

# Newsletter

THE  
HOLBURNE  
MUSEUM

FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE HOLBURNE MUSEUM

SPRING 2020



A DAY AT SHERBORNE CASTLE  
and MINTERNE HOUSE & GARDENS  
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FLEET AIR ARM and  
HAYNES MOTOR MUSEUMS  
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NEW EXHIBITION: GRAYSON PERRY:  
*THE PRE-THERAPY YEARS* see page 4



LUCAS CRANACH at  
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Credits/captions for front cover images:  
Clockwise from top left:

Sherborne Castle grounds,  
photo courtesy of the Wingfield Digby  
family at Sherborne.

Chevrolet Corvette, image courtesy of  
Mohamad Shahrman Ariff

Lucas Cranach the Elder (1472 - 1553)  
*Portrait of Sigmund Kingsfelt*  
about 1530, oil on wood panel  
© Compton Verney (CVCSC:0191.N)

Grayson Perry (1960 - )  
*Self Portrait cracked and warped*  
1985, Glazed Ceramic, Private Collection  
Photo: Todd-White Art Photography  
© Grayson Perry. Courtesy the artist  
and Victoria Miro, London/Venice

### Friends membership 2020

In Spring 2020 there will be small increases to our Friends membership subscriptions: £40 per year for an individual and £60 for joint membership. This is the first rise since 2016.

You do not need to do anything now. When it comes to your annual membership renewal we will write with the new rate. For those who pay by Direct Debit (the Museum's preferred method), we will write to you in advance of your change in payment.

Subscription money helps the Holburne bring some of the world's greatest art to Bath and also to deliver engaging educational programmes for everyone.

The ever-increasing cost of running an independent museum means a large proportion of the budget relies on charitable support in the form of donations, grants and gifts. We would delighted to hear from you if you would like to get more involved in helping us.

We value your continued support enormously - **thank you.**



# Jonno's letter, and message from Chris Stephens

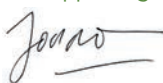
*Dear Holburne Supporters all,*  
My thanks are due to our outgoing Chairman, Antonia Johnson for her admirable work in leading the Friends through many changes over recent years. Many thanks also go to Undine Concannon as the Friends' Membership Secretary and Sidney Morton as Treasurer, who are stepping down after many years of invaluable service.

2020 brings an array of exciting events and day trips for all our supporters. Do join us to help celebrate the generosity of Frank Brown, when virtuoso players Nathaniel Mander and Sam Brown have asked two promising young musicians to join them for a wonderful evening of fine music-making.

If classic cars are your thing, come along on a visit to the Haynes Motor Museum. If you enjoy fine wines, oenophile Allison Cocklin will present a fun and interesting wine tasting evening. Mark Hake has organised special day trips to beautiful houses with unique collections, and we are striking out a little further afield with a day trip to Compton Verney Art Gallery and Park to see the exhibition *Lucas Cranach: Artist and Innovator*.

We have some very special events lined up exclusively for Exhibition Circle members and Patrons, including an exciting opportunity to meet Grayson Perry in person and VIP tickets to COLLECT, the international art fair for modern craft and design in London.

I hope to see some of you at these events, and wish you a very happy 2020. Thank you for supporting the Holburne.



Jonno Davis  
Chairman, Holburne Supporters

## Message from Chris Stephens

Let me start by adding my thanks to Jonno's for all that Antonia, Undine and Sidney have done to make the Friends such a lively and successful organisation. The Holburne would not be what it is without their energy and commitment over many years. And thank you to Jonno and committee members old and new for taking up the mantle.

2020 promises to be an amazing year for the Holburne

with your membership gaining unlimited access to many exciting exhibitions. In January we will open our much-anticipated show of Grayson Perry's early work: *The Pre-Therapy Years*.

If you haven't seen them yet, do catch displays of new work by Candace Bahouth and Mark Clarke before they close in early February.

The summer brings *Canaletto: Painting Venice*, a famous set of paintings never before shown outside their usual home at Woburn Abbey, and an extraordinary group of mediaeval Islamic metalwork. Thomas Lawrence's wonderful portrait of Arthur Atherley, which our supporters helped us buy in 2016, will be the centrepiece of a show exploring the artist-prodigy's meteoric ascent in the autumn when we'll also be showing the work of two fantastic contemporary artists, Tracey Emin and sculptor Nicholas Pope. There is something for pretty much everybody. So I am confident it will be a **happy new year!**



Dr Chris Stephens  
Director of the Holburne

Right: Jonno Davis; a modern take on the silhouette, pictured at Olafur Eliasson's Tate Modern exhibition.



Left: Chris Stephens  
photograph © Clare Green



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

# Grayson Perry: The Pre-Therapy Years

**Exhibition Circle** and **Patrons'** Private View  
Thursday 23rd January 2020 5:30-8:30pm

**Friends'** Private View

Friday 24th January 2020 6-7:30pm  
Refreshments in the Ballroom

*Exhibition Circle and Patrons are also invited to attend  
this private view if the date is more convenient.*



Grayson Perry (1960 - )

*Cocktail Party*

1989, glazed ceramic, H41 x 22 cm (GP239)

© Grayson Perry. Courtesy the artist and  
Victoria Miro, London/Venice



# Pioneering naval aviation and the UK's largest collection of international motor vehicles



Left: a 1970 Chevrolet El Camino SS 396 Pick-up with V8 engine  
Image © Haynes Motor Museum

Below: Concorde G-BSST, prototype 002, on display in Hall 4. Assembled at the BAC plant at Filton, maiden flight in April 1969. Photo © Fleet Air Arm Museum

## Thursday 12th March 2020

A full day trip to visit the Fleet Air Arm Museum and the Haynes International Motor Museum near Yeovil.

