

Money Matters

The Museum's acclaimed programme of temporary exhibitions and the Friends' introduction of the facility to join on-line have both resulted in our recruiting a number of new Friends. Consequently the amount we passed over to the Museum for acquisitions increased and was nearly £65,000 for the accounting year that ended on 31 July 2012.

The Albert Reckitt Charitable Trust, which was set up by Albert Reckitt who was a Friend, again made a donation to the Acquisitions Fund. This was in addition to the £500,000 donation the Trust made to the Museum to be used for gallery refurbishment, as reported in the previous Newsletter. We are enormously grateful to the Trust for its great generosity.

As I have previously said, the Director had a deliberate policy of allowing Friends' subscriptions to accumulate in anticipation of using them for a major purchase. Since the accounting year-end, his strategy has been absolutely vindicated by the contribution Friends' subscriptions have made towards the purchase of Poussin's "Extreme Unction".

The huge popularity of our exciting programme of events, visits and Cambridge tours is very gratifying. Because any surplus income from them goes towards our administrative costs, the success of the programme is also financial good news. In the last year we also received generous donations from the Helen Isabella McMorrin Trust and from a Friend who wishes to remain anonymous. They have kindly allowed us to put their gifts towards administration. All of this means that, for the time-being, we do not have to rely upon the Museum to contribute towards our administrative costs, particularly our Secretary's salary.

Gifts or legacies, whether to support the Friends' administration or towards the Acquisitions Fund, are always very much appreciated and I would be pleased to discuss ideas with any Friend who would like to make a gift. All-in-all, it has been a very successful year for the Friends and, I hope you agree, not just financially.

John Pegler

Visit the website: www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/support/friends/index.html

Do send your e-mail address to pc290@cam.ac.uk if you have not already done so

Do you have a parish or local magazine?

The Committee asks Friends from the communities in and around Cambridge for help in gathering a list of locally published Parish and village magazines. We want to enlist their help in encouraging people to join the Friends and in publishing information of interest about the Friends and the Museum. Can you help us get this started by sending by email to nick@hobsaerie.com the information as below:

- Community
- Magazine name
- Circulation estimate
- Publication Frequency
- Editor's name and contact details

Please respond by email as soon as you can. Thank you.

The Perfect Gift?



Architectural photographer Chris Woodhouse has taken some fabulous pictures of the Museum interior. These special limited edition mounted photographs are available to Friends for £25 each. Visit www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/support/friends to see the photos and to print off your order form.



Friends of the Fitzwilliam Museum

Newsletter
December
2012

Message from the Chairman

Thanks to the Friends' Committee

I want first to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of my Committee and in doing so to remind you of all they do, arranging a varied and interesting programme of events, preparing this newsletter and running the mailing system. A particular thanks also to John Pegler, our Treasurer, and to Penny Cleobury, our Secretary.

Booking for events

I am conscious of the need to ensure that as an organization we are as efficient and user friendly as possible. I am delighted with the success of our on-line joining and am now turning my mind to our booking arrangements. We need a system which is fair, easy to use. I am currently in discussion with a couple of the organisations which run a ticketing service for Cambridge events. If this goes ahead you will be able to book for Friends' events online, or by phone or in person. So stand by for a change in the booking arrangements hopefully in time for the next mailing for the summer programme.

Margaret Mair

Poussin

The Poussin masterpiece "Extreme Unction" will be returning to the Fitzwilliam Museum, its new home, early in December and will be hung in the Octagon Room. The Friends are delighted with the part they have played in its acquisition (see Money Matters).



A Perfect Poussin?

Evening in the Museum
Tuesday 12th March • 6.30pm
(doors open and wine from 6.00pm)

To celebrate the Museum's acquisition of Poussin's magnificent painting, *Extreme Unction* (1638-40) and to mark the significant contribution from the Friends' funds, Jane Munro, Senior Assistant Keeper, Paintings, Drawings and Prints, will give us an illustrated talk on Poussin, this picture and its context in the Fitzwilliam. The talk, which will last about 40 minutes, will take place in the Courtyard area with a glass of wine. We will then go up to the Octagon Room to admire the picture, the most important Old Master painting the museum has acquired in a century.

Organiser: Margaret Mair
Places: 120, Guests welcome
Ticket: £10.00

A joyful Christmas and a happy New Year to all Friends

Tea on Tuesdays

These meetings will continue, when Nicholas Chrimes will give three short talks as follows:

Tuesday 8 January 2013
Uncommercial Paintings

Tuesday 5 February 2013
Thomas Toft of Staffordshire and the Toftware Collection.

Tuesday 5 March 2013
Drinking Vessels

Friends meet in the Friends' Room at 2.30 and return for tea and chat after the talk. All are welcome. No charge.

