

# Friends of the Fitzwilliam Museum

Newsletter and  
Programme of Events  
Autumn 2015

**BOOKING OPENS 26 August • 10.00am**

Tickets for all Friends events available through the Cambridge Corn Exchange online,  
by phone or in person.

To book online go to: [www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/support/friends/events](http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/support/friends/events)  
For online booking use code "FITZFRIEND" • To book by phone call 01223 357851

## GOODBYE TO PENNY CLEOBURY

What comes to our minds at the name Penny Cleobury? Her merry laugh? The kind word she found for us, any one of us, in any kind of trouble great or small? That sympathetic "Oh I know" in response to one of life's minor irritations that we have mentioned to her? The wave across the Museum, or the street? For all of us who know her Penny has embodied what it means to be a Friend with the capital F but also a friend in every other sense. She has to be one of the most warm, loving, kind and generous people any of us will have the privilege to know.

She has an ability to pack an extraordinary amount into her day, week, month, indeed her life. She has worked every morning in the Museum offices for the last 10 years. Then, as many of you know, she sets off, rain or shine to garden, doing the hard graft in the gardens of a number of lucky clients. Not just a little bit of design advice over a cup of tea, but out there in her waterproofs and boots with her gloves on. And all the while Penny has been chairman of Cambridge MacMillan raising money for cancer relief for which she was so rightly awarded the MBE.

Penny is someone who gets things done. The idea of a book sale is suggested and before we know where we are, vast numbers of books are piling up in Penny's office and on the day, who is carrying boxes, sorting the rota, arranging the tables, organizing the coffee and greeting the customers? She has of course been a simply wonderful secretary to the Friends of the Fitzwilliam. She has been both the public and private face of the Friends, knowing so many of you by name. The fact that we don't lose people when their subscriptions expire is so much down to her— who could resist the call from Penny saying "I'm sure you must have just forgotten .....".



When she said that she really did want to retire – after one or two false starts - the Friends Committee got plotting. With much cloak and dagger, the last mailshot included a letter from me headed "Top Secret" inviting you to send in their messages and cards of good wishes and contributions if you wished. Your response was quite overwhelming and I want to take this opportunity to thank you all. Envelopes with cards and cheques poured in and we, or rather you, were able to present Penny with a very generous cheque, to be spent, I told her very fiercely, on herself! Former committee member Monica Thomas and her husband Roger scanned all the messages and cards into a computer printed book which we gave to Penny at the same time. I know that you all join me in wishing her well for the future, continuing her gardening, in her new role as Senior Volunteer for MacMillan and with her children and grandchildren.

Margaret Mair

## SAVE THE DATE

### FRIENDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday 15th December  
18.30 - 20.30

This year the Christmas Party will once again be held in Gallery III, where we will be joined by the choir of Jesus College to lead us in singing festive carols.

Invitations will be posted in October



We are delighted to introduce Lois Hargrave who has just joined the Museum as Director of Development, a newly created post. Lois was formerly Senior Development Executive - Bodleian Libraries University of Oxford, at the heart of the Oxford Thinking Campaign. Of her new role at the Fitzwilliam, Lois says: "I am so very pleased to have joined the Fitzwilliam Museum at this very exciting time. I look forward to working with the Friends in support of this exceptional Museum."

#### THANKS FROM MONICA

I should like to thank the Committee, and the staffers for their cards, good wishes, and gifts. I was delighted with My Big Bag. I shall miss you all but will be reminded of everyone when I use the bag.  
Ciao, Monica

## FRIENDS OF THE FITZWILLIAM ACQUISITIONS 2014 – 2015

The subscription income from the Friends of the Fitzwilliam is dedicated to the purchase of new works of art for the collection. Over the past year, you have supported an impressive range of acquisitions, which reflect well the different collecting strengths of the Museum. Ceramics tops the league this year, with an enormous Coalport presentation jug, made in 1843, delicately painted with prize-winning animals. We were also able to acquire with Friends' funds a group of nineteenth-century coffee cans from the collection of the late Christopher Hogwood, himself a Cambridge institution. The Friends also helped with prints and drawings - three fine Japanese colour woodblock prints, two thought-provoking sets of prints by the artist Susan Aldworth, and a rare unfinished proof by Carl Wilhem Kolbe. The marble busts of Lord Overtoun and his sister, Mrs Somerville, by the sculptor Francis Derwent Wood are masterpieces of British 'New Sculpture' - inspired by Italian Renaissance busts but infused with L'Art Nouveau elegance. They were tracked down and brought back from Tasmania! I was also delighted to find the beautiful Lobmeyr vase (illustrated here) at Willingham auctions. Finally, I am particularly pleased that we were able to retain the vigorous Baroque woodcarving *Hercules and Cerberus*, by an unknown South German master. This belonged to my predecessor Michael Jaffé, Director of the Museum 1973-1990, and has long been on loan. Now, thanks to the Friends, it joins the permanent collection.

Tim Knox  
Director



J. & L. Lobmeyr, Vase, gilded and enamelled (detail)

# Events

## Friends Study Morning “His collections never ceased to grow” - the story of two Trinity College collectors

Tuesday 29th September • 10.00 - 12.30

When Dr James Lee Whitbread Glaisher died his collection of ceramics numbered over 5,000 objects and he was acknowledged as one of the leading pottery collectors of his time. For Lt. Colonel the Hon. Mildmay Thomas Boscawen, it was Renaissance and Baroque bronze sculptures that became his passion. The Fitzwilliam Museum is fortunate to have been the beneficiary of both of these extraordinary collectors.