We shall visit the Fleet Air Arm Museum in the morning, and have an introductory talk about the history of the collections followed by free time to explore the exhibition galleries and Halls.

The museum preserves the history of the Royal Navy's flying arm, including over 90 aircraft and is the largest museum of its kind in Europe.

The exhibits range from the pioneering development of naval aviation since 1909, to aircraft used in both World Wars, the Falklands conflict and the first British-built Concorde, prototype 002.

We will head over to the Haynes Motor Museum for lunch and the rest of the afternoon to discover the UK's biggest collection of over 400 cars from around the world.

Highlights include cars and bikes from the late 1800's, classic cars from the 1960's, great British marques, and

an entire hall of sports and grand-touring cars all in red!

Tickets are £70 to include private coach transport, arrival coffee, entry tickets, lunch and curator talks at both venues. Please add £6 if you'd like to park at St Mary's, Bathwick.

This visit is being organised by Jonno Davis, please complete and return **booking form 1**. Do allow us time to respond to your booking as we are volunteers and are not based in the Museum. Thank you for your patience.





# Lucas Cranach at Compton Verney

## Thursday 26th March 2020

A full day trip to Compton Verney Art Gallery and Park in Warwickshire where we will have private tours of both the main collection as well as the special Lucas Cranach exhibition. There will also be free time for independent exploration of the art gallery and the Capability Brown-designed grounds.

Compton Verney estate (shown below) can trace its origins to the early 16th century although there had been a manor house here as far back as the mid-12th century. Much of the Palladian house we see today was the result of a re-modelling commissioned by George Verney, the 12th Baron Willoughby de

Broke, undertaken by Oxford master mason John Townesend who had worked at Blenheim Palace and a number of Oxford colleges. Further re-modelling took place by Robert Adam between 1762-68 while Capability Brown transformed much of the landscaping a decade later as well as designing the ice house, greenhouse and chapel.

The Verney family remained owners of the estate until shortly after WWI at which point it changed hands twice until being acquired by The Peter Moores Foundation (of Littlewoods Pools fame) in 1993. By this time both house and grounds were in a seriously dilapidated state

but an ambitious £45m rebuilding and expansion project saw Compton Verney re-open in 2004 as a gallery to house the Moore family's eclectic art collections. These focus on six areas: British Folk and "naïve" art - Compton Verney has the largest such collection in the country, a diverse mix of furniture, paintings, shop signs, farming equipment and children's toys; British Tudor portraits; the Chinese art galleries, (including one of the finest collections of bronze ritual vessels from the Shang to the Han dynasties); a collection of paintings from the "Golden Age" of Neapolitan art, from 1600-1800, (including religious and mythological scenes and landscapes); a series





# Lucas Cranach at Compton Verney continued

of rooms display Northern European art from the mid-15th to mid-17th centuries: (portraits, wood carvings, bronzes, statuary and silverware); finally, the Marx-Lambert collection comprises works produced by Enid Marx as well as those collected by Marx and her close friend Margaret Lambert - together, this is a wonderfully varied range of textiles, books, ceramics and works on paper from the 1930s through to the 1960s.

Compton Verney also has a beautiful series of spaces for temporary exhibitions, and this visit is timed to coincide with a unique opportunity to see: *Lucas Cranach: Artist and Innovator*.

Cranach (1472-1553) was born in Franconia, central Germany, and in his long career rose to become court painter to the Electors of Saxony. He was also a close friend of Martin Luther and in his later years many of his religious works sought to depict this emerging new strand of Protestant Christianity. He also produced numerous woodcuts for Luther's bible translations.

This show will display not only Compton Verney's own



Lucas Cranach the Elder  
(1472 - 1553)  
*Venus and Cupid*  
about 1525, oil on  
beechwood panel  
© Compton Verney  
(CVCSC:0339.N)

works by Cranach, but loans from the National Gallery, Waddesdon Manor and the Royal Collection. There will also be examples of works by modern and contemporary artists such as Pablo Picasso, Michael Landy and Claire Partington which will show Cranach's continuing influence on the art world.

exhibition and highlights of the main collection. If you would like to park at nearby St Mary's, Bathwick, for the day please add £6 to your payment and tick the box on **booking form 2**. The coach will leave the Museum promptly at 8.15am, returning at about 6.30pm.

This trip is being organised by Mark Hake. Please allow time for us to respond to your booking as we are volunteers and not based at the Museum, thank you.

Tickets are £60 each to include return coach transport, light refreshments on arrival, a light lunch and private tours of the Lucas Cranach



# A day at Sherborne Castle and Minterne House & Gardens

## Thursday 16th April 2020

We return to Dorset this spring to see two of the county's finest properties - Sherborne Castle and Minterne House and Gardens, both still in the hands of branches of the extended Digby family. We have a private tour of each house, (at Minterne we will be shown round by Lord Digby himself) and there will be free time at Minterne to explore its gardens.

Originally built by Sir Walter Raleigh, but lived in by the Digby family for the past 400 years, Sherborne Castle has had two incarnations- the original castle, now in ruins and owned by English

Heritage, and what was once Raleigh's hunting lodge, into which the Digby family moved in the late 17th-century, but now much altered and added to over the years. It is this which we will visit. The hunting lodge forms the kernel around which numerous further wings, salons, towers and courtyards were added to, resulting in what Simon Jenkins refers to as "one of the oddest houses in England".

