



FRIENDS of MUSEUM & ART SWINDON

Newsletter - August 2025

Dear Friends - I can't believe it's late August already. I don't know about you but I feel like this year has positively zipped by. Somehow more than usual. Perhaps it's my advancing years! Anyway - to get on with the job in hand.

Our next talk, on Wednesday the 24th of September is Fliss Tattersall talking about the Shouting Softly Project - we look forward to seeing you there.

Same time - same channel. More information on it here:

[!\[\]\(e3f8612927870f2e0f9f5989e6dd3064_img.jpg\) The Shouting Softly Project - Friends of Museum & Art Swindon](#)

Exhibitions

Leslie Cole: Recording Conflict

Launched earlier this month, this exhibition is now running until January 2026. You can find out more about it all on the MAS website here: [!\[\]\(faf942dc3e59ce8eb64b4ac481eca7e0_img.jpg\) Leslie Cole: Recording Conflict](#)

Below is one of the works on display. Undated, it's titled: Manufacturing 250lb bombs, GWR Yard

It depicts a workshop at the GWR Works which produced ammunition during the war. You'll note that the figures in the scene are mostly women. While the men were off fighting the war, millions of women entered the workforce to fill vacated roles. Cole's wife, Brenda, included.



And don't forget that our own 'Seriously ...' exhibition is in situ until the 4th October. So if you've not yet been you've got time. 🌐 "Seriously..."

A visit to the museum – POV Jennifer aged 9 months

I live in Manchester and we are very lucky as there are lots of art galleries not far from where we live. Mummy and daddy often take me at the weekends when they are not working. I love colourful paintings – David Hockney is one of my favourites and we have some prints of his pictures at home that I particularly like looking at.

We visit Swindon a lot because that's where Grandma and Grandad live and they like visiting art galleries too. I have been to Museum and Art Swindon several times since it opened last year and there always seems to be something new to look at. Unfortunately, the lift sometimes doesn't work and then it's difficult to get me and my buggy up the stairs! It's better when daddy carries me in the baby carrier so that I face the pictures and can look at them properly as I am higher up than in the buggy.

The last time we went mummy was very pleased because the gharial was back. It's like a big crocodile and she remembers going to see it in the old Museum and Art Gallery with Grandma when she was a child. It's now in a big case which is a pity, as it means I can't touch it now like mummy used to but I couldn't believe how big it was! There were lots of nice paintings to look at. Grandma thought the picture with the mice poking their heads out of holes would be nice for my bedroom but Mummy didn't like it as she thought they were rats not mice!

If I get excited I kick my legs and make loud noises of appreciation but mummy and daddy get concerned that I disturb other people. But it just means that I really like something so I don't think that's a bad thing! So sometimes mummy takes me to one of the rooms in the museum part which is usually quieter and there is a seat where she can feed me.

I am looking forward to getting a bit older and then I can join in some of the activities that they have during the school holidays but until then I look forward to lots more visits to look at the pictures.

What have YOU been doing?

Have any of you been to any interesting exhibitions as you've been out and about? Or have you visited anything in particular in the museum side of things at MAS? Or any other museums for that matter.

Would you like to share your experiences in a short article for this newsletter? If so we'd love to hear from you. Drop a note to the Chair, on: andrewcrossfmas@gmail.com and we'll go from there.

A date for your diary



On Friday the 3rd October we're holding a fundraising, wine tasting at Magnums in Old Town. You should have received an email invite from the Chair. Magnums will donate a raffle prize - so that's worth raising a glass to surely? Cin Cin, cheers and salute!

Other organizations

The Friends has a close relationship with both the Arts Society Kennet and Swindon and **the Friends of Lydiard Park**. If you want to see what the latter is up to you'll find them here:

🌐 Working to Conserve & Enhance Lydiard Park - Friends of Lydiard Park

Swindon Heritage Preservation Trust (the erstwhile Mechanics' Institution Trust) hold regular talks and events. Coming up on Thursday 18th September they have: **200 Years of Britain's Railways in 14 Journeys' by Sherin Aminossehe**. Find out more about SHP and their other events here:

🌐 **Home - Swindon Heritage Preservation**

200 Years of Britain's Railways in 14 Journeys
BY SHERIN AMINOSSEHE

Through a selection of 14 varied journeys, 200 Years of Britain's Railways in 14 Journeys by Sherin Aminossehe takes the reader on a breathtaking illustrated tour of Britain's rail network, taking in stations, bridges, viaducts and other architectural elements, but also the people and personalities associated with them.

Sherin Aminossehe has been drawing since she could hold a pencil and is now a trained architect working for the Ministry of Defence and will be giving an illustrated talk about the beautiful and engaging story of Britain's railway history and architecture.

THURSDAY 18th SEP, 5 PM
FREE | Central Community Centre, SN1 5BG

heritage open days 200 Years of Train Travel Since 1825

Meanwhile, the Arts Society Kennet and Swindon also have a regular talks programme. Find out what's occurring with them here: <https://theartsociety.org/kennet>

Social Media

If you're the social sort you'll find us on Facebook here: 🌐 Friends of Museum & Art Swindon and on Instagram here: <https://www.instagram.com/friendsmuseumartswindon/>

If you use either of those platforms do give us a Like/Follow!