

FRIENDS OF THE WILSON

Annual Report & Accounts 2023



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INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

I write to you having completed my first year as Chairman of the Friends of the Wilson and what an exciting year it has been!

One of the nicest aspects of my role as Chairman is meeting other Friends at the varied and interesting talks arranged by our hard-working events team. This group, ably led by Sue Pearce, who is sadly stepping down from the Trustees having served her term, have organised talks, trips, and tours throughout the year. Any of you who have attended these events will know how well organised they are. I have also welcomed the opportunity to speak to many of you throughout the year.



Friends enjoying Christmas lunch.

It was wonderful to be at the re-opening of the Wilson in August 2022 and to welcome the Duke of Gloucester to the Wilson. The duke is now a member of the Friends. Another highlight for me was the reception to mark the Friends and the Cheltenham Trust's acquisition of the Kauffman portrait. (Details of this can be found in the body of this Report). Every time I visit the Friends' Gallery in the Museum I look with pride at the portrait and, surprisingly, since the reception I have seen further examples of her work in Newby Hall near Harrogate and Chavenage in the Cotswolds.

Although only half of the Wilson's premises are open to the public at the present time, the good news is that the Wilson has secured a grant of £300,000 from DCMS to go towards making the older part of the premises safe and updating the galleries. This grant application was supported by the Friends and the fact that we committed £100,000 towards the costs helped to seal the deal! I know from speaking to many of you that you have missed not being able to see more of the collection.

Please enjoy this Report and do come back to me if you have any questions or want to know more.

Ro Kaye

ABOUT THE FRIENDS

The Friends of the Wilson have been supporting the Art Gallery and Museum in Cheltenham since 1984. To date over £600,000 of support has been provided. This has contributed to acquisitions and conservation of the collections as well as activities, projects, and improvements to the building. The Friends are a membership organization and a registered charity. The charity is run on a voluntary basis by trustees appointed by the members.

OUR TRUSTEES

P.J. Crook (President)

Ro Kaye (Chairman)

Judie Hodsdon (Secretary)

Liz Giles (Treasurer)

Sue Pearce (Events Group Lead) – *term completes in June 2023*

Vanessa Graham (Membership Secretary)

Consulota Price OBE (Deputy Chairman)

David Addison – *resigned June 2023*

Irene Finlayson (co-opted) – *awaiting confirmation.*

Rachel Roberts (co-opted) – *awaiting confirmation.*

Katharina Hoerath (co-opted) – *awaiting confirmation.*

Martha Alleguen (Events Volunteer) – *leaving Summer 2023*

Alison Pascoe (Events Volunteer)

Sue Reeves (Events Volunteer)

Become a Trustee or Volunteer!

The Friends of the Wilson is run by the Members and managed by trustees. All the Trustees work on a voluntary basis. With several Trustees and Volunteers leaving in June 2023, we would love to have more Friends join us.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PAST YEAR

Events, Visits and Talks

Over the last 12 months there has been a varied programme of events, visits and talks organized by the Friends Events Group. These are designed to provide Friends with opportunities to learn about places and subjects of interest as well as socialize and explore the Wilson's collections in more depth.

Edward Wilson Anniversary Walk



In July 2022 in honour of Edward Wilson's birthday, a group from the Friends enjoyed a walk from Crickley Hill to Crippetts Lane and Hillcrest, the Wilson family home.

Other events organized in 2022 over the summer included:

A talk by ***Kirsty Hartsiotis on Utopias in the Cotswolds***

This talk explored some of the communities who took up the challenge of living well and creating craft in our local area.



A visit to ***Kelmscott Manor and St. Mary's Church, Fairford***

This proved to be a wonderful opportunity to explore the Manor after its extensive conservation works and to view the only complete set of late medieval glass in a parish church in the country.



The Autumn programme featured two talks and a variety of events in the run up to Christmas:

- *The Perils of Speculation in Regency Cheltenham by Stephen Blake*
- *Aspects of Northern Renaissance Painting with Italian Modifications by Martin Bowden*

Visit to Chavenage House



Chavenage House

Visited in November 2022 followed by some time spent in Tetbury.



