



**FRIENDS**  
of MUSEUM & ART  
**SWINDON**

# Newsletter

November 2024

Hello Friends

## Friends' Monthly Talks

This month, Dr Gill Clarke will talk about the 'Purbeck Artists' exhibition, which she is co-curating at the Russell Cotes Gallery, Bournemouth on Wednesday 27 November 7.30-9pm in the Council Chamber at the Civic Offices in Euclid St. See pages 2 and 4

Thanks to Harriet Still curator of the 'Hardy's Wessex' exhibition at Museum and Art Swindon, for her October talk to the Friends.

## 5th December Friends Annual General Meeting

This will be held in the Council Chamber at the Civic Offices at 7.30pm. As well as voting in new committee members, the outgoing Chair will give a Power Point Presentation summarising her 10-year tenure.

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 (Website) 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

## 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 1,612 followers: <https://www.instagram.com/friendsmuseumartswindon/>  
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>

## Artists in Purbeck: Spirit of Place, and how a junk shop purchase led to me attending the exhibition opening

By Martin Newman, Friend of Museum and Art Swindon

Earlier this year I was in Lyme Regis and saw a sign to an 'antique centre', the sign was a bit misleading as it was more like a jumble than an antique shop. My eye caught a small brown pot with a tag saying 'Local potter £6' there were some marks on the base and a sticker saying Amy Krauss, Corfe Castle. I had no idea who she was, so when I got it home I started doing some research. It turns out she was an artist of some note during the inter war period. She started off as a painter and later took up pottery. She was commissioned to paint a watercolour for the library of the royal dolls house at Windsor Castle in 1923. She was also a close friend of arguably the most famous painter from New Zealand, Frances Hodgkins. As part of my research, I posted a picture on the Facebook British Studio Pottery Collectors Group. A few months later I got a message saying that Dr Gill Clarke was trying to find anyone willing to lend work by Krauss for an exhibition at the Russell Coates Museum in Bournemouth that she was curating and could she put me in touch with her. I knew Gill from her talks to the Friends, so I said yes. In the ensuing email exchange Gill and I shared what we knew about Krauss. I told her about a more recent potter who had a studio in the Old Forge in Corfe, Ian Harris. Gill didn't know of him but had a painting of the Old Forge for the exhibition, so I ended up loaning the work I had by him as well.

As a lender I was invited to the opening of Artists in Purbeck: Spirit of Place. It's a fantastic exhibition featuring some important artists from the past as well as contemporary artists. There are several works by Frances Hodgkins as well as others I admire such as Paul Nash and Roger Fry. Gill gave an excellent speech including some of the challenges in staging such as borrowing a work from the Government Art Collection that turned out to be hanging in No 10. I'm really looking forward to hearing more from her when she talks to the Friends about the exhibition, I think we are in for a treat.

If you are lucky enough to get to visit the exhibition look out for two small pots in one of the cases that say they are on loan from a 'private collection'.

Russell-Cotes  
Museum and Gallery,  
Bournemouth  
Artists in Purbeck: Spirit of  
Place  
12 October 2024 – 16 March 2025



## Events and Exhibitions at Museum and Art Swindon

On the first floor of the Civic Offices, Euclid Street, just off Regents Circus

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

Closed.

Website: <https://www.museumartswindon.com/>

### 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.

### 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.'*

## Out and About

### 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/>

### Spotlight On 4: Modern and Contemporary Art from the Collection of Chippenham Museum 2 November – 8 March 2025

*'This exhibition is the fourth in Chippenham Museum's Spotlight series dedicated to its growing Modern and Contemporary Art Collection.*

*The project began in 2019 with the desire to celebrate the rich artistic history of this part of North Wiltshire. As a permanent collection, it acts as a source of inspiration, education and enjoyment for all.*

*At the heart of the Modern and Contemporary Art Collection are works that acknowledge the legacy of the Bath Academy of Art in Corsham, a pioneering residential art school that counted some of the biggest names in modern and contemporary art amongst its teachers and students.*

*North Wiltshire's creativity proudly extends beyond the Academy, and the collection records and celebrates the many contemporary artists who continue to live and work in this area today.*

*Catalogue available in the museum shop'.*

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

### 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/>

### The Arts Society Kennet and Swindon

New subscription year begins in May, next lecture: Monday 18 November 2024

A Passion for Fashion: 300 years of Style at Blenheim Palace Antonia Keaney

For more lectures and information:

<https://www.theartsocietykennet.org.uk/> or email: [tas.kennetandswindon@gmail.com](mailto:tas.kennetandswindon@gmail.com)