



Friends of the Hatton Gallery

President: Professor Eric Cross

Bulletin February 2015

Chairpiece

Happy New Year to all Friends!

What an exciting year 2014 was! We had so many events to relish, an exhibition that lasted three months and we rebranded the Friends of the Hatton with our lovely new logo. We have had a lot of positive feedback about the exhibition, and about the logo. Many thanks to those friends who helped with the hang. Exhibitors sold a record number of works this year, so congratulations to all those who did. The Caroline Coode retrospective was very well received. Caroline has been a great inspiration to me in my work, and she is also the reason I'm a member of FOTH. It was a real treat to see the wonderful range of work she produces, from exquisite wood engraving to paintings, drawings, artist's books and prints, displayed in our favourite gallery!

With the launch of our new logo we have recruited a number of new members. New members will receive a welcome pack comprising a tote bag with logo, a sketchbook and pencil, a badge and a folder with a history of the gallery and an explanation of the role of FOTH. Current members who attended the launch also received the pack. Many thanks to Martin Williams of TWAM and his team, who facilitated the design and printing of the welcome pack.

We were very concerned that our friend Bob Young was so ill last year. Bob has been a stalwart of the committee for a number of years. His steadying hand on the tiller of the exhibition hanging team was sorely missed! We are really pleased that he is gradually getting back into the swing of things, and we wish him good health in 2015.

2015 is now upon us and we now have a new programme of events. The events team has been working hard to arrange these for us and it looks to be a super selection of experiences to stimulate our interest and enhance our practice. Do sign up to workshops to learn new techniques, expand your experience and enjoy a day of art and friendship.

This year should also be the last full year before the start of the refurbishment - though timescales are a little fluid. Let's make this a great year for the gallery and FOTH. We will be offering a new volunteer programme for the gallery, so expect the opportunity to offer your time as a gallery guide when the refurb is complete. Some members have already signed up. Let us know if you'd be interested in this means of helping the gallery.

At last year's AGM it was decided to raise the membership fees as follows:

Family (one household) membership - £20 per annum.

Individual membership - £15 per annum.

Students/under 25s membership £5.

Please amend your standing order to reflect the new prices. We are still excellent value for money! We offer our members the chance to exhibit in a wonderful gallery; events; workshops; lectures and a discount at the gallery shop. All this bounty costs just £1.25 per month. Can't be beaten, I think!

Lastly, let me wish you all a happy and healthy 2015. I hope to see you at lots of events.

Vhairi

Forthcoming Events

February

Print Workshop Saturday 7th February 10.30 - 4.00 p.m.

Led by Caroline Coode and Vhairi Cardinal

The day will include help with collagraph, acetate dry point, blind embossing, wood/lino-cut. (photo-etching, litho or screen printing NOT included.)

If you have not done any printmaking before, you will be guided through the process.

Held in the Print Room. Please complete the Booking Form.

'Conversation with Artists' Tuesday 24th February

Alexandra Hughes and David Bilbrough

Since graduating with an MFA from Slade School of Fine Art in 2008, Canadian born Alexandra has recently finished a practice-led MRes at Northumbria University followed by a residency with Sunderland University. Alexandra's Conversation will be centred on an on going project, LOAD, which is an archive of materials collected from a personal network of both national and international artists.

David Bilbrough's new work focuses on the Kenton Bar estate, the single largest projects undertaken by Ryder & Yates in the early years of the firm. David combines archival drawings with photographs of the estate as it is now to create photomontages which revive the original utopian vision of its architects. Q & A

David will be exhibiting at The Hatton Gallery from 10th. Jan. to 11th. April 2015.

Held in the Seminar room 6.30 Wine and Nibbles. Conversation 7.00-9.00p.m.

Admission Free. Please complete the Booking Form.

MARCH

Print Workshop Saturday 7th March 10.30 - 4.00 p.m.

Led by Caroline Coode and Vhairi Cardinal

Continuing with the range of print processes employed in February.

Held in the Print Room. Please complete the Booking Form.

'COOL and ANTI-COOL' A Survey of Contemporary Art Tuesday 10th March

Lecture led by Bill Varley

Held in the Seminar room.

Wine and Nibbles 6.30. Lecture 7.00 - 9.00 p.m.

