

ARTEFACTS

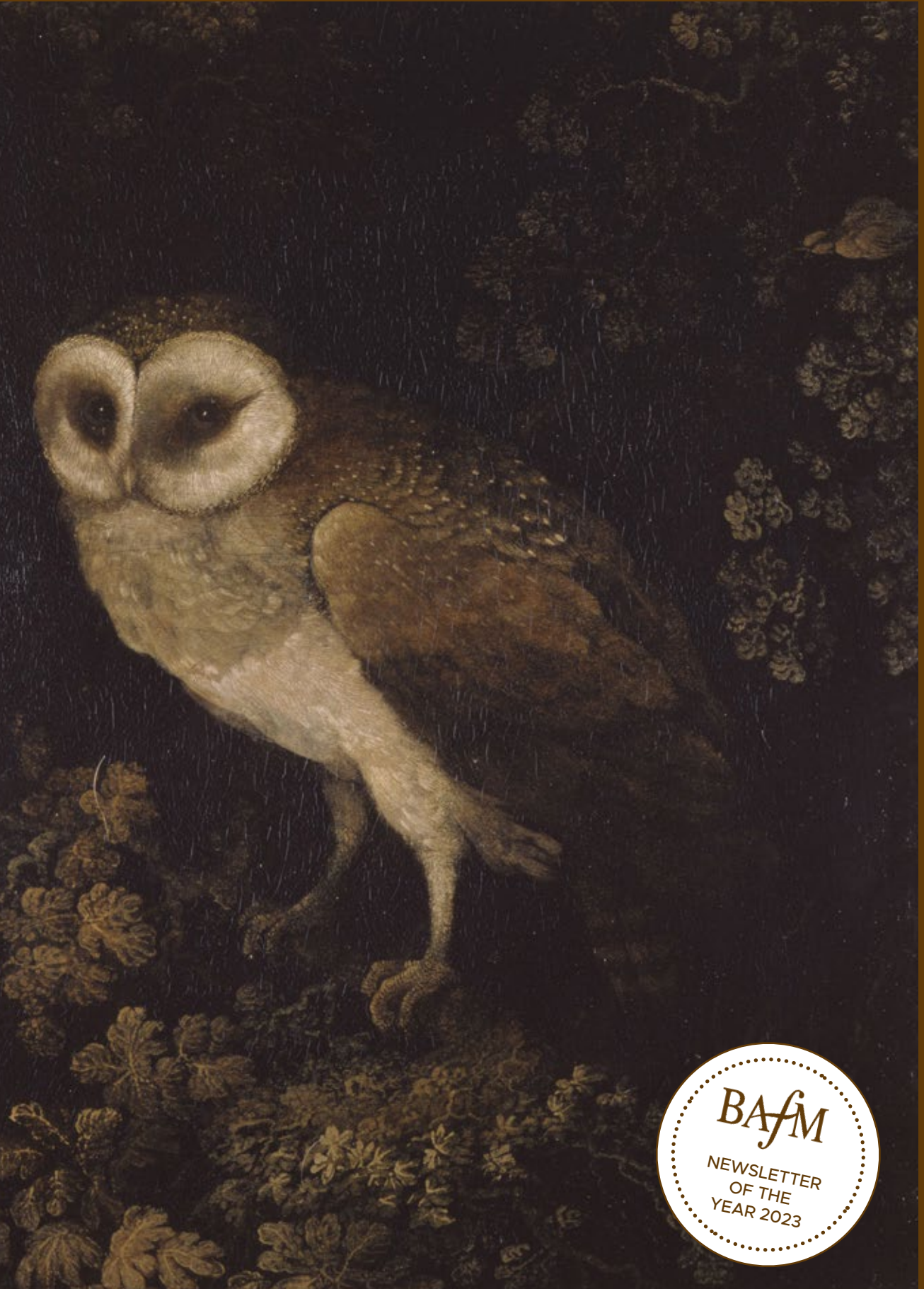


Friends of
Birmingham
Museums

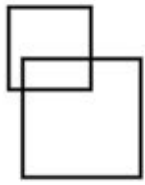
AUTUMN 2023 • ISSUE 74

BAfM

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OF MUSEUMS



FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS MAGAZINE



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SIR PETER WRIGHT'S THE NUTCRACKER



Photo by Bill Cooper courtesy of the Birmingham Royal Ballet

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'An Owl' by Moses Haughton, 1780-90;
1935P76; Photo by Birmingham Museums
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CHAIR'S OBSERVATIONS

BY PETER MILES

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery is not the only gallery to be closed for renovations.



Some of you will know that the National Portrait Gallery (NPG) in London has been closed for three years. However it reopened its doors in June to great acclaim, with a new entrance in St Martin's Place instead of the small door opposite the Edith Cavell statue. And new galleries have been created in the East Wing to enable more of the collection to be displayed.

The NPG's closure has facilitated the rehang of the entire collection which now includes Sir Joshua Reynolds' magnificent 'Portrait of Mai' which was secured for the UK through a collaboration between the NPG and the J. Paul Getty Trust to jointly acquire the painting and a significant fundraising campaign. The painting has an important place in art history, depicting the first Polynesian to visit Britain. Known as 'Omai' in England, Mai (c.1753-1779) was a native of Raiatea, an island now part of French Polynesia, who travelled from Tahiti to England with Captain James Cook. During his time in London from 1774-76 he was received by royalty and the intellectual elite, and became

something of a celebrity. Mai returned to his homeland in 1777 and died there two years later.

And now moving on to another recent portrait acquisition which is to be located nearer home. You may have seen in the press that Compton Verney has recently purchased a double portrait. This almost unique painting shows two women, one black and one white, side by side, presented as companions and equals, wearing similar dress, hair and jewellery. Such a portrayal of a black female sitter is highly unusual in this period, especially in showing an adult as an equal rather than a child in a position of subservience, thereby inviting important debate about race and gender during the period.

Another remarkable aspect of the painting is the depiction of beauty patches on both the women. Although beauty patches were in vogue at the time, the painting appears to condemn wearing these 'spots' as the inscription above the two women declares beauty patches to be a sin of pride, an opinion which was widespread in the 17th century.

I wanted to share these two paintings which have been in the national news recently as objects for you to seek out and enjoy.

You will see on page 19 that the Friends Committee has worked closely with Paul, our designer from PB&J Publishing, to produce a new logo for the Friends based on a design by our Membership Secretary, Sarah Farnan. We do hope that you like it. It will be brought to the AGM for formal approval in September.

And, finally, I would like to emphasise that with Birmingham's flagship Museum and Art Gallery currently closed, it is now more important than ever to be a Friend. Birmingham Museums Trust needs its Friends' support at this difficult time and so we do hope that you will continue to support us. Thank you. ■

TOP LEFT: 'Portrait of Mai (Omai)', c. 1776, image courtesy of National Portrait Gallery, London and Getty Museum
TOP RIGHT: 'Allegorical Painting of Two Ladies', English School, c.1650, image courtesy of Compton Verney



Purchase an art print featuring a work from Birmingham Museums' collection

Brighten up your walls with a customisable art print from the breath-taking range of iconic works from Birmingham Museums Trust's collection.

Be it a Pre-Raphaelite masterpiece, a William Morris design, or a charming watercolour by Birmingham artist David Cox, there are hundreds to choose from, with the selection of works which can be purchased continually growing.

Working with partners King and McGaw has enabled Birmingham Museums to bring high quality prints to your home or office. Each print can be customised to suit your individual style by personalising the size, frame and

print type. It has never been easier to bring a piece of Birmingham's culture and creativity into your home!

And, if you can't find a work from the collection that you'd like as an art print, please contact Birmingham Museums' retail team via email at shop@birminghammuseums.org.uk and they will endeavour to get the work added to the collection.

The images which appear on the front cover of 'Artefacts' will be uploaded before publication. So, if you spot a front cover which you particularly like, do visit the online shop and buy yourself a print!

shop.birminghammuseums.org.uk/collections/art

FRIENDS' EVENTS



Visit to the Acme Whistle Factory

HOW TO BOOK EVENTS - EITHER BY EMAIL OR BY POST

BY EMAIL

Send an email to friendsofbmag@gmail.com listing: all the events you would like to go to, how many tickets you would like for each event, and whether the tickets are for members or non-members. Please include your membership number if applicable.

You will be sent an email reply and information about how to pay for the events by bank transfer. Once the bank transfer has been received you will receive a further email confirming your booking.

BY POST

Write to us including: all the events you would like to go to, how many tickets you would like for each event, and whether the tickets are for members or non-members. Please include your membership number if applicable.

Please work out the total amount due and send a cheque, made payable to 'FBMAG', to: Friends of Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, Soho House Museum, Soho Avenue, Birmingham, B18 5LB. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope so we can issue you with your ticket(s) and confirm your booking(s).

BIRMINGHAM VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR MEDALS: 1797 TO 1802

Date: Monday 21 August 2023, 10.30am for an 11am start.

Coffee will be available on arrival

Venue: Soho House Museum, Soho Avenue, off Soho Road, Birmingham, B18 5LB

Speaker: Dr David Symons, former Curator at Birmingham Museums Trust

Cost: £10 members / £14 non-members

By car: Take the A41 out of the city centre towards Handsworth. There is a small car park at Soho House and there is also on-street parking.

By bus: 74 from Snow Hill Ringway. Get off at the second stop after the Hockley Flyover and Soho Avenue is on the left.

In the mid-1790s the threat of French invasion saw local units of volunteers raised across the country - a kind of Napoleonic Wars 'Dad's Army'. The citizens of Birmingham were rather slow to act, but in 1797 they raised a regiment of infantry and a force of cavalry. Both were disbanded in 1802 when peace was concluded with the French by the Treaty of Amiens. This talk will look at what we know about these units, at the medals associated with them, and at what we can say about the men who served in their ranks.

FRIENDS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday 12 September 2023, 10.15am for an 11am start

Venue: Lyttelton Theatre, Birmingham and Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS

[NB. This event was advertised in the Summer 2023 edition of 'Artefacts'. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.]

The Friends AGM will be held at the Birmingham and Midland Institute on Tuesday 12 September at 11am. We would like to invite you to join us for tea and coffee from 10.15am. The AGM will be held in the Lyttelton Theatre. Please make sure to put this important date in your diary. It will give you the opportunity to hear the latest news from the Friends and to ask any questions you might have. After the AGM Zak Mensah, Birmingham Museums Trust's Co-CEO, will talk about the redevelopment of BMAG (see details below).

We do not charge for the AGM and so if you wish to make a donation towards the costs of the meeting prior to the event please do send these to us. Donation plates will also be available on the day. It is important that we know numbers for catering and quorum purposes so please email friendsofbmag@gmail.com or write to us at the address above to RSVP or if you have any questions. We very much hope to see you there.

NB. There are more details about the AGM in the Friends Committee Report and Financial Statements, which are included as an insert in posted copies of 'Artefacts'.

THE REDEVELOPMENT OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY AND PLANS FOR REOPENING

Date: Tuesday 12 September 2023, 12noon – following on from the Friends AGM (see details above)

Venue: Lyttelton Theatre, Birmingham and Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS

Speaker: Zak Mensah, Co-CEO, Birmingham Museums Trust

Cost: Free for attendees of the Friends AGM

[NB. This event was advertised in the Summer 2023 edition of 'Artefacts'. If you have already applied to attend this event, please do not reapply.]

Zak Mensah, Birmingham Museums Trust's Co-CEO, will talk about the redevelopment of BMAG, the progress which has been made to date and their current vision for BMAG's reopening.

VISIT TO THE EXCHANGE

Date: Friday 6 October 2023, 2pm for a 2.15pm start

[NB. This event was advertised in the Summer 2023 edition of 'Artefacts'. It has sold out, but please do get in touch if you would like to be added to the waiting list]

VISIT TO THE ACME WHISTLE FACTORY

Date: Wednesday 8 November 2023, 10.45am for 11am

*Cost: £18 members, £20 non-members**

Venue: Acme Whistle Factory, 244 Barr St, Hockley, Birmingham B19 3AH; www.acmewhistles.co.uk

By car: There is no car park but there is always lots of

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE

EVENT KEY



parking in Farm Street, which is only a 5 minute walk away from the factory: use postcode B19 2TZ, walk to the closed end of Farm Street and turn left past the shops. The factory will be straight ahead of you on Barr Street.

