

THE BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND INSTITUTE

Autumn Programme
September - December 2015

SCIENCE ARTS LITERATURE

Join the BMI

JOIN IN SEPTEMBER AND RECEIVE 16 MONTHS FOR THE PRICE OF 12!*

The Institute offers a range of facilities and events for its Members including an extensive lending library, and lectures at a discounted rate. As a Member you will have exclusive access to our Members' Room which is supplied with a range of periodicals and daily newspapers. Stay updated with our seasonal events programme that will be sent to you in the post. We also have opportunities for those who want to take a more active role in our programme of activities. Membership also entitles you to a vote at the AGM and have a voice in the governance of the Institute.

Membership is open to anyone who finds the Institute's activities and facilities of interest; there are a range of membership subscriptions available dependent on your circumstances. To join, simply fill in the application form and send it along with your payment, to the Institute (address below).

Payment can be made via cash, cheque or credit/debit card. Card payments can be made over the telephone on 0121 236 3591. Please make cheques payable to 'Birmingham and Midland Institute' and send to: The Birmingham and Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS.

*Membership normally runs from 1 January to 31 December. This offer will permit your membership to start in September 2015 and run until 31 December 2016.

**Note that both Members must be registered under the one address only
***Where a Member is resident 15 miles or more from Birmingham and not commuting daily to the city on business

Signature: _____

Date: _____

N.B. "Any Member who does not give notice to the Secretary three months previously to the day on which his/her Subscription becomes due of his/her intention to withdraw from the Institute shall be considered a continuing Member and shall have to pay his/her Subscription accordingly."

To apply for Membership, please fill in the following details:

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Tick if you would like to subscribe to our e-newsletter

Select Membership type:

£40 Full Membership

£60 Joint Membership** **NEW!**
Name of additional Member: _____

£23.50 Country Membership***

£16.50 Student Membership **NEW!**
(Valid Student Card required)

£31 Retired Membership

Corporate Membership 75% of the rates above (min. 4 persons)

About

The Birmingham & Midland Institute has been at the heart of Birmingham's cultural life for over 150 years, originally founded by Act of Parliament in 1854 for the 'Diffusion and Advancement of Science, Literature and Art amongst all Classes of Persons resident in Birmingham and Midland Counties'. Charles Dickens was one of its early Presidents.

Over the late nineteenth century, the BMI played a leading role in the introduction of scientific and technical education in Birmingham until the state gradually took over the functions. It was thus the forerunner of many education bodies such as the Birmingham Conservatoire.

Located in a Grade II* listed building, the BMI has a thriving programme of cultural and educational activities, which includes a wide spectrum of arts and science lectures, exhibitions and concerts. The building is also a venue for many externally-organised events and can be booked for conferences and meetings.



The BMI has longstanding associations with a number of independent societies who use the premises for their activities and meetings. Affiliated societies have kindred interests and include the Birmingham Philatelic Society and the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry.

The Birmingham Library



The original Birmingham Library was founded in 1779 by John Lee, a button manufacturer who lived at 115 Snow Hill. This private lending library was reorganised in 1781 by Joseph Priestley, the pioneering

chemist who discovered oxygen. The library moved into a purpose-built location on Union Street in 1797 where it remained for just over a century until it moved to its present location on Margaret Street in 1899. The Birmingham & Midland Institute joined the Library in 1965, having moved from its original Victorian premises in Paradise Street.

The Library collection is gradually growing by the regular purchase of new books, principally on the field of humanities and modern fiction. It continues as it has in the past to benefit from gifts and bequests made to it by generous Members. Many of these acquisitions are of considerable value.

Monday Lectures

John Lee Theatre/1 - 2pm/£3 or FREE for Members of the BMI

WEEKLY
EVENT

Highbury: A Very Public Private House with Dr Stephen Roberts

28 September

In 1880 Joseph Chamberlain moved into a mansion he had had built for himself and his family in Moseley. In this talk Stephen will describe daily life in this famous house.

Celebrate National Poetry Day

5 October

Dee Cornwallis Doran will present an hour of poetry readings in anticipation of National Poetry Day (8 October). The theme for this year is 'light'. There may be an opportunity for members of the audience to read a poem they have written or a favourite published poem.

The Lines Legacy with Dr Connie Wan

12 October

Samuel Lines was one of 19th-century Birmingham's most active and prolific artists and drawing masters. Father of 5 sons who were also artists in their own right, this talk will discuss their impact and legacy on the Birmingham art scene.