Sherborne Castle's interiors were extensively remodelled in the latter part of the 19th-century - intriguingly largely along Jacobean tastes, with the notable exception of the Library which retains a Gothic

feel, complete with ogee windows and flamboyant arches. Other highlights include Raleigh's Great Parlour with its vast Victorian fireplace, as well as the Red Drawing Room with its elaborate plasterwork ceiling showing the Digby crest.

A succession of richly furnished parlours, boudoirs and receiving rooms leads the visitor into the old entrance hall and Oak Room, where solid oak furniture, bare flagstone floors and unadorned fireplaces show that we have returned to Raleigh's old hunting lodge.

Below, Sherborne Castle facade  
Photograph © Paul Dibben





# A day at Sherborne Castle and Minterne House & Gardens

continued

Minterne is known as much for its gardens as for its wonderful arts and crafts house. There is some irony in this fact as it was neighbouring Sherborne Castle that employed Capability Brown but Admiral Robert Digby would ride over to call on his relatives whenever Brown was there and use the opportunity to “pick the brains” of the landscape architect. So at Minterne a small natural stream was transformed into the series of lakes and ponds that we see today, formal gardens removed and numerous trees planted. In the late 19th-century dozens of shrubs were introduced - azaleas and rhododendrons especially - from specimens

and seeds that Victorian plant hunters brought back from their expeditions to the Himalayas and central Asia.

Of the house itself, both exterior and interior are more eclectic and individual than the label “arts & crafts” would suggest - the facade has elements of Tudor, Queen Anne, and Regency for example. Inside, the three principal reception rooms which give out onto the garden are individually distinct: namely 17th-century, Stuart and Adam. Meanwhile the main hall is a nod to the Gothic style, being of two storeys, but with an adjoining “classical” arcade, with a barrel-vaulted ceiling.

The marble chimney piece in the hall was originally made for Eaton Hall, the Duke of Westminster’s seat.

Tickets are each £70 to include return private coach transport, private tours of both houses, and a 2 course lunch. If you would like to park at St Mary’s, Bathwick, for the day please add £6 to your cheque and tick the box on **booking form 3**. The coach will leave the Museum at 8.30am prompt, returning about 6.30pm. This trip is being organised by Mark Hake. Please allow time for us to respond to your booking as we are volunteers and not based at the Museum. Thank you for your patience.



Minterne drawing room;  
photograph courtesy of  
Peter Booton



# A musical celebration for Frank Brown

## Friday 1st May 2020 at 7:00pm

A constant in the past five years of the *Frank Brown Celebration* has been the wonderful keyboard playing of Nathaniel Mander who was introduced to us by the late Christopher Hogwood CBE. It seems appropriate that our 'constant' should be a harpsichord virtuoso, as it was Frank Brown who persuaded Bath University and the Museum to purchase the unique Schantz Forte-piano which Nat plays so well in our recitals.

We hope that a date with Nat and his partner, Sam Brown, will become a regular part of our musical offering at the Holburne. This year,

they are to give us another recital on May Day. In each of the past five years, Nat has presented various artists to form a different 'Holburne Ensemble' and hence a fresh mixture of musical colour.

The first year, the Ensemble was a string ensemble which Christopher Hogwood organised, whilst last year we welcomed one of Chris's closest musical partners, Dame Emma Kirkby. It was a memorable occasion and one which could have filled the top gallery twice over!

We hope that these Frank Brown evenings, focused on the Schantz pianoforte, will continue. How do we marry the 'constant' with the fresh

and exciting? I am sure that many of us have had an epiphany when hearing a new musical voice has made us sit up and want to shout YES! In discussion with Nat and Sam we have agreed that they will bring us such young musicians who have excited them and who they judge to be future stars.

This year they are to be joined by Charlotte La Thrope and Sergio Bucheli. Charlotte graduated from Durham University, with a first class degree and with 'The Most Outstanding Soloist Award'. She has now taken up a scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music under the care of Lillian Watson. Charlotte now performs

Sam Brown, left,  
with Nathaniel Mander  
Photograph courtesy  
of David Percy





## A musical celebration for Frank Brown continued

regularly as a soloist across the UK. Her most notable recent performances include the solo arias in Bach's *St John Passion* at Ely Cathedral, Bach's *St Matthew Passion* in Romsey Abbey and Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610* in Milton Abbey with the Bishop's Consort. She has also performed in Mozart's *Requiem*, Vivaldi's *Gloria* and Patrick Hawes' *Requiem* in Durham Cathedral. Her operatic roles to date include Susanna in Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro*, Pamina in the *Magic Flute*, Iris in *Semele*, L'Enfant in Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* and Eurydice in Monteverdi's *Orfeo*.

Mexican born Sergio Bucheli came to the UK to study the guitar at the Yehudi Menuhin School thanks to a bursary awarded by the Rolling Stones. Since September 2016, Sergio has been dedicated full time to the study of the lute family as a post graduate at the Royal Academy of Music with (appropriately) a Christopher Hogwood Scholarship. Sergio is a keen chamber musician and has recently taken part in performances of Baroque Concertos with Lawrence

Power and Vilde Frang and a "Night Shift" concert with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. As a continuo player for oratorio and opera Sergio has taken part in the recording of Handel's *Brookes Passion* with Jonathan Cohen's Arcangelo as well as a concert performance of Handel's *Theodora* with Arcangelo at the Konzerthaus in Vienna.