By train or tram: to the Jewellery Quarter station (Vyse Street) then approximately a 15 minute walk. It is strongly recommended that we meet outside the station at 10.30am and walk together to the factory.

A chance to visit one of Birmingham's oldest factories whose products are exported all over the world. The terracotta front may look like a merchant bank, but enter its big blue front doors, walk up the Minton tiled stairway and you find 28,000 square feet of industry and making. You will experience a working factory. The old: Victorian equipment treasured and preserved. The new: soldering and moulding, side by side. All used to create a famous finished product - the Acme Thunderer, the Police Call and 83 other well-known whistles. Every process in the manufacturing is shown. Amusing anecdotes are told throughout the tour with surprises in store and original features such as bomb damage from 1940. The tour will last 1 hour with time for questions and the chance to buy a souvenir from the small shop. Refreshments will be provided.

Please note – the factory is an old building with uneven floors and steep staircases. There is no lift. This tour is limited to 20 people and must be booked before 30 October 2023.

*The company makes a donation to a local school from any funds raised from visits.

'CAMEO GLASS'

Date: Tuesday 5 December 2023, 10.30am for an 11am start. Coffee and tea will be available on arrival

Venue: Soho House Museum, Soho Avenue, off Soho Road, Birmingham, B18 5LB

Speaker: Dr Kate Round, Outreach Presenter and Tour Guide for Dudley Museum Service

Cost: Free, but donations will be much appreciated

By car: Take the A41 out of the city centre towards Handsworth. There is a small car park at Soho House and there is also on-street parking.

By bus: 74 from Snow Hill Ringway. Get off at the second stop after the Hockley Flyover and Soho Avenue is on the left.

What is it? How is it made? And how did cameo glass bring fame and fortune to the streets of The Crystal Mile? This talk will take you to the Cameo gallery in The White House Cone Glass Museum and, starting with the 17th Century rediscovery of a lost Roman art form, will show you the challenges faced and the rivalry engendered by the glass dynasties of Stourbridge in their attempts to reproduce Cameo glass.

Through the lives of the local glassmakers and their superb artistic talents, for which Stourbridge glass is world renowned, we will follow the story of Stourbridge Cameo from the 1876 reproduction of the Portland Vase, to the present-day studio artists continuing development of the craft.

MEET AND GREET THE COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 5 December 2023, 12noon – following on from the talk by Dr Kate Round

Venue: Soho House Museum, Soho Avenue, off Soho Road, Birmingham, B18 5LB

Cost: Free, but donations will be much appreciated

Refreshments - a glass of wine or a soft drink and nibbles - will be provided

We invite all Friends Members, BMT staff and anyone who might like to join us to take this opportunity to get together with the Friends' Committee and other Friends, to catch up with each other's adventures and to celebrate the Friends over a glass of wine or a soft drink and some nibbles.

As we have settled into a 'new normal' over the last twelve months this will be a great opportunity to start the festive season with friends and colleagues who share a common interest in the future of Birmingham Museums.

We are not charging for the talk or for the 'meet and greet' and so if you wish to make a donation towards the costs prior to the event then please send these to us. Donation plates will also be available on the day. It is important that we know numbers for catering purposes so please book your place by following the instructions above. It will be lovely to see you all. PS. It's all right to turn up at 12noon just for the 'Meet and Greet'!



TOUR OF SELLY MANOR MUSEUM AND BOURNVILLE VILLAGE

Date: Wednesday 24 April 2024, 10.45am for an 11am start

Venue: Selly Manor, Maple Road, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2AE

By public transport: 15 minutes from Bournville Station, and on the 11 and 27 bus routes.

Cost: £12 members, £15 non-members (includes the tour and talk covering the Museum and Bournville village and refreshments: tea and cake)

Selly Manor Museum, made up of two distinct and beautiful buildings, lies at the heart of Bournville garden village in Birmingham and has a surprising history. Selly Manor dates from medieval times and its intriguing past includes an Italian wine merchant, a burglar and a world-famous chocolate maker!

Originally called 'Smyths Tenement', it was a prosperous house until 1695 when it had a new owner and its slow decline began. By the end of the 19th century, it was divided into three dwellings known as 'The Rookery' and then it fell into disuse. With an uncertain future, George Cadbury, founder of Bournville, saved the building and arranged its move from nearby Selly Oak into his new village where it stands today.

Minworth Greaves, a magnificent cruck-framed hall, is about 750 years old. It was moved from near Sutton Coldfield in Birmingham and re-built on site in Bournville in 1932 by George Cadbury's son Laurence.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday 19 March 2024 'The GKN exhibition at Winterbourne' – Henrietta Lockhart at Winterbourne House and Garden.

FUTURE VISITS

We are planning a return visit to the West Midlands Police Museum and more talks at Winterbourne House and Garden. We are also investigating the possibility of tours at Wednesbury Museum & Art Gallery, The Roundhouse, Coventry Cathedral, Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick and a tour of the Jewellery Quarter. Keep an eye out for further details!

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

Since our formation in 1931, the Friends have enhanced Birmingham's collections by supporting the purchase of over 2,700 acquisitions. Our Friends' Acquisitions database provides a comprehensive list of all these acquisitions and can be found on the 'Publications' page of our website: www.fbmt.org.uk. To celebrate over 90 years of support for Birmingham's Museums, each week one of these works is added to the Friends' Facebook page, to showcase the Friends' contributions to Birmingham's world class collections. Please visit our Facebook page - FriendsBMAG - to follow our updates and to find out more!

Some of you may know that Soho House (the historic building) is currently closed due to a problem with drainage in the cellar and basement areas. Despite this our office is still functioning and Soho House's visitor centre (including the Vanley Burke photography exhibition) and the grounds are still open on Thursday - Saturday.

Don't forget to send any written correspondence to us at: Friends of Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, Soho House Museum, Soho Avenue, Birmingham, B18 5LB; or email Melissa Hughes: melissa.page.fbmag@gmail.com.

Joining the Friends will give you the following benefits (T&Cs apply):

- Free entry to Birmingham Museums' Historic properties: Soho House, Sarehole Mill, Blakesley Hall, Aston Hall and Museum of the Jewellery Quarter. Please check birminghammuseums.org.uk for up-to-date opening times and prices
- 'Artefacts' magazine, which is published quarterly, and the Friends' E-Newsletter
- The opportunity to join the Friends' social events and outings
- Discounts in the shops and cafés at BMAG, Thinktank and the Historic properties
- 50% entrance discount to Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum at Millennium Point: www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank
- 10% discount at the Birmingham and Midland Institute's Coffee Lounge on production of a valid Friends membership card
- 10% discount off purchases in both the shop and the café at Potteries Museum & Art Gallery and Gladstone Pottery Museum: www.stokemuseums.org.uk

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome is extended to our new Members: Prof. Emer. Anthony Seaton; Mrs Claire Pitt; Mrs Sarah Craig; Mrs Susan Hayes; Mr Richard Moxon; Ms Gwen McQuay; and Mr Bob Kirk.

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.

FOLLOW THE FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK

The Friends have a Facebook page, which is regularly updated with news and events. Every week, an item which the Friends have contributed to Birmingham's world class collections is added to the page. So please follow our Facebook page - FriendsBMAG - to follow our updates and to find out more!

FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE WRITE IN CAPITAL LETTERS

Title:	
Full Name:	
Address:	
Tel:	Mobile:
Email:	
Where did you pick up this copy of 'Artefacts':	

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY AND ANNUAL RATES

(Please tick)

SINGLE £32

DOUBLE £48
(full rate Includes 2 children under 16)

CONCESSIONARY RATES (60+/unwaged)

SINGLE £21

DOUBLE £32

STUDENT £15

to SORT CODE 30-00-06
A/C NO 00248432

I enclose a cheque for £ or I have transferred £

Please sign below and send to: Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery, Soho House Museum, Soho Avenue, off Soho Road, Birmingham, B18 5LB, together with your cheque (if applicable) made payable to 'FBMAG'

giftaid it

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

Signature:

Date:

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



HELLO FROM BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS

As we enter the summer period, activity is ramping up at Birmingham Museums Trust.

Many of you will be aware that Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (BMAG) has been fully or partially closed since March 2020 to enable essential building work to take place across Birmingham City Council's Council House Complex, of which BMAG is a part. Over the summer the whole site will finally be handed back to Birmingham Museums Trust (BMT) after rewiring the entire building, installing energy-efficient lighting throughout offices and galleries, upgrading two lifts, installing new heating and completing roof works to address long-standing water ingress issues. It is the biggest investment in the building's services and infrastructure since it first opened in 1885 and the biggest improvement to making Birmingham Museums more energy-efficient.

Whilst we know that the public are desperate to get back into BMAG, there is still a great deal of further work to do once we are allowed back in the building. From relocating collection stores affected by the new electrical services, undertaking essential gallery refurbishments and bringing back 28,000 fine artworks from temporary storage, to designing and redisplaying over 40 galleries. This is a mammoth task and one for which we have been - and continue to - fundraise.

You will be able to hear more about our plans for redisplaying and reopening BMAG at the Friends' Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 12 September 2023 after which Zak Mensah, Co-CEO of Birmingham Museums Trust will be giving a talk (see pages 7 & 19 for more information).

Meanwhile, on the other side of town at Thinktank, we are launching a new exhibitions space for creating displays in



Top: Sinclair ZX Spectrum computer
Above: Mark sense reproducing punched card machine, made by the British Tabulating Machine Company and used in the accounting department at the Cadbury factory at Bournville
Left: William Morris 'Dove and Rose' textile

All images © Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CCO

collaboration with educational, industry and community partners across the city and the region. The opening exhibition is called 'Makers and Machines: Creativity in the Computer Age' and looks at coding and its relationship to creativity. We often think of coding as a modern skill developed for the tech industry, but people have been trying to programme

machines for hundreds of years, long before the invention of the computer as we know it.

The exhibition showcases some incredibly creative and pioneering figures (mainly female) in the West Midlands, past and present, including weavers and knitters, mathematicians and scientists, artists and gamers. It reveals how they used coding in their work, from Victorian machines or the first computers to modern artificial intelligence.

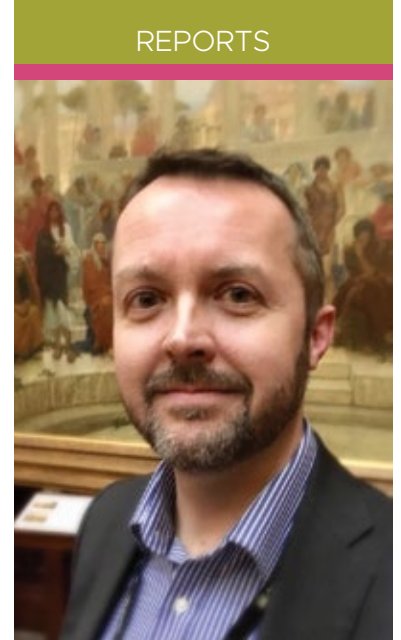
'Makers and Machines' features a wide range of digital and analogue devices, offering visitors a chance to play 1980s computer games, learn how to code on punched cards, and how to design their own weaving patterns.