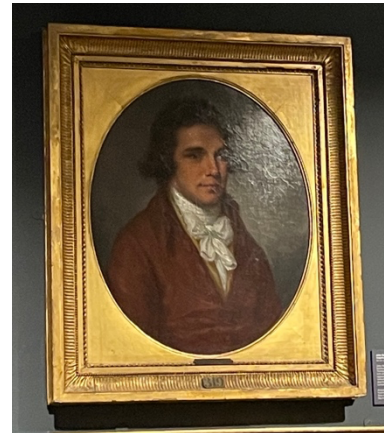
Out of the Frame: an illustrated performance by Joe Treasure



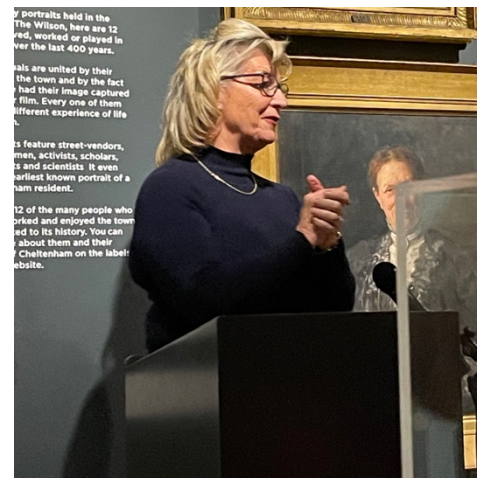
Art from six centuries is brought dramatically to life through the imagined voices of the artists or the figures in their paintings.

Celebration of the Kauffman Acquisition

It was with real pleasure that the Friends, in collaboration with the Cheltenham Trust and partner donors celebrated the donation to the Wilson of the Angelika Kauffman portrait of John Rushout, 2nd Baron Northwick. The reception featured speeches from the partners who worked together to secure the portrait for Cheltenham and some informative talks on the significance of Angelika Kauffman to 19th century art history.



Chair of the Friends, Ro Kaye and Head of Culture, Lisa Edgar welcome guests.



Laurie Bell, CEO of the Cheltenham Trust shares their delight on the collaboration.



Former Chair of the Friends, Adrian Barlow who spearheaded the project to buy the Kauffman Portrait.



P.J. Crook, President of the Friends expressing our shared appreciation and pleasure at the acquisition.

The Friends ended the year with two sociable and informative events.

A Festive Lunch at the Everyman Theatre's restaurant followed by a performance of ***Lark Rise to Candleford***.



Just before Christmas, the Friends and the Wilson held an event for new members. ***New Friends*** had an opportunity to tour the Wilson and hear from Lisa Edgar and the team as well as a chance to meet some of the trustees and explore what type of events and activities they might find interesting.

Joint Visit to Hereford

In February 2023 the Friends and the Friends of Gloucester Cathedral embarked on a joint outing to Hereford. Apart from the opportunity to view the architecture and stained glass, the group was privileged to visit the Cathedral's Chained Library and view the Mappa Mundi.



Highlights in Spring 2023 included two talks and a regular fundraising event:

- ***Glorious Coloured Gemstones by Helen Plumb***, an internationally recognized Gemmologist.
- ***Chatsworth and the Cavendish Family 1550 to 1850 by Dr. Gillian White***.
- ***Friends of the Wilson Quiz Night***. A popular and well attended favourite!

The final Spring event was a visit to **Harvington Hall and Spetchley Park Gardens**. The group was keen to find the seven priest holes and view the rare Elizabethan wall paintings of Harvington Hall. And Spetchley Park Gardens proved a beautiful and restful venue to walk and contemplate nature.

Other Activities and Projects

The Friends are long-time Members of **Cheltenham Arts Council** and took part in the regular Culture Fair in September 2022 with the aim to promote both the Friends and the Wilson.

In March we launched our **New Membership Website**. This allows members to be in control of their membership details and makes payment more straightforward. The new system also allows for rolling renewal of membership, so members have a full year's membership from their individual date of joining. The new website also provides an opportunity for the Friends to develop a Members Site accessible only on becoming a Friend. There are plans to develop content and more information for this area over the next year.

Remember to visit for information and up to date details of visits and events.

<https://www.friendsofthewilson.org.uk/>

In April, Ro Kaye, took part in an interview with **BBC Gloucestershire** to highlight the work of the Friends and discuss the importance of Cheltenham's cultural heritage contained within the Wilson.

The Friends have a great deal of material and files relating to the past 40 years. A substantial number of paper documents are held in Gloucestershire Archives, but their collection is not up to date. There is also a need to review how digital records are kept. These include photographs of donations and pages on the Friends' website. A **Friends Archives Project** is being led by Secretary Judie Hodsdon and Trustee Irene Finlayson to devise a long-term plan to archive Friends' records on a regular basis.

The Friends of the Wilson is a membership-run organisation, so the role of the **Trustees and Volunteers** is important. Long-term Trustee Sue Pearce steps down this year as does Events Group Volunteer Martha Alleguen. Recently recruited Trustees Irene Finlayson, Rachel Roberts and Katharina Hoerath are proposed for confirmation at this AGM. However, new Trustees and Volunteers are always welcome and those interested are encouraged to approach the Chairman, Ro Kaye or one of the other Trustees.