*Richard Frewer, Supporters Committee*

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Do join us for what promises to be a delightful occasion not only to hear wonderful music in a lovely setting but also to meet to meet some of the Museum's supporters at a convivial party in the Museum's Garden Café after the concert.

Tickets for the concert, with food and drink at the party afterwards, are £30 each. For tickets, please visit: **[www.holburne.org](http://www.holburne.org)**, or call in at the front desk in the Museum.

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Above: Charlotte La Thrope  
Below: Sergio Bucheli



# Expert wine-tasting at the Holburne

## Saturday 9th May 2020

6:30 to 8:30pm

Allison Cocklin from *It's All About Wine* (shown in caricature, right) has kindly offered to host a wine-tasting at the Holburne this spring.

Sixteen years ago Allison decided to get serious about her love of all things vinous and started studying wines and spirits. She now runs a monthly Wine School and Gin Club at Nurstead Court in Kent along with a monthly pop up at a local farm shop.

Her aim is to "Create a Passion for Tasting" - exciting people about what they are drinking, and encouraging organic, biodynamic and natural wines. The wines she shows are made by people who are as passionate about their craft as she is about tasting their wine!

## Theme for the evening: Spring Into Summer

As the seasons change, we move from the rich reds around the fireside to some lovely fresh white wines and lighter style reds for the warmer days ahead.

After some fabulous fizz on arrival, we will taste white and rosé wines before taking a break for cheese and charcuterie. Then it's on to the reds and something deliciously sweet to finish the evening...perfect!

Tickets are £40 each to include generous tastings and fine cheeses and charcuterie. This event is being organised by Jonno Davis, please complete and return **booking form no. 4**. Do allow us time to respond to your booking as we are volunteers and are not based at the Museum, thanks.







*The Holburne  
Plant and  
Produce Sale*  
**Sunday 10th May 2020**  
10:00-2:30

This year the Holburne's Plant Sale is joined by our first ever produce stall. Please help us by donating some of your home made produce in jars to sell and raise funds for the Museum. See p.24 for details. Many of our regular plant stalls will be returning this year, including gardening experts from Florrie Harris Herbs, In Clover, Necia West Plants, Wild Thyme, and Willow Cottage Plants.

**Biscuits and cakes needed!**

Please help us by baking cakes or biscuits to sell at our pop-up cafe on the day, or perhaps help serve tea and coffee. Do get in touch with Sally Roche on 01225 315706 or email on [sallenroche@btinternet.com](mailto:sallenroche@btinternet.com) if you can offer help with any baking and catering.

**Calling all gardener Friends**

If you have surplus plants to offer for the sale, or clay pots that you don't want, or are happy for me to come and raid your garden - by which I mean lift and divide and take the unwanted extras away, offering advice at the same time if you like - please get in touch with Antonia Johnson on email via:

[friends@holburne.org](mailto:friends@holburne.org)

*Thank you for your help!*





# A rare chance to visit two privately owned manor houses in Herefordshire

## Tuesday 12th May 2020

In the morning we first visit Grade 1 listed Rudhall Manor, set in 10 acres of grounds and dating back to the mid-14th century. The manor is timber framed, with several additions over the centuries and a restoration in the 19th-century. Many period features remain. Admiral Nelson was a regular visitor and reputedly first met Emma, Lady Hamilton here. The manor was also a temporary home for fifty Chelsea Pensioners evacuated here during the Blitz.

From Rudhall, we have a short drive over to the Kentchurch Court estate, where we will have lunch before being given a private tour of the house. Afterwards there will be free time to explore the gardens. Kentchurch Court is part of

an estate that is the ancestral home of the Lucas-Scudamore family who have been living here for almost 1,000 years. Alice Glendower, daughter of the last Welsh Prince of Wales, married a Scudamore while another, later, Scudamore, Sir James, was Elizabeth 1's jousting champion. The house has elements designed by John Nash and internally there is an impressive barrel-vaulted ceiling in the main hall and Grinling Gibbons carvings in the dining room.

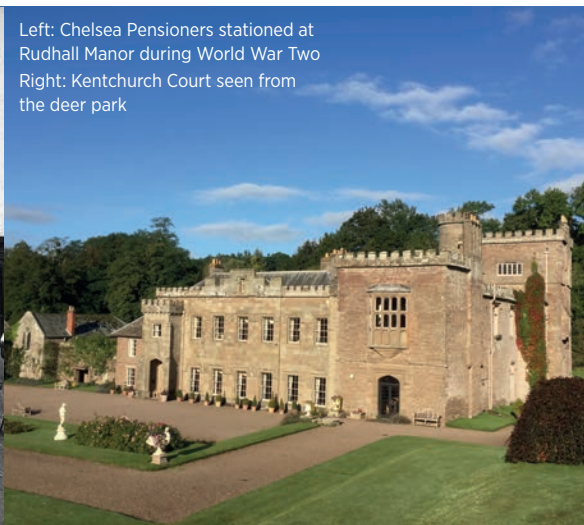
Surrounding the house are some 25 acres of gardens, laid out in "picturesque landscape" style. There is a formal Walled Garden, a mature apple orchard, beyond which herbaceous borders open out onto a working

vegetable garden. There is also a rhododendron wood, and in the wider grounds, a deer park: a former Royal hunting ground that was once owned by the Knights Templar.

