



Some members of the Friends' Committee with Bella Pratt, Development Assistant – Membership, Patrons and Friends

2016: A Bicentenary Year

The Museum has been celebrating its bicentenary with events and exhibitions to engage our dedicated audience, to attract new faces to the Museum and to further enhance the Fitzwilliam's international profile. Here are just a few highlights from the year.

Our *Death on the Nile* exhibition (23 Feb – 22 May) had excellent visitor figures with many appreciating the 'live' lab where conservation techniques were demonstrated and questions from the public answered. With 91,782 visitors during its three month run, it was the Museum's most successful exhibition to date. Important research continued throughout the exhibition resulting in the discovery of the youngest ever human foetus to be buried in ancient Egypt - news which even reached the US via CNN and CBS.

COLOUR: The art and science of illuminated manuscripts (30 July – 31 Dec) has also been hugely popular and, by the time it closes, may surpass all previous exhibitions for record visitor figures. Feedback has been wholly positive and we were delighted to

receive a five-star review from Jonathan Jones, art critic for *The Guardian*.

It is with appreciation that we share with you the news that Dr Lucilla Burn, Keeper of Antiquities and Assistant Director, Collections will retire at the end of this year. As a dedicated scholar and curator of Classical Archaeology at the Fitzwilliam, the British Museum and the Ashmolean, Dr Burn has been consistently praised for the high standard of her professionalism with regard to cultural heritage and collections. Dr Burn, who has been a great supporter of the Friends throughout her time at the museum, curated this year's 200 Years bicentenary exhibition and wrote the accompanying book, *The Fitzwilliam Museum: A History*. We are sure you will join us in wishing Dr Burn a happy and fruitful retirement.

Finally, a big thank you goes to all Friends for your genuine and ongoing involvement with the bicentenary celebrations and your generous support for the acquisition of *Admiral Russell's Frame*.

Here's to another successful and illuminating year ahead.



Introducing Régine Page

We are delighted to announce that Régine Page has joined the Friends' Committee. Until her recent retirement, Régine held the post of Administrator at the Hamilton Kerr Institute (HKI) where she often welcomed groups of Friends interested in HKI's outstanding conservation work. As an art historian herself, as well as a Cambridge Blue Badge guide, Régine will work with Martin Beazor and Gilly Harrison on running our varied programme of Cambridge and College visits.

Dates for Your Diary

Welcome Tea and Tour of Museum for New Friends

Tuesday 17 January

- Meet in the Friends Room at 15.00 for tea and cake
- 15.45 Tour of the Fitzwilliam Museum

If you are new to the Friends and would like the opportunity to meet other Friends and hear more about the Museum's collections please do join us.

Email: acp69@cam.ac.uk to register your place.

Cambridge Clocks

Martin Beazor will arrange a tour of significant clocks in the City of Cambridge. Details to follow in the Summer Newsletter.

Friends of the Fitzwilliam Museum

Newsletter and
Programme of Events
Spring 2017

Talus Slope, 2014
Pippin Drysdale

Porcelain, H:23cm, D: 20cm
© Pippin Drysdale
Image courtesy of
Adrian Sassoon, London

The purchase of this stunning
pot was made possible by a
generous bequest to the Friends

History of Art Graduate Student Talks

Come and hear graduate students from the History of Art Department talk about their research and interests.

