

FRIENDS OF THE WILSON NEWS UPDATE



In this issue...

- We have a small number of tickets remaining for the exclusive FoTW members' only evening on 29 October to mark the reopening of the Victorian wing. **Book today!** See below for details of all the special events on the reopening weekend.
- Our programme of FoTW events continues, with our next afternoon lectures ***Street Art in Cheltenham: the art of our time? with Adrian Barlow*** on 28 October and ***Still Life and Beyond with Sara Hayward*** on 25 November, and **Christmas Lunch** at StarBistro on 8 December. **Please book soon if you would like to join us.**
- **PJ Crook** will be holding her ever popular ***Mulled Wine, Mince Pies & Miniatures*** open studio Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December 12 noon until 5pm each day. PJ will also be holding an **'In Conversation with'** event in aid of St Stephens Church on Tuesday 20 October 6:30pm for 7pm, and a **private view of her exhibition, Literary Lions & Other Beasts** is on Friday 9 October at the Paragon Gallery, Cheltenham.

- **3-night Study Tour to Sussex** departing on Sunday 9 May 2027. The itinerary is being prepared and the brochure will be on our website by the end of the month.
 - The latest exhibition at the Wilson - **The Art of Looking: from Dutch Masters to Modern Britain.**
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THE WILSON - MUSEUM REOPENING



Exclusive FoTW members only event

Enjoy canapés and a welcome drink, before joining a guided tour

Thursday 29 October 5:30pm at The Wilson.

Members only event - book now

GRAND REOPENING COMMUNITY PARTY

Friday October 23 5-7pm at The Wilson

5pm Ribbon Cut and Procession

5.30 – 6.30pm Party tea and workshops

6-7pm Music

Click [here](#) to register for a free place

MUSEUM REOPENING WEEKEND EVENTS

October 24 10am to October 25 4:30pm

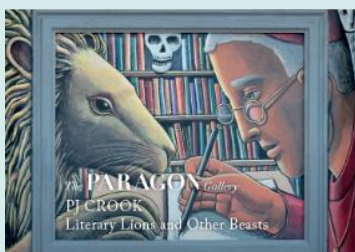
A specially commissioned film to celebrate the reopening of the museum

New Museum Galleries

2 minute tours of 'favourite' objects

Click [here](#) for a full listing of all the events

PJ Crook will be holding her ever popular ***Mulled Wine, Mince Pies & Miniatures*** open studio in aid of FoTW, Star College and LINC, the cancer charity on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 December 12 noon until 5pm each day. Her address is 39 Priory Lane Cheltenham GL52 8JL.



Literary Lions & Other Beasts, a major new exhibition by PJ Crook

Private View Evening at the Paragon Gallery

Friday 9th October 5.30 - 8pm

Exhibition continues until Saturday 7th November

Full details [here](#).

PJ will also be holding an **'In Conversation with'** event in aid of St Stephens Church on Tuesday 20 October 6.30pm for 7pm. Click here for [full details](#) and [booking](#).



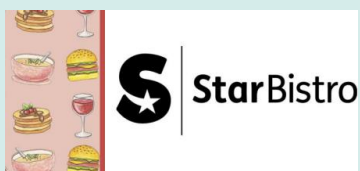
Wednesday 28 October 2pm our next afternoon lecture by Adrian Barlow will be ***Street Art in Cheltenham: the art of our time?***

Book now



Wednesday 25 November 2pm Talk: Still Life and Beyond with Sara Hayward.

Book now



Tuesday 8 December 12:30pm Christmas Lunch at StarBistro, Ullenwood (booking closes 23 October)

Book now

News from the Trustees



Study Tour to Sussex : May 2027

We are delighted that there is a lot of interest in our suggestion of a 3-night Study Tour

to Sussex departing on Sunday 9 May, staying at Avisford Park Hotel, Arundel. The travel company is now working on our itinerary and will then create a brochure (with booking form) which will be on our website by the end of the month.

It is hoped to include:

- Arundel Castle (group entrance and guided tour)
- Chichester Cathedral (group entrance and guided tour)
- Pallant House Gallery (group entrance)
- Fishbourne Roman Palace (group entrance)
- Royal Pavilion Brighton (group entrance)
- Petworth House & Park (additional cost for those who are not National Trust members)
- and possibly English Martyrs Church, Worthing (free but donations welcome)

The guide price is £610pp based on two people sharing : single supplement of £105pp.



Museum of Royal Worcester visit: Saturday 7 November

We have decided to try something a little different for a visit to the Museum of Royal Worcester to watch Lisa Sheppy at work. She is currently artist in residence and, as part of the 275th Anniversary, currently has an [exhibition](#) demonstrating the fascinating art of ceramic transfer printing.

On Saturday 7 November the suggestion is that Friends make their own way to Worcester to meet at the Museum at 10:30. We could then have coffee locally before buying our own admission tickets, watching Lisa and touring the Museum. Saturday opening hours are 10-5 with Lisa's demonstrations 10-2; admission £11.95 with 50% reduction for Art Fund members.

Lunch in a café afterwards might appeal, and possibly a visit to Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum (free entry; open 10-4; café 10-3:30).

Please let us know if you are interested in joining us by emailing

events@friendsofthewilson.org.uk. If you are able to offer, or require, a lift from Cheltenham do let us know that too and we will try to help.

News from The Wilson



Lottery win

One of the Friends won the latest Cheltenham lottery jackpot prize of £25,000. She has generously donated a significant proportion to our funds for which we are very grateful. She decided not to take part in the big cheque handover ceremony so Judie Hodsdon

took her place. The photo shows Jessica Brewster, the Cheltenham Trust CEO, Freddie Gick, one of our trustees, the Cheltenham mayor Cllr Martin Horwood, Phil Wright from the lottery, and Judie.

As part of buying Cheltenham lottery tickets you can nominate a charity which receives half of the ticket price, and the lucky winner had nominated us. If you would like to have a go, and help the Friends, you can find out more at www.cheltenhamlottery.co.uk.

News from The Wilson

The Art of Looking: from Dutch Masters to Modern Britain

Until 3 January 2027

This exhibition, in two spaces, celebrates the richness of The Wilson's collection from the forty-three paintings gifted to Cheltenham in 1898 of the de Ferrières collection, through to 20th century artists including Stanley Spencer, Graham Sutherland, Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant, and Lynn Chadwick.

The Wilson's de Ferrières Collection, is a rare and focused group of European artworks which span the mid-17th to the mid-19th century. In contrast, a second exhibition space highlights modern painters and sculptors. Rather than simply recording what they saw, they experimented with perception, memory, and metaphor. Together, the two periods form a conversation about attention. Whether rendered with meticulous detail or bold stylisation, each artwork asks us to pause, to look again, and to discover how much more becomes visible when we take the time to truly see.

A major refurbishment of the Arts and Crafts Gallery

There is a temporary closure of the Arts and Crafts gallery for much needed repair and refurbishment. Key objects from the collection will be displayed in other areas of the museum. The ambition is to present a major exhibition on the Arts and Craft Movement in

June 2027, including items from other collections. The Wilson aims to reopen the permanent Arts and Crafts gallery in 2028.

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.

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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