

Dates for your Diary

There are still a number of events for Friends to enjoy in 2017. Book now to avoid disappointment!

Kelvin Hall Rocks and Minerals

Tuesday 5 September 2017

10.30am—12.00pm

Kelvin Hall

£15.00 per Friend

Discover some of the wonderful rocks and minerals housed in our new store at Kelvin Hall with Hunterian Curator Dr John Faithfull.

Lyon & Turnbull Scottish Art Focus

Wednesday 4 October 2017

2.00pm—4.00pm

Lyon & Turnbull, Glasgow

Free event—booking essential

Join the Lyon & Turnbull Glasgow specialist team for a private view of their latest focus exhibition.

*Change of Event**

Young Hunterian Friends Social

Tuesday 21 November 2017

6.00pm—8.00pm

Hunterian Art Gallery

Free event with Lyon & Turnbull

Enjoy prosecco, cupcakes and wonderful artworks at this Young Hunterian Friends social event.

Poetry and Objects

Wednesday 6 December 2017

6.00pm—8.00pm

Hunterian Museum

£20.00 per Friend (includes copy of anthology)

An evening of poetry readings from the new *Poetry and Objects* anthology, inspired by objects in the Hunterian Museum.

**We regret to inform Friends that the Scottish Art Book Launch scheduled for Tuesday 21 November 2017 has been cancelled.*

Below is a preview of some of our events planned for 2018. Further details will be available soon. Please note, some events may be subject to change. Visit our website for further details.

June 2018

Visit to Windyhill, Kilmacolm

Celebrate the 150th birthday of Charles Rennie Mackintosh with an exclusive visit to Windyhill, the house he designed and furnished for patron William Davidson.

October 2018

Hunter Tercentenary

Friends are invited to celebrate the Hunter Tercentenary at this special event which marks 300 years since the birth of our founder Dr William Hunter.

December 2018

Christmas Music Concert

Experience seasonal music related to The Hunterian collections and lots of good cheer at this unique Christmas event for Hunterian Friends.

Did you know?

Friends can now book events and renew memberships online via the University Gift Shop:
www.universityofglasgowshops.com

Booking forms are also available on our website:
www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian/support/friends

The University of Glasgow, charity number SC004401

HUNTERIAN

Hunterian Friends Newsletter

Issue 3, Summer 2017



LYON & TURNBULL
AUCTIONEERS SINCE 1826

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to our Summer 2017 Newsletter! This year's events programme is shaping up to be our most interesting and varied to date and I am personally looking forward to sharing it with you.

It has been an extremely busy time for our team with the successful move to Kelvin Hall. Please do take advantage of Hunterian Friends Manager Lee Scott's offer of short tours of Kelvin Hall when you are attending a Friends event there.

David Gaimster, Director of The Hunterian and founder of The Hunterian Friends, has sadly left to take up a new post as Director of the Auckland War Memorial Museum. We wish him and his family every success.

Our new Director, Steph Scholten, will take up post on 1 August this year and we look forward to meeting him.



I am delighted to confirm that our sponsor Lyon & Turnbull have renewed their sponsorship for a further three years from August 2017. They are true sponsors in every sense of the word and we thank them and look forward to continuing our active working relationship.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful Hunterian Friends team for their hard work and all the brilliant Hunterian Curators who offer our Hunterian Friends such an enriching experience from our events programme.

Kindest regards,

Deborah Bennett
Chairman, The Hunterian Friends

Contact Us

Friends should send correspondence to this address:

The Hunterian Friends
The Hunterian (Kelvin Hall)
University of Glasgow
Glasgow G12 8QQ

For membership queries or enquiries about Friends events please contact our Hunterian Friends team who will be happy to help:

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Telephone: 0141 330 8401

Eleanor Capaldi, Hunterian Friends Assistant
Email: Eleanor.Capaldi@glasgow.ac.uk
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Information about current and forthcoming events plus online booking can be found on our website:

www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian/support/friends

Meet our Friends

The Hunterian Friends continues to go from strength to strength. While we endeavour to reach out to new members, we are always grateful for the continued support of those who have been with us a little longer. We aim to introduce you to some of our valued members here.

Name: Ailsa Turner
Profession: Tutor at the Centre for Open Studies, University of Glasgow
Friend since: 2014

How did you find out about Hunterian Friends?

I had picked up a leaflet about The Hunterian Friends when visiting the Hunterian Art Gallery and also met Deborah Bennett, Chair of the Friends at an event at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

What made you decide to join?

I like the idea of supporting the art gallery and museum attached to the University of Glasgow. As a part time tutor for the University's Centre for Open Studies, I appreciate what a wonderful resource The Hunterian is.

What is it you like most about being a Friend?

Having the opportunity to join in special events connected to the permanent displays and temporary exhibitions and visits to related places of interest. I also enjoy meeting other Friends.

