

Newsletter

AUTUMN
2018



A VERY GEORGIAN SOIRÉE
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THE HOLBURNE MUSEUM

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH ART

A NEW EXHIBITION:
Gainsborough & the Theatre
AND A LECTURE ON
GAINSBOROUGH
BY HUGH BELSEY
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A DAY VISITING
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CONSERVING MISS
TANNER'S COLLECTION
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Membership matters:

Changing Standing Orders to Direct Debits

As you will all know by now, over the coming months we are making some administrative changes to the Friends' scheme to help provide a better future for the Holburne. As part of this process we are introducing **Direct Debits** to *replace* Standing Orders to offer a more flexible way of paying for your Friends' membership.

Our apologies to those of you who have only just set up, or upgraded, your Standing Orders, but we will be very

grateful if you would be kind enough to:

1) Contact your bank now to: **cancel your existing payment**

2) **complete and return the enclosed Direct Debit form** to us, keeping to your current payment, but noting that it is a *different* bank account.

Your renewal date will be automatically the same as now. We will remind you nearer your renewal date, but by doing it now you can forget all about it!

New membership cards will be sent out as normal when we receive your payment. As Membership Secretary I will continue for the time being, and this process will, of course, continue into next year, but we hope to have it completed and the Friends totally integrated with the Museum by late 2019.

Thank you in advance for your patience.

Undine Concannon, Honorary Membership Secretary
holburnefriends@gmail.com

Chairman's letter, and a message from Chris Stephens

Dear Friends,

This is our first Newsletter since the Friends' Resolution to be taken under the wing of the Museum, and so we thought it appropriate for Chris, as Director, to write to you too, this time. You will also see that your committee now includes Will Darby representing the Patrons; we will work together to plan future events that we hope will inspire you to support the Museum all the more.

This autumn we look forward to the drama and glory of *Gainsborough & the Theatre*. The Gainsborough expert Hugh Belsey, co-curator of the exhibition, will be giving the Robertson Lecture immediately following our Private View, and I hope many of you will attend (see page 5).

We also have two events which were kyboshed by the severe snow in early March -

Richard Frewer is singing a selection of German, French and English songs on 18th October, and we will assemble for the Quiz on 1st November. Mark Hake has planned a super day out to Salisbury Close; joining that trip will achieve an extra benefit, by showing our solidarity with Salisbury.

Next spring we will be holding the Plant Sale in early May, once again; if any of you are revising your borders this autumn and have spare plants, do think of us.

This year at the AGM I said that *'it is fun being a Friend, but even more fun when you feel you are contributing'* - if any of you feel you could play a larger part, join the committee, have ideas for visits you would like to organise - please get in touch.

Antonia Johnson



Far left, photograph of Antonia Johnson
 @ Jonathan Davis
 left, photograph of Chris Stephens
 @ Clare Green

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Newsletter for all Museum supporters. As you know, there are a number of major changes afoot at the Holburne, not least the Friends moving in-house; however we are all committed to ensuring that you, as Friends and Patrons, will see no obvious difference in your relationship with the Holburne other than, perhaps, a closer line of communication.

Over the last year we have had to make some important - and sometimes painful - decisions about the running of the Museum, not least about the staffing. If you have any questions or anxieties about any of this I hope you will feel free to contact me, directly, or Camilla Johns our Head of Development.

Be assured, however, that we are confident that from this October we are moving forward to a new era of security with a renewed commitment and energy. I want to thank you all for the support and advice you have given as we build the Holburne's future; long may it continue!

