



# FRIENDS of MUSEUM & ART SWINDON

## Newsletter - July 2025

Dear Friends, first of all apologies for losing a month. Your newsletter compiler has been embroiled in childcare and then a few days away. So the ball got dropped. My apologies once more.

Anyway, to paraphrase Nessa (Gavin & Stacey for the uninitiated) - what's been occurring?

Well, late July, the Friends gathered in the council chamber in the civic offices and enjoyed a fascinating talk from Gavin Jones on the art of tattooing. Forthcoming, on the 28<sup>th</sup> August, we have Kirsty Hartsitosis speaking about stained glass in the arts and crafts movement.

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

🌐 **Stained Glass in the Arts & Crafts Movement - Friends of Museum & Art Swindon**

### A Friends' Trip

On 16<sup>th</sup> of July a small group of the Friends went on a mini expedition to The Base at Greenham to view a fabulous exhibition of wildlife photography. Despite the fact that yours truly doesn't really 'do' nature, I'm so glad I went - the images were stunning, mind-blowing - sometimes a tad grisly - but always incredible.

The Base has rather a fab cafe facility of which we were, I rather think, a little jealous. Maybe one day! If you want know more about the venue you'll find it here: 🌐 **Welcome to The Base Greenham**

Looking somewhat like a line-up from Police 5, here we are. Photo from Claire Parsons



## A Private View

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> myself and Andrew, the Chair, happened to both be at a private view in Swindon's Grade II listed town hall. Exhibiting was/is Sheryll Fox - a bit more about her here:

🌐 Sheryll K Fox Swindon Artist - Born Again Swindonian Below: Shirley Ludford of Swindon 105.5, Sheryll in the centre and on the right, our South Swindon MP, Heidi Alexander.



Though I'm glad of course that Brightwen Binyon's Grade II listed town hall is a building being used by the wonderful Swindon Dance, I can't help but feel a little sad that it can't be enjoyed by more people. There's a gorgeous mural by Swindon-born sculptor and painter Carleton Attwood in the dance studio. And in the reception area there's the statue of Charlotte Corday that surely ought to be somewhere more public? It's a marbleous story (did you see what I did there?) - find it here:

🌐 Charlotte Corday Statue Swindon - Born Again Swindonian

## 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](mailto:andrewcrossfmas@gmail.com) and we'll go from there.

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## LESLIE COLE EXHIBITION AND CURATOR TALKS

The new Leslie Cole exhibition opened on 2 August and more any of the friends attended the private view on the 1 August. The evening was a great success. Eighty people came along to see a range of thought provoking works by Cole and others.

**Find out more about the exhibition here:** 🌐 **Leslie Cole: Recording Conflict**

To complement the exhibition, Museum and Art Swindon have arranged curator talks. Details and links are below.

Leslie Cole Curator Talks:

*Leslie Cole, Official War Artist* with Katie Ackrill – [19 September](#) and [1 November](#)

Leslie Cole, Swindon Born Artist with Philip Garrahan – [3 October](#) and [22 November](#)



Continuing the war artist theme, The Parade Cinema, in Marlborough had a two day run of *War Paint: Women at War* a film highlighting women war artists and the perspectives on conflict. A number of the friends went along to see the film.

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## 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

Meanwhile **the Arts Society Kennet and Swindon** next talk is on the 15<sup>th</sup> September and is entitled Fashion in a time of War. **It sounds great - if anyone would care to give me a lift to it I'd greatly appreciate it.** More information about this splendid-sounding event here:

<https://theartssociety.org/events/lecture-fashion-time-war>

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## 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!