

Friends Events

Tuesday 16 September 2.00pm

Barlaston Hall, Barlaston

Mid-18th century Palladian villa attributed to Sir Robert Taylor, with public rooms containing some fine examples of 18th century plasterwork. Extensively restored during the 1990s, home to Mr & Mrs James Hall. Meet at the Hall at 1.50pm

Please note that this visit is sold out but there is a waiting list.

Saturday 27 September 2.00pm

Exhibition Opening: Open 08

Come and enjoy a glass of wine at this ever-popular exhibition of art and craft by artists from the region – and don't forget that its an excellent opportunity to find that perfect Christmas gift. The Friends also sponsor an annual prize for the Open, so look out for the winning exhibit.

Exhibition continues until 7 December

Saturday 15

November 2pm

2008 Haggart Memorial Lecture

Duncan Robinson, former Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, and Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, will speak on *George Stubbs. Art, Science and Industry* at the Potteries Museums & Art Gallery.

Free. Tickets from PMAG reception desk.

Tel: 01782 232323



Saturday 29 November at 2.15 p.m.

Special invitation to a free Guided Tour of 'Holman Hunt and the Pre-Raphaelite Vision' exhibition at Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3JL.

This major international exhibition tells the remarkable story of the Pre-Raphaelite artist Holman Hunt and features over 50 of his key works. For the first time ever, the three versions of Hunt's world-famous iconic image 'Light of the World' will be exhibited together. The exhibition explores Hunt's life and the time in which he lived. Maps, photographs and personal letters show his involvement with the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and his pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Your guided tour of this fascinating exhibition will last for approximately one hour.

FREE – but pre-booking required via the PMAG Reception desk.

Meet your guide, Isabelle Killocoat (PMAG Council member) at 2.15 pm outside the entrance to the Holman Hunt exhibition on the top floor of Manchester Art Gallery. In addition to your visit to the Gallery, there is the opportunity for you to explore Manchester at your



leisure and visit the nearby magical Manchester Christmas markets for a truly festive experience. Due to their popularity, the markets have now expanded to 5 locations in Manchester City Centre: Albert Square, St Ann's Square, Exchange Street, New Cathedral Street and Brazenose Street, all within the City Centre and open from 10.00am–7.00pm.

The Friends of the Potteries Museums cannot accept any liability for injury, damage or loss sustained by Members or their guests while participating in any event organised by the Friends, whether or not the injury, damage or loss could have been attributed to the default or negligence of any of the Officers or Council Members of the Friends. All Members participate in Friends' Events entirely at their own risk.

Other events

Saturday 13 – Sunday 14 September

Heritage Open Days

Celebrate England's largest voluntary cultural weekend. Numerous buildings in the City will be open free of charge over the weekend and Stoke-on-Trent's Museums are taking part. Admission to Gladstone, Ford Green and Etruria will be free, with additional events taking place at each site. See the *What's On* leaflet and www.heritageopendays.co.uk for information about other local buildings that will be accessible.

Wednesday 5 November, 10-12 and 1-3pm and

Wednesday 12 November, 10-12 and 1-3pm

Poetry workshops

Be inspired by the Chinese and Japanese decorative arts collection to create poetry with a professional poet. Location: Changing Fashions Gallery at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery.

No need to book, just drop in during these times.

New Renaissance Projects

Maximising Learning aims to make the museums' sites and collections more accessible to new audiences without alienating our traditional visitors. Our duties include: devising an interpretation strategy for all four museums; providing family friendly resources and developing an adult education programme.

Cathy Shingler, Interpretation Officer, Denise Lambert, Family Learning Officer

Opening Up Decorative Arts will document the over 3,000 objects in the decorative arts collection and increase physical and virtual access to them. This will be achieved by re-displaying part of the Changing Fashions gallery. The initial focus will be on Chinese and Japanese jade, lacquer, ivory and textiles. This display will be completed in time for Chinese New Year on 26 January 2009. Images and information about the collection will also be added to the museum's new website.

Events and workshops will be held to celebrate the New Year with activities linked to the objects in the collection. We will also be holding poetry workshops inspired by objects from the collection in November. All events will be advertised in the museum's *What's On* guides so please look out for these and I look forward to seeing you at future events.

