

FRIENDS OF THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

SUMMER/AUTUMN 2019

MEMBERS' EVENTS AND LECTURES AT THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

Most lectures will be presented in the Ashmolean Lecture Theatre, with a capacity of 95 on each occasion, unless otherwise stated.

HOW TO BOOK

Lecture tickets can be booked online, over the phone and in person from the Museum.

Online: www.ashmolean.org/members-events

Phone: 01865 278 112 – our ticketing line

In Person: from the Museum Ticket Desk or main Museum Shop

We do not charge a booking fee regardless of which booking method you choose.

1. Art and Power in 15th Century Urbino

Tue 10 September 3.15pm | £20

Hot drinks and cake served from 3.15pm and lecture starts at 3.45pm

The beautiful hill town of Urbino was once a leading centre of the Italian Renaissance. In this fascinating lecture Diana Matthews will explore how the benevolent rule and princely patronage of Duke Federico da Montefeltro (1444-1482) and his wife, Battista Sforza, encouraged the finest architects, artists, and theorists, such as Piero della Francesca and Leon Battista Alberti, to play their part in the creation of this jewel of a city. By 1500 court life had become so universally admired that Castiglione would immortalise it in his influential work, *The Courtier*, published in 1528. What were Urbino's distinctive characteristics?

Organiser: Sue Hine

2. Last Supper in Pompeii with the Curator

Wed 25 September 4pm | £20

Drinks served after the lecture followed by a Private View of the Exhibition

This lecture will be delivered by Dr Paul Roberts, Sackler Keeper of Antiquities at the Ashmolean, and curator of the Museum's major exhibition beginning in July 2019. We will learn about the people of Pompeii's love affair with food and drink, from the mosaics in the villas of the wealthy to remains found in kitchen drains. The people were overpowered by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius during the preparation and eating of their meal. This ancient town produced wine and olive oil amongst other things and exported these products throughout the Mediterranean. Many of the objects are on loan from Naples and Pompeii and have never been seen outside Italy before. Dr Roberts is an exciting, enthusiastic and engaging lecturer and many Friends will remember the acclaimed exhibition *Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum* which he curated at the British Museum in 2013.

Organiser: Ros Nicholas

3. Gauguin's Portraits: Mimicry and Mystery

Thu 7 November 3.30pm | £20

Hot drinks and cake served from 3.30pm and lecture starts at 4pm

When Paul Gauguin turned to portraiture, in various media, he hoped to reveal aspects of his sitters' personalities more than their physical likeness. As he moved away from Impressionism, he explored unconventional means to achieve a very personal vision. Art Historian Juliet Heslewood, an expert on Gauguin, will give us insight into this extraordinary artist and her talk will complement the Gauguin exhibition at the National Gallery this autumn.

Organiser: Rosemary Wharton

4. The Dutch Golden Age: Paintings from the National Trust

Tue 12 November 10.30am | £20

Hot drinks and pastries served from 10.30am, lecture starts at 11am

Artists of the Dutch Golden Age in the 16th and 17th centuries mastered a variety of painting genres from portraits, still lives and landscapes, to religious, maritime, and genre pictures. David Taylor is the Curator of Paintings and Sculpture for the

National Trust. He is an expert on 16th and 17th century portraiture and has recently been responsible for a major exhibition of works in the National Trust collection by some of the most celebrated artists of the era. He will discuss this rich period of Dutch art in the context of the National Trust's exceptional collections and his lecture will also set the scene for the forthcoming Ashmolean exhibition, *The Young Rembrandt*, which opens in early 2020. This is the first of our morning lectures so please note the start time of 10.30am.

Organiser: Tom Price

5. Calligefiguresques: An Introduction to Islamic Art and Design

Tue 26 Nov 3pm | £20

Hot drinks and cake served from 3pm, lecture starts at 3.30pm

In Europe, in both a religious and secular context, we are used to art which is representational, and it is commonly held that Islamic art is non-representational. This lecture, given by Professor James Allan, Professor of Eastern Art at Oxford University, introduces Islamic art through its three most widely appreciated non-representational strands: Arabic calligraphy, the Islamic art form par excellence, resulting from its use in the language of the Koran; geometry; and the arabesque. All three are used in a wide range of media, including the art of the book, carpets, tilework and woodwork. However, the lecture will also explore the figural side of Islamic art and show how widespread figural art really is – even, most surprisingly, in some religious settings. The lecture concludes by highlighting the way art reflects the deep theological divide between Sunni (orthodox) Islam and Shi'ism.

MEMBERS' TRIPS AND VISITS

To book a place for these trips and visits, please return the accompanying booking form by post.

