

April 2025 | News update | [View this email in your browser](#)

FRIENDS OF THE WILSON NEWS UPDATE



Friends of the Wilson
Cheltenham Art
Gallery & Museum

In this issue...

- **Our Spring programme** of talks and events.
 - A **Friend's exclusive** - a free Curator tour of The Wilson's **Common Ground** exhibition. Spaces are limited and must be booked in advance by email.
 - **Save the date!** - AGM on 5th June 2025
 - Latest news and events from the Wilson Art Gallery and Museum
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Thursday 10th April 7:30pm at Cheltenham Spa Bowling Club, St George's Square, Cheltenham GL50 3LJ

Come and test your general knowledge at a Friends' Quiz evening at Cheltenham Spa Bowling Club, St George's Square, Cheltenham GL50 3LJ. You are welcome to come with a team of your friends and family or come along and join other players to form a team. The maximum team size is 6 people. There is a bar selling both alcoholic and soft drinks.

[Book now](#)

EVENING TALK: at St Luke's Hall at 7:15pm on Monday 14th April.

Unbuilt Bath with Julian Orbach

Unbuilt Bath looks at what Bath *might have been*. Georgian schemes for great classical additions to the town gave way to Victorian municipal set pieces.

One of the boldest proposals for a neo-classical centre dates from 1916. Hear the story from John Wood's giant Royal Forum proposal of 1740 to the present day, the neo-Roman Colosseum suggested for Bath Rugby Club in 2024, showing that in Bath, nothing is ordinary. We are delighted to welcome back Julian Orbach.

[Book now](#)

FRIENDS' CURATOR TOUR at 11am on Wednesday 30th April at The Wilson

Exhibition: Common Ground

Senior Curator Layla Gatens will lead a tour of the Common Ground exhibition. This is a

free event for Friends but places are limited and must be booked in advance. Please email events@friendsofthewilson.org.uk to reserve your place.



TALK: Tuesday 13th May 2pm at St Matthew's Church

Beyond The Bagpipes - The Art of Scotland's Second City with Fiona James.

Glasgow's wealth acquired from trade and shipbuilding saw the expansion of the city in the 18th and 19th centuries and produced perfect conditions for the growth of art and architecture.

New patrons commissioned houses and paintings to display inside them. The group known as the Glasgow Boys sought a new direction, heavily influenced by Dutch and French art, and produced paintings that challenged the traditional dominance of the Edinburgh Royal Academy painters.

Fiona, who taught history of art at The Cheltenham Ladies' College, has gone on to develop classes for adults. Her interest in Scottish Art was inspired by a study trip to the city of Glasgow.

Book now

**LINCOLNSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAM STUDY TOUR:
SUNDAY 18 MAY 2025 FOR 2 NIGHTS**

**** We have just had a cancellation so one single room is now available ****

Contact us @ events@friendsofthewilson.org.uk.



TALK: Tuesday 17th June 2pm at St Matthew's Church

Through the Lens of a Royal Photographer with Jack Boskett

Join award-winning professional photographer Jack Boskett for an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at some of the most historic royal events of our recent times. From capturing the solemn moments of Queen Elizabeth II's funeral to the grandeur of King Charles III's Coronation, Jack shares his experiences through his pictures.

In this captivating pictorial talk, Jack will share his stories from behind the camera, offering unique insights into photographing certain Royal events and the artistry behind documenting such iconic moments.

Book now

News from The Wilson

Exhibition: Cotswold Craftspeople

Until 15th June 2025

The Wilson presents Harold Baim's archival documentary film 'The Cotswold Craftsmen'. This is shown alongside crafts from the makers and images of their studios displaying a showcase of the evolution of crafts across seventy years.



Exhibition : Cheltenham's BIG Museum Project: Test Space

Until December 2025

In 2020 the museum wing closed for refurbishment. With renovation work almost complete there will be four large modern collection galleries which will become the new museum.

These will be shaped by the community. Phase One – Community Consultations - a broad range of consultations both at The Wilson and out in our communities which have been used to inform phase two of the project. Phase Two – Testing Ideas with the Communities to include an exciting interactive exhibition and extensive community outreach programme. Phase Three – Reopening the Museum.

Exhibition: Common Ground

Until 31st August 2025

Curated by painter and folklorist Ben Edge, Common Ground invites visitors to explore stories of change, loss, rebellion, and reclamation in relation to common land and the natural environment, from Cheltenham and the Cotswolds. Common Ground brings together well-loved objects from across The Wilson's collections which share local histories and explore how changing values and beliefs, and developments in industry, technology and farming have affected the land.

Easter Treasure Trail

12 April to 27 April. Tickets £5

Hop into the fun this Easter at The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum with our family-friendly Easter Treasure Trail!

Follow the clues, explore the galleries, and discover hidden treasures throughout the museum.

Complete the trail for a sweet reward and enjoy a day of creativity, exploration, and seasonal fun. Suitable for all ages—come and join the adventure! Tickets can also be purchased through the café on the day.

4 new staff at the Wilson

The Wilson has 4 new staff members: Megan Nass, Social History Curator, Mary Girerd, Collections Officer, Layla Gatens, Senior Curator – Art and Exhibitions and Shannon Graham, Community Facilitator.

We will profile each of them over the coming months. We have already profiled Megan and Mary. Nass. We are delighted to introduce Layla Gatens, Senior Curator – Art and Exhibitions. Layla is a curator with over 10 years' experience. She recently held the position of Curator of Contemporary Programmes at Holburne Museum. She has previously held curatorial roles at Serpentine Galleries, Spike Island, Chisenhale Gallery and British Film Institute. Recent publications include 'How We Hold' (2023), 'We Rise: Voicework and Survivorship' (2024) and 'Radio Ballads' (forthcoming 2025).

News from the Trustees

Save the date!

AGM - Thursday 5 June 2025

Hold that date and more details will follow.

Help wanted : Would you like to support the Friends of the Wilson Committee?

The Trustees are hoping one or two members might be willing to join the committee to assist the charity. We are particularly looking with people who like dealing with information and/or are happy interacting with our website to keep it updated. Organisational skills and creative ideas are also very welcome. The workload isn't onerous most of the time and committee meetings happen only every other month. As far as possible we have more than one trustee helping out with each task. We depend on volunteers to keep going so please help if you can. To find out more please contact me, Judie Hodsdon, on chairman@friendsofthewilson.org.uk. Potential trustees can attend a committee meeting to make sure it will suit them.

Best wishes

The Trustees

Friends of The Wilson

www.friendsofthewilson.org.uk

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