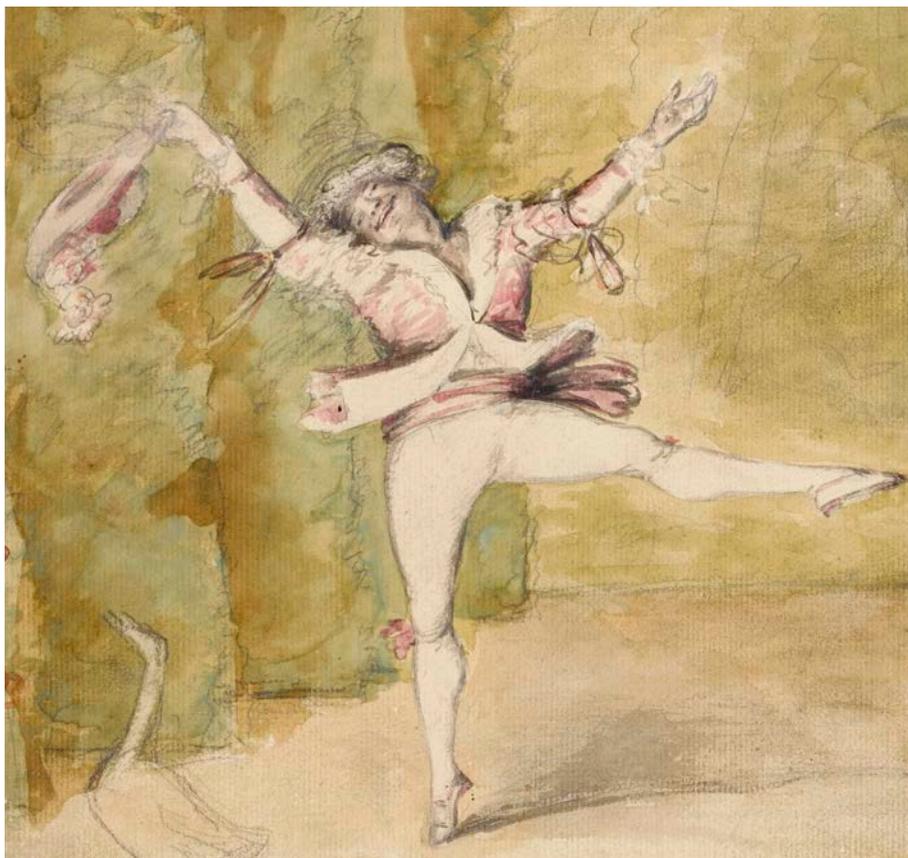
Chris Stephens

You are invited to a private view of the new exhibition:

Gainsborough & the Theatre

Exhibition Circle and **Patrons'** Private View
Thursday 4th October 2018 6-7pm
Reception 7-8:30pm

Holburne Friends' Private View
Friday 5th October 6-7:15pm
Refreshments in the Garden Café



Nathaniel Dance-Holland (1735-1811)

"True, but every goose can..." A caricature of Marie-Auguste Vestris, the dancer.

Date unknown, pencil, black chalk and wash on paper

© The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge PD.972-1963

The 2018 Robertson Lecture: Hugh Belsey on Gainsborough

**Friday 5th October 2018,
7:30pm in the Brownsword
Gallery** following the Friends' private view of the exhibition *Gainsborough & the Theatre*, which has been co-curated by Hugh Belsey with Sue Sloman.

Gainsborough painted portraits at all periods of his career and they provided the majority of his income. Instead of being painted to satisfy a commission from the sitter, some were

initiated by the artist and in the 1780s, when he was expending much of his energy on so-called *Fancy* pictures, the lengthy process of painting a couple of important portraits raises further questions about their classification, their intention and their purpose.

Hugh's lecture examines this dichotomy and shows how very inventive

Gainsborough's work was during the last decade of his life.



Hugh Belsey (pictured above) is one of the foremost authorities on British 18th century art. After studying at the universities of Manchester and Birmingham he became Curator of Gainsborough's House in Sudbury. Later this year Yale University Press will publish his catalogue of Gainsborough's portraits.

This event is being organised by Antonia Johnson. Tickets are £15 each. Please complete and return booking form **no. 1** for tickets.



Left:
Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788)
Thomas Linley the elder,
circa 1770, oil on canvas
© Dulwich Picture Gallery,
London DPG140

Vive la *Différence*: a musical evening



Thursday 18th October 2018 Brownsword Gallery 7:00pm

A programme contrasting German, French and English late 19th and early 20th century song, with Richard Frewer, lyric baritone and David Price, piano.

Vive la Différence, the title of Richard and David's recital, generally refers to the sexes; but might it not equally be a 'hurrah' for the difference between the musical and poetic traditions of Germany, France and Britain at the beginning of the twentieth century?

The grandeur of the German Lieder tradition is well demonstrated by Richard Strauss; the light romantic Gallic quality in *mélodies* by Satie, Chabrier, Duparc and Bizet; and who better to represent the 'Anglo-Saxon' in song than Thomas Hardy and Gerald Finzi.

Richard recently recorded this programme in Wells, in front of an invited audience, one of whom kindly wrote:

"I cannot begin to tell you how much we enjoyed the concert. The choice of

songs, the variety, the musicianship, the accompaniment - all exceptional. We wouldn't have missed it for the world."

Tickets are £15 each, available at the Museum in person or online at:

www.holburne.org

NB As the original date in March had to be re-scheduled due to bad weather, and all tickets refunded, please note that you will need to rebook for this evening of fine music.

The Holburne Friends' Quiz returns

The HF Quiz will now take place on **Thursday 1st November at 6:30pm** (having been blasted out of existence by 'the beast' in March!) *We had a sellout, but please can all those who said they would definitely be coming now confirm by sending cheques?*

For those who have not attended before, this is a very jolly evening, with an hour or so of quizzing (questions devised by my husband Simon Johnson) over a glass of prosecco or white wine, followed by supper in the Clore for those who wish (bearing in mind that we can seat a maximum of 48, whereas we can squeeze a few more in for the quiz itself).

Quizzing is just a tad competitive, with teams of 6 ideally, though those who don't want to assemble a team can be found a place. Then for supper we sit at long tables and it is a very good opportunity to further your acquaintance amongst Friends.

The Quiz alone is £12.50, Quiz and supper (not including wine) £25.

Friends do the catering - if anyone would be able to contribute, please do get in touch with Antonia via holburnefriends@gmail.com.

Please complete and return booking form **no.2**, thank you.



Salisbury Close: the sacred and the secular

Tuesday 6th November 2018

A day spent in the country's largest, and arguably most beautiful and varied Cathedral Close. We visit the cathedral in the morning and Arundell's, former home of Edward Heath, in the afternoon.

But there will also be time to visit the Salisbury Museum, Sarum College or the Rifles Museum, all also to be found in the precincts of the Close.