Which events have you particularly enjoyed?

The evening of poetry inspired by paintings in the art gallery. It makes me think and view the works from a range of different perspectives.

Evening visits to exhibitions with talks by the curators, for example the exhibitions of Ramsay's portraits, Rembrandt's *Passion and Ingenious Impressions* (15th c. incunabula) and the exhibition around Stubbs' painting. The talks added to my understanding and appreciation of the works.



Also, talks on Scottish paintings displayed at the Glasgow offices of Lyon & Turnbull. It was a good opportunity to see paintings I had not seen before as they were in private collections.

The best discovery you have made about a piece of artwork or an object during a Friends event?

I have discovered so many interesting things that it is difficult to pick out just one.

Is there any type of event or place you'd like to see the Friends offer or visit?

Perhaps a few more behind the scenes events/talks e.g. on the conservation and framing of paintings in the collection.

What would you say to anyone thinking of joining the Friends?

Put your thoughts into action and join now!

Inspiring Acquisitions

Since its inception, The Hunterian Friends has contributed to a number of acquisitions and restoration projects. Revenue drawn from membership subscriptions and events tickets has helped to restore portraits of Lord Kelvin and Lord Lister, which now hang in the upper balcony within the Hunterian Museum.

The displays on this floor are based around the work of Lord Kelvin (William Thomson), comprising an expansive collection of historical scientific instruments. Together, Kelvin and Lister were considered giants in the world of science. More recently, a plaque was unveiled to attribute the restoration of the paintings to the Friends, which can now be seen clearly beside the portraits.

Running alongside The Hunterian's extensive traditional art collection is a keen interest in the contemporary art scene. Prior to the arrival of Damien Hirst's vitrine work *Necromancer*, the Hunterian Art Gallery Contemporary Art space was home to a Friends acquisition; Turner Prize nominee Lucy Skaer's film, *Our Magnolia*. Part of an exhibition comprising a drawing and two wooden sculptures, first shown at the Venice Biennale, the 16mm film was made in collaboration with Beck's Futures Prize-winner Rosaling Nashahibi. It features a compelling combination of surreal and contrasting images challenging viewers to interpret disparate images, from an animal carcass to raindrops on magnolia buds.

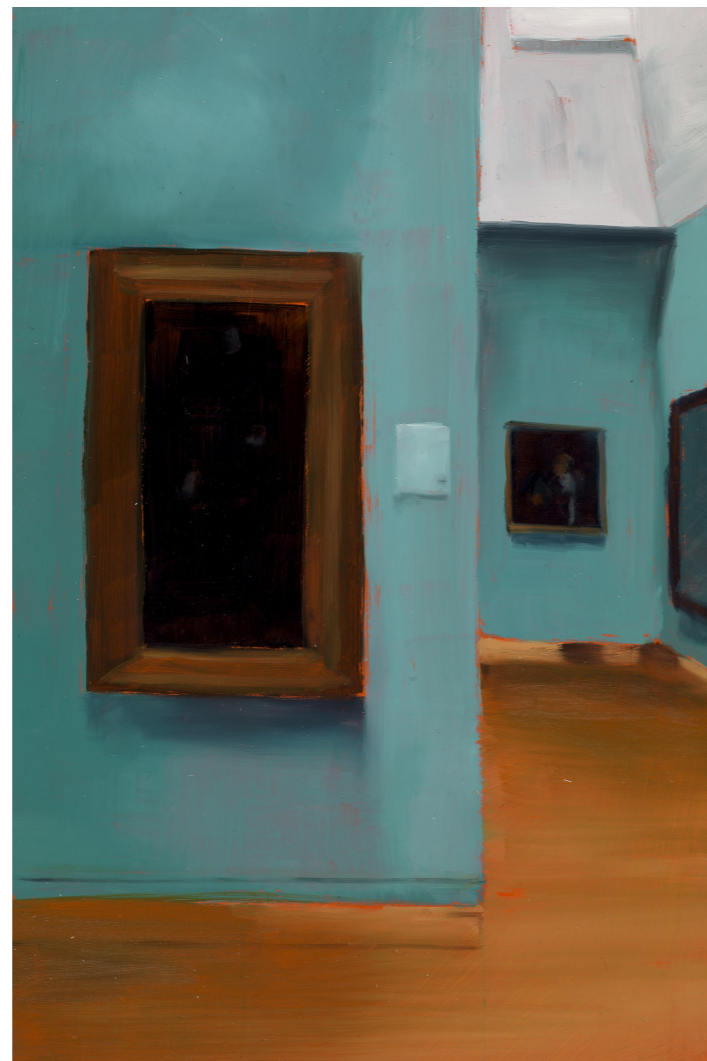
This commitment to connecting with contemporary artists has continued, with the recent acquisition of paintings by local artist Jane Gardiner. A graduate of the medical school at the University of Glasgow, Jane explored her interest in art alongside her studies, beginning with life drawing, progressing to portraiture (which has since seen her work exhibited as part of the BP Portraiture Prize), and now her Museums series.

