HAPPY 400th BIRTHDAY
MR ASHMOL

Friday 19 May 2017
6.30–10.30pm

Oxford's Weekend Starts Here…

Party like it’s the 1600s! Celebrate with Elias Ashmole, founder of the Ashmolean, King Charles I & a parade of Civil War Cavaliers & Courtesans. Dress to impress!

www.ashmolean.org/livefriday
Mr Ashmole’s 400th Birthday has been supported by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Tonight we are celebrating the 400th birthday of the founder of the Ashmolean, Elias Ashmole with Past Pleasures Ltd! Elias Ashmole (1617–1692) was a collector and antiquary: an alchemist, astrologer and botanist; and an early adopter of freemasonry. A staunch Royalist, Ashmole left London at the outbreak of the Civil War in 1642 and moved, in 1644, to Oxford, where we time travel back to this evening. Meet the characters of Oxford’s town and gown, and the King’s army, and learn how to address Charles I. Celebrate like it’s the 1600s!

Past Pleasures
Past Pleasures, which this year celebrates its 30th birthday, is the UK’s leading professional costumed live historical interpretation company, providing interpreters and creating reproduction historic costumes covering all periods at many of the UK’s most important heritage venues.

LEVEL I

The King’s Army – Café & throughout museum
When it was England’s alternative capital during the first English Civil War, Oxford was packed with soldiers who forced themselves into any accommodation they could find – even our cafe! Royalist soldiers will be making themselves at home in the Ashmolean all evening – from gambling to lounging around in the galleries to searching for spies, they’re experts at them all! Come and witness the behaviour that made them quite unpopular with the townsfolk - they may even do a bit of training, once in a while!

Storytelling & Spinning – Gallery 2
7.30, 8.30 and 9:15pm
Gather round Mistress Bentham to hear a selection of silly English folk tales, dragons, ogres and outlaws, to terrify, titillate and entertain you! When she’s not telling yarns, she spins yarn! Tread softly, though, for ‘Doctor’ Septimus Pettigrew is on hand to dole out curse, salves, remedies, and poultices for what ails you? Can’t afford to go to the apothecaries frequented by the rich? Fear not, try the local remedies and home remedies from the time. What ails you, my dear? Can’t afford to go to the apothecaries frequented by the rich? Fear not, try the local remedies and home remedies from the time. What ails you, my dear? Can’t afford to go to the apothecaries frequented by the rich? Fear not, try the local remedies and home remedies from the time.

The King’s Head Pub Band
Café & Rooftop Restaurant
The King’s Head Pub Band is made up of musicians well-known around Oxfordshire. From fiddles to keyed instruments they know them all! Come and witness the behaviour that made them quite unpopular with the townsfolk - they may even do a bit of training, once in a while!

Dance like it’s the 1600s – Gallery 21
Have a go dancing like a cavalier in the café period. Performances at 7.00pm & 9.30pm.

Seamstresses – Gallery 5
Come and meet the women who kept the Royalist army clothed during the English Civil War. Sat amidst the Ashmolean’s priceless collections you will be able to watch the process of spinning wool using a traditional spinning wheel, while seamstress busy themselves with needlework.

Spy reports and Oxford life by Mark Davies
8.00pm:
Mad, Sad, Glad & Bad Poet of Oxford
8.15pm:
Spy reports and Oxford life by Vanessa Mair

LEVEL G

Dance like it’s the 1600s – Gallery 21
Listen to the wonderful period music of Passamezzo and watch Renaissance Footnotes perform dances from the 1600s. Listen to the ballads of Prince Rupert, nephew of King Charles I and learn about the music of the period. Performances at 7.00pm & 9.30pm. Have a go dancing like a cavalier in the café from 8.00-8.45pm.

The Townspeople – Gallery 21
Mistress Wood boasts to all and sundry that she has given up her house on Merton Street to a motley crew of ignorant country lasses. How will she bear it? How will they bear it? How will they bear it?

Elias Ashmole – Gallery 8
Meet the founder of the Ashmolean, Elias Ashmole. Tonight, it’s his 400th birthday, but Elias Ashmole is on the horns of a dilemma. On the one hand he welcomes the arrival of the Royal Court because he knows he will profit by it – legal disputes are bound to arise and he will grow rich; On the other hand he’s seen what the Parliamentarian soldiers do to the ancient relics and monuments he loves. Will the King’s army be any more respectful of the past?