The foundation stones for Salisbury Cathedral were laid in April 1220, with the main body of the cathedral completed by autumn of 1258. The early 14th century saw the addition of the tower and spire, and the latter remains to this day the country's tallest at 404ft. The cathedral was

buffeted by the upheavals of the Reformation, the English Civil Wars and the Restoration, but despite the destruction of the Bishop's Palace and much damage to the cloisters, the fabric of the church itself survived remarkably well.

The 18th century saw major alterations, first by Francis Price then by James Wyatt, but as the conservation movement gathered pace in the late 19th century many of these were reversed by Sir George Gilbert Scott.

We will have a private guided tour of the cathedral, with a special focus on the Magna Carta, the stained glass windows and the world's oldest clock. Salisbury Cathedral's copy of the

Magna Carta, dating from 1215, is the best preserved of four from the original issue, written on sheepskin parchment.

It is believed to have been brought to the cathedral by one Elias of Dereham, priest and steward to the Archbishop of Canterbury. It is currently housed in the magnificent Chapter House.

The world's oldest mechanical clock is housed in the cathedral, made of wrought iron by three Dutch horologists in or about 1386. The clock has no face and strikes only on the hour, which is typical of the period. We hope to be fortunate enough to see a demonstration of its workings and hear it ring during our visit.



Salisbury Close: the sacred and the secular continued

After a light lunch in the cathedral refectory we stroll to Arundells, one of the finest houses in the Close. It is best known as the home of Edward Heath and the rooms are decorated very much as they were during his time here, reflecting his career as a politician and Prime Minister and his interests in music and sailing. The drawing room houses his Steinway Grand piano, bought in 1963, while the hallway contains scale models of all the *Morning Cloud* yachts.

In the study (shown below right) is Heath's writing desk, once owned by David Lloyd George and throughout the house is displayed his art collection, including work by Sergeant, John Nash, Piper, Churchill and Gwen John.

One highlight is the collection of Japanese woodblock prints and the hand-painted Chinese wallpaper depicting the traditional tale of the *Monkey King*. Not surprisingly there are numerous mementos and memorabilia of Heath's career, as well as gifts and presents from Presidents and Heads of State, and an extensive collection of amusing and sometimes satirical cartoons and caricatures of himself as

well as fellow politicians-friends and foes alike!

Arundell's gardens run to about two acres, and were extensively re-designed in 1985. There are a great variety of trees, as well as a wonderful view of the cathedral and frontage onto the rivers Avon and Nadder.

After our tour there will be about an hour for some private exploration of the Close - perhaps a look in the Salisbury Museum - there is the wonderful gallery of Wessex archaeology, a history of Salisbury gallery, a ceramics collection and special exhibitions. There

is also the Rifles Museum, home of the Infantry Regiments of Berkshire and Wiltshire.

Tickets are £70 each to include return private coach transport, light refreshments on arrival, a private tour of the cathedral, a light lunch in the Refectory, entry to and private tour of Arundell's and free time for private exploration of the Close.

This trip is being organised by **Mark Hake**. The coach will leave the Holburne promptly at **9:00am**, returning at about 6pm. For tickets, please complete and return booking form **no. 3**.



You are invited to join us for...

A very Georgian soirée



Isaac Robert Cruikshank (1789-1856) and George Cruikshank (1792-1878)
*A dance at Almack's also known as "Tom and Jerry 'sporting a toe' among the
Corinthians at Almack's in the West"*
circa 1821, hand coloured engraving

A very Georgian soirée continued

**Saturday 24 November,
7.30pm - 10pm**

A Very Georgian Soirée
tickets are £35* (including a
free drink on arrival)
*limited Early Bird tickets £25

**A fundraiser for the
Holburne Museum!**

*Party like
its 1799!*

Experience a night of
Georgian revelry, gossip and
scandal as we transport the
Holburne Museum back to
its Georgian roots.

For one night only, immerse
yourself in the colourful world
of the Sydney Hotel – the
Holburne's original
manifestation in the late
1700s** – and experience an
eclectic mix of live music,
dance and card games in
our galleries.

Sample gin cocktails in
the *Pleasure Garden Café*,
pose for a portrait by our
satirical illustrator, and

dabble in the occult with our
mystical fortune-teller.

**This night of Georgian fun
and frolics will raise vital
funds for the Museum –
so come along and bring
your friends!**

Optional dress code:
Georgian-inspired glamour!
Think: beauty spots, pastels
and powdered wigs; Lady
Georgiana, Beau Brummell
and Marie Antoinette...

**The Sydney Hotel was built
in 1794 as a gateway to the
18th century pleasure gardens
(Sydney Gardens) where
ladies and gentlemen of Bath
promenaded, danced and
enjoyed breakfasts, fireworks
and evening galas. The Hotel
offered daytime and evening
dining, dance and gambling
and issued all visitors with a
silver token upon arrival.



Highlights of the evening:

Artist's Studio Have your
portrait sketched, Georgian-
style, by talented illustrator
Sam Church.

Pleasure Garden Café

Savour gin cocktails amidst
the twinkling lights of our
relaxing café.

Dance and Music Hall

Get your boogie on Georgian
style with Bath Minuet Group
and Matthew Spring and his
Georgian band.

Card Games in the Ballroom

Get a taste for competitive
Georgian card games in the
same gallery where Bath
high society historically
gambled the night away...

Opera on the Mezzanine
courtesy of Bath Spa
University's graduate singers.

