewellery quarter entitled 'Illuminate'. The exhibition showcases their jewellery collections alongside new pieces inspired by exploring the riches of the museum and its collections. The intention of the jewellers is to illuminate the unique history of the Jewellery Quarter and its significance to jewellery makers today.

Join Katherine Campbell-Legg, Miranda Sharpe, Nobuko Okumura and Rita Patel as they provide an insight into Centrepiece, its activities and connection with the Jewellery Quarter. They will be sharing their experiences of being jewellery designers and makers as they take you on a journey into how their work is made.



'19TH CENTURY STAINED GLASS IN BIRMINGHAM AND THE MIDLANDS'

Date: Thursday 1 August 2019

Speaker: Martin Ellis, Freelance Consultant, formerly Curator of Applied Art at BMT

Cost: £10/£13 non-members

Venue: The AV Room (at the back of BMAG's Gas Hall) at 10:30am for an 11am start

Meeting Point: The Gas Hall foyer

Following the exciting visits to St. Philip's and St. Chad's Cathedrals and Singers Hill Synagogue, members of the Friends now have a thirst for more knowledge of the development of stained glass in the Midlands and Birmingham. To help satisfy this, Martin will be giving an illustrated presentation on this topic, starting with a general introduction to 19th-century stained glass, then moving on to Midland and Birmingham material with special reference to Hardmans and other Birmingham companies.



ANA MARIA PACHECO'S 'ONE MAN AND HIS SHEEP' AND FRIENDS

Date: Tuesday 6 August 2019, 6:30-8:30pm

Speaker: Emalee Beddoes-Davis, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art

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

Venue: John Peek Room, The Birmingham & Midland Institute (BMI), 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS.

Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art Emalee Beddoes-Davis talks through the process of re-displaying collection-favourite 'One Man and his Sheep' by Ana Maria Pacheco and shares her research



Above: Winterbourne - Evelyn Nettlefold and Tiddles 'What a name for such a cat'



ART FROM WORLD WAR TWO

Date: Friday 6 September 2019

Speaker: Henrietta Lockhart

Cost: £10/£13 non-members

Venue: The AV Room (at the back of BMAG's Gas Hall) at 10:45am for an 11am start

During the second world war, hundreds of artists applied their skills to depict all aspects of the conflict. Many of them travelled with the armed forces and experienced the horror of war at first hand. To mark the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of the war, this talk will highlight some outstanding examples of war art, by both men and women, and explore the ways in which these works of art were rooted in the art historical tradition.





Above: RBSA Evening Tour – Andrew Coates RBSA – ‘Helipad for Parrots’



COACH OUTING TO ADLINGTON HALL

Date: Wednesday 11 September 2019

Cost: £37/£47 non members (includes entrance to the Hall, tea/coffee and a scone, an A4 Guide Book to the Hall and the driver's tip). 3 Pickup points: Yateley Road, Harborne, B15 3JP at 8:30am; City Centre - Chest Clinic, Great Charles Street, B3 3HX at 8:45am; South Parade Car Park (opposite Plantsbrook School), Sutton Coldfield at 9:15am. Order of drop offs: Sutton Coldfield; Colmore Row; and Harborne.

Adlington Hall is situated near Macclesfield and has been the home to the Legh family since 1315. During this period the Hall has had additions, alterations (and latterly subtractions) being carried out over the centuries by successive Leghs. It is partly half-timbered and partly brick. There is an impressive ‘Great Hall’ with a hammer-beam roof and with the largest 17th Century organ in the country.

The visit will include a Guided Tour of the Hall and a free flow visit to the 60 acre gardens; tea or coffee and a scone; and a Guide Book. There are no cafe facilities for lunch, but you are welcome to bring your own lunch to eat in the grounds or indoors if wet.



‘SCULPTURA: VISION AND FORM’: MEET THE ARTISTS EVENT AND EVENING TOUR AT THE RBSA

Date: Tuesday 22 October, 6:30-8:30pm

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

Venue: Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, 4 Brook Street, Birmingham, B3 1SA; www.rbsa.org.uk

‘SCULPTURA – Vision and Form’ runs from 21 October until 2 November at the RBSA Gallery. This distinctive exhibition explores the unique and current sculptural practises of eight prominent artists from the RBSA. They present very different approaches to the broad ranging arena that is the Art of Sculpture – from figurative to construction; formed ceramics and cast bronzes; handcrafted fine metals and glass; stone, wood and plaster carvings.

This will be a stimulating and exciting opportunity to meet the artists and discuss the wide ranging methods and challenges of working in three dimensions and view these very diverse pieces on display.

THE OLD REP THEATRE

ALICE IN WONDERLAND: SUMMER SCHOOL

MONDAY 19 - FRIDAY 23 AUGUST



Come and join Alice in Wonderland with The Old Rep Theatre this summer!

You will create a performance based on Lewis Carroll's famous story, featuring acting, dancing, and original songs. **The Alice in Wonderland Summer School** is open to young, budding performers as well as experienced actors, and will feature plenty of games, chances to meet new friends and the opportunity to rehearse and perform on The Old Rep Theatre's wonderful stage. Develop your skills, have some fun and bring the world of Alice in Wonderland to life with our fantastic professional tutors this summer.

A final performance will be held at 5pm on Friday 23 August for family & friends at The Old Rep Theatre.

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Hartlebury Castle
PALACE MUSEUM GARDENS



New exhibition for 2019 open now

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Open Tuesday – Friday 10am – 5pm,
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 Hartlebury Castle, Hartlebury,
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For visitor information please see www.hartleburycastle.com

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NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

The Friends Office is staffed on a part-time basis - usually Monday and Tuesday. When the office is unattended, please leave a brief voicemail message, or email us.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Free entry to special exhibitions in the Gas Hall
- Free entry to all Birmingham Museums' Heritage Sites
- *Artefacts* magazine four times a year
- Opportunity to join the many Friends' social events and outings
- 10% discount at Opus Restaurant (Cornwall Street, near the Museum) on production of a valid Friends membership card. Available for lunch or dinner, 7 days a week.

Plus discounts at the following venues (T&Cs apply):

- BMAG and Heritage Site shops/cafés
- 50% entrance discount to Thinktank at Millennium Point: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Gift membership is available all year round and 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: Mrs J Wilson, Mr K & Mrs VA Cope, Mr IW Binnie, Mrs ALM Bond, Mr M Whitehouse and Mr JNL Latham. ■

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS APPLICATION FORM

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STUDENT £15

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giftaid it

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ABOVE: Some of the Arts Council Collection volunteer team

It feels to me like 2019 is rushing past, and as I write we are looking towards the Easter holidays with lots of events and activities scheduled. Many of these events will be supported by our amazing volunteers who work so hard to support Birmingham Museums Trust. Our volunteer team, as always, has been very busy since I last had the pleasure of writing for *Artefacts* so here is just a taster of some of the things that have been going on.

February saw us celebrate national Student Volunteering Week, an annual nationwide campaign to celebrate student volunteering, which gave Birmingham Museums the chance to recognise the amazing work of our volunteers who are also busy studying. To tie in with this we announced Birmingham Museum Trust's Student Volunteer of the Year 2019. This year's winner, Elinor Cole, has volunteered with us for two years as a Heritage Interpreter at Sarehole Mill. Elinor said, about being part of the team at the Mill: 'I absolutely love volunteering at Sarehole - I think it's impossible not to become fond of the site, its story and its wildlife - but it is the team there that truly make it a joy'. It

is always such a difficult decision to select a winner for this award so this year's Runner Up was Phoebe Kelly who has been such an asset to the Birmingham Heritage Week team and helped deliver a fantastic festival last year.

At the end of March our three-year partnership with the Arts Council Collection (ACC) came to an end and this gave us time to reflect on the work of our volunteer team who have supported the programme. The partnership saw an incredibly talented group of 42 individuals support us in a variety of ways; dedicating 2,747 hours of their time. Volunteers assisted our Learning Officer through helping with sessions and developing resources, supported our visitors at three of the ACC exhibitions, helped to administer our *Inspire 2018* youth art competition and played a pivotal role in the display of 'The Influence Machine' at Birmingham Cathedral. These volunteers have since gone on to take up employment within the museum sector, have undertaken further study and have developed as practitioners.

The Friends volunteers who man the Friends Desk in the Industrial Gallery at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery have also had a busy time recently as the Leonardo exhibition has been bringing in the crowds. This small but brilliant team form part of the friendly face of the museum, manning the Friends Desk to answer enquires and acting as guides to Birmingham as visitors ask them all sorts of questions.

If you would like to join the team, either by volunteering for the Friends or other projects for the Trust, then take a look at our website for more information: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/volunteering. In particular the Friends would love to hear from you if you would have any interest in volunteering to deliver Friends events. If you would like to find out more please email: volunteer@birminghammuseums.org.uk. ■

NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEERS

BY REBECCA BENSON
BMT VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT TEAM LEADER

REPORT FROM BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS

BY RACHEL COCKETT, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

We did it! Firstly a huge thank you for supporting our fundraising campaign to get Sarehole Mill back in action. We were thrilled to raise almost £10,000! This means we can restore the water wheel to full working order and we can also improve the Mill's flour store as well. We received so many generous donations and the messages of support from local people, Tolkien fans and heritage lovers have been truly heartwarming to read. The work is already taking place - at the time of writing I am told we have already removed 13 tons of waste from both culverts and the waterwheel has been confirmed as being able to turn freely. A heartfelt thank you for helping us to bring this charming historic building back to life. You can follow the project progress on Facebook or Twitter and through the Birmingham Museums newsletter which you can subscribe to via our website.

I am delighted to share that Birmingham Museums Trust has just signed a 25-year contract and leases for our museum and heritage sites with Birmingham City Council. The long-term agreements demonstrate the commitment to partnership between our two organisations, working together to deliver better services to the people of and visitors to the city. Birmingham Museums has a growing reputation for our innovative work in community engagement, using the city's great historic collection to attract new and diverse audiences. We plan to work more closely with Birmingham City Council in future to deliver on learning, health and well-being, and social care.

