

THE FRIENDS OF GUILDFORD HOUSE

(Reg Charity Number 1032180)

Committee Report for 2023 – 2024.

Committee:- Acting Interim Chairman – Hilary Leigh.
Joint Hon. Secretaries – Greta Willis, Sylvia Jones.
Hon. Treasurer – John Surrey.
Visits Organiser – Gwyneth Craske.
Lectures Organiser – Beryl Davies
Members – Ann Fearey, Tessa Johnson, Phyl Morris, Pauline Read.

Sadly, the meeting on 27th April 2024 is likely to be the last meeting and AGM of 'The Friends of Guildford House'. Following the letter from the Committee last Spring and the pleas for volunteers at the AGM the Committee had high hopes that it would be rejuvenated by enthusiastic new blood. Therefore, contrary to our original intention, we did not dissolve 'The Friends of Guildford House' in October but, with both reduced resources and increased, but careful expenditure, tried to put an attractive programme together for those loyal members who had re-joined. However, the new committee members have not materialised and we cannot continue as we are, as is explained in the accompanying letter.

Membership during 2023-2024 stood at 100.

Beryl arranged a full programme of six lectures in the Guildhall, including Tammy Ellis on Gwen John, whose exhibition 'The Friends' had visited earlier in the year, while Daphne Jefferies explored the work and life of William Hogarth and Ronnie Ireland's title was 'Valesquez – Prince of Painters'. Olive Maggs talked about the life and current exhibition of Singer Sargent at Tate Britain. However, the attendance has been rather disappointing.

Due to the fall in demand and the need to fill a coach, Gwyneth confined the visits to the Spring and Summer months. A trip was made to the National Gallery to visit their exhibition 'After Impressionism'. The visit to Chichester to Pallant House to the Gwen John exhibition was followed by time in Chichester or a boat trip on the Chichester Canal. Visits were also made to Loseley Park House & Garden and to King John's House, Romsey.

The Committee thank David Worrall, the Web Manager, for maintaining our website and are grateful to him for sending reminders of meetings, etc, to members on line. We also thank Arthur Savage, the External Independent Examiner for his services

Nomination papers are enclosed for those members, who wish to put themselves or a friend forward for a place on a new committee. We need a minimum of six new members. Please return the Nomination Form to reach the Hon. Secretary, Greta Willis at 28 The Shimmings, Boxgrove Road, Guildford, GU1 2NG. by **Friday, 22nd March 2024**.

The Constitution of the 'Friends of Guildford House' may be viewed on the website. Any other query contact the Hon. Secretary on 01483 575535; email: willis632@btinternet.com.