Fates foretold discover
our secret fortune-teller
in the hidden corners of
the Museum...

For tickets please contact
the Museum directly, or via
www.holburne.org

Patrons' events

Exclusive events for Holburne Patrons. If you would like to come to some or all of these events, we invite you to join the Patrons, or join our new Exhibition Supporters Circle; please peruse the special article on page 22-23.

Thursday 4 October at 6pm Patrons' Private View

Please join us for the very first view of our new exhibition *Gainsborough & the Theatre*.

By bringing together some of Gainsborough's finest portraits of his friends in the theatre, this exhibition will create a conversation between the leading actors, managers, musicians, playwrights, designers, dancers and critics of the 1760s-80s.

Recent private views have been particularly busy, and we recognise that this has not always been the best environment to see the exhibition. For the first time the Patrons' Preview will be increased from 30 minutes to a full hour, with an in-depth talk with our Director, Chris Stephens. Invitations to Patrons will be sent shortly.

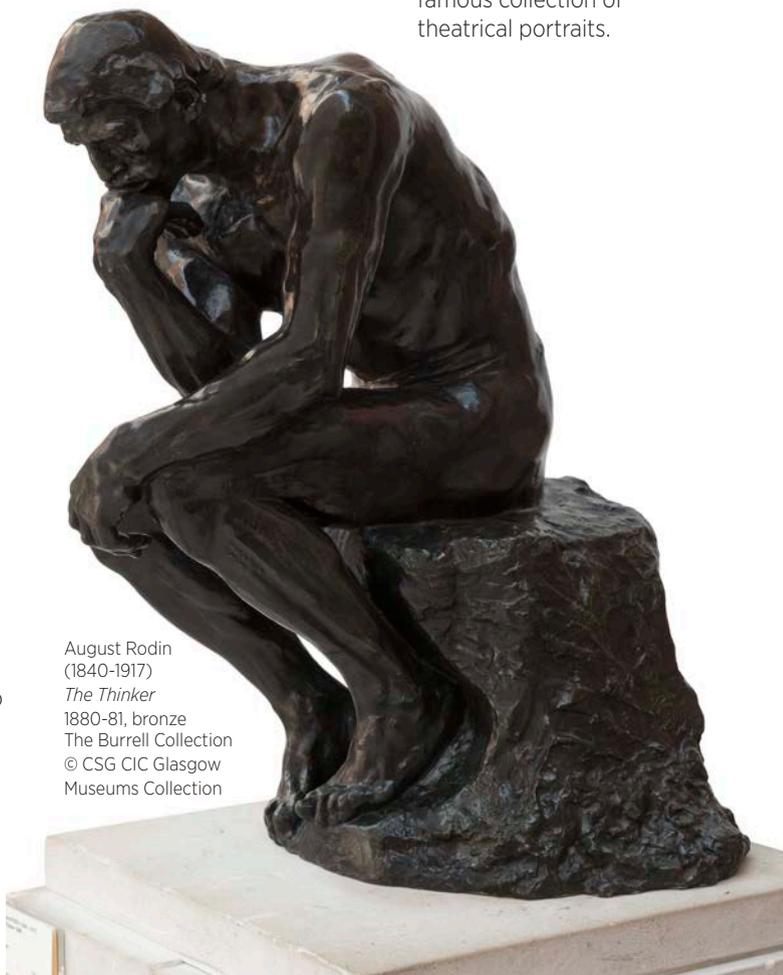
Tuesday 13 November 2018 Patrons' Breakfast

Our Wirth exhibition *Rodin: rethinking the fragment* explores the influence of the classical world on Rodin's work. Join us as our curator reveals further sculpture and items from antiquity from William Holburne's own collection. This is also a great opportunity to have an in-depth and exclusive tour of the Rodin exhibition

preceded by a delicious breakfast with our curator.

Friday 18 January 2019 Save the date

Private tour of the Garrick Club in London and visit to the exhibition *Gainsborough's Family Album* at the National Portrait Gallery. A visit to NPG's complementing Gainsborough exhibition and a curator-led tour of the Garrick Club's famous collection of theatrical portraits.



August Rodin
(1840-1917)
The Thinker
1880-81, bronze
The Burrell Collection
© CSG CIC Glasgow
Museums Collection

Team Holburne enters the Bath Half Marathon!

Do you love the Holburne?
Do you love running (or walking)? Combine your love for both by joining Team Holburne for the 2019 Bath Half Marathon!

The Bath Half is one of Britain's most popular city runs. A flat course that straddles both sides of the Avon whilst avoiding the surrounding hills, you'll do two traffic-free laps through the heart of this World Heritage City. Our runners will be raising funds to support the Museum in 2019.

Run or walk

We believe in *Changing Lives Through Art* and that applies to everybody. In this spirit we'll be organising a Walking Team alongside our Running Team so that anyone (with a reasonable

fitness level) can participate, not just seasoned runners!

Join us in 2019!

You can secure a guaranteed charity place in the 2019 Bath Half Marathon by paying a £30 registration fee and pledging to raise £300+ in sponsorship in support of the Museum. Please contact Ollie Merchant if you'd like to participate or hear more: o.merchant@holburne.org, or phone 01225 388545.

When does the Bath Half Marathon take place?

