



Friends of Guildford House
(Reg Charity Number 1032180)

Dear Members.

You will be aware that the Committee has attempted to encourage members to consider joining the committee to replace retiring members to ensure the future viability of the FoGH. The viability of the Friends was addressed at the AGM and in the accompanying Chairman's letter in 2023 but there has not been any response to these appeals. Also membership numbers have been reducing year by year – 100 at present.

Attendance for the recent lectures has been poor and numbers going on the arranged outings has also been low. It has become increasingly difficult to continue to provide these activities with the increased costs including those of lecture fees and transport.

The committee has decided that it is advisable to dissolve the Charity and is giving members notification of this proposal.

The Friends of Guildford House was founded by Iris Hawkins, former curator of Guildford House. The first season of lectures started in October 1970 and The Friends of Guildford House was registered as a charity in 1994.

The Constitution states -

The object of the association shall be

- (1) The advancement of public education in the arts, in particular – but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing – through the promotion, support, assistance and improvement of the Guildford House Art Gallery.
- (2) To promote Guildford House as a building of historic interest and to support permanent public access.

The Friends has been a successful and much enjoyed association with interesting and varied lectures and visits to galleries and other cultural visits.

The Friends have also supported acquisitions to the Guildford House collection including the recent (2019) presentation of the portrait of Anna Louise Halsey with squirrel by John Russell and the conservation of 17 John Russell portraits in the Borough collection.

All thanks to the enthusiastic support of the members.

On April 17th 2024 following the AGM a Special General Meeting will take place.

The proposal at the Special General Meeting is the Dissolution of the Friends Guildford House Charity.

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Constitution (para 12) Dissolution

If the committee decide that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Charity, it shall call a meeting of all members of the Charity, of which not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution proposed) shall be given.

If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, the Committee shall have the power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Charity.

Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Charity as members of the Charity may determine or failing that shall be applied for some other ->

charitable purpose. A copy of the statement of accounts or account and statement for the final account period of the Charity must be sent to the Commissioners.

If the proposal is confirmed the present committee members are willing to be nominated en bloc to make the necessary arrangements for the dissolution of Friends of Guildford House Charity.

If the proposal is rejected the membership must appoint a new committee and a nomination paper is enclosed for this purpose.
