

# FRIENDS OF THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

## WINTER 2018/19

### MEMBERS' EVENTS AND LECTURES AT THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM

All lectures will be presented in the Ashmolean Lecture Theatre, with a capacity of 100 on each occasion.

#### HOW TO BOOK

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

**Online:** [www.ashmolean.org/members-events](http://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. Members' Christmas Party at the Ashmolean

**Mon 3 December 6pm | £25**

Please refer to the separate leaflet for more information and how to book.

### 2. Dürer's Melencolia I: Searching for the Beautiful

**Fri 7 December 3pm | £18**

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

The Ashmolean's collection of prints by Albrecht Dürer includes an impression of Melencolia I, the astonishing engraving (1514) that is celebrated both for its technical virtuosity and its enigmatic subject matter. Over the centuries many scholars have tried to explain the complex and mysterious symbolism of this influential image. Oxford art historian Patrick Doorly will present the evidence for interpreting the work as an illustration of a Platonic dialogue. Is Dürer's subject really Melancholy, or Beauty?

Organiser: Jane Young

### 3. Domes and Minarets: Mosques of the Islamic World

**Tue 22 January 4.30pm | £18**

Hot drinks and cake served from 4.30pm and lecture starts at 5pm

Images of Romanesque or Gothic cathedral architecture may linger in our memories, but we may be pressed to describe a typical mosque. Professor James Allan, Emeritus Professor of Eastern Art at Oxford University, looks at three of the most important forms typified by the Friday Mosque in Córdoba (now the Cathedral), the Mosque of Süleyman the Magnificent in Istanbul, and the Royal Mosque in Isfahan. The lecture explores their different styles, the minarets and domes that enhance their skylines and illustrates the rich designs that adorn these buildings. He will also explore the distinguishing features of Sunni and Shia mosques, and what they tell us about the deepest division within the contemporary Islamic world.

Organiser: Sue Peach

### 4. Stitching For Your Soul

**Fri 8 February 3.30pm | £18**

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

In this fascinating lecture, Dr Mary Brooks from Durham University will discuss the important role of needlework in 17<sup>th</sup> century England. Needlework was seen as a virtuous activity, which allowed for both private meditation and shared listening to holy readings. It also demonstrated a woman's piety. Dr Brooks, who curated the very successful Ashmolean exhibition of embroidery from the Feller Collection in August 2014, will look at the traditions, techniques and materials of secular and sacred needlework, and their fusion in the beautiful church vestments of the time.

Organiser: Sue Hine

## 5. John Singer Sargent's Portraits of Sisters

**Tue 12 March 4pm | £20**

Drinks served after the lecture

This lecture is centred on two of Sargent's greatest group portraits – *The Daughters of Edward Darley Boit* and *The Wyndham Sisters*. The lecture also features his *Carnation, Lily, Lily, Rose*, *The Misses Vickers*, and several other works. Our speaker is Dr Malcolm Rogers, previously a Deputy Director at the National Portrait Gallery, then Director of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston until retirement. He will set these paintings in their artistic and social context and tell the stories behind the portraits and the personalities of the sitters.

Organiser: Rosemary Wharton

## 6. Towards a Better Understanding of Art

**Thu 21 March 3.45pm | £18**

Hot drinks and cake will be served from 3.45pm and lecture starts at 4.15pm

Alice Foster is well known to many Friends as an art historian who makes art come alive. In this talk she will take some well-loved pictures in the Ashmolean Museum and explain what it is that we should be looking for (or at) in them. You will see paintings in a new light.

Organiser: Anthony Wagg

## 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 278 172.

## 1. Christmas in Salisbury: Salisbury Cathedral and Mompesson House

**Thu 13 December | £40 NT members, £46 non-NT members**

**Depart from Playhouse 8.30am, Redbridge P&R 8.40am | Return from Salisbury 4pm**

Salisbury has a stunningly beautiful Cathedral, largely unchanged since it was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. We shall have a guided tour of the building, including an opportunity to see one of the best preserved copies of Magna Carta. Nearby is Mompesson House, a quintessential Queen Anne townhouse which will be dressed for Christmas. Lunch is not included but there are excellent cafés in both venues. In the afternoon there is a Carol Concert in the Cathedral, followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the cloisters. Please bring your National Trust card if you are a NT Member.

Organiser: Tom Price. Tickets available: 55

Access: There may be some uneven flooring in the Cathedral, and there is a short walk across the Close to Mompesson House.

## 2. Upton House, near Banbury

**Thu 31 January | £37 NT members, £47 non-NT members**

**Depart from Redbridge P&R 10am, Taylorian 10.15am, Water Eaton P&R 10.30am | Return from Upton House 3pm**

Upton House is a sandstone country house, built in 1695 and enlarged by Lord and Lady Bearsted in the 1920s. The wonderful art collection includes works by Canaletto, Tintoretto, Bruegel and El Greco plus a collection of early Shell advertising posters. The House will be opened exclusively for us. On arrival we shall have coffee and shortbread, followed by a private tour. This will be followed by a two-course lunch (included) in the Pavilion Restaurant, with seasonal casserole, fresh bread and a choice of homemade National Trust cakes. Afterwards there will be time to visit the shop and tour the beautiful gardens with terraces that stretch down to the lake. Please bring your National Trust card if you are a NT Member.