Claire Blakey, Documentation Assistant – Arts

The Friends of The Potteries Museums & Art Gallery

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newsletter



Wedgwood Japan exhibition

Thirty two pieces of pottery from the Ceramics collection are touring Japan for the next fifteen months as part of the exhibition 'The History of Wedgwood for 250 years'. The show, also which includes items from the Wedgwood Museum, Barlaston, and Nottingham Castle Museum in Britain, as well as items from museums in Japan, opened at The Gifu Museum of Modern Ceramic Art in July and will visit five Japanese museums in total. The exhibition is part of the 250th celebrations of the founding of Josiah Wedgwood's first factory in Burslem. Miranda Goodby, Collections Officer – Ceramics, acted as courier for the British loans, travelling with them by air to Tokyo and then on to Gifu where she helped to unpack them and complete the condition reports for all three museums. She also attended a reception at the British embassy, Tokyo, and the official opening of the exhibition before returning to Stoke. This is the second time that the Potteries Museum has loaned items for a Japanese

exhibition, helping to raise the profile of both the Museum Service and of Stoke-on-Trent overseas.



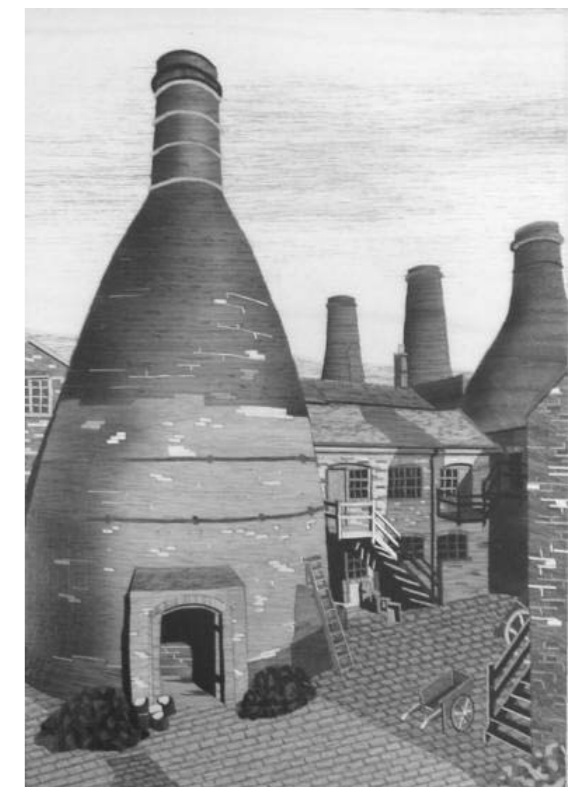
Gifu Museum of Modern Ceramic Art

56th National Marquetry Exhibition

The 56th National Marquetry Exhibition took place at Gladstone in May and was a huge success – just over 1,000 visitors over three days, with some travelling from Taiwan to see the exhibition!

You may have seen the marquetry image of Gladstone in the last *What's On* entry. This is a fantastic piece produced by Brian Freeman, the Chairman of the Staffordshire Club who organised the exhibition. I had worked closely with the club for 18 months planning the exhibition and was delighted to accept, on behalf of the Museum, the marquetry view of Gladstone which was presented by the Lord Lieutenant. It has been donated to the museum to commemorate the exhibition and we are going to find a public area where we can display it. Even miniature pieces take around 500 hours to produce as the work is so intricate so I feel the museum is honoured that such a piece has been given to it.

Nerys Williams, Marketing Officer



Around the Galleries at the Potteries Museum & Art Gallery

Archaeology Gallery

New interactives have recently been added to the Archaeology Gallery. These include new activities in the Discovery Zone, special themed activity boxes and toys, a "Skeleton Skills" activity where you can arrange the bones to make an accurate (or amusingly inaccurate) skeleton and a board game which high-lights some of the museums collections.

Teresa Fox-Wells, Gallery Interpretation Assistant

Changes to Changing Fashions

In February a dozen twelve year old students from Longton High School participated in a series of workshops led by artist Jonathan Korejko. The workshops were part of a wider on-going plan to re-interpret the Changing Fashions gallery. The children created screenprints in response to their chosen objects. They were then given the freedom to site their work where they chose in the gallery. The results of their hard work are currently on display in the gallery. In addition to the screen prints brightening up the gallery a selection of dolls, taken from the Museum's vast collection of dolls from around the world, have been put on display, many for the first time. Coming soon will be a new display of

objects taken from the Jade and Ivory collection. There are many changes planned for the Changing Fashions gallery over the next few months so watch this space...
Jean Milton, Collections Officer – Arts

A New Light in Ceramics

Visitors to Ceramics will have noticed that as well as ongoing changes in the displays there have been great improvements in the overall lighting of the gallery. Virtually all of the ceiling-mounted tungsten lights have been removed and replaced with energy-efficient metal halide lamps in hi-tech 'Cyclops' fittings. As well as improving the ambient lighting the new lamps have greatly reduced energy consumption. The result is a lower gallery temperature, less strain on the air conditioning and a much smaller carbon footprint for the museum.

