

Friends of the Hunt Museum.

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February 2010

Dear Friends

As you can see from this first newsletter of 2010, the Museum will be busy with a variety of activities in the coming months.

We are all looking forward to the gathering of Friends of Museums from around the country at the end of March—It is many years since we last hosted such an event and it will be our joy to introduce our guests from the National Gallery, The Ulster Museum, The Crawford Gallery of Art and Waterford Museum of Treasures to the many attractions of Limerick City and its environs.

Included in the newsletter is a message from our new Director, Dr Hugh Maguire, who has hit the ground running and seems to be greatly enthused by the challenges presented .

In our next newsletter we will bring you details of our summer trips. Some interesting destinations are in the pipeline. In the meantime, we hope to meet you at some of the events flagged hereunder.

Le gach dea ghúí

Eileen Egan

Honorary Secretary

Membership Reminder

Have you paid your membership for 2010?

Thank you to all of the existing members who have already renewed their membership. If you haven't done so already, please renew as soon as possible.

Have a look at your current membership card and, if it is not in date, you can get in touch with Mairead in the Friends office to arrange payment for this year.

As a friend you can get free admission to the Hunt Museum all year round, a regular newsletter detailing a special programme of events, specialist art tours, and a 10% discount in the Hunt Museum gift shop.

Membership is great value for money and rates remain at the same for 2010.

Family €70.

Individual €50

Privileged €35.

Membership is really good value, so spread the word. New members are always welcome. The easiest way to introduce a new member is to bring a friend along to a lecture, exhibition opening, outing or indeed any of our Friends events.

We also welcome your ideas, suggestions and feedback. Tel: 061-312960.
email:friends@huntmuseum.com

Irish Friends of Museum Spring Break in Limerick

The Friends of the Hunt Museum will host a gathering of The Friends of Museums and Galleries in Ireland from Thursday 25th to Sunday 28th March 2010. Friends from the National Gallery, The Ulster Museum, The Crawford Gallery of Art and Waterford Museum of Treasures will visit Limerick and we will give them a warm welcome. An exciting programme of events, both social and cultural has been planned and the programme is enclosed.

You may like to come and meet our visitors at some of these events. Prices and details for the various venues are available by contacting Mairead at the Friends Office on 061-312960, email friends@huntmuseum.com

LUNCHTIME LECTURES

Admission FREE

Tuesday March 9th at 1pm

'From Bean Tighearna to Madame - Glin Castle Wives'

"The history of the Knights of Glin over the past 700 years has been well documented, most recently in a major book of essays edited by Tom Donovan, but there has been little attention paid to the wives of the Knights. Many of them were remarkable women who not only provided the all-important male heirs, but actively assisted their husbands during the many upheavals and vicissitudes which characterised the history of the family. Their commitment, hard work and, not least, their substantial dowries helped ensure the survival of the Castle and estate. They were usually rewarded for their efforts by their husbands' neglect, ill-treatment and unfaithfulness.

Speaker: Liam Irwin

Liam Irwin is Head of the Department of History at Mary Immaculate College and has a peasant's forelock tugging fascination with the lives of the Limerick gentry.

Tuesday April 20th at 1pm

'Elizabeth Linley—Sheridan's Nightingale'



Elizabeth Ann Sheridan (née Linley) (7 September 1754 – 28 June 1792) was the second daughter (and second of twelve children) of the composer Thomas Linley and his wife Mary Johnson, and was herself the wife of the playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan.

Speaker : Seamus Ruane, Docent at the Hunt Museum

Lady Diana Pery. Painting,. Mrs Sheridan as St Cecilia. Oil on canvas. Hunt Museum

Wednesday May 5th at 1pm

'Maps as a source for the Sieges of Limerick'

This talk is part of a programme of events, Mapping Limerick's Urban History, examining varying aspects of Limerick's urban and topographical history in association with Royal Irish Academy.

Speaker : Liam Irwin

Head of the Department of History at Mary Immaculate College



Limerick c. 1654, from the Down Survey.

Tuesday May 25th at 1pm in the Hunt Museum

'A Limerick Miscellany'

Speaker: Mae Leonard, writer, poet, broadcaster.



Winner of several awards for poetry and short stories including the Jonathan Swift, C.D.Lewis and Gerard Manley Hopkins Awards. Now living in Co. Kildare she is very proud of her Limerick roots. She is a Clancy of The Parish. Mae is best known for her contributions to RTE's Sunday Miscellany and Lyric's Quiet Quarter. Her presentation will be readings, with comment, from her published and broadcast pieces.

Other Lectures in the Mapping Limerick's Urban History series that you may be interested in...

22nd March 8pm in Mary Immaculate College. Hosted by Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society. David Fleming(UL) 'Limerick paupers: poor relief in 18c Limerick'

21st April 8pm in No 1 Pery Square. Hosted by Limerick Chapter of the Irish Georgian Society John Logan (UL) -'Eyres, Colles and Sauthier: Mapping Limerick 1752 to 1786'.

