

Sundial Walk in Cambridge

Tuesday 30 July and Saturday 3 August • Starting at 11am and lasting 2 hours

Frank King, the University Bell Ringer and Keeper of the University Clock, is also Chairman of the British Sundial Society. He has kindly agreed to repeat the very successful sundial walks that he did for the Friends in 2010.

Starting in Downing College we will weave a path that runs through the Downing Site before heading west to Pembroke and the oldest sundial at Little St Mary's. Continuing west we will cross the river and visit Darwin and Newnham before ending with the beautiful new sundial in Selwyn College.

Walks will last 2 hours but participants can leave earlier.

Places: 20 on each tour. Friends only.

Ballot: Friday 8 June

Tickets: £16.50

Organiser: Gillian Harrison.

STOP PRESS - TICKETS

The Friends' Committee is looking at ways in which we can update our ticketing arrangements. As we do more things, we are finding ourselves overwhelmed by the paper booking system. So for the summer programme we are testing out the service provided by the ADC (Amateur Dramatic Club) for two of our events, the Summer Drinks Party at Downing College and the trip to Houghton Hall. What this means is that for these two events you can book by phone on 01223 300085, book in person at the ADC box office or book online. To book online please follow the instructions on the enclosed flyer. That said, we have to anticipate teething troubles but please do try to make this work. By testing this arrangement with two events we hope to iron out early problems.

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL?

It is so useful to us, especially events organisers, to be able to email you. If an event is sold out but tickets come up or if something comes up which we think you will be interested in once the mailing has gone out. A recent example was the debate on public art organised by the Museum which many of you came to. You didn't know? That's because you are not on the Email Alert list and we couldn't reach you. All you have to do is email Penny Cleobury on pc290@cam.ac.uk

Welcome to new committee members



Jane Helliwell – Visits and Tours

Jane has recently joined the Committee to help organise the visits to museums and stately homes outside Cambridge.



Nicola Hughes – Volunteers

Nicola works at Duxford Museum and organizes the Fitzwilliam Volunteers.



Sue Rhodes – Museum Representative

Sue is the Development Officer for the Museum and supports the Friends' Committee as the Museum Representative.

New Friends' Treasurer

John Pegler is stepping down in November, and the Museum is looking for a new Treasurer. We need someone who loves the Museum and cares about the Friends'. He/she should have an accountancy background and should be prepared to roll up their sleeves and do the book-keeping. Expressions of interest please to Margaret Mair on mmp.mair@gmail.com.

Volunteers

The Friends of the Fitzwilliam have a long and wonderful history of supporting the Museum: one of the ways that our members help is by volunteering their time to assist with Museum activities. I am working closely with Amanda Lightstone, the University of Cambridge's Opening Doors Project Coordinator, whose role it is to support the museums with the development of volunteer, internship, apprenticeship and work-experience programmes. Together we are identifying how best to use volunteers in the Museum. When I have a clearer idea of the Museum's needs I will be in touch to put in place arrangements for the future.
Niki Hughes.

Friends of the Fitzwilliam Museum

Newsletter
April
2013

Introducing Tim Knox, the New Director of the Museum



Photo: Giles Park

Tim Knox, the new Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, starts work in April. Below he says a few words about himself, and the challenges and opportunities ahead.

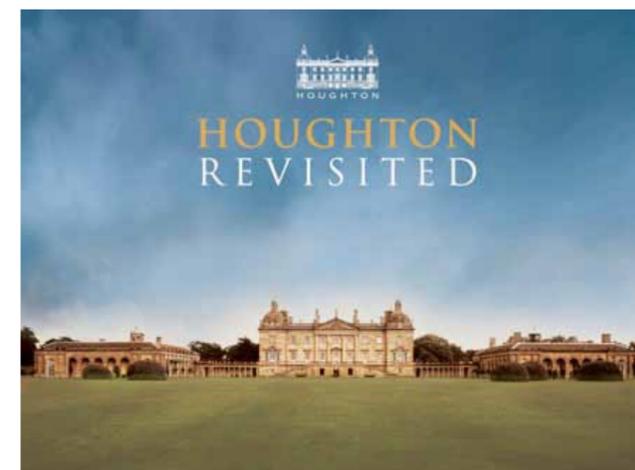
I am really looking forward to joining the Fitzwilliam Museum, which I have known since I was young - in fact, it has always been one of my favourite museums. I love the sombre, marmoreal opulence of the Staircase, and the peculiar fusion of pictures, sculpture, furniture and decorative arts in some of the galleries - rather like a country house collection. My predilection for these displays isn't so surprising as I worked for ten years for the National Trust, first as its Architectural Historian and then as Head Curator. Before that I studied at the Courtauld Institute of Art, followed by six years at the Royal Institute of British Architects Drawings Collection. Even before that, I have colonial roots - Northern Nigeria and Fiji - although my parents always had a house in Norwich, and so I know the East Anglia region quite well.

