

# Autumn Greetings!



## Happy Autumn!

We hope that you all keeping well, the collections team are all well and as busy as ever. The Wilson is still closed to the public as we prepare for the refurbishment so we are all working a mixture of on site and remotely whilst this is ongoing. Unfortunately we still have no word on when volunteering can continue but will let you know as soon as we hear anything. We are all missing you and all the fantastic work you do.

### Updates from Benedict

I've been keeping up my weekly routine of environmental monitoring, pest checks and maintenance to keep the collections safe, additionally I've been able to continue with my project to inventory the coin cabinet. Recently I've finished typing up the numismatic catalogue cards and have moved on to the long but fun task of checking them against my list. So far a highlight has been finding this coin purse made from an Edward VI shilling. Best, Benedict.



### Updates from Ann-Rachael

I have learned an enormous amount about the history of Pittville in the last 2 months, I am so grateful to Steve for sharing his knowledge, only wish I could take it all in! I, and everyone else on the team, have stewarded the Pump Room whilst it has been open to visitors, the highlight being the day we had a band, jeeps, dancing and the Art Deco style café as well as the new trail etc. My Aunt's WVS outfit was a hit! Apart from that I have helped pack our offices (again I hear some of you say!), and now we are packing and wrapping objects likely to be 'in the way' of the various building works due to start soon. I'm hoping to return to the Edward Wilson exhibition when time allows as next autumn all seems rather close now.

### Updates from Sophie

It is great to be back onsite at The Wilson and preparing for our reopening sometime in April 2022. Like Ann-Rachael says we've been stewarding at Pittville and it has been lovely to see visitors enjoying the ground floor and the interpretation which is now there. Planning for the 2022 exhibition programme is underway and we are making progress with the exhibition to celebrate Edward Wilson in the 150th anniversary year of his birth, I hope that we can do him justice!

### Updates from Kirsty

I've been beavering away on different scenarios for the galleries for when we reopen. Expect a freshened up set of spaces. I for one can't wait to see things back in front of the public again – although as Ann-Rachael says, it's all rather soon, spring will be here before we know it. We moved Clarence up to the first floor on Monday and as you see, he's looking longing out for his public! Otherwise, like Ann-Rachael busy packing things in preparation for the works. I too have been delving into the Regency period for Pump Room related work, and it's been great fun seeing that building come back to life again. It's great to see the Gimson resource up on the Wilson website, too – big thank you to Chris for assisting with that!



### Updates from Matthew and Eleanor

We have been concentrating on completing the inventory for pod 1 at the depot and to this end are doing an extra day a week there in order to finish it by Christmas – at the moment we are concentrating on large objects which have included some interesting specimens such as a bear skull, rhino horn and emu eggs. We are also sorting out several boxes more agricultural and woodworking equipment for potential deaccessioning, which will hopefully help to free up some storage space. Also just about finished the documentation manual for accreditation which has been a long time in the making, so thanks all for your edits, insights and contributions!

We hope you've enjoyed our updates and that you're keeping well as nights draw in and temperatures fall. Do let us know how you're getting on.

With best wishes from the Collections team

