

Friends Extra first meeting 8th October 2018

The first meeting of the Friends Extra was a great success. There were 30 people who were full of enthusiasm and wanted to carry the idea forward. Will Jones from the NT also joined us and was very enthusiastic on behalf of the volunteers.

We started the evening with introductions and general chat about what we wanted from the group. This was followed by tea and much cake that was kindly donated by the Friends and Events teams. So, a big thanks to you all for your delicious contributions.

We split everyone up into groups of four and allowed everyone to 'brainstorm' ideas on how they would like to continue. There were some really good ideas and suggestions. Friends Extra will be run under the Friends of Croome 'umbrella'.

We will meet monthly during the day (everyone wanted daytime activities). The meetings will comprise a forum where we can organise amongst ourselves events and activities in small groups for the following months. The ideas for activities that came up were as follows:

Afternoon Teas	Hobby-share events
Art Gallery visits	Lunches
Behind the scenes access tours	Museums
Book Groups	Painting/Art groups
Boules	Picnics
'Bring a Dish' tasting events	Pub Reviews
Card Games	Quizzes
Cinema	Races
Coffee meets	Theatre Trips
Concerts	Trips to local heritage places (NT and others)
Garden Visits	Walking Groups (for all abilities)
Heritage Railway Trips	

The idea is that as an individual you might like to do some of these activities but feel they would be much better shared. So, bring your ideas along to the forum and see who would like to join you. For example, you might like to go to the West of England art exhibition in Clifton in November and know of others who would like to walk at Croome. So, when we get together, we can organise this.

Next year when the latest RAF building is fully restored, we will be able to use it for meetings but until then we will meet at Severn Stoke village hall. The next meeting is on **Monday 5th November at 10.30 am** so please put the date in your diary and bring your thoughts and ideas plus a cake to share if you would like to.

We look forward to seeing you and planning future events. Friends Extra is open to all members of the Friends of Croome and to NT Croome volunteers.

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