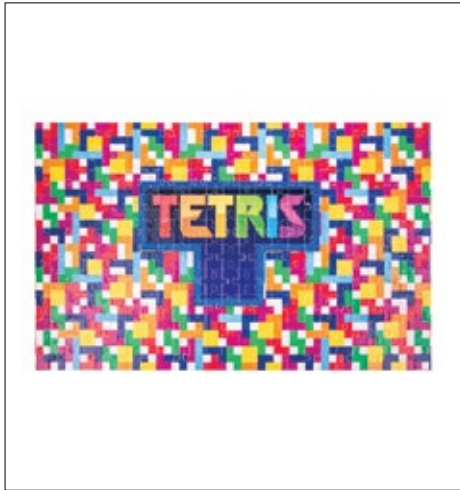
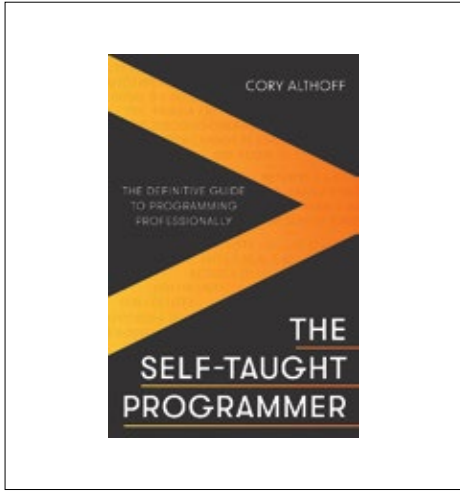
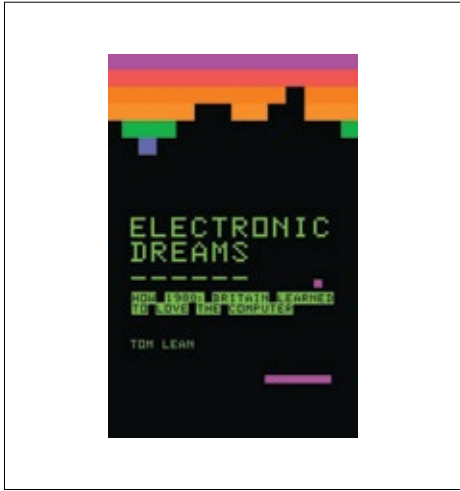
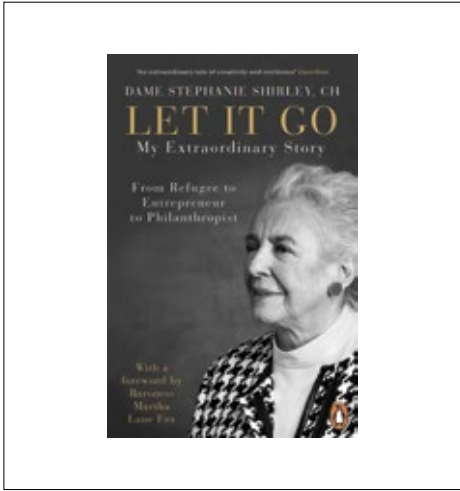
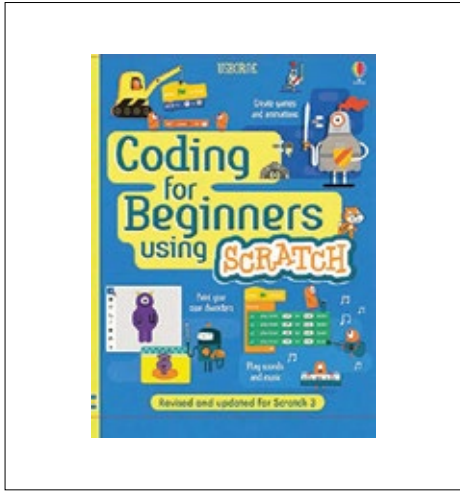
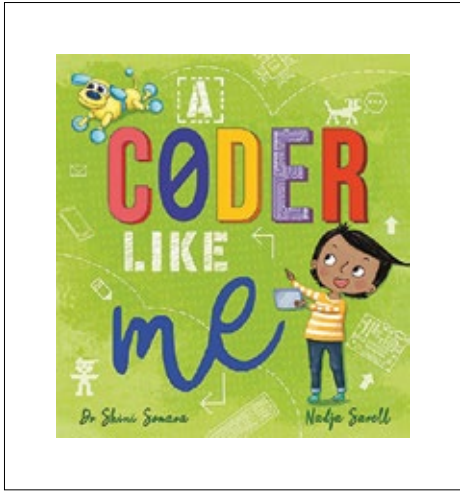
From 19th century William Morris textiles to a 1980s arcade machine, the exhibition also features a wide range of objects. A highlight of the exhibition is the Hollerith Electronic Computer (HEC) computer, one of the oldest surviving electronic computers in the world. The HEC is a star of Birmingham's internationally significant collection of early British computers and is returning from the National Museum of Computing in Bletchley, where it has been on long-term loan since 2015, so it's a 'must see'!

The exhibition will run for a year and is accompanied by a varied and lively events programme so for more details please visit BMT's website.

Wishing you all a fabulous summer and I hope you enjoy visiting our different museum sites! ■

By Toby Watley
Director of Collections
Birmingham Museums Trust







EXCITING NEW PRODUCTS AT THINKKTANK

The launch of the new 'Makers and Machines: Creativity in the Computer Age' exhibition at Thinktank sees the arrival of a new range of exciting products in the shop.

Exploring the exhibition's themes of coding, weaving and gaming, these products offer something for everyone – from craft kits and games to homeware and books. Featuring local makers, outstanding crafts, books for all ages and William Morris products, Birmingham Museums Trust shop's new collections offer everyone the opportunity to continue exploring the rich history of coding from home.

Hawthorne Handmade is a small UK based business who produce beautifully designed cross stitch and weaving kits. These kits teach the basics of a timeless craft and are available in a range of designs. Beautifully presented in a gift box they make a perfect gift for crafters! (Rainbow Cross Stitch Kit, £22.95)

Our Knitting & Crochet Kit is designed to teach children age 5+ in a fun, inspiring way. The kit includes all the yarn, tools and instructions for projects including scarves, bags and decorations. (Knitting & Crochet Kit, £40)

William Morris designs for his woven textiles feature in the exhibition, showcasing the history of weaving and its links to the city and Birmingham's collections. No home would be complete without something Morris inspired and we have a beautiful range of textiles and homeware on offer. Our Art Print

collection features a number of William Morris prints from the collection so why not adorn your wall with a beautiful print that can be customised to suit your home? (William Morris Art Print, From £27; William Morris Cushion, £30; William Morris Latte Mug, £15)

Sparklymouse is one of our incredible local makers. Louise is born and bred in Birmingham. She creates hand embroidered illustrations, working with an ambition to make life a bit more colourful in a world full of doom and gloom. Shop her bright, fun designs for your next occasion. (Sparklymouse card, £3.25 each)

Learn to code with our books designed to introduce the intriguing world of coding to all ages. 'A Coder Like Me' introduces young readers to problem solving and coding, answering questions about robotics and artificial intelligence, and teaching the language of coding in a fun interactive way. 'Coding for Beginners Using Scratch' provides a guide to Scratch Coding, a programme used in Primary schools across the country. With step by step instructions, the guide shows children how to create their own computer games, animations and much more. For adults, explore the history of coding with the inspirational autobiography from Dame Stephanie Shirley, 'Let It Go: My Extraordinary

Story', or 'Electronic Dreams: How 1980s Britain Learned to Love the Computer', exploring how computers invaded British homes and the people behind the boom. You can also learn about the ins and outs of becoming a professional programmer with 'The Self-Taught Programmer', the ultimate roadmap from writing your first program to passing your first technical interview. (Coding for Beginners Using Scratch, £12.99; A Coder Like Me, £7.99; Let it Go: My Extraordinary Story, £10.99; Electronic Dreams, £17.99; The Self-Taught Programmer, £14.99).

With the 1980s giving birth to the retro arcade game, our coding range wouldn't be complete without some retro inspired products. PAC-MAN and Tetris mini arcades in a tin would make the perfect gift for any gamer, younger or older! We also have mugs, puzzles and brain teasers inspired by the classic games. (Tetris Arcade in a Tin, £29.99; PAC-MAN Arcade in a Tin, £29.99; Tetris Impossible Puzzle, £9.99). ■

**Explore all these products
and more online at**

shop.birminghammuseums.org.uk
and in the Thinktank shop.



CHANGING BIRMINGHAM ~ ITS PEOPLE AND PLACES

**‘EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY’
CADBURY WOMEN**

Amongst the items in BMT’s Digital Asset Resource there is a classic late Victorian wedding photo, taken in 1891, depicting the Cadbury family and the Southall family.

In the photo are two remarkable women: Geraldine Southall (1865-1941), the bride and a young Beatrice Cadbury (1884-1976), sitting in front of her as a bridesmaid. These women were from successful, wealthy manufacturing families, two of Birmingham's successful Quaker dynasties. The Quakers, a Christian non-conformist movement originating in the seventeenth century, were committed to a frugal and an egalitarian lifestyle. This article will provide an overview as to how Geraldine and Beatrice explored very different but striking paths to reconcile the potential contradictions of wealth with their Quaker beliefs.

Birmingham has a marvellous portrait of Geraldine Southall by Thomas Garvie in its collection. Painted in 1912, the portrait gives us a real sense of the person she was. Prior to the First World War, Geraldine had been involved as a voluntary probation worker at one of the first children's courts, which were an experiment in removing children from the adult criminal justice system. Once the legal restrictions on women being magistrates were removed in 1920, she took on that role specifically for juvenile courts. As part of her international travel, she was able to see what other countries were doing in terms of providing a more humane and a less punitive juvenile justice system. This resulted in her involving her husband, Barrow Cadbury (1862-1958), in a project for a purpose-built children's court complex in Steelhouse Lane in Birmingham, which she designed and presented to the City on 17th July 1928. Her promotion of child guidance and psychological assessment in a more child-friendly environment was recognised nationally and she was chosen to take on prominent positions on Home Office Committees during the inter-war period.

Whilst Geraldine was involved in reforming the justice system, a Quaker tradition dating back to Elizabeth Fry, her sister-in-law Beatrice was living in Holland with her Dutch husband, Cornelius Boeke. She was frequently on the other side of the law, with regular spells in Dutch prisons for preaching a strongly pacifist message at street meetings. Beatrice made what could be called an 'absolutist' interpretation of her strict Quaker upbringing in regard to pacifism and wealth, and in 1920 she took a dramatic decision. In the aftermath of the horrors of the First World War she took the view that



private ownership of capital was wrong. As a result, she felt that she could not continue to draw on the income of her inherited Cadbury shares. Her proposed solution was to hand the shares over to a workers committee, to give them a say in the running of the company at board level and access to the income. We are fortunate that many of the documents pertaining to this episode are in the Birmingham archives and we have an excellent biography of Beatrice by local author Fiona Joseph. In a letter to her brother, Barrow, in 1920 concerning her proposal, Beatrice writes: 'It will be very kind if thou will do all thou canst - to see that our letter to the workers is brought to their notice'. One can only imagine the reaction of her brother, a director of a company which prided itself on its care for employees and its donations to charitable causes. After much correspondence involving the heads of the Men's and Women's Works Councils at Bournville, Tom Hackett and Kathleen Cox, a compromise was reached involving setting up the Boeke Trust to administer the funds on behalf of the Works Councils, supporting workers' welfare and international peace projects. It did not provide an input into the Board, which left Beatrice frustrated but accepting.

Tom Hackett and Kathleen Cox, the two representatives from the Works Councils, became a key link to the Cadbury company for Beatrice in subsequent years. The Councils had been set up after the First World War, with equal representation of employees and management.

In 1931 Cadbury employed 7,327 people of which 3,694 were women. So what was life like for women on the shopfloor in this period? We are lucky to have some recorded memories from the inter-war era, one of which is Marjorie Malley talking to Carl Chinn in 1997. Marjorie started at Cadbury in 1931: '...the wages then were 11s 10d a week when most other firms paid 10s a week... Discipline was very strict, but they did look after your welfare, you know, resident doctors and dentists. And we had good sports and social activities provided'. These sports facilities for women were exceptional for the time and included cricket, athletics, and a swimming pool with time off work to learn to swim.

Geraldine and Beatrice both left lasting legacies in very different ways which this article has only briefly been able to touch upon. ■

By Jim Wells, Friends Trustee

For more information, sources and further background reading please visit our website: fbmt.org.uk/publications.

LEFT: 'Silk Wedding Dress' made by Liberty & Co, 1891; 1968M68; Presented by Mrs Cadbury, 1968; Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CCO.

This ivory pongee silk wedding dress was worn by Geraldine Southall at her wedding in 1891. It had a high neck trimmed with a wide ruffle; and long, tightly fitted sleeves. A drape of fabric from the right-hand side of the waist to the left hand shoulder conceals the front fastening. The back of the dress has a fitted bodice. The draped panel falls from either shoulder into a train, which is trimmed with a deep lace frill.

TOP RIGHT: 'Photograph of the Southall and Cadbury families', 1891; 1968M68.2; Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CCO - a black and white photograph of the Southall and Cadbury families, showing the Liberty wedding dress.

All Photos © Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CCO.



FRIENDS' ACQUISITIONS

"THE GLASCOTE TORC"

This next article in the series of Friends acquisitions purchased for Birmingham looks at 'The Glascote Torc', one of the oldest pieces of metalwork in Birmingham's collection.

