



FRIENDS OF THE SMITH  
ART GALLERY & MUSEUM  
SC 016450

# Friends of the Smith Newsletter

## January 2018

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

**Dear Friends,**

I'm pleased to be putting together this newsletter for the first time as your new Chair. I'll report on some notable events from 2017 and take a look forward to the coming year. At our AGM in September, the Director Elspeth King told us of her decision to retire in August 2018 which will be a momentous change for the Stirling Smith after Elspeth's dedicated years of service. The Friends' committee will be considering how we can best mark Elspeth's retirement on your behalf.

### FUNDRAISERS

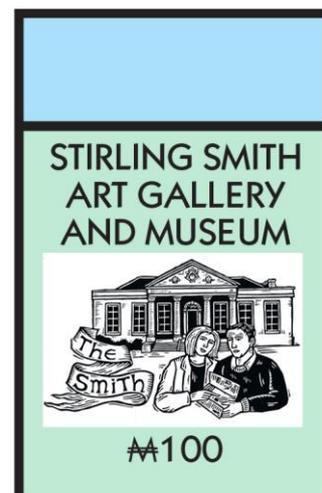
A unique event took place in the Smith in early May when the popular BBC actor Crawford Logan, who is a Friend of the Smith, was joined by young concert pianist Iain Clarke in a wonderful programme of words and music "Pictures at an Exhibition", specially devised for the occasion. Our heartfelt thanks go to Crawford and Iain for lending us their talents for this event which raised over £600.

Our other main fundraising event was also a first, a coffee morning in October in Holy Trinity church-hall which was ideally placed for such an event. It was wonderfully supported by Friends, who as well as coming for their coffee, provided things for stalls, raffle and tombola, then came to buy them! We also obtained sponsorship from local shops and businesses and altogether the event raised over £870. Many thanks to the Friends who donated and helped and to all the sponsors, a full list of whom is on the website.

### SUPPORT FOR THE SMITH

Having raised funds, we respond to requests from the Director for what she judges are priorities. One major request recently has been funding to enable the Stirling Smith to have a square on the Stirling edition of Monopoly, which is selling fast as I write. This is the sort of one-off opportunity that the Smith simply does not have a budget for, and the Friends are able to support. We were pleased to meet the request but at £9,000 over three years it was a major item.

Another unexpected and urgent call for help was to pay for a replacement fridge in the Museum Cafe, without which of course the Cafe could not function.



One of the pictures on display in the October exhibition by the Scottish Society of Botanical Artists was by Margaret Walty, showing British seaweeds. It was purchased for the collection by the Friends because Alexander Croall, the first Curator of the Smith, was a notable botanist and seaweed specialist.



## **TESCO BAGS OF HELP SCHEME**

### **We need a little help from our Friends.....!**

We applied to this scheme for funding to pay for specialist blackout painting of the skylight in Gallery 3, a difficult and expensive process costing £3500. We have been chosen to get a minimum of £1000, and possibly the whole £3500, depending on **an in-store vote in two Tesco stores in the Stirling area**: the superstore in Wallace Street and the express store in Bridge of Allan. The vote takes place from **Tuesday 2nd January until Wednesday 28th February** and to vote you will need to make a purchase in the store of any value. You will receive **one token per transaction**, to vote for one out of three charities. **PLEASE VOTE FOR THE FRIENDS!**

## **COMMUNICATION**

Since the establishment of the Friends' website [www.friendsofstirlingsmith.org.uk](http://www.friendsofstirlingsmith.org.uk) many of you are using the email facility to let us know of changes of address etc. and some have kindly offered to receive mailings electronically to save on postage. We are working towards email communication but we are mindful of the changes in data protection legislation which will come into effect in 2018 and need to be addressed. Meanwhile the Friends' website is the best source of up to date information about Friends' events. Where possible, links to information about Museum events will also be provided. The Museum of course has its own website, with full details of Museum events, some with electronic booking facilities: [www.smithartgalleryandmuseum.co.uk](http://www.smithartgalleryandmuseum.co.uk)

Postal mailings to Friends will of course continue but due to increases in printing costs, the Museum is producing fewer printed newsletters and invitations. You can sign up to the Museum's email updates, either in person at the reception desk or via the Museum's website. You can also pick up monthly What's On sheets in the Museum reception area.

## **NOMINATION FOR QUEEN'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE**

In late 2016 the Friends of the Smith were surprised and pleased to be nominated for this award. After an assessment visit, a local recommendation was sent to London but we were unlucky in the final selection. Nevertheless the Friends were invited to attend the Queen's Garden Party at Holyrood in July 2017. The day was rather cold and windy but we enjoyed the occasion. The nomination recognises the contributions and achievements of all Friends, past and present, over the forty three years since the Friends formation in 1974.



Our spring lectures are detailed on the enclosed flyer and we hope to see you there. May I wish you all a healthy and happy 2018!

Chris Kelt, Chair of the Friends of the Smith