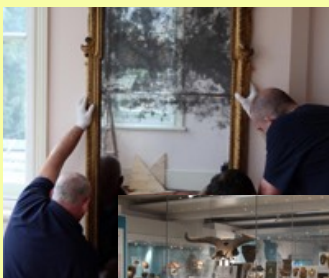




## The Higgins BEDFORD

### Celebrating 5 landmark years

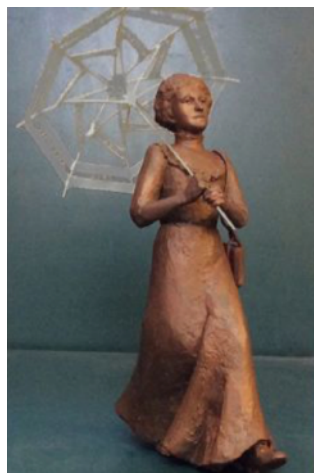
These were the scenes five years ago when The Higgins Bedford readied itself for reopening after extensive refurbishment. The redevelopment project had taken three years to complete, and saw more than £5 million spent on the site. The Friends made a generous contribution to the total and were enthusiastic supporters of the project.



## arts news A new statue for Bedford?

**A campaign is afoot to bring a new public artwork to Bedford. Funds are being raised to install a statue of Amy Walmsley, a suffragette and our first female county councillor, at a site on the town's Embankment.**

Women of Bedford, the group behind the £100,000 plan, has started a crowdfunding project and is applying for grants to raise the necessary money. It is hoped that the statue will be unveiled in December 2018 to coincide with the centenary of women winning the right to vote. The bronze statue, called *The Gift*, is being designed and built by artist Diane Gorvin. 'The statue will address the huge gap in the town's existing 11 works of public art' says Rachael Rogan, one of the project organisers. Figures currently commemorated by statues in Bedford include Pilgrim's Progress writer John Bunyan, social reformer John Howard, and Archbishop Trevor Huddleston, an anti-apartheid activist.



© Diane Gorvin

Diane Gorvin's clay maquette for the sculpture, the life-size final version of which will be cast in bronze.

The Women of Bedford group chose Amy Walmsley as the subject for the statue because of her unique place in Bedford's history; although not born in the town, Walmsley moved here in 1896 to become the principal of Bedford Kindergarten School and Teacher Training College. Later that year she opened Froebel House, another kindergarten. She went on to reform the Bedford Women's Suffrage Society in 1908 and was a founder member of the National Council of Women Workers. In 1918 she unsuccessfully stood as a Parliamentary candidate and in 1922 became Bedfordshire's first female county councillor.

*If you would like to know more about the project, or wish to donate funds, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/BedfordWomen/>*

# 19th Century storytelling with the Philharmonia



© Philharmonia Orchestra

The Philharmonia Orchestra continues its Bedford season with an evening entitled 'Passion & Poetry' on 9th May. Christoph Altstaedt, a rising star of the classical world who is committed to developing contemporary approaches to classical concerts, presents an evening of romantic 19th-century storytelling. The programme features two stirring symphonic poems: *Siegfried Idyll* composed for Wagner's wife Cosima and Liszt's lushly scored *Les préludes*. Themes of love and heartache continue in one of the most popular operas of the Romantic era: Verdi's tragic *La traviata*, performed by singers Oksana Sekerina and Stuart Jackson.

Box Office: 020 7921 3907, [www.philharmonia.co.uk](http://www.philharmonia.co.uk)

## FRIENDS' SUMMER VISITS

### Althorp, 7th June



A home to nineteen generations of the Spencer family, Althorp, in the rolling Northamptonshire countryside contains one of Europe's finest private collections of furniture, paintings and ceramics. The

childhood home of Diana, Princess of Wales, the house is now in the care of her brother, Earl Spencer. We will enjoy a private tour of the house.

Thursday 7th June 2018, £20.00

### Weston Hall, 7th Sept



Weston Hall, in rural Northamptonshire, has been a family home of the famous literary Sitwells since 1714. In 1923 it was given to Sacheverell Sitwell on the occasion of his marriage; as well as writing more than 130 books while he lived at the

house, he also entertained his many literary friends, including Evelyn Waugh, Patrick Leigh Fermor, Cecil Beaton and Noel Coward.

Friday 7th September 2018, £12.00

**Tickets are limited so please book now. For further information, please email [sarah.flynn@cheffins.co.uk](mailto:sarah.flynn@cheffins.co.uk)**

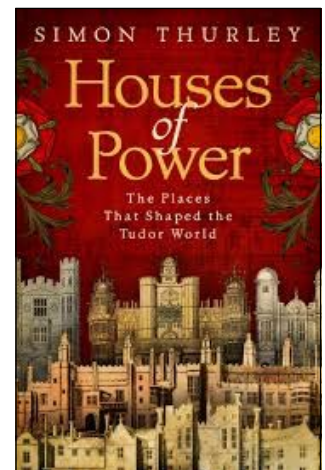
## SPECIAL LECTURE Simon Thurley on 'Houses of Power'

To mark five years since the reopening of The Higgins Bedford, Simon Thurley will visit to talk to the Friends about the architecture and domestic life of the Tudor court.

Mr Thurley will reconstruct what the great Tudor houses looked like, why they were built that way and what went on within their walls: how their inhabitants worshipped, entertained and ate; who slept where and with whom; and how courtiers coped when the monarch came to stay. The lecture will provide a fascinating study of private life as well as politics, diplomacy and court.

Simon Thurley, academic and architectural historian, is a former curator of Historic Royal Palaces, and was Chief Executive of English Heritage between 2002 and 2015.