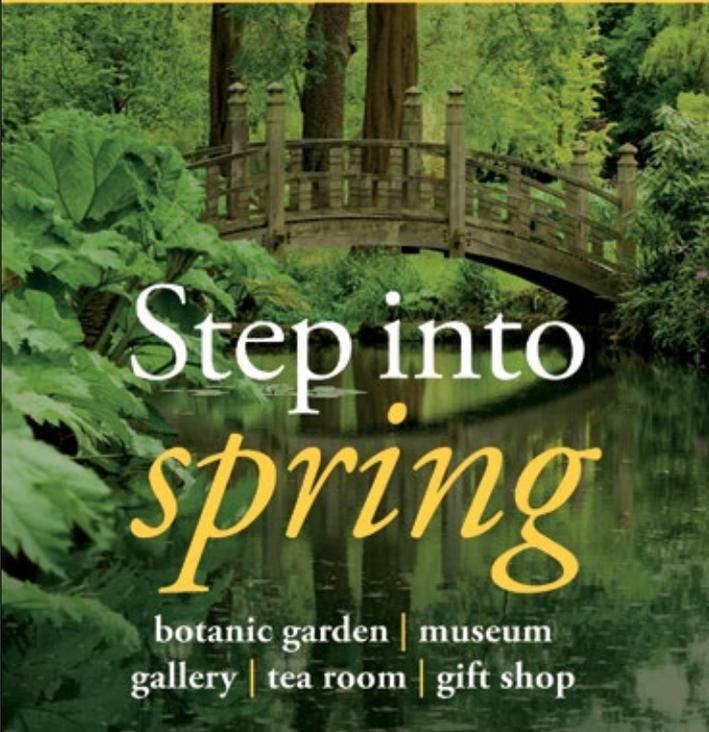
And more good news! Birmingham Museums is celebrating as visitor figures released at the end of March by the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA) reveal that over 831,500 people visited Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery last year, after a bumper year of exhibitions, events and displays. Last year's figures are an increase of a third on 2017 and demonstrate the popularity of

hit exhibitions such as *Dippy on Tour*, which was supported by the Friends. Over a quarter of a million people flocked to Birmingham to see the Natural History Museum's iconic exhibit, making *Dippy on Tour* the most popular temporary exhibition ever at the Museum & Art Gallery. 2018 was also a major year for the Staffordshire Hoard as we revealed a stunning reconstruction of a high-status helmet contained within the Anglo-Saxon treasure. These moments, along with innovative exhibitions such as *The Past is Now*, *Women Power Protest* and a new display of paintings and watercolours by celebrated Birmingham-born landscape artist David Cox, helped to make 2018 the third busiest year in the last 40 years.

Looking to this year, Summer sees a major exhibition in the Gas Hall, with Home of Metal returning to the Museum & Art Gallery to present *Black Sabbath - 50 Years*. In partnership with Capsule, the exhibition explores the legacy of the heavy metal band Black Sabbath. The exhibition celebrates Black Sabbath from the perspective of their fans, to show the impact and cultural legacy of the band as pioneers of Heavy Metal, and to celebrate this unique, significant part of British music heritage. Formed in Aston in 1968 and cited as the pioneers and godfathers of Heavy Metal, Black Sabbath was founded by Tony Iommi, Geezer Butler, Ozzy Osbourne and Bill Ward. The exhibition aims to explore how the music of four working class lads captured the hearts and minds of fans globally and will pay homage to the fan's devotion and document the fifty-year relationship. The immersive exhibition will feature historical photos, ephemera, and memorabilia sourced directly from the band members as well as portraits and stories from the Home of Metal fan archive that mark this unique moment in history. Friends will receive free entry on Mondays and Tuesdays in July, see pages 38-39 for more details of this special exhibition and offer. ■

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Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum
Foregate Street, Worcester, WR1 1DT. Tel: 01905 25371

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ART

THROUGH THE AGES

BY JANE HOWELL

Continuing the series of Art through the Ages articles as illustrated by works from the Birmingham Museums collection, in this edition of *Artefacts* we are looking at a painting from the 18th century.

The Eighteenth Century

'The Blunt Children' by Johann Zoffany (1733 - 1810), painted in 1766 or 1767 (Accession number 1934P397)

This is a portrait of two of the many grandsons of Sir Henry Blunt, 2nd Baronet and head of a leading Worcestershire family. It has never been established exactly which grandsons they are. They were originally thought to be Henry and Charles but are now believed to be Walter and Harry although other sources suggest they are Robert and William. At this distance in time it is enough to know that they are two of Sir Henry's grandsons.

In the days before photography, the only way to have a visual record of family members was to commission a portrait to be painted, thereby creating a thriving and competitive business amongst artists, two of whom were Sir Joshua Reynolds and Thomas Gainsborough.

Johann Zoffany was born in Germany in 1733 and moved to London in 1760. At first he found it difficult to get established and survived by painting theatre scenery and clock faces for the Huguenot clockmakers who had settled in England following persecution in France. His work was spotted by Sir David Garrick, the actor and theatre impresario who gave him

a lot of work. Through this connection, Zoffany was commissioned to paint portraits of the Royal Children. From this point on he never looked back and shortly afterwards was commissioned to paint the Blunt children.

A choice was made to create a rural backdrop instead of a domestic setting for the portrait. The concept of childhood, as known today, was just beginning to emerge in the 18th century, partly due to the work of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the French Philosopher. His book 'The Social Contract' was widely known in England and its ideas of bringing children up in the countryside where they could feel the influence of nature were taking root amongst some of the wealthier families. This philosophy could have influenced the Blunts' and Zoffany's choice of setting.

So, here are the boys in the countryside. They are still in petticoats as it was not the custom to 'breech' boys until the age of six. They are playing with a toy cart but an adult sized rake. Children still prefer to play with the 'real' thing. Although this farmyard equipment is meant to symbolise the life they will grow into, it is unlikely that, as adults, they will ever handle any of these tools. They will be the landowners, not the workers.

Zoffany splits the painting in two by using the tree

to create a vertical axis. To the left of the tree is a tranquil scene looking across undulating fields and hedgerows where all is secure and safe. On the right is far denser, rougher foliage representing danger and trouble. Is Zoffany illustrating the dangers these young boys will face in later life? However, also to the left is a stump where a tree has been felled. Is this to signify that man is conquering the wilderness and thus can conquer the dangers in life?

What about the boys? To me, they look quite strange. Their faces are quite plain and seen elongated by the short hair. But it is the arms that fascinate me. They are large and powerful, certainly not the arms of children aged about 4 and 5. I have studied this painting over many years and have wondered if Zoffany had used

adult models at times. After all, children of this age are not renowned for patiently standing still! It is impossible to say just as we cannot say exactly which of Sir Henry's grandsons these boys are.

For all the questions, I love this portrait. The Museum acquired it from a descendant of the Blunt family in 1934. Thanks to that person we are fortunate to have in our collection this superb example of portrait painting of children in 18th century England.

At the time of writing *The Blunt Children* is hanging in the *'Too Cute'* exhibition in Gallery 13. ■

Acknowledgement: Some of the factual information in this article are from 'Johann Zoffany' by Mary Webster, Yale University, New Haven and London, 2011



ABOVE: Johann Zoffany, *Portrait of the Blunt Children*, 1766-1770.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST ARTS COUNCIL
COLLECTION NATIONAL PARTNERS PROGRAMME (2016-2019)

A SLICE OF TIME

Turn the clocks back to November 2016 and step into the world of the artist Ryan Gander's *'Night in the Museum'*



With mischievous playfulness, a deadpan wit and a fascination for storytelling, Gander selected sculptures from the Arts Council Collection by making himself a rule: 'I could only choose figurative sculptures, and I'd only choose art that couldn't be mistaken for anything but art and works which contained the colour blue. Then those two halves would be joined together.' There were over 30 British artists in the exhibition including Ben Nicolson, Henry Moore and Rebecca Warren. From Birmingham's collections emerged a reconstruction of Jacob Epstein's famous *'Rock Drill'*; artworks by Sean Scully and Patrick Caulfield; and *'Dancer at Rest'*, an original bronze ballerina by Edgar Degas.

Moving forward to 2017 *'I Want! I Want! Art and Technology'* spanned the last 20 years of British and international artists navigating and contributing to a social, cultural and technological revolution. Artworks were made using surveillance and gaming technology, computer graphics and animation, computer-aided design (CAD) and the internet. Rachel Maclean's film *'Feed Me'* (2015) used green screen technology in telling a hypermodern parable of the seven deadly sins, highlighting the pleasure and perils of indulgence; Julian Opie's *'This is Fiona'* (2000) was an early use of technology to create a digitally-animated portrait; and *'Drawn from Memory'* (1998/2017), a flip

book of a hundred aircrafts by Dryden Goodwin, was essentially a form of animation.

Also in 2017, exhibited next to the popular Planetarium at Thinktank - Birmingham's Science Museum, Katie Paterson's *'Totality'* (2016), an Arts Council Collection 70th anniversary commission, caught the imagination of younger audiences as her large-scale disco ball rotated with 10,000 sourced and found images of solar eclipses.

Following on, Birmingham's collaboration with The Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool on *'Coming Out - Sexuality, Gender and Identity'* brought visibility to LGBT+ stories in museum collections. The exhibition of modern and contemporary artworks, from the 1950s to the present day, explored themes of sexuality, gender and identity in art. It celebrated the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act being passed in England and Wales, which partially decriminalised male homosexual acts. The show brought significant international iconic pieces by Andy Warhol, Grayson Perry, Sarah Lucas and Gillian Wearing to Birmingham, artworks which reflected varying experiences pre and post the passing of the 1967 Act.

In 2018 *'The Everyday and the Extraordinary'* explored the relationship between the found object as artistic





OPPOSITE PAGE: TOP LEFT: *Night in the Museum* **BOTTOM LEFT:** *Totality* (2016), Katie Paterson
THIS PAGE: BELOW: *Walls Have Ears: 400 Years of Change* **ABOVE:** *Too Cute! Sweet is about to get Sinister*

material, content and subject-matter. The artists in the show appropriate and transform objects to communicate particular ideas or concepts. Memorable works included: the features of the Queen's face made from piles of tacky cake decorations, gaudy trimmings, cheap toys and plastic flowers in Huw Locke's *'Jungle Queen'* (2003); and the recycling of umbrellas in *'Crow and Carrion'* (1981) by Bill Woodrow. The exhibition toured to the Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne, another of the Arts Council Collection National Partners.



