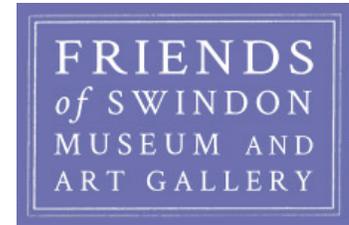




Newsletter

August 2022



Hello Friends

At the July committee meeting we were pleased to hear that Planning Permission for the Change of Use of the first floor of the Civic Offices from Offices to a Museum and Art Gallery has been granted.

August Zoom talk

Wednesday August 24th, 7.30pm David Thackray will give an update on the Swindon Mechanics Institute. The Zoom link to the talk will be emailed close to the date. Videos of past talks are available at: <https://friendsofsmag.org/you-tube-videos-of-talks/>

Thanks to Kettle's Yard Gallery in Cambridge for their July Zoom talk, which took us on a guided tour through the wonderful, home and art gallery created by Jim and Helen Ede. See more at: <https://www.kettlesyard.co.uk/>

Monthly Zoom talks for the rest of the year

September 28th: Lucy Abel-Smith will tell us about Quenington Rectory Garden. Friends visited the sculpture exhibition held in the garden in June.

October 26th: Friends' AGM

November: Richard Osgood, Senior Archaeologist with the MOD, and 'Operation Nightingale' for post combat, post traumatic stress disorder sufferers.

Friends' Trip to Rabley Drawing Centre, Friday 19th August, 12 noon

Mildenhall, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 2LW

Take a picnic. Visit <https://rableygallery.com/> for a location map. There is a car park on site. Please let Linda Kasmaty know by the 10th August, if you will be going, so that numbers will be known. Also contact Linda if you need a lift, email: lindakasmaty@hotmail.com
In addition to the current exhibition of works by Sara Lee, five items of our choosing can be put on display. Go to 'Artists' and 'Print Shop' on the web site to choose and let Linda know.

Friends' Website Click on <http://www.friendsofsmag.org> to find details of talks, newsletters, news, videos of talks, a link to the blog and **make a donation to FSMAG.**

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/friendsofswindonmag/>

Try out the Friends **Instagram account**, now with **1,190** followers.

We share news of talks and other events etc on the account so do give it a follow.

Don't forget the Friends' page on the '**We Are Swindon**' website:

<https://weareswindon.co.uk/swindons-charity-hub/friends-of-swindon-museum-and-art-gallery/>

Council proposals for a Museum and Art Gallery at the Civic Offices

Some good news, Planning Permission has been granted for the Change of Use of the First Floor of the Civic Offices from Offices to a Museum and Art Gallery.

We look forward to more news and discussions on how the first floor will be designed to house the Art and Museum Collections, from Cllr Matty Courtliff, Cabinet member for culture, heritage, leisure and town centre experience.

Sale of Apsley House

Apsley House, the former home of Swindon Museum and Art Gallery has now been emptied and Swindon Borough Council have agreed to sell it. Aware of the vital role it plays in the Swindon community, the Friends applied to make it an asset of community value.

A building or other land is defined as an asset of community value if its main use has recently been or is presently used to further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community and could do so in the future.

We understand that a community group has registered as a potential bidder to buy Apsley House. The group and any other interested group will have to put in a bid within the six-month moratorium period ending 23rd December 2022. If unsold, after this period the Council can sell to whomever they choose.

Meanwhile a group of Friends have put in an Application to have the **footpath across the frontage of Apsley House** registered as a Public Right of Way and an application has also been made to have Tree Preservation Orders applied to the **two copper beech trees** at the front of Apsley House.

Current 'Art on Tour' displays – glimpses of Swindon's paintings and ceramics

<https://artontour489147035.wordpress.com/exhibitions-2/>

Please visit these displays and talks, if possible, and pass on your thoughts to the Friends, email: admin@friendsofsmag.org, and to Matty Courtliff, newly appointed Swindon Borough Council Cabinet Member for Culture, Heritage, Leisure and Town Centre Experience, email: Mcourtliff2@swindon.gov.uk

Changing faces

21st July – 1st December 2022 Lydiard House Museum, Lydiard Tregoze, Swindon, SN5 3PA

'Changing Faces' presents Modern portraits from Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, alongside paintings of the St John Family at Lydiard House Museum. The works show the transformation of portraiture in the Twentieth Century, and celebrate its endurance as a genre in British art. The art trail includes portraits from the Swindon Collection by Leslie Cole, Lawrence Gowing, Raymond Mason and Stephen Tomlin.'

Opening times: Wednesday – Sunday: 11am – 4pm (last admission 3.30pm).