Tickets are each £70 to include return coach transport, private tours of both houses, and a 2 course lunch. If you would like to park at nearby St Mary's, Bathwick, for the day please add £6 to your payment and tick the box on **booking form no.5**. The coach will leave the Museum promptly at 8.30am, returning about 6.30pm. This visit is being organised by Mark Hake. As we are volunteers and not based at the Museum itself, please allow us time to respond to your bookings. Thank you for your patience.



Left: Chelsea Pensioners stationed at Rudhall Manor during World War Two  
Right: Kentchurch Court seen from the deer park





# Holburne Insights: new acquisition of Bow porcelain

Just before Christmas, a wonderful new addition to the Holburne's collection arrived: the Geoffrey Freeman Collection of Bow porcelain which has now been transferred to the Museum. Accredited museums are required to look after the collections they have legal title to in perpetuity, so transferring to another museum is a way to make the most of items that would otherwise be stored. In this case, Pallant House Gallery in Chichester had shown the porcelain in a setting by Bouke de Vries but their displays changed and they began seeking a suitable home for the collection in the long term.

English porcelain and Bow in particular are not well represented in our collections, so the Freeman collection fills many gaps, including rare early shapes and larger figure groups. The Bow factory was active between 1747 and 1776 and is famous for its soft-paste porcelain and decoration inspired by imported Chinese and Japanese ceramics.

Seven pieces of Bow porcelain in the Holburne have links to Sir William Holburne, including a sweetmeat dish described in the original catalogue of the Holburne Museum's collection compiled by William Chaffers in 1887 as "A Plymouth china Salt

Cellar of rock work and shells; with 3 shells for salts", now attributed to Bow (C273). The James Calder bequests of 1944 and 1954 included six pieces of Bow, including some of the best early examples in our collection. Four of these are on display in the Fletcher Gallery. In 1981 Miss K.A.M. Harper gave a group of figures, many of which formed the dessert setting on the Ballroom table display. The majority of the figures on display are from this bequest. Two important acquisitions of early Bow are the figures of Catherine 'Kitty' Clive as *The Fine Lady* (given by the Holburne Society in 1946 in memory of James Calder) and Henry Woodward as *The Fine Gentleman* (purchased in 1967), both about 1750, and both on display in the Fletcher Gallery.

Since I joined the Holburne in 2014, the Friends and Patrons have encouraged me to shine a spotlight on the collection by supporting work behind-the-scenes. Storeroom visits have been a lovely way to look closely at the collection and to discover and share lesser-known objects and their stories. They proved a fertile testing ground to see which parts of the collection would also capture the imaginations of our visitors – early conversations with supporters about Ellen

Tanner and her collection led to the research, conservation and exhibition project. It was thanks to the support of many donors who contributed to the successful *Big Give* campaign in 2017, and due to your support that made the publication of Ellen Tanner's *Collection of Middle Eastern Art* a reality.

I am grateful to all Museum supporters for their passion for the Holburne's collections, and for your financial support which makes much of our curatorial work possible. A Holburne visit to the V&A collection at the Wedgwood Museum, where I start work in 2020, would be a great way to continue the connection!

*Catrin Jones, Curator 2014-19*



Bottle, with *Kakiemon* decoration, Bow Porcelain Factory, soft-paste porcelain c.1755. Museum no. B.061. Image courtesy Pallant House Gallery.



## A round-up of recent events

### Going North

We arrived in Durham in perfect sunshine. The glorious weather lasted until we left the North. We had excellent guides whose enthusiasm, knowledge and humour were infectious. Simon Johnson deserves special mention for his breadth of knowledge and the patience with which he shepherded our group.

Escomb Church  
Photograph © Tim Locke



The general impression of the North is of turbulence and restless change. A place ravaged by strife, rebellion, Vikings, Scots and Welsh with but a few periods of stability in the Dark Ages. Castles, churches and abbeys were built, knocked down, rebuilt and of course knocked down again.

Durham Cathedral, which we visited on the first day, was an exception to this relentless destruction because its position is unassailable. Simon introduced us to the Cathedral as we stood on the lawn outside which covers the bodies of 1,700 Scots who starved to death as prisoners in the Cathedral — a strange feeling! Construction of the Cathedral began in 1093 to replace the humble resting place of St Cuthbert whose corpse had been trundled around the North (with the head of St Oswald) seeking refuge. It is an awesome example of Norman building. The Galilee Chapel, where the Venerable Bede is buried, has wonderful chevroned galleries. The stone vaulted ceiling of the Cathedral is supported by pillars as round as they are high, incised with geometric patterns.

Next was Auckland Castle, once the home of the Prince Bishops of Durham, a place of lavish entertainment, hunting and networking possibilities! The visit began with an overview of the restoration project from the Auckland Tower — a new construction referencing a medieval siege engine which has splendid views from the top. The castle has undergone major restoration and we were privileged to be guided around before it opens to the public. We saw the Zurbaran paintings of *Jacob and His Sons*, hung as they had been originally in the dining room. We then had a short visit to the Mining Gallery to see art works by miners and their families; touching and graphic.

Last, we visited Escomb church one of three complete Anglo-Saxon churches remaining in England. Built between 670-700 AD from stone gathered from the nearby Roman fort including one announcing (albeit upside down) the VI legion. Largely unchanged since it was built, the church is tiny and appealing in its simplicity with small Saxon windows high in its walls and traces of medieval paint in the chancel arch.