A torc, which can also be spelled 'torq' or 'torque', is a large rigid or stiff metal neck ring, sometimes made from multiple intertwined metal strands of twisted wire. The word comes from the Latin 'torqueo', which means 'to twist'. Most torcs are neck-rings which open at the front although they were often designed for near permanent wear, and would have been difficult to remove.

Torc appears to have predominantly been made from gold or bronze, less often silver, iron or other metals (gold, bronze and silver survive better than other metals when buried for long periods).

'The Glascote Torc' was found by a canal worker near Glascote in Staffordshire in the 1940s. Thinking it was an old coffin handle, he was told to keep it as a souvenir and it was not until 1970 that its true worth was identified. It is formed of twelve gold wires, twisted in pairs with loop terminals cast on. Following its identification, the torc was declared 'Treasure' and Birmingham Museums was invited to purchase it. A huge appeal was launched and the torc was purchased by public subscription with the assistance of Birmingham City Council, the John Feeney Charitable Trust, the Victoria & Albert Purchase Grant Fund, the W A Cadbury Charitable

Trust and, of course, the Friends, who contributed £500.

In his article 'An Iron Age gold-alloy torc from Glascote, Tamworth, Staffs', published in 1971, Kenneth S. Painter records the content of the torc as being 29.8% gold; 41.9% silver; and 27.2% copper and states that 'such an alloy would be strained to the limit by the manufacturing process'. As a result, the torc has manufacturing imperfections – one of the gold wires has failed to attach to the terminal – suggesting that it might have been a reject set aside to be re-worked and that the imperfection would have made the ornament unsaleable.

Painter suggests that the closest parallel in the same county would be the 'Needwood Forest Gold Torc' which was discovered on Duchy Land in Needwood Forest in Staffordshire in 1848 and is believed to have been buried in c.75 BC. The proximity of these two objects suggests that there is likely to have been a craftsman based in the area. The Glascote torc, a neckpiece made of gold alloy which weighs exactly 1lb (or 454 grams), would most likely have been made for a Celtic chieftain. Two thousand years ago it would have been a symbol of wealth, status and political power. Painter proposes that between twenty and eighty

coins, depending on their fineness, would have had to be melted down to provide the gold for the Glascote torc, supporting the notion that it was commissioned by a wealthy patron (Painter, Kenneth S. (1971). 'An Iron Age gold-alloy torc from Glascote, Tamworth, Staffs' from 'Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society 11', Volume 11, pp. 1-6).

Little is known about Iron Age life in the Midlands, but there must have been a major metalworking industry and a wealthy element in society existing in the area to have produced such an exquisite object. ■

**By Melissa Hughes,
Artefacts' Editor and
Friends' Administrator**

Bibliography: Painter, Kenneth S. (1971). 'An Iron Age gold-alloy torc from Glascote, Tamworth, Staffs' from 'Transactions of the South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society 11', Volume 11, pp. 1-6; <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library/browse/details.xhtml?recordId=3121481>

LEFT: 'The Glascote Torc'; 1970A17; Purchased by public subscription with the assistance of Birmingham City Council, the Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery, the John Feeney Charitable Trust, the Victoria & Albert Purchase Grant Fund and the W A Cadbury Charitable Trust, 1970; Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CCO



ARTEFACTS AWARDED THE BAFM 2023 NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

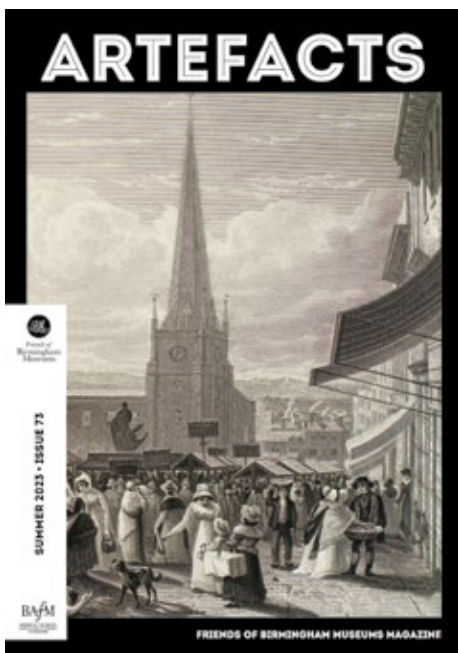
I am delighted to let all our readers know that the Friends of Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery have won the competition for the British Association of Friends of Museums (BAFM)'s Newsletter of the Year 2023!

The prize was awarded for the Summer 2023 edition of 'Artefacts' which, rather appropriately, had a picture of Birmingham on the front cover - the print of 'The High Street Market Birmingham' after David Cox.

Peter Miles, our Chair, and I are delighted that we have been offered complimentary tickets to attend the BAFM Conference on 30th September, where we will be presented with a Certificate of Merit.

'Artefacts' has come a long way following an uncertain end to 2022 when PW Media, the publishing company with whom the Friends had produced 'Artefacts' for many years, entered into voluntary liquidation. However, thanks to Paul and Jess from PB&J Publishing, the magazine continued to be printed to its original schedule and has flourished. We now regularly spot it on display at museums, galleries, libraries and other venues across the Midlands.

I would like to thank the small and dedicated team who produce 'Artefacts': Paul Blyth, Studio Director at PB&J Publishing, for all his hard work, professionalism, perseverance and patience over many years; Jess Ronan, for her commitment to selling the adverts and getting 'Artefacts' on as many front of house displays



as possible; Jim Wells, who writes a thoroughly researched 'Changing Birmingham' feature article and a Quiz for each edition; the Friends Events Sub-Committee, who schedule and organise the excellent Friends' Events; our various contributors who write and submit interesting content with striking visuals; and finally (and vitally!) Lynda Perrin, who for many years has used her superb proof-reading skills to enable me to make 'Artefacts' as error-free as possible!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Derek Street, the Friends' volunteer who has patiently put together sixteen fantastic crosswords for 'Artefacts'! Derek's last Crossword appeared in our award-winning Summer 2023 edition. We are delighted that, following Derek's retirement, we have a new Crossword Compiler - Colin Jones - whose first Crossword features in this Autumn 2023 edition of 'Artefacts' (see page 25).

'Artefacts' is one of the Friends' key tools for promoting the work which we do, encouraging our readers to join the Friends and to support both us and Birmingham Museums Trust. 'Artefacts' enables us to develop mutually beneficial partnerships with local arts and cultural organisations, offering a channel to publicise their exhibitions, events and projects.

I am particularly pleased that to be winning this prestigious BAFM Award with PB&J's second edition of 'Artefacts'.

I always welcome your feedback or suggestions, so please do get in touch and let us know if you have any comments (see page 3 for our contact details). ■

Melissa Hughes
Editor of 'Artefacts'
(an award-winning magazine!)



Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery

THE FRIENDS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS & ART GALLERY'S 91ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year, the Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery's 91st AGM will be taking place on Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 11am in the Lyttelton Theatre at the Birmingham and Midland Institute (BMI).

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available from 10.15am. The AGM will be followed by a talk by Zak Mensah, Birmingham Museums Trust (BMT)'s Co-CEO, entitled 'The Redevelopment of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and plans for reopening'. Birmingham's flagship Museum, a Grade II* listed landmark building, is currently closed for ongoing essential maintenance work and Zak will talk about this critical work, which includes electrical rewiring, upgrading the heating, roof repairs and the replacement of lifts; and will look forward at the plans for the Museum's reopening.

In order to save on postage costs, this year the Committee are delighted to have been able to include the AGM Booklet as an insert with the 'Artefacts' mailing, which has saved us nearly £250.

Two important topics feature on this year's AGM agenda: a proposed new logo for the Friends and a proposed increase in Membership Subscription Rates from 1 June 2024. More details about both of these topics can be found below.

Friends' Logo

The Committee felt that it was important to refresh and review our identity as an independent charity and part of that process has been to commission a new logo. The logo (above) is based on a design by Sarah Farnan, our Membership Secretary, and has been produced by Paul Blyth from PB&J Publishing. The silhouette of BMT's flagship site, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, with its distinctive architecture, seemed the most appropriate image for the logo. We do hope that our Members will concur with the Committee's proposal, and we ask for your thoughts on this before the AGM. Please email melissa.page.fbmag@gmail.com or write to us at: Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery, Soho House Museum, Soho Avenue, Birmingham, B18 5LB..

Increase in Friends' Membership Subscription Rates

The Friends' Membership Subscription Rates have not increased for 9 years – since our AGM in 2014. As a result, the Committee feel that an increase is overdue given the increase in postage and office costs. In particular, the cost of posting

'Artefacts' has increased from £1.17 in April 2014 to £1.85 in April 2023.

The Committee propose to increase the Membership Subscription Rates from 1 June 2024 as follows:

	Proposed Rate	Current Rate
Single	£35	£32
Single Concession (retired)	£23	£21
Single Student	£16	£15
Double (including children under 16)	£52	£48
Double Concession (retired)	£35	£32

Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery Annual Accounts, 2022-2023

Thank you to Lynda Perrin, our Bookkeeper and to Nick Burrows, our accountant, for the accounts which are included in the 2023 AGM Booklet. *

* Please note that £574 of income received in 2022-23 for bookings for events in 2023-24 has been included on page 18, Note 4 and so this will be adjusted in next year's accounts.

If you have any questions about any of the topics discussed above, then these will need to be raised in writing no later than ten working days before the AGM. If you are attending the AGM please let us know so that we can ensure we have sufficient catering in place.

Please send confirmation of attendance, apologies and any questions to melissa.page.fbmag@gmail.com or write to us at: Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery, Soho House Museum, Soho Avenue, Birmingham, B18 5LB.

We do not charge for the AGM and so if you wish to make a donation towards the costs of the meeting prior to the event please do send them to us. Donation plates will also be available on the day. We are very grateful that we have already received a generous, anonymous donation towards the costs of our 2023 AGM. The Friends' Committee hope you will be able to attend the AGM and look forward to seeing you there. ■



FRIENDS' ACQUISITIONS

"AN OWL"

BY MOSES HAUGHTON THE ELDER

This Autumn edition of 'Artefacts' features an acquisition which the Friends purchased for Birmingham in 1935 - 'An Owl', an oil on panel by Moses Haughton the Elder (1734-1804), painted in 1780-90.

Haughton was born and grew up in Wednesbury in Staffordshire. He trained as an enamel painter and was employed at the workshop of his uncle, Hyla Holden. He was married to Elizabeth Haughton (1741-1816). Their son, Matthew Haughton, was an artist and engraver and their nephew, Moses Haughton the Younger (1772/4-1848), was a painter and engraver.

In 1762 Haughton moved to Birmingham to work for John Baskerville, where he worked on enamelled, japanned and papier-mâché products. In 1809, together with fellow artist Samuel Lines, he established a Life Academy in Peck Lane, just off New Street, close to what was the Free Grammar School (on a site now occupied by New Street station). This life school was so successful that in 1814 it moved to a larger space in Union Passage and held its first public exhibition. In 1821 the (Royal) Birmingham Society of Artists grew from this venture.

Haughton was noted for his portraits and still-life paintings of dead game, exhibiting at the Royal Academy between 1788 and 1804. A portrait of 'Lady Louisa Tollemache, Countess of Dysart (1745-1840)' (after Katherine Read), which is either by Moses Haughton the elder or Moses Haughton the younger, is in the collection of the National Trust and is normally on display at Ham House, Surrey. Birmingham's collection includes three other paintings by Haughton: 'Maria', painted in the 1780s and presented by the Friends in 1997; 'Fish', painted in 1790; and 'Gypsies in a Landscape', painted in 1804. 'Fish' is known to have been on show at Aston Hall in 1892 and has been included in the new 19th-century displays that opened there earlier this year.

