

friends' perspective



Hockney-Hogarth: A Rake's Progress

An exhibition of both William Hogarth and David Hockney's print series A Rake's Progress - see page 2



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Hockney-Hogarth: A Rake's Progress

William Hogarth is on our radar again next month with the opening of Hockney-Hogarth: A Rake's Progress. This is an exhibition of both William Hogarth and David Hockney's print series A Rake's Progress. Last year following a successful application to the Contemporary Art Society, and despite an overwhelming response from other museums, the Whitworth was awarded the complete set of Hockney's 'A Rake's Progress 1961; a wonderful addition to the Whitworth's collection. The gallery already holds the complete version of the tale by William Hogarth produced in 1732.

Helen Stalker, curator of the exhibition explains, 'The exhibition takes as its starting point Hockney's visit, as a young, gay, northern art student to New York in 1961. This was a pivotal moment in Hockney's life and practice. The exhibition explores the artist's reinterpretation of Hogarth's 18th century tale of youth, influence and corruption. It draws on themes of American and British cultural exchange, 1960s attitudes to homosexuality and radical social transformation.' The Whitworth has one of the finest and most comprehensive collection of prints by, and after, William Hogarth outside of London. For many years also the gallery has had a significant relationship with the exhibition of works by David Hockney. In 1969 as part of the gallery's celebration of its newly opened exhibition galleries, the Whitworth presented a large exhibition of Hockney's prints and paintings. Included in this exhibition was the entire series of A Rake's Progress (1961-63). The work was again shown in 2003 as part of the Editions Alecto, 1960-1981. This latest exhibition will also be enriched by a series of large paintings created by David Hockney between 1960-62.

Helen has been Assistant Curator of Fine Art at the Whitworth for five years. Having worked at the V&A, she then became Registrar and Exhibitions Organiser at Tate Liverpool, moving to the Whitworth in 2006, where she was first employed to research and catalogue the Walter Crane Archive. Helen has since become Assistant Curator, working with the Whitworth's rich and varied collection of paintings, sculptures and works on paper. She is also currently working on the collection decant in preparation for the gallery's redevelopment.



David Hockney: The Rake's Progress, Plate 3: The start of the spending spree and the door opening for a blond 1961-1963, Etching and aquatint on paper, The Whitworth Art Gallery, The University of Manchester, © David Hockney



Helen Stalker

Historic Watercolours on Show

Hot on the heels of Hockney and Hogarth is John Piper and another exhibition under Helen's wing. The exhibition has been brought together by the National Museum of Wales from the collection of one owner, who has built up a concentrated focus on Piper in North Wales. The Whitworth also has many works which will augment the exhibition. John Piper began to concentrate on the landscapes of North Wales in the middle of the second World War. He was sent to Snowdonia in 1943 by the War Artists Advisory committee where he rented a succession of cottages between 1945 and 1956, two of them Maes Caradog and Pentre, situated in the awe-inspiring glacial valley of Nant Ffrancon.

For Piper, the result of this relocation was a shift from picturing the landscape of the lowland countryside to that of the sublime mountains. The large watercolours and oils he made in Snowdonia are amongst his strongest works and Piper's close understanding of the landscape and that place and his connection with the rock and sky surrounding him. A parallel exhibition will explore images of North Wales from the Whitworth's historic collection, showing works by J. M. W. Turner, David Cox and Paul Sandby – there will also be geological specimens from the Manchester Museum.

John Piper: The Mountains of Wales, Paintings and Drawings from a Private Collection – December 12, 2012- March 2013.



John Piper: The Slopes of Glyder Fawr, Llyn Idwal, Caernarvonshire, Wales 1947 Pen and ink, watercolour and bodycolour on paper, The Whitworth Art Gallery, The University of Manchester

Pilkington Lecture 2012

Famous art critic sheds light on Caravaggio

Grayson Perry, our last Pilkington speaker is a hard act to follow! So we are delighted that art critic and television arts presenter Andrew Graham-Dixon is to do just that giving the 44th Pilkington lecture this November.

