



L-r: Professor Linda Perriton, Professor Irene McAra-McWilliam, Dr Valentina Bold, Anne Rinaldi and Lindy Richardson.

SWI HERITAGE PROJECT

Engaging academics

The SWI Heritage Project feeds into a permanent home for the SWI's collection on The Crichton Estate, Dumfries. This Visitor Learning Centre will be in partnership with The Crichton Trust, and will celebrate both of our nationally significant stories.

As work continues on developing ready-to-go archives and collections, the SWI and The Crichton Trust invited leading academics to meet the project architects to share their insight into what a Visitor Learning Centre could offer. The Visitor Learning Centre aims to be a dynamic hub of learning and outreach, so ensuring the building is fit for purpose for academic and research use, as well as engagement and student engagement, is vital.

The key learnings from the event were:

- To improve the international appeal of SWI's heritage by highlighting the worldwide connections with UNESCO-backed Associated Countrywomen of the World (ACWW), and rural women's groups including fellow WIs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. *This will now be added to key outcomes in SWI's archiving project.*
- To increase focus on future heritage. *The architecture team will now explore opportunities the Visitor Learning Centre can provide for future generations to participate in on an ongoing basis.*

The academics, all with a focus on women's history and crafts, are hugely enthused by the project and will act as a sounding board as it develops.

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Dr Ailsa Hutton provided an extensive tour of the Museum of Rural Life

ATTENDEES

- Our host **Dr Ailsa Hutton**, curator for Modern and Rural History, National Museums Scotland
- **Professor Linda Perriton**, University of Stirling. *Specialism: women's governance.*
- **Lindy Richardson**, Programme Director, Edinburgh College of Art, Edinburgh University. *Specialism: textiles.*
- **Professor Irene McAra-McWilliam OBE**, Deputy Director Research & Innovation, The Glasgow School of Art. *Specialism: Design innovation.*
- **Dr Yvonne McFadden**, Strathclyde University, co-director The Scottish Oral History Centre, Convenor Scottish Women's History

They were joined by:

- **Valentina Bold**, Heritage Officer, The Crichton Trust
- **Anna Ribaldi**, Heritage Officer, Dumfries & Galloway council
- **Gwilym Gibbons**, CEO, The Crichton Trust
- **Karen Jackson**, South of Scotland Enterprise Director of Strategy, Partnership and Engagement
- **Michael Dougall** and **Jennifer O'Donnell**, ODonnellbrown Architects
- **Diane Cooper**, CEO, SWI