## A round-up of recent events continued

Day two started with a journey through the glorious Northumberland countryside following in part Hadrian's Wall, and stopping for photos and a clamber on the walls for those so inclined. We went on to Vindolanda, an extensive fort which is still being excavated with more finds all the time. One of the most significant discoveries to date is of the Vindolanda tablets which at the time were the oldest surviving handwritten documents in Britain. The size of playing cards, the tablets were shopping lists, letters and party invitations all written on thin slivers of wood.

To complete our day we visited Hexham Abbey which is one of the earliest seats of Christianity in England dating

in part from 783 AD though substantially rebuilt over time to repair the depredations of violence, mostly Viking, and neglect. The Abbey's existence was inspired by St Wilfrid's visit to Rome and its construction sourced from Roman stone taken from the nearby fort at Corbridge. The Abbey has many interesting artefacts notably the medieval panel paintings, some of which are narrative, with a surprisingly jolly 'dance of death', and the Frith Stool which it is thought was Wilfrid's stone seat made when he founded the monastery. It is actually short and small and perhaps he was too?

On our final day we headed to Alnwick Castle and Garden, home to the Dukes of

Northumberland for over 700 years. The castle is fabulous, retaining the look of a Norman border fortress. Inside, the staterooms are lavish and Italianate with paintings by Raphael, Dobson, Canaletto, Van Dyck among others, chandeliers (one so heavy it fell down), silk wall coverings and carved, painted and gilded ceilings. The library was my favourite containing nearly 15,000 books with its Victorian "weather station", sadly no longer operative as the anemometer makes a racket! The gardens are gorgeous with an impressive cascade whose sudden eruptions may soak the unwary.

At the end of our trip we had seen some splendid places and learnt a great deal.

*Janet Locke*



Left, Holburne group explores Hadrians Wall,  
right: in Durham Cathedral with Simon Johnson  
Photographs © Tim Locke



## A round-up of recent events continued

**One Dorset Day** (Many thanks to organiser, Mark Hake)

A sunny drive through Dorset fair | A grand old house in mid-repair | From Nigel Thimbleby, a tour | Of Wolfeton House and days of yore.

A whippet's portrait: "What a life | his master shows his dog, not wife!" | There's *Country Life* o'er holes galore | From death-watch beetle in the floor.

Fascinating, worth our while | Now on to see a stately pile | But first, a yummy, scrummy meal | To slake our thirst, our hunger heal.

In Puddletown ('twas Piddletown) | We disembarked, we wandered down | To Athelhampton's Tudor spread | With tales of history not dead.

There ghosts abound, not all the norm | One passage boasts a monkey's form! | Such splendid architecture, bold | 'Midst gardens 13 decades old.

The Great Court: twelve enormous yews | Stand sentinel amongst the views | A dovecote, huge, the birds in flight | Like soft white snow, on roofs alight.

But time is all too short for dreams | We must return to Bath it seems | A scone, some tea, the coach – it ends | Such fun we had with Holburne Friends! *Seana Brennan*

### Westonbirt

What better way to spend a damp autumn morning than to join Mark on one of his lovely outings! We were warned to take spare shoes or wellies on our visit to the Arboretum which proved good advice. Although the weather was cold it didn't spoil our enjoyment, walking amongst the trees with their breathtaking beauty, particularly at this time of year with the Japanese Acers turning a russet red. In 1838, landowner Robert Stayner Holford's vision was to create an exotic garden with planting to create picturesque views, encouraged by his artistic wife. The idea was that

The Holburne group with Allan Moth (at left), a Westonbirt guide photograph © Jonathan Davis



wherever she looked there would be something to paint.

On our tour we were shown three giant Redwoods, planted in honour of Robert Holford's three daughters. As our guide pointed out, Holford's eldest son George inherited the 600 acres of Westonbirt but the three girls got one tree each!

After a delicious lunch at the Kings Arms at Didmarton, our next stop was stately Westonbirt House, now a school which Robert Holford completed building around 1872. He knocked down his adjacent manor house, where he had realigned the main road in front of the house and moved the village so that his views and privacy were not impeded. We were given a tour of the impressive main rooms in the house, where all but one are in need of restoration. The patterned wallpaper in the rooms is faded and the cost of restoring the satin wallpaper in the library alone was £250,000!

We were treated to afternoon tea, sandwiches and scones and had an hour or so to explore the grounds, chapel, delightful camellia house, and formal Italianate gardens. A very enjoyable, well organised outing, thank you Mark. *Jo Lane*



# Exhibition Circle and Patrons members events

The following events are open to members of the Holburne's Exhibition Circle and Patrons who throughout the year play a vital role in supporting the Museum's exhibition and learning programmes, along with the care of our collection.

If you would like to attend any of our special events, please RSVP to Oliver Merchant-Hall at [o.merchant@holburne.org](mailto:o.merchant@holburne.org). Event invitations with further information will follow.

*If you are currently a Friend and would like to increase your support to join us, please get in touch with Ollie.*

## Thursday 23rd January 2020 Exhibition Private View

Join us for a glass of wine and the first private view of our new exhibition *Grayson Perry: The Pre-Therapy Years* with an introduction from Grayson Perry himself.

## Thursday 27th February 2020 COLLECT tour & private collection visit

We are thrilled to be able to offer you VIP first day tickets to COLLECT, the international art fair for modern craft and design at Somerset House in London.

Guests will be given a tour by curator and collector, Preston Fitzgerald. The day will include a very special visit to a private art collection in Belgravia. Spaces are limited.



