

Friends of the Fitzwilliam Museum

Newsletter and Events Programme • Spring 2018



One of the most eye-catching objects in the *Things of Beauty Growing* exhibition is this pot which was a gift from the Friends of the Fitzwilliam to the Museum in 1992.

Elizabeth Fritsch, *Quantum Pocket* (detail) © The Estate of Elizabeth Fritsch

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



will be redeployed in galleries all over the Museum so that they can continue to be enjoyed.

As you may already know, this Spring, I will leave the Fitzwilliam Museum to take up the role of Director of the Royal Collection. While I accept this great honour and new opportunity, I have loved running the Fitzwilliam and, above all, engaging with the people, collections and research which make this museum so extraordinary. My sincere thanks to all Friends for your warmth and patronage over the past five years. The Fitzwilliam Museum is truly fortunate to have such a strong and positive group of supporters.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours all the best over the festive season and throughout 2018.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Knox".

Tim Knox
Director and Marlay Curator

With 2018 creeping up on us, I am excited to welcome the seminal exhibition *Things of Beauty Growing: British studio pottery* (20 March – 18 June) which will feature works by all the great British studio potters from the 1920s to the present. It comes to us following its run at Yale Center for British Art, New Haven. In addition, *Flux: Parian unpacked* (6 March – 1 July), a one room installation by artist Matt Smith, will playfully explore the galaxy of Victorian celebrities from the Glynn Collection of Parianware, which came to the Museum last year via HM Government's Acceptance in Lieu Scheme. Through the Friends exclusive evening and study day, you will have the opportunity to hear from the curatorial teams behind both of these shows and enjoy the exhibitions up close.

The ongoing refurbishment of the Founder's Entrance dome is progressing well and completion is planned for April 2018. The stone and plasterwork has been stabilised, the curved glass dome has been repaired, and the entire Entrance Hall will be relit with LED fittings. Once this spectacular entrance has been unveiled, we will turn our attention to the much needed refurbishment of Gallery 3. From April to the end of 2018, Gallery 3 will be closed to visitors. However, many of its treasures

BOOKING FOR ALL FRIENDS EVENTS OPENS ON Friday 15 December

Tickets for all Friends events are available through Cambridge Live Tickets via: www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/friends and follow the links to Friends' Events.

Please use booking code "FRIENDSI909"

By Phone: 01223 357 851 Mon-Sat 10.00–18.00

In Person: At the Cambridge Corn Exchange Mon-Fri 12.00–18.00, Sat 10.00–18.00



Image © Gonville and Caius College

Walking tour of Gonville and Caius College

Wednesday 24 January
14.00 – 16.30

Gonville and Caius is one of the oldest and largest colleges of the University of Cambridge. The College was first founded as Gonville Hall by Edmund Gonville, Rector of Terrington St Clement in Norfolk, in 1348, and refounded in 1557 by John Caius as Gonville and Caius College. The College combines the best of Cambridge tradition with 21st century teaching and research.

Dr Michael Wood, one of the senior Fellows of Caius, has kindly offered to give Friends a tour of the college's buildings and courtyards, including the historic chapel and Main Hall. The tour will be followed by tea, coffee and cake at the college.

Places: 30 • Friends only

Cost: £20 includes tea and cake

Venue: Meet at Gonville and Caius College Porter's Lodge on Trinity Street

Please note that this walking tour requires attendees to climb a few flights of stairs and walk along uneven surfaces.

History of Art Graduate Student Talks

Graduate students from the History of Art Department are keen to hone their presentation skills before an interested audience. Come along to hear all about their research and interests.

Friday 26 January
11.30 – 13.00

Amandine Didouan Champing at the Bit: Horse Mouthpieces as Tools of Self-Fashioning and Status in the 16th Century

Places 20 • Friends only
Cost: Free, but booking essential
Venue: The Fitzwilliam Museum, meet in the Friends Room at 11.30 for coffee and cake. Talk begins at 12.00.



Welcome Coffee, Cake and Tour for New Friends

Wednesday 21 February
10.15 – 12.00

If you are new to the Friends, would like the opportunity to meet other Friends and wish to be better acquainted with the Fitzwilliam Museum's collection of paintings, please do join us for refreshments and a guided tour through the paintings galleries, led by Sarah Burles.

Places 20 • Friends only
Cost: Free, but booking essential
Venue: The Fitzwilliam Museum, arrive via the Courtyard Entrance and meet in the Friends Room from 10.15 for coffee and cake before the tour at 10.45.



