



FRIENDS OF THE SMITH
ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

SC 016450

Friends of the Smith Newsletter

January 2019

www.friendsofstirlingsmith.org.uk

Dear Friends,

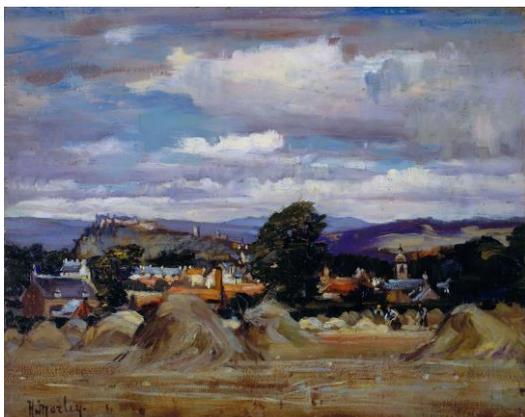
It's only four months since Caroline Mathers took up her post as the new Director of the Stirling Smith but she has already impressed everyone with her friendly inclusive approach and personal dynamism. Caroline and the Stirling Smith Trustees have already embarked on the first phase of their plan for the future of the Smith and the Friends are delighted to be able to make a substantial contribution to help to take this forward.



Redevelopment of Gallery Two

The Trustees intend to completely redevelop Gallery Two in order to display much more of the Museum's own collection whilst telling the story of Thomas Stuart Smith through his own paintings and those he collected. The work will be done to a high standard by Studio Arc, one of the foremost names in contemporary Scottish gallery design, who have worked on national projects such as the National Portrait Gallery. When completed, the gallery will showcase the considerable potential of the Stirling Smith for the future, in order to support ongoing bids for major financial support.

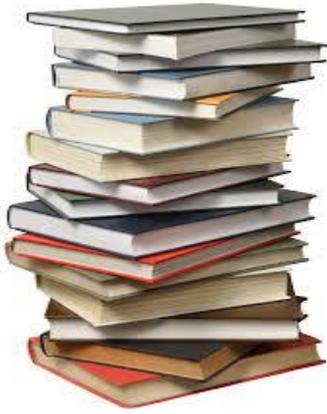
The Friends have given £20,000 from the acquisition fund to support this redevelopment and we are very pleased to be involved in this exciting plan. David Mitchell, Chair of the Trustees, has asked me to express his thanks to you all for this significant contribution and for all the work which went into raising these funds. David said "For such a gift to have been made is a welcome endorsement for the future. I think we are all excited to see this project progress so that we can enjoy our collections in an environment worthy of our collective aspirations for the future."



The Friends' Picture

The paintings in the refurbished gallery are to be hung in a "salon hang", in multiple rows, in order to display as many pictures as possible.

To say thank you for our contribution, Caroline has asked us to choose one of the pictures and on your behalf, the committee has chosen "A View of Stirling from St Ninians" by Henry Morley.



Book Sale

It's been some time since we've had a book sale so I hope your shelves are bulging with volumes that you have read and are ready to pass on. The date of the sale has still to be decided but it will probably be in April when the weather should be improving.

We will notify the date and the arrangements for collecting donated items later. So please don't give your books to any other charity in the meantime!

Plant Request

Martin McCrae, from Organic Garden Services, who is Head Gardener for the Stirling Smith, has a request for Friends:

"There are two small projects in the Smith garden that you may be able to help with. Firstly, we are creating a herb bed beside the front seats, to add to the pleasure of those sitting out in the summer. We would be grateful for any herbs that you could spare, either culinary or medicinal. The second project is to increase the biodiversity in Ailie's Garden and for that we need any wild native plants that you may be harbouring in your garden, preferably the less common ones. If you can help, please drop off plants on the platform at the rear door of the Smith. Enquiries to 01786-461173."



New staff uniforms

Here is Vincent Connell, Senior Museum Assistant, showing off his smart new uniform at the Stirling Smith reception. The new uniform for front of house staff includes a warm fleece, also with the Stirling Smith logo.

Beside Vincent is new shelving with attractive merchandise, one of several improvements in the shop, to encourage visitors to spend more money. Just some initial signs of changes to come.

Happy New Year!

2018 has been an eventful year for the Stirling Smith and 2019 promises to be no different. We start our spring lectures with Dr Miles Oglethorpe, Head of Industrial Heritage at Historic Environment Scotland on The Forth Bridge. Don't miss it! Wishing you a healthy and happy new year!

Chris Kelt, Chair of the Friends