

## Resonate Now

April 2021

Hello everyone

We hope this letter finds you well and starting to feel the benefits of the slightly warmer weather. We are making the most of it by venturing on longer walks and out for much needed haircuts! And what a joy to occasionally open our windows to let in some of that lovely fresh air. We are loving the leaves and buds starting to reappear on the trees, which makes the view rather nicer.

In this month's letter we explore travel with the **Wallace Collection**, perhaps inspiring us to venture a bit further from our own homes as the lockdown restrictions ease.

In other news, we have recently begun a new phone and postal project with the Victoria and Albert Museum, exploring the wonderful objects housed in the Gilbert Collection comprising gold and silver, enamel miniatures and mosaics. We will hopefully feature some of these in a forthcoming letter. Our choir Singing with Friends, the Remembering Together project and our poetry sessions - Listening Portraits have also kept us occupied. We continue having discussions with our partners and Creative Befrienders to work out how we can safely bring people together again over the summer and beyond.

On the final page, we include **fundraising updates** and information about new a summer series of sessions taking place at the **Sir John Soanes museum**.

As always, do let us know what you are up to and feel free to get in touch.

Happy Resonating!

Julie and Jude

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## Travel

**The Wallace Collection**, based in Manchester Square, London, invites us back through time to consider travel and navigation, which will perhaps inspire us to make our own journeys, albeit much more locally!

This pocket-sized compass and sundial would have been the perfect accessory for the 18<sup>th</sup> century traveller. As well as its practical use in navigation and time-keeping, it was a small and stylish status symbol. This object would demonstrate the owner's wealth, education, ability to travel and adventurous spirit.

The marking for north on the compass is also inscribed with a fleur-de-lis, a symbol which is still used on compasses today.



A compass and map are essential tools for navigation. Did you ever use a compass whilst exploring, perhaps as a child or on holiday? What kind of adventures did you have?

**Think of a journey that you go on/have been on.** It could be the journey to a park or the shops or a journey that was taken as part of a holiday.

- ❖ How did/do you travel and what are your favourite landmarks that you pass?
- ❖ How long does it take to get there and do you try out different routes?

*If you are interested in maps, you could perhaps plot out your journey to see all the roads that you pass through.*

**Think about the longest single journey you have ever undertaken.** What were the most interesting parts of your journey? Did you travel with others or perhaps you relished travelling by yourself?

- ❖ Do you have a favourite mode of travel? e.g. foot, bike, train, plane, boat – what makes this your favourite way to move?
- ❖ How far north or south and east and west have you travelled?
- ❖ Have you ever crossed the equator or been to the end of the Metropolitan Line?

Travel writing has long been popular and through the ages there have been various explorers and adventurers noting down their exciting and often perilous journeys to share with others. The Wallace Collection holds this beautiful notebook which was made in France but the cover is Japanese in style.

People were intrigued by countries where life and culture was so different to 18th-century Europe. The art of China and Japan was very fashionable and desirable and there was a flourishing market in imitation East Asian art, called chinoiserie.

The inside of this notebook is lined with silk, and silk folders contain the paper pages. The notebook is clasped shut with a gold pencil. This is not just a notebook, it is an item of beauty and luxury.



The lacquer decoration shows a man standing on the bank of a lake aiming his bow and arrow at a swan that is just flying off. A woman sits beside him, also watching the swan. A second swan is tucked behind a group of flowers and reeds in the lake and is not visible to the couple.

The decoration is very detailed, but the colour palette is restricted to brown-gold, turquoise and pink, and white for the swans. Do you think this scene seems inspired by Japan? What images come into your mind when you think of it?

A notebook can be used to document special holidays, journeys or travel as well as something that keeps safe your innermost thoughts.

- ❖ Have you ever had a special notebook or diary?
- ❖ Why is it important to you and what did you write about?

## Raising funds to support Resonate Arts!

A big 'thank you' to those who have donated so far to our Covid 19 fundraising appeal. We have raised 30% of our target sum of £10,000. As restrictions ease and we work on our own roadmap to recovery developing new arts opportunities for people living with dementia in Westminster and Kensington & Chelsea, your help is needed more than ever. Please consider supporting Resonate Arts. All contributions do make a difference and are very much appreciated. <https://bit.ly/3tBZR8v>

### In memory of Shirley Grant

Heartfelt thanks are due to the family and friends of Shirley Grant for donations made to the charity in her memory. A total of £760 has been raised, which will help us to sustain our arts activities for people living with dementia in Westminster. Shirley was a familiar face to everyone at the Westminster Memory Cafe where she enjoyed singing and dancing - and cakes! Shirley was a loving person in life, always with a smile on her face. She died in January this year and is very sadly missed.



### Independent Age

Resonate Arts is delighted to have been awarded a grant of £9,420 from Independent Age, to strengthen support for our Creative Befrienders programme, enabling us to grow the team and extend our reach to more people with dementia in local communities.

Creative Befrienders are our volunteer artists, linked to individuals living with dementia to enjoy meaningful connection through creativity and shared activities.



### What's On!

**Art Space at the Sir John Soanes Museum, Holborn**  
**Tuesdays, 20<sup>th</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2-3.30pm**

The museum houses a fascinating collection amassed by Sir John who was a renowned British architect. He designed the Bank of England and Dulwich Picture Gallery and created his own home and museum in Lincolns Inn Fields. If you are interested in joining their summer project, **contact Emma** [emiles@soane.org.uk](mailto:emiles@soane.org.uk) or 020 7440 4254 for more details or to register your interest.

*Sessions will take place online or in person, in discussion with the group.*