During my research, thanks to Victoria Osborne, BMT's Curator (Fine Art) and Curatorial Team Leader, I discovered that Haughton collaborated with Matthew Boulton, the Birmingham industrialist



and entrepreneur, in the production of so-called 'mechanical paintings'. These 'mechanical paintings' were image multiples produced using an etched plate, printed onto paper, transferred to canvas or panel, which were then hand-finished to resemble works in oil. This process was invented in the 1770s by Boulton and Francis Eginton, an employee of Boulton. In an article published in 'The Burlington Magazine' in 1970, 'Matthew Boulton's Mechanical Paintings', Eric Robinson and Keith R. Thompson comment that Boulton both commissioned pictures for reproduction and asked permission from owners to copy their pictures. However, 'the majority of pictures reproduced were from Boulton's own collection: the Angelica Kauffmanns, Moses Haughton's picture of birds and game, William Hodges's pictures, the de Louthembourg and others' (p.505). Robinson and Thompson go on to suggest that: 'The City Art Gallery of Birmingham also holds a picture of an owl (not on public display) painted by Moses Haughton. This also exhibits the aforementioned surface characteristics and it presented difficulties during cleaning and restoration.' These surface characteristics of Mechanical Paintings are an unusual sheen in places and craquelure. Moses Haughton's name appears in the Soho catalogue list of mechanical paintings and the article

concludes that, although Birmingham's 'An Owl' does not feature, this is not a complete list, and it would appear to be a mechanical painting (p.506).

Haughton was not well-known outside Birmingham during his lifetime. This was perhaps because of his retiring disposition, a characteristic which was noted on a marble monument erected in his memory at St Philip's, Birmingham. The monument was sculpted by Peter Roux and includes a portrait of Haughton. It records that he: 'excelled in every branch of his Profession, more particularly in his Paintings of still Life. Plain in manners and frank in Disposition, He neither sought Popularity, nor courted Patronage, but passed his Days in Obscurity, contented with the Merit of distinguished Excellence.' It goes on to say: 'He proved himself by the Powers of his extraordinary Genius abundantly qualified to have added Lustre to a more elevated Station.'

'An Owl' was presented to Birmingham by the Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery in 1935. It is usually on display in the Fossilry at Soho House Museum but, as the house is temporarily closed, it would be advisable to check before making a special journey. ■

By Melissa Hughes,
Artefacts' Editor and
Friends' Administrator

I would like to thank Victoria Osborne, BMT's Curator (Fine Art) and Curatorial Team Leader; and Barbara Fogarty, a Member of the Friends whose thesis was on Boulton and Eginton's Mechanical Paintings, for their help in checking this article.

Bibliography: 'Matthew Boulton's Mechanical Paintings', Eric Robinson and Keith R. Thompson in 'The Burlington Magazine', Aug., 1970, Vol. 112, No. 809, 'British Art in the Eighteenth Century. Dedicated to Professor E. K. Waterhouse', pp. 497-507; www.jstor.com/stable/876394 'Matthew Boulton and Francis Eginton's Mechanical Paintings: Production and Consumption 1777 to 1781', Barbara Fogarty, June 2010.

LEFT: 'An Owl' by Moses Haughton, 1780-90; 1935P76; Photo by Birmingham Museums Trust, licensed under CCO
TOP: Memorial to Moses Haughton in St Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham



SIR PETER WRIGHT'S THE NUTCRACKER

Birmingham Royal Ballet's classic production returns to Birmingham Hippodrome for 2023.

The Nutcracker has been an important part of Christmas in Birmingham since the Company arrived in the city over 30 years ago. Last year, Sir Peter Wright's glorious production was fully refurbished and it's now ready for the next 30 years of performance!

Join the Stahlbaums at their Christmas party – a grand affair for family and friends, with food, drink and magical entertainments to delight young and old; there's dancing, presents, and the most beautiful of Christmas trees. But once the guests have gone, and everyone is reluctantly in bed, Clara tiptoes downstairs to find her Nutcracker Doll and mysterious things start to happen. King Rat enters with a roar of flame and a flash of smoke to do battle with the Nutcracker doll and his band of toy soldiers, and then the land of snow becomes a swirling, whirling pattern of snowflakes for as far as the eye can see.

Tchaikovsky's glorious score, played by the Company's orchestra the Royal Ballet Sinfonia, provides the enchanting



soundtrack to this festive entertainment. And at the forefront the Company's world-class dancers taking on the iconic roles of Clara, Drosselmeyer, the Nutcracker Prince and of course the Sugar Plum Fairy. With 28 performances, there are opportunities for many of the Company to take on the leading roles, and as always this year will see a number of dancers debuting in roles, alongside many Company favourites reprising roles they've made their own over the years.

There's so much to delight in this production, whether you're yearning for a hint of nostalgia and remembering past pleasures or looking to start a whole new tradition for your family or friends. Don't miss your chance to start Christmas in style. It's the perfect festive treat - make it your Christmas tradition! ■

Performances run from 17 November to 9 December at Birmingham Hippodrome. Book direct at birminghamhippodrome.com.

All photos by Bill Cooper

BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

© Marvix Rat

Director Carlos Acosta

★★★★★
"No other version
comes close"
The Sunday Times

Sir Peter Wright's

The Nutcracker

17 November – 9 December

H BIRMINGHAM
HIPPODROME

birminghamhippodrome.com

 Birmingham
City Council

 ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

THE DRY GARDEN: TREASURES FROM THE UNIVERSITY HERBARIUM

Pressing flowers is a popular hobby today, and it has a very long history.

For centuries, people have been pressing and drying plants in order to preserve, study and classify them. A herbarium is a collection of these preserved specimens, created for the purposes of research and education.



Seaweed specimen, 1910

In the early 1900s, the Professor of Botany at the University of Birmingham began creating the Herbarium as a resource for the Botany department. Through purchases, donations and bequests, the University steadily acquired collections of plant specimens from both professional and amateur botanists. For many years the Herbarium was central to botanical education and research at the University, but by the early 2000s it had ceased to play a formal part in academic teaching.

Winterbourne House and Garden now looks after the University Herbarium, and for the last two years we have been investigating this collection and all the archival material that sits alongside it.

The results of our research have culminated in a new permanent exhibition, The Dry Garden, which has just opened! The exhibition contains material dating from the 1790s to the 1970s, including botanical prints, photographs and, above all, magnificent plant specimens.



Meadowsweet leaves

One of the themes the exhibition explores is the link with the Nettlefold family, the family that built Winterbourne House and created its stunning garden. Margaret Nettlefold was a keen gardener and we

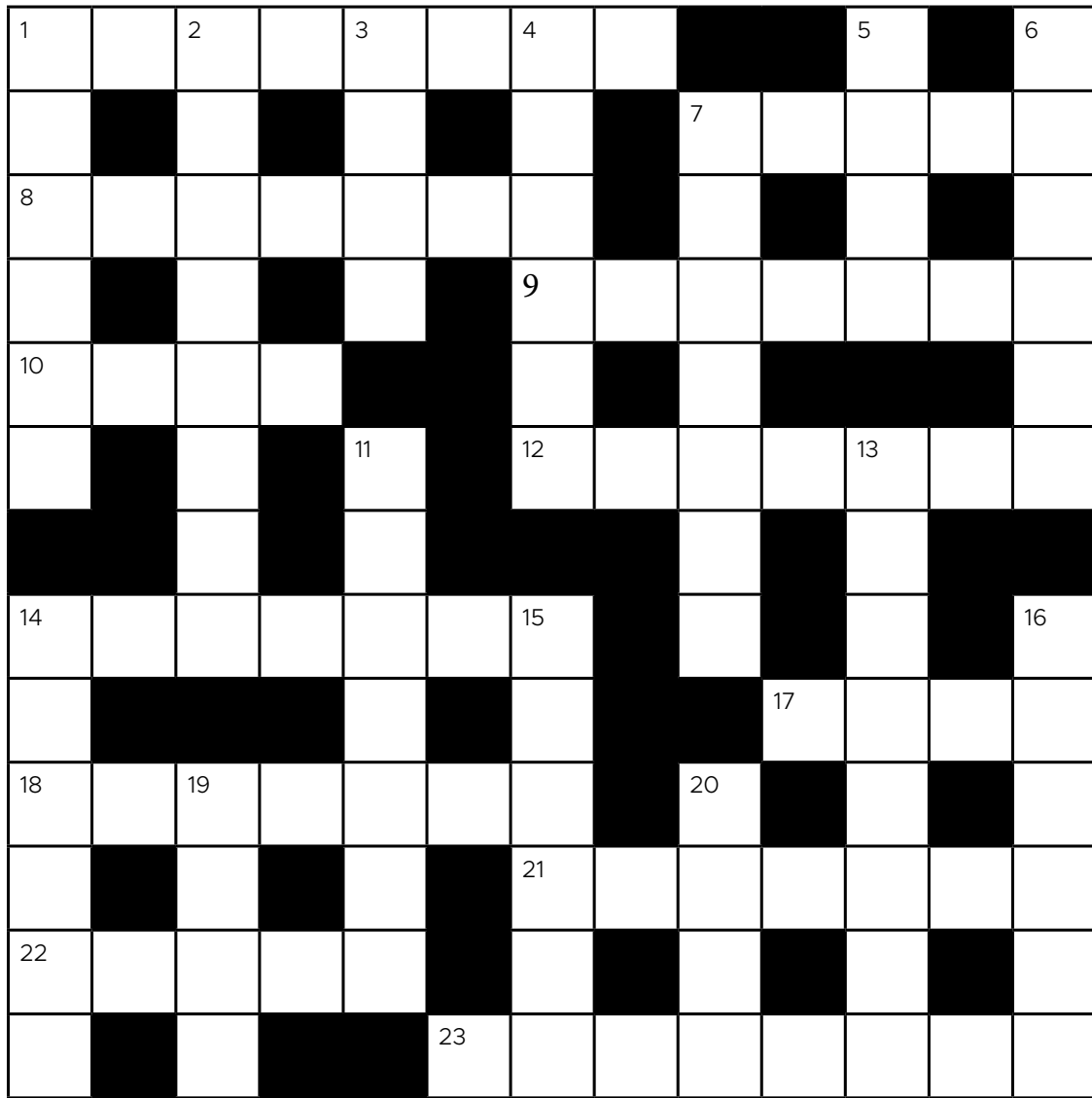
discovered that back in 1907, when funds were being raised to acquire collections of specimens for the Herbarium, Margaret contributed towards the purchase of a major collection of mosses. She would surely be delighted to know that the Herbarium is now located and celebrated at Winterbourne.

See the exhibition for yourself and learn more about Winterbourne's fascinating history by visiting this summer. With 7 acres of garden, a working printing press and a tearoom, Winterbourne makes for a great day out for the whole family. ■



Winterbourne

Winterbourne House & Garden
58 Edgbaston Park Road,
Birmingham B15 2RT
www.winterbourne.org.uk



FRIENDS' CROSSWORD

BY COLIN JONES

ACROSS

1. Otherwise known as Tofu (4,4)
7. Say hello to medieval district of South Birmingham (5)
8. Black Country town, the birthplace of Music Hall star Jack Judge (7)
9. Feeling of worry and anxiety making it hard to relax (7)
10. Issigonis' Iconic Auto (4)
12. Birmingham home to annual folk and jazz festivals (7)
14. By hook or by crook (7)
17. The abbreviated motto of ancient Rome (4)
18. The type of music played by a string quartet (7)
21. Controversial civil engineer who 'modernised' Birmingham (7)
22. Forcibly remove (5)
23. A self-contained part of a musical composition (8)

DOWN

1. Mythical founder of Birmingham with an arch in Highgate (6)
2. Extra section at the end of a document (8)
3. This king tried to turn the tide! Danish spelling (4)
4. Ian Dury wanted us to hit him with this stick (6)
5. Precedes final or detached perhaps? Partly (4)
6. Scrooge-like (6)
7. The beginning of Phil Collins' musical career? (7)
11. 16 downs might do this at the IKON (7)
13. An unscrupulous lawyer might exploit one of these in the law (8)
14. These cows are beyond criticism (6)
15. To begin to like someone (4,2)
16. Burne-Jones for example (6)
19. The first victim of fratricide? (4)
20. The youngest of the Bronte sisters (4)

ABOUT COLIN JONES

I am originally from St. Helens, but have lived in South Birmingham since 1985, working in the car and railway industries

and more recently teaching management programmes at the University of Warwick. I play the mandolin, read history and do Park Run at Cannon Hill, though not, as

yet all at the same time. I have done the Guardian Saturday cryptic crossword for many years and am looking forward to switching from solver to setter.