Above: Grayson Perry (1960 - )  
*Biker Pot*, 1992, glazed ceramic  
© Grayson Perry. Courtesy the artist  
and Victoria Miro, London/Venice



Right: art object at COLLECT 2018  
photograph by Oliver Merchant-Hall



# Exhibition Circle and Patrons members events continued

**Tuesday 17th March 2020**

**Telling stories:**

**A behind the scenes look at Museum Interpretation with Curatorial Fellow, Jill Sutherland**

Exclusively for Exhibition Circle: please join us to meet our new Curatorial Fellow Jill who will be explaining her work reviewing the interpretation throughout the Holburne, from making it more accessible to addressing hidden histories.

Do come with ideas as all feedback is welcome! The Curatorial Fellow position is generously funded by a charitable Foundation.

**Thursday 19th March 2020**

**A day in Oxford:**

**a private visit to the Pembroke College art collection and *Young Rembrandt* at the Ashmolean Museum**

This day trip offers a chance to see the highlights of a rarely-seen collection of modern British art at Pembroke College, in the company of their curator.

The collection has fine work by Elizabeth Frink, Alexander Calder, Henry Moore, Terry Frost, John Piper, Mary Fedden and Duncan Grant among many others.

Afterwards we will visit a major new exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum, focusing on the first 10 years of Rembrandt's career, with a private talk from An van Camp, Assistant Keeper of Western Art.



Right: installation view of work in the purpose-built gallery at Pembroke College, showing work by Prunella Clough (top), Percy Wyndham Lewis (left), Julian Trevelyan (centre) and Michael Ayrton (right)  
Photograph by Jonathan Davis



## Exhibition Circle and Patrons members events continued

### Wednesday 1st April 2020

#### An evening with Grayson Perry

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Patrons and Exhibition Circle members attending Grayson Perry's public talk at Bath Spa University's Locksbrook Road campus (please see your What's On guide) are invited to a special reception to meet the artist before the talk begins.

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### Wednesday 13th –

#### Sunday 17th May 2020

#### Visit to the Veneto with Holburne Director Chris Stephens

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Taking in the Palladian masterpieces of the Veneto region, the group will visit Vicenza, Padua and Venice over four days. This trip is now fully booked.

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### Thursday 11th June 2020

#### Exhibition Private View

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Save the date for the opening of our next exhibition  
*Canaletto: Painting Venice*,  
paintings on loan from the  
Woburn Abbey Collection.

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*Grayson Perry Portrait, 2016*  
photograph © Richard Ansett





# Holburne news and fundraising update

## Cultivating creative minds: The Holburne Schools Programme

As a registered charity, the Holburne's mission is *Changing Lives Through Art* and our vision is that every child can have the opportunity to visit the Museum and be inspired here.

One of the best ways we can achieve this is through our Schools Programme for primary and secondary children of all ages and backgrounds. We are currently fundraising to enable this work to continue in 2020.

**"All children and young people should have the chance to visit and be inspired by museums...it's of great importance to the wellbeing and prosperity of our children."**

Darren Henley, CEO,  
Arts Council England

Learning is at the heart of museums, liberating young people from some of the traditional boundaries of the classroom.

**In 2018 we reached  
2,548 children from  
over 25 schools in  
Bath, Wiltshire, Bristol  
and Somerset**

***"It is a special kind of learning because of the way it happens: not by means of words on a page... but through objects, places and experiences that engage our intellect, emotions and senses"***

Group for Education  
in Museums

At the Holburne we offer a unique and wonderful environment in which to stimulate and engage children with art, design, history, travel, creative concepts and artistic skill. We welcome whole classes of children to visit the Museum and take part in exciting interactive workshops.





# Holburne News and fundraising update continued

**Between 2010-2018, the number of hours the arts were taught in England's secondary schools fell by 23%, and the number of arts teachers fell by 22%.**

Department for Education

At a time when arts education in schools is under threat, the role of museums and other arts organisations in supporting learning, creativity and wellbeing in young people has become increasingly important. Our Schools Programme is delivered by the Museum's experienced and dedicated Learning Team and a pool of freelance artist-

educators - who are trained teachers. From *Going Greek!* to Canaletto, 'messy clay' to life drawing, we welcome children to visit our galleries and carefully plan activities around the Museum's collection and exhibitions making it a unique and ever-changing experience.

We encourage children to look, think and speak about art, through engagement with 'the real thing' in 3D, rather than in a digital or printed format. Activities help them to develop their observational and practical skills, gain understanding of new concepts, ideas and vocabulary and explore their own creativity.

We hope to deliver at least 60 artist-led workshops for school children in 2020 – from Art and Maths workshops inspired by *Precious and Rare: Islamic Metalwork from the Courtauld* to thought-provoking Grayson Perry workshops for sixth formers.

**"Activity-filled and engaging. The children have LOVED it!"**  
(teacher)

**"I love this place everyone"**  
(young student)

**"Our children glow with excitement and enthusiasm when visiting the Museum and they relish the opportunity to be hands on during the workshops. The impact of these experiences cannot be underestimated"**  
(Teacher)

Our Schools Programme is reliant on charitable support.

