

FRIENDS OF THE WILSON NEWS UPDATE



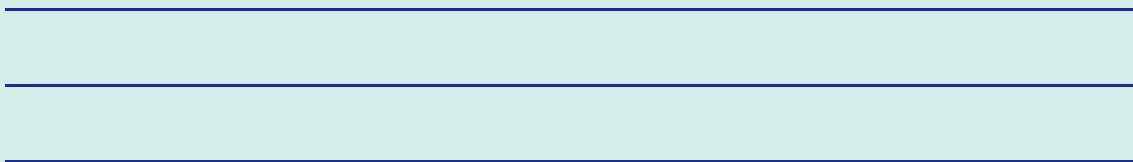
Friends of the Wilson
Cheltenham Art
Gallery & Museum

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We apologise for this resend but the previous newsletter contained the wrong date.

Please note the new date.

- **Our programme** of talks and events.
- **CORRECTION** Please note the new AGM date - FOTW AGM on **Thursday 3rd July 2025** at The Wilson, 17.30 for 18.00.
- Latest news and events from The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum.





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](#)



TALK: Tuesday 15th July 2pm at St Matthew's Church

Exquisite Embroideries to Glittering Glass, the work of women artists in Cotswolds churches

Join Kirsty Hartsiotis to explore the history of women's work in the churches of the Cotswolds. Women's work has always been in our churches, but never more so than in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Sometimes we don't know their names – but they've executed countless banners, vestments, and altar frontals as part of their work for their local churches.

[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.

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 have already profiled three. We are delighted to introduce Shannon Graham. She worked as a duty manager for several years before going to University for further study within the museum sector. She has been assisting facilitation for the first stages of our Test Space development and also works co-curating an online archive of Caribbean storytelling and artworks.

News from the Trustees

Curator Talk on Common Ground exhibition at the Wilson April 30. A Group of Friends were treated to an exclusive private view of the Common Ground exhibition. Curator Layla Gatens provided great insight on the range of exhibits from Anglo Saxon pots to modern paintings and video art through prized exhibits from the Museum which traced the evolution of the landscape. We hope to be able to repeat these talks around future exhibitions.

Please note the new AGM date

FOTW AGM - Thursday 3 July 2025 17.30 for 18.00 at the Wilson

Friends are invited to attend from 5.30 for drinks and nibbles with the AGM starting at 6pm. Agenda and papers will follow by email. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Free tickets for FOW members for Common Ground talk on Saturday 24 May 2025 at 18.00

The Wilson is offering free places for FOW members for an Artist Talk on Saturday 24th May at 6.00pm. Artists Adelaide Damoah, Billy Dosanjh and Ben Edge, will exploring themes in our new exhibition, Common Ground. If you would like to added to our Friends of the Wilson guestlist for the event, please

email rhia.davenport@cheltenhamtrust.org.uk. Spaces are limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis. More details about the event can be found by following this link, [Artist Talk: Ben Edge, Adelaide Damoah and Billy Dosanjh - Cheltenham Town Hall](#)

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 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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