ACROSS: 1. Bean curd 7. Greet 8. Oldbury 9. Tension 10. Mini 12. Moseley 14. Somehow 17. SPQR 18. Chamber 21. Manzoni 22. Eject 23. Movement DOWN: 1. Beorma 2. Addendum 3. Cnut 4. Rhythm 5. Semi 6. Stingy 7. Genesis 11. Exhibit 13. Loophole 14. Sacred 15. Warm to 16. Artist 19. Abel 20. Anne



BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS WHAT'S ON

Museums Collection Centre |

Please note: Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is now closed for essential maintenance works until 2024 – date TBC. Please visit www.birminghammuseums.org.uk for up-to-date information about opening hours.



ASTON HALL

Trinity Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6JD

See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up-to-date opening times and prices. Please note: Aston Hall is open Wednesday-Sunday, 12pm-4pm (with exceptions due to Aston Villa FC matches and private hires).

The Six Sundays of Summer: Adventures Through Time

Sundays between July and September 2023 (30 July, 6 August, 13 August, 20 August, 27 August, 3 September). Every Sunday through the summer holidays enjoy these free, drop-in activities inspired by times gone by. Each week a different activity to take part in!

Finds Day at Aston Hall

Thursday 16 November 2023

Have you found an object which you would like to know more about? Come and ask our Finds Liaison Officer all about it! The Finds Liaison Officer is available to help identify and record your finds. By recording your finds you can discover all about the object and by researching your object the archaeologists can find out more about the past. What do we want to record? We would love to see any object which is more than 300 years old which you have found while walking, gardening or metal detecting in England or Wales. We also need to know where you found your object as having a grid reference for all our finds allows us to see where people lived and worked, information about the economy, changes in fashion and much more. Pre-booking is required. Please note all events are subject to change of dates due to Aston Villa FC.



MUSEUM & ART GALLERY BIRMINGHAM

Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3DH

Please note: Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery is now closed for essential maintenance works until 2024 – date TBC.



BLAKESLEY HALL

Blakesley Road, Yardley, Birmingham, B25 8RN

Open Thursday - Saturday, 11am – 4pm, from Thursday 1 June until Saturday 4 November 2023. The Hall will be open 12pm - 4pm, last admission at 3pm. Admission charges apply: Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members. The café and gardens are open from 11am - 4pm, free entry. See birminghammuseums.org.uk for up-to-date information.

Blakesley Hall is a picture-perfect timber-framed Tudor house with beautiful gardens, situated just a few miles from the centre of Birmingham. It was built in 1590 by Richard Smalbroke, a member of one of Birmingham's leading merchant families.

Teddy Bear Zip Wire!

Thursday 3 August 2023, 11.30am-3.30pm. £2 per child. Join in the fun on National Play Day! Have your teddy bear zip wire from the top of Blakesley Hall down to the gardens. Make a badge to mark their achievement, follow our themed garden trail and play our garden games. Why not make a day of it and bring a picnic too?

Tall Tales: Beowulf, Slayer of Monsters

Friday 4 August 2023, 11.15am, 1pm. Adult: £9; Concession: £7; Child: £5. Join us for a fun interactive storytelling experience in the Hall about Beowulf, Slayer of Monsters! Each storytelling experience will last approximately 45 minutes, with time for craft beforehand. An enchanting way to explore Blakesley Hall, this event is suitable for children aged 3-8 and accompanying adults. This experience is not suitable for adults not accompanying children.

Feel free to join in the fun by getting dressed up, but please remember that Blakesley Hall is a historic building and sensible footwear is advisable for all. We will be venturing upstairs together during the storytelling tour and there is no lift. Spaces are limited, pre-booking is essential. Your ticket includes the story tour, craft and entrance into Blakesley Hall. Tickets are non-refundable.

Rusticus presents: Wacky Wildlife at Blakesley Hall!

Thursday 10 August 2023, 11.30am-3.30pm. Adult: £9; Concession: £7; Child: £5. Join Rusticus Theatre Company at Blakesley Hall for an enchanting adventure into nature in our beautiful garden. Featuring a whole array of wildlife characters determined to get their moment in the spotlight, audiences might find themselves setting up the perfect photo opportunity with a wily woodpecker, a ditzy dragonfly or barmy badger whilst taking part in some seriously silly activities! This is an interactive walking adventure which makes the most of the gardens at Blakesley Hall. Shows are at 11.30am, 1pm and 2.30pm. Each show lasts for 45 minutes and admission to the Hall is included in your ticket. All children must be accompanied by an adult. We are hoping that there will be beautiful sunshine on the day but please bring appropriate clothing and footwear in the case of inclement weather. The Visitor Centre, Cafe and Grounds are open from 11am to 4pm. The Hall is open from 12pm-4pm with last entrance at 3pm.

Tall Tales: Aladdin

Friday 11 August 2023, 11.15am, 1pm. Adult: £9; Concession: £7; Child: £5. Join us for a fun interactive storytelling experience in the Hall about Aladdin! Each storytelling experience will last approximately 45 minutes, with time for craft beforehand. An enchanting way to explore Blakesley Hall, this event is suitable for children aged 3-8 and accompanying adults. This experience is not suitable for adults not accompanying children.

Feel free to join in the fun by getting dressed up, but please remember that Blakesley Hall is a historic building and sensible footwear is advisable for all. We will be venturing upstairs together during the storytelling tour and there is no lift. Spaces are limited, pre-booking is essential. Your ticket includes the story tour, craft and entrance into Blakesley Hall. Tickets are non-refundable.

Crafty Thursday – Garden Mobiles

Thursday 17 August 2023, 11am, 1pm, 2.30pm. £2 per child. Family friendly drop-in activity.

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE

Tall Tales: Beowolf, Slayer of Monsters!

Friday 18 August 2023, 11.15am, 1pm. Adult: £9.00; Concession: £7; Child: £5. Join us for a fun interactive storytelling experience in the Hall about Beowolf, Slayer of Monsters! Each storytelling experience will last approximately 45 minutes, with time for craft beforehand. An enchanting way to explore Blakesley Hall, this event is suitable for children aged 3-8 and accompanying adults. This experience is not suitable for adults not accompanying children.

Feel free to join in the fun by getting dressed up, but please remember that Blakesley Hall is a historic building and sensible footwear is advisable for all. We will be venturing upstairs together during the storytelling tour and there is no lift. Spaces are limited, pre-booking is essential. Your ticket includes the story tour, craft and entrance into Blakesley Hall. Tickets are non-refundable.

Crafty Thursday – Clay Pots

Thursday 24 August 2023, 11am, 1pm, 2.30pm. £2 per child. Family friendly drop-in activity.

Tall Tales: Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Friday 25 August 2023, 11.15am, 1pm. Adult: £9; Concession: £7; Child: £5. Join us for a fun interactive storytelling experience in the Hall about Goldilocks and the Three Bears! Each storytelling experience will last approximately 45 minutes, with time for craft beforehand. An enchanting way to explore Blakesley Hall, this event is suitable for children aged 3-8 and accompanying adults. This experience is not suitable for adults not accompanying children.

Feel free to join in the fun by getting dressed up, but please remember that Blakesley Hall is a historic building and sensible footwear is advisable for all. We will be venturing upstairs together during the storytelling tour and there is no lift. Spaces are limited, pre-booking is essential. Your ticket includes the story tour, craft and entrance into Blakesley Hall. Tickets are non-refundable.

Crafty Thursday – Lavender Tussie Mussies

Thursday 31 August 2023, 11.30am-3.30pm. £2 per child. Family friendly drop-in activity.

Heritage Open Day

Saturday 9 September 2023, 11am-4pm. Free admission day at Blakesley Hall! Celebrating Birmingham Heritage Week and Heritage Open Days; visit Blakesley Hall, a fine Tudor house and beautiful gardens built in 1590 by Richard Smalbroke, a member of one of Birmingham's leading merchant families.

We are operating a timed entrance to the Hall. Please pre-book your ticket to avoid disappointment as we cannot guarantee tickets will be available on the door. Blakesley Hall is open from 12pm to 4pm, with the last timed entrance to the Hall at 3.30pm. Herb Garden Café and the grounds are open from 11am-4pm.

Yardley Walk

Saturday 9 September 2023, 11.30am and 2pm. £5 per person. Join experts from the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society in a leisurely 2.5 mile stroll around the village of Yardley to celebrate Birmingham Heritage Week and Heritage Open Days.

Discover the hidden history of the area including two medieval moats that once surrounded manor houses, ridges remaining

from medieval ploughing, and the historic buildings of old Yardley including (exterior only) St Edburgha's church and the timber-framed old grammar school.

The walk will be led by Dr Mike Hodder, former Birmingham City Archaeologist, and Sue Whitehouse, who devised the Society's 'See it for Free' programme, a web-based invitation to explore the archaeological sites of Birmingham and Warwickshire. The first walk will begin at 11.30am until 1pm. The second walk will begin at 2pm until 3.30pm. Pre-booking essential as only 25 places per walk. The walks will begin at Blakesley Hall. Please arrive 10 minutes before the start of each walk.

Autumn Apple Day

Saturday 30 September 2023, 11am-4pm. £3 per person including admission to the Hall. Join us for Blakesley Hall's annual celebration of the apple. Find out about the history of the apple, how it was used in Tudor times and take part in our Apple Trail. See demonstrations of Black Butter being made in the Barn with apples from local allotments. Meet Julian the Beekeeper and find out about the bees that are in the garden. There will be performances from the Glorishers of Brummagem Morris dancers and a craft market in the Gallery.

Halloween Kids Disco

Sunday 29 October 2023, 11am-1pm and 3pm-5pm. £8 per child. Join us for a spooky Halloween disco in the Gallery at Blakesley Hall! Silent disco, party games, Halloween activities, Halloween fancy dress competition. Halloween themed party tea box.



**MUSEUM OF THE
JEWELLERY QTR**

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

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

Please note: Museum of the Jewellery Quarter is currently closed except for special events.



**SAREHOLE
MILL**

Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, B13 0BD

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

The Shop and Pizza in the Courtyard are open Wednesday - Sunday. Sarehole Mill is open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday for guided tours only, and on the first Saturday of the month, 11am - 4pm. Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members. Discover the mill that has connections with Matthew Boulton and inspired famous author JRR Tolkien.

Perfectly Paired: Pizza and Wine Evening

Saturday 26 August 2023, 6.30pm. Adult: £40. Over 18s only. Join us for an evening of pizza and wine tasting at Sarehole Mill. Our stone baked pizzas are prepared and baked on site by our baker, who uses the finest ingredients to create authentic and traditional pizzas. With each course you'll enjoy a different wine from around the world, learn about the regions they come from and find out why that combination works so well! The evening will consist of 5 tasting courses including focaccias, pizza tasters and dessert with 5 paired wines set to music in Sarehole Mill's festoon lit courtyard. Pre-booking is essential.

Bat Evening with Mill Tour

Saturday 9 September 2023, 6pm. Adult: £13.50; Child: £7.50. Suitable for children aged 5+. Join us for an evening tour of Sarehole Mill and learn more about the bats that occupy the area. We'll be joined by the Birmingham and Black Country Bat Group who will explain how bats might use a building like Sarehole. They will talk about local bat species and show the equipment they use in their study. If we are lucky, as the sun sets, we may even spot a few bats flying over the Mill Pond and surrounding woodland! Your ticket price includes a hot drink of your choice from the Sarehole café, or cold drink for children. Pre-booking is essential.

Perfectly Paired: Pizza and Gin Evening

Saturday 9 September 2023, 6.30pm. Adult: £40. Over 18s only. Join us for an evening of pizza and gin tasting at Sarehole Mill. Our stone baked pizzas are prepared and baked on site by our baker, who uses the finest ingredients to create authentic and traditional pizzas. With each course you'll enjoy a different gin, learn about the distilleries they come from and find out why that combination works so well! The evening will consist of 5 tasting courses including focaccias, pizza tasters and dessert with 5 paired gins and mixers set to music in Sarehole Mill's festoon lit courtyard. Pre-booking is essential.

**SOHO HOUSE**

Soho Avenue, Handsworth, Birmingham, B18 5LB

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

The visitor centre, including the Vanley Burke photography exhibition, and the grounds are open Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Please note: At the time of going to print, Soho House (the historic building) is not currently open due to a problem with drainage in the cellar and basement areas. Free entry for Friends. Charges apply to non-members. Discover Soho House which was the elegant home of the industrialist and entrepreneur Matthew Boulton from 1766 to 1809.

