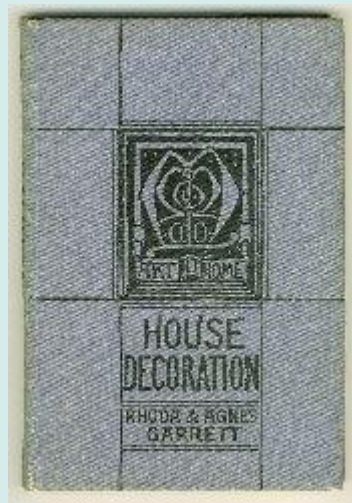


FRIENDS OF THE WILSON NEWS UPDATE



In this issue...

- Tickets are now available for a very special FoTW drinks event, *A Celebration of Art & Taste*, on Thursday 6th November at 5.30pm at The Nook restaurant, Cheltenham. Book now as spaces are limited.
 - Reserve your place for a curator led talk around the new Material Worlds exhibition on Wednesday 10th December.
 - Our FoTW programme of talks from October 2025 to January 2026
 - Celebrate a New Year musical event with us on Sunday 11th January 2026.
 - Northumberland study tour: Sunday 26th April 2026 for 3 nights - itinerary now available.
 - Latest news and events from The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum.
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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](#)



Drinks and Nibbles : A very special FoTW drinks event, *A Celebration of Art & Taste*, on Thursday 6th November at 5.30pm at The Nook on Five restaurant, Cheltenham.

Join us at Cheltenham's visually stunning roof top restaurant, *The Nook On Five*, Quadrangle, Imperial Square, Cheltenham GL50 1PZ for a unique charity evening where art and food come together in celebration of the harvest season. Art expert **Emma Ferry** will share insights on selected works from The Wilson Museum, while Michelin-starred chef **John Burton-Race** presents four seasonal small bites, paired with a welcome drink and inspired by the evening's theme.

Tickets are £40, which include a welcome drink, four curated bites by John Burton-Race and a chance to participate in a silent auction featuring art, signed books, and other art-related items. More information on the items will be circulated closer to the event. All proceeds will go to the *Friends of The Wilson*. **Spaces are limited—book now to secure your place at this sensory celebration.**

Book now



TALK: Tuesday 11th Nov 2025 14:00-15:30 at St Matthew's Church

Talk: World War One Poems & Paintings with Nick Nelson

This literary and visual lecture on the poems and paintings of World War One is set to coincide with Armistice Day. Nick Nelson will explore the rich tapestry of poems and paintings created to capture and commemorate aspects of the First World War between 1914 and 1918. We will take a deep dive into the official war poets Wilfred Owen, Rupert Brooke and Siegfried Sassoon alongside the official war artists John Nash, Paul Nash, Henry Tonks and John Singer Sargent. This will lead to a brief survey of Vorticism and Futurism in art and literature, via such seminal figures as Wyndham Lewis, Christian Nevinson and Filippo Tommaso. Time permitting, we will end with Jeremy Deller's creative event of 1st July 2016 'We're Here Because We're Here' commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1916.

Book now



TOUR: Wednesday 10th December 2025 11:00-12:00 at The Wilson

A Curator-led tour for Friends around the Material Worlds: Contemporary Artists and Textiles 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.



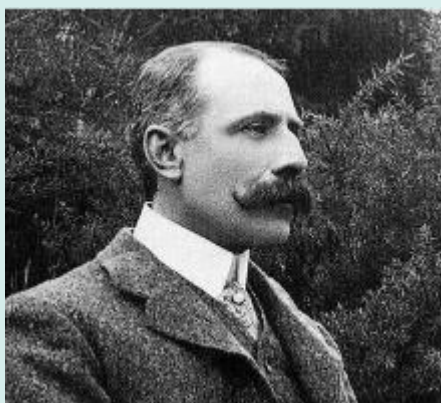
Treasures into Music, with pianist Stephen Selby Sunday 11th January 3pm

Park House, Thirlestaine Road, Cheltenham GL53 7AS by kind permission of Mrs Yoko Mathers

Celebrate a New Year musical event with us! We are delighted to be able to offer a special afternoon of improvised piano music in a private house in Cheltenham. Local pianist Stephen Selby will invite a number of Friends to present a treasured item and he will compose and play a piece of music in response, taking us on a musical adventure.