Further collaboration with the Wilson

In addition to working together on the Kauffman Project, The Friends have supported two important initiatives of the Cheltenham Trust and the Wilson. The first was to help secure a grant of £300,000 from the DCMS for the redevelopment of the Victorian Galleries. The second was the funding of a Digital Residency.

To strengthen the partnership between the Cheltenham Trust/ the Wilson and the Friends, work has concluded on a ***Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Cheltenham Trust***. The MOU recognises the special relationship and considerable support that the Friends have and continue to give the Wilson.

FINANCIAL REPORT

These are the Annual Financial Accounts which will be presented at the AGM.

Friends of The Wilson - Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum
Income & Expenditure Account - for the year ended 31st March 2023

	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2021/22</u>
	£	£
Income		
Membership Subscriptions	8,734	8,436
Gift Aid Receipts	1,637	1,503
Events	8,311	9,169
Donations	29,519	47,858
Sales of Christmas Cards	0	5
Interest Received	1,751	152
Newsletter Advertising	475	675
	<u>50,426</u>	<u>67,797</u>
Expenditure		
Venue Entry Costs	2,806	2,739
Food for Events	2,280	289
Printing	631	841
Postage & Mailing	214	333
Coach Hire	1,375	1,855
Speakers Costs	150	170
Subscriptions	30	25
Venue Hire	641	1,287
Website	1,418	89
Donations Made	6,125	0
Office Stationery	46	96
Insurance	185	185
Other expenses	385	308
Bank & Transaction Charges	181	201
	<u>16,467</u>	<u>8,416</u>
Net Income	<u>33,959</u>	<u>59,382</u>

Friends of The Wilson - Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum
(Registered Charity No 289514)

Balance Sheet

	As At 31st March 2023		As At 31st March 2022	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Current Assets</u>				
Debtors & Prepayments	1,497		1,638	
Bank Current Account	68,146		70,476	
Deposit Accounts	167,388		125,188	
		237,031		197,302
<u>Less - Current Liabilities</u>				
Creditors & Accruals		7,293		1,638
Total Net Current Assets		<u>229,738</u>		<u>195,663</u>
<u>Represented By:</u>				
General Fund		200,931		166,972
Restricted Funds		28,808		28,691
Total Funds		<u>229,738</u>		<u>195,663</u>

For the year ended 31st March 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 144 of the Companies Act 2011.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Trustee:

Signed:

Printed

E B Giles

Date:

Friends of The Wilson - Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum
(Registered Charity No 289514)

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

1. Accounting Policies:

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice).

2. Analysis of Fund Balances as at 31st March 2023:

	@ 31-3-23 £	Interest £	Other Movements £	@ 31-03-22 £
General Fund	200,931	1,751	32,208	166,972
Restricted Funds:				
Phyllis Kaye Bequest	1,888	0	0	1,888
Restricted funds for use by The Wilson:				
North Place Organ Fund	1,094	0	0	1,094
Wilson Family Fund	25,826	116	0	25,710
	28,808	116	0	28,691
Total Funds	229,738	1,867	32,208	195,663

OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING YEAR

Visits and Events

The calendar for the next 6 months features some interesting and engaging visits and events. Members can find further details and booking arrangements on the Friends' website. In addition, there will more events announced nearer the Autumn. Friends should regularly check the website <https://www.friendsofthewilson.org.uk/>.

June 2023

A Study Tour to Liverpool

Johannes Vermeer – Master of Light (Talk)

September 2023

Snow Widows – Scott's Fatal Antarctic Expedition by the Women Left Behind (Talk)

July

A visit to every English and Welsh Cathedral (Talk)

October

Salisbury Cathedral Tour

Other Activities

The Friends also expect to take part in future events hosted by partners such as the Wilson and Cheltenham Arts Council.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Trustees would like to thank our Volunteers, Patrons, Legacy Donors, our President P.J. Crook and of course, our Members.

A Final Word from our Chairman.

The Wilson needs our support now more than ever as we face the impact of inflation on costs and increasing cuts in local authority grants. Next year is the 40th Anniversary of the Friends and we hope to celebrate our support and enthusiasm for our town's treasures and for ensuring that future generations can enjoy them.

Thank you for your unfailing support to our wonderful art gallery and museum.

Ro Kaye, Chairman of the Friends of the Wilson

Friends of The Wilson - Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum

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(Registered Charity No 289514)

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The trustees acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Trustee:

Signed:



Printed

E B Giles

Date:

14 June 2023

Friends of The Wilson - Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum
(Registered Charity No 289514)

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Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of The Friends of the Wilson

(registered charity number 289514)

I report on accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are annexed.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charities Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charities Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosure in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair" view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.


Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed  R A Collard