

Art Friends Warwickshire

NEWSLETTER & PROGRAMME November 2019

Dear Art Friend

We are delighted that you are among the 275 plus members of Art Fund who have indicated interest in learning more about our organisation which is transitioning from the Warwickshire committee of Art Fund Volunteers, which ceases on 31 December, into the newly formed Art Friends Warwickshire (AFW).

As indicated in the final newsletter from Art Fund, your committee has now established Art Friends Warwickshire and today we are setting out our stall, explaining how AFW will run and offering you an array of events to take us through the first half of 2020.

Our Aims

Art-related events will be our raison-d'être and, as before, we shall organise talks, visits and longer tours, each with the aim of raising funds for a chosen art institution. Beyond this, our wish is to continue the strong ethos of friendship among like-minded art lovers.

Organisation

We are established as a not-for-profit organisation with our own bank account and email address. In order to run AFW professionally and responsibly, there will be some costs, eg insurance, but our outgoings will be kept to the minimum. The AFW committee, listed below, comprises most of the team which ran the Warwickshire events for Art Fund and brings years of experience and personal contacts. This is an appropriate point to thank Faith Matthews and Penny Hughes for their much-appreciated past support on our Art Fund committee.

A constitution has been established as well as a GDPR policy to preserve confidentiality of contact information (both available on request).

Membership

From the 200 plus registered supporters we hope to recruit all of you into membership of AFW. The benefits of AFW membership include:

- Reduced ticket price for events, starting with the February event.
- Priority booking, for selected events.

In addition, a regular newsletter will be issued via email (a printed version is available on request). Freed from the financial and editing constraints of the Art Fund printed newsletter, our e-newsletter will be more frequent and contain broader content than before, and in order to broaden our membership and maximise event booking, will be sent also to non-members.

It is important to stress that membership of Art Fund is not a prerequisite of AFW membership so please extend the opportunity of membership to all your friends interested in the world of art, wherever they live.

Membership subscriptions

Annual subscriptions will run from 1 March 2020 but we invite you to join now and you will receive a bonus free 2 months from 1 January 2020. The annual subscription is £15 per member and will give access to our events at a lower cost than for non-members.

Anyone joining up to 30 September would pay the full year rate. A half year rate will apply to those joining as Members from 1 October to 1 March 2021.

Below is an application form for membership. Please complete and send with a cheque, made out to Art Friends Warwickshire, to Susan Yeomans or pay online using our **new account Art Friends Warwickshire sort code 30 90 90, account 36633668** and email Susan, as indicated on the Membership form below.

Fund-Raising

It is our intention that the surplus from each event will benefit a specific art institution, sometimes linked to the speaker or to the host venue. An Awards Group, independent of the AFW Committee, is being formed to monitor our fund-raising and recommend the assignment of surplus funds as appropriate.

Events

Our year takes off with a **January** talk at Budbrooke on The Fitzwilliam's current exhibition on food in art delivered by its lively curator Dr Victoria Avery. This will be followed in **April** by a coach trip to The Fitzwilliam in Cambridge with a tour of the exhibition guided by Dr Avery.

Princethorpe College welcomes us back in our new guise for a **February** talk on Women Artists by the popular speaker, Vivien Heffernan.

March sees the official launch of Art Friends Warwickshire with our first AGM at Kineton which will be followed by a talk on sculpture parks by the ever-enthusiastic Sarah Shalgosky, curator of the Meade Gallery, currently under major reconstruction.

Following on from her January talk, Dr Avery has generously offered to provide us with a free guided tour of the *Feast & Fast* exhibition at the Fitzwilliam on **23 April**. So, a day coach trip to Cambridge and booking details in our next newsletter.

Details of these events and how to apply for tickets follow below.

As a taster for the rest of the year, our next email will include details of a **May** event, and in **June**, dependant on his filming programme, we are hoping for an evening at Compton Verney with art historian, Philip Mould.

The Future

Thank you for supporting us. We have great enthusiasm to continue with the best of what has gone before, but also to adopt new activities where they complement our fund-raising objectives. We would like to hear if you have suggestions and, as the year progresses, please give us feed-back so that we can tailor our events to achieve our aims.

