

The ARTS & CRAFTS MOVEMENT & in Surrey

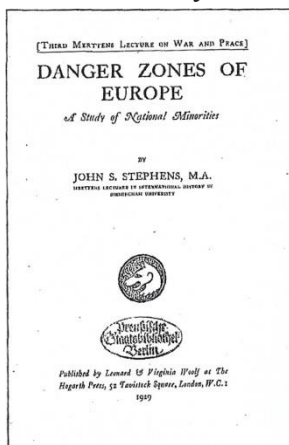
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E-NEWSLETTER

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Chairman's Editorial by Carolyn Smith

The devastating war in Ukraine and the poignant scenes on the television are in everybody's minds at the moment. I have been reading *The Diary of Virginia Woolf. Volume 1 1915-19*. This is interesting on many different levels, with references to Charleston; E.M. Forster and many others. Virginia and her husband, Leonard, were alternating between Hogarth House in Richmond and Asheham House in Sussex. Zeppelins, German aeroplanes and constant air raids were a fact of life. However, what comes across is how 'normal' her life was with visits to Debenham's and Marshall & Snelgrove's in the West End. She writes 'These great shops are like fairies' palaces now.' In October 2017, a 'great bomb ploughed up the pavement opposite Swan & Edgar's' in Picadilly and Virginia saw the hole a few days later. 'Swan & Edgar's have every window covered with sacking or planks; you see shop women looking out from behind; not a glimpse of stuffs, but 'business goes on as usual.' Despite all this, 1917 was the year when the Woolfs bought a small hand-operated printing press and ventured into publishing. The Hogarth Press was to go on to produce her novels and publications such as T.S.Eliot's *The Wasteland*. This example from 1929 is rather relevant and shows the head of a wolf which was the press's official logo. 527 publications were made between 1917 and 1946. The diary records the Woolfs' early trials and successes with operating the press.



Wikipedia. Hogarth Press.



Forthcoming events for 2022

16th March 2022. Stained Glass – The Making of Arts & Crafts Stained Glass in the mid to late Victorian Era. Zoom lecture by Dr Jim Cheshire.

30th March 2022. Visit to the Sidney Sime Gallery, Worplesdon, Surrey.

21st April 2022. Visit to Kitty Milroy's Murals in St Mark's Church, Upper Hale, Murals Exhibition, Farnham Museum and Afternoon Tea. 30th March 2022.

18th May 2022. AGM at Arbuthnot Hall, Shamley Green.



Greater Manchester Tour. Part Two by Carolyn Smith

Day Three of the tour dawned and the rain had stopped. My next challenge was trying to find out where on earth our coach was parked to take us to Middleton. Here we visited Long Street Methodist Church and School by Edgar Wood built in 1899-1901. Pevsner describes the Chapel as 'a knockout, flooded with light from the big clear windows with their unconventional tracery'.



This was followed by a walking tour of Edgar Wood properties in the conservation area and a visit to St Leonard's Church with glass by Christopher Whall. After lunch, we were driven to

Bramall Hall for an overly lengthy tour by its very enthusiastic Museums Officer. The Arts and Crafts interiors were designed by George Faulkner Armitage. The photo below is an example of a door fitting.



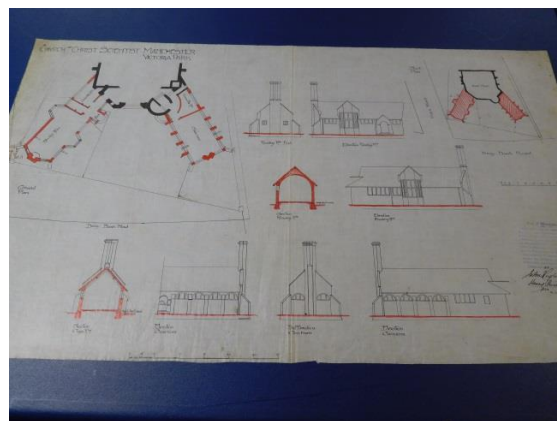
Our last stop of the day was at the church of St Martin's, Low Marple. This is a fine Arts and Crafts church by John Dando Sedding consecrated in 1870. It has windows by Morris, Marshall, Faulkner and Co. I particularly liked the Lady Chapel designed by Henry Wilson in 1895. It has a barrel-vaulted roof covered with silver swallows and martins with a gilded forest on the sides.