Andrew Graham-Dixon is rarely off our TV screens – he is a regular contributor to the BBC 2 arts programme 'The Culture Show.' Earlier in the year he presented 'Sicily Unpacked' with Michelin starred chef Giorgio Locatelli – discovering hidden treasures and tempting us with delicious food - stirring happy memories of the FOW visit to Sicily four years ago. He has also presented 'The Art of America' and 'I Never Tell Anybody Anything: The Life and Art of Edward Burra' and many more programmes. Since 1999 he has written for The Sunday Telegraph.



Andrew was educated at Westminster School before winning a scholarship to Christ Church, Oxford to read English. Postgraduate studies followed at the Courtauld Institute of Art. He has been a judge of the Turner prize, the BP National Portrait Prize and the Annual British Animation Awards. He has also served on the Government Art Collection committee, the Hayward Advisory committee and is currently on the board of the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead. His lecture for us is on Caravaggio – he spent a decade piecing together the scraps of evidence left of Caravaggio's life, all presented in his book Caravaggio: A Life Sacred and Profane. In his lecture he will answer questions that have long puzzled scholars. Book now!

For all our events, either complete the application form in the mailing or book online at www.friendsofthewhitworth.org.uk.

NEWS SNIPPETS

The 21st Century Gallery in the Park

Work is starting to transform the Gallery and adjacent landscape. Planning and preparation for the development has been ongoing since 2009 and in the Gallery foyer there is a presentation and model of the new extension. Visitors can see the developing plans and the thinking towards a sustainable future.

On the Up!

For the 6th year running the number of visitors to the Gallery has risen. Last year there were 178,996 visitors with 172,442 in 2010 and in 2005 – 84,559.

Autumn Films

We've had our summer break and the film nights return with a sixties theme – from Whistle Down the Wind to Breakfast at Tiffany's.

Email Addresses

Many thanks to all those Friends who have given us their email addresses – please make sure we have yours. We have three mailings a year but may want to send out further information which may be of interest to you via email.

Visit our website for more details:
www.friendsofthewhitworth.org.uk

Wave the Green Flag for Whitworth Park

Fantastic news – Whitworth Park has prestigious Green Flag status!

The award, given this summer, praises 'the creation of an innovative new play space, new decorative flower beds, pathways and bio-diverse areas and the long-standing volunteer Friends group who have provided hands-on support and also helped Manchester City Council to plan improvements.'

Ken Shone, chairman of the Friends of Whitworth Park said 'I was speechless at first. I am delighted and it can only help our cause to move onwards with the park.' To join the Friends of Whitworth Park, contact: shones@altrincham.freemove.co.uk



Greetings from Anne

Anne Mackinnon is delighted that 13 of her paintings have been selected as greeting cards for sale in the Whitworth Art Gallery shop. Anne has been a Friend of the Whitworth for more than 30 years. She joined when she was a Printed Textiles student at Manchester Polytechnic - and loved to attend the lectures and exhibitions. Being a textiles student, it was particularly exciting to be able to have access to the fantastic collections of textiles and wallpapers at the gallery and later, as a lecturer, Anne introduced her students to the collections, and the students were inspired and fascinated too.



She is secretary of the Friends' 'Tuesday team' and is involved in many aspects of its work to raise money for the Gallery. Anne was organiser of the recent highly successful series of talks on contemporary art 'Get Your Head Around Modern Art' when we learned a lot about many 'isms' - surrealism, abstract expressionism and art and conflict. She enlisted the expertise of her many contacts - some of the lecturers came from Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Chester. Look out for another series in 2013.

Anne's own work has been exhibited widely, both here and abroad. She specialises in watercolour and mixed media and develops many of her paintings digitally using high quality archival paper and inks. She loves to travel and to paint the places she visits, from the cityscapes of New York to the landscapes of Spain. Her own garden in Manchester has also been a labour of love for the past 20 years and a great source of inspiration.

To discover more about Anne's work go to www.annemackinnon.com.



