

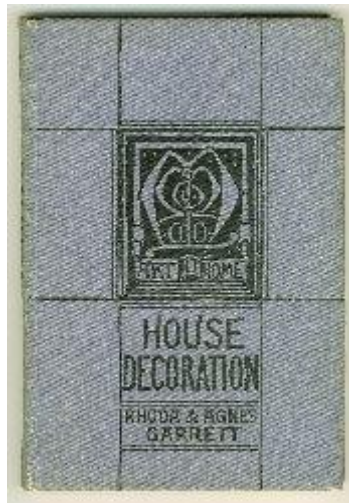
# FRIENDS OF THE WILSON NEWS UPDATE



Friends of the Wilson  
Cheltenham Art  
Gallery & Museum

## In this issue...

- **[Invitation to a Private View of new Material Worlds exhibition at the Wilson on Thursday 18th September at 17.30.](#)**
  - **Save the date - A very special FoTW drinks event on Thursday 6th November at 5.30pm at the Nook restaurant, Cheltenham. Further details will be sent out next week.**
  - **Reserve your place for a curator led talk around the new Material Worlds exhibition on Wednesday 10th December/**
  - **Our FoTW programme of talks from September to December.**
  - **Latest news and events from The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum.**
  - **Early Warning : Northumberland study tour: Spring 2026, Details to follow.**
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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](#)



**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](mailto:events@friendsofthewilson.org.uk) to reserve your place.

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### **Northumberland Study Tour : Spring 2026**

We are putting together a 3-night Study Tour to Newcastle and Northumberland which we do hope will be of interest to Friends. We are currently considering the end of April 2026 (that will depend on the number of single rooms we can acquire).

Our draft itinerary includes Alnwick Castle & Gardens, Bamburgh Castle, Holy Island and Baltic Centre Newcastle.

As soon as we have full details the trip will be advertised on our Friends' website.

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### **News from The Wilson**

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

**19th September 2025 to 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.

**All friends are invited to a Private View of new Material Worlds exhibition on Thursday 18th September at 17.30. Speeches will take place at 18.30.** Please email [events@friendsofthewilson.org.uk](mailto:events@friendsofthewilson.org.uk) to be added to the guest list.

### **Exhibition - University of Gloucestershire: Creative Industries Degree Show**

#### **Highlights**

**27 September to 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.

### **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 [chair@friendsofthewilson.org.uk](mailto:chair@friendsofthewilson.org.uk). Potential trustees can attend a committee meeting to make sure it will suit them.

**Save the date : FoTW drinks event on Thursday 6th November. at 5.30pm at the Nook restaurant, Cheltenham.** The Nook on Five, is Cheltenham's only rooftop restaurant and occupies the fifth floor of the Quadrangle building near Queens Hotel, offering unparalleled views across Cheltenham; Further details of this exciting, themed wine, food and art event in the run up to Christmas will be announced in an updated newsletter next week.

**Best wishes**

**The Trustees**

*Friends of The Wilson*

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

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