'Walls Have Ears: 400 Years of Change' celebrated Aston Hall's 400th anniversary. The exhibition was inspired by this great house and its location – a magnificent Jacobean mansion located in a public park in the ward of Aston, a diverse local community in inner-city Birmingham. The historical collection was interwoven with contemporary art - predominately black portraiture - representing history, culture, class and race.

Fast forwarding to 2019 and to the final show of the partnership, the artist Rachel Maclean was invited to delve into the Arts Council Collection and Birmingham's collection, from which the exhibition *'Too Cute! Sweet is about to get Sinister'* emerged. An imaginative and creative selection of work revealed how objects and images can have the unique ability to be simultaneously sweet and yet also sinister. Accompanying over 80 works from the collections is one of Maclean's signature style films where *'Dr. Cute'*, a grotesque bear figure, introduces a short lecture on the themes explored in the show.

My journey through time has been inspiring working with amazing collections and collaborators, a wealth of creative minds, and often the invisible teams that make the exhibitions happen, to present an awesome programme of contemporary art to the audiences of Birmingham and beyond.

Birmingham Museums Trust is an Arts Council Collection National Partner. The Arts Council Collection is managed by Southbank Centre, London on behalf of Arts Council England.

Thanks to the Friends for their participation and continued support of the partnership programme. ■

By Deborah Smith, Curator, Birmingham Museums Trust Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme (2016-2019)

CHANGING BIRMINGHAM - ITS PEOPLE AND PLACES WILLIAM AND CATHERINE HUTTON

Having recently spent many happy hours with the grandchildren exploring all the artefacts and information displayed in the BMAG History Galleries - 'Birmingham: its people, its history', it felt like a good idea to draw wider attention to the displays. In my experience as a volunteer on the Friends Desk, it is a little tucked away and sometimes missed by visitors.

The first question is where to start in what is an extensive gallery? I was in the Eighteenth Century areas explaining the contribution of the usual historical figures, Boulton and Watt, when I noticed a small piece on a migrant to Birmingham, William Hutton (1723-1815). It turned out that he wrote the first history of Birmingham, so this seemed a logical place to start. Through the excellent local history section of the library service it was possible to access both his *'A History of Birmingham'* and his autobiography. Through reading these documents it became apparent that he also had an accomplished daughter, Catherine Hutton (1757-1846), very much in the mould of Jane Austen, so she is included in this piece. She published three novels and over sixty literary articles for a range of journals.

So who were William and Catherine Hutton? And why should they be of interest to us in understanding Birmingham's development? As I mentioned earlier, William was a migrant to Birmingham, coming from Nottingham and originally Derbyshire. He grew up in abject poverty, something which shaped his outlook, employed as a child worker in one of the first silk mills. Following his mother's death, his father descended into alcoholism. William was passed around the family, but was lucky to have a sister of strong character who later guided him into book-binding. By the 1770s he was a wealthy merchant and bookseller in Birmingham - a remarkable rags to riches story, mirroring Birmingham's own development. He set up one of Birmingham's first lending libraries from his bookshop in the High Street and you can see the blue plaque on the Waterstone's shop for yourself. It is good to see the continuity of bookselling! According to Catherine's note on his autobiography, William had only received three weeks of recognisable education. In fact, he was entirely self-educated, which makes his achievement even more remarkable. A recent excellent biography by Susan Whyman has characterised him as a 'rough diamond' and this is reflected in the obituary of William by his daughter Catherine: 'He was a man of strong natural talents & very few acquirements... of great force and no polish'.

This brings us to Catherine herself: a much loved and loyal daughter; an important editor of her father's writing; and a travelling companion. Having a liberal father, Catherine received a formal education, although a curriculum limited to what was thought appropriate at the time for women of a certain class. More importantly she was brought up surrounded by books and much discussion, and was well read from an early age.

We get a lovely portrait of Catherine in Audrey Duggan's book *'A Lady of Letters'*, and many of her original letters and articles are accessible via the Library of Birmingham Archives (LOB). As a young woman she loved to dance and travel, visiting London on a regular basis. She resisted all suitors and remained an independent woman, becoming an established author. As an author of novels she was part of a group of women writers from a dissenting background who provided support for each other. Whilst holding fairly conventional views on the role of women, she certainly pushed the boundaries for women of her time and class. Her range of letters, literary articles and novels provide us with an authentic voice of the time.

Looking at the lives of both William and Catherine gives us an insight into that period of tremendous economic, social and cultural change in Birmingham. We are lucky that, combined with the excellent displays in the BMAG History Galleries, we also have access to many original documents of the period at the LOB close by. Nothing illustrates this better than the recently discovered original handwritten unedited account of the King and Church riots in 1791 by William Hutton. William's *'A History of Birmingham'*, whilst being problematic in some respects, still frames much of the debate on Birmingham's history. In both this and his autobiography he has left us a considerable legacy. The last words are his, talking about his first encounter with Birmingham: 'I was surprised at the place, but more the people. They possessed a vivacity I had never beheld, I had been among dreamers but now I am awake. Their very step along the street showed alacrity.' ■

By Jim Wells



ABOVE: Portrait of William Hutton (1723-1816), 1850-1890, British School. Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust

MAKING HISTORY

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR THE FIRST 100 YEARS

2019 celebrates one hundred years of Birmingham Bach Choir.



ABOVE: Where it all began - in the Midlands Institute

Throughout its life, Birmingham Bach Choir has played a vital role in bringing live music to the West Midlands in different guises, but always with a focus on the music of JS Bach. Today, under the directorship of Paul Spicer, it now has a strong following and its performances receive high praise from critics.

The early years

Life was very different in 1919, when the Bach 'society' was first established. The end of the Great War had been formalised at Versailles in June 1919, but the world was still being shaken by huge pockets of instability: the Russian Civil War; the Egyptian Revolution; and the rise of Benito Mussolini in Italy. In Britain, we were involved in the Third Anglo-Afghan War which led to Afghanistan's independence in late 1919, alongside continuing struggles in India. But at home there was relative peace as the population came to terms with the ravages of war and an emerging new social and political world. Cultural change was in the air, and the very first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from Kings College in Christmas 1918 was a reflection of this new post-war mood.

In Birmingham, Bernard Jackson, a Bach enthusiast and musicologist, started the Birmingham Bach Society to pass on his passion with a lecture on Bach's life, given appropriately at the Midland

Institute (founded by Act of Parliament in 1854 for the wonderfully defined 'Diffusion and Advancement of Science, Literature and Art amongst all Classes of Persons resident in Birmingham and Midland Counties'). What followed over the next thirty years or so was the emergence of a Society dedicated to Bach which put on lectures, meetings and small-scale concerts of his music for solo instruments and small ensembles. But it wasn't until after the Second World War, with the appointment of Dr Willis Grant, the organist at Birmingham Cathedral and later Professor of Music at Bristol University, that the number of singers grew in size - from its original 12 to 20 - to form a choir able to give performances of Bach's major works including his Mass in B Minor. Dr Grant was succeeded by a number of distinguished musicians including Dr Roy Massey and, in 1966, by Richard Butt.

From 1966 - A new era

With Richard Butt's vision, the 1960s heralded a completely new era for the Society. Through his links with the BBC and important financial support from The Arts Council of Great Britain (during its Golden Age in funding under Harold Wilson's government), Richard not only expanded the choir's repertoire but secured high profile artists to perform in Birmingham, such as Yehudi Menuhin, Paul Tortelier and the English Chamber Orchestra under Raymond Leppard, as well as vocal soloists such as Emma Kirkby, James Bowman, John Shirley-Quirk, Brian Kay, John Carol Case, Neil Mackie, Felicity Palmer and Alfreda Hodgson. Prestigious links were formed with Peter Pears and the home of Bach in Leipzig. As a result, the choir performed at both the Aldeburgh Festival and in the famous Church of St Thomas's Leipzig in June 1989 with the Leipzig Radio Orchestra. Even a Birmingham Bach Society Orchestra could be founded and funded, unthinkable in the current climate. The choir performed all of Bach's major choral works more frequently whilst also introducing repertoire beyond Bach and the Baroque to earlier periods and twentieth century works.



ABOVE: Richard Butt conducting The Birmingham Bach Society Choir & Orchestra in 1973

Forging a new role in the 21st century

Paul Spicer, a colleague and good friend of Richard Butt at the BBC, took over in 1992 in a Birmingham music scene which had developed beyond all recognition from the 1960s.

Birmingham now had a thriving number of professional and amateur groups including Ex-Cathedra (first formed in 1969) and The CBSO Chorus (set up in 1974); the inaugurated 'Birmingham Conservatoire' had emerged from the old 'Music School' in the 1980s with its own concert hall - the Adrian Boult Hall; and the city had a fabulous new concert venue - Symphony Hall - in addition to the restored Town Hall.

The Choir changed its name from the Birmingham Bach Society to the Birmingham Bach Choir shortly after Paul's arrival and embarked upon an ambitious course to forge a distinctive role within this changed Midlands music scene. Paul's view was that the great choral works were now amply performed by the larger choral societies and choirs in the area and that the Choir was, and needed to be, different.

In addition, whilst the numbers involved in providing music had thrived in the area, the Arts Council funding had continued to fall from the early 2000s, making frequent orchestral concerts a significant financial challenge.

Whilst still focussed on performing Bach and Baroque music to the highest level, with professional period instrument orchestras for at least one major concert each year, Paul created a large chamber choir, capable of performing complex a cappella works to the highest standard, which audiences would not have the opportunity to hear elsewhere.

As a result, the Choir now consists of approximately 80 voices across the 4 voice parts but is capable of dividing into as many as 16 parts for complex works. It performs a varied repertoire not only of Bach and Baroque music, but including English and European music spanning six centuries.

Recently the Choir gave first performances in The Midlands of JS Bach's '*St Mark Passion*' in Lichfield Cathedral; an extremely rare concert of William Byrd's '*The Great Service*' in St Chad's Cathedral; summer concerts of seldom heard French music in 2017; and Italian madrigals and motets with Pizzetti's challenging three choral pieces in 2018.

Paul challenges his singers with an exciting and demanding programme, preferring to perform in intimate environments suitable for a cappella performances such as the CBSO Centre, and Cathedrals and Abbeys in and around Birmingham.

