



Newsletter

October 2024

FRIENDS
of MUSEUM & ART
SWINDON

Hello Friends

Friends' Monthly Talks

31 October Harriet Still curator of the forthcoming 'Hardy's Wessex' exhibition at Museum and Art Swindon. See Page 3

28 November Dr Gill Clarke will talk about the 'Purbeck Artists' exhibition, which she will be curating at the Russell Cotes Gallery, Bournemouth. See page 4

Thanks very much to Phillip Dearden who gave the September talk about his grandfather Harold Dearden, making interesting links between the subject matter of his paintings and the United Nations' Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals.

5th December Friends Annual General Meeting

Linda Kasmaty, Barbara Swann and Rosemary Savage will be standing down at the AGM. David Hughes and Martin Newman are also leaving the committee, so there will only be three remaining members Brigid Harkness (Treasurer) Angela Atkinson (Web-site) and Martin Styles.

At the AGM we will need to elect the **Chair, Deputy Chair** and **Minutes Secretary**. We also need new committee members to look after **Membership Subscriptions** and organise **Talks, Outings** and the **Newsletter**. Five members have come forward as possible future committee members but more are needed.

A committee of ten members is probably the ideal number.

Contact Linda if you would like to discuss taking on any of these roles:

lindakasmaty@hotmail.com

Museum and Art Swindon

Museum and Art Swindon is now open on the first floor of the Civic Offices, Euclid Street, just off Regents Circus. Website: <https://www.museumartswindon.com/>

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10:30am to 4:30pm Monday and Sunday Closed.

The online shop selling books, jewellery and toys is now available on the website.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MuseumandArtGallery/>

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

Events and Exhibitions at Museum and Art Swindon

Art in Between: Foundation

October 1st 2024 – December 6th 2024

'Artworks gifted to the art collection at Museum & Art Swindon, by early private donors.

The collection was founded in the 1940s through generous donations of artworks by local collectors H.J.P. 'Jimmy' Bomford (1896-1977) and Frederick Charles Phelps (1879-1949). This display celebrates Bomford and Phelps' contributions to Swindon's art collection; bringing together ten paintings and drawings that they helped the town to acquire almost 80 years ago.'

Celebrating 125 years of the Swindon Photographic Society

October 1st 2024 – December 7th 2024

'Explore photographic works from their current members from landscapes and street scenes to nature and abstract photography.'

Origins

'Explore the history of Museum & Art Swindon, through items collected from its beginnings until today. Each object and artwork in Origins tells a story about the people, ideas and collecting histories that have shaped the museum. The exhibition also reveals changing values around the purpose, spaces and collections of museums. As such, it is a changing exhibition, which will transform with public input, community projects and as new items enter our collections.'

This exhibition is in the small galleries either side of the Reception Area and Shop.

Elisabeth Frink: A View From Within

Closes November 2nd 2024

'Dame Elisabeth Frink (1930-1993) is one of the most significant sculptors of the 20th century. This exhibition focuses on an important body of work produced between 1976, when Frink moved to her studio in Woolland, Dorset, and her death in 1993. This exhibition will explore her artistic process, personal life and the influences that shaped her work. Bringing together objects from public and private collections, celebrating the enduring legacy of Elisabeth Frink.'

Coming Soon

Hardy's Wessex

October 26th 2024 – February 8th 2025

'Explore the landscapes that inspired Thomas Hardy, in this exciting touring exhibition developed by Museum and Art Swindon's partners at Wessex Museums.

Thomas Hardy, an internationally acclaimed Victorian writer, was inspired by the Wessex landscape and its people. This exhibition brings together objects and documents exploring important themes in Hardy's work, including women's rights, animal welfare, social structure, superstition, the realities of war, and altered relationships with the landscape.'

Wessex Landscapes

October 26th 2024 – February 8th 2025

Exploring the landscapes of Thomas Hardy's Wessex through artworks from the Museum & Art Swindon collections.