Our autumn Friends Study Morning will allow us to go behind the scenes to explore these collections and to find out more about the two men who created them. The morning will be led by Dr Julia Poole, former Keeper of Applied Arts at the Fitzwilliam who will speak about the Glaisher collection and Dr Victoria Avery, current Keeper of Applied Arts, who will tell us more about Lt Colonel Boscawen.

Places: 30 • Guests welcome  
£20 to include morning coffee  
Organiser: Sarah Burles



## Stoneywell and Leicester New Walk Museum and Art Gallery

Thursday 15 October

Ernest Gimson, one of the most influential architect-designers of the British Arts and Crafts Movement, designed Stoneywell (Set in the Charnwood Forest), for his brother Sydney. The building was completed in 1899 and has been lived in by the family until only last year. As well as the cottage, gardens, outbuildings and woodland, Stoneywell retains many of its original contents. We are privileged to be accompanied by Barley Roscoe, co-founder of the Crafts Study Centre, and the great granddaughter of Sydney Gimson. We will share her memories of this unique cottage. Afterwards we will travel to Leicester to visit the New Walk Museum and Gallery. Here we will see the famous Arts and Crafts collection which features more works by Gimson and Barnsley. Also there will be a chance to see the Picasso ceramics which were donated, as a collection of some 150 pieces, by Lord and Lady Attenborough and which are now on permanent display.

Places: 28 • Guests welcome • £60  
Coffee will be served but lunch is at your own discretion  
Organiser: Sarah Bradfield  
Depart Trumpington Park & Ride 8.15  
A certain amount of walking over uneven surfaces will be required for this trip.

## Antique furniture: Exclusive evening at John Beazor Antiques

Thursday 19th November • 18.30 – 20.30 • Talk at 19.00

John Beazor Antiques, established in 1875 is one of the oldest antique dealing businesses in the country, long renowned for its premier stock. In celebration of 75th years at its Regent Street premises, Martin Beazor has offered us this exclusive evening



## Friends' Annual lecture The “perfect world” of the London Square

Todd Longstaffe-Gowan,

Landscape architect, historian, author and Gardens  
Adviser to the Historic Royal Palaces.

Tuesday 17th November  
18.00 The Auditorium Fitzwilliam College

Modern-day London abounds with a multitude of gardens, enclosed by railings and surrounded by houses, which attest to the English love of nature. These verdant oases, known as squares, are among the most distinctive and admired features of the metropolis and are England's greatest contribution to the development of European town planning and urban form. Long synonymous with privilege, elegance, and prosperous metropolitan living, the garden squares epitomise the classical notion of “rus in urbe”, the integration of nature within the urban plan – a concept which continues to shape cities to this day. The lecture will explore the history, evolution, and social implications of London's squares, which have been an important element in the planning and expansion of London since the early 17th century.

Places: 200 • Guests welcome • £7.50 to include wine reception  
Please note: we have moved the lecture this year to the auditorium at Fitzwilliam College. Parking available.  
Organiser: Margaret Mair

for Friends, with all proceeds to the Museum. He will be joined by Vicky Avery, Keeper of Applied Arts at the Museum to talk about historic furniture, values and trends after which they will be on hand to show us some of the particular pieces of interest on the three floors of the premises.

Wine and canapés will be served so do join us for what will be a memorable and enjoyable occasion.

Places: 50 • Guests welcome  
£12.00  
Organiser: Margaret Mair

## Behind the Scenes at the Polar Museum

Wednesday 2 December • 14.00 - 16.00

Our last Friends visit to the Polar Museum took place in 2011, shortly after the Museum was beautifully refurbished. We have now been invited back, this time to see some of the work going on behind the scenes.

The Museum has thousands of items stored, illustrating not only the history of the expeditions to the North and South Poles and the bravery those entailed, but also the history and art of the indigenous people living in the Arctic. The Institute which houses the Museum is renowned for its current Polar research projects, we will hear about these projects, see some of the conservation work and visit the extensive library, containing amongst other things, accounts written by some of the early Polar explorers.

Places: 25 • Guests welcome  
£16.50  
Tea and biscuits will be served.  
Organiser: Gillian Harrison



David Zagoury



Louise Hardiman

## History of Art Graduate Talks

An opportunity to hear graduate students in the History of Art Department talk about their research.

Wednesday 11 November • 12.00 - 13.00

Dr Louise Hardiman

*Proletarians of all Countries, Unite! A Soviet Revolutionary porcelain vase by Sergei Chekhonin (1878-1936)*

Wednesday 25 November • 12.00-13.00

David Zagoury

*Veronese's Hermes, Herse and Aglauros and the Global Renaissance*

Meet in the Friends Room at 11.30 for coffee and cake.

Places: 16 • Friends only  
Free but booking essential  
Organiser: Gwen Borysiewicz



## Imagery in the Fens and Marshes – exploring West Norfolk Churches

Monday 19 October • Day visit

We are immensely privileged to be accompanied by two medieval historians, Dr Clare Daunton and Dr Charles Tracy, who will guide us round the churches of Tilney All Saints, Wiggenhall St Germans, Wiggenhall St Mary and Outwell.

Dr Daunton is a specialist in medieval glass and decoration and Dr Tracy is a leading expert and author on historic church furniture and woodwork. Medieval Norfolk was wealthy and richly populated, benefitting from busy trading between the ports of Lynn and Yarmouth and nearby European countries. This wealth is reflected in the building and decoration of many churches. This personal tour to some of the more unusual buildings, rich in history, architecture and decoration, will be a wonderful introduction to the visual, religious and social context of medieval life.

Places: 30 • Friends only  
£60.00 to include coffee on arrival & 2 course buffet lunch  
Organiser: Jane Helliwell  
Depart Trumpington Park & Ride 8.30  
A certain amount of walking over uneven surfaces will be required for this trip.