I come to the Fitzwilliam from perhaps the most eccentric and idiosyncratic museum in Britain - Sir John Soane's Museum in London - where I have been Director for almost eight years, and planned and carried out many refurbishments and improvements. Leaving the Soane has been a bit of a

wrench, but I relish the chance to work at the Fitzwilliam Museum - with its superb collections, magnificent building and reputation for scholarship, learning and enrichment at every level. I'm also really looking forward to getting to know the incredibly dedicated and knowledgeable staff at the Fitzwilliam, and its patrons, supporters and volunteers - especially the Friends. Your support is absolutely vital to building the collections, and I look forward to meeting you all and joining in your activities.

I've just moved into Grove Lodge, next door to the Museum, with my two miniature smooth-haired dachshunds, Tiger and Sponge, and part of my extensive collection. I hope my partner of 25 years, landscape gardener and historian Todd Longstaffe-Gowan, will also spend time in Cambridge, so we can get to know you and help make being involved in the Museum fun and rewarding, as well as culturally enriching!

Tim Knox



Don't miss this! Come with us to see one of the most famous art collections of the 18th century at the splendid and historic Houghton Hall this summer.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see the magnificent art collection of Britain's first Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole. The paintings, which include works by Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Rubens, Velázquez and Poussin, were sold to Catherine the Great in 1779 to adorn The Hermitage State Museum in St. Petersburg. Over 70 paintings are being reassembled for the first time in 230 years, for display in their original setting, for this unmissable blockbuster exhibition. See inside for full details.

History of Art
Talks by Graduate students

Wednesday 1 May • Wednesday 5 June
12 noon - 1.00pm

This series of lunchtime talks will continue with two presentations next term. On Wednesday 1 May Louise Hardiman will tell us about Sergei Checkhonin's porcelain vase with a portrait of Lenin and on Wednesday 5 June Rebecca Norris will talk about Renaissance Medals.

Places: 15
Talks are free and for Friends only.
Please meet at the Courtyard entrance just before 12 noon.

A ballot will be held two weeks before each talk and you will be contacted by email or phone. Please apply on the enclosed booking form but note that no SAE is required.

Tea on Tuesdays

These very informal meetings will continue but under new management. Nick Chrimes is taking sabbatical leave and we should like to thank him most warmly for all the interesting talks he has given us. Even now Nick has not abandoned us but has recruited a small team of speakers to carry on the good work with Sally Sandys-Renton co-ordinating the talks. Indeed she will give the first one herself.

Tuesday 7 May
Impressions: Treasures in Gallery 5

Tuesday 4 June
English Slipware: Elisabeth Everitt

Tuesday 2 July
Egyptian Faience: Marr Grieve

Please meet as usual in the Friends' Room before 2.30.
Tea will be served after the talk.

Friends' Summer Drinks at Downing College • Tuesday 2 July 6.00pm - 8.00pm

We are delighted to be able to hold our Summer Drinks Party at the Master's Lodge, Downing College. We should like to thank the Master, Professor Barry Everitt and his wife Dr Jane Sterling for their kind hospitality. The evening will include an optional tour of the College with one of the Fellows and a tour of the public rooms of the Lodge with the Master. Since last year's summer party was very oversubscribed, this event is for Friends only. Book Early!



Saffron Walden; The Fry Art Gallery and Myddylton Place

Wednesday 15 May 2013
10.30am – 3.00pm approx

A private visit to the Fry Art Gallery to see 'An Outbreak of Talent', an exhibition of pictures and paintings by artists noted by Paul Nash in 1935 as having particular talent, including Eric Ravilious, Edward Bawden, Edward Burra, Barnett Freedman & Enid Marx. There will be a talk and a chance to view the permanent collection. The gallery has a unique collection of work by artists who lived in and around Great Bardfield 1930 – 1970 and in Saffron Walden since then.