To celebrate its centenary, the Choir will be performing Afro-American Spirituals on 22 June at Pershore Abbey and 6 July at the CBSO Centre; concluding with their Centenary Gala Concert of Bach, Handel and Haydn in Lichfield Cathedral on 16 November.

Renowned baritone Roderick Williams, now a patron, will give a centenary concert recital of Beethoven and Schubert song cycles on 9 May and the choir will tour France (Rouen, Chartres and Caen) in the early Summer. ■

For information on Birmingham Bach Choir in 2019 - its centenary year - visit:
www.birmingham.bachchoir.com



ABOVE: Birmingham Bach Choir with Paul Spicer in the CBSO Centre in 2017

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



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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.

Leonardo da Vinci: A Life in Drawing

Until 6 May 2019. Free entry. To mark the 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery will display 12 drawings by the

Renaissance genius. This is the first time visitors can see these works on display in Birmingham. *Leonardo da Vinci: A Life in Drawing*, a nationwide event, will give the widest-ever UK audience the opportunity to see the work of this extraordinary artist, with 144 of his greatest drawings from the Royal Collection forming the 12 exhibitions.

Too Cute! Sweet is about to get Sinister

Until 12 May 2019. Free entry. 'Too Cute! Sweet is about to get Sinister' is artist Rachel Maclean's exploration of why we should be taking cuteness more seriously. Curated by the Glasgow-based artist, the exhibition uses pieces from Arts Council Collection and Birmingham's collection to investigate the ability of these objects to be simultaneously cute and sinister. Ranging from 19th-century oil paintings to internet-inspired videos, the works featured will display multiple manifestations of cuteness.

Edwardian Tearooms Late:

Museums at Night Festival with Hidden Spaces

18 May 2019, 6:30-10pm. £30 per person. Enjoy live music and dinner in the Edwardian Tearooms and experience the 'Secrets of the Museum', an exclusive 45-minute tour where you will discover the secrets of Birmingham Museum & Gallery. Pre-booking is essential.

Below: The Edwardian Tearooms at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery



Conservation Studio Tours:

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

21 May 2019, 2-3:30pm. £15 per person. In this fascinating behind the scenes tour, discover how conservators care for objects and prepare them for exhibitions and loans. Suitable for aged 14+.

Home of Metal presents Black Sabbath – 50 Years

Opens 26 June 2019. See website for ticket details. This major exhibition explores the legacy of Birmingham-born Black Sabbath and their global fan base. Celebrating the band from the perspective of their fans, this exhibition will display the impact and cultural legacy of the pioneers of heavy metal.

Sunday Lunch & Jazz

21 July 2019, 2-4pm. Enjoy lunchtime Jazz in the glorious surroundings of the Edwardian Tearooms. As you sit back and relax, why not try out the scrumptious Sunday menu. The Jazz music is a free event. Usual charges apply for Sunday lunch and drinks in the Edwardian Tearoom.



Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum, 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.

Smethwick Steaming Day

29 May & 24 July 2019, 12-2:30pm. Included in the price of admission to Thinktank. See the oldest working steam engine in the world roaring into life at Thinktank at the Smethwick Engine Steaming Days. Using both the expansive force of steam and a vacuum at the same time and designed by Boulton & Watt, you will be able to see the power first hand. The Smethwick Engine has recently undergone an extensive restoration project and is one of the jewels in Thinktank's collection.

World Oceans Weekend

8-9 June 2019, 11am-4pm. Included in the price of admission to Thinktank. During World Oceans Weekend, Thinktank will be celebrating with a water themed weekend like no other. Learn about how you can help protect the seas and rivers that are vital for life and meet some very special friends.



ASTON HALL

Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD.

See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up to date opening times and prices. 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.

Aston Alive – Georgian House Party

18 May 2019, 11am-4pm. Entry included in price of admission. Attend the Georgian House Party to witness exciting sword-fighting duels and meet some of Aston's Georgians while exploring this grand old mansion's rich history. Try your hand at fan flirting, experience what happened in coffee houses and find out what secret messages a beauty patch can tell you! Pre-booking is highly recommended and last entry to the Hall is at 3pm.

Whodunnit? A Family Friendly Mystery Trail

1 June 2019, 11am-4pm. Entry included in price of admission. A drop dead fun time travelling mystery trail aimed at families and those young at heart. Visit this historic property, interview the suspects and try to solve the perplexing mystery involving a tiger, set in the magnificent surroundings of Aston Hall. Victorian dress is greatly encouraged but not essential and pre-booking is advisable.

Watt 2019: What's Watt Talk and Tour with Chris Rice

2 June 2019, 11am-1pm. £15 per person.

As part of James Watt's bicentenary, *What's Watt* explores the life of James Watt Jnr, who lived at the Hall from 1819 until his death in 1848. Learn about his famous literary friendships and his dedication to upholding his father's reputation. Pre-booking is essential.



Behind the Scenes Tour

15 June 2019, 1-2:30pm. This guided tour offers the rare opportunity to see some sections of Aston Hall not usually open to the public. Please be advised this event involves lots of walking and stairs, with dark areas of the building and uneven floors. Pre-booking is advisable.



Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up to date opening times and prices

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.

Car Boot Sale

6 May 2019, 8am-1pm. Free admission (£5 for each car wishing to sell). Visit the first Car Boot Sale at Blakesley Hall! After browsing for bargains, enjoy a cup of tea and piece of cake in Blakesley's tearoom. Car pitches can be booked online.

Animalmania

29 May 2019, 11:30am-3:30pm. £3 per person. During May half term holidays, meet all sorts of small creatures at Animalmania. Slots are 30 minutes.

Father's Day Falconry

16 June 2019, 11am-4pm. £2 per person. Spend your Father's Day at Blakesley Hall and get close to seriously impressive birds of prey. From buzzards and owls to hawks and vultures, witness these stunning animals in flight during displays throughout the day. Displays are at 11:30am, 1pm and 3pm. Also learn more about falconry with some fascinating facts, a quiz and falconry themed trails.

Lavender Month

2 - 31 July 2019, 11am-6pm. Entry included in price of admission. Enjoy a month of themed activities amongst Blakesley Hall's lavender-filled gardens. Alongside themed trails, find out about the use of the

plants throughout the ages and enjoy lavender cake and tea in the tearooms!

A Midsummer Night's Dream by Crescent Theatre

6 & 7 July 2019, 5-8pm. Adult: £12, Concession: £8, Child: £8. In July, The Crescent Theatre visit Blakesley Hall to perform Shakespeare's renowned 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' in the peaceful gardens at the Hall. It is recommended that you bring your own picnic blankets and/or folding chairs for this performance.

Summer Fete

14 July 2019, 11am-4pm. Entry included in price of admission. Blakesley Hall's first ever Summer Fete promises animals, cake stalls, games and activities, ensuring fun for all the family! There will be charges for activities.



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.

Adult Jewellery Workshops

15 June & 13 July 2019. Each workshop £60 per person. Both workshops are for over 18s and pre-booking is essential as places are limited to 10 people per workshop. All materials required will be provided alongside light refreshments. You may bring your own lunch or purchase something in our tea room during the lunch break.

Silver Spinning Ring

15 June 2019, 10am-4pm. Learn a variety of jewellery making techniques under the careful guidance of contemporary jeweller Grace Page in this exciting workshop. Make a silver spinning ring alongside a loved one or as a well-deserved treat for yourself.

Silver pendants

13 July 2019, 10am-4pm. Grace will help you to create >



Above: Workshop in the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter



Above: Sarehole Mill

a stunning silver pendant to take home with you. Pre-booking is essential.

Women's Work in the Jewellery Quarter

25 May 2019, 12:15-1:15pm. Entry included in price of admission. Discover the work undertaken by women from the late 1800s until the 1980s on this tour of the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter. Women were instrumental in making Birmingham the workshop of the world, taking on many vitally important jobs such as office work, press work, polishing and enamelling. This tour celebrates their hard work and fortitude, which are often overlooked.



**SAREHOLE
MILL**

Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B13 0BD. See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up to date opening times and prices. 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.

Handling Week: What's Eating the Museum

28-31 May 2019. Entry included in price of admission. Get close and hands on as you learn about conservation museums in drop in sessions throughout the day, including the insects that eat museum collections!

A Mind of Metal: J.R.R. Tolkien and industry talk

29 June 2019, 1-2pm. £10 per person. Discover the influence that the industry of Birmingham had on the brilliant writings of J.R.R. Tolkien, who moved from the green land of Sarehole to the outskirts of the industrial town that was the workshop of the world. The talk will last approximately 1 hour and pre-booking is essential.





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The Great Get Together at Sarehole Mill

22 June 2019, 11am-4pm. Free. Inspired by the Jo Cox Foundation, this big hearted community get together will further the aims of community cohesion and unity, as well as being a lot of fun! Bring along a picnic or treat yourself to some of the delicious tearoom food and drink, and raise a toast to the local community. In addition to free admission to the Mill, there will be a whole host of festivities such as live music, local community stalls, baking, outdoor games and more.



SOHO HOUSE

Soho Avenue, off Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B18 5LB. See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up to date opening times and prices. 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.

Watt 2019: Soho Steam Fair

27 May 2019, 11am-4pm. Adult: £5, Child: £2.50. Entry Charges Apply. See a Traction Engine in full steam at this family friendly event, as well as miniature model steam engines and the chance for children to tour the garden on the miniature model railway! Soho Steam Day celebrates the great inventor and steam pioneer James Watt's bicentenary.

Best of Handsworth

7 July 2019, 11am-4pm. Free. A celebration of cooking in Handsworth. Bring your best bake to be judged at Soho House by an expert panel. Come along to hear the results, enjoy live music and celebrate the best of Handsworth! Visit the website for more details



WEOLEY CASTLE

Alwold Road, Weoley Castle, Birmingham, B29 5RJ
See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up to date opening times and prices

The ruins at Weoley Castle are over 700 years old and are the remains of a moated medieval manor. The site has been inhabited from the 12th century and, according to the Domesday Book, was part of the estates of William Fitz Ansculf. Weoley changed hands several times between 1485 and 1531 when it began to fall into disrepair. In the centuries that followed, stone from the castle was removed to build a nearby farm and the Dudley no.2 canal. Today the site is a scheduled Ancient Monument of national importance. The ruins can be viewed from a viewing platform. Direct access to the ruins is only available on special event days or for groups and schools by a pre-booked guided tour. Please call 0121 348 8120 for further information.

