



**FRIENDS OF
BLACKBURN
MUSEUM &
ART GALLERY**

Newsletter

Number 1

Winter 2005/6

This is the first edition of a new NEWSLETTER which we hope will keep Friends informed about goings-on at the Museum. It is planned to issue the Newsletter three times a year, in the Spring, when the programme is well advanced and summer activities are in prospect, in the Autumn, as the new programme is commencing and in the Winter during the middle of the programme. We hope to make future editions available for Museum visitors to pick up in the Museum, and hence perhaps attract some new members.

This first edition is something of an experiment, and I welcome critical comments. If the newsletter is to be a success, it depends on lively and relevant contributions. Hopefully I will not be writing almost the whole edition each time, and contributions from members will be welcome.

Mike Millward, Editor



The victorious Friends team of Patrick Troughton, Joy Heffernan and Bill Owen after their shock single point defeat of the Museum Team of Stephen Ford, Nick Harling and Rebecca Hill (below) at the December Meeting



Chairman's Jottings

It gives me great pleasure to contribute to this Newsletter. My thanks to Mike for undertaking to edit it - I know how time flies and how things get put on the "back boiler." Reading through newsletters from other Friends' organisations, I think we need to appreciate the goodwill shown to us by Paul and his Museum staff. Believe me, it is a bonus and I hope Blackburn Friends can help out with the forthcoming exhibition.

We must also thank Mike for his organising powers; the trips run smoothly (like swans paddling madly underneath and gliding smoothly above). We do appreciate the time and effort he gives to us.

Thanks go to the Friends for their support over the years with fundraising, running the refreshments at meetings and all the enthusiasm shown at meetings.

I look forward to 2006 and another successful year in the life of the Friends of Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery.

Joy Heffernan

Photo Album



Left: At Ince Blundell Hall in April 2005

Below right: Approaching Brantwood by ferry across Coniston in June 2005



Above: at Edinburgh, Melrose and Paisley during the Annual Weekend, September 2005



MAJOR EXHIBITION HITS BLACKBURN!

On 24th January, *Parallel Realities, Asian Art Now* opens in Blackburn.

The exhibition comes from Fukuoka Asian Art Museum in Japan, the only museum in the world dedicated to showing contemporary Asian art. This is the first time their triennale will be seen outside Japan. It will be on show in venues throughout Blackburn until 9th April. Make sure you see it!

Details from the Museum & Art Gallery 01254 667130

HELP NEEDED!

Friends who would like to help by acting as voluntary gallery stewards during the exhibition are invited to contact Janet Leeming at the Museum.

Object of the Month



William Dickinson



J C Dickinson



The Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Blackburn Exchange
by Vladimir Sherwood

William Sherwood, from an old photograph in the Museum

The Russian painter Vladimir Shervud (1833-97), known in England as William Sherwood, came to Blackburn at the invitation of John Charles Dickinson, the son of William Dickinson, a local early 19th century loom manufacturers who played a prominent role in the development of the Lancashire Loom. Sherwood lived at 7 Princes Street, off King Street.

The Plevna
Monument

and below,
Moscow History
Museum



This picture shows the laying of the foundation stone of the Blackburn Cotton Exchange on 10th March 1863, the same day as the wedding of the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) to Princess Alexandra of Denmark. Sherwood spent the following two years producing the picture we now see, painting portraits of the eminent Blackburn people who had been present at the event, including William Dickinson and his son. He had already painted a similar sort of picture showing the celebrations in Church Street, Preston after the Tory election victory 1862 (now in the Harris Museum). The Blackburn picture, which seems to have been the very first painting acquired by the Museum for the princely sum of £17/9/6 in 1875, somehow ended up in the Technical College, from where it was transferred back to the Museum in 1968. Measuring 6 x 8 feet, it is the biggest picture in the collection.

In 1867 Sherwood returned to Russia, where he was elected to the Moscow Academy in 1872 and became art tutor to the Tsar's children. Also an architect, he designed the Moscow History Museum in Red Square (1883) and the Memorial to the Heroes of Plevna in Ilyinskiye Gates Square, put up in 1877 in memory of the Russian grenadiers who fell in the battles near Plevna liberating Bulgaria from the Turks.

The Blackburn Cotton Exchange opened in 1865. It was never a great success, as the railway to Manchester offered easy access to the much more important Manchester Exchange. Left incomplete, it eventually became a cinema, which very recently closed and is currently for sale.

PRIZE QUIZ

An exciting prize awaits the first correct entry drawn after the closing date of 10th February 2006.



A



B



C

- 1 Identify the three north western buildings above and give the architect of *A*, the origin of the columns in *B* and the religious order which founded *C*.
- 2 a) What was the original purpose of the new defunct Apollo Cinema in Blackburn? (b) When was the foundation stone laid? and (c) Which famous literary figure is said to have made his last public appearance there?
- 3 What were the following Blackburn firms famous for manufacturing:
a) William Dickinson; (b) Jones Brothers; (c) British Northrop.
- 4 What is the Blackburn connection with the very successful Cosworth Engineering motor racing engine manufacturer?

Entries to Mike Millward, c/o the Museum or to 71 Alexandra Rd, BB2 6DW

Forthcoming Events

MEETINGS

19th Feb: “St Petersburg, Petrograd, Leningrad, St Petersburg” – an illustrated talk by Patrick Gavin.

9th Mar: Fiona Jenkins, Assistant Keeper at the Tower, will talk about Turton Tower. A visit to Turton is to be arranged *Details to follow*.

13th Apr: “More Blackburn Characters from a Past Generation” more fascinating local history from Barbara Riding.

11th May: Jan Graffius, the Curator at the College, will give an illustrated talk on aspects of the Stonyhurst Collections. A visit to Stonyhurst is to be arranged *Details to follow*.

8th June: A talk connected with the Annual Outing. *To be arranged*.

17th or 18th June (provisional date) Annual Outing *To be arranged. Confirmation and details to follow.*

Additional activities:

Museums and Art Galleries Month, May 2006: “Behind the Scenes” museum visits will be arranged for members during the month

29th Sept - 2nd Oct: Annual Weekend, 2006: Shrewsbury.