November 2026 at the Willis Museum

Talks/Meetings

Hosted by the Friends of the Willis Museum *(Archaeology Gallery, second floor)*

19 Nov, 7.30pm: Thomas Burberry by Chelsey Lewington

Thomas Burberry established Burberry in Basingstoke at just 21 years old. The company was founded on the principle that clothing should be designed to protect people from the British weather. From early beginnings to an international business.

Doors open 7.10pm, raffle and refreshments available. Free to members, visitors £5 at the door. Some "first come, first served" seats have been reserved for non-members, booking essential. Call in to the Museum or phone 01256 465902.

Looking Ahead:
21 Jan 2027: Bramley's Hidden Military Railway Ammunition Depot by David Wickens

Hosted by the Museum Management (*Archaeology Gallery, second floor*)

29 Nov, 2pm: The Role of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps in the care of animals by David Wiggins

Throughout history animals have played an integral role in supporting British forces during conflict. From cavalry charges and transporting the sick and wounded, to carrying vital communications or serving as mascots and companions, animals have long been woven into the story of the British Army.

Like the soldiers beside them, animals required care and protection. Explore the origins of the veterinary medicine within the British Army and the variety of animals that have worked with the RAVC with David Wiggins of the Museum of Military Medicine.

£7 including tea, coffee and cake. If able, please book online at:
https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/event/sunday-tea-talk-claws-hooves-paws-and-hands-role-ravc-care-animals

Looking Ahead:
13 Dec: Made in St Ives – An Artist's Colony by Tim Craven
https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/event/sunday-tea-talk-made-st-ives-artists-colony-tim-craven

Special Exhibitions

Weds to Sats, 1000 – 1700, Suns 1000-1600

Sainsbury Gallery (ground floor)

7 Nov - 14 Mar 27: Wonders of the Night

Explore our enduring fascination with the night, from the mysteries of the Moon and stars to the beauty and imagination they have inspired, in this specially curated exhibition bringing together curious objects from our historic collections and artwork by local artists.

Through a selection of objects, from an Anglo-Saxon crescent brooch to a 300-year-old diary of astronomical and astrological predictions, discover how people have sought to understand the night sky through ancient beliefs and scientific discovery. See how the Moon has inspired artists, from its use as a symbol to atmospheric paintings dating from the 1700s to the 1930s, capturing the beauty and mystery of the night.

Alongside the historic collection, we have invited artists from across Hampshire to respond to the night, as the Sainsbury Gallery welcomes back an open art exhibition for the first time in years. Their work, selected by a judging panel, explores everything from nocturnal wildlife and moonlit landscapes to dreams, folklore and memories.



(A review of this exhibition will appear in the December bulletin).

Basingstoke Community Gallery (first floor)

Until 15 Nov: Edge of the Wild Exhibition by Basingstoke Art Club

Basingstoke Art Club are showing pictures of creatures in their natural environment. This exhibition of artwork takes visitors on a journey from the mysterious ocean's depth to soaring the skies.

Edge of the Wild Exhibition: Review by Jenny Fairweather

Members of Basingstoke Art Club have chosen the theme Edge of the Wild enabling them to focus on animals, birds and their habitats. The show depicts many characterful, wild creatures including several puffins and several animals from wild places abroad. Many are from the U.K. and are possibly in gardens locally.

Pictures range from a large canvas and big framed ink and gouache to smaller framed paintings and drawings (and one glass piece) using varied media. All are for sale, bar one, at a variety of prices.

A lot of work has gone into this show and its hang. There is much talent from local artists on show, and I'd recommend you visit during the next weeks.



Edge of the Wild Exhibition (Basingstoke Community Gallery)
photos by Jenny Fairweather

21 Nov – 10 Jan 27: Making a Mark Exhibition

Making a Mark brings together the distinct creative voices of Neal Whelan, Rachel Davis, and Jacky Purtill in a compelling celebration of contemporary art. This collaborative exhibition explores the physical, emotional, and conceptual ways we imprint our perspectives onto the world, transforming raw materials into deeply personal narratives.

Through a striking intersection of styles, each artist approaches the theme from a unique vantage point. From visceral brushstrokes to meticulous textures, this exhibition celebrates the power of the artist's hand and invites viewers to contemplate the lasting impressions through their mark making.