The High Renaissance & King's Chapel Glass

Wednesdays 16 & 23 January 2013
Starting at 10am, tour lasting approx 1 1/2hrs

The heroes of the High Renaissance had a huge influence on the design of the stained glass of King's Chapel. The work of Simon Benning, on display at our Museum in the Rothschild gallery, has been copied in the north range of the chapel. So too has Van Eyck's 'Arnolfini Marriage' portrait, Michelangelo's work from the Sistine Chapel, and that of Raphaeland then there is the direct influence of Hans Holbein, Albrecht Durer & the anonymous artist whose painting is on permanent display at Hampton Court. The drama of the Renaissance has been played out in the chapel's glass.

This tour, led by Nicholas Chrimes, will look at the glass as a lens into the Renaissance and Tudor Society, covering aspects from art, Protestant prejudice, ladies' court fashion down to outright prejudice against women.

Organiser: Nicholas Chrimes
Places: 16
Tickets: £16.50, Ballot Friday 4 January 2013
Friends only
Tours starting North Gate, King's Chapel

Talks by Research Students in the History of Art Department

Wednesday 6 February • Wednesday 6 March
12 noon - 1pm

At present we are unable to give names of the speakers or their topics, but these will be advertised by email or on the website as soon as we know them.

Meet in Courtyard Entrance. Talks are for Friends of Fitzwilliam only. Members are invited to meet afterwards in the Cafe for lunch.

Organiser: Sue Rasmussen
Places: 15
Friends only

The Two Libraries of Jesus College

Wednesdays 6 & 13 February 2013
Starting at 2pm, lasting approximately 1 1/2hrs

This college has two choirs, two of the most outstanding trees in the country, memories of two nuns and two libraries. The don who so eloquently put the Friends right as to the character of the two last nuns in the recent Jesus tour has kindly agreed to reveal the glories of the oldest college library together with those of one of the newest.

Our visit will start with the modern Quincentennial Library: a great contrast with the Old Library, where scholars had to cope with lack of heat and light to read books which were fewer in number but far more valuable. Some of the rarest books will be on display for the visit. The tour will be led by Peter Glazebrook, Emeritus Fellow Jesus College.

Organiser Gillian Harrison
Places: 16, Ballot Friday 11 January 2013
Tickets: £16.50
Friends only

Museum Tours for Friends

Tuesday 12 February 11.00am or 2.00pm;
Upper Floor Galleries
Thursday 14 February 11.00am or 2.00pm;
Ground Floor Galleries

We are offering two introductory tours to the Galleries, one upstairs (for Paintings & Sculpture), and one downstairs (for Antiquities, Ceramics, etc) with alternative times. Friends are welcome to book for either or both tours, which will take about 1 1/2 hours; groups will be small (10-12) and be guided by Friends who are familiar with the contents. We shall meet at the Founder's Entrance 10 mins before the start of each tour.

Organiser: Marr Grieve
Tours are free and for Friends only.



Behind the Scenes: African Characteristics in Ancient Egypt

Monday 4 March at 10.30am or 2.00pm

Ancient Egypt was an African civilisation. Ahead of her Exhibition of African Combs, Dr Ashton will give us a guided tour of the Egyptian Galleries, pointing out features particularly African in the permanent display - a tour on a Monday when the Museum is closed to the public. Access will be via the Rear (Goods) Entrance, ten minutes before the start.

Organiser: Marr Grieve
Places: 12 on each tour
Tickets: £15
Friends only



Ashmolean Museum, Oxford

Wednesday 6 March 2013

In response to various requests we are offering another opportunity to visit this Museum. We shall leave Madingley Park and Ride at 8.15, have coffee on arrival at about 10.30 and then, in groups of 15, have a guided tour of the highlights of the Museum's collection, which will last for about 1 1/2 hours. After this, people will be free to do as they please, before meeting up again at 3.30 for the return to Cambridge. Lunch, which is not included in the price, can be taken in the Museum restaurant or in any one of a variety of cafes, pubs or bars nearby.

Organiser: Monica Thomas
Places: 55
Tickets: £40, to include coffee and tour guide

Tour of The Old Schools

Wednesday 10 April 2013 • 5pm to 6.30
Tea in the Combination Room from 4.30

This is a unique opportunity for Friends of the Fitzwilliam to see behind the classical facades facing Kings Parade and into the very heart of the University of Cambridge. Highlights of the tour will include the Combination Room, the Dome Room, the Registry's room which houses the famous medieval Chest, and Senate House. As well as hearing about the changing physical structure, fabric and function of the buildings, and seeing some of the paintings that are hung there, we will also learn about significant events in the life of our Nation in which the University has played a part.

This is still very much a working environment, so numbers are strictly limited. Friends are advised to book early if they wish to join the tour.

Organiser Sue Rasmussen
Places: 45
Tickets: £25
Friends only

Changes on the Committee

Sadly we have to say Good-bye to two long-serving and highly valued members: Jane Dix and Marr Grieve. We thank them both for all the hard work they did on behalf of the Friends. Jane expertly discovered and reconnoitred interesting places for us to visit and made sure that everything ran smoothly on the day. Marr has worked tirelessly to introduce new Friends to the Museum and through forging good relationships with the Keepers and other Museum staff has enabled Friends to discover many of the delights to be found in the Museum's collections. We shall miss them both but are sure that they will return to enjoy future events.