The Sue Purdy Lecture with Dr James Fox: Stanley Spencer and the Fitzwilliam Museum

Thursday 8 March
18.00 – 20.00

We are delighted to welcome the well known art historian and TV broadcaster, Dr James Fox, as our speaker for this year's Sue Purdy Lecture.

Dr Fox's lecture will focus on the career of one of Britain's best-loved artists, including his education at the Slade, his turbulent personal life, his experiences of both World Wars, and the idiosyncratic paintings he made over fifty eventful years. Dr Fox will draw heavily on the Fitzwilliam's superb collection, which contains some of Spencer's finest work.

Places: 200 • Guests Welcome
Cost: £10 to include a glass of wine
Venue: Lecture Theatre and theatre foyer • Fitzwilliam College
Parking available at Huntingdon Road and Storey's Way entries to the college.
Bus service to Huntingdon Road from the City Centre.



Friends Exclusive Evening

Things of Beauty Growing: British studio pottery

Friday 16 March
18.00 – 20.00

Things of Beauty Growing tells the story of studio pottery in Britain, from the 1920s to the present. Works in this exhibition have been selected from distinguished private collections as well as from great museums across the UK and includes ceramics by Bernard Leach, Lucie Rie, Hans Coper, Edmund de Waal, Alison Britton, Grayson Perry, Clare Twomey and Julian Stair. Featuring a number of the Fitzwilliam Museum's own objects, this exhibition was curated in conjunction with Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, Connecticut and comes to us following its run there.

Friends are invited to a special evening where Helen Ritchie, Applied Arts Research Assistant, will give a presentation on this seminal exhibition. Friends will then be invited to enjoy exclusive access to the exhibition before it opens to the public and runs from 20 March – 18 June 2018.

18.00 Doors open at the Courtyard Entrance
18.20 Curatorial talk
18.45 Exhibition opens
20.00 Event ends

Places: 130 • Guests welcome
Cost: £18 includes drinks reception
Venue: The Fitzwilliam Museum, please arrive via the Courtyard Entrance



Friends Study Morning

Flux: Parian unpacked and Things of Beauty Growing: British studio pottery with the Applied Arts Department

Wednesday 18 April
10.15 – 13.00

An impressive one room installation, *Flux: Parian unpacked* at The Fitzwilliam Museum (6 March – 1 July 2018) by ceramic artist and curator Matt Smith, will feature over 100 sculptural Parian busts depicting well-known figures from history, especially from the 19th Century. Parian is a fine, unglazed porcelain resembling marble. It is an unstable material, and the unpredictability of it provides a platform from which we can examine our changing views of history and our changing opinions of those individuals depicted – accepting that our understanding of the past is always in flux.

Dr Vicky Avery and Helen Ritchie, both of the Applied Arts Department, will provide Friends with insight into this exhibition before leading the group on a tour of both *Flux* and *Things of Beauty Growing* exhibitions.

Places: 40 • Guests welcome
Cost: £20 includes coffee, tea and cake
Venue: The Fitzwilliam Museum, meet in the Seminar Room at 10.15



Day Trip to Peckover House and the Wisbech and Fenland Museum

Thursday 26th April • 9.30 – 16.45

For much of the 1700s and 1800s, Wisbech was a bustling inland port. This Georgian town house was purchased by Jonathan Peckover in 1794 and the family continued to live there for the next 150 years, making their own alterations and additions.

The Wisbech and Fenland Museum is one of the oldest purpose-built museums in the UK. Founded in 1835, its star exhibit is the original manuscript of Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, the bequest of Chauncy Hare Townshend. We are delighted to offer Friends the opportunity to visit two venues in one day.

- 9.30 Cambridge Trumpington P & R – coach collection
- 10.15 Arrival (approx) for refreshments prior to the Private Tour of Peckover House
- 12.45 Lunch in the thatched 17th century Barn Tea Room
- 14.00 Depart Peckover House by coach for Private Tour of Wisbech & Fenland Museum
- 16.00 Departure – coach returns to Trumpington P & R

Please note there will be a reasonable amount of walking during the day, involving steps, uneven surfaces and periods of standing. We will also be on and off the coach at intervals during the trip.

Places: 50 • Guests welcome • Cost: £50 includes morning coffee and lunch
Venue: Peckover House and the Wisbech and Fenland Museum, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire

Keep up to date and stay connected

Every month, the Fitzwilliam Museum publishes an events e-newsletter with regular updates on our exhibitions, talks, special events and news. If you wish to receive this free email newsletter, simply visit the Museum's homepage at www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk and click on the grey 'Sign up for eNews' button on the right hand side. On the

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homepage, you will also find links to our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube profiles. Jump online to 'follow' the Fitzwilliam Museum and receive the latest updates.

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