After a home-made lunch we shall have a tour of Myddylton Place, which is a Grade I listed building of significant historical interest in North West Essex.

PLEASE NOTE - Friends need to provide their own transport. A map of Saffron Walden, with parking information and the itinerary, will be sent out. Also, please note, the town is hilly and Myddylton Place has steep stairways and uneven floors.

Places: 28
Tickets: £28.50 (to include morning coffee and two course lunch)
Organiser: Sarah Bradfield

Tickets: £20.00
Places: 150 Friends Only
Organisers: Cazzy Walshe and Sue Rasmussen

NB Tickets for this event are bookable only through ADC ticketing - see separate flyer for instructions.

Southill Park and the Shuttleworth Collection, Bedfordshire

Tuesday 4 June 2013
10.30am – 3.00pm approx

Southill has been the home of the Whitbread family for over 200 years and we are privileged to be allowed a glimpse into this very private home. Samuel Whitbread I died in 1796, a year after buying Southill and his son, Samuel Whitbread II, a prominent Whig politician, employed Henry Holland to rebuild the existing house. Today, Southill stands very much as it did in 1806, the year of Holland's death. Much of the decoration is as Holland left it and most of the furniture was designed by him for the rooms in which it stands.

After mid-morning coffee we will be shown around the house in two groups. There will then be time to wander around the garden before we travel on to have lunch at the Shuttleworth Collection.

The Collection is situated at Shuttleworth Aerodrome, one of the few traditional all grass aerodromes still in regular use. We will be guided in two groups enabling us to see aeroplanes representing the history of flight from the early 1900s to the 1950s. This is a remarkable collection and well presented. There is also a vehicle section, displaying vintage and veteran cars, motorcycles and bicycles.

NB Afternoon refreshments will be available in the café before we leave but are not included in the price. This trip will involve walking and prolonged standing for the tours.

Depart: Trumpington P&R: 9.30am
Places: 46
Tickets: £49.50 to include coffee, tours and lunch
Organiser: Sarah Bradfield

Houghton Hall and the Hermitage Collection • Tuesday 16 July 2013 - Day visit

This is a unique chance to see the paintings, on loan from the Hermitage collection, back in their original setting. After coffee on arrival, there will be a guided tour of the house and art. In the afternoon, after a two course lunch, we shall hear a talk from the gardener and enjoy an independent wander around the grounds. As well as the special exhibition, Houghton's unique history and interiors, the award-winning five acre garden, the contemporary sculpture park and model soldier museum offer a great day out. We will finish with a cream tea, returning to Cambridge around 6.15 pm.

Floreat Cantabrigia

Tuesday 11 June and Tuesday 20 August
starting at 2.30pm, and lasting 1 1/2 hours
Tour starts outside St Benet's Church

Cambridge is full of fascinating Latin inscriptions, on clocks, sundials, memorials and college walls. Happy or sad, celebratory or solemn, they all deserve attention from the passer-by. Nancy Gregory, author of 'Cambridge Inscriptions Explained', will lead a tour past some of the most interesting inscriptions and will help you to work out similar inscriptions elsewhere.

Places: 20 Friends only
Tickets: £16.50 Ballot Friday 24 May
Organiser: Gillian Harrison

BEHIND THE SCENES

Who Shuffled the Silver?
Understanding the new displays.
Wednesday 19 June at 11.00am and 2.00pm

Jane Ewart, independent consultant and writer about silver, has recently arranged the Museum's collection of silver in two new displays, which she will show to us after a short introduction in the Friends' Room.

Places: 15 on each tour. Friends only
Tickets: £12.00
Organiser: Margaret Mair

Depart Trumpington P&R: 8.30am
Places: 46
Tickets: £68.50 to include tour of the house, garden talk, all refreshments and coach travel.
Organiser: Sarah Bradfield
PLEASE NOTE – parking is a ten minute walk from the house and the hour-long tour of the house includes staircases and uneven surfaces.
NB: Tickets for this event are bookable only through ADC Ticketing – see separate flyer for instruction.