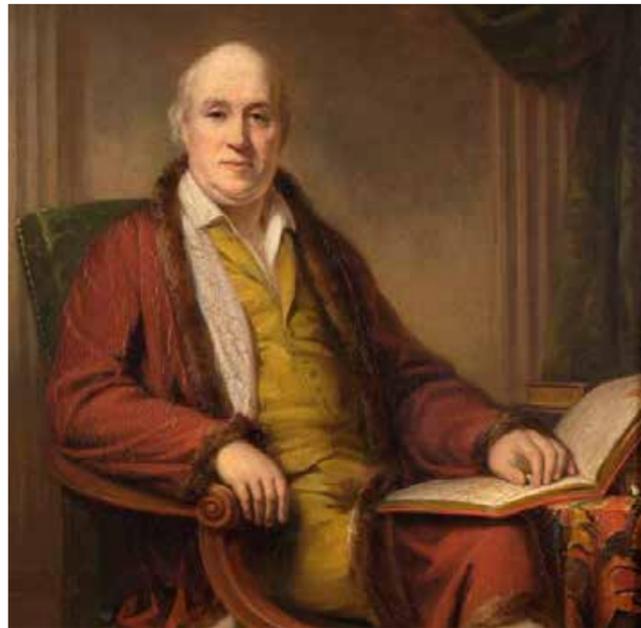


Wednesday 11 January • 12.00 – 13.00
Lizzie Marx
'Nosing' Around Allegories of the Five Senses



Wednesday 25 January • 12.00 – 13.00
Emily Roy
Luxurious Technology: Eighteenth-Century French Clocks

Places: 20 • Friends only • Cost: Free, but booking essential
Meet in the Friends' Room at 11.30 for coffee and cake
Organiser: Gwen Borysiewicz



Sue Purdy Lecture: *Viscount Fitzwilliam and the European context* Lecturer: Professor Tim Blanning

Thursday 2 February • 18.00 – 20.00

We are delighted to welcome the distinguished historian of culture, Professor Tim Blanning, to be our lecturer in 2017. Professor Blanning will examine aspects of the European cultural context in which the foundation of the Fitzwilliam Museum took place.

Places: 200 • Guests welcome
Cost: £7.50 to include a glass of wine
Venue: Lecture Theatre and theatre foyer • Fitzwilliam College
Parking at Huntingdon Road and Storey's Way entries to the college. Bus service to Huntingdon Road from city centre.
Organiser: Claire Daunton



Friends' Study Morning Uncovering the secrets of Ancient Egyptian coffins

Tuesday 7 February • 10.15 – 12.30

The coffin set of Nespawersheft was one of the most dramatic exhibits in the Museum's recent exhibition *Death on the Nile*. Created for a single person in about 1000 BC, the coffins are painted with rich, vibrant colours and covered with inscriptions, religious scenes and decorative motifs.

This study morning, led by Jennifer Marchant, Conservator of Antiquities, and Helen Strudwick, Associate Curator (Egyptian Antiquities), will reveal results of new research carried out on the coffins both in preparation for the exhibition and as part of the on-going publication of the Egyptian coffin collection. We will have privileged access to restricted areas of the Antiquities department where Jenny will show what analysis of the surfaces has revealed about the materials – pigments, paints, varnishes and resins – and the methods and techniques used; and Helen will discuss the content of the decoration and inscriptions, including the intentions of the artist and of the coffin owner.

Places: 30 • Guests welcome • Cost: £20 including coffee & cake
Venue: Meet in the Friends' Room at 10.15 for tea & cake
Organiser: Sarah Burles

Tate Modern

Thursday 23 February • 8.15 – 18.00

Tate Modern, sited within the old Bankside Power station (designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott), is a combination of old and new, being home to a large collection of international modern and contemporary art. Since its opening in 2000, Tate has showcased a variety of artworks and artists from around the world. It is one of the largest museums of modern and contemporary art in the world. Join us on a private guided tour (1 ½ hours) with special attention to the architecture, especially the new Switch House extension, and concepts in modern art. The rest of the day is for you to enjoy independently, and at your own leisure.