17 March 2019

What time does the Bath Half Marathon start? **11am**

We'll support you all the way What you can expect:

- A welcome fundraising pack full of top tips and

advice on how to get your friends together and beat your fundraising target

- A Holburne running top
- A friendly welcome in the charity village for you and your supporters
- Cheering point along the route
- All the support you need from the Development Team

How can I support the Holburne runners if I don't want to take part?

Our 2019 Bath Half team are running, walking and fundraising to support the Museum in 2019. If you would like to support them, you can make a donation and/or pop down to cheer on the day. Further details of how to support the team will be in the Spring Newsletter.

Thank you for your support!



A round-up of past events

Friends visit Cothay Manor

Oliver Cromwell couldn't find Cothay but we did. So did a cavalcade of film crew vehicles. Mary-Anne Robb, current owner and re-creator



of the Arts and Crafts garden 'rooms' was apologetic; the filming of the final part of a costume drama called for uncut grass and the fake wisteria on one wing certainly wasn't her doing.

None of this could detract from seeing the most perfect 15th century country house, built in 1485 on the site of a 12th century hall. Our guides seamlessly combined the history and evolution of the house with family and social histories and architectural developments. The newly restored wall paintings in the Great Hall gave a glimpse of how medieval houses had been brightly decorated. In the

fascinating range of rooms the Robbs have created a family home entirely in keeping with a medieval manor house. Throughout the house textiles and upholstery have

been designed and woven locally and furniture and features carefully chosen.

After lunch we were shown the gardens by Mary-Anne. The many 'garden rooms' enclosed by yew hedges are imaginatively planted. It was a bonus to have the ongoing restoration and additions explained by their creator and the opportunity to buy unusual plants from the nursery garden. Thank you to Mark for organising a splendid day. *Jean Cogger Evans*

A day trip to Oxford and the Ashmolean Museum

Kim de Morgan led a group of Holburne Friends to see the exhibition *America's*

Cool Modernism. Everyone particularly enjoyed the early paintings by Georgia O'Keeffe and the large canvases by Edward Hopper. Our Ashmolean guide was especially informative and enthusiastic, and there was time left to explore Oxford which is always a treat.

James Stourton Lecture

Following the Friends AGM, James's talk gave us a fascinating romp through centuries of British collecting, replete with historical and political nuance and many illustrations of the people, places and artworks. From Charles I to Charles Saatchi and beyond, there have been great characters and collectors exerting an influence on what art can be seen around the country, and James proved to be an expert guide. *Antonia Johnson*

Summer Book Fair

Despite the attractions of the world cup and other events, our Book Sale on 24th June attracted many browsers and, more importantly, a large number of book-buyers. We took over £1,800 which breaks previous records. I'm very grateful to all those

A round-up of past events continued

Friends who so generously donated books, to helpers on the day, and to everyone who made purchases. It's very satisfying to see people walking away from the Holburne with books under their arm, while others struggle with bags brimming with books. A wonderful recycling of literature, which greatly helps the Friends' fundraising. *Sidney Blackmore*

Voysey house visit

Thanks to the most generous invitation of the owners, two sold-out visits gave Holburne Friends a chance to see *Voysey's Lodge Style*, (shown below), which Pevsner regards as the most important 20th century house in Bath.

Situated on Combe Down, the house, initially called *St Winifred's Quarry*, was commissioned by Thomas Sturge Cotterell, who was

General Manager of the Bath & Portland Stone Firm. The house is minimalist in style and beautifully proportioned, and is considered to be highly representative of Voysey's principles. The current owners have been there for many decades, and any restoration has been done with a very light touch. The grounds were also part of the tour, and showed off well its 'quarry' location, and we were blessed with a glorious day for our visit. *Nigel Pollard*

Forde Abbey & Mapperton

Setting off promptly on a hot summer's day, our coach soon filled with animated conversation as we chatted with old friends and made new friends en route. We had both places to ourselves with very good guides, and at Mapperton, a charming head gardener to guide us. Forde Abbey, dating from 1141 to the

present day is, to quote the website, "*a stunning example of history preserved, but not petrified.*" I was particularly impressed by the well-polished furniture and well-swept floors. The Kennard family are now owners of the house and 30 acres of world famous gardens. There is also a vaulted undercroft where we had coffee upon arrival.

Mapperton is a magnificent Jacobean manor house, full of historic furniture and fine paintings. The grounds include an Italianate valley garden among tumbling hills and unspoilt countryside. We had a very pleasant lunch *al fresco* with, for me anyway, the amusement of hens which were foraging at our feet.

One of the house guides was a lady I worked with in London over 40 years ago and a kind lady on the coach offered me a *Cephalaria giganteum*. Wasn't I lucky? But we were all lucky, and we owe a debt of gratitude, to the Friends, and organiser Mark Hake. Our driver was excellent too, and the timings were impeccable. What a lovely day! *John Rose*



Learning and Engagement at the Holburne

Did you know?

Every year we use over a metric tonne of clay and 100 litres of PVA glue in our workshops!

It has been another very busy few months in the Holburne's Learning department. We now reach over 13,000 people a year through our workshops, and here's a little taster of what we've achieved so far in 2018:

We reached 430 children and trained 13 teachers from 9 local schools as part of the National Gallery's *Take One* project. Teachers were encouraged to take inspiration from the Holburne's architecture to use in their own classroom teaching. Children took part in a series of workshops which saw them don hard hats and design their own buildings! One teacher said: *"It surpassed [expectations]. The children were totally*

absorbed and doing a whole day made for a very comprehensive learning experience. Superb teaching and very engaged staff".

