

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE UPDATE

With the retirement of Penny Cleobury and the arrival of the Director of Development, Lois Hargrave, the administration of the Friends of the Fitzwilliam has been brought in-house. The Museum's Development Office team looks forward to supporting the Friends' activities and working with the Committee to deliver an engaging and informative membership scheme for our 1,800 Friends. For the past three months, the Office has benefitted from the invaluable support of Committee Member Cazzy Walshe and we wish to thank her for helping us through this transition.

We are now delighted to introduce the new Development staff:



Bella Pratt joins the Development Office in January in a newly created post of Development Assistant - Membership, Friends and Patrons. She has experience as Events and Alumni Officer in the Faculty of Music, University of Oxford, planning and organising alumni and donor event programmes and communications. Bella will be responsible for all aspects of the administration of the Friends' and Marlay Group memberships, the important supporter groups for the Museum.

Alice Saunders recently joined the team as Development Assistant where she provides administrative support for financial reporting, prospect research, proposals and stewardship reports.

In August, **Amanda Lightstone** was appointed to the role of Development Officer after two and half years as the UCM Opening Doors Project Coordinator.

COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Friends Committee wishes to thank **Niki Hughes** for spearheading the volunteer opportunities over the past two years. Niki has recently been appointed as University of Cambridge Museums Opening Doors Project Coordinator and stepped down from her Committee role in November.



Dr Claire Daunton has recently joined the Committee. She led the Norfolk churches visit in October and has been helping to organise tours in Cambridge.

Continued from front cover

The two major exhibitions of the bicentenary year celebrate two of the richest and most popular of the Museum's own collections which both have their origins in the Museum's first decade. The collection of Egyptian coffins started with one of the earliest gifts to the Fitzwilliam in 1822. The manuscripts on show will include exquisite examples from Viscount Fitzwilliam's founding bequest, which, under its strict terms, may never leave the Museum.

Death on the Nile: Uncovering the afterlife of ancient Egypt (23 February – 22 May 2016) explores the beliefs and working practices behind Egyptian coffins and reveals fascinating new information on how they were made. There will be a 'live' conservation area in the exhibition where visitors can find out more about the science used to examine the 55 ancient artworks and groups of objects on display, including some more than 4,000 years old. In celebration of the bicentenary year, the museum is pleased to invite the Friends of the Fitzwilliam to an Exclusive Evening and wine reception to view the exhibition on Monday 29 February. Please see full event details inside the newsletter.

Later in the year, *COLOUR: The art and science of illuminated manuscripts* (30 July – 30 December 2016) follows on from the spectacular success of the Cambridge Illuminations exhibition in 2005. Representing the leading artistic centres across Europe from the 8th to the 16th century, *COLOUR* will display over 150 stunning paintings on parchment and paper. *COLOUR* also celebrates the cross-disciplinary research of the

Cambridge Illuminations and MINIARE projects which involved academics across the University of Cambridge and international collaborators, analysing these fragile artworks using the latest scientific techniques combined with art historical research. An exclusive Friends evening will be organised for this exhibition; dates and further information to be announced later in the year.

Tim Knox, Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum commented: "The year-long celebration of the Fitzwilliam Museum's bicentenary in 2016 will be very special indeed. In addition to the two major exhibitions, we are planning public programmes, concerts and big events to illuminate our collections and delight our audiences. We are pleased to be sharing the year with the Friends of the Fitzwilliam, collaborating with other cultural organisations across the city, and working with our bicentenary business partners."

The Bicentenary Business Partners are: TTP Group plc, ACE Cultural Tours, Hewitsons LLP, Marshall of Cambridge, Rheebridge and Sotheby's. Their support will go towards a creative and thought-provoking bicentenary programme including outreach in the community, digital engagement, creative learning events and the two major exhibitions.

Please see event notices inside this newsletter for the Friends Study Morning on Thursday 11 February and the Exclusive Friends' Evening to view *Death on the Nile* on Monday 29 February.

As the bicentenary year gets underway, we'd love to keep you posted on Friends' events and notices as they arise. If you have changed your email address or moved house, please let us know by calling Development Office on 01223 332 933 or emailing us at: fitzmuseum-friends@lists.cam.ac.uk Email is the best way for us to keep you informed on the latest news. Your information will not be passed to a third party and will only be used in relation to the Fitzwilliam Museum and the University. We look forward to hearing from you!