He will invite 12 audience members to present a personally treasured item – this could be a small painting, jewellery box, vase, or any object of sentimental value. The audience will then experience live improvised piano pieces, inspired in the moment, opening up and exploring the depths of each personal treasure.

[Book now](#)



TALK: Wednesday 20th January 2026 14:00-15:30 at St Matthews Church, Cheltenham

The Life and Works of Edward Elgar with Tim Brain

Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934) is not only one of England's greatest composers, he is also one of the most remarkable of composers. There was an underlying insecurity in his personality, and even before his death he was considered out of step with the times. His music fell out of fashion in the 1960s and 1970s before a revival led to a rediscovery of his works. But there is so much more to the man and his music, as former chief constable and Elgar enthusiast Dr Tim Brain will explore.

[Book now](#)



Study Tour to Northumberland : Sunday 26 April 2026 for 3 nights

The Harry Shaw Travel brochure and booking form will be posted on our website by the end of October. In the meantime we would like to gauge the level of interest in this trip. If you are thinking of joining us perhaps you would let us know at events@friendsofthewilson.org.uk

Day 1 : Cheltenham to Newcastle / Baltic Centre, Newcastle

Day 2 : Alnwick Castle & Gardens inc State Rooms Tour and The Alnwick Garden

Day 3 : Bamburgh Castle inc booked tour / Cragside

Day 4 : St Andrew's Church, Roker / National Glass Centre, Sunderland / onward travel to Cheltenham

Cost: £530 pp (plus £120 single supplement) staying at Holiday Inn Jesmond Newcastle

'Cherry' Ingram by Naoko Abe: "At Alnwick Castle, the Duchess of Northumberland showed me the garden where she has planted the world's largest collection of Taihaku cherries."

Ernest Gimson: Arts & Crafts Designer and Architect by Annette Carruthers, Mary Greensted and Barley Roscoe.

We are grateful to Annette for her suggestion that we visit St Andrew's Church, Roker.

[Click for full details](#)

News from The Wilson

Exhibition Material Worlds: Contemporary Artists and Textiles

Until 11th January 2026

The exhibition explores how artists are using textiles in surprising and radical ways. Illuminating the diverse roles textiles play in contemporary artistic practice, the exhibition brings together artists who take textiles and transform them into theatrical, bold, unsettling and humorous artworks that inspire, challenge and offer new ways of thinking. A Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition from the Southbank Centre, London.

Exhibition - University of Gloucestershire: Creative Industries Degree Show

Highlights

Until 7th December 2025

University of Gloucestershire is collaborating to present a collection of art celebrating the ingenuity and imagination of the next generation of artistic talent. A selection of high-quality work from the University's recent 2024 Creative Arts Degree Show including Fine Art, Architecture, Sound and Music Production, Photography: Editorial and Advertising, and Photojournalism and Documentary Photography.

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.

[News from the Trustees](#)

The Wilson's website has been upgraded

The FoTW supported an upgrade to The Wilson's website. It's now easier to follow what's happening at The Wilson.

- What's On: Plan your visit using our improved calendar search.
- Discover New Content: Learn more about BIG Museum project, the work we do with our resident artists, our communities and how you could get involved.
- Streamlined Navigation: An improved interface simplifies browsing collections, for both.

Check it out at <https://wilsonmuseum.org.uk>. We would welcome any feedback that you have.

Best wishes

The Trustees

Friends of The Wilson

www.friendsofthewilson.org.uk