A Summer's Knight at the Castle: Evening Tour

20 June & 15 August 2019, 7:30-8:30pm. £10 per person. Explore Weoley Castle in the evening, learning about the life and work of a medieval knight during this summer's eve tour.



MUSEUM COLLECTIONS CENTRE

25 Dollman Street, Birmingham, B7 4RQ

The Museum Collections Centre is a 1.5 hectare site that holds 80 per cent of Birmingham Museums' collections. There are free open afternoons from 1:30pm-3:30pm on the last Friday of every month. These must be booked in advance. Guided tours are also available by arrangement on other days. Please call 0121 348 8231 for more information or to book.

Open Afternoons at the Museum Collection Centre

31 May 2019 & 26 July 2019, 1:30-3:30pm. Free entry - places must be booked. Among the thousands of objects stored here are steam engines, sculptures, and an entire collection of Austin, Rover and MG motor cars and even a red phone box. It is not open to the public except by arrangement. 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. Pre-booking is essential.

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FINAL WEEKS

A TALE OF TWO EMPIRES

ROME AND
PERSIA



10 May 2019 —
15 March 2020

THE PAPER MUSEUM

THE CURIOUS
EYE OF
CASSIANO
DAL POZZO



14 June —
1 September

Royal Collection Trust
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CRICKHOWELL OPEN STUDIOS

25 – 27 May 2019 Free entry to 29 venues

Crickhowell Open Art Exhibition
25 May to 7 July 2019

'Recollections'
a CRiC Studio Textile exhibition by 'Naturally Sew'
25 May – 28 June 2019



oriel
CRiC
gallery



visitcrickhowell.co.uk

IN THE AREA

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR

www.birmingham.bachchoir.com

Steal Away

Pershore Abbey - Saturday 22 June, 7:30pm. CBSO Centre, Birmingham - Saturday 6 July, 7:30pm. The Birmingham Bach Choir has been exploring a variety of new repertoire in recent years and has been pushing its boundaries considerably. Their centenary season summer concert is an exploration of the negro spiritual and its treatment in the hands of a variety of composers. The spiritual is an extraordinarily powerful, emotional experience and the struggle of those who sang these original songs, presenting a Christian message whilst also bemoaning the terrible hardships they experienced as slaves, is as visceral an experience today as it must have been back in their day.

Birmingham Bach Choir are presenting a varied programme from classic arrangements by the brilliant black American Moses Hogan, to Tippett's famous arrangements from *A Child of our Time*, Rutter's large-scale work based on spirituals called *Feel the Spirit*, and a new work to the words of one of the most famous spirituals of all, *Steal Away*, by Paul Spicer. Whilst Paul's original work is not based on the original spiritual melody, this was obviously in his mind as he was composing.

CRICKHOWELL OPEN STUDIOS WEEKEND

Saturday 25 - Monday 27 May 2019. Supporting artists across the region, the Crickhowell Open Studios weekend returns for the eleventh year as an initiative of the Oriel CRiC Gallery to showcase the creative lives of artists who live and work in the Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains.

Free entry to 29 venues offers the opportunity to explore the work of well over 300 artists in Studios, galleries and pop-up artist collectives in unusual spaces such as churches and cafes across the area. The Oriel CRiC Gallery again launches a popular Open Art exhibition during the weekend. Free printed guides can be requested from galleries@visitcrickhowell.co.uk

THE HERBERT

Jordan Well, Coventry, CV1 5QP. www.theherbert.org

CASE: Coventry Art Societies Exhibition

Thursday 18 April - Sunday 19 May. The work of local artists will be showcased in Coventry city centre this spring. Members from four Coventry art societies will have their work on show at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum as part of CASE: Coventry Art Societies Exhibition (known formerly as the Coventry Arts Consortium).

Artists from the Coventry and Warwickshire Society of Artists, Coventry Art Guild, Coventry Watercolour Society and the Baginton Art Group are invited to submit up to four paintings, sculpture and pottery to go on display. One artist from each society is invited to form a 'selection panel' and they decide which works will be showcased.

This year, artists have been asked to think about Coventry City of Culture and consider painting something with a Coventry theme. There is, however, no limit on subject choice or size of painting which makes it an extremely exciting exhibition. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to vote for their favourite work of art and the winner will receive an award.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year

Saturday 16 February to Sunday 2 June. An internationally renowned photography exhibition is returning to Coventry to showcase the most extraordinary images from the natural world – and will be free to see.

Awarded images from the Natural History Museum's *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* will be displayed at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum as part of an international tour. The acclaimed competition, first held in 1965, showcases the most impressive images of the natural world, from breath-taking animal portraits and dramatic landscapes, to bizarre species and endangered habitats.

The 2018 edition of *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* celebrates biodiversity, promotes conservation, and champions ethical photography, with winning photographs chosen from over 45,000 submissions by expert judges for their creativity, originality and technical excellence.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year is developed and produced by the Natural History Museum, London, with the award-winning images seen by millions



WNO

Welsh National Opera

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Don Pasquale

Donizetti

Saturday 8 June 7.30pm

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Midlands Arts Centre

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Vivaldi: Sonata *Al Santo Sepolcro* in E Flat Major
Vivaldi: Concerto in G minor RV156
Vivaldi: Sinfonia *Al Santo Sepolcro* in B minor
Bach (After Vivaldi):
Concerto for Harpsichord & Strings BWV 972
Vivaldi: *The Four Seasons*

Friday 28th June 7.45pm Tickets £20.16-£26.88

malvern theatres

Grange Road | Malvern | Worcestershire | WR14 3HB
Box Office: 01684 892277 malvern-theatres.co.uk

across the globe each year, and the Herbert is the first West Midlands gallery to host the exhibition.

IKON GALLERY

*1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS.
Tel: 0121 248 0708 • www.ikon-gallery.org*

Hew Locke: Here's the thing

Until Sunday 2 June. This is the most comprehensive exhibition to date of work by British artist Hew Locke. Involving a wide range of media – painting, drawing, photography, sculpture and installation, Locke explores the languages of colonial and post-colonial power, and the symbols through which different cultures assume and assert identity. Fusing historical source material with a keen interest in current affairs, often through the juxtaposition or modification of existing artefacts, Locke focuses attention especially on the UK, the monarchy and his childhood home of the then newly independent Guyana.

The Migrant Festival

Thursday 30 May - Sunday 2 June. Four-day event celebrating our diverse roots, welcoming new arrivals to the city by fusing themes of migration with visual arts music, film and performance.

The Aerodrome: An exhibition dedicated to the memory of Michael Stanley

Wednesday 12 June - Sunday 8 September. This exhibition is presented in memory of Michael Stanley, Curator at Ikon before becoming Director of Milton Keynes Gallery and then Modern Art Oxford, who tragically died in 2012. Co-curated with David Austen and George Shaw and structured loosely on Rex Warner's war-time novel *The Aerodrome* (1941), a book that made a great impression on Stanley, it includes many of the artists he worked with. A group show, *The Aerodrome* fills Ikon's premises entirely and is organised with Stanley as a presiding spirit; a celebration of an extraordinary vitality that continues to make a deep and lasting impression.

JEWELLERY QUARTER FESTIVAL 2019

Saturday 29th – Sunday 20th June 2019. The Jewellery Quarter Festival is a celebration of both the Quarter's vibrant energy and unrivalled heritage, bringing together local businesses, residents and communities.

This historic Birmingham neighbourhood has been the home of goldsmiths and silversmiths for over 200 years. 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 amongst historic buildings.

The JQ Festival is taking place in June this year and will celebrate the energy that this vibrant community brings to the city of Birmingham. Expect family fun activities, exciting performances, street food, as well as live music provided by the Jam House as part of their 20th birthday celebrations. There will also be a whole host of activities celebrating the bicentenary of James Watts - the industrial pioneer and inventor who resided in the Quarter between 1777 to 1790.

The Festival will allow visitors to experience the rich history of the area with a series of engaging talks and walks, enabling people to truly immerse themselves in the incredible heritage of the Quarter.

The weekend also welcomes back JQ Open Studios, a community of over 30 makers from within the Quarter who open their doors for the public to come and see what they do. Visitors can speak to local makers, watch demonstrations and purchase hand-made items that include the art of jewellery, needle craft, leather making and much more.

Situated a short 20-minute 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's something for all ages to enjoy in the Quarter with a plethora of activities and events throughout the year, beyond this year's Festival. With a large collection of bars and restaurants, as well as a number of boutique hotels, the Jewellery Quarter is a thriving destination for visitors globally.

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.

For more information on the Festival, please visit: www.jewelleryquarter.net/jq-festival

LEAMINGTON SPA ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Royal Pump Rooms, The Parade, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 4AA

'An Entertainment'

Friday 14 June - Sunday 1 September. Since the town's development as a Regency spa resort, Leamington has





Birmingham Back to Backs

Carefully restored, atmospheric 19th-century courtyard of working people's houses

Discover Rag Rugging

Saturday 18th May 2019, 10:30am - 12:30pm.

Learn the art of rag rugging with our craft specialists. Cost £25

Discover your Irish Family History

Thursday 6th June 2019, 6:45pm - 8:45pm.

Spend an evening tracing your Irish Family History with our expert Maggie Loughran. Cost £15

Conservation in Action Workshop

Monday 10th June 2019, 1pm - 3:30pm.

