

46th BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS OF MUSEUMS CONFERENCE & AGM

11, 12 & 13 OCTOBER 2019

HOSTED BY FRIENDS OF READING MUSEUM

MUSEUM FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: CHALLENGE AND OPPORTUNITY



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Dr. SUSANNE ANNA

Born in Ratingen (Germany), studied History of Art, Archaeology and French at Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz. 1989-1991 Curator Museum Morsbroich Leverkusen, 1992-1995 Director Städtische Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz, 1995-1999 Director Museum Morsbroich Leverkusen, 1999-2003 Director Museum für Angewandte Kunst Köln and since September 2003 Director of the City Museum Düsseldorf.



ALAN CAIG



Alan Caig was Head of Leisure and Museums for Exeter City Council until 2011, and oversaw the project to refurbish and extend the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (Museum of the Year 2012). Since then he has changed his spots and become Chair of the Friends of the Museum. After a career spent exclusively in local government, he remains an enthusiast for the municipal model, as long as councils are allowed to make their own policies again.

BRENDAN CARR

A native of Reading, Brendan's museum career began at the Blairs Museum in Aberdeenshire. His postgraduate research here made a major contribution to the Museum becoming registered by the Scottish Museum Council (Museum Galleries Scotland). Other voluntary work experience included placements at the Bar Convent Museum in York, the Salvador Dali Universe on London's Southbank and the British Museum Development Trust. He returned home to join Reading Museum in 2001 and took up the role of Community Engagement Curator in 2010, combining collections management responsibility with overseeing the Museum's community engagement strategy.



RHEA DOUGLAS



Rhea has worked in education and culture for over 10 years. Prior to this she managed several development projects in Mali, West Africa, obtaining funding and procuring labour to create latrines for a secondary school and creating a garden for a Women's Association to start a produce business. She has taught in both secondary and primary schools which enabled her to transition to museum education where she has developed and delivered school sessions, school projects and family activities. She is currently the education lead in the development of school provision for the Reading Abbey Revealed Project.



ANNETTE HAWORTH

Annette is a computer programmer by training, but had her horizons expanded while at the University of Reading when the Library, Special Collections and Museum of English Rural Life came into her Directorate. Now retired, she volunteers as Grants Officer for The Friends of the University of Reading and has acted as trustee for various educational, disability and other charities. She recently founded RG Spaces, a small charity which aims to work with other organisations to enhance cultural and heritage spaces (both real and virtual) in the Reading area and is currently investigating the use of a community Internet of Things network to implement novel ways of encouraging people to visit heritage sites.

Dipl. Ing. ECKHARD KRANZ

Born in Lüben (Germany), he studied metallurgy at the Technical Universities of Aachen, Berlin and Clausthal, Director of Mannesmann Tube Factory until 2000 and since 1981 President of the Friends of the City Museum Düsseldorf.



MATT RODDA MP

Elected as MP for Reading East in June 2017. Prior to becoming MP Matt was a Councillor with Reading Borough Council representing Katesgrove Ward from 2011-2018. Matt believes in fairness for all, in high quality public services and in an economy which works for everyone - not just the lucky few. He worked in the university sector before being elected to Parliament and prior to this was a civil servant in the Department for Education. In addition to constituency role he is Shadow Minister for Local Transport and works closely with Shadow Secretary of State for Transport, Andy McDonald MP. Matt has lived in Reading for over 18 years and is married with two children.

NEENA SOHAL

Neena Sohal has worked in the arts and heritage sector all her career, following graduation from SOAS, University of London. She has held senior management level positions in local authorities including the Head of Arts and Culture for the London Borough of Ealing. Neena has always been committed to widening participation in heritage and culture and since becoming a freelance consultant in 2005 has pioneered innovative projects, engaging diverse communities and collaborating with a range of institutions. She is a trustee of the South Asian Diaspora Arts Archive and Director of the RAH Foundation, working with universities, making academic research on modern South Asia accessible to the wider community. Neena is a member of the London and South Committee of the National Lottery Heritage Fund.



FIONA TALBOTT

Fiona Talbott has worked in the heritage and culture sectors for over thirty years. She is Head of Museums, Libraries and Archives at the National Lottery Heritage Fund where she is responsible for strategic development and policy across the three sectors. Her keynote will look at how the National Lottery Heritage Fund has supported community engagement in museums to date and what the new Funding Framework will mean for engagement work in future.