

# Art Friends Warwickshire

## NEWSLETTER 2 & PROGRAMME

January 2020

Dear Art Friend

A happy New Year to you. It certainly is going to be an exciting one for your committee thanks to the enthusiastic response we have received since announcing the launch of Art Friends Warwickshire (AFW). Already we have received indications of support from some 300 of the 600 Art Fund members within the Warwickshire catchment and following press coverage locally, we are attracting membership from people beyond our Art Fund members.

Sales of tickets for future events are going well and details are repeated in the second part of this newsletter.

Our first event on 24 January at Budbrooke, *Feast and Fast* has a few places remaining so, now that it is has been publicised more widely, do get in touch if you want to be sure of a place.

Gill Ashley-Smith wants to flag that there are still places available for the South of England trip in October and a twin-bedded room has become free for the June dates.

**NEW!** We have now opened bookings for our 23 April visit to Cambridge for the visit to the Fitzwilliam for a private tour of the exhibition *Feast and Fast*.

If you do not have access to a printer but wish to make a booking please email the organiser or call them. Otherwise, post a short hand-written note setting out your bookings including cheques marked with the event on the rear. We are trying to prevent wasting paper. Anyone requiring a printed newsletter should send an SAE to Susan or Brian requesting a paper copy. We shall endeavour to print this as economically as possible.

### **A Reminder for 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.

**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 has 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 showcases hidden and newly-conserved treasures from the Fitzwilliam and other collections, and features 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 teases 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.

### *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.

### *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.

## **NEW The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge – travel by executive coach**

### **Private guided tour of *Feast & Fast – The Art of Food in Europe 1500-1800***

**by Dr Victoria Avery Thursday 23 April 2020.**

Dr Victoria Avery, Keeper, Applied Arts and curator of *Feast and Fast* will twice conduct a personal guided tour of this major exhibition. This visit follows on from her talk to Art Friends Warwickshire in January 2020.

**STOP PRESS:** Listen to Dr Avery talk about *Feast & Fast* on BBC Sounds 7 January: Radio 4's *Making History*.

The visit is limited to 40 people divided into two groups. The first 1 hour tour is before lunch, the second after lunch. Remaining time is available for individual exploration of the extensive Fitzwilliam collection, or indeed Cambridge generally. Tea and coffee will be available on arrival. Lunch is not included in the visit but the Fitzwilliam has a good large café and there is a Loch Fyne opposite.

Priority booking is available to AFW Members at the discount price of £30. Non-members may apply for remaining places after 20 March 2020 at of £33. Booking form below.

## **DIARY DATE**

### **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 Wight and Osborne House, the cathedrals of Chichester and Salisbury, and the Roman Palace at Fishbourne are just some of the varied attractions which make our well-established tours so enjoyable. Knowing that demand would be high, we have offered two dates.

A recent cancellation on the June tour (22-26 June 2020) means that a twin room has unexpectedly become available. For October (11-15 October 2020), all types of room are still available. (As usual single rooms are in very short supply.) Don't forget to ask your art-loving friends to join us! For full details about the availability of places, please contact Gill Ashley-Smith (01926 640545) as soon as possible. Applications for the October tour will be needed by 1 February at the latest.