Andrew Watts, Ceramic Development Officer

Balcony Crafts

The Potteries Museum shop has been extended onto the Balcony area to provide a new space for selling contemporary crafts, including ceramics, glass and textiles

Staff News

Congratulations

Keith Bloor, Acting Potteries Museum Manager, married on 16th August. He first met his wife, Mary Durose, in 1984 when they were both working for the City Council at the Regent Road Training Centre.

Vicky Tunstall, Supporting Stewardship Geological Trainee, has completed all the modules and the dissertation for her MA in Heritage Management

New appointments

Andy Mackay, formerly Project Officer – People & Potteries, has been appointed to co-ordinate Renaissance projects across the museum service until March 2009.

Guy Evans, formerly Presentations Assistant (New Media), has been appointed Web Co-ordinator for the Museums Service. This post is funded through *Renaissance in the Regions* until March 2009 and is in partnership with Wolverhampton Museum Services. Guy will be developing new website content, including a

Friends' page, with material going live at the end of 2008.

Claire Blakey, formerly Documentation Assistant Ceramics, has been appointed to a new contract cataloguing the non-Western Decorative Arts (see below) until March 2009.

Gabrielle Trinkunaite and *Heather Williams* have been appointed Temporary Visitor Services Assistants at Gladstone.

Moving On

Katey Goodwin, Collections Officer – Local History and Acting Collections Development Officer, left on 30th June to work for The Public Catalogue Foundation. She will be Co-ordinator Manager for the staff cataloguing oil paintings in public ownership throughout the UK.

Deborah Klemperer, Collections Officer – Local History, has taken up the other half of Katey's job-share post and is now full-time.

Exhibitions

Open Exhibition08

27 September – 7 December
Art and craft from around the region with many exhibits for sale.

Step back to the Stone Age

11 October – 7 December
Artwork by local schoolchildren inspired by the museum's collection at the novel 'Wolfbrother'.

Fantastic, Found & Fake

8 November – 25 January 09
Exploring the above themes as part of the Conjunction 08 Contemporary Art Festival.

Automata at Etruria

1 – 31 October
A special exhibition of moving toys and automata at Etruria Industrial Museum. Normal admission charges apply.

Continuing

Nursery Rhymes – 26 October
A selection of nursery rhymes brought to life.

Inspiring Art 4 – 21 September
Annual exhibition of artwork from local primary schools.

AGM Report

The Annual General Meeting was held on 17th April with fifty members attending. Andrew Dobraszczyc gave an excellent lecture on The Minton family and Hartshill. Existing Council members were re-elected and Isabelle Killicoat who had been co-opted onto the Council last year was formally confirmed. Officers for the Friends are Peter Vigurs, Chairman; David Barker, Secretary; Geoffrey Snow, Treasurer; Rosie Cooke, Membership

Letter from the Chairman

Dear Friends

I can't think of anyone who has been a better Friend of the Potteries Museums and Art Gallery, over the last 25 years, than Barbara Kilfoil. She has recently decided to pass on the baton of Friends' Council Membership, and although her modesty makes it hard for her to accept credit for her huge contribution to the success of Friends' events during that time, other members will know the importance of the part she has played.

In the early 1980s, Barbara responded to a plea at an AGM for volunteers to serve refreshments at exhibition openings, and quickly discovered that she had joined a one-person team. But many members will recall the pleasure of being greeted by Barbara, and her late husband, Norman, behind a large table of wine-glasses, with warm smiles and true Potteries hospitality, at one of the many openings or private views. Other Friends will have benefited from her organisational skills and energy, in arranging the annual programme of visits to local or regional attractions, some of which were not normally open to the public and therefore required the personal attention and sensitivity that has become Barbara's trademark.

Of course, Barbara herself will tell you that she has enjoyed every minute of her active involvement with the Friends, and certainly her presence on the Council has always been uplifting, because she clearly takes pleasure in sharing her enthusiasms with others. She fully deserves our recognition and thanks for many years of selfless practical support in the running of the Friends; and I'm sure everyone will join with me in hoping that Barbara will continue to come to our events and private views as often as she can.

Peter Vigurs
Chairman

Secretary; Miranda Goodby, Newsletter Editor. Please address any correspondence for the Friends Council to the respective officer c/o The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3DW.

Gladstone success

Gladstone was a finalist in the Signal Style Awards, nominated by the listeners in the Best Visitor Attraction category, Angela Lee and Nerys Hughes attended the awards ceremony at Crewe Hall.