



FRIENDS OF THE SMITH  
ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

SC 016450

# Friends of the Smith Newsletter

## August 2018

[www.friendsofstirlingsmith.org.uk](http://www.friendsofstirlingsmith.org.uk)

**Dear Friends,**

### **FAREWELL TO ELSPETH**

I'm sure you will want to join the committee in wishing Dr Elspeth King a long and happy retirement when she leaves the Stirling Smith at the end of August.

Elspeth has been the Director of the Smith since 1994 and has given her life to the job. Her knowledge of Stirling and its history is vast and detailed and she has been a tireless champion of the collections, as evidenced by her final publication, "The Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum and its Collections", now available to buy. Generous to the end, Elspeth declined to accept any personal retirement gift or farewell event from the Friends, and instead requested that the funds should be used to support the maintenance of the Museum. Elspeth's retirement leaves a gap which will be hard to fill: we wish her well.

### **NEW DIRECTOR**

A new Director has been appointed and will start in September. Caroline Mathers has extensive experience in the arts and heritage sector in Scotland and is currently at the museum of the Heart of Midlothian Football Club in Edinburgh. We look forward to welcoming her to the Stirling Smith and working with her in support of her priorities.

### **HAVE YOUR SAY AT THE FRIENDS' AGM**

Following the funding crisis in February, these are uncertain times for the Stirling Smith. Change is coming, in which the Friends should be fully consulted as users and supporters of the Smith.

Our AGM will be an opportunity to do just that when the new Director and the new Chair of Trustees, David Mitchell, will both be present. They are keen to meet the Friends and introduce themselves, and to hear what we have to say.

**The AGM will be held on Monday 10th September at 7.30pm...details in this mailing. Don't miss this opportunity to ask questions and have your say.**

### **AGM TALK – "OUR SECRET HERITAGE"**

David Mitchell's day job is Director of Conservation at Historic Environment Scotland. He has agreed to give the AGM talk, recalling some of the hidden gems and inaccessible places he has encountered in his career, with his own photographs.

### **AUTUMN LECTURES**

Our new season of lectures opens on September 24<sup>th</sup> with a former Keeper of Scottish History at National Museums Scotland talking about historic Scottish silver – don't miss it!

**If you want to influence the future development of the Smith, come and get involved. Your comments are always welcome – just email via the website.**

**Chris Kelt, Chair of the Friends**