

# FRIENDS OF THE WILSON NEWS UPDATE



Friends of the Wilson  
Cheltenham Art  
Gallery & Museum

## In this issue...

- **An invite to PJ Crook's Open Studio** with Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Miniatures Saturday 6 December and Sunday 7 December
- Email [events@friendsofthewilson.org.uk](mailto:events@friendsofthewilson.org.uk) to reserve your place for a curator led talk around the new **Material Worlds** exhibition on Wednesday 10 December.
- **Our programme of events for 2026.**
- **Save the date - Thursday 29 January.** All Friends are invited to a Private View of The Wilson's next major exhibition, **Paula Rego : Visions of English Literature.**
- **Booking form and brochure for our study tour to Northumberland Sunday 26 to Wednesday 29 April 2026**
- **Latest news and events from The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum.**



PJ Crook's Open Studio  
Mulled Wine, Mince Pies & Miniatures



*Click the image for full details*

**PJ Crook's Open Studio with Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Miniatures Saturday 6 December and Sunday 7 December 12 Noon to 17.00 at 22 Priory Lane, Bishops Cleeve Cheltenham GL52 8JL**

Come along and enjoy some festive cheer and maybe buy some Christmas gifts. 100% of the proceeds of sales will be split between Friends of The Wilson, Linc, the blood cancer charity and the National Star College.

**Come and celebrate 2026 with us!**



Sunday 11 January 3pm: a wonderful afternoon of improvisational piano music – bring a small treasured item!

**Book now**



Tuesday 20 January 2pm: we welcome Tim Brain to talk on The Life and Works of Edward Elgar

[Book now](#)

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Wednesday 11 February 2pm: Lucy Abel Smith's talk on the Fresh Air Sculpture Show at St Matthew's Church

[Book now](#)

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26-29 April : Northumberland Study Tour  
The brochure with booking form is now on our website

[Click for full details](#)

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### [News from the Trustees](#)



### ***A Celebration of Art & Taste in November***

50 friends and guests enjoyed our special event encompassing food, drink and a silent auction at The Nook with a bird's eye view of Cheltenham. Art expert Emma Ferry shared insights on selected works from The Wilson Museum, while Michelin-starred chef John Burton-Race presented four seasonal small bites. The auction included a number of donated pieces. The Trustees are grateful for all the support from Friends, the hard work of the organisers particularly Kat Hoerath and Cristina Hall and the generous donations including by PJ Crook. The final total raised is still being calculated but is in excess of £2,000.

### **FOTW Art and Poetry of World War 1 Lecture**

Around 50 Friends enjoyed an excellent talk by Nick Nelson of Cheltenham College on war artists and poets earlier this month at St Matthew's Church. This was followed by tea and excellent cakes. Please come and support our lectures and events in 2026.

### **Save the date - Thursday 29 January**

All Friends are invited to a Private View of The Wilson's next major exhibition, Paula Rego: Visions of English Literature. Further details to follow in the next newsletter.

### **News from The Wilson**

#### **Exhibition - Material Worlds: Contemporary Artists and Textiles**

**Until 11 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 7 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 July 2026**

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.

## **Best wishes**

### **The Trustees**

*Friends of The Wilson*

[www.friendsofthewilson.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthewilson.org.uk)

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