*FRIENDS OF KETTERING ART GALLERY & MUSEUM*

*AUTUMN NEWLSTERR, NOVEMBER 2015*

*Dear Friends of KAGAM,*

I hope you had a good summer and are enjoying what seems to be turning into a rather cold autumn - but gorgeous mixed colours, unlike anything I saw in Solomon Islands where I spent some weeks drafting laws for the Government there.

That meant I missed Sandra De Laszlo's well-attended talk in October about Philip De Laszlo, and the prize-giving event for the Northamptonshire Open Studios Trails, including the prize for best studio donated through the Friends. We were glad to be able to support the Gallery and the Borough Council in sponsoring the NOST, which was very successful and we hope will be repeated in future.

There is still one Wednesday evening talk before Christmas - Steve Sharpe talking about the 'Archaeology of Kettering Past, Present & Future.' It is on Wednesday 18 November at 7.30 and I hope you will want to come. BBC Northants interviewed Steve about the talk a few days ago and it should prove very interesting.

Friends' member Stella Benford has her own exhibition in the Large Gallery starting 21 November and you might wish to support that also.

Our first talk of the New Year will be Roy Hargrave talking about Alfred East in Japan. The talk - "East to East" - will be on Wed 20 January at 7.30 and will show a less-known aspect of East's work.

Other activities continue apace, with the Kettering Heritage Map now on display at the Newlands Centre Bus Stop, as well as at the station and at the library, and plans for its wider use. We are supporting conservation work on some of Alfred East's landscape paintings, and on a wooden sculpture by DiCamargo, and we provide active help for children's events in the museum.

All this activity needs funding, and its needs hands to help, so any offers of either will be gratefully received. The AGM will be on Wed 20 April when there will be a full report of all our activities and an opportunity for discussion. Meanwhile, if you have any ideas for how the Friends might generate more funds or more members, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Wishing you all the best for the remainder of 2015 and for a successful start to 2016.

John Wilson

*Chair*

*Friends of Kettering Art Gallery & Museum*

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