

Friends of the RWA AGM – 18 March 2026

Chair's Report

This has been a significant year for the Friends of the RWA.

At the Special General Meeting held on 25 September 2025, members voted unanimously to wind up the FRWA as a separate charity and to transition to the new Friends Scheme operated by the RWA. That decision reflected careful consideration of governance, administration and the long-term best interests of both organisations.

Before turning to transition matters, it is important to record that 2025 was also a full and active year for the Friends.

Our programme of Talks and Trips & Visits continued to be well attended and enthusiastically supported. The committee is currently hard at work organising the 2026 Friends' Exhibition, which will be held in the Youngwood Room and remains a much-valued opportunity for members to exhibit their work. These activities remain at the heart of what the Friends have always done so well: creating community around art.

Financially, the charity remained stable during the year, with income and expenditure in line with expectations. Full details are set out in the Treasurer's report and accounts.

I would like to thank all committee members, sub-committee leads and volunteers who have continued to give their time and energy so generously. Particular thanks are due to Stephen for his careful stewardship of the charity's finances, to our Secretary Cate Davey for her diligent work on the transition and to the RWA team for their support.

Although the vote to wind up has been passed, the FRWA must remain operational for a period while we complete the necessary administrative and regulatory steps. This includes:

- Migrating remaining legacy standing orders to the RWA bank account
- Ensuring all financial matters are properly concluded
- Meeting Charity Commission requirements
- Preparing for the final transfer of funds and closure procedures

Our intention remains to complete the winding-up process in October 2026 once these matters are fully resolved.

Thank you to all Friends for your continued support, both historically through the FRWA and now through the evolving Friends Scheme. While the formal structure changes, the spirit of engagement and support for the RWA continues.

Andrew Nixon, Chair
Friends of the RWA

PS Although this is a brief and formal AGM and report, we look forward to inviting Friends to a special celebration later in the year, so look out for further communications!