Blood & Fire: Our Journey Through Vanley Burke's History

Thursday - Saturday until 4 November 2023. Images taken by renowned photographer Vanley Burke join archival material from his personal collection, taking visitors on a journey through the artist's history and the Black British experience. As one of the UK's leading Black artists of the commonwealth generation, this exhibition focuses on Vanley Burke's journey to illustrate a wider, connected history of Black British experiences using the communities of Birmingham as a lens. The artist has re-examined his personal collection after he lost a number of archival materials to a house fire. The fire served as a turning point for his art practice and this exhibition questions what it means to put these objects into a curatorial and historical context, gathering our past to pave the way for our future.

**WEOLEY CASTLE**

Alwold Road, Birmingham, B29 5RX

Weoley Castle ruins can be seen from a viewing platform throughout the year in daylight hours. Access to the ruins

and visitor centre takes place on event days. The ruins of an exquisite fortified manor house built 750 years ago.

Birmingham Heritage Week Weoley Walking Tour

Saturday 16 September 2023, 11.30am and 2pm. £5 per person. Join us for a special guided walk as part Birmingham Heritage Week 2023. Learn about the archaeology of Weoley Castle and see some of the archaeological finds discovered at Weoley. There will be two guided walks around the site with archaeologist Mike Hodder at 11.30am and 2.00pm. £5 per person – a ticket will be required for everyone attending the walk. Booking is essential – limited places on each walk. Wear waterproof clothing and outdoor footwear if weather is poor. The event is outdoors and involves walking.

Weoley Castle Guided Tour

Saturday 5 August, 2 September, 7 October 2023, 11am. £5 per person. Explore Weoley Castle with our experienced guides and see real finds from the site back on display for the first time in over 10 years! The ruins of Weoley Castle are over 750 years old, and the site is one of the oldest buildings still visible in Birmingham. Take a guided tour of the ruins exploring their architecture, construction, and layout. Learn about the Lords of Dudley, the castle's original owners. Look at some of the objects they would have used and explore what their lives would have been like during the Middle Ages. Following the tour, a simple craft activity is available for children. This tour takes place outdoors and on uneven ground, suitable footwear and clothing is advised. The tour can be adapted for wheelchair users. Suitable for adults and families.

**thinktank**
Birmingham science museum

Millennium Point, Birmingham, B4 7XG

Birmingham term time: Open Wednesday – Sunday, 10am - 5pm.

Birmingham school holidays: Open Monday – Sunday, 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.

Makers and Machines: Creativity in the Computer Age

Until 28 April 2024. Our new exhibition explores the surprising long history of coding and tells the incredible stories of local people, past and present, who use coding in their work. You can get hands-on with exhibits and have a go at playing classic computer games from the 1980s. Other activities include learning how to code on punched cards and designing your own weaving pattern. You'll have the opportunity to see rare and important objects such as the HEC computer, one of the oldest surviving electronic computers in the world. There will be a range of digital and analogue devices on display too. We look at how local weavers and knitters; mathematicians and scientists; artists and gamers, use coding in their work. And we also explore the implications of new technology such as AI for human creativity. Can you find the three object labels that have been written by an AI chatbot rather than a human curator?

For all events visit www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/ whats-on for further information and to book.



Radiant Choral Masterpieces

Saturday 18 November

Bach, Liszt & Scarlatti

'Radiant Choral Masterpieces' by Birmingham Bach Choir

IN THE AREA

BARBER INSTITUTE

University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TS.

www.barber.org.uk

Paying Respects: Money and Mortality

Until Spring 2024. Money has always been a matter of life and death. Coins are struck in tribute to emperors, monarchs and leaders recently deceased, and have honoured illustrious ancestors through the portraits they can carry. They have been used in many of the rituals that mark the passage from life to afterlife and often portray the trappings and ceremonies of death on their surfaces. This compelling new exhibition features highlights from the Barber superlative collections of Roman, Byzantine and Medieval coins – one of the finest in the world.

Visiting Masterpieces: Treasures from Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

Until December 2023. Three spectacular loans from Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery are now on display at the Barber – including one of the nation's most iconic paintings.

'The Last of England', created in 1855 by leading Pre-Raphaelite artist Ford Madox Brown, is one of Birmingham's most famous art treasures. It is joined by the monumental 'Erminia and the Shepherd', painted by the eminent Italian Baroque painter Guercino in around 1620 and 'The Man of Sorrows', of around 1450, by Flemish painter Petrus Christus

Generously lent by Birmingham Museums Trust, these dazzling and diverse masterpieces hang among the Barber's own outstanding collection until the end of next year (2023) whilst the city art gallery is closed for essential rewiring work.

BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY

www.bfcs.org.uk/concerts

In the Mood

Saturday 4th November 7.30pm at The Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, Kings Edward's School, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2UA. Choral arrangements of classic popular songs such as I got Rhythm, Blue Moon, and The Continental, plus Chilcott's Little Jazz Mass and Shearing's Music to Hear. Birmingham Festival Choral Society will be accompanied by piano, double bass and drums.

BIRMINGHAM BACH CHOIR

For tickets and more information visit:

www.birmingham.bachchoir.com or email: bbchoir.tickets@gmail.com

Radiant Choral Masterpieces

Saturday 18 November 2023, 7pm at St Paul's Church, Birmingham. Conductor: Paul Spicer; Organist: Martyn Rawles Programme: JS Bach: Fürchte dich nicht; D Scarlatti: Stabat Mater; Liszt: Missa Choralis.

BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY HALL

bhamcomfest.co.uk • bmusic.co.uk

The Goon Show

Sunday 8 October 2023. Relive the lunacy of Spike Milligan, Peter Sellers and Harry Secombe as the cult BBC radio series that revolutionised British comedy returns, for one night only!

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE



ARTISAN ALCHEMY
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A unique gallery in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, displaying exciting, individual bespoke jewellery and furniture of the highest quality.

<https://artisan-alchemy.co.uk/>

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Autumn Festival

Saturday 21st October 2023
9am - 5pm

The perfect foodie day out in the heart of Alcester with its shops, cafés and pubs nearby.

Free Park & Ride to the Festival and return!
From The Mill Industrial Park on the A435, B49 5QG.

@alcesterfoodfestival
@alcesterfoodfestival



IN THE MOOD

I GOT RHYTHM
TEA FOR TWO
BLUE MOON
THE CONTINENTAL
AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'

NOVEMBER 4 2023 7.30PM

BIRMINGHAM FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY. CONDUCTOR - DAVID WYNNIE.
TICKETS £10 FROM WWW.BFCS.ORG.UK OR ON THE DOOR
RUDDOCK PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE THE EDWARD'S SCHOOL, EDGBASTON - WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE



'Coventry Biennial' across Coventry and Warwickshire • 6 October 2023 – January 2024

Phoebe Boswell, *The Black Horizon (Do We Muse On The Sky Or Remember The Sea)*, 2021. Courtesy: Phoebe Boswell.

Birmingham Comedy Festival celebrate the centenary of the birth of 'the forgotten Goon', Black Country-born scriptwriter Larry Stephens (1923-1959), with a performance of two classic episodes, live on stage – both brimming with surreal humour, bizarre plot twists, strange sound effects and such oddball characters as Eccles, Bluebottle, Crun and Min, Grytpype-Thynne, Moriarty, Bloodnok, and Neddie Seagoon. 'Ying tong iddle i pol'

Plus Q&A with Stephens' biographer, Julie Warren (author of 'It's All In The Mind: The Life and Legacy of Larry Stephens'), who reveals more about the life of the West Bromwich-born former WW2 commando who wrote for some of the biggest comedy stars of the day (including Tony Hancock) before dying, suddenly.

COVENTRY BIENNIAL 2023

Like a short cut through the brambles.

www.coventrybiennial.com

6 October 2023 - January 2024 in Coventry and Warwickshire. Across Coventry Biennial 2023 artists and their many collaborators interrogate humankind's relationship to the world around us. Starting with the broad themes of place, the human condition and the intersection of these, this 4th Coventry Biennial will present a series of exhibitions, events and activities in museums, galleries, historic buildings and public locations. The 4th Coventry Biennial, titled '... like a short cut through the brambles' takes place across Coventry and Warwickshire from 6 October 2023 until 14 January 2023.

IKON

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

www.ikon-gallery.org

Free entry. Open Wednesday until Sunday, 11am-5pm

Melati Suryodarmo: Passionate Pilgrim

Until 3 September 2023. This summer, Ikon has transformed its galleries into a platform for performance art, with the first UK exhibition by acclaimed Indonesian performance artist Melati Suryodarmo. Melati Suryodarmo is one of Indonesia's most

important living artists, known for her strenuous durational performances that last several hours, testing the limits of the human mind and body. Through live performances from the artist and "delegated works" performed by over 50 associated artists and community activists, the exhibition celebrates her dedication to pushing the boundaries of her own practice and building performance art networks.

Mentored by renowned Butoh dancer and choreographer Anzu Furukawa and performance artist Marina Abramović in the early 1990s, Suryodarmo has, for four decades, created durational performances, installations and films that merge live art with sculpture, drawing and time-based media. Visually spectacular, Suryodarmo's performances are feats of endurance that interrogate notions of time, labour and identity.

Mali Morris: Calling

20 September 2023 – 22 December 2023. This Autumn, Ikon presents a major solo exhibition by British artist Mali Morris. 'Calling' includes nearly 30 works from the last 25 years and documents a notable change in Morris' artistic practice from the late 1990s when she considered new painterly directions. Morris's first solo exhibition was held at Ikon Gallery, John Bright Street, in 1979 and she now returns to Ikon, Brindleyplace, in 2023 to transform the gallery's spaces into fields of colour and light.

Dean Kelland: Imposter Syndrome

20 September 2023 – 22 December 2023. Ikon's exhibition is the culmination of British artist Dean Kelland's four-year artist's residency at HMP Grendon (2019-2023), funded by the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust. The exhibition 'Imposter Syndrome' features a number of Kelland's new films, prints and sketchbooks that reimagine the psychoanalytic dialogue that has occurred between Pop Art and Prison Art since the 1960s. Referencing figures from popular culture such as Elvis and Boy George, Kelland interrogates male identity and flawed notions of masculinity.

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE

Saturday 18 November 7pm
 St Paul's Church, Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham



JS Bach: *Fürchte dich nicht*
D Scarlatti: *Stabat Mater*
Liszt: *Missa Choralis*

Radiant Choral Masterpieces

Birmingham Bach Choir
 Paul Spicer: *conductor*
 Martyn Rawles: *organist*

Tickets & Details: www.birmingham.bachchoir.com



HEREFORD CATHEDRAL MAPPA MUNDI AND CHAINED LIBRARY

MAGNA CARTA - ONE WEEKEND ONLY FRIDAY 24 & SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER

The Magna Carta is one of the most famous documents in English history and it still resonates today with many people for its role in the defence of rights and freedoms.

Hereford Cathedral will be displaying its copy of the 1217 Magna Carta and the only known surviving copy of the 1215 King's Writ in the Mappa Mundi and Chained Library Exhibition on Friday 24 and Saturday 25 November. This will be the only opportunity to see the originals of these incredibly important documents in 2023.

The Mappa Mundi and Chained Library Exhibition is open 10am to 5pm and normal admission prices will apply during this weekend. If you plan to bring a group of 6+, please contact visits@herefordcathedral.org in advance to help plan your visit.



HEREFORD
 CATHEDRAL

herefordcathedral.org

'Mali Morris: Calling' at IKON from 20 September until 22 December 2023

Mali Morris, 'Second Stradella' (2016). Acrylic on canvas, 198 x 214 cm. Image courtesy the artist

MIDLANDS ARTS CENTRE - MAC

Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham B12 9QH

macbirmingham.co.uk

Karl Blossfeldt: Art Forms in Nature

Until Sunday 20 August 2023. 'Karl Blossfeldt: Art Forms in Nature' is a Hayward Touring exhibition which presents an original portfolio of 40 photogravures from 1932, entitled 'Wundergarten der Natur', edited by the artist and published in the year of his death. The exhibition presents an opportunity to witness an exemplary set of Blossfeldt's signature close-up images of plants and flora.

