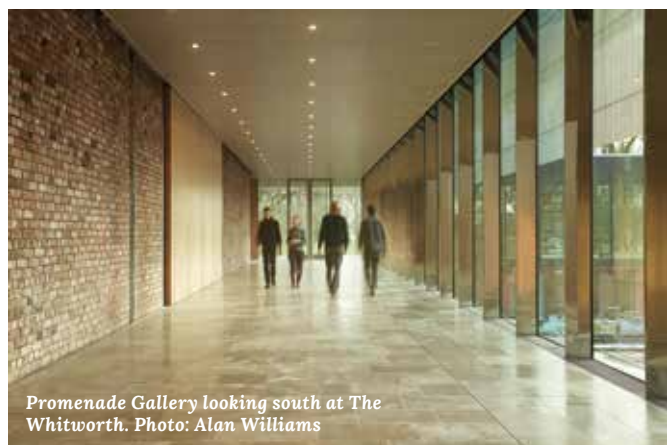


friends' perspective

 FRIENDS
OF THE
WHITWORTH

GALLERY OPENS TO THOUSANDS

Hugely successful re-opening on Valentine's Day



Promenade Gallery looking south at The Whitworth. Photo: Alan Williams



Café glazing reflecting trees. Photo: Alan Williams



Cornelia Parker's War Room. Photo: David Levene

Our beautiful new gallery is open

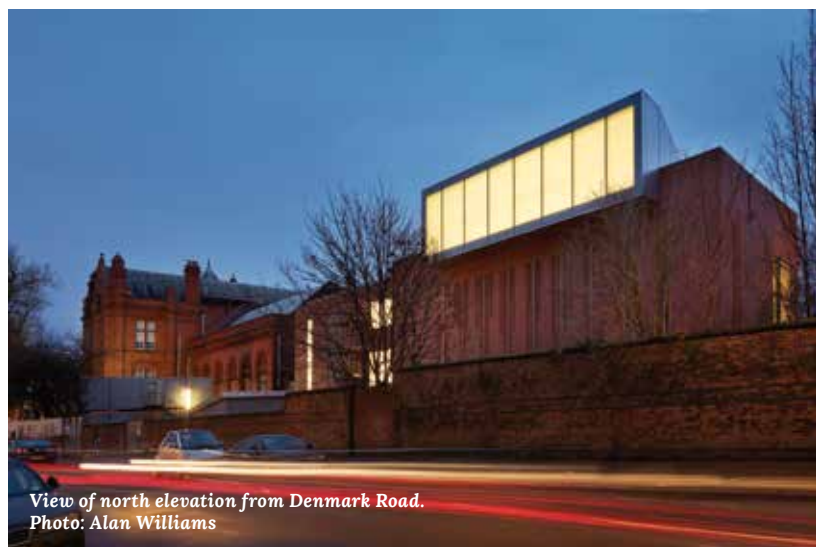
Thousands have streamed through our beloved gallery since reopening on Valentine's Day.

Fall in Love Again was the PR cry – many did – happily and hopelessly! Why? What's so special? Here's a little list –

- A beautiful extension stretching out into Whitworth Park – with on one side a magical glass box – the café in the trees – on the other a brick and glass landscape wing with ceramic bricks in patterns echoing the weave of the fabrics in the collection
- A glass fronted promenade links the two – perfect for Whit. walks with the ever popular Genesis, a calm presence
- Doubled exhibition space
- Vaulted ceilings revealed
- Ten new exhibitions with something for everyone from JMW Turner, 60s Pop art to international artists of the calibre of Cornelia Parker, Sarah Lucas, Thomas Schütte and Cai Guo-Qiang
- Revealing of magnificent Grand Hall with hammer beam roof for events, concerts, workshops, brass baby, weddings and the Pilkington lecture and dinner – it's art historian and broadcaster Tim Marlow on Thursday, 5th November 2015
- Opening to the public of the grand staircases
- Fine architectural details everywhere
- Not only are there light filled ever changing views from the building out into the park, but the view from the park into the spaces is a treat
- Sculptures in the park
- Verdant landscaping in Spring

The wait was worth it – there were delays along the way, but we are delighted that the Friends stuck with us and we welcome new ones at this exciting time. Future exhibitions in the impressive, flexible spaces will draw us in.





