



## Looking in Wonderland Sir John Tenniel's illustrations to the Alice books 9 December 2010 – 6 February 2011

Some of the most famous children's book illustrations in the world will come to Leamington this Christmas. A selection of the best of Sir John Tenniel's illustrations to Lewis Carroll's two *Alice* books: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and *Through the Looking-Glass* (1872), will be on show at Leamington Spa Art Gallery and Museum from 9 December 2010 until 6 February 2011.

The initial story was made up by Lewis Carroll for the daughters of the Dean of Christ Church College, Oxford during a boating trip on 4 July 1862. One of them, Alice Liddell, requested that he wrote out the story of the little girl who dreamt that she fell down a rabbit hole into Wonderland.

This story, published as *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* in 1865, was an instant hit with children and adults. A major part of the success was due to the unique and imaginative illustrations by Tenniel. Before he was approached by Carroll to illustrate the story, Tenniel worked in London as a political cartoonist for *Punch* magazine. The illustrations on display feature some of the most memorable characters from the books, including Alice, the White Rabbit and the Mad Hatter. They will sit alongside a display of printing materials similar to those used to create these detailed wood engraved prints.

The *Looking in Wonderland* exhibition also features a family Wonderland area where you can delve into Alice's magical world. This area will feature work by contemporary artist Katharine Waters, who has been commissioned to create playful papier-mâché responses to the *Alice in Wonderland* characters.

Dr Chloe Johnson, Senior Curatorial Officer, said 'We are delighted to have the opportunity to display the work of the famous *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* illustrator John Tenniel here at Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum. The exhibition will include 42 of his exquisite and best known wood engravings taken from the original box-wood printing blocks. We will also be working with contemporary artist Katherine Waters to create a fantasy-like setting for the works. The exhibition will appeal to those of all ages who love the adventures of Lewis Carroll's 'Alice' and will be popular with children and families as we approach the Christmas season.'

This exhibition has been created in collaboration with Dr Leo Defreitas from Graphicus Touring. Dr Defreitas will discuss Sir John Tenniel's works in an exhibition talk, *The Making of the Alice Illustrations*, on Thursday 13 January, 6 – 7pm. £3 per person (free entry to FLAG members and students). Places are limited, please call 01926 742700. Payment required to confirm booking.

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LEAMINGTON SPA ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

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Open: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10.30am - 5pm, Thursday 1.30pm - 8pm, Sunday 11am - 4pm, Monday closed (except Bank Holidays) Admission Free.





## Further information and images:

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- Dr Chloe Johnson, Senior Curatorial Officer (chloe.johnson@warwickdc.gov.uk) 01926  
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The exhibition is accompanied by a series of events:

- *ALICE IN WONDERLAND (1903, 12 MINS)*  
will be screened at the Royal Spa Centre on 12, 16, 18 and 19 December. Please call their  
Box Office for more information, 01926 334418.
- *Children's Printmaking Event*  
Saturday 8 January, 11am – 4pm

Explore printmaking and create your own fantastical illustrations inspired by *Alice's  
Adventures in Wonderland*.

£8 per person. Recommended for ages 8 – 12. Places are limited, please call 01926 742700.  
Payment required to confirm booking.

- *THE MAKING OF THE ALICE ILLUSTRATIONS: EXHIBITION TALK*  
Thursday 13 January, 6 – 7pm

Dr Leo Defreitas will discuss Sir John Tenniel's illustrations to Lewis Carroll's two imaginative  
books *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and *Through the Looking Glass* (1872).

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