Blossfeldt (1865-1932) is regarded as one of the defining photographers of the twentieth century for his exceptional contribution to the art through his intricate botanical photographs. During his career, which spanned over three decades and included 6,000 photographs, Blossfeldt developed homemade cameras and lenses which enabled him to magnify his subjects by up to 30 times. In doing so he captured the microcosmic aesthetic of his specimens and revealed the underlying structures of nature, which until then remained unexplored. His photographs became highly celebrated amongst early modernists and Surrealists during the late 1920s.

With thanks to Arts Council England, players of People's Postcode Lottery, and The Saintbury Trust for their support of this exhibition. A Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition from Southbank Centre, London.

Watershed

Until Sunday 5 November 2023. Midlands Arts Centre and Elan Links present 'Watershed', a group exhibition exploring the relationship between Birmingham and Elan Valley, Wales; two communities linked by water. The group show includes work by six resident artists who have reflected upon an area in mid-Wales on the edge of the Cambrian mountains, which has been the source of Birmingham's water for nearly 120 years.

In the late 19th century, unsafe water led to widespread disease in the growing industrial city of Birmingham. An Act of Parliament was passed, enabling the compulsory purchase of the Elan

Valley by the Birmingham Corporation Water Department. A series of man-made lakes were created on the land by damming the Elan and Claerwen rivers, and over 100 occupants of the Elan Valley were forced to move. The reservoirs have supplied Birmingham with clean water since 1904.

'Watershed' presents artistic responses to this controversial change to Welsh land, the connections between these two distinctive landscapes, and the part that people play in nature's balance. The featured artists took part in a unique residency programme led by Elan Links, including work by artist Rowena Harris made in spring 2023 during their residency with Elan Links and MAC. Featured artists: Zillah Bowes, Daniel Crawshaw, Kate Green, Rowena Harris, Antony Lyons, Isa Suarez, Eustace Tickell, and Nikki Sheth.

With thanks to Arts Council England, players of People's Postcode Lottery and Birmingham City Council and The Saintbury Trust for their support of this exhibition.

Worlds Away: Art, Nature and Wellbeing

Saturday 2 September – Sunday 26 November 2023. This exhibition brings together artists who have been inspired by the natural world and its power to stimulate feelings of belonging, mental and physical wellbeing. Artworks consider a range of views from the romantic vision of nature as a therapeutic companion to a new contemporary era of 'climate anxiety' and its enormous global challenges. Featured Artists: Stanley Spencer, Dame Laura Knight, Alfred Wallis, Richard Long, Frank Brangwyn, Dalziel + Scullion, Denise de Cordova, Joan Eardley, Madge Gill, Fred Hubble, John Kippin, Mariele Neudecker, Mimei Thompson, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Rona Lee, Lisa Milroy, Ming de Nasty, Mary Newcomb, John Newling, Paul Newman, Sarah Taylor Silverwood, Grace Williams, Ian Skoyles, Juneau Projects.

Kindly supported by The Grimmitt Trust in Memory of Marjorie Welch, MK Rose Charitable Trust, Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health Trust, Roughley Trust, Arts Council England, players of People's Postcode Lottery and Birmingham City Council.

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WHICH ARTIST ONCE SAID:

“Every artist was first an amateur”

(THE ANSWER IS BELOW)



THE FRENCH CONNECTION

30th September 7.30pm – Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick

5th October 7.30pm – Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire

Join Armonico Consort for a programme which embraces the French passion for pretty much everything from, food to literature and music, and from art to, well, national strikes. Nobody does it better than the French! Alongside the fabulously triumphant and arresting Te Deum by Charpentier (a work whose main theme is still used by the Eurovision Song Contest) are his lesser-known compositions, paired with those of Lully and Delalande. The work of these fine composers epitomises the brilliance of the French baroque in pretty much every form. A further highlight of this programme is a short work by Rameau, which many hail to be the most beautiful piece of music ever written.

This performance is generously supported by Mr Nigel May and Mr & Mrs Derek & Rosemary Holding.



IN DULCI JUBILO! - A BAROQUE CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT

6th December 7.30pm – Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick

9th December 7.30pm - Malvern Theatres, Worcestershire

Tickets on Sale from August 2023

Few countries celebrate Christmas like the Germans do, although the city of Venice comes pretty close! From the magisterial splendour of the Venetian baroque to the grand and huge scale works of the Michael Praetorius, one thing is certain - Christmas inspired composers to create the greatest tunes even back in the 16th & 17th Centuries! If you have never heard In Dulci Jubilo sung in 21 different parts, you must not miss this concert!

This performance is generously supported by Mr Tim Coghlan, Braunton Marina.

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Exhibitions at MAC

Explore world-class exhibitions this autumn with a focus on wellbeing & nature

Free entry



Lynette Yaldom-Boakye, Condon and The Mole, 2011, Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre, London © Lynette Yaldom-Boakye

Worlds Away

2 Sept - Sun 26 Nov

Bringing together artists who have been inspired by the natural world and its power to stimulate feelings of wellbeing and belonging.

Madge Gill: The Clouds Will Burst the Sun Will Shine Again

2 Sept - 26 Nov

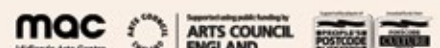
Madge Gill's prolific work was born from a difficult life and the discovery of enduring inspiration from art, spirituality and nature.

Watershed

Until 5 November

Exploring the relationship between Birmingham and Elan Valley, Wales, two communities inextricably linked by water.

macbirmingham.co.uk
0121 446 3232 | Cannon Hill Park, B12 9QH





'Worcester Open Studios' across Worcestershire • 19 - 28 August 2023

Jennifer Ng © Emma Trimble

Madge Gill: The Clouds Will Burst the Sun Will Shine Again
Saturday 2 September – Sunday 26 November 2023. A journey through the beautiful work of celebrated, self-taught artist Madge Gill (1882-1961). Gill's prolific work was born from a difficult life and the discovery of enduring inspiration from art, spirituality and nature. Drawings, paintings, embroidery and archival material explore the struggles she faced and the moments of experimentation, joy and hope.

With thanks to Arts Council England, players of People's Postcode Lottery and Birmingham City Council for their support of this exhibition.

THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY BIRMINGHAM & WEST MIDLANDS

www.victoriansociety.org.uk/west-midlands

Email enquiries to events@victorian-society-bham.org.uk or call 01562 887733

Visit to Grade II* Moseley Road Baths, Library & School of Art, Birmingham

Saturday 5 August 2023. Led by Joe Holyoak, Architect and Chair of the Victorian Society Casework Sub-Committee. 2pm: Meet outside the Baths. Cost: £6 including light refreshments. A chance to see the latest tranche of repairs to the upstairs rooms at the Baths (William Hale 1907). We will also visit the adjacent Balsall Heath Library (Cossins & Peacock 1895) and across the road to the interior of W.H. Bidlake's 1899 School of Art. Featuring in the 2017 Victorian Society Most Endangered Buildings this has been very well repaired and converted.

Day Visit to Malvern Town & College

Tuesday 24 October 2023. 10.30am: Meet at Great Malvern Victorian railway station. The price will include lunch and afternoon refreshments at Malvern College.

Day School at the Birmingham & Midland Institute: Victorian Architects working in Birmingham and the West Midlands

Saturday 28 October 2023. Speakers: Tim Bridges, Joe Holyoak, Michael Harrison, Mary Worsfold and Gillian Roberts.

WORCESTERSHIRE OPEN STUDIOS -

www.worcestershireopenstudios.org

19-28 August 2023. Artists and makers will be welcoming the public into their studios, giving behind the scenes access into how they create their art. This year the event has more studios than ever to visit - 97 venues will showcase 128 artists, with over 40 artists taking part for the first time. There will be a diverse range of artwork on show including painting, sculpture, printmaking, jewellery, ceramics, photography, textiles and woodworking. All studios are free to visit.

Richard Nicholls of Worcestershire Open Studios said 'Artists will show how they work, the tools and materials they use and answer any questions', Richard said. 'The artist's work will be on display with the chance to buy original art, many artists will have cards, prints, and gifts for sale too.'

Joe Eccles, is a mixed media artist, and taking part in Worcestershire Open Studios for the first time. 'I'm looking forward to letting you explore my paintings - with as much, or as little input from me as you prefer!' he said. 'Canvases of varying sizes will be available to buy, alongside items like mugs with my art designs. I'll be painting intermittently so there will be works-in-progress to see and you can learn more about my art process and what inspires me.'

Jennifer Ng is an interdisciplinary artist working across Chinese ink painting, performance, installation, and participatory art. Based in Worcester she loves to share her art and see people getting excited about art. Jennifer said 'I took part in Open Studios last year and still smile when I remember the visitors I had. This year I'll be talking about my artistic processes, inspirations and my recently completed art research.'

Visit the Worcestershire Open Studios website where you can search for artists by name, artform, location or date they are open as well as download a guide for the event. Printed versions of the guides are available in the county's libraries and tourist information centres.

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FRIENDS' QUIZ

BY JIM WELLS


1. What is going to be the new location for the Commonwealth Games Bull, now named Ozzy?
2. Which west Birmingham suburb, formerly in Worcestershire, is portrayed in this watercolour?
3. The BBC is proposing to move from its current location in the Mailbox to which building, formerly associated with a warm beverage?
4. This painting, purchased by the Friends in 1937, is by John Ruskin. Which southern Italian bay and volcano is portrayed?
5. The Hippodrome is presenting a ballet based on which heavy metal Birmingham band?
6. BSA motorbikes were manufactured in which part of Birmingham?
 - a) Aston
 - b) Erdington
 - c) Small Heath
7. Aston Hall has an exhibition about which one of its former residents?
8. Georgina Cave Gaskin, photographed here, attended the Birmingham School of Art and is renowned for producing which type of applied art?
 - a) Stained Glass
 - b) Jewellery
 - c) Tiles
9. Which event was celebrated on June 22 this year?
10. This is a portrait of Dr John Ash, founder of Birmingham General Hospital. The portrait is by the first President of the Royal Academy of Arts in 1768. Who was he?
 - a) Sir Joshua Reynolds
 - b) Thomas Gainsborough
 - c) J M W Turner

2. By Allen Edward Everitt, 1839-1882; 1976V359; Transferred from Birmingham Reference Library; 4. By John Ruskin, 1840; 1937P382; Presented by the Friends of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery on behalf of Alderman W.A. Cadbury, 1937; 6. BSA 3.5hp Motorcycle, c. 1910-1930, Manufacturer: BSA Motorcycles Ltd (BSA - Birmingham Small Arms); 7. 'Great Drawing Room, Aston Hall', 1854 by Allen Edward Everitt, 1946P20; 8. 'Portrait of Georgie Cave Gaskin', 1890-95 by William Smedley Aston (d.1941), 2007.2253; 10. 'Portrait of Dr John Ash', 1788, 2012.0194.


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 On the BMT website there is an option to purchase framed prints of many of the pictures held in the collection.


1. New Street Station/Grand Central 2. Kings Norton 3. Typhoo Tea 4. Naples/Vesuvius 5. Black Sabbath 6. Small Heath 7. James Watt Jr 8. Jewellery 9. Windrush 10. Sir Joshua Reynolds

2023 AUGUST


 Monday 21 # 'Birmingham Volunteers and their Medals: 1797 to 1802' – Dr David Symons

SEPTEMBER

 Tuesday 12 # Friends Annual General Meeting

 Tuesday 12 # 'The Redevelopment of Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and plans for reopening' – Zak Mensah


OCTOBER


 Friday 6 ** Visit to The Exchange

NOVEMBER


 Wednesday 8 * Visit to the Acme Whistle Factory

DECEMBER


 Tuesday 5 * 'Cameo Glass' – Dr Kate Round

 Tuesday 5 * Meet and Greet the Committee

2024 MARCH

 Tuesday 19 + 'The GKN exhibition at Winterbourne' – Henrietta Lockhart at Winterbourne

APRIL

 Wednesday 24 * Tour of Selly Manor Museum and Bournville Village

- * Details are enclosed with this mailing (see pages 6-7)
- # Included in the previous mailing, but places are still available.
Please contact us to book a place (see page 6)
- ** Included in the previous mailing and fully booked – sorry!
- + Date for your Diary – information will be included in a future edition of 'Artefacts'

EVENT KEY



ANNUAL EVENT



DAYTIME TALK



EVENING EVENT



GUIDED TOUR



OUTING

THE NEXT ISSUE OF ARTEFACTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 2023

