

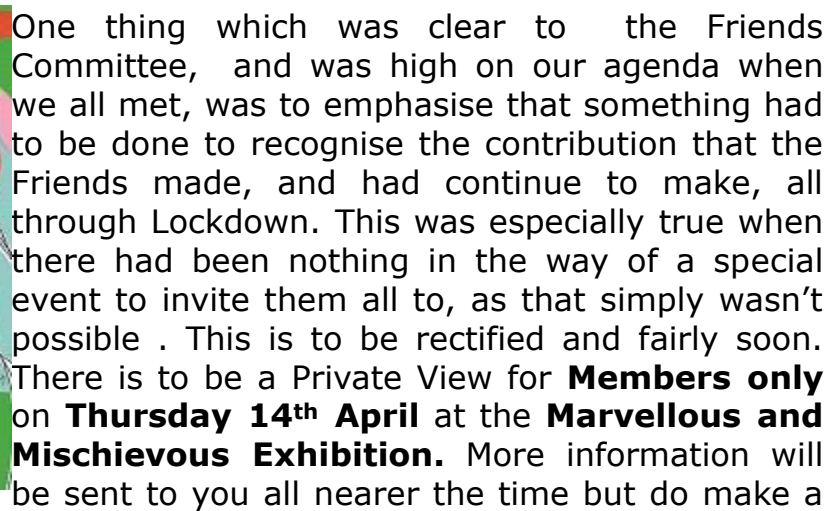
The Friends of the Burton Winter Newsletter

A very warm welcome to all the Members of Friends, combined with an apology for not writing this Newsletter far closer to the beginning of the New Year. There is however a really good reason for the delay, which is that the Trustees Committee of the Friends had been waiting for a date to be organised to establish a meeting, as agreed, between us and the Trustees of the Burton at Bideford. Understandably this meeting, which was felt to be of some importance, had been delayed, mainly because of the difficulties we have all lived through during the past few years. The meeting took place just recently and there will be more about it in this Newsletter.



The last event of 2021, and actually the first real fundraiser for the Friends for over two years, was of course the Annual Open Art Exhibition. This was happily a real success running as it did almost up to Christmas Day and for a short while after. The number of entries was simply overwhelming although equally hugely appreciated. There were challenges of course with such high numbers but most were managed with skill and patience by members of the Burton's staff. Thanks must go particularly both to Warren Collum for all his work in respect of hanging the Exhibition and to all the staff at the front desk for managing the payments, most of which were made by card. Having this latter aspect of the Exhibition in place meant that the role of Stewarding became a far more pleasant task. Thanks must go to everyone who gave up their time to sit in and Steward and to the Friends Committee Trustee, Pamela Orchard, who spent hours making sure that there were Stewards in place for each and every day. The final total of nearly £3,500 demonstrated a significant fundraising success.

Meeting with the Burton Trustees, as already briefly mentioned, was something everyone felt would be sensible. Only three of the original 10 Friends Committee members remained in place just as Lockdown began and almost all of the Burton Trustees were new to the Board during that time. So, did everyone know what each other really did? Were there opportunities for collaboration or indeed for seamless working together on some occasions? Who really was supposed to do what and did that actually happen? All these were questions to be asked and were, with some interesting results. One of the most significant is that we will be organising a joint fundraising committee to look at the more major fundraisers when all hands are needed. It doesn't mean that the Friends won't continue to do the events that they are familiar with and that if truth be known they quite enjoy doing. A date for a Quiz Night may well be the first one you will hear about!



Finally a big thank you for all this year's subscriptions, many of which have been pouring in during the month of January and what a welcome sight they are, especially as they provide the initial and hugely useful basis of regular funding by the Friends. May we just remind you that the Annual Sub is £20 per Member per annum and has been so for some years now? Mentioned only just in case anyone has forgotten to change their Standing Order, easily done I know! Oh and if you haven't then please do collect your Loyalty Card from the Reception at the Burton as it gives you 10% of all purchase above £10.

JW/IH