Friends of the Fitzwilliam Museum

Newsletter and
Programme of Events
Spring 2016



The
Fitzwilliam
Museum
200 YEARS

The Fitzwilliam celebrates 200 years in 2016

In 2016, one of Britain's greatest treasure houses celebrates its 200th birthday. Major exhibitions will explore two of its most cherished collections: ancient Egyptian coffins and illuminated manuscripts. The 2016 events programme will reach across the city, collaborating closely with cultural organisations in Cambridge and beyond. And, as valued supporters of the museum, the Friends of the Fitzwilliam will be invited to share in the celebrations.

The Fitzwilliam Museum was founded in 1816 through the bequest of Richard, 7th Viscount Fitzwilliam of Merrion, who died on the 4th of February that year. After studying at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, he divided his time between London, Paris and Dublin. In the course of his life he collected around 144 paintings, including masterpieces by Titian, Veronese and Palma Vecchio, 300 carefully ordered albums of Old Master prints, and a magnificent library with illuminated manuscripts, musical

autographs by Europe's greatest composers and 10,000 fine printed books. The entire collection, along with £100,000 for 'a good substantial Museum', was left to the University of Cambridge in his will.

A new book for 2016, *The Fitzwilliam Museum: a History*, will, for the first time, tell the full 200 year story of the Museum. Complementing the book will be an exhibition in the Museum's Octagon Gallery. A timeline of the Fitzwilliam's first 200 years will introduce key themes, characters and significant objects showing the Museum's development, and opens on 4 February. Friends will have a unique opportunity to learn more about Viscount Fitzwilliam and the museum's history at a special Study Morning on Thursday 11 February. Please see event information inside this newsletter.

Article continues on back cover

Events

BOOKING FOR ALL OF THESE EVENTS OPENS ON Friday 18 December

Tickets for all Friends events are available through Cambridge Live Tickets via: www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/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



Queens' College: highlights & treasures

Thursday 21 January
13.15 – 15.30

We are delighted to offer Friends this very special visit to Queens' College by kind invitation of Suzi Digby (Lady Eatwell), the wife of the President. Queens' College, founded in 1448 by Margaret of Anjou, is one of the oldest and largest of the University. Meeting at the Porters' Lodge, we will first have a tour with Dr Robin Walker who will show us some of the College highlights and treasures. These include the fifteenth century Old Court, the Old Hall, the Victorian Chapel, and the Old Library. We will then have the privilege of a private visit to the President's Lodge for tea where Friends will be able to see the Long Gallery, one of the finest in England, and other outstanding furniture and paintings in the College's collection.

Places: 25

£30 to include tea and biscuits

Meet at the Queens' College Porters' Lodge, Silver Street at 13.15 for a prompt start at 13.30

Organisers: Margaret Mair and Claire Daunton

History of Art Graduate Talks

Continuing this very popular series of talks which give Friends the opportunity to hear graduate students from the History of Art Department discuss their research. We are very slightly changing the format to meet first in the Friends Room for coffee and cake at 11.45 before the talks. New members of the Friends are particularly encouraged to come.



Akemi Herraез-Vossbrink



Krizstina Ilko

Wednesday 10 February • 12.00 – 13.00

Akemi Herraез-Vossbrink

Pedro de Mena's *Virgin of Sorrows* and seventeenth-century Spanish art at the Fitzwilliam Museum

Wednesday 2 March • 12.00 – 13.00

Krizstina Ilko

Simone Martini's *Saints for San Gimignano*

Places: 16 • Friends only

Free, but booking essential

Organiser: Gwen Borysiewicz



Friends' Study Morning Founding the Fitzwilliam: Viscount Fitzwilliam, collector and bibliophile

Thursday 11 February • 10.15 – 12.30

It was Richard, 7th Viscount Fitzwilliam's generous 1816 bequest to the University of Cambridge of his collected pictures, engravings, books and manuscripts, along with £100,000 to build a 'good substantial museum' which led to the foundation of the Fitzwilliam Museum. Many of the paintings, including such masterpieces as Palma Vecchio's *Venus and Cupid*, can be viewed in the galleries, but Fitzwilliam's books, like his manuscripts and prints, are too fragile to be on permanent display.