Organiser: Sue Hine. Tickets available: 48

Access: Access to first and lower ground floors of the house is by stairs only.

### **3. British Library, London: *Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms***

**Wed 13 February | £49**

**Depart from Redbridge 8.30am, Taylorian 8.45am, Sandhills bus stop 9am | Depart from London 3.30pm**

As well as having a guided tour around the fantastic permanent collection in the Library, we shall have the opportunity to see the wonderful exhibition *Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms*. This spans six centuries, from the eclipse of Roman Britain to the Norman Conquest, and includes highlights from the British Library's remarkable collection of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts alongside a large number of exceptional loans. We shall have refreshments on arrival (included). Lunch can be purchased from the restaurant in the Library, and there are pubs and restaurants nearby.

Organiser: Anthony Wagg. Tickets available: 55

Access: The British Library is fully accessible.

### **4. 2 Temple Place, London: *John Ruskin***

**Thu 7 March | £35**

**Coach departs Redbridge P&R 8am, Taylorian 8.15am, Sandhills bus stop 8.30am | Depart from London 3.30pm**

This exhibition celebrates the bicentenary of John Ruskin's birth. Key objects will be positioned alongside Ruskin's contemporaries as well as newly commissioned material by contemporary artists. It will explore how Ruskin's influence, throughout the arts, education, the economy and the environment, is still being felt today. The exhibition is self-guided. On a guided tour we shall learn about the history of 2 Temple Place and its architecture. There is a café on site where coffee on arrival and lunch will be available (neither are included).

Organiser: Ros Nicholas. Tickets available: 55

Access: There is a short flight of stone steps leading up to the entrance. Once inside a lift provides access upstairs.

### **5. Brunel in Bristol**

**Wed 20 March | £48**

**Depart from Taylorian 8am, Redbridge P&R 8.15am | Depart from Bristol 4pm**

We shall visit the SS Great Britain as well as the new Being Brunel Museum in Bristol. After morning coffee on arrival, the day will include a guided tour around the impressively restored SS Great Britain, a short talk by a Brunel Institute librarian, and opportunities to enjoy the two Museums on the site which celebrate Brunel's extraordinary life and legacy. A soup and sandwich lunch is included.

Organiser: Jane Young. Number of tickets available: 51

Access: The historic nature of this docklands site involves negotiating uneven cobblestones, narrow corridors and steep steps (mobility lifts are available).

### **6. Tate Britain, London: *Van Gogh and Britain***

**Thurs 28 March | £45**

**Depart from Taylorian 8.40am, Water Eaton P&R 8.55am, Sandhills bus stop 9.10am | Depart from London 4pm**

Be amongst the first to see this major exhibition. *Van Gogh and Britain* presents the largest collection of van Gogh's paintings in the UK for nearly a decade. Some of his most famous works will be brought together from around the world. Van Gogh lived in England as a young man for several years and the exhibition also includes paintings by British artists who inspired him, plus those who were inspired by him. They include Constable and Millais, together with Francis Bacon, David Bomberg, and the young Camden Town painters.

Organiser: Tom Price. Tickets available: 55

Access: Tate Britain is fully accessible.

# FREE MEMBERS' EVENTS AT THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM



## **SPELLBOUND: MAGIC, RITUAL & WITCHCRAFT**

**Fri 31 August 2018 - Sun 6 January 2019**

*"Mesmerising"*  
*The Times*

*"Irresistibly creepy"*  
*The Telegraph*

*"Bewitching"*  
*The Economist*

*"Fascinating"*  
*The Art Newspaper*

### **Spellbinding stories, fascinating objects... from crystal balls and magic mirrors to witch bottles and curse poppets.**

Explore the history of magic over eight centuries in this immersive and thought-provoking exhibition. The intriguing objects on display show how our ancestors used magical thinking to cope with the unpredictable world around them. They range from the fantastical and macabre (a unicorn's horn, a human heart encased in lead), the beautiful and mysterious (exquisitely engraved rings to bind a lover and medieval books of ritual magic), to the deeply moving confessions of women accused of witchcraft.

The exhibition asks us to examine our own beliefs and rituals, and aims to show how, even in this sceptical age, we still use magical thinking and why we might need a bit of magic in our lives.

To illuminate the links between past and present, specially commissioned works by contemporary artists provide dramatic responses to the themes of the show, conjuring demons, flames and the scuttling of malignant spirits.

## **MEMBERS-ONLY EVENING**

**Ashmolean Pop-Up Members' Room and evening viewing**

**Mon 19 November, 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.**

## **MEMBERS' ANNUAL LECTURE**

**Carole Souter: Marvellous museums: something for everyone**

**Main Hall, Taylor Institute**

**Tue 18 December, 6pm**

We are delighted to welcome Carole Souter, Master of St Cross College, at our Members' Annual Lecture. Please visit [www.ashmolean.org/members-events](http://www.ashmolean.org/members-events) for more details and booking information.

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 278 016** or **membership@ashmus.ox.ac.uk**.