English Civil War Talk Hotspot – Lecture Theatre
Listen to some short talks on how the people of Oxford coped during the Civil War.
8.00pm:
Mad, Sad, Glad & Bad Poet of Oxford by Mark Davies
8.15pm:
Spy reports and Oxford life by Vanessa Mair

Doctor Pettigrew – Gallery 20
What ails you, my dear? Can’t afford to go to the apothecaries frequented by the rich? Fear not, for ‘Doctor’ Septimus Pettigrew is on hand to dole out curse, salves, remedies, and poultices.
for any and all condition. Worried you’re losing your hair? Concerned you’re getting a bit old? Fear not - Doctor Septimus will produce from the vials that hang from his belt elixirs potent as gunpowder and as effective as any you’ll find in the pricy chests of supposedly more reputable doctors. Just don’t ask to see his qualifications!

Make your own Crown – Gallery 18
Make yourself into a lord or lady for the evening by designing your own crown. Wear it proudly round the museum and bow to your fellow courtiers.

Elias Ashmole’s Birthday Candles Trail – Information desk
The museum staff have hunted everywhere and have located 364 candles for Elias Ashmole’s cake. Can you find the final six to make the complete 400 before we sing happy birthday at 10:30pm?

Your ticket entitles you to all of the events tonight, although some performances have limited capacity. Please arrive early to avoid disappointment.
LEVEL 2

The Ladies of Christchurch – Gallery 35
Meet Lady Anne Horwood, the King’s Smuggler and Mary Fell, daughter of the Dean of Christchurch. Make your own posy to keep out evil humours and smells, find out about how important Christchurch was during the civil war, and handle some civil war era objects.

Visit the Apothecary – Gallery 43
Master Fallowfield is a wealthy apothecary, dispensing cures at the Sign of the Rhinoceros off the High Street. He’s grown rich due to grateful patients and, now the Royal Court has arrived, dreams of a coach and horses…

The Corn Merchant’s Wife – Gallery 41
Jane Sewell’s husband refuses to sell his corn for more than it’s worth, but his furious wife sees how the price of bread and beer is increasing daily, now the Court and the Army are in the city. Why shouldn’t the Sewells do as well as their rivals?

Greet King Charles I – Gallery 46
His Majesty King Charles is easily distracted – preferring the delights of the hunt and the library to planning the next move in this ‘War without an Enemy’. Will his advisors keep his mind on his desperate situation?

Should we kill Charles I? (a play) – Gallery 46
9.30pm
Deep in the Bodleian Library Stores, Curator of Early Modern Archives & Manuscripts Michael Webb studied the original debate between Parliamentarians on whether they should execute Charles I. Listen to the dramatic reading from the two sides, not heard for nearly 400 years in gallery 46.

Elias Ashmole’s Birthday Present – Gallery 44
Find out about the new portrait by William Dobson in Gallery 44 from the characters there.

8.30pm Talk ‘Cavalier City: William Dobson and Royalist Art in Oxford’ by Curator Dr Naomi Lebens

William Dobson has painted His Majesty in happier times, and has just completed an ambitious triple portrait of the King’s dashing nephew, Prince Rupert of the Rhine, with two close friends. His wife and their servant Hesketh rub their hands with glee at the thought of the increase of commissions and patronage now the Court are living in their city, but the artist’s mind is on higher matters…

Prince Rupert of the Rhine is dashing, headstrong and straining to be at his uncle’s treacherous enemies…

Colonels Murray and Russell are the Prince’s boon companions and serve in his regiment. All three are the subject of Dobson’s painting and they ease their minds by reminiscing about the time they sat for the triple portrait.

But haunting their merriment is the melancholy question: will they all still be together at the war’s end?

See if you can spot:
Sir Thomas Glemham is an expert at fortifying towns against a siege. His instructions are being carried out by his military engineers and the face of Oxford is rapidly being transformed…

Sir Arthur Aston is the recently-appointed Royal Governor of Oxford and confesses that he would far rather face the foe than deal with the simmering tension between Town and Gown…

The King’s Musicians. Messrs. Goble, Perry and Lyons, in livery and one Gentleman of the King’s Chamber, Master Lutenist Edward Fitzgibbon.

Dr John Huett, Chaplain-in-Ordinary to the King, The Countess of Roxburgh, Governess of the Royal Children