

Membership News

Royal Pavilion Tearoom Special Offer

Remember that Friends are entitled to a free cup of tea or coffee with any purchase over £2.75 on weekdays in the Royal Pavilion Tearoom. Show your membership card to enjoy this benefit. The Tearoom is open daily 10am–4.30pm October to March, 10am–5pm April to September.

The Wednesday Club

Meet fellow Friends and find out more about volunteering opportunities in the museums at this regular monthly get-together. The Wednesday Club meets in the back room at the Royal Pavilion Tearoom on the first Wednesday of every month from 2.30–4pm. The next dates are 6 May and 2 September. Please note there are no meetings in June, July or August. Do come along and find out how you can get involved!

Museums' News

New Ancient Egypt galleries

Ancient Egypt comes to Brighton Museum with two new galleries opening on Saturday 28 March 2009. The museum has one of the largest Egyptology collections in southern England, with many important, fascinating and rare objects.

These two new galleries show off the best of the collection and offer plenty to appeal to visitors of all ages. This is the first time many of the objects have been on public display. The museum has previously been able to show only a handful of objects from the collection – now visitors can enjoy about 600 items, in displays dedicated to telling the stories of ancient Egypt.

Look in the *What's On* and *Families* leaflets to find out about opening events.

The Royal Pavilion Refreshed

The Royal Pavilion closed for ten days in January for a spring clean, including specialist conservation work, repairs and maintenance. New carpets were laid in both the Long Gallery and Queen Victoria's apartments. The Long Gallery carpet is now more historically accurate as, unlike the previous carpet, the new carpet features elaborate geometric patterns across the entire floor. Other work completed during the closure included cleaning and restoration of chandeliers (especially in the Banqueting Room), renewing electrical wiring, and inspecting and refurbishing curtains at the ground floor windows.

friends
OF THE ROYAL PAVILION
ART GALLERY & MUSEUMS

The American Scene

The American Scene: Prints from Hopper to Pollock is on show at Brighton Museum from 2 May to 31 August 2009. The exhibition features around 80 outstanding prints by 56 leading modern American artists, including George Bellows, Edward Hopper, Grant Wood, Josef Albers, Alexander Calder, Louise Bourgeois and Jackson Pollock. *The American Scene* was originally shown at the British Museum in 2008. It was seen by more than 413,000 people, making it one of the most popular exhibitions ever shown there.

There is an admission fee for this exhibition (£5 adults, £3 concessions, children free) but it is free of charge for Friends on production of your membership card.



The Friends of the Royal Pavilion, Art Gallery & Museums,
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Email: pavilionfriends@brighton-hove.gov.uk

www.royalpavilion.org.uk
www.virtualmuseum.info

PATRON: HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES

Trustees and Governors: The Rt Hon the Lord Howarth of Newport, CBE (*Chairman*); Lord Bassam of Brighton; Dr Susan Conway; Professor Julian Crampton (*Vice Chairman*); Dr Ian Duncan; Sir Hugh Roberts KCV0; Professor Lou Taylor; Elected Member for Culture, Brighton & Hove City Council (*ex officio*); *Hon Treasurer:* Chief Finance Officer, Brighton & Hove City Council (*ex officio*); *Hon Secretary:* Director of the Royal Pavilion (*ex officio*).

Registered Charity No. 275242



Images: Front: Abi Dennison. Back: Harry Skokler. Coney Island, colour screenprint, 1942

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newsletter

Friends' News



Welcome Abi!

Abi Dennison has joined us as the Friends and Patron Scheme Organiser. She previously worked as a Campaigns Officer for the housing charity, Shelter, but since moving to Brighton last autumn had been looking for the ideal job – now she believes she's found it!

Abi has taken on the complete running of the Friends organisation, including membership administration, the events programme and also developing a patron scheme. She said:

'I'm really excited about working for the Friends. From my first day it has been obvious how important the funds you raise are for the restoration, maintenance and continued enjoyment of the Royal Pavilion & Museums. I've also been very impressed by the advocacy role you play in helping to boost the profile of these amazing buildings

and their fantastic collections. Having met some of you already, I'm inspired by your enthusiasm, passion and support and I look forward to meeting more of you at future Friends events.'

