

Welcome to Wells & Mendip Museum's newsletter with information about exhibitions, talks, events and developments at the Museum. If you would like to receive a copy by e-mail please contact admin@wellsmuseum.org.uk

Opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 4pm (Closed Sundays & Mondays)

First Floor Exhibition Room

11 – 24 June

“Made and Found” – An exhibition by Phoebe McElhatton & Nic McElhatton

Made & Found is a joint exhibition from antique dealer and artist, Nic McElhatton and his set designer and artist daughter, Phoebe. The exhibition comprises ceramics, paintings and works of art.



Phoebe McElhatton is an artist and set designer working with plaster, porcelain, and stoneware. Using mould-making techniques, she explores texture, repetition, and the transformation of everyday forms. Her work is driven by an interest in how objects respond to being cast, and how their new material forms can take on a surreal or unfamiliar quality. Through this process, she creates sculptural pieces that shift between the familiar and the abstract.

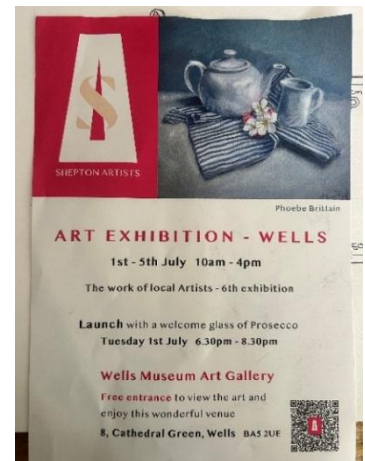
Born in 1958 in Northumberland Nic McElhatton now lives in Somerset. He studied at Sunderland Polytechnic Faculty of Art graduating in 1980. He moved to London in 1984 where he joined Christies as a porter and left in 2017 having spent the last five years of his career as Chairman of Christies South Kensington. Nic continued painting throughout his career exhibiting in various group shows. After leaving Christies Nic set up his own business selling art and antiques. His inspiration in the visual arts is wide and varied, influenced by his long career at Christies as a specialist in European objects of art. **Free entry to exhibition only**



1 – 5 July – Art exhibition by Shepton Artists

Shepton Artists will be holding a special launch event on Tuesday 2nd from 6.30-8.30 (free entry).

The exhibition is following their hugely successful exhibition held in Shepton recently where they had more than 500 visitors and some wonderful buyers. Prints, cards and some affordable and very collectible art will be on show to tempt you. Each artist will be bringing work not shown in Shepton so come and meet them again or come for your first visit and be amazed by the work of these 12 local artists. **Free entry to exhibition only**



8 – 19 July – Art Exhibition by Anna Dmochowski



Anna came to Wells twenty years ago from Richmond on Thames. She is now eighty, and has been drawing animals, especially horses, since she was four. She aims to capture their life and movement and she finds the fluid nature of watercolours is very well suited to this. She also paints landscapes, woodlands, and local scenes.

She worked mostly from imagination in the past and is largely self-Taught, but she took a year off to attend Chelsea School of Art as an extra-mural student; and then went to life classes given by a Royal Academician, who first trained and then taught for ten years at the Royal Academy. She finds that accurate academic drawing gives her a firm foundation for her work.

She still goes to life drawing in order to keep up her drawing skills, as well as attending classes by well-known local watercolourist, John Hunt. **Free entry to exhibition only**

From the Curator

Mines and Minerals of the Mendip Hills, Volume III

Many of you will know the two previous volumes of Mines and Minerals by Peter Burr, published in 2015. He has just published the third volume, which represents ten years of research mostly on the Charterhouse and Green Ore mines and smelting works, and the metalliferous mines of the Avon district. Peter is a professional chemist as well as geologist and historian and he uses chemical analyses as his starting point. Techniques such as mass spectrometry will reveal the exact chemical composition of ores and metals, and these unique signatures can be used to identify where they came from.



The lead mining area at Charterhouse in the 1960s
Photo by David Robinson in the museum

Peter's third volume focusses on the area's lead mining heritage, from Roman times to the 20th Century. He has sought out the many lead ingots found from the area to describe and photograph them and has researched archives and other sources to tell in detail the social and economic history of lead mining on the Mendip Hills. We are grateful to Peter for presenting a copy of the third volume to the museum and it has joined the earlier volumes in the museum library.

It is on sale from the Mendip Cave Registry and Archive:

https://www.mcra.org.uk/wiki/doku.php?id=for_sale#mines_and_minerals_of_the_mendip_hills_vol_3

News from the Library

As I write at the end of May, I find that the Library has received 23 new titles since the beginning of the year. I have listed a selection of 12 titles:

The first in 2025 was written by the Librarian: Robert Southey's *"History, Politics, Religion"* (2011) – in the last of Stuart's six titles added to the Coleridge Archive in earlier years
 Ken Fletcher, *"Somerset Levels & Moors"* (Somerset County Council 1991)
 Peter Hopkins, *"Lympsham: A dip into history of a Somerset parish"* (1983)
 Maxwell Fraser, *"Great Western Railway"* (1934)
 Les Davis, *"Westcountry Man": Follow the Plough* (a few thoughts on life)
 Patrick Sutherland & Adam Nicolson: *"Wetland in Somerset Levels"* (1985)
 Robert Webley (Ed.) *"Somerset Archaeology & Natural History"* (2024)
 Robert Dunning: *"National, Local, Family: History from the Bishop's Register"*
 John Colkes & Stephen Minnill: *Glastonbury Lake Villages"*
 Lesley Ross (Ed.): *"Before the Lake: Memories of the Chew Valley"* (2024)
 P.S. Burr: *"Mines & Minerals of the Mendip Hills Vol III"*
 Cathedral Church of St. Andrews, Wells: *"Guide to Statuary of West Front"*
Stuart Andrews, Hon. Librarian

News from the museum garden

This spring has been challenging due the prolonged, dry spells and high temperatures during April and May. The baked and cracked heavy clay soil became almost impossible to dig and many plants, especially recently planted ones, suffered despite lavish watering.



A recent amount of meaningful rainfall has, however, allowed many to catch up.

The Pauls Scarlet climbing rose in the topmost seating area is looking spectacular. By next spring it and the nearby jasmine will be supported on



a purpose-made arbour / pergola being designed for construction in autumn.

Other events in the museum

Saturday 14th June 11am – 3pm Finds Identification Day. Laura Beckwith, the Finds Liaison Officer for Somerset County Council, will be available to identify your finds from digging your garden or while walking your dog.

To book a place, please email Laura laura.beckwith@swheritage.org.uk

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