South African Trip Planned

You will see in this mailing that we are planning a two week visit to South Africa early next year. Nirvana Romell is organising a wonderful itinerary. She led last year's successful study tour to Stockholm and Gotland and a previous visit to Croatia.



L-R: Vernon Henn, MD, Thandi Wines, Jean Craske and Norman Woffenden

Not one but three triathlons!

Maria has just one to go at Tatton this month: September 9

Maria Balshaw, director of the Whitworth, Manchester Art Gallery and Platt Hall Gallery of Costume - set three triathlons as her target to raise money towards the expansion of the Gallery and reconnect it to its lovely park.

Two triathlons (for the couch potato - a triathlon involves a 1500m outdoor swim (Maria hates that bit!); a 40 km cycle and a 10km run) are already under Maria's belt - one on the Isle of Bute, the other at Capesthorpe. Tatton Park is the last lap!



Such stamina must be rewarded - donations can be made on Maria's Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/MariaBalshawTriathlons

The money raised through sponsorship will go to fit out the Learning Studio and Collections Access Zone, which will benefit all our visitors for years to come.

The Friends already drink their fair share of South African wines! Norman Woffenden, a long-standing Friend supplies us with wine for our events and introduced us to Thandi Wines, the first wine brand in the world to receive Fairtrade accreditation.

All profits from sales and Fairtrade premiums are ploughed back into the community, which is involved in every step of the wine production chain. The company is owned by 250 farm-worker families holding 55% of the shares.

See www.capewines-bolton.co.uk for more.

Lars at Capesthorpe

A fascinating day in the sun!

Just a few images of a delightful fund-raising event with Lars Tharp at Capesthorpe earlier in the year. The talk on William Hogarth was fascinating – we learned a lot, the afternoon tea was scrumptious... and the sun shone!

We're destined to know much more about Hogarth... see the article in this issue about the Hockney and Hogarth exhibition next month.



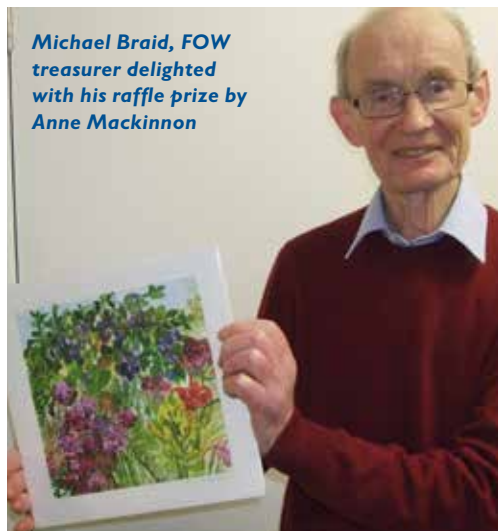
Lars Tharp, Dr Jennifer Harris, Joan Gem and Stuart Halsall



Lars Tharp and David Morris in the Whitworth print room...



...up close...



Michael Braid, FOW treasurer delighted with his raffle prize by Anne Mackinnon



The event was featured in Cheshire Life



...the object of their affection - William Hogarth's Marriage a la Mode

Gold medal winner at the Whitworth

Sarah Price winner of a gold medal as designer of the Daily Telegraph garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this year is bringing her talents to a landscaping project at the Whitworth Art Gallery. Sarah was also co-designer of the riverside site at the Olympic Park.

She originally studied Fine Art and says that people are often quite surprised that she made the transition to gardening and landscape design, but she feels there are strong parallels between the two.

She loves working with wild flowers and finds their ephemeral quality completely fascinating. In 2006 she won gold for her conceptual garden at Hampton Court Palace Flower Show and then two consecutive silvers at Chelsea.

She has been described as the 'enigmatic girl with the painterly touch.' One to watch.



Sarah Price

Thank you Friends

Thank you to all those Friends and friends of Friends who are supporting the Gallery redevelopment appeal.