New Developments

With Abi now in post, there's lots of work underway in developing the Friends. This includes a new ticketing system, which will eventually mean an easier way to pay for your membership and tickets.

Abi will also be launching the Friends' fundraising appeal and a patron scheme later this year. She would love to hear your thoughts on what you enjoy about being a Friend, what aspects of the Royal Pavilion & Museums interest you most and if you would like to know more about becoming a patron. Please email her at pavilionfriends@brighton-hove.gov.uk or write to her at the Friends' office (address overleaf).

Volunteers

A big thank you to all Friends who gave their time and energy to help with the museums' survey week in February. Over 150 surveys were completed at Hove Museum and the Booth Museum, giving staff an invaluable insight into the opinions of visitors. Many thanks also to Friends who helped out with the survey in the *Paintings Unwrapped* exhibition in Brighton Museum.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday 11 May
Behind the Scenes in Ancient Egypt

Saturday 23 May – Sunday
31 May
Gardens Week 09

Friday 5 June 3-4pm and
Saturday 6 June 11am-12pm
**Ancient Greek and Roman
mythology in the Royal Pavilion**

Friday 19 June 3-4pm and
Saturday 20 June 11am-12pm
**Chinese Symbols in the Royal
Pavilion**

Sunday 2 June 11am-12pm
and Thursday 25 June 3-4pm
**Ancient Egypt in the Royal
Pavilion**

Tuesday 30 June
Annual General Meeting

Saturday 18 July
The Making of Victorian Farm

Saturday 1 August
Kew Palace and Gardens

Thursday 13 August
Sussex Wine Tasting Evening

Many Friends regularly help with events and administration throughout the year. Your hard work and loyalty are very much appreciated throughout the Royal Pavilion & Museums.

events

Behind the Scenes in Ancient Egypt

Monday 11 May
Brighton Museum & Art Gallery
Arrive at 10.45am for an 11am start
£5 (includes tea and coffee afterwards in the Education Pavilion)

A private viewing for Friends of the new ancient Egypt galleries at Brighton Museum with the museums' Learning Manager, Julia Basnett. This exclusive opening gives you the opportunity to view the collections outside normal opening hours, ask questions and find out what connects Brighton to the mysteries of the ancient exhibits. Not only is this a chance to see the wonders of ancient Egypt undisturbed, but you will also gain a unique insight into the years of hard work, dedication and planning that goes into the creation of new galleries. Meet at the Information desk in Brighton Museum front entrance. You will need to present your Friends membership card to gain entry.

Gardens Week 09

Saturday 23 – Sunday 31 May
Royal Pavilion and Gardens
Green-fingered Friends are entitled to 10% discount on all ticketed events during Gardens Week. See the enclosed What's On leaflet for more information. Gardens Week tickets can be purchased by telephoning the Events booking line on 03000 290902. Please quote *FRIENDS 10* to receive your discount. You will also need to present your membership card with your ticket on the day.



Uncovering the Royal Pavilion

There are many intricate stories hidden throughout the Royal Pavilion that go unnoticed to the untrained eye. These three unique tours by guide Adrien Joly uncover the tales in the palace's lavish furnishings and decorations, exploring the historical and cultural influences that inspired the interior designers of the day.

These tours are open to the public; however Friends receive a £1.50 discount on each tour.

Ancient Greek and Roman mythology

Friday 5 June 3-4pm
Saturday 6 June 11am-12pm
Royal Pavilion
£3.50

In the early 19th century the ancient civilisations of Greece and Rome were considered a golden age of civilisation. Like the Regency elite, we learn how to read the mythological stories depicted on the Royal Pavilion's neoclassical-inspired vases, clocks and candelabras. Come and see how many ancient myths you remember!