My Route: Researching and presenting the history of the Stratford Road in Birmingham with Dr David Richardson

19 October

In June 2015, Sampad South Asian Arts launched *My Route*, a HLF-funded community heritage exhibition focusing on areas along the Stratford Road incorporating Sparkbrook, Sparkhill and Hall Green. This talk will discuss both the development of the exhibition itself, and present some of the historical information discovered through research and interviews that show how these areas developed into the vibrant and multicultural communities they are today.

'Healthy and Expedient': Childcare and Charity at the Shrewsbury Foundling Hospital 1759 -1772 with Dr Kate Iles

26 October

The Thomas Coram Foundling Hospital in London is well-known as an example of 18th-century philanthropy and childcare. What is less well-known is the involvement of several branch hospitals that were set up during the time known as "General Reception". One of these branch hospitals was based in the Midlands, at Shrewsbury in Shropshire. This talk will look at the history of the Shrewsbury Foundling hospital, its relationship with the main London hospital, and the lives of children who lived there. It will also look at the history of one of the hospital's female residents and its involvement with one of the most extraordinary educational experiments of the Enlightenment.

'Some grace of argument':

John Drinkwater's Rebellion at the Birmingham Rep, May 1914 and its Legacy with James Kelly

2 November

This talk covers a successful play from its first season – *Rebellion* – presented in May 1914, written by Drinkwater and jointly directed by him and E. Stuart Vinden. James Kelly will explore the early history of the Rep, where *Rebellion* fits in the development of Drinkwater's writing, and the originality and impact of the Rep ensemble.

Ghosts on the A449 with John Sparry

9 November

Historical figures who travelled the Great Road from 1160 – 1950.

Beethoven with John Humphreys

16 November

The concert pianist and teacher will play and discuss Beethoven's *Sonata in G Minor* Op. 49 No. 2, *The Bagatelles* Op. 126 and *The Sonata in C Minor* Op. 111.

The Luttrell Psalter with Richard Stone

23 November

Commissioned by Sir Geoffrey Luttrell, wealthy lord of the manor of Irnham in Lincolnshire, in the first half of the 14th century, the many delightful and often humorous images it contains allow a glimpse into everyday life, work and play on a typical medieval estate in the years immediately before the Black Death.

>>Subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter. Email admin@bmi.org.uk with your full name to receive FREE updates on events and activities.

>>DON'T MISS...



***'No place like home'* Presidential Address and Dinner with Lindsey Davis**

Monday 21 September

Address starts at 6.30pm - FREE

**Dinner starts at 7.30pm - £25/£20 for
Members of the BMI**

Spend an evening with the BMI's current President, Lindsey Davis who is best-known for creating protagonist Marcus Didius Falco. The address is followed by a buffet-style dinner where you will have the opportunity to mingle with the President herself. **Tickets for the dinner are limited to 60, email admin@bmi.org.uk or telephone 0121 2363591 to book.**

M&M Catering at the BMI Coffee Lounge

Come and join us for a delicious snack or lunch! We have a wide selection of hand-made sandwiches, cakes and refreshments.

Open Monday to Friday 9am-3pm (excluding Bank Holidays)

Drop-in, no need to book

Literature at the BMI

All courses run from 10am - 4pm/£15 or £14 Members of the BMI (per day)

Study Days organised by Dr Pamela Mason and Keith Parsons in partnership with the Birmingham & Midland Institute

Ben Jonson, *Volpone* (1605-6)

Friday 18 September

The fact that listeners to Radio 5 Live are exhorted each weekday morning to 'Wake up to money!' endorses the topicality of the play.

William Shakespeare, *Henry V* (1599)

Friday 2 October

Once more we shall 'behold the swelling scene'. Wondering whether a play that has been appropriated for its jingoism and 'undeniable patriotism' can still speak to us today.

Simon Armitage, *The Odyssey: Missing, Presumed Dead* (2015)

Friday 16 October

As an exciting dramatization sets sail from Liverpool on its voyage to Shakespeare's Globe, we shall explore how effectively various version (such as those by Chapman, Pope and Derek Walcott) have served Homer's poem.

Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* (1847)

Friday 13 November

The recent publication of Muriel Spark's excellent compilation with essays, *The Essence of the Brontës*, has prompted us to return to the best of English novels.

The films of François Truffaut

Friday 27 November

After denouncing 'cinéma du papa', Truffaut was at the forefront of *nouvelle vague*, making an immediate impact with *Les quatre cents coups* (1959). We shall reflect upon his career (especially his Antoine Doinel sequence) before examining *La nuit américaine* (1973) and *Le dernier métro* (1980) in detail.

Anthony Trollope, *The Duke's Children* (1879)

Friday 11 December

First serialised in a magazine established by Dickens, the last of the six Palliser novels challenges society's prejudices and radiates wisdom and benevolence.

