



Newsletter

September 2022



Hello Friends

At the August committee meeting we were pleased to hear that Swindon Borough Council has made a Planning Application for the conversion of the first floor of the Civic Offices into the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery.

September Zoom talk

Wednesday September 28th 7.30pm : Lucy Abel-Smith from Quenington Old Rectory.

Friends visited the sculpture exhibition held in the garden in June. The Zoom link to the talk will be emailed close to the date.

Thanks to David Thackray, Chair of Swindon Mechanics Institution Trust for his August Zoom talk, in which he updated us on the Swindon Mechanics Institute and the Swindon Heritage Action Zone. To support the Trust and join the mailing list go to: <https://mechanics-trust.org.uk/>

Monthly Zoom talks for the rest of the year

October 26th Friends' AGM

November 30th : Richard Osgood, Senior Archaeologist with the MOD, and 'Operation Nightingale' for post combat, post traumatic stress disorder sufferers.

December: We are working on plans to celebrate Christmas, suggestions welcome.

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

Swindon Borough Council has made a Planning Application for the conversion of the first floor of the Civic Offices into the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery.

The application can be viewed here:

<https://pa1.swindon.gov.uk/publicaccess/>

Search for 'Euclid St' Click on the listed Application, then go to 'Documents' for the following: The Heritage Statement includes the original 1930's drawings for the building and gives a brief description of the proposed alteration work.

The Heritage Statement Appendix 1 gives a plan showing four Display Areas, three Storage Areas, School Lunch Space, Family Activity Space and Offices etc.

Drawings include the Proposed Ground and First Floor Plans, which show the position of the new lift and the removal of existing partition walls.

If you want to send in comments, click on 'Comments'. You will need to register first, details are on the screen. **Comments have to be submitted by Tuesday 13th September**

Friends' Trip to Rabley Drawing Centre in August

Rabley Drawing Centre is a beautiful place to visit and Friends enjoyed a very informative talk on print making by founder Meryl Ainslie.



Top row, Japanese Woodcuts by Sara Lee

Events in Swindon

Swindon Open Studios

'Swindon Open Studios is an annual community exhibition during which artists invite members of the public into their studios, homes and exhibition spaces for a chance to see where and how their art is made during two consecutive weekends with a chance to buy original, affordable art.'

Taking place across Swindon and the surrounding areas on Saturday 17, Sunday 18, Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 September 2022

See more on <https://www.swindonopenstudios.org/>



Roman Swindon and Environs Conference in honour of Bernard Phillips

Saturday 12th November 2022

10am – 5.15pm

'STEAM and Swindon Museum & Art Gallery are hosting our first Archaeological conference. To celebrate the life and works of Bernard Phillips, a man who was involved with excavations across the region, we have brought together speakers on a range of topics. We will look back and get updates on some well-known sites, and also hear about the latest excavations being carried out within the Borough.

The conference will support the development of the new Archaeology Galleries at Swindon Museum & Art Gallery.

Tickets cost £22 and include a buffet lunch. Please book online.

In collaboration with Wiltshire County Council Archaeological Service and Wiltshire Museum' *Kindly sponsored by the Association of Roman Archaeology*

<https://www.steam-museum.org.uk/event/romanswindon-and-environs-conference/>

Small Change events organised by the Richard Jefferies Museum

'This September we are spending the whole month looking at those little things we can all do to make our world a better place. For full details see: www.small-change.org

Jefferies wrote about how we need to look after nature, and warned us that it would fight back if we didn't. We figure it's time for the museum to stand up and do its bit. So, with support from South West Museums Development, South Swindon Parish Council, and a whole bunch of other lovely people, we have planned a busy schedule of events to suit all ages and tastes.

There will be over thirty events with talks, displays, stalls, children's events, workshops, online activities, school trips, art exhibitions, live music, and, of course, lots of fun! "

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

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.'

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 **1,209** 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/>

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.

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