This evocative exhibition showcases the extraordinary diversity of the Wessex landscape, through artworks from the Museum & Art Swindon collection. From rolling hills and ancient woodlands, the exhibition offers a visual journey across the region's varied environments. Accompanying the exhibition Hardy's Wessex, these artworks illustrate a version of Wessex created by Victorian writer Thomas Hardy.

Half Term Fun for All the Family: Dinosaur Week

October 26th 2024 – November 2nd 2024

Half-term is **Dinosaur Week** at Museum & Art Swindon! Visit the Museum to find out about Swindon's Jurassic sea monsters. Hold some real-life dinosaur bones and fossils from 155 million years ago, try a dinosaur trail, and even make your own model dinosaur to take home!

Dinosaur Trails:

Throughout half-term week, pop in and try one of our free dinosaur trails and check out our dinosaur gallery. No need to book.

Meet the Dinosaurs:

On **Tuesday 29th Oct**, join the team at Museum & Art Swindon for Meet the Dinosaurs - a once-in-a-lifetime chance to hold REAL-LIFE dinosaur bones! Visitors will be able to see and hold fossils and bones buried in Swindon's soils for over 155 million years. Drop-in, no need to book. There are two drop in sessions on the 29th, these are: 10.30am to 12.15pm and 1pm to 3pm.

Make a Pet Dinosaur:

On **Tuesday 29th Oct**, you can also join us for a workshop and have a go at painting and assembling your own wooden dinosaur model to take home! Go to the MAS website to book a 45minute time slot: <https://www.museumartswindon.com/whats-on/dinosaur-week/>

Did You Know?

The Swindon Stegosaur

Swindon is well known for its fossils of marine reptiles and sea creatures, but did you know the bones of a dinosaur were found here? In 1874, the remains of a stegosaur were found in a clay pit belonging to the Swindon Brick & Tile Company. The stegosaur was later named *Dacentrurus* (dah-sen-troo-russ), meaning 'pointed tail'.



Out and About

Lydiard House Museum

Current exhibition: *'Lest We Forget the Black Contribution to the World Wars in Wiltshire.*

A reflective exploration of Black history during the 20th century, telling the individual stories of servicemen from the Caribbean and America during WWI and WWII in Wiltshire.'

<https://www.lydiardpark.org.uk/visit/museum/exhibitions/>

Pallant House Gallery, Chichester

The Shape of Things: Still Life in Britain until 20th October 2024

Features two works from the Swindon Collection, including 'Bright Intervals' by Edward Wadsworth, 1928, which is also used on the exhibition poster.

8-9 North Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1TJ, Tel: 01243 774557, <https://pallant.org.uk/>

Russell-Cotes Museum and Gallery, Bournemouth

Artists in Purbeck: Spirit of Place

12 October 2024 – 16 March 2025

'Discover the beautiful artistic heritage of Purbeck during a transformative time. Delve into the works of well-known artists who were inspired to capture the stunning landscape and coastline of this picturesque region. This exhibition will highlight the profound impact the Purbeck landscape had on artists, from the first half of the 20th Century through to the present day. It will also demonstrate the evolution of the region through time, from its natural beauty to its industrial heritage.' <https://russellcotes.com/event/artists-in-purbeck/>

The Arts Society Kennet and Swindon

New subscription year begins in May, next lecture:

21 October Frozen Breath of the Polar Night: An introduction to Art Nouveau Glass by
Justine Hopkins For more lectures and information:

<https://www.theartsocietykennet.org.uk/> or email: tas.kennetandswindon@gmail.com

Friends' Blog

For lots more news of local interest and Friends' activities over the past 14 years read Linda Kasmaty's Friends' Blog: <http://friendsofmas.blogspot.com>

Friends' Social Media Links

Friends' website: <http://www.friendsofmas.org>

For newsletters, news, information about planned talks and videos of past talks.

You can join the Friends, renew membership or make a donation through the website.

Instagram, with 1,607 followers: <https://www.instagram.com/friendsmuseumartswindon/>