Many are holding events to raise money for the Gallery – we've had Fizz and Fancies, a lively social evening with handmade pots on sale; the membership team had a tea party; another Friend had a garden party with paintings on sale, and a strawberries and cream event with enticing jewellery to buy and so on.



Above: Gill Reddick at her fundraising party



Best of all is that we are spreading the word of the Friends of the Whitworth and the wonders of the Gallery to non members – possible future members. All are enthusiastic about the future developments and are happy to donate to a wonderful cause and have fun in the process! If you would like to hold an event amongst your friends – every little helps!

Exciting Opportunity

Your Gallery Needs You – become a Volunteer Access Assistant in the new study centre

In the Spring 2012 issue of this newsletter we told you of the great opportunity to be more involved in the gallery and its collections and a number of you have already signed up. The latest news is that if more of you are interested in this role you are invited to a meeting on Thursday, 1 November, 2012 – 1.30pm-4.00pm.

Kate Glynn, organiser, tells us, 'We wish to consult with the Friends on the development of this role. The session will also be an opportunity for you to hear an update on the Capital Development Project from Jo Beggs, Head of Development and David Morris, Head of Collections. They will inform you of our plans to make the collections more accessible through the introduction of this role. We hope you can attend and we also look forward to hearing your ideas on the development and introduction of this new role at the gallery.'

Please confirm your attendance at the meeting in the gallery by 30.9.2012, or find out more by emailing: Kate.Glynn@manchester.ac.uk



COTTON: Global Threads, Whitworth Art Gallery, 2012. Photo: WeAreTape.com

Past and Present at Whitworth Park

Ruth Colton, Project Assistant, Whitworth Park Community Archaeology and History Project, puts us in the picture

Whitworth Park officially opened on 14th June 1890 to widespread acclaim. Newspaper reports lavished praise on it, calling it Manchester's prettiest park and reporting that it was abundantly visited, perhaps with as many as 6-8 thousand people on one day (Manchester Examiner and Times, 16 June 1890). The Park was created from the lands of two large houses built as a result of the newly wealthy middle classes moving out of the increasingly crowded city centre and into the semi-rural suburbs which surrounded it. Grove House was a modest home built some time between 1819 and 1848 and occupied by John Hopkinson, later Mayor of the City until 1889. Rusholme House was built in 1810 by the Entwistles, a wealthy banking family and was occupied by a number of notable Manchester families including the wealthy industrialist Crompton Potter, uncle of Beatrix Potter. After his death in 1884, the trustees of his estate allowed people from the local area to walk over the wooded parkland to the rear of the house.

One of these trustees, Robert Darbishire applied to the Council to turn this space into a public park, yet was turned down. In 1887 however, Joseph Whitworth died leaving money for philanthropic works and the legatees, who included Darbishire promptly took over Rusholme House, its grounds and adjacent Grove House in order to preserve the space for the public. In 1888 Rusholme House was demolished while Grove House remained standing in order to provide a temporary home for the Whitworth Institute Art Gallery, which was replaced by the current building in 1908. The park and gallery were intended to complement one another as one site 'primarily for the benefit, both mental and physical, of the artisan population' of the area (The Daily Dispatch, 1904).



Furthermore the Art Gallery was considered 'the most important adjunct of the new recreation ground' (Manchester Evening News, 1904). Despite its great popularity the Park proved a drain on the resources of the Whitworth Institute and so a 999 year lease was agreed in 1904 with the Manchester Corporation taking over the upkeep and expenditure. A speech by the Lord Mayor at the transfer ceremony declared that 'a well-organised community



should have healthy bodies as well as cultivated minds' and 'many of the evils of town life could be counteracted by the exercise of healthy sports and pastimes' (City News, 1904).

Like the other parks of the time, Whitworth Park was furnished with a lake, bandstand, pavilions and shelters, drinking fountains, formal planting features, walkways and carriageways, statues, gates and railings. It is these features that the Whitworth Park Community Archaeology and History Project have begun to uncover. The dig's first season has uncovered the foundations of the bandstand, one of the wonderful red blaze pathways and the area surrounding the lake edge. These will be further investigated next year – meanwhile we will be analysing some of the smaller objects uncovered. The buttons, brooches, combs and marbles that people lost or left behind as well as the drink bottles and tea cups thrown away in the park tell us a lot about how people used the park every day.

