



Chairman's Comments Dr. Michael Rowe

AGM 9th June

Gallery Roof

Rob Campbell, who has been appointed as Head of Heritage Services following Stephen Bird's retirement, has started attending the Friends committee meetings and opened the last private view. He will be speaking, about the future of the service, at our AGM, and I feel sure you will take that chance to make him very welcome.

It is good to be able to return to the Gallery for private views, lectures and events, even if not quite in the way to which we were accustomed before the pandemic. Precautionary measures still apply but they are less intrusive and visitors are accustomed to them. Visitors can now turn up at the door without booking which has helped boost Gallery visitor numbers.

Even if it sounds a little dull, the great news is that the main roof is to be repaired. It is a major task but the funding is in the Council's budget for 2022-23.

This will put our minds at rest about the safety of the artworks on show

and remove the embarrassment of watching visitors trying to avoid buckets on the floor on rainy days.



Upper Gallery and Roof Circa 1903. Bath In Time

The new roof is also to incorporate a photovoltaic function to generate power for the Gallery and so reduce running costs.

The Old Modelling Room

There is also very good progress on the Gallery retrieving the use of the old modelling and teachers' rooms in the Guildhall. These rooms are adjacent to the end wall of the top gallery.



Existing "Modelling Room " Space

The Friends have been asked for a contribution to the expense of the work and your committee is minded to make a very substantial donation once the final costs are known. The main room will become a lecture and teaching room and will be suitable for wet work when children are enjoying their sessions in the Gallery.

The committee is very proud of the fact that the Friends have been able to fund all the Gallery requests for purchases and conservation during lockdown. This has been possible largely because of your generous support with subscriptions and donations and by purchasing the images booklets. Consequently the Treasurer will have a very healthy balance sheet ready for the AGM on Thursday 9th June at 6.00pm.

AGM

New Trustees - The Friends Need You!

As we move forward, we are looking to recruit new Trustees. We are a friendly bunch who work to support the Gallery. If you are interested in a role, perhaps organising exciting new events or using your IT skills to help maximise our public profile, then please do contact Michael Rowe (Chair) at dr.michael.rowe@btopenworld.com

**Katharine Wall
Collections
Manager
Victoria Art
Gallery**

Posh Art

The Norway's National Museum of Art will open in new premises in Oslo next month, in a building designed by German architects Kleihues + Schuwerk. It will be the largest museum in the Nordic region.

The building also includes a spectacular space for temporary exhibitions - the Light Hall - situated on the roof, where

the first solo presentation of Grayson Perry in Norway will open on the 10th Nov 2022 and run until 26th March 2023. The exhibition aims to look at the scope of Grayson's work in various mediums and the artists' preoccupations in terms of themes and subjects from the 1980s through to the present day. We are delighted and honoured to have been asked to lend our work *Posh Art* by Perry to this important and prestigious exhibition. We're always delighted to be able to lend works and share them with a wider audience, and this is a great opportunity for us to raise our profile abroad.



Posh Art by Grayson Perry. Victoria Art Gallery.

**Bath Society of
Artists**

A banner for the Bath Society of Artists 117th Annual Open Exhibition. The text 'BATH SOCIETY OF ARTISTS' is in white on a blue background. Below it, '117TH ANNUAL OPEN EXHIBITION' is in yellow on a blue background. The banner is decorated with a bouquet of red and orange tulips and a blue and white polka-dot pattern.

From 14th of May to 2nd of July The Gallery is hosting the 117th Annual Open Exhibition of the Bath Society of Artists.

This exhibition showcases the best of the region's artistic talent and is a must for art lovers and collectors alike, with all works for sale.

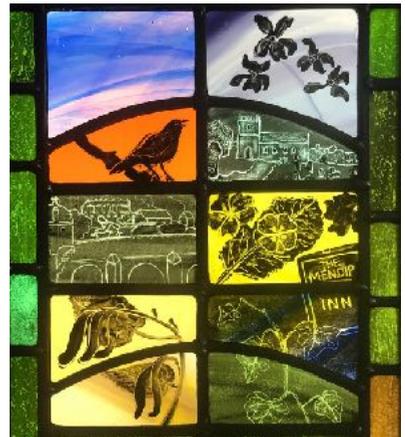
The Society was founded in 1904 with 26 members. It has grown over the years to a membership of around 120 diverse, talented artists. Many distinguished 20th-century painters have exhibited with the Society including Walter Sickert, Patrick Heron, Mary Fedden and Howard Hodgkin. The annual exhibition is also open to non-members and attracts up to 1,000 entries, with sales doubling in the last few years. The prizes on offer total more than £3,000. During the exhibition members of the public can vote for their favourite artwork; the winner receiving the Public Choice Prize. Details on the Gallery website: victoriagal.org.uk

Friends Events Dates for your Diary

Coming up in June we are delighted to announce two exciting events. Further information and booking details will be sent to you shortly.

**6.00pm on Tuesday
14th June** at the Gallery we have **The Secrets of Stained Glass** -

An illustrated talk by Sally Pollitzer, exploring contemporary and ancient glasswork.



The Explorer, Sally Pollitzer. Part of a secular panel celebrating *In Pursuit of Spring* by Edward Thomas

11.00am on Wed. 22nd June at Wells Cathedral

A private tour with Sally Pollitzer and Robert O'Farrell (Cathedral guide) looking at the important windows of Well's Cathedral in their historical and architectural context, followed by lunch in the refectory and then a visit to **Holy Well Glass**: a unique opportunity to visit one of the top conservation workshops in the country.