The lure of the sea

Friday 18 December

We may soon be planning cruises or remembering bucket-and-spade holidays for, as an island nation, we are never far away from the sea. We promise entertaining sessions that transport us from the dark days of winter.

Looking for an events venue?

The BMI has a range of rooms and theatres available for meetings, conferences and events. We also offer free wifi and on-site catering facilities. Rates start at just £85 part-day. Email us at bookings@bmi.org.uk to enquire.

To book, contact 0121 236 3591 or admin@bmi.org.uk

Music at the BMI

Study Mornings

Beethoven-Schubert with Geoffrey Duggan

6-week course starting Mon 21 September

10.15am - 12.15pm

£50 or £7 per session

This course will trace the development of music in Europe during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Beethoven and Schubert will feature prominently, other composers will be considered.

The Midland Chamber Players -

Live at Lunchtime

50th Anniversary Concert Season 2015/2016

1.10pm - 2.10pm

Lyttelton Theatre

£8/£6.50 Concessions/£3 Students with valid NUS card

Friday 9 October

Mozart *Piano Quartet in G Minor, K. 478*

Beethoven *String Serenade in D, Op. 8*

Friday 30 October

Mozart Piano *Concerto in C, K. 415*, soloist

Dinah Levine

Mozart *Serenade 'Eine Kleine Nachtmusik'*

Friday 20 November

Dvorak *String Quartet in F, Op. 96 'American'*

Haydn *String Quartet in C, Op. 74 No. 1*

Friday 18 December

The Magic of Spain with The Midland Piano Quartet and Brian Perkins on guitar

With Spanish violin and guitar solos, Albeniz, Grenados, Turina, Cassado and Argentinian Tangos.

Concerts of Recorded Music

Wednesdays from 1-2pm

£1/FREE for Members of the BMI
Drop-in, no need to book

- > 9 September
Trevor Robinson, Five Eminent Austrians
- > 16 September
John Smith, A Musical Alphabet Letter 'O'
- > 23 September
Frank Ryder, Great Artists in Performance
- > 30 September
Martin Westney, Forgotten Masters
- > 7 October
Christine Bromley, People, Places and Music
- > 14 October
Ann Thorp Robinson, Happy Bach
- > 21 October
Ken Harvey, Random Reminiscences No. 5
- > 28 October
Peter Millichamp, Faust
- > 4 November
Bill Hales, TBA
- > 11 November
Trevor Robinson, Northern Lights
- > 18 November
John Smith, A Musical Alphabet
- > 25 November
Frank Ryder, TBA
- > 9 December & 16 December
Open to requests

WEEKLY
EVENT

To book, contact 0121 236 3591 or admin@bmi.org.uk

Art at the BMI



Wagtails, © Catherine Bowdler 2015

Midland Painting Group

Monday 7 September - Friday 30 October
Exhibition in Reception Foyer

The Midland Painting Group, one of the BMI's affiliated societies, explores a range of themes through a variety of different media.

The Francis Brett Young Society

Monday 2 - Friday 28 November
Exhibition in Reception Foyer

17 paintings by H.R. Wilson, the illustrator of the publication *The Ballad of St Kenelm*, written by Francis Brett Young.

Catherine Bowdler

Monday 30 November - Friday 29 January
Exhibition in Reception Foyer

A colourful display of original screenprints by Midlands-based printmaker Catherine Bowdler. Inspired by mid-century design and crafts, traditional and contemporary patterns, Catherine uses both drawing and cutting techniques to produce imagery with a subtle Scandinavian or Japanese aesthetic. Why not purchase an original print for the perfect Christmas gift?

Life Drawing Classes

from 14 September

The Institute runs a life drawing and painting class on Monday evenings under the tutorship of Terry Mullett. Booking not required. **Contact Terry on 0121 358 1159 for further details.**

WEEKLY
EVENT

Support artists
and the BMI
by purchasing
original works
of art!

Other events

Friday Morning Club

Starting on 4 September

11am - 12 noon

£1/FREE for Members of the BMI

The club offers a selection of musical, literary and video presentations. The second Friday of each month is reserved for informal poetry readings on subjects chosen by the group's members. See the calendar of events on the following pages for the upcoming programme. **Drop in, no need to book**

WEEKLY
EVENT

William Morris in the 21st Century Symposium

Saturday 5 September

10am - 5pm

£30/£10 Students and unwaged
Lyttelton Theatre

Chaired by the William Morris Society's President, Jan Marsh, this symposium examines various aspects of Morris's legacy. There is opportunity for you to visit Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery over lunch to see Jeremy Deller's exhibition *Love is Enough*. **To book, contact admin@williammorrisociety.org.uk**

