**Header:** Friends of the Bowes Museum membership from July 2025

Dear Friends

As you know, members voted to dissolve the Friends of the Bowes Museum charity at the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on 16 April 2025. Details of this decision were circulated to Friends in the minutes of the EGM, along with the May edition of *Bowes Arts*.

This is a significant point in the Friends organisation’s history and a change to your relationship with The Bowes Museum as a Friend. The museum gratefully recognises the generous support the Friends have given over the last 75 years, and, in the spirit of the Friends, we very much hope that you will continue to support the museum and its future activities through your continued participation in the museum’s membership community.

We are writing to confirm details of the transfer of your membership from the Friends of the Bowes Museum (registered charity 507680) to The Bowes Museum (registered charity 3879872), as outlined in the papers sent to members ahead of the EGM.

All existing Friends memberships will continue under a special membership strand called ‘Friends Alumni’ for the duration of your current subscription, whether Annual or Life. When the expiry date of your Friends membership approaches, The Bowes Museum team will be in touch to invite you to continue your support by enrolling in the museum’s membership programme. Until that time, there is no immediate action you need to take.

As a member of The Bowes Museum, you will continue to enjoy the principal benefit of full access to the museum, including exhibitions, activities, and events. You will also receive our monthly Members’ newsletter by email and be able to book for our regular Members’ events throughout the year.

We have put together some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which we hope will answer any further questions you may have. If you have any additional queries, please contact us on Friends.Alumni@thebowesmuseum.org.uk or call on 01833 690606.

Yours sincerely

Colin Hardy, Chair, Friends of The Bowes Museum

Hannah Fox, Executive Director, The Bowes Museum

12 June 2025