

FRIENDS OF THE WILSON NEWS UPDATE



Friends of the Wilson
Cheltenham Art
Gallery & Museum

In this issue...

- A full programme of exciting FoTW events up until the end of June 2026.
 - **Wednesday 1 April Wine tasting.** There are only a few places remaining. Please book now for a curated wine tasting at The Grape Escape, Cheltenham.
 - **Study tour to Northumberland Sunday 26 to Wednesday 29 April 2026.** Click [here](#) for full details. If you are interested please contact Sue Reeves on 07767 624575 and we will quickly check with the hotel re availability.
 - **If you pay your subscriptions by Standing Order please ensure payment amounts are correct.**
 - Save the Date - The **2026 AGM** will be on Thursday 25 June. Details to follow.
 - The latest details on the Museum's reopening in October and the next stage of development: The Arts & Crafts Gallery Refurbishment.
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Wednesday 18 March 2pm: Talk: Living in a work of art: the domestic architecture of C. R. Mackintosh with Fiona James.

[Book now](#)



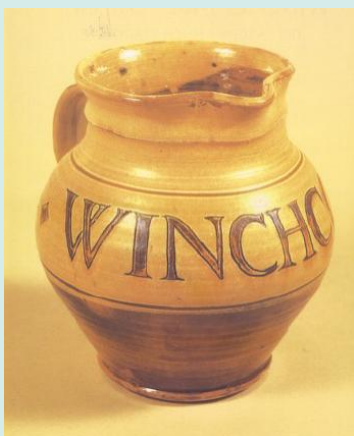
Wednesday 1 April 5:30pm for 6pm: An evening of Wine Tasting and Art Appreciation: A timeless fusion.

[Book now](#)



Wednesday 22 April 2pm. Talk: The Gordon Russell Museum with Christopher Hotten

[Book now](#)



Wednesday 6 May 2pm. Talk: Celebrating 100 years of Winchcombe Pottery with Helen Brown

[Book now](#)



Wednesday 17 June 2pm. Talk: Lucy Abel Smith and the story of the biennial Fresh Air sculpture show

[Book now](#)

News from the Trustees

We'd like to remind members that our membership fees increased last year. While many members updated their standing orders at the time, our records show that some standing orders are still set at the previous rate. We kindly ask all members to check their standing orders and update them to reflect the current membership fee as soon as possible.

It should be possible to view your standing orders through your bank's online portal.

Alternatively, you may need to ask your bank to do it via phone or in person.

Joint membership is £40

Single membership is £25

Under 25s is £20

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

News from The Wilson

Exhibition : Paula Rego: Visions of English Literature

Until 10 May 2026

This compelling exhibition brings together three of Paula Rego's most ambitious and poignant print series – Nursery Rhymes, Peter Pan and Jane Eyre. A selection of personal items from Rego's studio offers intimate insight into her creative process and the narrative impulses that shaped her imagery. Rego's work invites viewers into a universe where innocence and cruelty, fantasy and reality coexist in vivid tension.

The Wilson is putting on various Paulo Rego events including:

18th March: [Curator Led Tour: Paula Rego - The Wilson Museum](#), 1-2pm

9th May: Sarah Middleton Lecture on Women Artists: [Groundbreaking Women in Art - The Wilson Museum](#), 3 -4pm

Exhibition : Cheltenham's BIG Museum Project: Test Space

Until July 2026

The Test Space Exhibition has had 26,200 visitors, and has generated over 7,000 votes for what people would like to see more of in the galleries.

In terms of what interested them most, 41% said Cheltenham Local History in relation to the Arts, Culture and Industry, 34% how the local landscape had changed over time and 25% Local, Modern or Historical Figures or Famous Residents.

In terms of 'what they'd like to see more of' 29% said Local History, 20% Art and 17%

Design & Making.

The Wilson is reopening the newly refurbished museum wing in October 2026 whilst beginning a major refurbishment of the Arts and Crafts Gallery

As the Wilson launches the newly refurbished and redisplayed museum galleries, they will be temporarily closing the Arts and Crafts gallery from June 2026 for much needed repair and refurbishment. The care and conservation of the Arts and Crafts collection will always remain a key priority. Key objects from the Arts and Crafts collection will be displayed in other areas of the museum whilst an ambitious redisplay of the collection is undertaken.

In the meantime, the ambition is to present a major exhibition on the Arts and Craft Movement in the Art Galleries in June 2027, including items from other collections, that will offer fresh perspectives on the Movement, its early origins, its evolution in the Cotswolds and its enduring global influence. The Wilson aims to reopen the permanent Arts and Crafts gallery in 2028 following a fundraising campaign.

Volunteering at The Wilson - is it for you ?

Volunteering at The Wilson Art Gallery & Museum offers a rich and rewarding experience that goes far beyond simply giving your time, it is also an excellent way to expand personal knowledge and develop new interests.

As a volunteer, you become an integral part of a vibrant cultural hub, supporting exhibitions, events and community programmes that help keep Cheltenham's heritage accessible to all. The role also provides valuable skill-building experiences, from engaging with visitors and assisting with workshops and tours, to cataloguing the collections. You become part of a welcoming, enthusiastic team, surrounded by people who share a passion for arts, culture and local history.

Appreciation for our volunteers is shown through small but thoughtful perks such as complimentary drinks and snacks while on shift, and discounts across Cheltenham Trust

venues and cafés. Volunteering at The Wilson is a fulfilling way to give back, meet new people, and enjoy a deeper connection with Cheltenham's cultural life.

Please see further information at [Volunteer - The Wilson Museum](#)

Best wishes

The Trustees

Friends of The Wilson

www.friendsofthewilson.org.uk

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