Gotterdammerung Study Days

Friday 25 and Saturday 26 September

10am - 5pm

£60 (for both days)

A detailed analysis of the music of Richard Wagner's opera *Gotterdammerung*. **To book, telephone Steve Chetwynd on 02476 332061 or email via stevec32@hotmail.co.uk.**

Study Mornings

19th Century British Prime Ministers with Dr Trevor James

10-week course

Mondays from 5 October to 14 December (no class on 26 October)

10am - 12noon

£110/£100 for Members of the BMI
£14/£12.50 for Members of the BMI (per day)

This course explores themes and topics covering eminent figures including Spencer Percival and W.E. Gladstone. Each session focuses on the published topic but each will be informed by reference to the wider political and biographical background of the various figures. **To book, telephone 0121 2363591 or email admin@bmi.org.uk**

The Dickens Fellowship Meetings

9 September/14 October/11 November & 9 December

7 - 9pm

The Dickens Fellowship is one of the BMI's longstanding affiliated societies. Visitors are welcome to join meetings. **Meetings are FREE and there is no need to book.** For further information, contact the Secretary Doreen Ward on 0121 357 6593.

The BMI Reading Group

Third Thursday of the month
2 - 3.30pm

£1.85 (includes refreshments and biscuits)
The Coffee Lounge

The group is currently full - please call 0121 2363591 to join the waiting list.

We're looking for volunteers!

We are looking for committed and enthusiastic volunteers to help with marketing and looking after our wonderful library. If you would like to get involved, contact Connie Wan via connie@bmi.org.uk.

Calendar of events

Fri 4 Sept	Friday Morning Club: Informal Social Meeting	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
Sat 5 Sept	William Morris in the 21st Century Symposium p. 7	10am - 5pm	£30/£10 Concessions
Fri 11 Sept	Friday Morning Club: Random Readings	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
Wed 16 Sept	Concerts of Recorded Music: Five Eminent Austrians p. 5	1 - 2pm	£1/FREE for Members
Fri 18 Sept	Study Day: Ben Jonson, Volpone	10am - 4pm	£15/£14 for Members
	Friday Morning Club: Famous Quotations in English Literature	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
Mon 21 Sept	Presidential Address and Dinner	6.30 - 9pm	Address is FREE Dinner: £25/£20 for Members
Wed 23 Sept	Concerts of Recorded Music: Great Artists in Performance p. 5	1 - 2pm	£1/FREE for Members
Fri 25 Sept	Friday Morning Club: A Good Read	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
	Gotterdammerung Study Days: Day 1	10am - 5pm	£60 (for 2 days)
Sat 26 Sept	Gotterdammerung Study Days: Day 2	10am - 5pm	as above
Mon 28 Sept	Monday Lecture: Highbury: A Very Public Private House	1 - 2pm	£3/FREE for Members
Wed 30 Sept	Concerts of Recorded Music: Forgotten Masters	1 - 2pm	£1/FREE for Members
Fri 2 Oct	Friday Morning Club: The Foundlings' Hospital	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
	Study Day: William Shakespeare, Henry V	10am - 4pm	£15/£14 for Members
Mon 5 Oct	Monday Lecture: Celebrate National Poetry Day	1 - 2pm	£3/FREE for Members
	Study Morning: 19th Century British Prime Ministers	10am - 12 noon	£14/£12.50 for Members
Wed 7 Oct	Concerts of Recorded Music: People, Places and Music	1 - 2pm	£1/FREE for Members
Fri 9 Oct	Friday Morning Club: Random Readings	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
	The Midland Chamber Players Live at Lunchtime p. 5	1.10 - 2.10pm	£8/£6.50 for Concs./£3 for Students
Mon 12 Oct	Monday Lecture: The Lines Legacy	1 - 2pm	£3/FREE for Members
	Study Morning: 19th Century British Prime Ministers	10am - 12 noon	£14/£12.50 for Members
Wed 14 Oct	Concerts of Recorded Music: Happy Bach	1 - 2pm	£1/FREE for Members
Fri 16 Oct	Friday Morning Club: What's in our Room 101?	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
	Study Day: Simon Armitage, The Odyssey: Missing, Presumed Dead	10am - 4pm	£15/£14 for Members
Mon 19 Oct	Monday Lecture: My Route: Researching and presenting the history of the Stratford Road in Birmingham	1 - 2pm	£3/FREE for Members
	Study Morning: 19th Century British Prime Ministers	10am - 12 noon	£14/£12.50 for Members
Wed 21 Oct	Concerts of Recorded Music: Random Reminiscences No. 5	1 - 2pm	£1/FREE for Members
Fri 23 Oct	Friday Morning Club: Showboating	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
Mon 26 Oct	Monday Lecture: 'Healthy and Expedient': Childcare and Charity at the Shrewsbury Foundling Hospital 1759 -1772	1 - 2pm	£3/FREE for Members
Wed 28 Oct	Concerts of Recorded Music: Faust	1 - 2pm	£1/FREE for Members