The Hunt Museum in partnership with The Irish Prison Service presents

The National Prison Education Art Exhibition at
The Hunt Museum gallery

OUT

You are invited to the **Opening Night** on
Wednesday 24th February at 5pm

The guest speaker at the opening is
Director General of The Irish Prison Service,

Mr. Brian Purcell

Exhibition runs from Thursday 25th February 2010 – Sunday 21st March 2010

Veronica Hoen, Arts Development Worker, will speak about the exhibition on two separate dates;

March 2nd 1pm

March 19th 1pm -

ADMISSION IS FREE



You are invited to the opening of

'Bill Griffin - New Works'

opens Thursday 8th April at 6pm.

Bill Griffin possesses both a freedom of spirit and an ability to paint directly from his subconscious. He works for hours on end, day and night, collapsing every now and then for quick naps that allow him to remain relatively in tune with his dream state. He explains " the difference between memory and painting is the moment now".

Exhibition continues until 2nd May

HUNT 2010

An annual show by students from the Limerick School of Art and Design based on the Hunt Collection will be held in May

Further details in next newsletter

Limerick School of Art & Design (LSAD) is the largest art and design centre outside Dublin with students from all over Ireland. LSAD has an award-winning reputation in Ceramics, Fashion, Visual Communications, Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture & Combined Media and Teacher Education.



Tuesday April 13th at 1pm

'Meet the Artist'

Bill Griffin is as a conduit to the unconscious world of free expression. His reluctance to lead the viewer with over-descriptive titles forces the viewer to engage with the work. Bill talks about his new works which are displayed in the gallery, 8th April to 2nd May

Speaker: Bill Griffin

ADMISSION IS FREE

HUNT THE POSTCARD



We are happy to report that we have had another successful sale of the works donated for our Hunt the Postcard fundraiser. Our clients were in awe of the variety of works displayed and the generosity of the artists who had given their time and talents to help raise badly needed funds for the Hunt Museum. They all enjoyed immensely the challenge of picking a postcard, without knowing who had painted it – the excitement in the gallery was tangible.

We thank the artists for their generosity, the Friends, Docents and Staff who helped with the project and of course those of you who attended and bought one of the art works.

Dear Friends of The Hunt Museum

It is still early days in my settling into the role of Director and I look forward to working with you all to advance the aims and visions for this museum. I feel I have been here already for ages and yet, as each day goes by, I learn more and more about the operation and the range of tasks that lie ahead, from building maintenance through to exhibition schedules.

The Museum benefits enormously from its Friends and I am anxious to strengthen this bond as much as possible through close working with the Council of the Friends and Mairead your administrator. I myself have benefitted from membership of a range of Friends organisations and hopefully, allowing for limitations of scale, some of these ideas might be adaptable here. A whole array of Museum functions would not be available if it were not for your time and financial support. And for this I am very grateful. Of course it is hoped that membership of the Friends can bring a positive return for our social lives and again, through tours and events, we may hopefully enhance the services available to you.

I have enjoyed meeting with individual members of the Council in recent weeks and I have discussed some good ideas with Bríd Stanley. The forthcoming event with the Friends in late March should reflect well on all of us and the events lined up promise to be engaging and fun – we can't forget the fun element in what we do in spite of the economic woes that prevail..

Again I am happy to be here at The Hunt Museum and hope that I can be of service to the organisation in the time ahead. With best wishes.



Dr Hugh Maguire

AGM

The AGM of the Friends of the Hunt Museum will be held on Wednesday 5th May at 12pm and will be followed by a lecture by Liam Irwin on

'Maps as a source for the Sieges of Limerick'.

Please do come along to the AGM. We very much welcome your support and look forward to hearing all your suggestions and ideas.

At our extraordinary general meeting on 8th December all proposals for changing the constitution were passed

If you have an email address, please sign up for our new web mail out by emailing a message to friends@huntmuseum.com

In addition to receiving your newsletter in full colour, you get the added bonus of receiving details of other interesting events that happen around the city and county. It is a great way of keeping in touch on a more regular basis.

Guided Tours: During a visit to the museum you can choose to explore the collection by yourself or take one of our regular guided tours. There is no extra charge for tours. Tours take approximately one hour and vary according to the guide. The tour can be a Highlights tour or for (pre-booked groups) explore a theme or focus on particular areas or objects from the exhibition. Those that choose to explore the exhibition unguided can discuss the artefacts on an informal basis with our Docent guides who are available in the galleries. The Hunt Museum Treasure Trail is available to all children visiting the Museum and is an ideal way for families to explore the Collection together.



RAFFLE

Thank you to all those who supported our raffle . The winner of the painting 'Poppy Meadow' by Declan Marry was lucky Margaret Fennel from Dublin. Margaret bought her ticket at the Antiques Fair in RDS. Our sincere thanks to you all and to Declan Marry who donated the painting.