Come along and spend a couple of hours with our fantastic conservation team! Cost £10

ALL EVENT PLACES CAN BE BOOKED ONLINE

55-63 Hurst Street/50-54 Inge Street, Birmingham, B5 4TE
Tel: 0121 6667 671 Email: backtobacks@nationaltrust.org.uk
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/birmingham-back-to-backs

Saturday 6 July 7.30 pm
CBSO Centre, Birmingham

Also

Saturday 22 June 7.30 pm
Pershore Abbey, Pershore



Steal Away

Spirituals to melt the heart



"Stunning...
great waves
of beautifully
phrased
eloquence"

Birmingham Post



22 June 2019, 7.30pm

Brahms

Ein deutsches Requiem

St. Francis of Assisi Church

Bourneville, B30 2AA

Colin Baines - *conductor*

Tickets: £16.00, £14.00 concessions

Ring 0121 550 1107

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www.birminghamchoralunion.org.uk

Birmingham Bach Choir

Conductor:
Paul Spicer

Pianist:
Martyn Rawles

**Spirituals by Moses Hogan, John Rutter,
Michael Tippett, Will Todd & Paul Spicer**

Tickets: £16 (£14 conc)

From www.birmingham.bachchoir.com

Also THSH Box Office* (for CBSO Centre only)

* fee charged

enjoyed a lively nightlife. This exhibition showcases the many entertainments on offer over the past two centuries, from theatres and cinemas to concerts and dances. Objects on display include beautiful ballgowns from the 1800s to the 1950s, Victorian playbills and film of the 24-hour jive marathon of 1960. This will also be the first chance to see the museum's newly-acquired Arbiter Elegantiarum medal, an enamelled badge of office worn by Leamington's answer to Beau Nash. Visitors can find out about the town's historic venues and how they evolved over time, as ballrooms were transformed into music halls and theatres became cinemas. Displays will also explore the lives of the men and women at the heart of Leamington's entertainment scene, from the raffish Regency impresario Robert William Elliston to the cinema magnate Edith Devis and bandleader Jan Berenska.

The exhibition comes up to date with a look at some of the many musical and theatrical groups in Leamington today. These range from the Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra and Loft Theatre to Tango Warwick and Spa Opera. There are plenty of activities in the gallery to keep young visitors busy during the school holidays. These include the chance to create a puppet and tell your own stories in the toy theatre. Admission is free.

MAC BIRMINGHAM

Midlands Art Centre, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH. www.macbirmingham.co.uk

Handsworth Self Portrait: 40 Years On

Until Sunday 26 May. In 1979 Derek Bishton, Brian Homer and John Reardon created a pop up photography studio on the street outside the community design and photography office they had established in a terraced house in Grove Lane, Handsworth, Birmingham.

Instead of taking the photos themselves, they invited passers by to take their own photograph, passing them the shutter release so they could control the decisive moment of how to present themselves and when they were ready for the picture to be taken.

More than 500 people stopped by to take part in this ground-breaking 'Selfie' project - some alone, some with friends or family, some striking formal poses, others being more playful. Everyone involved was offered the opportunity of receiving a free print to keep, and the project - which ran at weekends from August to October - generated a unique archive of images providing a snap shot of who was living and working in Handsworth at that time.

Now, 40 years on, this exhibition presents a selection

of photographic prints, some of which have never been exhibited before, and offers an opportunity to look back at our local communities and see what has changed.

We would love to meet the people who took part in the Handsworth Self Portrait - so we want as many people as possible to come to see the show and let us know: is it you in the picture? Do you recognise a family member or friend? Have you kept your original print? Keep an eye on our social media channels as we will be sharing images regularly - and please share as widely as possible.

ORCHESTRA OF THE SWAN

orchestraoftheswan.org

A Celebration of New Talent

Wednesday 19 June, 2:30pm; Pre-concert talk: 1:30pm with Chris Morley (Music Critic, Birmingham Post) at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Join Orchestra of the Swan (OOTS) for their last concert of the season at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. OOTS is delighted to welcome Luke Jones, winner of the Bromsgrove International Musicians' Competition 2018, who will be performing Beethoven Piano Concerto No1, premiered in 1803 with the composer himself as the soloist. Domonkos Csabay, one of the Conservatoire's rising stars, will join OOTS and Andrew Griffiths, a dynamic and versatile young conductor with a particular flair for opera and choral music. The concert ends with a short work by Thea Musgrave, who feels it represents either the freshness of youth or the plant life in our world on which we all depend. An opportunity to see a world-renowned orchestra performing classic and contemporary music with two young talents.

Mozart - Piano Concerto in A Major K414.

Beethoven - Piano Concerto no3 op37 in C minor.

Thea Musgrave - Green.

Tickets from £5 (BCU Staff and Students) to £25; Box Office: 0121 331 5908/0121 331 5909.

VITTORIA STREET GALLERY

School of Jewellery, Birmingham City University, 82-86 Vittoria Street, Birmingham, B1 3PA.

Tel: 0121 331 5940 • blogs.bcu.ac.uk/vittoriastreetgallery

Make Your Future

9th July - 3rd August. Vittoria Street Gallery is delighted to host the metals element of the Crafts Council's 'Make Your Future' and showcase the collaborative work of local secondary school pupils, their teachers and professional makers from the West Midlands.





FORGE MILL NEEDLE MUSEUM

THERE IS MORE TO NEEDLE MUSEUM THAN MEETS THE EYE...



REMEMBERING THE 40s
SUNDAY 19TH MAY



FARM DAY
SUNDAY 2ND JUNE



PUZZLES AND ILLUSIONS
31ST JULY - 28TH AUGUST

Did you know that Redditch was famous for producing ninety percent of the world's needles in Victorian times?

A visit to Forge Mill brings to life the story of how the humble needle was made!

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Open everyday, 11am-5pm
with tearoom Saturdays, Sundays
and Bank Holiday Mondays

November-March:
Open weekdays, 11am-4pm
Entry: Adult £4.50 • Child (5-17) £1
HCGT & RHS Members: FREE

Saturday 22nd June, 6pm-9pm
Midsummer Music in the Gardens

Picnic in the gardens from 6pm. Music by The Automatic Jazz Band at 7pm
Book early to avoid disappointment. Adults - £14.50 • Child - £11.50

Bread and Meat Close, Warwick, CV34 6HF
Tel: 01926 493339 • www.hillclosegardens.com

BEOWULF

Join Armonico Consort in the retelling of Beowulf, one of the world's greatest mythical tales, in an evening of musical entertainment. Discover a legendary time of heroes and warriors as prince Beowulf battles demons and magical beasts, narrated by special guests Oliver Phelps, star of the Harry Potter films, Julian Glover, Star Wars Actor, The Empire strikes back and Britain's best-loved wine expert Oz Clarke. Alongside a gripping script from one of the authors of Have I Got News For You, this touching epic saga has been set to music by Armonico Consort's composer-in-residence, Toby Young (former BBC Proms Young Composer of the Year).

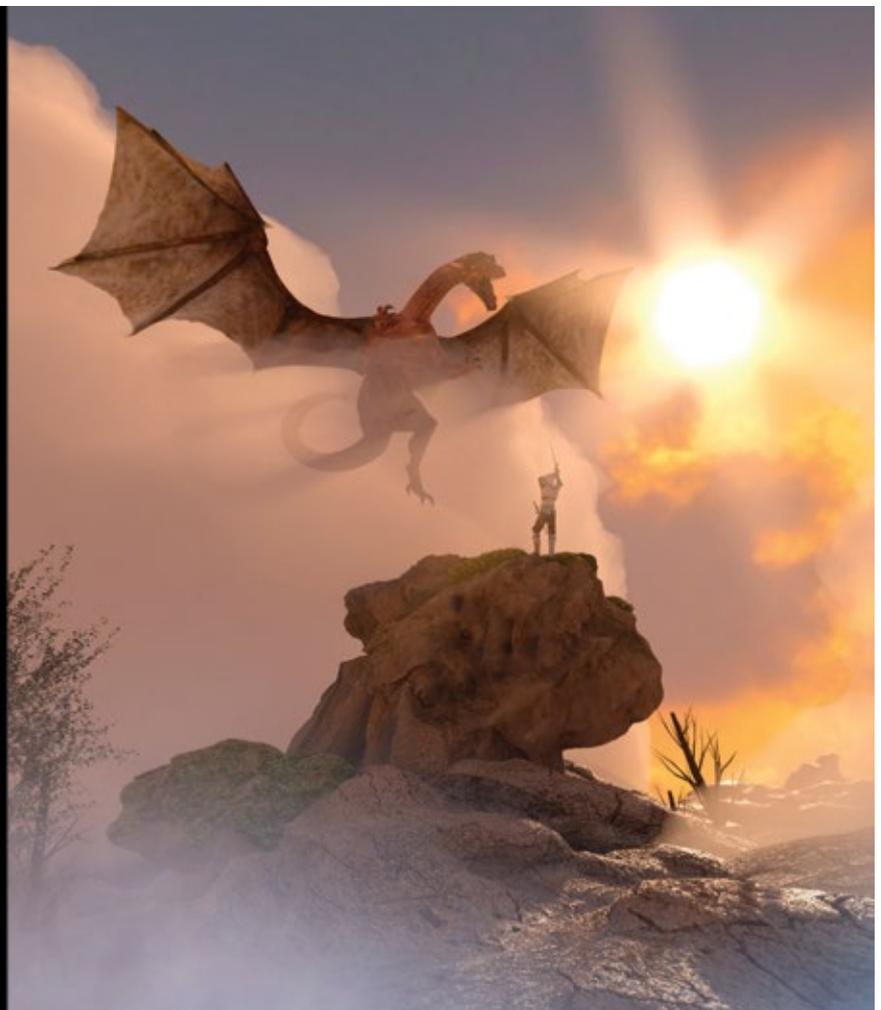
The voices of hundreds of local children from our AC Academy choir creation scheme will be joined by Armonico Consort's five star awarded choir; solo Soprano Elin Manahan Thomas, who sang at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in May 2018; solo harpist, and official harpist to HRH Prince of Wales, Anne Denholm; and composer Toby Young on keyboards. Beowulf guarantees to excite the whole family and is the perfect introduction to the breathtaking excitement of live music.

ARMONICO CONSORT & AC ACADEMY SINGERS

DIRECTOR | CHRISTOPHER MONKS
HARPIST | ANNE DENHOLM
SOPRANO | ELIN MANAHAN THOMAS
NARRATORS | JULIAN GLOVER (20th May)
| OLIVER PHELPS (26th, 27th June | 16th, 18th July)
| OZ CLARKE (3rd, 4th, 5th July)

20th May, 7pm, Bury St Edmunds Festival, Suffolk
26th June, 7pm, Church of St Mary and All Saints, Chesterfield
27th June 7:15pm, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry
3rd July, 7pm, Malvern Theatres, Malvern
4th July, 7pm, The Octagon Theatre, Yeovil
5th July, 7pm, Lighthouse, Poole
16th July, 7pm, Cambridge Summer Music Festival, Cambridge
18th July, 7pm, Petworth Festival, Petworth

For full information www.armonico.org.uk



'Make Your Future' is an ambitious Crafts Council led educational project which brings together four higher education institutions from across the UK, each of whom specialise in a specific craft material: School of Jewellery Birmingham (Metals); Leeds University (Textiles); Leeds College of Art (Textiles); and Central St Martins London (Clay). These institutions have collaborated with the Crafts Council and worked with their local cultural partners, secondary schools, and professional makers to facilitate the project, with the aim to reignite a passion for making in schools by creating opportunities for pupils and teachers to learn traditional and digital craft skills.

WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY

Lichfield St, Wolverhampton WV1 1DU

www.wolverhamptonart.org.uk

Lisa Henderson Landscapes

Until Sunday 9 June. Lisa Henderson is originally from Cardiff but her art and practice is closely linked to the West Midlands and Staffordshire, where she has lived since the 1970s. Her work is inspired by the shapes, colours and textures found in nature. Henderson's paintings use collaged, recycled and pre-prepared papers alongside printmaking techniques such as wiping, scratching and breaking in to the picture's surface to achieve rich texture and colour in an abstract and fluid creative process. This new exhibition features paintings, drawings and collagraphs inspired by wild and natural landscapes and includes a new Cannock Chase series, inspired by the seasons. The landscapes of Wales, Scotland, New Zealand and imagined 'other worlds' are also represented in the show.

Making an Impression: Prints by Manet, Pissaro and their Contemporaries

Until Sunday 9 June. This stunning new exhibition showcases the work of masters of 19th century French Impressionism including Manet, Pissaro, Cézanne, Renoir and more. The exhibition explores the ways in which Impressionist artists embraced advances in artistic technology to experiment with etching, lithograph and drypoint printing techniques to capture fleeting moments; blurring the boundaries between drawing, photography and printing. More than 30 works feature in the show and explore themes including The City and Modern Life, Portraits and Landscape and Labour. Wolverhampton Art Gallery is one of the first venues to host this new and prestigious touring exhibition from the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford. Many of the pieces in the exhibition are being displayed for the first time.

THE WORCESTER CITY ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

Foregate Street, Worcester, WR1 1DT.

Tel: 01905 25371 • www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

The Young Turner: Ambitions in Architecture and the Art of Perspective

Until Saturday 6 July 2019. This touring exhibition from the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford focuses on Turner's drawings, paintings and engravings of Oxford and the Midlands, from the 1780s to the 1810s. They exemplify his interest in Gothic architecture, his increasing expertise in depicting it and his growing knowledge of perspective. The styles and subject matters are also indicative of some of the people and artworks that initially inspired him.

On show will be Turner's first sketchbook and some of his diagrams for the lectures in perspective he gave at the Royal Academy, which have rarely been exhibited.

Turner's oil painting *A View of the High Street, Oxford*, 1809-10, is the centrepiece of the exhibition. It is a major new acquisition at the Ashmolean Museum and a unique pinnacle of the artist's early output. The museum acquired this work with generous support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Art Fund, the Ashmolean's Friends and Patrons, and members of the public. This tour, which celebrates and provides context to the acquisition for a wide audience, has also been made possible by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The works on display are drawn primarily from collections in the Ashmolean Museum, and are complemented by loans from the Tate and several private collections.

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

Hartlebury Castle, Hartlebury, Kidderminster,

Worcestershire, DY11 7XZ

Fashioning Peace: Life and Liberty after the Great War

Throughout 2019. The Great War changed everything. From science and medicine to art and culture to the very core of society and its values, its effects were far reaching and dramatic. The exhibition explores these themes and their impact on the people of Worcestershire from the end of the war through the Roaring Twenties. Hartlebury Castle is open Tuesday to Friday, 10am – 5pm and Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays, 11am – 5pm. For visitor information see: hartleburycastle.com



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2019/20 SEASON

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Details at brb.org.uk/2019-20season

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Details at brb.org.uk/friends

HOME OF METAL

PRESENTS

BLACK SABBATH: 50 YEARS

A major exhibition exploring the legacy of Black Sabbath and their global fan base. Presented in partnership with Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. 26 June – 29 September 2019.

From the humble beginnings of 1960s Aston, Birmingham, Geezer Butler, Tony Iommi, Ozzy Osbourne and Bill Ward created Black Sabbath, in turn forging a new sound, a new aesthetic, and a new musical culture – Heavy Metal. 50 years later Home of Metal celebrates the band; their impact on music; and their dedicated global following.

This unique exhibition will examine the alchemy of the band; dissecting the social history, cultural impact, look and sound of Black Sabbath, asking what it means to be 'heavy'. Iconic pieces from the band will be on display alongside stories, collections, and over 3,500 portraits from some of their most devoted fans from across the world. Black Sabbath have made a lasting mark on music and popular culture, Home of Metal celebrate this unique legacy.

"It's an honour to be a part of the Home of Metal. I am just a guy from Birmingham who's been blessed to have had such dedicated fans throughout my career. Like I've always said, 'I am nothing without them'." **Ozzy Osbourne**

"Fans are our lifeblood, they've always been there to support us." **Tony Iommi**

The exhibition celebrates and commemorates the pioneers and godfathers of Heavy Metal, Black Sabbath: Tony Iommi, Geezer Butler, Ozzy Osbourne and Bill Ward. It explores how the music of four working class lads captured the hearts and minds of audiences globally. A testament to their loyalty, the exhibition pays homage to the fan's devotion and documents the bands fifty-year relationship. This immersive exhibition will feature historical photographs, ephemera, costumes and memorabilia sourced directly from the band members as well as portraits and stories from the Home of Metal fan archive that mark this unique moment in history.

Established by Capsule in 2007, Home of Metal is a ground-breaking project that examines the

origins of Heavy Metal and its birthplace amongst the streets and industry of Birmingham. Home of Metal's exhibitions and events join the dots between music, social history, visual art and fan cultures to produce a new perspective on Heavy Metal; one that is celebratory, eschews notions of high/low art and joins audiences and performers together.

This is a unique opportunity to celebrate the most significant music heritage from Birmingham and to pay homage to four local musicians that became icons, pioneering a sound, founding a genre and creating a global phenomenon that is still felt all over the world today. Home of Metal will host audiences from all corners of the world alongside proud Birmingham residents visiting to pay homage to a heritage and artform during this celebratory year.

The exhibition at the Gas Hall, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is part of a wider Home of Metal programme this summer which includes exhibitions and events at MAC, Birmingham, The New Art Gallery Walsall, Eastside Projects, Centrala and Birmingham City University. ■

For more information on the Home of Metal exhibitions, events, programme, and for tickets visit: www.homeofmetal.com

'Black Sabbath 50 Years' is an exhibition by Capsule, presented in partnership with Birmingham Museums Trust. The exhibition is supported by Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund, Laney Amplification and Colmore Business District.

FRIENDS OFFER

Birmingham Museums are delighted to offer Friends one free visit to the *Black Sabbath* exhibition. The exhibition is expected to be very popular so free entry for Friends will be on Mondays and Tuesdays in July, where spare capacity allows, on a first come, first served basis. Please show your membership card on entry. NB. Unfortunately Friends are unable to receive a discount in the Home of Metal shop.



THE FRANCIS BRETT YOUNG SOCIETY

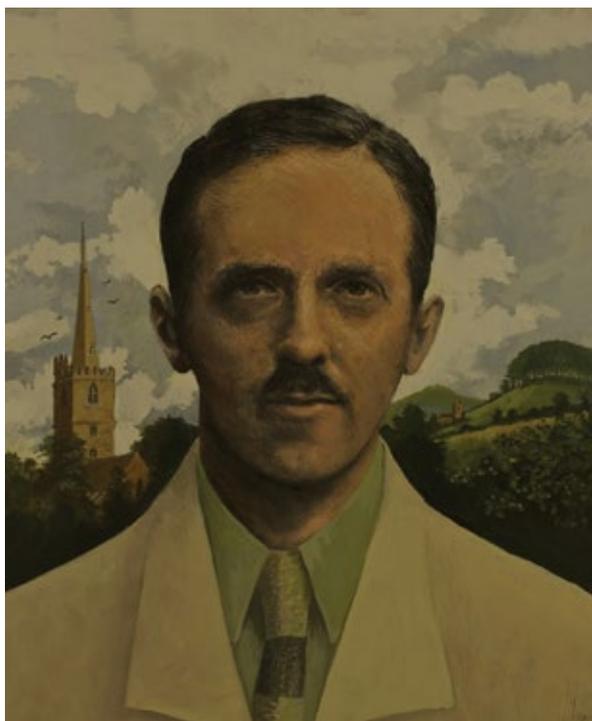
Founded in 1979, the Francis Brett Young Society is currently celebrating its 40th birthday with a series of exhibitions to commemorate the life and works of one of the most successful novelists the Midlands has yet produced.

At the Golden Jubilee of Birmingham University in 1950, when he was awarded an Honorary D.Litt, the Public Orator described Young's 'contribution to English Literature which has merited him a place beside authors whose names will always be associated with particular regions. He has done for Warwickshire and Worcestershire what Hardy did for Dorset and Bennett for the Five Towns.'

Born in Hales Owen in June 1884, Francis was the eldest son of Dr Thomas Brett Young and his first wife, Annie Elizabeth Jackson. Educated first at Iona Cottage High School, Sutton Coldfield, then at Epsom College in Surrey, Francis entered Birmingham University in 1901 as a medical student. After qualifying as a doctor, he sailed to the Far East as ship's surgeon

aboard the S.S. Kintuck of the Blue Funnel Line. In 1908 he married Jessie Hankinson (a soloist of some repute who appeared in Henry Wood's Promenade Concerts) and settled in Brixham, Devon.

In World War One, Young volunteered his services and in 1916 was posted with the Royal Army Medical Corps to German East Africa. The rigours of this campaign severely affected his health and after the war he abandoned his medical career, settled in Capri, and began a series of novels with a Midlands setting. A further breakdown in health resulted in a move to South Africa where he died in 1954. His ashes were brought back to England and interred in the north transept of Worcester Cathedral. In 2017 a plaque commemorating Young's war service



LEFT: 'Portrait of Francis Brett Young' by SJ Hadley

ABOVE: Plaque in Hales Owen Parish Church

TOP RIGHT: 'The Ballad of St Kenelm' display from the Francis Brett Young Society's series of dedicated 40th anniversary year exhibitions

BOTTOM RIGHT: Unveiling of the blue plaque at 105 Harborne Road, Birmingham on 6 May 1992 by Professor Alexander McNeish, Dean of Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Birmingham. Francis Brett Young lived here whilst he was a student at Birmingham University



was unveiled at the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas and there are various blue plaques in and around Birmingham - and indeed as far away as Cumbria, Devon and South Africa.

