A MESSAGE FROM THE WILLIAM MORRIS SOCIETY

Hello,

Practically Magic: William Morris at Home in Hammersmith
70th Anniversary Exhibition
In the Coach House and lower rooms of Kelmscott House, 26 Upper Mall, Hammersmith, W6 9TA
Open Thursday-Sunday, 10:00am-4:00pm
£5 admission (free to Hammersmith & Fulham residents, William Morris Society members, under-16s and Historic Houses members)
www.williammorrissociety.org

We would be grateful if you would consider giving a mention online, in print, or via your channels about our new exhibition which celebrates the William Morris Society's 70th anniversary.

Please find below a summary of information about the exhibition:

To celebrate the William Morris Society's 70th anniversary, a new permanent exhibition has opened at Kelmscott House, Hammersmith which explores the life and work of Victorian Designer, Poet, Socialist, Craftsman, and
Environmentalist, William Morris (1834-1896), at his family home overlooking the River Thames in Hammersmith.

Morris lived here for eighteen years with his wife, Jane Morris
(1839-1914), and his two daughters, Jane Alice (Jenny), and Mary (May) Morris. During that time, Morris became involved in new aspects of creative work for his company Morris & Co., joined the private printing press movement in the endeavour to create 'the ideal book', and founded the Hammersmith branch of the Socialist League.

The move to Kelmscott House, in Hammersmith, a decision encouraged by Jane to be closer to London, brought forth new opportunities and sources of inspiration for Morris. Although he found parts of the house dreary, he thought it "might even be made very beautiful with a touch of my art". A close friend of Morris, and fellow member of the Socialist League, George Bernard Shaw, reminisced "there was an extraordinary discrimination at work in this magical
house" and he felt its magic instantly and deeply upon visiting Kelmscott House.

The exhibition focuses on all aspects of Morris's work that he dreamt up whilst spending time in the flourishing garden, fishing on the river, or studying ancient manuscripts in his library. The display features original hand drawn designs for textiles, wallpapers and books, shares a glimpse into the house as it was when the Morris family resided there, and highlights memorabilia from Morris's days as a leading figure in the Socialist League.

The exhibition also features the work of his friends, colleagues, and family members, showing the vital contributions they made to Morris's success. The working relationships he formed throughout his life cultivated a community-like feeling and a buzzing creative atmosphere that was so dear to Morris at his home in Hammersmith.

Please contact us for these available images – items from the Collection of The William Morris Society:
- Original design for 'Bird' Textile, William Morris, 1878
- Cray, block printed cotton, designed by William Morris, 1884
- Sunflower wallpaper printing block, William Morris, manufactured for Jeffrey & Co., 1879
- Honeysuckle Wallpaper, May Morris, 1883