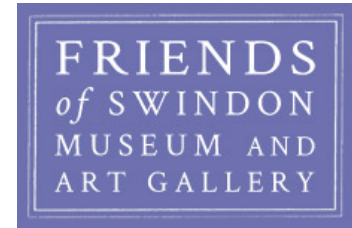




Newsletter

December 2022



Hello Friends

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from the Friends' Committee.

At our November committee meeting we discussed speakers for our talks in 2023 and a Pearl Anniversary celebration to mark 30 years of the Friends of Swindon Museum and Art Gallery.

Monthly Zoom talks and events for 2023, all dates and speakers to be confirmed

January: Pictish Stones - Barbara Swann, deputy chair of the Friends, will give an illustrated talk on the carved stones found in the eastern regions of Scotland, more fun than you might think.

February: Museum of Making - Jen Cuadrado will speak about the award winning Derby museum which was a finalist for the Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022 award.

March: UK Antarctic Heritage Trust, Bath - a talk by Camilla Johns, Head of Development

April: My Career by local conservation architect and Friend, Michael Gray

May: to be confirmed.

June: Bettina Langlois, administrator at the **Stradling Collection, Bristol** will talk about the legacy of **Ken Stradling** who built up the collection of modern design containing over 500 pieces of studio ceramics, 200 pieces of Scandinavian and British studio glass as well as many items of furniture, industrial design, decorative objects, paintings and prints.

July 6th: a celebration of 30 years of the Friends of Swindon Museum and Art Gallery.

July, August, September and November talks to be confirmed

October 25th: Apologies that the November 2022 talk by Richard Osgood was cancelled but he will be back to give us a talk in October 2023

Look out for information about **Friends' trips** in 2023

Friends' Website, Click on <http://www.friendsofsmag.org> for newsletters, news, videos of past talks and to **make a donation to FSMAG**. For news of Friends' activities over the past 11 years visit: <http://friendsofsmag.blogspot.com/>

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

Try out the Friends **Instagram account**, now with **1,274** 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/>

Looking forward to the Museum and Art Gallery at the Civic Offices

Planning permission has now been granted for the conversion of the first floor of the Civic Offices into the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery. Plans for the galleries were presented at the event held at the Civic Offices on the 19th October and at the Friends' AGM. The presentation can be seen here:

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/downloads/file/8616/swindon_museum_and_art_gallery_public_engagement_event_presentation

Over the past 30 years, the Friends have individually and collectively donated artworks to the Swindon collection and paid for the restoration and conservation of artworks and museum artefacts. We have also volunteered at the museum, maintained the flowerbeds in front of Apsley House and helped to fund and run the family sessions during school holidays. We look forward to being involved in similar ways, when the Museum and Art Gallery opens up again in the Civic Offices. For news of Friends' activities over the past 11 years visit:

<http://friendsofsmag.blogspot.com/>

Meanwhile for current **Art on Tour** displays visit:

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

Oexmann Art Award Exhibition 2022, Devizes Museum

17 December 2022 to 18 February 2023.

Visit the Devizes Museum website for details: <https://www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/>

Three Talks on Swindon Heritage

Given by Dr Michael Smith, author and enthusiast; former GWR Apprentice at the Swindon Locomotive Works, teacher and lecturer at Bristol University and consultant to Railtrack (now Network Rail), at the Central Community Centre, Emlyn Square, Swindon.

January 21st 7pm and in February and March 2023.

Organised by the Mechanics Institute Trust: <https://mechanics-trust.org.uk/>

Ashmolean Museum

Labyrinth, Knossos, Myth & Reality 10th February – 30th July 2023

'According to legend, an elaborate labyrinth was built at Knossos on the island of Crete to hold a ferocious Minotaur. Discover the palace of Knossos, and the search for the labyrinth, in this major exhibition in Oxford.

The palace of Knossos, discovered and excavated over 100 years ago, was the centre of a Bronze Age civilisation of people we now call the Minoans, named after the legendary King Minos.

This will be the first UK exhibition to focus on Knossos and will include over 100 objects which have never left Crete and Greece before, alongside discoveries from the Ashmolean's Sir Arthur Evans Archive.

Archaeologist, Sir Arthur Evans led excavations at Knossos in the early 20th century, and would later re-imagine and partially restore the palace. His archive at the Ashmolean has been central to our understanding of the site of Knossos, and many of his excavation plans, artworks and records will be on display alongside objects from the site.'

<https://www.ashmolean.org/exhibition/labyrinth-knossos-myth-reality>