Textile Workshop Saturday 14th March. 10.30-4.3 p.m.

Led by Gaynor Devaney

The day will very varied with fabric painting, textile collage on prepared fabric, stitching, layering, lines and shapes.

We may all be inspired by the exhibition in The Hatton at the time of Victor Pasmore's paintings, prints and reliefs.

Held in the Seminar Room. Please complete the Booking Form.

'Conversation with Artists' Tuesday 31st March

Sarah Riseborough

Sarah completed her MA in Fine Art and practice led MRes in Fine Art at Northumbria University in 2012 and 2014 respectively. With a background in painting Sarah's current practice is focused on performance, video and installation. Sarah's conversation will be centred on her current practice, discussing her methodology and the materials she uses. Q & A

Held in the Seminar room 6.30 Wine and Nibbles. Conversation 7.00-9.00p.m.

Admission Free. Please complete the Booking Form.

APRIL

Ivor Gurney : Poet of War Tuesday 21st April

Lecture led by Kelsey Thornton

Held in the Seminar room 6.30 Wine and Nibbles. Lecture 7.00-9.00p.m.

Admission Free. Please complete the Booking Form.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEEETING Saturday, April 11th

To be held in the Seminar Room to the left of the Art Materials Shop
(10.15am Coffee and biscuits. 10.30am 'Show and Talk' 11.15am Meeting commences)

Friends of the Hatton Contacts

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Ivor Gurney : Poet of War

Lecture led by Kelsey Thornton, Tuesday 21st April 2015- 6.30 for 7.00

When the BBC made a television programme recently about Ivor Gurney, they called it 'The Poet who Loved the War'. It was a silly title, probably meant to catch people's attention rather than to describe Gurney's attitude. He did think that the war might to some extent cure his mental problems and, ironically in such a mess of destruction and mutual slaughter, give him some order and stability. But that is not to say he loved the war, which he hated as much as any of his fellow soldiers who had to endure the conditions in a muddy Flanders, where winter was slightly more bearable than autumn, because the cold froze the mud into a reasonable footing.

We have had a lot of centenaries of events in the first world war (some may think too many), and I thought people might like to hear of Gurney's war. War to a large extent made Gurney as a poet, though it didn't stop him composing music, particularly song settings. I shall be looking at both the songs he composed at the front, and at the poems which he wrote while a serving soldier and those he composed in the Dartford Asylum where he spent the last fifteen years of his life. For the first few years of his incarceration in Dartford, he tried to sustain an idea of himself by going over and over his experiences in the war, often juxtaposed against a longing for his native Gloucester.

The resulting poems were not widely available until the end of the twentieth century, and a new collected poems in three volumes is under way from Oxford University Press. This is some indication of the fact that Gurney is now seen as on a level with Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Isaac Rosenberg, and other major writers of the war. Gurney, however, is set apart by also being one of the major voices in Early Twentieth Century English song writing.

I recently put together a little volume of his Poems of War to be sold in the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ieper (the town which the French call Ypres), and began to feel that there is almost too much celebration (if that is the right word) of war. War, after all is about killing. So I wrote a slightly tetchy villanelle on the topic, remembering the lines in Gurney's 'To His Love', which remind us that we sometimes have to forget rather than remember:

Cover him, cover him soon!
And with thick-set
Memoried flowers –
Hide that red wet
Thing I must somehow forget.

This is my version.

Lest we remember

It's two thousand and fifteen; I've had my fill
Of poetry and poppies and parades
That all forget the aim of war's to kill.

Don't feed my children bloody stories still --
More hate poured raw in case the memory fades --
It's two thousand and fifteen; I've had my fill

Of quiet men conscripted to fulfil
Some politicians' quota for brigades.
I can't forget the aim of war's to kill.
Sick tales of silent cyphers sent to spill
The innocent blood of cyphers in their raids;
It's two thousand and fifteen; I've had my fill

Of honest sods who took the bitter pill
And, being there behind the barricades,
Did not forget the aim of war's to kill.

Write fancy poems with your cultured quill;
Go tell your stories to the million shades.
It's two thousand and fifteen; I've had my fill
Of those who forget the aim of war's to kill.

R. K. R. Thornton