Admission charge to Lydiard House Museum is applicable, information here:

<https://www.swindon.gov.uk/lydiardhouse/info/11/plan-visit/4/plan-visit-1/7>

Visit <https://artontour489147035.wordpress.com/talks-and-tours/>

or email: ArtOnTour@swindon.gov.uk. to find out if there are any talks about this exhibition

Coate 200

26th July– 25th Aug. 2022 Richard Jefferies Museum, Marlborough Road, Coate Water, SN3 6AA
'In celebration of Coate Water's 200-year anniversary, Art on Tour and Richard Jefferies Museum present an exhibition of artworks inspired by Coate Water Country Park. Artworks from the Swindon Collection show how artists in the 20th Century were inspired by its natural landscape and social history. The exhibition will include George Reason's well-loved painting 'The Polluted Lake', and a new acquisition depicting Coate Farm in 1902.'

Admission Free.

Opening Times: 10:30 – 12:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 13:00 – 17:00 Every Sunday

10:00 – 16:00 Second Wednesday of each month

Please see the Richard Jefferies Museum website for more information about events and visiting.

<https://www.richardjefferies.org/> and <https://artontour489147035.wordpress.com/talks-and-tours/>

Pop-up Gallery at Coate Water

Sunday 14th August, 10am – 4pm, Free, drop-in activities

Celebrate the 200-year anniversary of Coate Water, by joining Art on Tour for a day of creative fun! We'll be showcasing artworks inspired by Coate Water, created by participants of our 'Art and Nature Workshops'. You can even pick up a clipboard and create a drawing inspired by your surroundings to take home.

From 1 – 5pm you'll also be able to head to the Richard Jefferies Museum to enjoy an exhibition of artworks from the Swindon Collection, and hear some fabulous folk music.

Suitable for all ages

Highlights from the Swindon Collection

Civic Offices, Euclid St, Swindon, Ongoing, Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm

Enter by the central door, via the steps or the ramp, sign in at the reception desk.

'This exhibition brings together 20 works of art from Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, to showcase the variety and quality of the Swindon Collection of Modern British Art. It includes paintings and prints by world famous artists, and artists with a special connection to Wiltshire and Swindon.'

A Celebration of Colour

Committee Room 3, off the foyer of the Civic Offices, Ongoing, Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm

Enter the building by the central door, via the steps or the ramp, sign in at the reception desk.

'This exhibition presents a selection of paintings and studio ceramics. It explores the chemistry behind some of the most vibrant ceramics in the collection, and reveals different ways modern and contemporary artists have approached colour through paint.'

The Art of Industry, STEAM Museum of the Great Western Railway,

Ongoing, Monday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm, Sunday, 11am – 4pm

This exhibition brings together artworks from the collections at STEAM Museum and the collections formerly housed at the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, now closed. 'The Art of Industry' includes work by Leon Kossoff, Margaret Neve and Ken White, amongst others from the Swindon Collection.'

Ongoing exhibitions and events elsewhere

Eric Ravilious : Drawn to War

The documentary film directed by Margy Kinmonth, is now available online, from Curzon Home Cinemas. Rental fees and terms and conditions apply.

<https://homecinema.curzon.com/film/eric-ravilious-drawn-to-war/>

Robin Tanner: From Goldsmiths to the Great Depression

Chippenham Museum, 30th July–8th October, Monday–Saturday, 10am–4pm, free entry

'This exhibition will explore the life and work of Robin Tanner during his formative years between the First and Second World Wars. Using key moments from Robin Tanner's life, such as his training at Goldsmiths College and building a new home in Kington Langley, the exhibition will explore wider themes such as the etching revival, craft and design and developments in art education.'

<https://www.chippenham.gov.uk/chippenham-museum/>

'Pre-Raphaelites, Drawings and Watercolours'

Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 15th July until 27th November 2022

'There are over 100 artworks on show. These include works of extraordinary beauty, from the portraits the Pre-Raphaelites made of each other, their studies for paintings and commissions, to subjects taken from history, literature and landscape.' <https://www.ashmolean.org/pre-raphaelites>

Booking is essential, including members

'Hardy's Wessex: The Landscapes That Inspired A Writer' Wiltshire Museum, Devizes

28th May - 30th October 2022 Open 7 days a week. Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun 11-3

Pre-booking is recommended. <https://www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/>

Exhibition: The Lost Words until 18th September 2022

Russell-Cotes Gallery, Bournemouth Open Tues - Sundays 10am-5pm

'This enchanting exhibition combines the creative talents of writer Robert Macfarlane and artist Jackie Morris to celebrate the relationship between language and the living world, and nature's power to spark the imagination.' <https://russellcotes.com/event/the-lost-words/>

Kelmscott Manor 'the inspirational Cotswold retreat of William Morris' is now open until October. Thursday to Saturday from 10.30am to 5pm with timed entry for the manor house at 15 minute intervals, book online: <https://www.sal.org.uk/kelmscott-manor/>

Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience, is a 20,000 square feet light and sound spectacular featuring two-storey projections of the artist's most compelling works. Encounter the brilliance of one of history's greatest artists in 360 degrees. Propyard, 39-46 Feeder Rd, Bristol, BS2 0SE <https://vangoghexpo.com/bristol/>

Let us know of other exhibitions and events, which may be of interest.

email: lindakasmaty@hotmail.com