This latest focus has seen Gardiner revisit The Hunterian to take scores of comprehensive photographs of the interiors to form an initial basis for her paintings. Eleanor Capaldi spoke to Jane to find out more.

What drew you to painting The Hunterian?

Growing up in Ayrshire with Glasgow relatives meant that The Hunterian was a place I visited as a child - I think every child in a 30 mile radius must have had a school trip there! So it was somewhere I already had some fond memories of when I started University. Medical School can be fairly intense, and the galleries (including the sculpture garden and the Zoology Museum) were somewhere I could escape to.

After University I more or less stayed in the west end and The Hunterian is now a ten minute walk from my flat. When it became obvious that my 100 paintings in 100 days project was all going to be based on museums, and that I needed new resource material, The Hunterian was the first on my list - and the first art gallery I painted.



Having studied medicine, have you been tempted to capture the medical collections here?

I have taken reference photographs in the Anatomy Museum, particularly the little winding stairs in the corner. It has been interesting to compare the approach to anatomy between medicine and art as they are completely different.

Why did you choose the particular objects in your Hunterian paintings?

The whole series was experimental, done initially as a way for me to think more about colour/composition/mark making etc. I found the colour of the walls in the Hunterian Art Gallery lovely, and in comparison with gold picture frames and the pink chairs, lent themselves to this approach. I was also interested in really looking at the structure of the gallery - the walls, the chairs, the floors, all the bits that exist so people can see the paintings, and that people (including me, previously) normally ignore but add such an individual flavour to different spaces.

Which qualities do you try to capture in your portraiture?

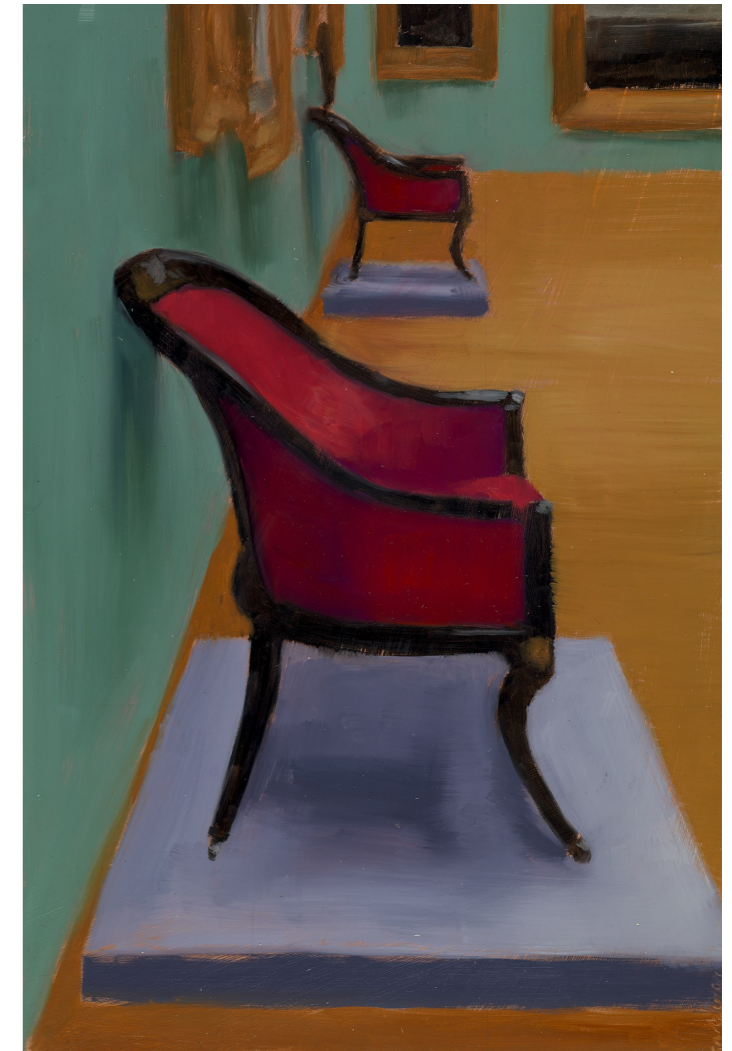
When people model for me, they are given a choice of props, some bought and some made - and some people bring their own. There is a real element of dress up, which is tremendous fun and lets people relax and show aspects of themselves that maybe they are shy about. To me, the surface is important in that it shows what's going on inside and this is what I try to paint.

Which artists or artworks have inspired you?