*View of north elevation from Denmark Road.
Photo: Alan Williams*



*Maria Balshaw, Director of the Whitworth.
Photo: Gill Crook*



*Detail of north elevation - meeting rooms
above entrance to walled garden.
Photo: Alan Williams*



*The Study Centre.
Photo: Gill Crook*



*Portraits.
Photo: David Levene*



In the magical glass café – the atmosphere changes with the light – Peter Booth of The Modern Caterer will delight our palates once again with his delicious food...and remember there's a 10% discount for Friends on production of your membership card.



More from the opening...



Plato's Disco by David Batchelor - a new, popular permanent fixture at the Gallery



Yixin Zhang, English language student at the University of Manchester volunteers in the Cai Guo-Qiang exhibition



Detail of The Distance (A Kiss with String Attached) 2003



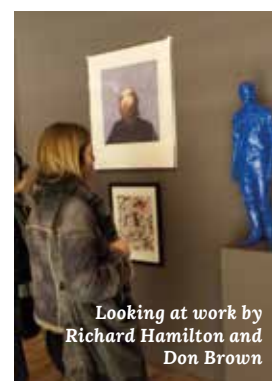
Detail of the Stairs



Elaine Taylor delighted with J M W Turner



Children painting at the Friends and Family Preview



Looking at work by Richard Hamilton and Don Brown



Child intrigued by Composition with Horns (Cornelia Parker)



Multi-Story House, Mary Kelly



People and portraits



Thomas Schütte prints



Bernard Schottlander,
'Terminal' & 'Untitled',
1964



Susan Brown recruits
new Friends



Cornelia Parker



The Collections Centre

The Friends have raised more than 150K to equip this space and we are delighted at how it looks. Volunteers, including many Friends will work directly with visitors and curators to present exhibitions, which will last 2-3 months.

The Collections Centre will offer a welcome, comfortable and stimulating space for all visitors to the gallery.



As a charity (registered in 2013) championed by Friends' chairman Stuart Halsall we are able to apply for grants which obviously benefit the gallery. The Sylvia Waddilove Foundation recently gave 1k towards glass topped tables in the Collections Centre.

The Stunning Brickwork



Stuart McKnight of McInnes Usher McKnight Architects – MUMA cited this 17c slashed silk satin fabric (right) and Victor Pasmore's Architectural Relief Construction (1965) as just two of the myriad inspirational items in the collections, which could possibly find their way into the building – the stunning brickwork is the result.



Cultural Park Keeper relishes role at the Whitworth

'What is a cultural park keeper?' you're asking. Even the newly appointed one is understandably struggling to come up with a succinct description, but Francine Hayfron knows the job will allow fresh and exciting activities and partnerships in the great outdoors and natural world in the urban setting of the Whitworth and its park. Perhaps no clearer, but read on...

We do know the role is yet another first for Manchester and it is suggested the country. Francine is enthusiastically embracing her job, which will involve the Whitworth Gallery, Whitworth Park and down the line Platt Fields Park. For the next three years £250,000 has been awarded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation 'to bring nature, culture and people together.'

'Job opportunities like this rarely present themselves (especially here in Manchester) so I knew I wanted to get my teeth into it! I'll be working indoors and out, mostly in the park reaching new audiences – park users and local communities. I'll be working with the gallery staff, the Friends of Whitworth Park and other external

agencies to develop new ways of working with and engaging the communities that surround us.'