Chinese Symbols

Friday 19 June 3-4pm
Saturday 20 June 11am-12pm
Royal Pavilion
£3.50

Chinese decorative art is abundant with symbols. 200 years ago the East India Company imported porcelain vases, furniture and precious materials that would furnish the houses of the European elite. This tour explains how to interpret the many symbols on the Royal Pavilion's exquisite Chinese artefacts and decorations.

Ancient Egypt

Sunday 2 June 11am-12pm
Thursday 25 June 3-4pm
Royal Pavilion
£3.50

The fascination with Egypt was so strong in the early 19th century that it was a major influence on French and British design. After exploring why ancient Egypt was so popular, we study one of the country's finest collections of Egyptian-influenced furniture, inspired by the designs of Thomas Hope.

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 30 June 4pm
William IV Room, Royal Pavilion
Places are free and must be booked in advance

All members of the Friends are welcome to attend the AGM and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee afterwards with the Trustees and Governors. Please note that the annual lecture will take place in October - details will be in the next newsletter.

The Making of Victorian Farm

Saturday 18 July
Tea and coffee from 1.40pm,
lecture starts at 2pm
The Old Courtroom
£10

This experiment in 19th century rural living for television gained the highest viewing ratings on BBC 2 so far this year. Audiences were captivated by the three historians who travelled back in time to 1885 to live and work as Victorian farmers for a year.

This is a unique opportunity to meet one of these historians, Ruth Goodman, hear how the

- 1 Robert Hill-Snook, Head Gardener, Royal Pavilion Gardens
- 2 Ancient Egypt Gallery
- 3 Spring at Kew Gardens © RBG Kew
- 4 Kew Palace © RBG Kew

experiment came about and find out what it was like to rediscover a lost world of skills, crafts and knowledge. Ruth also discusses how history has come full circle, with the organic diet of 1885, use of natural products for cleaning and healthcare and skills in crafts and gardening becoming of increasing relevance today.

Ruth Goodman specialises in researching social and domestic history. Her expertise has led her to work as a consultant for the Globe Theatre in London, The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford-upon-Avon, the V&A and the Weald and Downland Museum in West Sussex.

You are welcome to purchase tickets for this event for friends and family who are not members of the Friends.

Kew Palace and Gardens

Saturday 1 August 8.30am-7pm
(see below for departure times)
Price £36

Spend a glorious summer's day exploring the beautiful botanical gardens at Kew as it celebrates its 250th birthday, and visiting the splendid Georgian royal palace. With the morning free to tour the gardens as you wish, we meet for a special guided tour around Kew Palace in the afternoon. The palace was restored to its Georgian splendour in 2006, capturing life as it was for George III, Queen Charlotte and their family, including the young George IV. Famous for being the sanatorium for George III, it was the venue for the double royal wedding of William IV and his brother Edward, Duke of Kent and also where Queen Charlotte passed away. Later in the afternoon there will be another chance to explore the

gardens, as well as Queen Charlotte's cottage, before heading home. There are various catering facilities on site, or you may wish to bring your own picnic lunch.

Depart Hove Town Hall (Norton Road) 8.30am; St Giles College, Marlborough Place 8.40am; Preston Park Hotel 8.50am. Please indicate your pick up point on the booking form.

Sussex Wine Tasting Evening

Thursday 13 August 7.30-9.30pm
William IV Room, Royal Pavilion
Price £20 (book before 30 June)
Unwind with a glass of wine in the Royal Pavilion's William IV room and learn about wine-making in East Sussex. This enjoyable yet educational evening is hosted by *English Vine Tours* who will present a superb range of local English wines including one with a unique twist! Based in the heart of beautiful rural East Sussex, Carr Taylor have been making award-winning wines since the mid 1970s and were among the pioneers of quality English wine production. Find out more about why East Sussex is a perfect location for a vineyard and how Carr Taylor produce their seductive wines. Let the experts teach you how to professionally taste a wine and of course, most importantly, find out what they taste like!

How to Book

To purchase tickets for any of these events, complete the enclosed booking form and return it with an SAE to: Abi Dennison, Friends Events, 4/5 Pavilion Buildings, Brighton BN1 1EE. Tickets will be sent to you for all events. Ticket numbers are limited so please book now!