So many have inspired me it is hard to choose! Some of the paintings in The Hunterian, for example, are old friends - the Chardins are awesome, and I find his life very inspiring. I've always loved the Colourists' beach paintings, although I'm not a landscapist, and there is a lot to love about Whistler. His group of works in The Hunterian is really useful to a practicing artist.

Friends can see more of Jane's work on her website:

www.janegardiner.co.uk



Jane Gardiner, *Double Pink*, 2015 © Jane Gardiner.



Above: Jane Gardiner, *Pink*, 2015 © Jane Gardiner.

Left, Jane Gardiner, *The Whistler*, 2015 © Jane Gardiner.

Event Report

The beginning of the year saw the end of our highly successful exhibition, *Skeletons: Our Buried Bones*. Hunterian Friends were some of the earliest guests to see the major touring show which was the result of collaboration with The Wellcome Trust and The Museum of London.

Hunterian Director Professor David Gaimster guided the group around the six skeletons, sharing their histories, origins and tackling the ethics of body exhumation for research and exhibition. This has particular relevance to the University of Glasgow, which receives a high number of cadaver bequests to contribute to scientific research and medical training.

One of the most engaging skeleton stories came from the curled up female form found on the beaches of South Uist. In particular researchers were able to discern that she had a Vitamin D deficiency.



This demonstrates how archaeology can reveal more questions than answers on occasions, given that someone in her position would have been thought to work outside. This has led to suggestions that she may have been working domestically, and therefore stayed indoors. No answer has proved itself to be conclusive.

It was also revealed to us that recent developments in DNA testing had enabled researchers in London to discover the exact strain of the Black Plague which one of the skeletons in the exhibition had suffered from. The conversation which emerged during the tour allowed Friends to engage in greater depth with the exhibition, an element we endeavour to incorporate across all our events.

We rounded up our busy 2016 programme with a new iteration of our Poetry series. Having first addressed the Hunterian Art Gallery collections, on this occasion the objects in the museum provided the inspiration. Fuelled by our event sponsors Makar Gin, guests were treated to a diverse collection of work.

Poems were inspired by the various displays, including the Antonine Wall, medical equipment, fossils, a dormouse, and our Mummy, the Lady Shep-en-hor. As with our poems on paintings, these new additions will offer alternative ways for visitors and enthusiasts to connect with the museum collections.

The *Poetry and Objects* anthology will be previewed at a Friends event in the Hunterian Museum on 6 December 2017. Thereafter, the anthology will be publicly launched at Glasgow's *Aye Write* book festival in 2018.

Details of Friends Events for the remainder of 2017 can be found on page 8, along with a preview of events for 2018.

As always, further information and booking forms can be found on our website:

www.glasgow.ac.uk/hunterian/support/friends

David's Departure

In January, Hunterian Director Professor David Gaimster announced that he would be leaving The Hunterian to take up the post of Director at Auckland War Memorial Museum, New Zealand.

In his six years at The Hunterian David has overseen significant changes, most recently the transfer of staff and collections to Kelvin Hall. During this time visitor numbers have increased, digital content has expanded, and opportunities for student engagement have evolved. Of his departure David says:

"Whilst a very exciting opportunity for me, this has been a very difficult decision, both professionally and personally, given what we have achieved over the past few years and have in prospect for the future.

Recent developments have helped secure The Hunterian's position as a leader in the university museum world in attracting new audiences and in advancing the collections pedagogy.

The First Minister's opening of Kelvin Hall secured the foothold for further investment in this landmark building, enabling the creation of an expanded Hunterian offer in the coming years."

One of the initiatives developed during David's tenure was The Hunterian Friends scheme. Since launching in 2012, membership has continued to grow, and the scope of our programme has become increasingly ambitious, incorporating expert insight to our collections, alongside strengthened ties with our counterparts at museums and galleries across Scotland.

During this time the Friends have made essential contributions to valuable acquisitions (*more on pages 4 and 5*) and the publication of our poetry anthologies. We continue to build a strong relationship with our sponsors Lyon & Turnbull.

"One of the most satisfying experiences during my time with The Hunterian has been to see the foundation and growth of The Hunterian Friends," David tells us.



"This has been one of our most important initiatives to reach out to new communities of interest in Glasgow and beyond, and to engage our supporters in our core business of conservation, acquisition and display. Your support for our curatorial mission has been game-changing and will become, I am sure, a key part of our relationship. I'd like to express my personal gratitude to all those who have been involved in these important developments. Since its foundation, the history of The Hunterian has been one of continuous change. I very much hope you will continue to follow and support The Hunterian as it approaches its next phase of evolution."

The Hunterian is in a strong position as we look forward to the next phase of Kelvin Hall, continuing to succeed as a centre of excellence, and world class research, in which The Hunterian Friends fulfil a central role.