

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Keats House Consultative Committee	5 February 2013
Subject: Keats Foundation (KHCC 2012-08)	Public
Report of: Director, Culture Heritage and Libraries Department	For information
<u>Executive Summary</u>	
<p>This report summarises progress in delivering Objective 3 of the Keats House Business Plan 2012-13. Progress is recorded in bold.</p> <p>Objective 3 - To improve the long term sustainability of Keats House and its services by supporting the Keats Foundation</p> <p>The winding up of the Friends of Keats House charity has now been completed. A programme of events for Foundation supporters is in place and the Trustees are planning fund raising initiatives.</p>	
<u>Recommendation</u>	
<p>It is recommended that this report is received.</p>	

Main Report

Current position

1. The formal process to wind up of the Friends of Keats House and the transfer of its funds to the Foundation has now taken place. As reported at the previous meeting of this Committee, the Friends also decided that they would make a gift direct to Keats House to mark the work they had done to support the service for over twenty years and in particular the contribution Jean Haynes. This has also taken place.
2. A number of events have taken place during the autumn:
 - All supporters were invited to the launch of Nicholas Roe's new biography of Keats in October where the author gave a presentation on his research and then hosted a Q&A session.
 - On 31 October the first annual meeting and reception was held where Foundation supporters were able to meet the Trustees and hear about plans both for the Foundation and more generally for Keats House.
 - In November the house hosted the inaugural Chairman's Christmas lecture which was given by Seamus Perry, Fellow in English Literature at Balliol College Oxford. He spoke about the relationship between Keats and Coleridge and how Keats was more influenced by his fellow poet than has previously been suggested.

3. The newsletter for Foundation supporters is now being issued on a regular planned basis.
4. The Trustees of the Foundation have recently been working with a fundraiser to work up specific initiatives to get the programme launched.

Future plans

5. The Foundation garden party will take place on Thursday 27 June.
6. The Foundation is planning an academic conference specifically focusing on John Keats. The current thinking is that it will take place over the weekend of 18th/19th January 2014.

Conclusion

7. The Foundation's work over the past few months has focused on its supporters and particularly on improving the offer for them. This will continue in the coming months alongside preparations for the Keats conference and fundraising projects.

Contact:

Geoff Pick
Head of Public Engagement, Heritage Services
Culture, Heritage and Libraries Department
020 7332 3811
Geoff.Pick@cityoflondon.gov.uk