



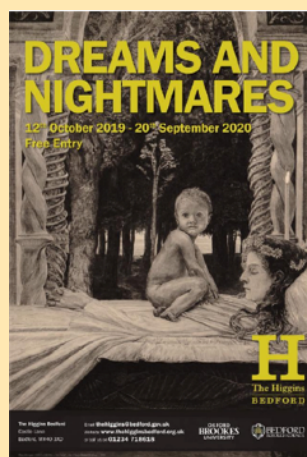
# FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2020

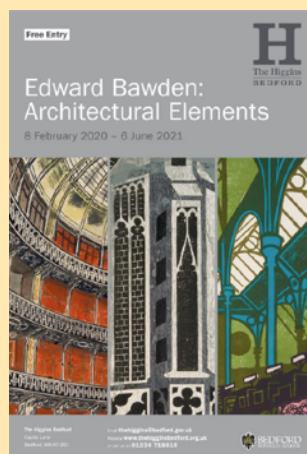
## The Higgins BEDFORD

### What's on

If you missed the chance to see these before the Higgins closed, do drop in now.



**Dreams and Nightmares**  
Until 20th September 2020



**Edward Bawden:  
Architectural Elements**  
Until 6th June 2021

### As well as:

There are also smaller displays focusing on Polish Heritage in Bedford, RAE Bedford and Concorde, and the Higgins's collection of Greek Coins.

## Welcome back!

### The Higgins reopens

After five long months of lockdown, the Higgins reopened its doors to visitors on Tuesday 25th August. Local shops and businesses began to open over the summer as restrictions were relaxed, and the Council has now judged it safe to begin a phased reopening of its leisure and culture services.

Needless to say, this move comes with stringent infection measures being put in place, all of which will affect the experience of visiting the Higgins; in the first place, timed entry tickets will be necessary for all visits so that visitor numbers can be kept low enough to allow social distancing. You will need to visit [www.thehigginsbedford.org](http://www.thehigginsbedford.org) or to telephone 01234 718044 to order these free tickets.

Inside the museum there will be a one way system in operation with separate entrance and exit routes, and hand washing and sanitising facilities will be available throughout the building. Interactive displays and information folders have all been removed but you will be able to access these on mobile devices by scanning new QR codes. In addition, the Higgins will be collecting contact details for visitors to support NHS Test and Trace programme.

It is hoped that many of these measures will be temporary ones and that they will not deter Friends and others from visiting - like all museums, the Higgins thrives when it is full of interested and engaged visitors. Please visit as soon as you feel able!

## What you need to know:

- You will have to wear a face mask at all times during your visit (children under 11 and those with medical conditions are exempted).
- Toilets are open and are being cleaned regularly. Please be prepared to queue if necessary.
- The Higgins shop is open.
- The Higgins Pantry is open. Check times at [www.thehigginspantry.co.uk](http://www.thehigginspantry.co.uk)
- Don't forget to book your free tickets at [www.thehigginsbedford.org](http://www.thehigginsbedford.org) or by telephoning 01234 71804

# Friends' Lecture Programme

## To Zoom or not to Zoom...

Our last lecture season, which had started with some great talks and increased visitor numbers, came to an abrupt close at the start of the COVID-19 crisis. Here Committee member Rod Calvert explains the Friends' approach to this season's forthcoming lectures.

Given the knowledge of the demographics of our members and the certainty that lectures as we know them won't be possible for some indeterminate time, the Committee struggled with the questions: Would our esteemed lecturers be up for Zoom delivery and indeed would our members be pleased to participate in such a programme if we were able to create it. A membership survey revealed overwhelming support for the idea and with a bit of persuasion here and there our speakers came on board.

With that comes the practicality and the delivery of the programme. So how about members who are not confident about the technology to be supported? Every member will be given the opportunity for a one-on-one tuition session before the first lecture. Fortunately we know from the survey that many members are already Zoom-savvy and will not require help but those who do are covered.

On the night it will be a case of 'clicking to join' and participants will enter a 'waiting room' where they will wait expectantly, meanwhile frantic clicking and checking will be going on to ensure both the speaker and the slides are functioning. During the talk members are asked to be on MUTE - so that deliveries, random phone calls etc don't disrupt proceedings. We have a big button and can mute everyone with one click if things get out of control. Opening up for audience questions might be a bit chaotic but we can try! We'll also hope to have some opportunity for virtual socialising at the close of each lecture, so please have your drinks and nibbles at the ready.

## Forthcoming talks

### Tuesday 15th September

Burges, Betjeman and Waugh:  
The Washstand that Drove a Novelist Insane,  
by Dr Barbara Cooke

### Tuesday 6th October

The Drum Horse in the Fountain,  
by Christopher Joll

### Tuesday 10th November

Joanna Boyce Wells: A Pre-Raphaelite Life of Art,  
Love & Friendship, by Sue Bradbury

### Tuesday 24th November

The Lost Princes, Royal Heirs who never  
succeeded, by Chloë Cockerill

### Tuesday 1st December

Sir Alfred Munnings and the First World War,  
by Dr Bill Teatheredge

Lecture times and details of how to join via  
Zoom will be circulated on email prior to  
each event.

## The Arc

This summer saw Bedford's landmark art shop, The Art Centre, relaunch as 'The Arc'. Many Friends will know the business as that of our Chairman, Don Gillett, and we hope will forgive this promotion in what is otherwise a newsletter with - for obvious reasons - very little news! Don's daughter, Gemma, has taken over the shop and is still selling art materials and doing picture framing, but has also added a range of gifts and homewares. The Arc is under the same roof as the wonderful Gallery Cafe, so do drop in for some great shopping and enjoy delicious coffee and patisserie at the same time.

