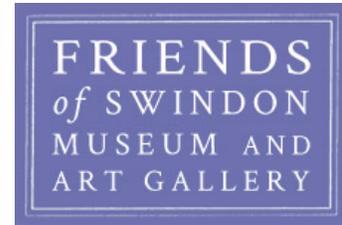




Newsletter

February 2021



Hello Friends

At our Zoom meeting on the 25th January the Friends of Swindon Museum and Art Gallery Committee decided to email a newsletter each month to keep in touch with members and let you know what we have been discussing and the decisions we have made on your behalf. Items discussed at January's meeting included:

Monthly Zoom Talk

The next Zoom talk will be given by **Dr Stuart Prior**, archaeologist from Bristol University. You may remember him from Time Team.

Minster, Manor and Town, Excavations at Berkeley Castle 2004-19

Wednesday 24th February 7.30 - 8.30pm

Linda Kasmaty will send out the Zoom link on the day before the talk.

We have already had several informative and entertaining Zoom talks with the added bonus of enjoying them in our homes and not having to go out on a cold, dark night.

Previously Friends had to buy a ticket to attend the live talks but Zoom talks are free.

However, if you would like to show your appreciation then please donate on the Friends of Swindon Museum and Art Gallery website.

You can find previous talks in our blog at <http://friendsofsmag.blogspot.com>

News just in: Our Patron **Desmond Morris** has agreed to be a speaker at a future Zoom talk.

Gift Aid

We are investigating Gift Aid and whether it can be applied to Membership subscriptions and donations and how this would be administered.

Friends Website

It was agreed that adaptations to the website should be put in place to streamline membership applications, the membership database, payments, donations and ticket sales.

Spreading the Word

To keep the Museum and Art Gallery in the public eye, particularly during the temporary closure, the Committee are considering having a page on the '**We Are Swindon**' website, which promotes positive images of Swindon.

Art on Tour, Meet the Artist and Artsnaps

Follow Katie Ackrill, the Engagement Officer at the Gallery, as she continues the outreach work on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwLHgHbvoC0OF8zDXyv-EPO>

and <https://artontour489147035.wordpress.com>

or from the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery website.

We are in the National News!

On 27th January, the **Guardian** newspaper, as part of 'The Great British Art Tour', published an article about the painting '**The Mysterious Gift**' painted by **Desmond Morris** in 1965.

As you probably know the painting is part of the Swindon Collection and the article was written by Katie Ackrill.

There is a link to the article in our blog <http://friendsofsmag.blogspot.com>

Friends' funds

Friends regularly raise funds to enable items in the Museum and Art Gallery collections to be restored. Linda Kasmaty recently held a virtual meeting with Nicki Western, Marketing, Events and Premises Manager at Swindon Museum and Art Gallery and Frances Yeo, Manager at STEAM to discuss future fundraising possibilities.

The Roman Wine Strainer

The most recent item to be restored is this beautiful Roman wine strainer. It is currently still at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham where the restoration took place. Let's hope that we shall soon be able to see it installed in the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery.



To learn more about the restoration go to

<http://friendsofsmag.blogspot.com/2020/02/last-week-small-group-of-friends.html>