Places: 50 • Guests welcome • Cost: £45 • Venue: Tate Modern
08.15: Cambridge Trumpington P&R - coach collection
10.15: Arrival (approx.) - time to visit the café and plan your day
11.00 – 12.30: Tailored private tour of the Museum
16.00: Departure - coach to Trumpington P&R
Please note that a fair degree of walking will be required, involving large spaces, busy areas and slopes.
Refreshments may be purchased independently in the Museum cafes (or bring your own).
Organiser: Sarah Bradfield

BOOKING FOR ALL THESE EVENTS OPENS ON Friday 16 December

Tickets for all Friends events are available through Cambridge Live Tickets via:

www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/aboutus/support/friends/events and follow the links. Please use booking code "FITZFRIEND"

By Phone: 01223 357 851 Mon-Sat 10am – 6pm In Person: At the Cambridge Corn Exchange from Mon-Fri 12–6pm, Sat 10am–6pm



The Altarpieces in King's College Chapel

Tuesday 7 March • 14.00 – 15.30

The Chapel of King's College, one of the great treasures of world architecture, is rightly celebrated for its heraldic sculpture, its magnificent fan vault, its Renaissance carved screen and beautiful stained-glass. It also houses a number of paintings acquired at different times by the College, some of them not always fully noticed by visitors. Jean Michel Massing, Emeritus Professor at the History of Art Department, University of Cambridge and Fellow of King's College, has published widely on numerous subjects. With him we will study the Flemish early sixteenth-century altarpiece *The Adoration of the Magi* by the Master of the Von Groote Adoration, Gert van Lon's *Madonna of the Rosary*, Girolamo Siciolante's *Deposition* and Rubens' *Adoration of the Magi*.

Places: 20 • Friends only • Cost: £15
Venue: Meet outside the Porter's Lodge of King's College on King's Parade
Organiser: Régine Page



Horseracing and Sporting Art in Newmarket

Tuesday 21 March • Day Visit • 10.30 – 16.00

After meeting for coffee at the café at The National Stud in Newmarket we will be given a private guided tour (partly by minibus) of the Stud. We will then regroup at Palace House, part of the newly reopened National Heritage Centre for Horseracing & Sporting Art, where we will have a guided tour. The Centre is situated in the remains of Charles II's sporting palace & stables and spans 5 acres. It comprises the National Horseracing Museum, a National Gallery of British Sporting Art, The Tack Room Café & Bakery and former racehorses in a new flagship yard.

Places: 40 • Guests welcome • Cost: £45 to include coffee on arrival at The National Stud, entry and tours of National Stud and the National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art. Meet at the National Stud Café at 10.30 (free parking). Lunch can be bought at the café there or at the Tack Room at the National Horseracing Museum. Regroup at 14.15 at Palace House for the afternoon tour. Parking available in Newmarket at Pay & Display Car Parks in All Saints Road, CB8 8NL and Rous Road, CB8 8LX. A map will be provided on the day showing locations. NB: There will be a reasonable amount of walking required for this trip.
Organiser: Jane Helliwell

Exclusive Friends' Evening with wine reception *Madonnas and Miracles: The Holy Home in Renaissance Italy*

Thursday 16 March • 18.00 – 20.00

Following on from the success of the Friends' Exclusive Evenings during the Museum's bicentenary year, we are delighted that the Fitzwilliam has arranged a private evening for Friends linked to the first major exhibition of 2017. *Madonnas and Miracles* will bring to life the rich and varied religious practices, objects and imagery found within the home during the Italian Renaissance. Come and experience the diversity of domestic devotional life reflected through a broad range of paintings, prints, ex-votos, sculptures, books, jewellery and household items from the Fitzwilliam's holdings as well as from collections abroad. The exhibition will offer an insight into Renaissance spirituality across the entire social spectrum, displaying fine works of art found in elite households alongside humble everyday objects used in ordinary houses.

Dr Victoria Avery, Keeper of Applied Arts and in-house curator, and Dr Mary Laven, Lecturer in the Faculty of History and external curator, will give a joint presentation on this fascinating exhibition, after which they will both be on hand to answer any questions as Friends enjoy exclusive access to the galleries. Do join us for what will be a very special evening.

Places: 130 • Guests welcome • Cost: £18 to include wine reception
Venue: Fitzwilliam Museum • Organiser: Bella Pratt