In the evening, we piled into taxis and some of us went to the former Midland Bank designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in 1928. The main banking hall housed at that time, a branch of Jamie's Italian. I say 'some of us' as the occupants of one taxi mistook the Midland Bank for the Midland Hotel and had a rather long walk to the restaurant! In 2019, the building was taken over by The Hut for retail space. A shame, as it was a very interesting venue for a meal.



This was a long tour and we travelled by coach again on day four, the short distance to Victoria Park, an early example dating from 1837 of a planned residential suburb. We were heading for Edgar Wood's First Church of Christ Scientist, built 1903-08.



Closed in 1971, this building was looted by vandals until purchased by Manchester Corporation and re-opened as an educational facility. It is currently used by a religious sect and I was unable to contact them for permission to visit the inside. However, one intrepid tour member tried the door handle and it opened! The person inside allowed us a quick peek.

This building is highly original as Christian Scientist ‘services lacked ritual and symbolism , so the way was clear for something new and free from precedent.’ (Pevsner).

The Edwardian Victoria Baths completed in 1906 were our next visit and a highlight of the tour. The baths were designed by Manchester City Architect, Henry Price and were used until 1993 when they were closed to an outcry. Now restored, the venue has a programme of events and is much used as a film location including ‘Peaky Blinders’. Victoria Baths won the BBC’s Restoration programme in 2003 and subsequently five million pounds were raised to partially restore the building. It now hosts 30,000 visitors a year for beer festivals, art exhibitions, music events, vintage fairs, cinema nights and so forth.



The interiors are full of tiling and stained glass. Colourful bunting hung over one of the three baths. A photo of this won the Society’s Annual Photographic Competition. Plans were afoot to reopen the Turkish Baths. I had trouble encouraging the group to leave their coffees and visit the excellent gift shop. Big mistake, as once they went into the shop, I could not get everyone out! We had to do a very quick route march to the Whitworth Art Gallery for our private view of the textile collection. The curator had brought out of store an array of arts and crafts fabrics for us to see.



After lunch and free time in the gallery, we emerged to find that the coach was not at the pick up point. After some delay, it finally found us and we set off for Pownall Hall. Henry Boddington commissioned an Arts and Crafts renovation of a Georgian mansion in the 1880s complete with aesthetic stained glass by Shrigley & Hunt and William Morris; carving and sculpture by John Jarvis Milson and Benjamin Cresswick, decorative tiles by William de Morgan and paintings by Selwyn Image and John Dawson Watson. I found the interiors of this building outstanding. What is even more remarkable is that the building is now a school but the interiors are managing to survive! We were shown around by the archivist and also by Wendy Armstrong who had assisted with suggestions for the tour. Wendy and Barry have written three excellent books about the Arts and Crafts Movement in the North West and North East of England and Yorkshire. <http://www.artsandcraftshandbook.co.uk/about-us/>

On our return to the hotel, an intrepid group made their way to Peveril of the Peak, an early nineteenth century pub clad in tiles in 1900 for a welcome drink. I am glad to say that dinner was less exciting than the previous night!

On our final morning, we visited the Sackville Street Building to see stained glass by W.J.Pearce before walking to Manchester Metropolitan University. Here we had another private view of their extensive Arts and Crafts Collection with many treasures brought out for us to examine.

We then had the afternoon as free time for further exploration. I had a look at the nearby University of Manchester's buildings by Alfred Waterhouse and others ventured farther afield to other museums. Then it was time to meet our fellow passengers at Manchester Piccadilly Station for our return to London. The end of one of our longer tours to an area full of Arts and Crafts interest.

Our Most Holy Redeemer, Clerkenwell

A member has kindly drawn my attention to a new book by Nicholas Riddell on this church. <https://holyredeemerclerkenwell.com/product/book/> It was built in 1888 to the designs of John Dando Sedding and completed, after his death, by his assistant, Henry Wilson. This Italianate church is in the Anglo-Catholic tradition.



