

FRIENDS OF THE WILSON NEWS UPDATE



In this issue...

- **Our programme** of talks and events from June to October. This includes participation in Cheltenham Open Studios by our artists in residence between Saturday 7 June and Sunday 15 June.
 - **AGM date** - FOTW AGM on **Thursday 3rd July 2025** at The Wilson, 17.30 for 18.00. Papers will follow in a separate communication.
 - Latest news and events from The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum.
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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](#)

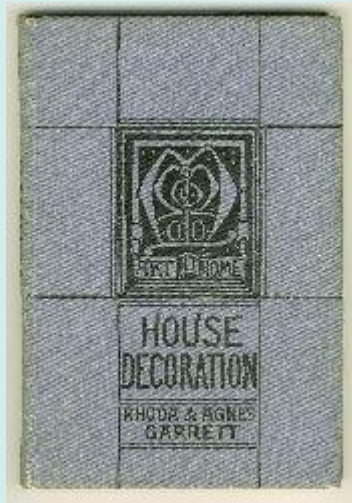


TALK: Tuesday 2nd September 2pm at St Matthew's Church

Earth Fire Iron: Alan Evans and the New Iron Age, 1980-2025

We are pleased to welcome back Mary Greensted as our speaker. Mary's talk earlier this year looked at the Cotswold traditions of blacksmithing and the contribution of the Arts and Crafts, all of which inspired Alan Evans, designer-maker of the museum's grille now over the café entrance. Mary is now looking at the development of artist-blacksmithing in the late 1970s and some of the exciting projects that were created, the new generation of blacksmiths – women as well as men – and the growing importance of hands-on crafts including blacksmithing for disaffected young people with special educational needs, neurodiversity or behavioural issues.

[Book now](#)



TALK: Tuesday 28th October 2pm at St Matthew's Church

R & A Garrett – House Decorators

Emma Ferry makes a welcome return as our speaker. Cousins Rhoda and Agnes Garrett were the first English women to train in an architect's office and subsequently to work professionally as "house decorators". Alongside Agnes's older sisters, the political activist Millicent Garrett Fawcett and the doctor Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, they also took part in the agitation against the Contagious Diseases Acts and were both active Suffragists. This illustrated talk discusses their personal histories, their professional work and the publication of their book, *Suggestions for House Decoration* (1876).

Book now

News from The Wilson

Cheltenham Open Studios

June 7th to 15th June 2025

Our 8 artists in residence at The Wilson will be opening up their studios and displaying/selling some of their work in progress as part of Cheltenham Open Studios on the following dates:

Saturday 7 June between 10am – 5pm

Sunday 8 June between 11am – 4pm

Saturday 14 June between 10am – 5pm

Sunday 15 June between 11am – 4pm

Exhibition: Cotswold Craftspeople - Last chance to see

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 : Play Ground

Until 21st September 2025

Designed for all ages, from toddlers to grown-ups, Play Ground offers games, creative challenges, hands-on activities, and changing nature trails that encourage visitors to venture out and rediscover Cheltenham's outdoor treasures. Whether under sunny skies or on rainy afternoons, Play Ground sparks curiosity about how we share and shape the natural world around us.

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.

News from the Trustees

Please note the 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. There will be a welcome by the President of the Friends, PJ Crook MBE and following the AGM, the guest speaker will be Lisa Edgar, Director of Arts and Heritage for the Cheltenham Trust. We hope to see as many of you there as possible. Papers to follow in a separate mailing.

Friends' trip to Lincoln and Nottingham

30 Friends enjoyed an excellent trip to Lincoln in May, which was organised by Sue Reeves of the Events Team. In addition to Lincoln itself and the outstanding cathedral, there was time to visit Nottingham Castle and Caves enroute and to experience the very moving memorial to Bomber Command, located not far from the city. Lincolnshire has many associations with the RAF and it seemed a fitting place to include in this 80th year since the end of the Second World War. The final day concluded with a guided tour

of Burghley House, the Elizabethan home created by Lord Cecil, the chief adviser to Queen Elizabeth 1, and walks in the gardens designed by Capability Brown.



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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