Plans are for large scale family friendly events in the park, the launch of a new horticultural wellbeing programme, highlighting the benefits of using the art garden and horticulture. In

recent years Francine has been working for an arts and wellbeing charitable organisation in Salford: *'I would use artistic mediums including horticulture to help people experiencing emotional difficulties and those who feel isolated or excluded from their communities due to a decline in their mental health. It was here that I learnt to really appreciate how engaging with the outdoors can have an impact and help to improve a person's mental health.'*

Francine sums it up – *'I will not be found telling people to keep off the grass or pruning the herbaceous borders, but I most certainly will be exploring how to bring nature and culture together.'* She is a keen gardener at home and devours books and magazines on all things green. Esmé Ward, Head of Learning and Engagement agrees *'The expansion of the gallery connects us to the park and unlocks the potential of the existing building. We want to work across the sectors, including health and education and create new opportunities for people to get involved – the park keeper reimagined for 21st century Manchester.'*

So definitely not Keep Off the Grass!



Francine Hayfron and Patrick Osborn



Art Gardeners' Recce

Keen to help... an update on the volunteering programme

Fiona Cariss, volunteer coordinator has received more than 200 volunteer applications. 'We have 30 art gardeners and another six general park helpers and more than 70 applied to help out in the Collections Centre,' said an enthusiastic Fee. 'Ten volunteers, mainly pharmacy students have been trained as walk leaders for our Art Walks in association with the Walking for Health Scheme.'

This is for folk to get active and stay active – walking to put a spring in your step. Friends as 'Ambassadors' helped out during the opening weekend.

Fee also explained that people from all over Greater Manchester are keen to volunteer their time and effort, but that the majority are from Moss Side, Rusholme and Fallowfield areas local to the gallery.

Shopping Heaven

Not one, but two shops at the Whitworth...

One features lifestyle, designer goodies, the other equally well designed items appealing to young people from masks to chunky graphite sticks to notebooks and catapults. Quirky presents abound linking natural items in the shop with the park.

The aspirational items include a solid oak dining table from Another Country, beautifully crafted, unique wooden boards, Danish bowls and Jo Armitage lamps. Designers include Lee Borthwick, Aelder, Wallace Sewell whose range of waffle throws of Shetland wool are exclusive to the Whitworth. The studio works closely with Lancashire weaving company Mitchell Interflex. You can also find Katharine Hamnett T-shirts.

The shop has also been selling postcard size sheets of poppy cutouts (as featured in the Cornelia Parker show) with the proceeds going to the British Legion. You can of course buy catalogues and books relevant to the collections and exhibitions. You could treat yourself

to a limited edition print by Cornelia Parker or Callum

Innes. Neil Greenhalgh, retail supervisor says the idea is to have limited run offers – once it's gone it's gone – where have we heard that one before! – reflecting the ever changing exhibitions. Neil, who has a Fine Art degree from the University of Chester and retail experience is pleased to be combining his interests. You could also invest £480 in a roll of Sarah Lucas wallpaper Tits in Space featured in the opening shows.

Friends of the Whitworth are offered a 20% discount. Go shop!



The easiest way to book a FOW event

Robert Sabin gives handy tips on using the FOW website to book events

Have you used our events on-line booking facility yet? If not, or if you've tried it and want to know more, here are a few handy tips...

Log in and click on the events tab

On-line booking is for members only. It's easiest to log in first with your membership number and post code. Use the Member Login tile at the bottom of the home page. Once logged in go to the event page you're interested in. *Your membership number is on your membership card.*

If you haven't already done so, you will be prompted to log in on the page displaying the booking details. Once logged in, return to the event you are interested in via the events tab.

You can book two or more events at one go with a single payment

Select your first event, complete the booking details and click on the Book Now button. This takes you to My Basket. Do not click on the Confirm tab. To book a further event, click on the events tab at the top of the page and continue to book as before for a further event.

When you have listed all your bookings, and are satisfied, click on the Confirm Your Bookings button. You will then



be asked for one payment to cover all bookings. You can check where you are up to at any time by clicking on My Basket at the top of the page.

