

FRIENDS OF THE WILSON NEWS UPDATE



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- **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.**
- **Study tour to Northumberland Sunday 26 to Wednesday 29 April 2026.** We are delighted that the minimum number of participants required has been reached.
- **Latest news and events from The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum.**



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](#)



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

[Book now](#)



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

[Click for full details](#)

News from the Trustees

Your views are wanted

Nominate your favourite item from The Wilson's collection.

24 collection objects have been shortlisted based on visitor feedback so far, and the ask is to choose the three you would most like to see displayed in the welcome area of the new museum. Please use the following [link](#) and make your choices by December 15.

Heritage Planning Questionnaire

You may have seen in the press and on social media that Cheltenham Borough Council has launched a questionnaire to gather views on Cheltenham's heritage planning.

From one of Britain's oldest camera clubs, to Britain's oldest annual literature festival there are constant reminders that the arts play a pivotal role in Cheltenham's heritage and contribute to the quality of life for its residents.

Please complete the questionnaire if you haven't already done so via the [link](#). The deadline for completion is 15 December.

News from the Trustees

Seasons Greetings from the Trustees

Our new team of Trustees has tried very hard to deliver an interesting programme of lectures and events in 2025. Please encourage your friends to join FoTW and come along and support us in 2026.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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. A good time was had by all. We're very pleased to report that the final total raised is projected to be over £2,600.

Save the date - Thursday 29 January Paulo Rego

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 : Meeting Points**13 December 2025 until 22 February 2026**

We Are Creators artists in residence present to you Meeting Points, a group exhibition celebrating the end of their year-long studio residency here at The Wilson. Meeting Points refers to the communal space of the studio, as well as the many crossovers and intersections of a wide range of practices and perspectives.

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

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