Often published simultaneously in Britain and USA, with serialisations in the British, American and Australian press, translations of Young's novels have also appeared in Danish, Dutch, Finnish, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish. A number have been presented on radio: *'The House under the Water'* and *'My Brother Jonathan'* on BBC television; and *'Sea Horses'*, *'My Brother Jonathan'*, *'Portrait of Clare'*, and *'A Man about the House'* have been filmed. In 2011 the Society commissioned composer Andrew Downes to set Young's poem *'The Ballad of St Kenelm'* to music, resulting in concerts in Hagley, Winchombe, Bewdley, Romsley and Stourbridge.

Francis Brett Young wrote specifically about Birmingham, the Black Country and their green borderlands. Indeed his 2,200+ discrete references across 25 novels to Birmingham (including some cameos of BMAG) make him the most prolific writer in fiction about this great city.

The Francis Brett Young Society draws its membership from four continents, with most living in the Midlands. A generous gift from an anonymous benefactor has

made possible a series of dedicated exhibitions in this 40th anniversary year. The first three have already taken place in Hales Owen Library, Bewdley Museum and Worcester Cathedral (which included a dedicated evensong and laying of a wreath at the Brett Young memorial). The exhibition which is currently on at Elan Valley Visitors' Centre (focusing upon what is perhaps Young's most famous novel, *'The House Under the Water'*), runs until 28 June. From 8 July - 4 August, the Society will be in Pershore Abbey and throughout September in Tewkesbury Abbey. Further exhibitions are also planned for 2020, including the Dudley Archives from 31 March - 29 June. More information about the Francis Brett Young Society can be found at: www.fbysociety.co.uk. ■



JUNE

-  Monday 10 * *Treasures of the Museum* - Jane Howell
-  Tuesday 11 + *'Wire in the Blood'* - Sandy Robertson
-  Wednesday 19 * The Winterbourne Collection - Henrietta Lockhart

JULY

-  Tuesday 2 * Centrepiece – in conversation
-  Wednesday 17 * The Winterbourne Collection - Henrietta Lockhart

AUGUST

-  Thursday 1 * *'19th-century Stained Glass in Birmingham and the Midlands'* - Martin Ellis
-  Tuesday 6 * *'Ana Maria Pacheco's 'One Man and his Sheep' and friends'* - Emalee Beddoes-Davis

SEPTEMBER

-  Friday 6 * *'Art from World War Two'* - Henrietta Lockhart
-  Wednesday 11 * Coach Outing to Adlington Hall

OCTOBER

-  Tuesday 22 * *'SCULPTURA – Vision and Form'*: Meet the Artists Event and Evening Tour at the RBSA

- * 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).

EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING



SCIENCE SHORT

THE NEXT ISSUE OF ARTEFACTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN JULY 2019

FRIENDS' CROSSWORD BY DEREK STREET

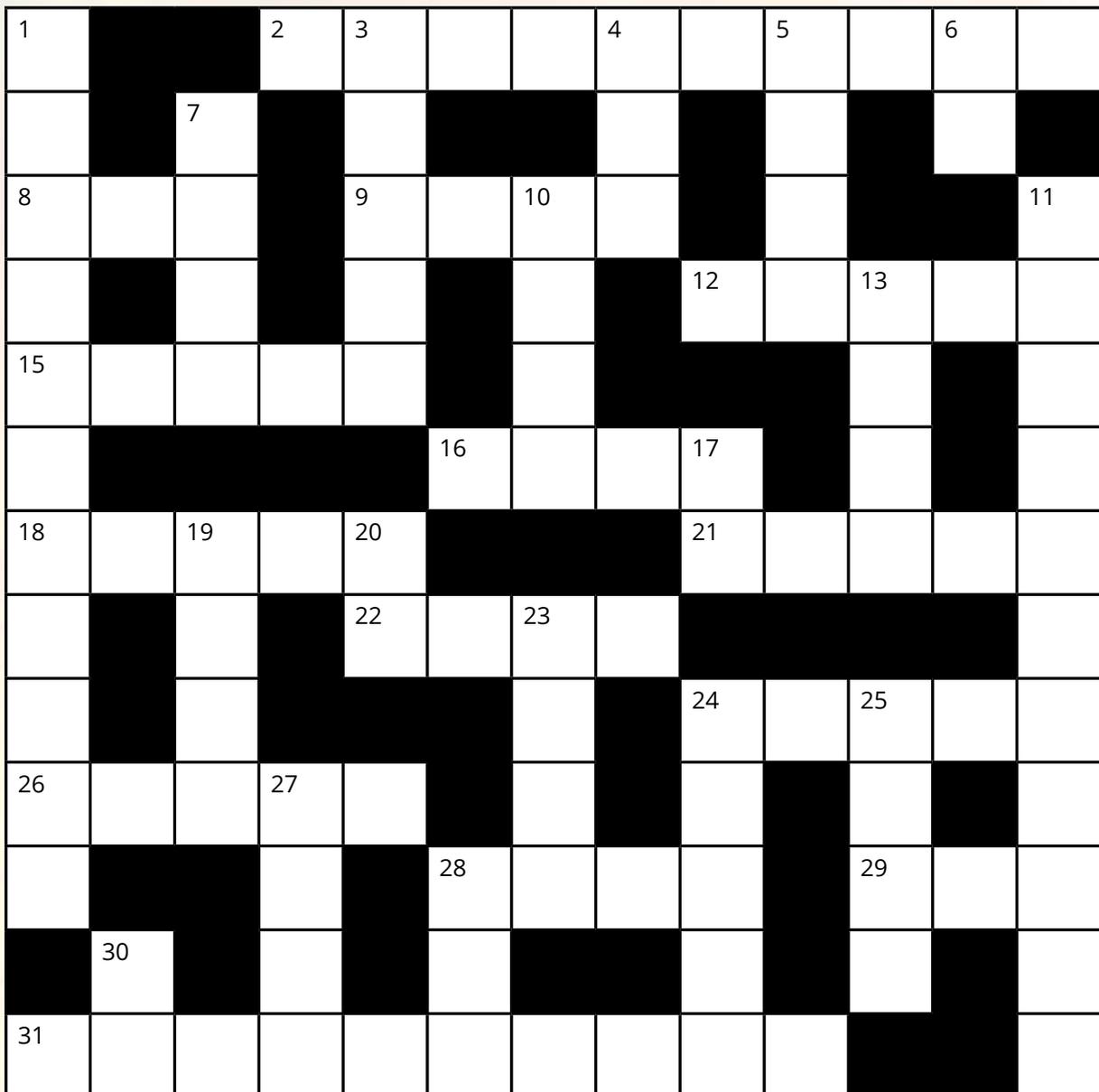
CLUES ACROSS

2. Which campanologists filled the air with oranges and lemons? (2,8)
8. Do not spoil the ship for a ha'p'orth of this (3)
9. What is common about sodium chloride? (4)
12. A Rembrandt painting shows a group of Amsterdam citizens preparing to start what public night duty? (5)
15. Rugby Union team with players from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland (5)
16. Largely, or entirely, fictitious historical tale often embodying popular beliefs (4)
18. Champion long distance athlete who has made several very welcome appearances in the Midlands (5)
21. Coarse fishermen can either sit or stand to do this (5)
22. In addition (4)
24. An older Norman-derived name for Shropshire (5)
26. An evil spirit or heathen deity (5)
28. ___ Beacon, a hill on the edge of Walsall. One site in a chain of alarm/invasion warning fire baskets from centuries past (4)
29. Leamington, Cheltenham and Harrogate are three towns so described (3)
31. The famed 1850s oil by this painter shows an apprehensive couple sailing from England for Australia where they hope for better fortune (5,5)

3. Established Winterbourne house and gardens (11)
4. Measures or assesses (5)
4. Marie Antoinette was accused of saying her starving subjects could find cake to do this (3)
5. Huge, fiery Sicilian with vineyards (4)
6. Famous Isle of Man motorcycle races since 1907 and best known by initials (2)
7. A group of three, for example musicians (4)
10. The 3rd most popular name for baby girls in England in 2011 (4)
11. This Will left his 'second best' bed to his wife (11)
13. A sound from a small bell (4)
17. The compiler's attempt to amuse has only got half a laugh (2)
19. To wander or travel freely and at leisure over a wide area (4)
20. See 17. Ah, here is the other half. It must have turned around and got lost (2)
23. What is caustic about sodium hydroxide? (4)
24. Just one of the millions of these that the family at 1 down manufactured (5)
25. Of a ship. Can be to port or to starboard and is evidence of a balance problem (4)
27. German engineer who built the first practical internal combustion engine in 1876. The forerunner of all the four-stroke petrol engines (4)
28. Shilling. At one time the price of a job from a cub (3)
30. American more than British. Abbreviation used as a friendly form of address to a mother or grandmother (2)

CLUES DOWN

1. These people made up the family that built and



ANSWERS ACROSS: 2.St Clements 8.Tar 9.Salt 12.Watch 15.Lions 16.Myth 18.Farah 21.Angle 22.Also 24.Salop 26.Demon 28.Barr 29.Spa 31.Madox Brown DOWN: 1.Nettlefold's 3.Tests 4.Eat 5.Etna 6."T" 7.Trio 10.Lily 11.Shakespeare 13.Ting 17.Ha 19.Roam 20.Ha 23.Soda 24.Screw 25.List 27.Otto 28.Bob 30.Ma



Camille Pissarro, Rue de Voisins, 1871 (Detail)
Courtesy of Manchester Art Gallery, © Manchester Art Gallery/Bridgeman Images

Radical Landscapes: Pre-Raphaelites and Their French Contemporaries

28 March – 9 June

Making an Impression: Prints by Manet, Pissaro and their Contemporaries

28 March – 9 June

Lisa Henderson: Landscapes

9 March – 9 June

A season of three stunning landscape exhibitions featuring works from museums and galleries across the UK.

ASHMOLEAN

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