PayPal accepts credit cards

You don't have to have a PayPal account. PayPal allows you to use credit cards.

Your email receipt is your ticket

All bookings are confirmed by email. You won't need another ticket.

I made a mistake, how do I cancel?

Prior to payment, you can delete a booking by going to My Basket and click Remove against the relevant booking(s). After payment, contact us if you wish to cancel.

I want to add a message to my booking

The best way to do this is to use the contact page to email us. Click on contact at the top of the page.

The event is sold out. Will there be another opportunity to go?

Please tell us if you couldn't go on the event you wanted. We're keen to know what demand there is and whether we should run extra events. Use the contact tab to send us an email.

City of Dreaming Spires

It's been a challenging year for the membership team – here Christine Pidcock, membership secretary took time out to dream in Oxford...

Oxford – City of Dreaming Spires – also a city of golden stone, amusing gargoyles, romantic river, contemplative courtyards, heavenly choral evensong, cosy coffee houses, delightful gardens and beautiful stained glass. It was another memorable trip with the Friends when we stayed in The Queen's College.

We were fortunate to have David O'Connor to unravel the mysteries of medieval versus Victorian glass and explain some of the symbolism and stories found in the windows of the colleges and churches. In particular I loved Christ Church Cathedral which featured the life of St Frideswide in a window to Edward Burne-Jones as well as his St Catherine window with its ethereal Pre-Raphaelite figures. We were also privileged to be shown 'the painted room' believed to have been decorated by Burne-Jones and William Morris while students at Oxford. This was particularly interesting as we had stopped on our journey down at Kelmscott Manor. This beautiful house was bought by William Morris as a country retreat and is always a joy to visit.

As well as Oxford itself with its wealth of treasures including Queen's library, the Ashmolean and Pitt Rivers museum, we visited Dorchester-on-Thames where the huge Abbey dominates the village; (this is often used as the backdrop to Midsomer Murders, but fortunately none of us was attacked in the churchyard).

Inside the Abbey the Jesse window with its lovely 14th century tracery immediately impresses. The oldest glass is in the St Birinus' chapel and the unusual lead font from the medieval monastery features the eleven apostles.

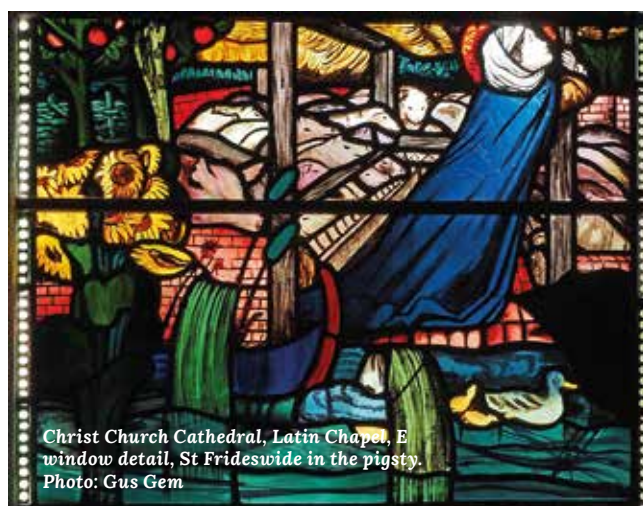
Once again many thanks to Patricia, David and Joan who organised the trip, all the Friends who were such good company and last, but not least, to the coach driver who had to negotiate the best routes around a city more friendly to bikes than to coaches.



Kelmscott Manor.



Dorchester-on-Thames Abbey, FoW with David O'Connor. Photo: Gus Gem.



Christ Church Cathedral, Latin Chapel, E window detail, St Frideswide in the pigsty. Photo: Gus Gem

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.

Editor: Gill Crook. If you have any ideas for Friends' Perspective I would be pleased to hear from you. Contact me at fow@manchester.ac.uk