Wikipedia, Nigel Cox

At No. 449 Oxford Street, Morris & Co had their showrooms from 1878 until 1918, while No. 447 was Sedding's office from 1886 until his death in 1891, and then of his successor Wilson until 1898. These are interesting close associations.

Sedding, of course, designed many Arts and Crafts Churches, the most famous being Holy Trinity, Sloane Street seen above. This was begun in the same year as Our Most Holy Redeemer and also completed by Wilson. Sir John Betjeman described it as 'the Cathedral of the Arts and Crafts Movement'.



Other organisations – Events of interest

The Lutyens Trust

The free zoom webinars continue with *Lutyens Elevations: Evolutions and Revelations*.

<https://lutyenstrustamerica.com/about/webinars/>

Watts Gallery

Pre-Raphaelite Treasures: Drawings and Watercolours from the Ashmolean Museum

8 March - 12 June

Admission £14.95 with Gift Aid - ticket includes entry to Historic Galleries

Friends Free | Under 18s Free

‘This spring, we have been given the rare opportunity to display highlights from the *Ashmolean Museum*’s internationally-renowned collection of Pre-Raphaelite drawings and watercolours. Artists of the Pre-Raphaelite movement came from a wide range of artistic backgrounds and created drawings in a variety of styles and techniques over the course of their careers. However, these treasures are rarely publicly exhibited owing to their delicacy and sensitivity to light exposure.

This exhibition will showcase how artists including Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Edward Burne-Jones and Elizabeth Siddal experimented with different drawing materials, sometimes making careful studies from life and in other instances expressing their fertile imagination on paper. They produced rough sketches and elaborate finished drawings in pencil and pen, chalks and pastel, and even gold paint. This exhibition also offers the chance to bring select works on paper by the Pre-Raphaelites’ contemporary G F Watts out from the Watts Gallery archive, and explore the different ways in which these prominent Victorian artists approached their work and subject matter, from landscape and portraiture to scenes from history and literature’

<https://www.wattsgallery.org.uk/whats-on/pre-raphaelite-treasures-drawings-and-watercolours/>

Drawing in the Era of the Pre-Raphaelites

Mondays, 25 April, 2, 9, 16, 23 May

11am - 12.30pm

Full course £50 | Single lecture £12

Friends: Full course £45 | Single lecture £10

Online, zoom webinar

Speakers: Hilary Underwood & Olive Maggs

The Pre-Raphaelites are best known for their oil paintings: intensely detailed in the 1850s; romantic and decorative later. But their well known oils are underpinned by a rich seam of

drawings and watercolours. These range from studies for details and compositions, through finished saleable works to private and personal ones. Enhance your enjoyment of the Ashmolean loan exhibition with this online course of five lectures.

<https://www.wattsgallery.org.uk/whats-on/history-art-drawing-era-pre-raphaelites/>

The Arc, Winchester

Extraordinary Everyday: The Art & Design of Eric Ravilious

Eric Ravilious (1903-1942) was only 39 when he died on active service, but he had already achieved incredible things in the fields of fine art and design.

80 years after his death, this dazzling new exhibition will guide visitors through his brilliant career, showcasing wood engravings, watercolours, books, ceramics and lithographs. Among the many highlights are stunning watercolours from public collections, such as *Train Landscape*, and rarely-seen works from private collections, including *Room at the William the Conqueror*.

Partnering with 15 lenders from across the UK, this specially-curated exhibition for Hampshire Cultural Trust will show Eric Ravilious' love for the simple pleasures of everyday life (a mug of strong tea, a train ride). He saw the extraordinary in the everyday and, at the same time, made everyday things seem extraordinary, whether this was in the design he made to decorate an eggcup or in his marvellous watercolours.

<https://www.arcwinchester.org.uk/event/extraordinary-everyday-eric-ravilious>

As always, we would welcome any ideas for events, visits and lectures that you would like to propose to the Events Committee and any news or articles that you might like to submit for the Society e-newsletter or printed newsletter. Also, if you are aware of any planning applications relating to Arts and Crafts buildings in Surrey we should be pleased if you would bring them to our attention.

Chairman and e-newsletter editor: Carolyn Smith,
chairman@artsandcraftsmovementinsurrey.org.uk

The Arts and Crafts Movement in Surrey website :
www.artsandcraftsmovementinsurrey.org.uk