We delivered interactive school workshops around *Bath to Baghdad: Ellen Tanner's collection of Middle Eastern Art* where children created their own travel journals inspired by the collection. We also held a *Holburne Welcomes Syrian Refugees Day* where we welcomed 45 adults and children to discover the collection with a translator and try paper marbling.

13 students from Bath Spa University's 3D Design course were given the opportunity to design and create new Holburne-inspired products to sell in the shop. Creations included beautiful spoon-shaped candles and mini Holburne key rings (pictured below).



coming soon...

We are **delivering** a pantomime themed family fun day around our *Gainsborough & the Theatre* exhibition.

We're **welcoming** secondary school children to life-modelling classes inspired by our exhibition *Rodin: rethinking the fragment*, which starts on 2nd Nov.

We are co-delivering a **Discovery Day** for young people aged 16-19 from 3 local schools to explore ARTiculation; an event which supports young people to speak publicly about art.

We're continuing our regular **Pathways to Wellbeing** project for those with experience of homelessness, mental health issues and social isolation. **And much more!**

Every year we need to raise over £100,000 in grants and donations to deliver our Learning & Engagement Programme for the community. If you are interested in helping, please get in touch with Camilla Johns, Head of Development on 01225 388564 or email c.johns@holburne.org

Learning and Engagement at the Holburne continued



Celebrating long-term Friends: Michael & Lorna Powne

This article, kindly written for us by Sidney Blackmore, former Chairman of the Friends, is the latest in our series which celebrates long-term Friends of the Museum.

As many of you may be aware, the Museum receives no government or local council funding, so all the people who generously support the Holburne, whether through volunteer work, donations and legacies, are absolutely vital to keep the Museum's important work going.

When talking to Michael and Lorna Powne one is aware of how interesting and extraordinary their lives have been. However, Lorna ascribes it purely to chance, which saw them working and living in Ethiopia for six years, then Uganda, before moving to Bath in the early 1960s. Lorna comes from a scholastic family. Her grandfather owned schools, and her aunts' established Battle Abbey School. Lorna was a pupil (and head girl) at her aunts' school, which was



evacuated to the Acland's Killerton estate in Devon during World War II. Michael's school, Highgate, was also evacuated to Devon, to Westward Ho! Their paths did not cross in Devon, but when at university at Durham; Lorna was charmed by Michael's voice when he sang in the cathedral.

After marriage, they taught in England before applying to the British Council for an overseas posting. They had hoped to be sent to Istanbul but instead went to Addis Ababa, and later to Uganda. One of the fruits of their Ethiopian experience was Michael's pioneering book on Ethiopian ecclesiastical and

secular music, published in 1968. With three young children they returned to England where Michael had a post at the Bath Technical College. Lorna remembers walking from the station along Manvers Street for the first time, and felt that she was in an Italian rather than an English city!

They have had a long association with the Holburne. Lorna together with Ann Hopkins-Clarke organised a series of history of art foundation courses, and would always bring her students to the Museum. Michael was an enthusiastic supporter of the Holburne's

Photograph of Michael and Lorna Powne, above, by David Wiltshire

Celebrating long-term Friends continued

redevelopment plan and spoke eloquently about Eric Parry's design at a meeting of Bath's Development Control Committee. They have been volunteers at the Holburne for more years than they care to remember.

In Bath, Michael and Lorna have always lived on Lansdown and are very much part of the community, giving a walnut tree to the St Stephen's Millennium Green to celebrate both the Queen's Jubilee and their own diamond wedding anniversary.

They talk with great affection about the Holburne, and see it almost as a second home. When asked about their favourite objects, Lorna admits to being very fond of the silver, and of the early Lawrence pencil portraits of the Dottin brothers, and the recently acquired oil sketch of *Arthur Atherley* also by Lawrence. Michael mentions the silver creamer



in the form of a cow, and talks enthusiastically about the portrait of Henrietta Laura Pulteney whose family developed the Bathwick estate, and the fact that the artist, Angelica Kauffman, was a founding member of the Royal Academy.

Sidney Blackmore

John Schuppe (worked circa 1753-73)
Cow Creamer 1755, silver
 Holburne Museum S44

Holburne Insights: conserving Miss Tanner's collection

The curatorial team at the Museum have been working on the *Bath to Baghdad* exhibition for many months and have relished the opportunity to share Miss Tanner's incredible story and her wonderful collection. (NB the exhibition will close on 21st October 2018).

Hundreds of Friends and Patrons supported the project last year not only making the exhibition possible, but also supporting the learning activities and events which have been inspired by it. The Holburne team had ambitions to conserve about 25 objects from Miss Tanner's collection, but as support for the project through the *Big Give Christmas Challenge* gained momentum, it was realised that *Bath to Baghdad* was going to be much more popular than expected.

Curator of Decorative Arts, Catrin Jones had been in touch with specialist conservators around the country, briefing them on the condition of the objects that were to be prepared for display. Happily, however, she was in contact again explaining that we were now able to conserve many more items than was initially anticipated; the unbelievable success of the Campaign allowed us to preserve over 60 of Miss Tanner's objects.

