

PRESS RELEASE  
For immediate release

## WHAT'S ON at Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery October 2024 – January 2025

Join Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery as we spectacularly conclude our 25th anniversary year in celebration of the artistic community in the South Downs Open and our full seasonal event programme with something for the whole family. Find out more:

[www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk](http://www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk)

### Festival Highlights

#### **Edward Thomas Literary Festival**

3 October – 12 October 2024

Join Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery in celebrating the life and work of Edward Thomas at the 2024 Edward Thomas Literary Festival: Poetry, Prose and Birdsong.

Highlights for 2024 include **Michael Longley**, former Poet Laureate **Sir Andrew Motion**, **Alice Oswald**, **Mathew Hollis**, **Jessica Mookherjee**, **Isobel Dixon**, **Yvonne Reddick**, **Ellora Sutton**, **Sarah Doyle**, **Enda Longley** and more!

The Edward Thomas Literary Festival brings acclaimed poets and writers to Petersfield for talks, discussions and creative workshops to hone your wordsmithing skills. We also host free family events to encourage poets of all ages to get involved.

The Edward Thomas Literary Festival celebrates the life and work of Edward Thomas, a literary critic, essayist, writer and poet who lived locally in Steep from 1906-1916. His reputation as a nature poet set within the landscape of the South Downs has increased greatly. His posthumous influence on the development of English verse is now widely recognised.



© Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery

### Exhibition Highlights

#### **South Downs Open**

22 October 2024 – 1 February 2025

**SOUTH  
DOWNS  
OPEN**

*South Downs Open* includes nearly 150 artworks on display by over 100 artists, including paintings, drawings, artist's prints, photography, sculpture textiles and ceramics. Enjoy scenes and artworks inspired by the full range of the South Downs region, from Old Winchester Hill in Hampshire to Beachy Head in Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Exhibiting artworks were selected from hundreds of entries from an open call to artists whose work connects and is inspired by the South Downs.

*South Downs Open* is a selling exhibition. It is a chance to acquire high-quality, affordable art and support artists across the region.

Join us for free gallery opening days including our *Festive Thursday Late* (7 November 2024 from 7:00pm-9:00pm) and *Museum Shop Sunday* (1 December 2024 from 11:00am-4:00pm).

## **Event Highlights**

*Seasonal Spooktacular Theatre Productions by Don't Go Into the Cellar!*

**Ghouls' Gallery | 19 October 2024 | 4:30pm-6:00pm and 7:30pm-9:30pm**

Enjoy an anthology stage show featuring some of the greatest tales of terror masterfully performed and scripted by the award-winning actor Jonathan Goodwin.

**The Canterville Ghost | 2 November 2024 | 2:00pm-4:00pm or 4:30pm-6:00pm**

Brace yourselves for a show with laughter, audience participation and a bit of the supernatural in the classic Oscar Wilde tale. Suitable for ages 7+.



© Don't Go Into the Cellar!



© Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery

### *Festive Family Events*

**Halloween Family Fun Day | 26 October 2024 | 11:00am-4:00pm**

Put on your costume, grab your broomstick and wand to make mischief and mayhem at Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery! Enjoy ghostly crafts, spooky storytelling and modern twists on traditional games.

**Toddler Takeover XI: Pumpkin Party | 28 October 2024 | 10:00am-4:00pm**

Get your little ones into the Halloween spirit with our Toddler Takeover Day! Groove to our ghostly disco, enjoy a spooky tale and make your own monstrous creations.

**Toddler Takeover XII: Santa's Crazy Christmas | 21 December 2024 | 10:00am-4:00pm**

Let your little ones run around our galleries with festive crafts to take home, Dasher's Dance Disco, wintertime play in our courtyard and story time with Father Christmas before his big night!

### *Live Music Hosted in Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery's Historic Courthouse*



Image courtesy of TOBIAH and Colette O'Leary

#### **Live Music: TOBIAH with Colette O'Leary**

25 October 2024 | 8:00pm-10:00pm (Doors & Bar: 7:30pm)

We are delighted to welcome singer-songwriter TOBIAH for a spellbinding evening of songs and stories from her acclaimed album, *Are We Angels*. TOBIAH will also be performing new music from her next record, with foot-tapping interludes from twice All-Ireland award-winning piano accordionist, Colette O'Leary.

#### **Live Music: A.D. Scruffs**

23 November 2024 | 8:00pm-10:00pm  
(Doors & Bar: 7:30pm)

A.D. Scruffs is a Soul, Roots & Americana band hailing from Bristol, with a foot-stomping collection of original songs and a storming stage presence from Jake A.D. and Willygoat Scruff. From the chiming of the mandolin, the frailing of the banjo and the slide of the dobro, you'll find yourself lost in the soundscape.



Image courtesy of A.D. Scruffs

– Ends –

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Press images for all exhibitions and events are available from Molly Schmidt (Marketing and Communications Officer): [communications@petersfieldmuseum.co.uk](mailto:communications@petersfieldmuseum.co.uk)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery is an accredited, independent museum and registered charity. Established in 1999, it underwent a £4 million redevelopment, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. A rare example of a restored Victorian Justice Heritage site, its permanent collections include an Archaeology Collection and Social History Collection relating to Petersfield and the surrounding area, the Flora Twort Art Collection, a Photography Collection (including the Don Eades Photographic Archive) and a Fashion and Textiles Collection (including the Bedales Historic Dress Collection), as well as a Reference Archive. The Flora Twort Gallery is a dedicated art gallery with an ambitious fine art and contemporary craft exhibition programme and an inclusive public programme. It is also home to the Tim Wilton-Steer Collection of works by and about the poet Edward Thomas, housed in The Edward Thomas Study Centre.

Website: [www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk](http://www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/petersfieldmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/petersfieldmuseum)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/PfieldMuseum](https://www.twitter.com/PfieldMuseum)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/petersfieldmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/petersfieldmuseum)

### Visiting Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery

Opening Times:

Tuesday to Saturday – 10.00am to 5.00pm (Last entry at 4.00pm).

Admission Prices:

Adults: £8.00 | Young People (5-17): Free | Children Under 5: Free

Concession tickets are available – please visit [www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk](http://www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk) for more details.

Tickets:

To book admission and event tickets, please visit: [www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk](http://www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk)

### Visiting the Shop

Opening Times:

Tuesday to Saturday – 10.00am to 5.00pm.

Open to the public, no museum admission required

### Visiting the Coffee Shop

Opening Times:

Tuesday to Saturday – 9.30am to 4.00pm.

Open to the public, no museum admission required

Located in the Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery courtyard