If you would like to support this work by making a donation, however large or small, please get in touch. **Thank you.**

Camilla Johns,

Head of Development on email:

[c.johns@holburne.org](mailto:c.johns@holburne.org)

or telephone 01225 3888564





# THE HOLBURNE MUSEUM

## *Canaletto: Painting Venice*

### Exhibition Circle and Patrons

private view: save the date

Thursday 11th June 2020



Giovanni Antonio Canal, called Canaletto (1697 - 1768) *Grand Canal looking east from Palazzo Bembo to Palazzo Vendramin-Claergi* 1733-36, oil on canvas, © from the Woburn Abbey Collection

### Please help stock our new produce stall at the Plant Sale on 10th May!

If you are producing tasty food *in a jar* (jams, chutney, curd, marmalade, pesto, relishes, honey etc) that will last beyond May 2020, please consider donating some for us to sell on behalf of the Holburne.

We're imagining a well-stocked stall of delicious fare in jars of any shape or size. Please encourage friends and family to join in and make things for the stall. Please carefully label all the ingredients, and leave them at the front desk at the Holburne or we can collect if you prefer. Contact Olivia Eliot on 01225 462156. *Thank you!*

### Holburne Supporters Committee

Jonathan Davis, Chairman; Newsletter Designer and Editor

Olivia Eliot, Deputy Chairman and Foreign Tours

Mary Jane Wilkinson, Honorary Secretary

### Committee Members

Jennifer Bereska, Deputy Treasurer

Will Darby, co-opted member; Patrons' Representative

Richard Frewer, (former Holburne Trustee), Music

Mark Hake, Galleries, Gardens and House Tours

Tim Locke, Supporters' Web Pages

Anton Young, co-opted member; Patrons' Representative

### The Holburne Museum

Great Pulteney Street, Bath BA2 4DB

The Museum is open Mon-Sat: 10-5

Sunday and Bank Holidays: 11-5

Closed 24th-26th Dec and 1st Jan

Free entry to the collections and special exhibitions for all Museum supporters

Printed by Emtone Print Limited



**BOOKING FORM 1** FLEET AIR ARM/HAYNE MOTOR MUSEUMS THURSDAY 12TH MARCH 2020

I/we would like ..... tickets at £70.00 each For parking at St Mary's, Bathwick, please add £6 .....

Please indicate any food allergies or intolerances .....

Name (s) .....

Address .....

..... Telephone .....

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

Please send cheque, payable to the 'THE HOLBURN MUSEUM' to: **JONATHAN DAVIS**,  
HOLBURN FRIENDS, c/o THE HOLBURN MUSEUM, GREAT PULTENEY STREET, BATH, BA2 4DB

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE WRITE A SEPARATE CHEQUE + SEPARATE ENVELOPE FOR EACH EVENT, THANKS**

**BOOKING FORM 2** LUCAS CRANACH AT COMPTON VERNEY THURSDAY 26TH MARCH 2020

I/we would like ..... tickets at £60.00 each For parking at St Mary's, Bathwick, please add £6 .....

Please indicate any food allergies or intolerances .....

Name (s) .....

Address .....

..... Telephone .....

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

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

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE WRITE A SEPARATE CHEQUE + SEPARATE ENVELOPE FOR EACH EVENT, THANKS**

**BOOKING FORM 3** SHERBORNE CASTLE/MINTERNE ABBEY THURSDAY 16TH APRIL 2020

I/we would like ..... tickets at £70.00 each For parking at St Mary's, Bathwick, please add £6 .....

Please indicate any food allergies or intolerances .....

Name (s) .....

Address .....

..... Telephone .....

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

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

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE WRITE A SEPARATE CHEQUE + SEPARATE ENVELOPE FOR EACH EVENT, THANKS**



I/we would like ..... tickets at £40.00 each NB Parking will be available at the Museum (charges apply)

Please indicate any food allergies or intolerances .....

Name (s) .....

Address .....

..... Telephone .....

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

Please send cheque, payable to the 'THE HOLBURN MUSEUM' to: **JONATHAN DAVIS**  
HOLBURN FRIENDS, c/o THE HOLBURN MUSEUM, GREAT PULTENEY STREET, BATH, BA2 4DB

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE WRITE A SEPARATE CHEQUE + SEPARATE ENVELOPE FOR EACH EVENT, THANKS**

**BOOKING FORM 5** RUDHALL MANOR & KENTCHURCH COURT

TUESDAY 12TH MAY 2020

I/we would like ..... tickets at £70.00 each For parking at St Mary's, Bathwick, please add £6 .....

Please indicate any food allergies or intolerances .....

Name (s) .....

Address .....

..... Telephone .....

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

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

**IMPORTANT: PLEASE WRITE A SEPARATE CHEQUE + SEPARATE ENVELOPE FOR EACH EVENT, THANKS**

## Save the date: 29th June 2020

### High Glanau and Wyndcliffe Court

A day exploring two delightful gardens in Monmouthshire: High Glanau Manor and Wyndcliffe Court. Both have wonderful "Arts & Crafts" gardens landscaped by Henry Avary Tipping in 1922, the former is Grade II-listed, while the latter is Italianate in style.

Original features have been retained in both, and each has a mix of the

formal (walled gardens, topiary, rose gardens) as well as the informal (woodland walks, orchards), and glorious far reaching views.

Tickets will be £70 each to include return coach transport, refreshments, lunch and private tours of both gardens. All the details, and booking form will be in the Summer 2020 Newsletter, due out in May.

### Frank Brown Concert and party 1st May 2020

Tickets are £30 each for this event and will be available from [www.holburne.org](http://www.holburne.org) or in person at the front desk in the Museum. The ticket price includes the concert, with food and drink in the Garden Cafe afterwards.