



Newsletter

October 2022



Hello Friends

At the September committee meeting we discussed plans for the Annual General Meeting coming up in October, our Friends' Christmas Meal in December and speakers for our Talks in 2023, our Pearl Anniversary year. Yes, it's 30 years since the Friends of Swindon Museum and Art Gallery was founded – something to celebrate.

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday October 26th 7.30pm, Artsite, Theatre Square, Swindon, SN1 1QN

At the AGM, we will get the business over as swiftly as possible, and then share with you, some of the talks and other events which have taken place since the last AGM.

We welcome your feedback, questions and suggestions, so please do come along.

If you would like to join our committee please complete a nomination form which you will find attached to the email, sent out recently, giving all the details of proceedings at the AGM.

We are pleased to welcome to the AGM, Cllr Matty Courtliff, Cabinet Member for Culture, Heritage, Leisure and Town Centre Experience who will discuss the plans to reopen Swindon Museum and Art Gallery at the Civic Offices.

Monthly Zoom talks and events for the rest of the year

October 26th Friends' AGM, see above

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

Wednesday December 7th, at 7pm: Friends' Christmas Meal at Fabio's Italian Restaurant, 15 Bath Rd, Old Town, Swindon, SN1 4AS, see Linda's email of 15th September

Thanks to **Lucy Abel-Smith** from Quenington Old Rectory for giving a fascinating talk in September on her collections of art and artefacts built up over a lifetime.

Friends' Website, recently updated and speeded up!

Click on <http://www.friendsofsmag.org> to find a wealth of information about our talks, newsletters, news, videos of talks, a link to the blog and to **make a donation to FSMAG**.

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

Try out the Friends **Instagram account**, now with **1,221** 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

Swindon Borough Council's Planning Application for the conversion of the first floor of the Civic Offices into the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery is still being considered by the Planning Department. The application can be viewed here:

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

Search for 'Euclid St' Click on the listed Application, and 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.

Drop-in event at the Civic Offices

Look out for more information coming by email about a **Drop-in event at the Civic Offices** during October, which will give members of the public a chance to see the Council's proposals.

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.'

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

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

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

Tickets cost £22 and include a buffet lunch. Book on-line :

<https://shop.myonlinebooking.co.uk/steammuseum/sessions.aspx?tid=46>

The programme includes:

Welcome and overview of Bernie Phillip's contribution to archaeology in Swindon and beyond, *Mike Stone and Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger.*

A tribute to Bernie's work on Roman sites, *Bryn Walters and Mike Stone.*

Littlecote Roman Villa and its Mosaic, *Peter Johnson.*

Wanborough Roman Town and recent geophysics surveys, *Kerry Donaldson and David Sabin.*

Recent discoveries on the Southern Connector Road, *Headland Archaeology.*

Recent Roman and Saxon discoveries at Wroughton, *Royston Clark, AC Archaeology.*

Recent research at Roman Cunetio, *Mark Corney.*

The excavations and publication of the Groundwell Ridge Roman complex, *Peter Wilson.*

Recent discoveries at Witchelstowe and Ridgeway Farm, *Bruce Eaton Andy Manning, Wessex Archaeology.*

The Chiseldon Cauldrons, *Andrew Fitzpatrick*

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: lindakasmaty@hotmail.com, and to Matty Courtliff, 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>

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.'

Some changes have recently been made to this exhibition

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

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/>

Corinium Museum

Park St, Cirencester GL7 2BX, Open Monday–Saturday 10am–5pm, Sunday 2–5pm

See web site for entrance fees, etc.: <https://coriniummuseum.org/>

On the 26th September 2019, Amanda Hart, Director of the Corinium Museum in Cirencester gave a talk to the Friends about the 1.6 million redevelopment project, "Stone Age to Corinium: Discover the Archaeology of the Cotswolds", a Heritage Lottery funded project which included funding for activity as well as the building works. The project is now complete.

'Our principal collection consists of the highly significant finds from the Roman town of Corinium, today known as Cirencester. However, the museum today is much more than that, taking you on a journey through time and charting the development of the Cotswolds from its prehistoric landscape to the modern day. Explore the light and modern galleries that offer you an exceptional interactive experience. Discover thousands of objects on display, from Prehistoric tools, Roman mosaics, Anglo Saxon grave goods to Medieval sculpture!'

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/>

Kelmscott Manor 'the inspirational Cotswold retreat of William Morris' is now **open until 29th 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/>

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

email: lindakasmaty@hotmail.com