Fri 30 Oct	Friday Morning Club: 'Spana' - Working with Animals Abroad	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
	The Midland Chamber Players Live at Lunchtime p. 5	1.10 - 2.10pm	£8/£6.50 for Concs./£3 for Students
Mon 2 Nov	Monday Lecture: 'Some grace of argument': John Drinkwater's Rebellion at the Birmingham Rep, May 1914 and its Legacy	1 - 2pm	£3/FREE for Members
	Study Morning: 19th Century British Prime Ministers	10am - 12 noon	£14/£12.50 for Members
Wed 4 Nov	Concerts of Recorded Music: TBA p. 5	1 - 2pm	£1/FREE for Members
Fri 6 Nov	Friday Morning Club: New Zealand Adventure	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
Mon 9 Nov	Monday Lecture: Ghosts on the A4499	1 - 2pm	£3/FREE for Members
	Study Morning: 19th Century British Prime Ministers	10am - 12 noon	£14/£12.50 for Members
Wed 11 Nov	Concerts of Recorded Music: Northern Lights	1 - 2pm	£1/FREE for Members
Fri 13 Nov	Friday Morning Club: Random Readings - Remembrance	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
	Study Day: Emily Brontë, Wuthering Heights	10am - 4pm	£15/£14 for Members
Mon 16 Nov	Monday Lecture: Beethoven	1 - 2pm	£3/FREE for Members
	Study Morning: 19th Century British Prime Ministers	10am - 12 noon	£14/£12.50 for Members
Wed 18 Nov	Concerts of Recorded Music: A Musical Alphabet Letter 'O'	1 - 2pm	£1/FREE for Members
Fri 20 Nov	Friday Morning Club: Windy Transcriptions	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
	The Midland Chamber Players Live at Lunchtime p.5	1.10 - 2.10pm	£8/£6.50 for Concs./£3 for Students
Mon 23 Nov	Monday Lecture: The Luttrell Psalter	1 - 2pm	£3/FREE for Members
	Study Morning: 19th Century British Prime Ministers	10am - 12 noon	£14/£12.50 for Members
Wed 25 Nov	Concerts of Recorded Music: TBA p. 5	1 - 2pm	£1/FREE for Members
Fri 27 Nov	Friday Morning Club: More Model Memories	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
	Study Day: The Films of François Truffaut	10am - 4pm	£15/£14 for Members
Mon 30 Nov	Study Morning: 19th Century British Prime Ministers	10am - 12 noon	£14/£12.50 for Members
Fri 4 Dec	Friday Morning Club: The Musician Within	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
Mon 7 Dec	Study Morning: 19th Century British Prime Ministers	10am - 12 noon	£14/£12.50 for Members
Wed 9 Dec	Concerts of Recorded Music: Open to requests	1 - 2pm	£1/FREE for Members
Fri 11 Dec	Friday Morning Club: Season Random Readings	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
	Study Day: Anthony Trollope, The Duke's Children	10am - 4pm	£15/£14 for Members
Mon 14 Dec	Study Morning: 19th Century British Prime Ministers	10am - 12 noon	£14/£12.50 for Members
Wed 16 Dec	Concerts of Recorded Music: Open to requests	1 - 2pm	£1/FREE for Members
Fri 18 Dec	Friday Morning Club: Music for the Season	11am - 12 noon	£1/FREE for Members
	Study Day: The Lure of the Sea	10am - 4pm	£15/£14 for Members
	The Midland Chamber Players Live at Lunchtime	1.10 - 2.10pm	£8/£6.50 for Concs./£3 for Students

The BMI will be closed over the festive season from 24 December and open again on Monday 4 January 2016.

Find us

To the Jewellery Quarter



We are located in the city centre, a 5-10 minute walk from Birmingham New St station and a 10-15 minute walk from Snow Hill and Moor Street stations. The nearest bus stops are located on Edmund St, Colmore Row and Great Charles St.

All-day parking can be found just off Great Charles St Queensway.

THE BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND INSTITUTE

9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS

www.bmi.org.uk

0121 236 3591

admin@bmi.org.uk

For room hire enquiries contact bookings@bmi.org.uk

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday 9am - late

Most Saturdays 9am - 5pm (please call to check opening dates)



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