



EVENTS PROGRAMME FOR THE CHILDREN'S POLY-OLBION FESTIVAL

EXHIBITION

The Faerie Land: Michael Drayton's Vision of Britain

A groundbreaking exhibition inspired by **Michael Drayton (1563-1631)**'s epic topographical poem of England and Wales, ***Poly-Olbion***, an expansive poetic journey through the landscape, history, traditions and customs of early modern England and Wales, imagined county by county.

The Faerie Land represents the rich artistic output of **The Children's Poly-Olbion**, a Heritage Lottery and AHRC funded collaboration between ground-breaking children's arts organization Flash of Splendour, Exeter University & the RGS (with IBG), in which marginalized and disabled children and young adults across the UK engaged with the texts and maps of *Poly-Olbion* and cutting-edge contemporary artists were invited to create new child-focused works based on the poem.

In addition to the children's powerful and accomplished works, the exhibition features a specially commissioned map of England and Wales by cutting-edge artist-cartographer Stephen Walter (stephenwalter.co.uk), a new series of children's illustrations by David Inness and an important collection of 17th century maps and texts, including the RGS copy of *Poly-Olbion*.

Dates: Thursday 10th September to Thursday 1st October 2015

Evening Preview: 6pm – 9pm Thursday 10th September

This special preview will include lute music, Jacobean food, and an exclusive introduction to the exhibition from the curators. Tickets are strictly limited and are available from Flash of Splendour below.

Also open during the associated Literary Festival & Open House London: Saturday 19th September and Sunday 20th September

Tickets/Booking

The exhibition is free, with donations to Flash of Splendour welcome at the door.

Further Information:

Web: childrenspoly-olbion.exeter.ac.uk; poly-olbion.exeter.ac.uk;
flashofsplendourarts.com

Email: info@flashofsplendourarts.com

Twitter: @PetitPolyOlbion; @Poly_Olbion

Facebook: PetitPolyOlbion

Tel: 01865 882512

EXHIBITION EVENTS

FUNDRAISING CONCERT

With Musick of My Verse: The Music of Michael Drayton's Poly-Olbion

Fundraising concert for Flash of Splendour and the Exuberant Trust. Acclaimed ensemble Ars Eloquentiae performing a selection of early music directly inspired by Michael Drayton's *Poly-Olbion* (published in 1612 & 1622)

Ars Eloquentiae is fast establishing a reputation as a versatile and vibrant ensemble specialising in period performance. In 2014, they were invited by the William Hogarth Trust to spearhead celebrations for the artist's 250th anniversary and also undertook a joint project with the University of Cambridge, researching and recording Parisian street songs from the Seventeenth Century.

Flash of Splendour work to empower disabled and marginalized children and young people through the creative arts.

The Exuberant Trust is a local charity which supports young people in Oxfordshire who are developing their interest in the arts and for whom a one-off grant will make a significant difference to their career.

Tickets/Booking

The concert is free, with donations to Flash of Splendour and the Exuberant Trust welcome at the door.

Date: Friday 11th September

Further Information:

Web: www.ars-elloquentiae.com; childrenspoly-olbion.exeter.ac.uk;

www.flashofsplendourarts.com; www.exuberant-trust.org.uk

Email: info@flashofsplendourarts.com

Twitter: @PetitPolyOlbion

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FAMILY EVENTS

Drop-in crafts and stories for the under-fives every Tuesday morning at 10.30 am throughout the *Faerie Land* exhibition run.

Free, but donations welcome. Suitable for children up to 10 years old.

Dates: Tuesday 15th, Tuesday 22nd, Tuesday 29th September 2015

Further Information:

Web: childrenspoly-olbion.exeter.ac.uk; www.flashofsplendourarts.com;

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SCHOOLS & HOME EDUCATION

School and home education visits welcome during exhibition. Contact Steve Pratley at Flash of Splendour for further details and bookings: info@flashofsplendourarts.com

GALLERY TALKS

Curators and academics from the *Children's Poly-Olbion* project will be giving gallery talks every Tuesday afternoon at 1pm throughout the exhibition. Full details of weekly talks on the project and RGS (with IBG) websites.

Free, but donations welcome.

Dates: 1pm, Tuesday 15th, Tuesday 22nd, Tuesday 29th September 2015

Further Information:

Web: childrenspoly-olbion.exeter.ac.uk

Email: info@flashofsplendourarts.com

Twitter: @PetitPolyOlbion

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LITERARY FESTIVAL

As in a Glasse, this Isle Survey: Nature and Landscape Writing in Britain

A weekend literary festival featuring major British writers and academics exploring the themes of *The Faerie Land* exhibition: the interplay between poetry, art, memory and the British landscape.

Confirmed speakers include: Paul Farley (poet; broadcaster; winner of Whitbread Poetry Prize; co-author of *Edgelands*); Jerry Brotton (*A History of the World in Twelve Maps*; BBC4's *Maps: Power, Plunder and Possession*); Charlotte Scott (*Shakespeare's Nature*; *The New Oxford Shakespeare*); Stephen Walter (groundbreaking artist-cartographer; *The Island: London Mapped*); Tim Dee (BBC radio producer; author of *The Running Sky*); Michael Symmons Roberts (poet; winner of the Forward Prize, the Costa Book Award and the Whitbread Prize for Poetry).

Dates: Saturday 19th September and Sunday 20th September

Tickets will cost £8/£6 for individual talks and can be booked through www.eventbrite.co.uk or at childrenspoly-olbion.exeter.ac.uk. There will also be a limited number of tickets available on the door. The full schedule will be available online.

Further information:

Web: childrenspoly-olbion.exeter.ac.uk

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Twitter: @PetitPolyOlbion

Tel: 01865 882512

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

Poly-Olbion and the Writing of Britain

Hosted by the AHRC-funded *Poly-Olbion* Project, the conference will explore Michael Drayton's *Poly-Olbion* within the wider context of early modern British discourses of space, place, nationhood, and regional identity.

Confirmed speakers include: Andrew McRae, Philip Schwyzer, Steph Mastoris, Rab MacGibbon, Andrew Hadfield, Bernhard Klein, Sandra Logan, Liz Oakley-Brown, Angus Vine, and Sara Trevisan.

Dates: Thursday 10th September to Friday 11th September 2015

For bookings and further information, please see the project website: <http://poly-olbion.exeter.ac.uk/> or contact Professor Andrew McRae at A.McRae@exeter.ac.uk

OUTSIDE EVENTS

Michael Drayton Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey

To celebrate the poet-laureate Michael Drayton's (1563-1631) life and works and to launch the *Children's Poly-Olbion* exhibition, there will be a memorial service, with a wreath-laying, in Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey. This will be the first service commemorating Drayton since his death in 1631. Tickets will be extremely limited. All applications to Flash of Splendour Arts at info@flashofsplendourarts.com.

Time/Date: 2 pm, Wednesday 9th September

Location: Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey

Websites: childrenspoly-olbion.exeter.ac.uk; www.westminster-abbey.org

Petit Poly-Olbion Pop-up Exhibition

Part of Flash of Splendour's ongoing dialogue with the EFDSS (English Folk Dance and Song Society), this pop-up "fringe" exhibition runs alongside the *Faerie Land* show. Features Stephen Walter's maps and outsider art influenced by folk traditions described in Michael Drayton's vast topographical poem of Britain, originally published in 1612 and 1622.

Dates: Thursday 10th September to Thursday 1st October

Preview: Tuesday 20th October

Location: Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY

W: www.cecilsharpouse.org & childrenspoly-olbion.exeter.ac.uk