Brian Phillips, *Chairman of Art Friends Warwickshire*

Committee: Gill Ashley-Smith, Sandra Clowes, Alex Corrin, Dianne Page, Susan Yeomans

2020 Programme – January to April

Feast & Fast – the art of food in Europe 1500 -1800

Friday 24 January 2020

Venue: St Michael's Church Hall, Church Lane, Budbrooke, Warwick CV35 8QL



Dr Victoria Avery, Keeper, Applied Arts at The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge will talk on the *Feast & Fast* exhibition she had curated which runs from 26 November to 26 April 2020. Food defines us as individuals, communities, and nations: we are what we eat and, equally, what we don't eat. When, where, why, how and with whom we eat are crucial to our identity. *Feast & Fast* presents novel approaches to

understanding the history and culture of food and eating.

This research-led multi-sensory exhibition will showcase hidden and newly-conserved treasures from the Fitzwilliam and other collections, and feature four spectacular historical reconstructions with food at their centre, including a Jacobean sugar banquet, a European feasting table and a Georgian confectioner's workshop. It will tease out many contemporary and controversial issues – such as the origins of food and food security, over-consumption in times of austerity, and our relationship with animals and nature – thereby linking the past with our present, and encouraging us to question and rethink our relationship with food. Dr Avery was formerly a senior member of the History of Art Department at the University of Warwick. The Fitzwilliam Collection will benefit from surplus funds raised.

Photograph of Giant Pineapple installation courtesy of Cambridgeshire Live.

Women Painters from the 16th to the 20th Century

Tuesday 18 February 2020

Venue: Princethorpe School, Sixth Form Centre, Rugby CV23 9PX



Why are there so few women artists before the 20th century? Were they less talented, less inspired, less able than men? The background to this fascinating subject will be explored by looking at the policies of the teaching academies in the 18th century and at the women who succeeded despite the obstacles. Artists will include Artemisia Gentileschi, Angelica Kauffman, Vigée LeBrun and nearer our own time, Berthe Morisot, Gwen John, Georgia O’Keeffe and Paula Rego. The discussion suggests how recent sexual equality and equal opportunities may have enabled women to achieve artistic recognition.

We welcome back Vivien Heffernan who spoke memorably at our 2019 Princethorpe lecture on *Breughel to Hockney*. She is a former Teacher and Head of Art Department, and has worked at Essex and Cambridge Universities, as well as other colleges and adult education organisations. She is a long-standing lecturer with the Open University on art history courses ranging from the early Renaissance to the 20th century. We are grateful to Princethorpe School for their support of this lecture.

We are sorry to be unable to offer lunch afterwards, as on previous occasions, following the retirement of the licensee of the Three Horseshoes.

Photo: Self-portrait by Artemesia Gentileschi.

AGM and Art in the Landscape

Tuesday 17 March 2020

Venue: Kineton Village Hall, Mill Street, Kineton, CV35 0LB



Art Friends Warwickshire will be formally launched with its first AGM, followed first by tea and delicious home-made cakes, prepared by Kineton Women's Institute (bags provided for any surplus cake), then followed by a talk on Art in the Landscape.

Sarah Shalgosky, the popular Curator of the University of Warwick, will speak in her usual knowledgeable and lively style on *Art in the Landscape*. Henry Moore said that 'I would rather have a piece of sculpture put in a landscape, almost any landscape, than in or on the most beautiful building I know.' Sarah will discuss different examples of art in the landscape from Vanbrugh to Antony Gormley.

She will illustrate her talk with her recent experiences of creating a sculpture park, with references from the region including Compton Verney, Ragley and National Trust projects.

Photograph: Faye Claridge Kern Baby, courtesy of Compton Verney.

DIARY DATES

The Fitzwilliam in Cambridge – one-day coach trip

23 April 2020 Guided tour of *Feast & Fast* by Dr Victoria Avery.

Review so far: 'Highly entertaining', Alistair Sooke, Daily Telegraph.

Strawberry Hill, Twickenham – one-day coach trip

23 September 2020 Georgian Gothic home of Horace Walpole.

2020 Extended Tours to Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Our past extended tours have always been popular and the tour for 2020 promises to offer the same mixture of interesting places to visit together with a friendly crowd of like-minded art lovers. A hotel in the New Forest, visits to the Isle of White and Osborne House, the cathedrals of Chichester and Salisbury, are just some of the attractions which have made our well-established tours so enjoyable. Knowing that demand would be high, we have offered two dates. The June tour (22-26 June 2020) is already virtually full, though there is space for a single lady prepared to share, and being on the waiting list is often successful. All types of room are still available in October (11-15 October 2020). For full details, please open the attachment to this email to reserve a place as soon as possible and we need applications for the October tour by the end of February please.
