

Current Temporary Exhibition:

Christ's Hospital in the 20th Century

29 April 2017 – 29 March 2019



Abstract Painting, oil on canvas, by Nell Todd, former Head of Art at Christ's Hospital (1950-69)

The 20th Century saw dramatic change for Christ's Hospital as it moved from its small London site of some 350 years to its current extensive grounds in Sussex. This exhibition explores the art, artefacts and stories behind the school, reflecting the huge social, economic and cultural changes that went on in this period.

While such a display cannot be considered a definitive guide to Christ's Hospital in the 20th Century, it serves to highlight a modern take on the collections it holds. With so much history around us, and such rich collections, the last 100 years can easily be overlooked. The exhibition showcases recent acquisitions from this transformative era including fine art, social history, costume, photos, ephemera and personal artefacts reflecting the everyday life of pupils and staff.

While acknowledging the impact on Christ's Hospital of two World Wars, the focus is more on the remarkable historic collections that illustrate the school's key developments and on-going Old Blue achievements.

What was valued by the staff and pupils at Christ's Hospital in the 1920's? How were the school's main events documented in the 1960's? Why do we collect a loud hailer and which famous celebrities are associated with Christ's Hospital in this century? The exhibition celebrates and commemorates the scope and diversity of a truly unique, and at times quirky collection, that boasts some 40,000 objects.

Christ's Hospital in the 20th Century invites us to consider art works by two of the most significant Modern British artists of that era: Keith Vaughan (1912–77; pupil here 1921-29) and Frank Brangwyn (1867-1956; commissioned to paint the Chapel murals 1912-23) beside the work of lesser known artists Donald Towner (1903-85; art teacher here during WWII) and Nell Todd (1909-76; Head of Art here 1950-69). Equally accomplished drawings by Philip Youngman Carter (1904-69; pupil here 1916-21) of the First World War poet Edmund Blunden (1896-1974; pupil here 1909-14) make an insightful comparison with the battlefield pen and ink sketches by Second World War poet Keith Douglas (1920-44; pupil here 1931-38).

This exhibition offers a rare and intriguing opportunity to enjoy a range of objects across varied disciplines - what is often not seen and in storage – is revealed and not to be missed in this remarkable gathering!

Contact Christ's Hospital Museum for more information:

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Museum of London to open display delving into the history of the City of London's first orphanage and school, Christ's Hospital.

Bluecoats in the City will explore the history of one of London's most renowned schools, Christ's Hospital.

Bluecoats in the City
Museum of London
12 July – 4 November 2018
Free

The Museum of London is hosting a new display, *Bluecoats in the City*, looking at the impact and story behind The City of London's first orphanage and school, Christ's Hospital.

Founded in 1552, Christ's Hospital transformed the site of a former monastery into a sanctuary for the City of London's orphaned and impoverished children, offering food, lodging and an education.

Since opening, Christ's Hospital has now educated, lodged, fed and clothed more than 45,000 children, thanks to donations from the City of London and charitable benefactors. In 1902 the School moved from the City to the market town of Horsham. However its strong bonds to The City of London remain.

The Museum of London's new display, *Bluecoats in the City*, allows visitors a chance to discover a school like no other. Delving into the history behind the School's creation, its iconic historic uniforms and traditional practices, alumni and centuries- long relationship with London.

Museum of London, Senior Curator, Hazel Forsyth said:

'As the City's first orphanage and School, Christ Hospital played a very significant role in London's history. Built to create a future for London's most disadvantaged children, the school has gone on to educate and lodge over 45,000 through the generosity of the City of London and countless benefactors.'

'This display celebrates that unique relationship and offers a look behind 350 years of history, with loan items from Christ's Hospital and stories about some of its distinguished and influential pupils.'

Christ's Hospital Museum Curator, Laura Kidner commented:

"Bluecoats in the City explores the extraordinary and diverse history of one of the oldest boarding schools in England. Over 30 intriguing objects present a thematic display, bringing to life our early London roots, over three centuries, before the school moved to Horsham, West Sussex in 1902.



The School continues its original mission, dating back to its foundation in the City, to provide a life-changing educational opportunity. It is the leading charitable boarding school in the UK for bursaries and for its contribution to social mobility in the UK today; currently 75% of its pupils receive a free or fee-assisted boarding place."

About The Museum of London

The Museum of London tells the ever-changing story of this great world city and its people, from 450,000 BC to the present day. Our galleries, exhibitions, displays and activities seek to inspire a passion for London and provide a sense of the vibrancy that makes the city such a unique place.

The museum is open daily 10am – 6pm and is FREE to all, and you can explore the Museum of London with collections online – home to 90,000 objects with more being added.

www.museumoflondon.org.uk.