

London society's support for Kilmartin Museum

Members raise £35,000 for education room

Plans for a revamped Kilmartin Museum have been given a lift with a generous donation towards an education space in the new building, writes Colin Cameron.

The Highland Society of London took on the challenge of fundraising on behalf of Kilmartin Museum in 2019, organising events as well as putting out an appeal to individual members for donations.

Last week the society announced it had reached its £35,000 target – enough to build and fit out an education room in the new museum, ready for its planned re-opening in 2023.

President of the Highland Society of London Duncan Byatt said: "The society is delighted to be associated with the expansion of the Kilmartin Museum and to have funded the education room in the new building.

"We hope this will enable much greater numbers of visitors to learn about the

fascinating ancient history of Kilmartin Glen and ignite their interest in archaeology and local rock art.

"The new museum is exactly the sort of project members of the Highland Society of London look to get behind and we wish it and the Kilmartin Museum team great success in the future."

The donation was welcomed by Kilmartin Museum education team lead Julia Hamilton.

Support

"We are delighted to have the support of the Highland Society of London," she said, "and I'm really looking forward to having a dedicated space to deliver the learning service after many years of managing in inadequate facilities."

The dedicated space will allow the education team to work with a wide range of schools, the Young Archaeologists and Wildlife afterschool club, as well as a variety of activities for adults including talks, workshops and lectures.

Families urged to apply for support grant

Jenni Minto MSP is urging eligible families in Argyll and Bute to apply for this year's Best Start Grant School Age Payment, as applications opened this week.

The payment is open to families who get tax credits or certain other benefits and have a child who was born between March 1, 2016 and February 28, 2017.

It is part of five family payments delivered by Social Security Scotland that also includes: Best Start Foods; Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment; Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment and Scottish Child Payment.

Best Start food payments are set to increase to £4.50 per week on August 1 to support low income families to buy healthy food for children under the age of three.

The area's MSP said: "The Scottish Government is working to ensure that every



Jenni Minto MSP.

child in Argyll and Bute has the best start in life and these payments – which have been described as 'game-changing' – form part of that effort to build a fairer, more equal Scotland.

"The Best Start payments have been vital in ensuring children in Argyll and Bute and across Scotland have the best start in life, with around £5,000 of support being provided by the time a child turns six."

An impression of the planned education room, by Reiach & Hall Architects.



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