Seeking the assistance of specialist lacquer, metalwork, textile and woodwork conservators across the country meant the collection leaving the Museum for a short while. The team began planning the exhibition layouts, often working from archival photos. As the collection was returned, unpacking the objects was

like opening a treasure trove: blackened vases returned shining and covered in detailed decoration and emblems of the reliefs at Persepolis (see before and after photos below). Tiles revealed themselves to be vibrant, suggesting the colourful displays in the Persian souks. Textiles were brought back to life, with detailed embroidery and shimmering sequins.

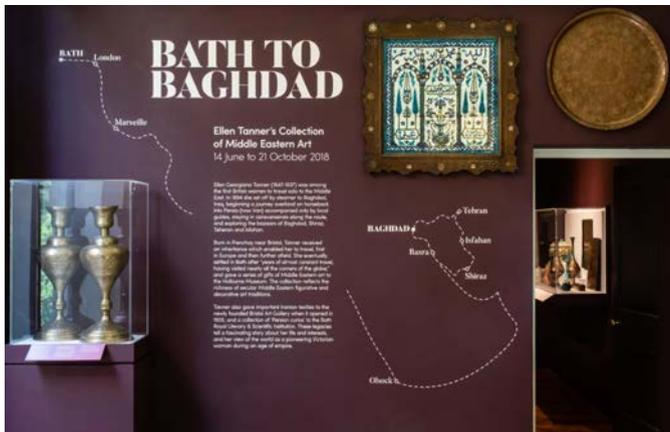


Above right: two vases, pierced and chased brass, Iran, 19th century F66C & F66D, given by Miss E.G.Tanner in 1926.

Embroidered silk, shown before treatment (left) and after conservation (right)



Holburne Insights: conserving Miss Tanner's collection continued



These objects have created an evocative and fascinating exhibition. Densely displayed, like the bazaars where the objects were purchased, you get a sense of Miss Tanner's eye for collecting pieces which she felt exemplified skilled craft techniques, local trades and the history and culture of Persia. We've been able to share these objects with others to inspire them too.

Our Learning Team have been working with local schools and art groups, encouraging visitors to create their own work inspired by the collection. A highlight of the programme was collaborating with *Bath Welcomes Refugees* to run a family activity day for Syrian families who have been settled locally and the exhibition proved to be a

perfect way for the Holburne to reach out to our new neighbours.

The response to *Bath to Baghdad* has been incredible from Patrons, Friends, staff, volunteers and visitors alike. The excitement surrounding the show has extended even further than we'd hoped, and articles about Miss Tanner and her collection have been featured in *The Art Newspaper* among others. Our archives are full of curious treasures that tell fascinating tales. Being able to tell the story of Miss Tanner's intrepid travels has allowed us to bring to light a collection which has never been seen before. The support shown to the *Big Give Christmas Challenge* not only facilitated this project but allowed us to transform,



repair and re-invigorate almost the entire collection, keeping it safe for future generations.

This project will have a wonderful legacy, as we are planning to install part of Miss Tanner's collection in our permanent display.

Kate Vandor, the Traverse Trust Curatorial Fellow at the Holburne Museum

Above left: Entrance to the exhibition in the Wirth Gallery, photograph © Tony Gilbert

Above right: Two soapstone vessels, Iran (Mashhad) 1903-04, Holburne Museum C927A126 & 7 Given by Miss E.G.Tanner in 1927.

Supporting the Holburne as a Patron

Joining as a Patron

The Patrons of the Holburne play a vital role in supporting the Museum and all of our activities. From new exhibitions to curatorial research, children's learning projects to conservation, our Patrons really do make a big difference.

We are at an important moment in the Holburne's history. As a charity with no public funding, we are now more reliant than ever on the support of donations to maintain our Museum and site for all. Even with the re-introduction of charging, we need to fundraise over £500,000 a year.

By joining the Patrons, we invite you to explore all areas of our work. You will be the first to set eyes on our exhibitions as they open and you can enjoy a closer relationship with the Museum, our Director and Curators.

As a token of our thanks, we invite you to a range of exciting Museum and social events throughout the year, including:

The annual **Holburne Summer Party** with the Director, hosted in unique and beautiful locations.

Patrons breakfasts and **behind the scenes** access to the Museum.

An opportunity to explore **unseen treasures** with the Museums' curators

Receptions, **exclusive trips** and social gatherings with other art lovers, and more...

Patrons support the Museum with a gift of £600 or more a year. Now is the perfect time to join and enjoy a range of wonderful benefits whilst making a critical contribution to the future of our Museum.

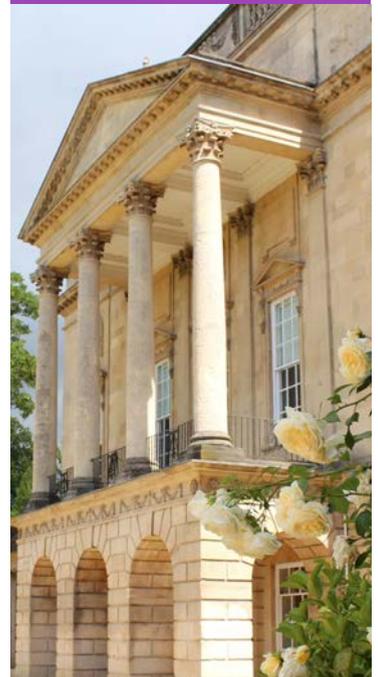
Contact Ollie Merchant, Development Officer, today on **01225 388545** or email: **o.merchant@holburne.org** or pick up one of our new Patrons leaflets in the Museum. *Thank you!*

“

The Holburne Museum is the proud legacy of a Victorian collector who has left us his treasures. We who live in Bath and enjoy the Museum must ensure that it survives so we can all learn, discover more, and share these treasures, and I happily support the Holburne as a Patron.

