

The September trip to Carlisle

Thursday 10th return Saturday 12th.

There are still places available, contact the editor at john@calos.eu for the secretary (see below) for more details.

Leaving Blackburn on Thursday morning we shall arrive in Carlisle in ample time for lunch (included) at Tullie House Museum followed by a talk from one of the curators and a visit to the various galleries.

Our hotel is a five minute walk away. The Crown and Mitre, an Edwardian building, is in the centre of Carlisle. We shall spend two nights here with breakfast and evening meal included.

Friday will be a full-day excursion to the Roman wall to visit Vindolanda and the Roman Army

Saturday morning is free to investigate Carlisle

In the afternoon we have a guided tour of Carlisle Castle

Late afternoon return to Blackburn.

A Day In The Life of Vanessa Mitchell, Art Keeper

A typical day as an Art curator is varied and two days are never alike. The diversity of work and responsibility makes for a challenging and very rewarding day's work. As with any job involving a computer, my day begins by checking my emails to answer some long overdue correspondence, commonly about invoices and with anticipation for emails from across the world enquiring about the collection. On these occasions, enquiries can vary from academics asking for specific details about a manuscript or artwork, to members of the public wanting reproductions. By mid-morning, I've usually been called out to reception to help visitors with a painting or artefact they have brought in for identification, followed by a series of phone calls, such as from ITV's



The Forge (1847)
James Sharples as a boy worked in a smithy and was completely self-taught. He is one of the case studies in Samuel Smiles 'Self Help' The engraving he made of this painting was enormously successful with both critics and public.

This Morning, who rang today for permission to show an image of *The Forge* by James Sharples as the BBC are embarking on a documentary about industrial art. My afternoons are usually taken up by paperwork and emails such as making arrangements for loans to travel to galleries in America, Europe and the Middle East. When time permits, I spend much of the remaining day in the art store to sort, audit and catalogue the collection, ranging from Japanese prints to drawings by Herbert Railton. At the end of the day, I'll check my emails for a final time and brace myself for what could be in store for me the next day.

Our web site

We now have a website – Friends of Blackburn Museum. Look here for more information about our talks, activities and the museum displays.

I would welcome articles/photographs on anything to do with the Friends or the Museum or on some topic of particular interest to you. My email address is: john@calos.eu.

The address of the site is:

sites.google.com/site/friendsofblackburnmuseum

If you Google the site – Blackburn museum friends - it currently appears on the first page of search results.

I can recommend Google Sites to anyone looking for a web presence. It is completely free but unlike other similar offerings, carries no advertising. It is simple to use and maintain.

Contacts

Hon. Secretary

Mr David Shipway, 10 Beaver Close, Blackburn, BB1 9LB

Newsletter editor

john@calos.eu

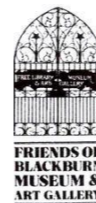
Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery

Museum Street

Blackburn

BB1 7AJ

March 2009



Tela

The magazine of The Friends of Blackburn Museum



She sorts sea shells

The Museum has a huge collection of objects which due to lack of funds and space cannot be displayed. Here two of the Friends are cleaning and bagging part of the shell collection. Friends are also helping to decipher various documents.

The BAFM AGM – A Sense of Place

This year the AGM was held in Penzance, organised by the Friends of Penlee Art Gallery and Museum. The conference opened with two keynote speeches. Kate Brindley, Director of Bristol Museums, spoke about how a museum can help define the 'sense of place' (the theme of the conference). There followed group discussions around our need to represent the local community and support our museums. Some of us may hold longer local knowledge then our present staff and joining a Friends group can help. Later there was a challenging talk by Sir Neil Cossons, past director of Ironbridge Gorge Museum and past Chairman of English Heritage, who argued that museums should be the leaders in helping to set the cultural agenda. He urged us to think about the role of Friends and of our national organisation.

Exhibitions

7th Feb – 2nd May Colin Johnson – 50 Years of Art
7th March 30th May – final degree art from Blackburn College
2nd May – 13th June John Turkington – Heads: Cows to Iron Men
9th May – 20th June – Blackburn Artists Open
6th June – 29th August – Made in Blackburn
27th June – 29th August – Watercolours from the collection

Inside this edition

Restoration project
A close look at a significant example of Victorian history painting.

A cuneiform tablet from the Hart Collection

Our web site

A day in the life of the Museum's art curator

Looking back at our Jubilee Year

The new building.

A purchase from Ebay.

Friends Meetings Still to Come

All meetings take place in the Museum, starting at 7.30pm. Guests are welcome at £2.00 a meeting.

9th April

The Arts in Edwardian Britain

An illustrated talk by Jeff Cooper covering the arts in general including music and poetry.

14th May

Beauty Through the Ages

An illustrated talk by John Turkington, centring round the Judgement of Paris. How would he have chosen if he had not been bribed?

All Friends and guests are invited to come a little earlier, at 7.00pm for wine and nibbles to enjoy while viewing John's exhibition of photographs in the Museum on the theme of 'Heads'.

11th June

Museum Evening

Nick Harling, Keeper of Social History at the Museum will talk about his choice from the Museum Collection.



Nick Harling

10th to 12th September

Two night trip to Carlisle.

See the back page for further details.

Looking Back

We have celebrated the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Friends in what has been an interesting year.

We started off with the Garden Party at 'The Garth' and luckily the rain held off for the afternoon and then came down after the last guests had left. At the end of September we had a superb weekend in London where we visited the museum in Lincoln's Inn, the Dulwich Picture Gallery, the Wallace Collection and finally were entertained by the Friends of Strawberry Hill, the home of the Walpoles, before returning home. I must pay tribute to Mike Millward who now is ready to ease back on his much valued work for the Friends. Over the years, Mike has given us great inspiration, entertainment and education in all things artistic and especially in French cuisine and wines on our visit to France.

Joy Heffernan, Chairman

The New Museum

The Museum is due to be re-developed to provide more exhibition space, a museum shop and a café together with improved storage facilities and a new entrance. It is a massive undertaking so both works and finance will have to be phased in. In the current disastrous economic climate, let's hope that the project can in fact go forward. We also seem to be re-gaining use of the old Lewis Textile Museum.

Boldness in design and scale should give the Museum's wonderful collections the presence they deserve here in the centre of Blackburn.