Any queries or questions regarding these events should be directed to the Activities Team on foam@ashmus.ox.ac.uk or **01865 278172**.

1. Oxford Town Hall

Wed 7 August AND Thu 8 August | £23

Meet in the micro-Museum inside Oxford Town Hall, St Aldates 1.50pm | Visit ends 5pm

When Henry Hare designed a new Oxford Town Hall, he overwhelmingly demonstrated that 'Town' could equal 'Gown' in terms of architecture. This Victorian building has an ornate facade and an interior to match: glorious stucco ceilings and a majestic staircase leading to the colourful, galleried Main Hall. Our one-hour guided tour includes the Medieval Crypt (housing the City Plate), the Council's Court Room, Council Chamber and more. After cream tea (included) in the Long Room, we finish in the City of Oxford micro-Museum. The main Museum is temporarily closed but one room remains open for visits.

Organiser: Rosemary Wharton. Tickets available: 43 for each day (please indicate on the booking form your preferred day or say 'either'.)

Access: Steps from the street into the Town Hall; about 20 narrow steps down to the medieval crypt. All other areas have lift access.

2. Coughton Court, near Alcester, Warwickshire

Wed 28 August | £35 NT members | £47 non-NT member

Depart from Taylorian 9.45am | Oxford Parkway P&R 10am | Return 3.45pm

This is an atmospheric and imposing Tudor country house whose owners were heavily involved in Catholic plots against Elizabeth I and then in the Gunpowder plot in 1605. The house is set in magnificent gardens and has a great collection of Catholic treasures. It has been the home of the Throckmorton family since 1409. On arrival we shall have refreshments (included) followed by a talk on the house and its history. There will be a free flow tour of the house and you can wander around the garden. Lunch is not provided, but there is a café and a picnic area.

Organiser: Anthony Wagg. Tickets available: 55

Access: The floors in the house are irregular and there are steps. The garden is relatively flat.

3. Oxfordshire Wall Paintings Tour: Combe Longa, South Newington and Chalgrove

Tue 3 September AND Tue 17 September | £48

Depart from Redbridge P&R 10am | Taylorian 10.15am | Oxford Parkway P&R 10.30am | Return 4.30pm

This repeat tour will take in three of the finest examples of medieval wall paintings in Oxfordshire. We shall go first to St Lawrence's Church in Combe Longa with its striking murals. Then we shall travel to South Newington for lunch in the picturesque Duck on the Pond pub (included) and a tour of the colourful paintings in the Church of St Peter ad Vincula.

Our final stop will be St Mary's Church, Chalgrove, where we shall have an expert presentation on the internationally famous wall paintings, followed by tea and biscuits. Note: do apply again if you missed the April 2019 tour.

Organiser: Sue Hine. Tickets available : 48 for each day (please indicate on the booking form your preferred day or say 'either'.)

Access: Some walking and uneven ground in all locations.

4. Discovering Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire

Wed 2 October | £37

Depart from Redbridge P&R 8.30am | Taylorian 8.45am | Oxford Parkway P&R 9am | Return 5.15 pm

12th century Tewkesbury Abbey dominates this charming historic market town located beside the rivers Avon and Severn. After morning coffee (included) we will have a 90-minute guided tour around the Abbey (Nicholas Pevsner: "probably the largest and finest Romanesque tower in England"). There are various options for lunch in Tewkesbury's medieval High Street area and the early afternoon is free to explore the town with its riverside walks and boat trips, network of alleyways weaving in and out of the narrow streets, the old Baptist Church and John Moore Heritage Museum.

Organiser: Jane Young. Tickets available: 51

Access: Level access to the Abbey via the main gates and the North Path. Most areas have wheelchair access apart from the Tower and the Upper Room.

5. Autumn in the Cotswolds: Batsford Arboretum and Snowhill Manor, Gloucestershire

Wed 9 October | NT members £39 | Non-NT members £49

Depart from Playhouse 9.30am | Oxford Parkway P&R 9.45am | Return 4pm

Batsford Arboretum, in the heart of the Cotswolds, is a special place to visit at any time of year but is glorious in October when the autumn colours are at their vibrant best. There will be coffee on arrival at Batsford followed by a tour of the gardens, lasting about one and a half hours. Lunch is not included, but there is an excellent café offering a wide variety of hot and cold food. In the afternoon we shall visit Snowhill Manor, a beautiful Cotswold house, restored and renovated by Charles Wade, solely so that he could house his extraordinary collection of treasures. Artefacts of the highest quality, from clocks to costumes, from bicycles to boats are displayed throughout the house, just as he left them.