”

Andrew Fletcher
Holburne Patron



Our new Exhibition Circle

The Holburne's Exhibition Programme has always been at the heart of the Museum's activities. Every year we aim to research, plan and deliver three major exhibitions of exceptional quality which bring works of art from across the world to Bath.

As the Museum undergoes a number of changes to secure its future, we are seeking the support of

20 individuals to form an Exhibition Circle to help us deliver our most ambitious and important exhibitions across a 4-year period.

Welcoming gifts of £3,000+, as a supporter we will invite you into the heart of our exhibition planning process, to discover how our shows come to fruition, from the initial concept to the opening night. This will include a behind the

scenes tour of our galleries while an exhibition is being installed, the opportunity to meet our curatorial team to learn how paintings are borrowed, transported, and arranged for display, and a chance to hear about shows before they are publicly announced. To find out more please contact **Camilla Johns**, Head of Development, via email c.johns@holburne.org or call **01225 388564**.



Photograph © Evoke Pictures

Visitors enjoying the beautiful 2015 exhibition *Gold*, showing art on loan from the Royal Collection.

THE HOLBURNE MUSEUM

Holburne Friends' Committee

Antonia Johnson,
Chairman

Sidney Morton,
Honorary Treasurer

Undine Concannon,
Honorary Membership Secretary

Mary Jane Wilkinson,
Honorary Secretary

Committee Members

Jennifer Bereska, Deputy Treasurer

Jonathan Davis,
Newsletter Designer and Editor

Mark Hake,
Galleries, Gardens and House Tours

Kim De Morgan, Special Events

Olivia Eliot, Deputy Chairman and Foreign Tours

Richard Frewer,
(former Holburne Trustee), Music

Tim Locke, Friends' Web Pages

Will Darby, co-opted member;
Patrons' Representative

Do check our regularly updated pages on the Holburne website for news of events and visits etc:

<http://www.holburne.org/support-us/friends-of-the-holburne-museum/>

The Holburne Museum

Great Pulteney Street
Bath BA2 4DB

The Museum is open daily:
10am to 5pm

Sunday and Bank Holidays:
11am to 5pm

Closed 24th to 26th December
and 1st January

www.holburne.org/friends
email: **holburnefriends@gmail.com**

The Holburne Museum is registered
charity number 310288

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Front cover, top right:
Thomas Gainsborough 1727-1788
Philippe Jacques de Louterbourg,
circa 1777-78, oil on canvas
© Dulwich Picture Gallery, London DPG066

Front cover, lower right:
Carved pear wood sherbet ladles,
Iran (Abadeh) 19th century
Holburne Museum F72
Given by Miss E.G.Tanner in 1927.

I/we should like tickets at £15.00 each

Name (s)

Address

..... Telephone

Email (or send stamped self-addressed envelope).....

Please send cheque, payable to the 'Friends of the Holburne Museum' to: **ANTONIA JOHNSON**,
HOLBURNE FRIENDS, c/o THE HOLBURNE MUSEUM, GREAT PULTENEY STREET, BATH, BA2 4DB

NB PLEASE WRITE A SEPARATE CHEQUE + SEPARATE ENVELOPE FOR EACH EVENT, THANK YOU!

BOOKING FORM 2 HOLBURNE FRIENDS' QUIZ

6:30pm Thursday 1st November 2018

I/we should like tickets at £25.00 each for the quiz, glass of wine or Prosecco **AND**
a 2-course buffet supper (please note: numbers for the supper are limited due to space reasons)

or:

I/we should like tickets at £12.50 each for the quiz, glass of wine or Prosecco **ONLY**

Name (s)

Address

..... Telephone

Email (or send stamped self-addressed envelope).....

Please send cheque, payable to the 'Friends of the Holburne Museum' to: **ANTONIA JOHNSON**,
HOLBURNE FRIENDS, c/o THE HOLBURNE MUSEUM, GREAT PULTENEY STREET, BATH, BA2 4DB

NB PLEASE WRITE A SEPARATE CHEQUE FOR EACH EVENT, THANK YOU!

BOOKING FORM 3 DAY TRIP TO SALISBURY

TUESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2018

I/we should like tickets at £70.00 each

Name (s)

Address

..... Telephone

Email (or send stamped self-addressed envelope).....

Please send cheque, payable to the 'Friends of the Holburne Museum' to: **MARK HAKE**,
HOLBURNE FRIENDS, c/o THE HOLBURNE MUSEUM, GREAT PULTENEY STREET, BATH, BA2 4DB

NB PLEASE WRITE A SEPARATE CHEQUE + SEPARATE ENVELOPE FOR EACH EVENT, THANK YOU!