This Friends Study Morning will offer a unique opportunity to find out more about Viscount Fitzwilliam, the man and the collector, and to see some of his collection of books and manuscripts. The first session will be led by Dr Lucilla Burn, Keeper of Antiquities and Deputy Director, Collections, whose new book, *The Fitzwilliam Museum: a History* sheds new light on Viscount Fitzwilliam's life and career. She will share this research in an introductory talk and short tour of the complementary exhibition in the Octagon Gallery.

Viscount Fitzwilliam signed his first book acquisition in 1752 at the age of the seven, and continued to collect and sign his books throughout his life. At his death in 1816, he left to the University the fruits of this lifelong passion: 130 illuminated manuscripts, over 10,000 fine printed books, and a wealth of musical scores and early printed music. In the second part of the morning, Dr Suzanne Reynolds, Assistant Keeper, Department of Manuscripts and Printed Books, will welcome us into the Founder's Library to see some of this extraordinary collection as we discover Viscount Fitzwilliam, the bibliophile.

Places: 30 • Guests welcome

£20 to include morning coffee and cake

Meet in the Friends Room at 10.15

Organiser: Sarah Burles



Arts and Crafts: A Local Story

Tuesday 23 February • 14.00 – 15.30

Venue: All Saints Church, Jesus Lane

This is the story of a Victorian working class painter, David Parr, who worked for the Cambridge based decorative arts company, F.R. Leach and Sons. Over 40 years, Mr Parr decorated his own terraced house in Gwydir Street, in the same style as the Victorian Gothic and Arts and Crafts houses he was working on. After his death in 1927, the little house was kept virtually unaltered by his widow and then by his granddaughter and her family.

Tamsin Wimhurst, who has been instrumental in securing the house, will give us an illustrated talk about Mr Parr and his employers in the richly decorated setting of All Saints Church in Jesus Lane, which the firm worked on. Her talk will link a humble terraced house with many of the greatest names and buildings of the Neo-Gothic revival. Visiting Mr Parr's house is not included in this programme, but there will be an opportunity to make arrangements afterwards.

Places: 35 • Guests welcome

£16.50 to include tea and biscuits

Parking: Surrounding streets or city car parks at Park Street, Grand Arcade and Grafton Centre

Organiser: Gillian Harrison

Sir Christopher Wren: Walking tour of London Wren Churches and St Paul's Cathedral

Friday 4 March • 11.00 – 15.00

(Meet at Tower Hill tube station at 10.45 for 11.00 start)

Sir Christopher Wren initiated the rebuilding of 51 City churches, classical in style and superb in workmanship. Guided by Joanne Lee, an experienced Blue Badge Guide, we first visit a chosen sample of these fine buildings. 2016 marks the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London from which Wren's masterpiece, St Paul's Cathedral, emerged as a phoenix from the flames. After lunch taken independently between 1.00 and 2.00pm (with advice given on nearby cafés,) we will enjoy a tour of the Cathedral interior, after which there will be time for individual exploration.

Places: 28 • Guests welcome

£40.00 - St Paul's Cathedral now charges for admission and this is reflected in the cost of the day. The price includes fast track entry and access to the Cathedral floor, crypt and the three galleries in the dome.

Please note – This is a walking tour and there may be uneven surfaces. You also may wish to bring binoculars.



Exclusive Friends' Evening with wine reception

Death on the Nile:

Uncovering the afterlife of ancient Egypt

Monday 29 February • 18.00 – 20.00

To celebrate this major exhibition of the Museum's bicentenary year, we are delighted that the Museum has arranged a private evening for Friends. One of the Fitzwilliam Museum's most popular collections, the Egyptian Coffins have their origin as one of the earliest gifts to the Museum in 1822. *Death on the Nile: Uncovering the afterlife of ancient Egypt* goes beyond the images of mummies, animal-headed gods, pharaohs and mystery often associated with ancient Egypt, to explore the beliefs and working practices behind Egyptian coffins and reveal fascinating new information on how they were made. The curator, Helen Strudwick, and the Head of Conservation, Julie Dawson, will give short presentations on their experience in bringing this interactive exhibition to life, after which they will be on hand to answer questions as Friends enjoy exclusive access to the galleries. Do join us, and bring guests, for what will be a very special occasion.

Places: 200 • Guests welcome

£15 to include wine reception

Doors open 18.00 • Presentations at 18.20

Please enter through the Courtyard Entrance