We hope to augment this knowledge with a series of oral history interviews to tell us about some of the less well documented times in the park's history e.g following the first World War the Park and Gallery's fortunes changed dramatically with visitor numbers declining rapidly, a growth in vandalism and the removal or change of park features. Between 1922 and 1950 the lake was converted into a paddling pool and was finally filled in and covered over in 1953 (The Manchester Guardian, 14 November, 1952). Furthermore in 1958 the Observatory was burnt down and never replaced. While the Park was no longer the attractive and popular place it used to be during the 60s and 70s, Whitworth Park provided a significant site of protest for the local community who held rallies against racial discrimination as well as Trade Union marches. However, a number of negative press reports and the removal of railings and benches during the 80s and 90s further altered the reputation of the formerly admired park.

Thankfully due to the hard work of the Friends of Whitworth Park we are beginning to see it returned to its original purpose 'as a place of quiet resort for the benefit and use of the public, especially children, in the spirit of the founders' (Friends Future Planning Document 2005). The Whitworth Park Community Archaeology and History Project hopes to help them with this aim by creating a greater awareness of the importance and heritage of this very important public park.

Thanks for the Memories

Trips, visits, outings, days out, study tours – call them what you will, they are always filled with fun and interest and a few nerve-racking moments. After ten years at the helm Jean Craske is bowing out of all this responsibility. She may just come along and enjoy what is organised for her! Jean ably assisted by a team of volunteers – we all come up with ideas and help to create ‘a good day out’ – is handing over to Joan Gem as Programme Secretary. Joan has been working in tandem with Jean and the team for a number of years already.

Jean says ‘I have liked the freedom to look for places that the Friends would be interested in and over the years we have been to some fascinating places. I have enjoyed the friendship of many. My geography has improved too. I always thought that nowhere was too far!’

Jean might have retired the day she started as on her first event to Haworth and the home of the Brontës - the coach driver got lost, the group missed their time slot, which was then taken by a party of 70 Japanese tourists, lunch booked at the pub which specialised in local ales thrilled the Friends – they probably all needed a drink – and there was the small matter of a landslip on the return journey. It’s called a baptism of fire.

‘Things could only get better,’ said Jean. ‘I vowed not to take Friends into pubs! Seriously though, I hope that people have seen some different places and visited galleries other than the main galleries in our towns and cities.’ The Friends have had some fascinating, exciting, stimulating and fun days to art galleries, homes and



Jean and Joan in the gallery grounds

gardens, London, Sussex and Europe. The team has delegated the organisation of some of these visits to other specialists such as Jane Brand. Jean will continue to be involved with the Tuesday team, but will perhaps have even more time to spend with her books, her plants and her interest in the designed landscape with the Lancashire Gardens Trust... plus her husband and cat!

Many thanks to Jean for her ideas, inspiration and leadership!

Friends party on campus

It’s time to think of Christmas and our popular festive event!

This year we are delighted that textile artist Alice Kettle and Dr Jennifer Harris, Deputy Director of the Gallery will be ‘in conversation’ at the Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama. They will chat about Alice’s textiles, which hang on the walls of the Martin Harris Centre – we then go practically next door to Chancellor’s Christie bistro for lunch in the impressive surroundings of the former science library.

So two new stunning venues, a talk from two leading textile experts, a delicious lunch – and a musical divertissement - and the annual quiz! This should be a lovely day – hope you can join us! Book now.



Alice with one of her impressive textiles in the Martin Harris Centre.

Why not take this once in a lifetime opportunity to really make a difference to the Whitworth ? All donations, large or small are welcome - please send cheques payable to the Friends of the Whitworth at the address below...

Chairman, Friends of the Whitworth, The Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER.