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GRDM FRIENDS NEWSLETTER no.18 December 2020

Contents

News
Zoom Lecture
Alan Peters Furniture Award 2021
An Artists' Colony

News

Broadway is in Tier 2 and so we intend to re-open the Museum as soon as possible after the 3rd December, subject to the availability of volunteers. Until the latest lockdown the Museum booking system had worked well with few vacant slots and many visitor groups appreciating the opportunity to have the Museum to themselves for an hour. It was also clear that many of them were keen to spend in our shop recognising that this was a positive way in which they could contribute towards the success of the Museum. It helps that we have such an excellent range of items for sale.



Wherever you live and however infrequently you visit Broadway this is an opportunity to support the Museum by purchasing cards, books and gifts which will give a welcome boost to our resources. Please take the time to look at what the Shop has to offer. And speaking of the SHOP, the ONLINE SHOP is now LIVE. Please visit at this link: www.planeandsaw.com or through the usual website address.

ZOOM LECTURE

I know that many of you enjoyed the talk given via Zoom by Luke Hughes and Aidan Walker on the 10th November. It was a great success and nearly 40 people joined online. One of our Friends commented that he enjoyed the informal nature of the event. I agree but I look forward to the time when we can meet physically, enjoy each other's company and have a good chat.

ALAN PETERS FURNITURE AWARD 2021

Jeremy Broun, who gave a talk to the Friends last year has contacted me recently to say that, in conjunction with the Woodworker Magazine, he is organising the Alan Peters Furniture Award - entries to which close on the 28th February 2021. One of the foremost furniture designer/makers of the second half of the 20th Century Alan Peters served his apprenticeship with Edward Barnsley. The award is open to any citizen of the British Isles with a passion for designing and making contemporary furniture. If you know anyone who might be interested please forward these links:

<https://www.woodomain.com/alanpetersaward>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0y308TcMeBs>

AN ARTISTS' COLONY IN BROADWAY, WORCESTERSHIRE: 1885-1889



Farnham House in 1890
(Houghton, Broadway Pictorial)

The story of how a group of artists congregated and worked in Broadway in the late 1880's is well known.

What was not known to me, and perhaps not to you, is this website devoted to the history of the Colony: <https://transatlanticmodernbroadway.wordpress.com/> This website is the work of Kristen Nassif, a 1st year PhD student in the Department of Art History at the University of Delaware! Her project on Broadway developed from a paper she wrote for her MA entitled, "The Great White Way: Seeing Frank Davis Millet's 'The Granddaughter'".

She draws on an impressive list of sources including an unpublished PhD dissertation of 1993 by Marc Simpson called, "Reconstructing the Golden Age of American Artists in Broadway, Worcestershire."

The core figures in the group were Francis Millet, Edwin Abbey and of course, John Singer Sargent. In her account of the first season, 1885, Ms Nassif cites a letter of June that year written by Lucia Millet to her parents from Farnham House which the Millets were renting: "I want to go and I want to stay here, it is so quaint and new to me that I should never tire of it. Then I am almost afraid if I go away it might turn out to be a dream."



View of Farnham House from the Green, Broadway, 1896
(Houghton, Broadway Pictorial)

The website contains all sorts of interesting links including one to a 1962 Pathe newsreel about Broadway. Do explore.

Seasonal greeting to you all and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

Christopher Hotten
December 2020



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