Organiser: Tom Price. Tickets available: 55

Access: The tour of the Arboretum is on paths, some of which are uneven and quite steep. Snowhill Manor is an ancient building with steep stairs, restricted headroom and some uneven flooring. The house is a quarter of a mile walk from the coach and, although there is a buggy, this tour is not suitable for the less mobile.

6. Windsor Castle, Berkshire

Tue 15 October | £60

Depart from Redbridge 10am | Taylorian 10.15am | Sandhills bus stop 10.30am | Return 4.30pm

Come and see the magnificent State Apartments with wonderful furniture, both English and French, staggering porcelain (including the Sevres dining service made for Louis XVI). You will find pictures by Rubens, Holbein, Van Dyck, tapestries by the Gobelins factory, sculpture by Canova, and much more. On arrival in Windsor, we shall have a light lunch (included) followed by a tour of St George's Chapel, one of the finest gothic buildings in the country and the mother church of the Order of the Garter. From there we have refreshments before our talk and then a free flow tour round the State Apartments.

Organiser: Anthony Wagg. Tickets available: 55

Access: We will walk a short distance, but it is definitely uphill and there are steps.

7. Dulwich Picture Gallery, London: Rembrandt's Light

Tue 22 October | £49

Depart from Redbridge P&R 8am | Taylorian 8.15am | Sandhills bus stop 8.30am | Return 3.30pm

Rembrandt's Light marks 350 years since Rembrandt's death in 1669. The exhibition aims to refresh the way we look at works by this incomparable Dutch Master. 35 international loans that focus on his mastery of light and visual storytelling have been brought together for the first time in the UK. Three of his famous images of women: *A Woman Bathing in a Stream*, *A Woman in Bed* and *Girl at a Window* will be displayed side by side. We will also have a tour of the permanent collection which is rich in European masterpieces by the likes of Rubens, Gainsborough and Canaletto. There will be time for coffee on arrival and lunch will be available in the café or in Dulwich village (neither included).

Organiser: Ros Nicholas. Tickets available: 48

Access: There is step-free access to all areas of the Gallery and folding portable stools are available on request.

FREE MEMBERS' EVENTS AT THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

MEMBERS-ONLY EVENING

**Private evening viewing of *Jeff Koons at the Ashmolean* with pop-up Members' Room
Tue 4 June, 6 – 8pm**

Take in this special exhibition after hours with a guest, and make use of the Ashmolean pop-up Members' Room at the Rooftop Restaurant. Enjoy a drink beforehand, or stay a little longer and enjoy a meal. Usual Members' discount will apply at the restaurant. Please call 01865 553 823 to reserve a table, stating that you are a Member.

No booking required. Just present your membership card as you arrive at the Museum, and last entry to the exhibition is at 7.40pm. Each Member is entitled to bring one guest free of charge into the exhibition at the evening, and tickets are available to purchase at the exhibition shop for additional guests.

Please access the museum via the St Giles Entrance

LAST SUPPER IN POMPEII

Thu 25 Jul 2019 – Sun 12 Jan 2020

Everything from the exquisite mosaics in the villas of the wealthy to the remains found in kitchen drains reveals what the people of Pompeii loved to eat and drink. The Ashmolean's 2019 summer exhibition will tell the story of this ancient Roman town's love affair with food.

When the ash from Mount Vesuvius began raining down on Pompeii in AD 79, people in the resort-town were engaged in typically Italian activities – eating, drinking and producing food. Many of the objects, on loan from Naples and Pompeii, have never before left the country. They range from the luxury furnishings of the Roman dining room, to the carbonised food that was on the table when the volcano erupted.

MEMBERS-ONLY EXHIBITION PREVIEW

Tue 23 July 10am – 5pm

Visit our new exhibition at this exciting preview, ahead of the public opening on Thu 25 July. No booking required. Just present your membership card as you arrive at the Museum.

Each Member is entitled to bring one guest free of charge (this does not apply to normal exhibition viewings), and tickets are available to purchase at the exhibition shop for additional guests.

COMING SOON: MEMBERS' WEEK

Mon 4 Nov – Sun 10 Nov 2019

Mark your diaries, as Members' Week returns to the Ashmolean Museum this Autumn. To thank you all for your support, as well as celebrating and highlighting the importance of your contributions to the Museum, we will be putting on a week of exclusive events, activities and special offers for our Members. More details will be available closer to the time.

Make sure to keep up to date with Members' news, events and special offers. Let us know your email address by contacting us on **01865 278016** or **membership@ashmus.ox.ac.uk**

For any queries regarding Members' lectures and off-site Members' events, please contact the Activities Team on **01865 278172** or **foam@ashmus.ox.ac.uk**