Thursday 21st June, 7.30pm. Please arrive promptly. Friends £3, Guests £8



## ROMANCE & REBELLION on tour at Blenheim Palace

Last year's Higgins exhibition 'Romance & Rebellion: the Art of The Victorians' is on loan to Blenheim Palace, the home of The 12th Duke of Marlborough. The exhibition, featuring over forty works from the Cecil Higgins Collection, forms part of Blenheim's wider exhibition 'Victorian Passions and Pursuits' which runs until 16th April. Some of the best works from the watercolour collection are on show such as John Everett Millais's 'The Huguenot' from 1852 and Aubrey Beardsley's 'Frontispiece for Venus and Tannhauser' from 1895. A highlight of the show is 'Cupid Delivering Psyche' by Edward Burne-Jones from 1867. This beautiful watercolour depicts the mythical heroine Psyche journeying out of the underworld hoping to win back the heart of her lover Cupid.

Blenheim's wider exhibition explores the Palace during the Victorian Era when Sir Winston Churchill was born there. As well as the Higgins watercolours, visitors will be able to see the Palace's Saloon restored to its Victorian heyday, costumes and sketches from the Emily Blunt film 'The Young Victoria' and vintage cars.



SIR EDWARD BURNE-JONES (1833–1898)  
Cupid Delivering Psyche,  
courtesy of the Trustees  
of Cecil Higgins Art Gallery

## National Theatre Broadcasts

The Quarry Theatre at St Luke's hosts a season of broadcasts from the National Theatre. Visit [www.quarrytheatre.org.uk](http://www.quarrytheatre.org.uk) for the full programme.

### Cat on a Hot Tin Roof



Tennessee Williams' twentieth century masterpiece played a strictly limited season in London's West End in 2017. Following his smash hit production of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Benedict Andrews' 'thrilling revival' (New York Times) stars Sienna Miller alongside Jack O'Connell and Colm Meaney.

Tuesday 8th May, 7.00pm  
Tickets £12, age suitability 15yrs+

### Macbeth



Director Rufus Norris (*The Threepenny Opera*, *London Road*) sets Shakespeare's most intense and terrifying tragedy in a barbaric world afflicted by civil war. Rory Kinnear (*Young Marx*, *Othello*) and Anne-Marie Duff (*Oil*, *Suffragette*) return to the National Theatre to play Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.

Thursday 10th May, 7.00pm  
Tickets £12.50, age suitability 15yrs+

## Eagle Gallery Exhibition

The Eagle Gallery on Castle Road holds one of its regular members shows from 16th April to 10th May. Visit [www.eaglegalleryartists.co.uk](http://www.eaglegalleryartists.co.uk)



What's on at  
The Higgins Bedford

EXHIBITIONS

**Celebrating the Women of Bedfordshire**  
This exhibition reflects on the achievements of Bedfordshire women in the 100 years since the Representation of the People Act. 10th March to 23rd September

**Bawden's Beasts**  
Edward Bawden's lifelong preoccupation with animals of all kinds is the focus of this enchanting exhibition. Until 27th January 2019

**Break the Stigma**  
The Higgins Bedford celebrated World Mental Health Day on October 10th 2017 with the launch of a new art display, created by service users and people with a lived experience of mental health issues. The artwork is now on display outside the Settlement Gallery.

EVENTS

**Break the Stigma Art Workshops**  
In partnership with East London NHS Foundation Trust, The Higgins is hosting a series of art workshops that aim to tackle discrimination and prejudice surrounding mental health. These workshops are free to attend and open to all. To book a place email Damon Poulton [damonp.arts@gmail.com](mailto:damonp.arts@gmail.com)  
Thursdays 2 - 4pm  
Saturdays 11am - 4pm  
19th April, 26th April, 3rd May

**Saturday 10-minute tours**  
With Andrew Rogers, Higgins Volunteer and Tate tour guide. Enjoy a lightning-quick tour of the works of Dora Carrington and Edward Bawden. Free event, no need to book  
2pm, 2.30pm, 3pm and 3.30pm  
19th and 26th May,  
2nd, 9th, 30th June,  
7th, 14th, 28th July

**Dora Carrington Gallery Tour**  
Victoria Partridge, Keeper of Fine and Decorative Arts, will give an introduction to one of Bedfordshire's most famous artists.  
25th April, 12noon-12.30pm  
£2.90

# 'The Pyghtle Clock'

A rare clock has been returned to Bedford after a gap of over 100 years, highlighting the town's contribution to the Arts and Crafts movement.

Thanks, in part, to the generosity of the Friends, The Higgins Bedford has acquired a mantel-clock designed by Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott (1865–1945), one of the most influential architects of the late Arts and Crafts movement. The clock is named after the acclaimed Bedford joinery firm that manufactured it in 1901. The Pyghtle Works had been founded by John Parish White (1855-1917), who had bought land near Queen's Park and adopted the area's colloquial name - a 'pyghtle' being a medieval word for a piece of enclosed land.

Mackay Baillie Scott was the second of the ten children of a wealthy Scottish landowner. He originally attended agricultural college, but his artistic leanings had been evident from his early youth and he was encouraged by his parents to go on to study architecture. He attended the Isle of Man School of Art and there became friends with Archibald Knox, who became Liberty of London's influential chief designer.

Baillie Scott came to live in Bedford in the last years of the 19th century and the Pyghtle Clock is an important record of his time in the town where, in 1906, he wrote and published his most important book 'Houses and Gardens'. From 1898 much of Baillie Scott's furniture was produced by his friend John Parish White at The Pyghtle Works. This partnership of designer and craftsman proved highly successful and their works remain highly sought after today.

The clock is already on permanent display at the Higgins, and appears alongside the work of Baillie Scott's contemporaries in the Design Gallery. Its arrival is being celebrated with a programme of events.

