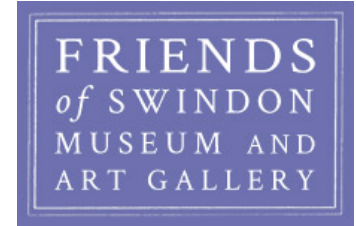




Newsletter

January 2023



Hello Friends

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

January Zoom talk

Wednesday 27th 7.30pm Pictish Stones Barbara Swann, deputy chair of the Friends, will give a talk on the Picts and the carved stones they left behind in the east of Scotland.

Monthly Zoom talks and events for 2023

February 22nd Museum of Making, Derby Eilish Clohessy-Dennis, Curator of Making at Derby Museums, charts the making of the Museum of Making, which was a finalist for the Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022 award.

March 29th UK Antarctic Heritage Trust a talk by Camilla Johns, Head of Development

April 26th The Architecture of Lydiard House by local architect and Friend, Michael Gray

May 24th Chippenham Museum Collection of Prints by Mark Golder, see also page 3.

June 28th Stradling Collection, Bristol. Cleo Saunders will talk about the legacy of Ken Stradling who built up the collection of modern design.

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

October 25th Richard Osgood, Senior Archaeologist with the MOD, and 'Operation Nightingale' for post combat, post traumatic stress disorder sufferers.

Nov'ber 29th Stonehenge a talk by Dr Susan Greaney, Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Exeter.

July 26th, August 23rd and September 27th talks to be confirmed

Friends' Website, Click on <http://www.friendsofsmag.org> for newsletters, news, information about planned talks and videos of past talks or 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 **1,300** 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/>

Fenella Elms Remembered

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Fenella Elms, a wonderful ceramicist. We are lucky to have at least two of her beautiful pieces in the Swindon Collection. Elms work is of special interest to Swindon Museum and Art Gallery as she studied ceramics at Swindon College and was taught using many of the ceramics now in the museum's collection. For her Large Flowpot, pictured, Elms used beads in white and cobalt as a reference to traditional cobalt decorated pots. The work was presented to Swindon Museum and Art Gallery by the Contemporary Art Society, through the Omega Fund, in 2015



There will be a service of celebration and remembrance for friends and family on Friday 17th February, 2pm, at St Michael's Church, Aldbourne, Wiltshire. If desired, donations can be made to Prospect Hospice, who did so much to support Fenella and her family during her final weeks, via Dianne Mackinder Funeral Services, Wagon Yard, Marlborough, SN8 1LH.

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

Future of Apsley House

In 2022 Swindon Borough Council put Apsley House, the former home of Swindon Museum and Art Gallery, up for sale. The Friends successfully applied to have it listed as an asset of Community Value and it was accepted as one. South Swindon Parish Council triggered a six month moratorium on the sale by expressing an interest in the purchase but after looking into the business case and having the building surveyed it was decided that the parish could not move forward with the project. The deadline for other parties to submit bids for Apsley House expired on January 5th 2023. We look forward to seeing the proposals of the successful bidder.

Three Talks on Swindon Heritage

Central Community Centre, Emlyn Square, Swindon

January 21st 7pm, February 18th and March 11th 2023

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

Oexmann Art Award Exhibition 2022,

Devizes Museum until 18th February 2023.

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

Contemporary Print & The Ink on Paper Press

Chippenham Museum until 25th March, 2023

‘This free exhibition celebrates the best in contemporary printmaking and The Ink on Paper Press, founded in Wiltshire by artist Amy-Jane Blackhall in 2015. Blackhall trained under Master Printer Jack Shirreff at 107 Workshop in Shaw, where she worked on editions for renowned artists such as Howard Hodgkin and Gillian Ayres. All the works featured in the exhibition were printed at The Ink on Paper Press. Works by Royal Academicians Emma Stibbon and Ann Christopher will be shown alongside other innovative printmakers including Celia Cook, Ian Chamberlain, and the late Michael Pennie. All of the prints on show were recently acquired through the Golder-Thompson Gift to Chippenham Museum in Memory of Arthur Norman.

This will be the third and final exhibition in our special series displaying works from the Golder-Thompson Gift. Marking the prominence of printmaking in this corner of Wiltshire, the gift spans one hundred years of printmaking from 1920 to the present day. The full gift can be seen in the museum’s publication ‘A Century in Print: 1920-2020’, available from the museum shop.’

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

Labyrinth: Knossos, Myth & Reality

Ashmolean Museum 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>