

Committee(s): Keats House Consultative Committee	Date(s): 18 September 2012
Subject: Keats Foundation (KHCC 2012-08)	Public
Report of: The Director of Culture Heritage and Libraries	For information

Executive Summary

This report summarises progress in delivering Objective 3 of the Keats House Business Plan 2012-13. Progress is recorded in bold.

Objective 3 - To improve the long term sustainability of Keats House and its services by supporting the Keats Foundation

The Foundation is now a registered charity and the process of winding up the Friends of Keats House charity is nearing completion. A programme of events for Foundation supporters is in place and the Trustees are planning a targeted fund raising programme.

Recommendation

It is recommended that this report is received.

Main Report

Current position

1. Discussions with the Charity Commission have now led to the formal registration of the Keats Foundation (registered number 1147589). The Commission required a slight emendation of the original aims of the Foundation and these have now been agreed as follows:
2. *The Objects are:*
The promotion for the public benefit of creative writing and the art of poetry, in particular (but not limited to) the work, life and times of the English Romantic poet John Keats (1795-1821) including by (but not limited to):
 - (a) *enhancing public awareness of and supporting education and community projects for Keats House (charity number 1053381)*
 - (b) *providing funding and support to the promotion of poetry writing and poetry appreciation.*
3. The registration of the Keats Foundation has now allowed the formal process of the winding up of the Friends of Keats House (reported at the previous meeting of this Committee) and the transfer of its funds to the Foundation. This process should be completed shortly. The Friends decided that they would give an element of their funds as a direct gift to Keats House to mark the work they done to support the service for over twenty years. A suitable memorial will be found, such as a garden bench, and this will also mark the huge contribution of one of the Friends, Jean Haynes, who died recently. Jean had been one of the

founders of the Friends in the late 1980s, had served as its chairman and was still on the steering committee at the time of her death. Jean was also an active member of the Consultative Committee since its formation and was hugely knowledgeable on many aspects of Keats' life and work.

4. The Foundation held an evening reception in May to mark its coming together with the Friends and this was its first event in the newly commissioned Nightingale Room in Ten Keats Grove. The actor Roger Lloyd Pack gave a marvellous reading from Keats' poetry and letters.
5. A number of events for supporters have also been planned in the coming months including:
 - On 31 October at 6.30pm an annual meeting and reception where Foundation supporters can meet the Trustees and can hear about and discuss future plans. There is also likely to be a guest speaker/reader.
 - On 20 November at 7pm there will be the inaugural Chairman's Christmas lecture in the Nightingale Room. This will be given by Seamus Perry, Fellow in English Literature at Balliol College Oxford and author of works Coleridge and Tennyson among others. This will be free for supporters and charged for members of the public.
 - A garden party is being planned for later June/early July 2013 and, although not directly targeting supporters, an academic Keats conference in the spring of 2014.
6. The Trustees of the Foundation have recently developed plans for a focused fundraising campaign, using the advice of experts in the field and concentrating on projects at the house involving young people both in and outside formal education.

Conclusion

7. The work undertaken on both the Foundation and Friends charities with the Charity Commission will enable the Foundation to move more quickly forward during the coming six months, particularly on fundraising.

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