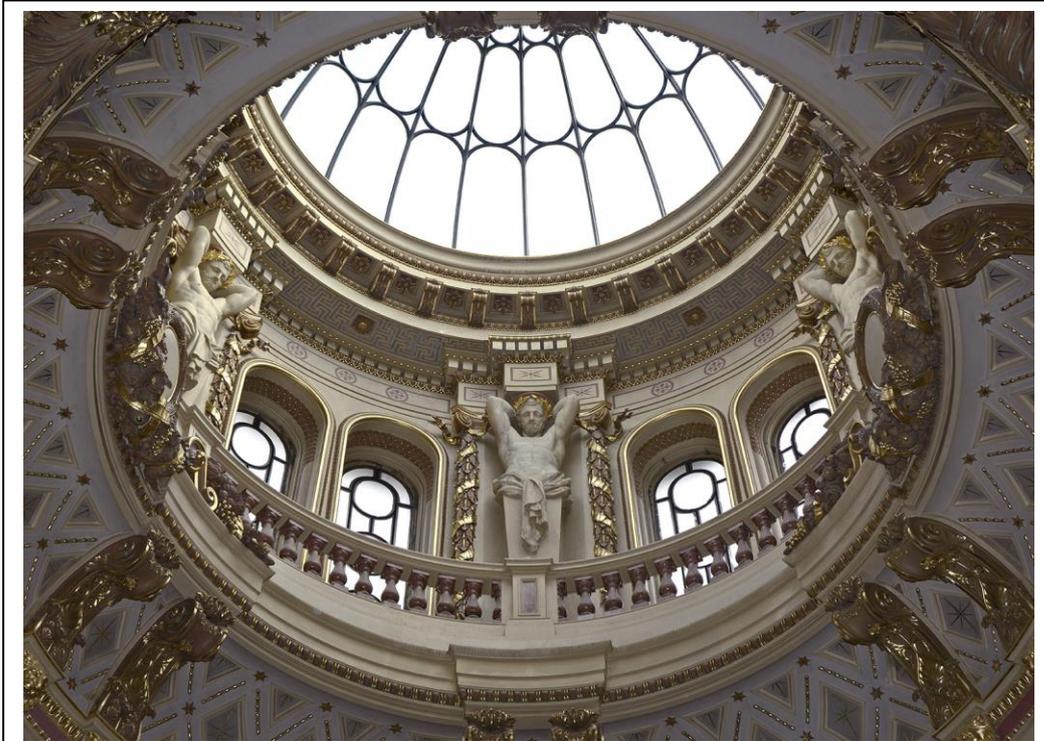


May 31st 2018

The Fitzwilliam Museum completes major conservation project on iconic Grade I listed domed entrance ceiling



The Fitzwilliam Museum's Founder's Entrance, one of the best preserved Neoclassical interiors in the world. Designed by architect George Basevi © The Fitzwilliam Museum

The Fitzwilliam Museum announce today (Friday 1st June 2018) the conclusion of a major building conservation project to the Main Entrance of the Founder's Building, that has focused upon the domed lantern ceiling at the highest point of the roof.

Completed in 1848, the Fitzwilliam Museum's Founder's Building was designed by Neoclassical architect George Basevi and is one of the grandest museum interiors in the world. The maintenance and preservation of its historic fabric is of national importance. As a Grade I listed building, it is a priority to ensure it will remain resilient and sustainable for centuries to come.

The project was funded by the University of Cambridge alongside the Fitzwilliam and employed specialist building contractors, and an architect to carry out the year-long project. The contractors have restored the domed lantern; the highlight of the Fitzwilliam Museum's Main Entrance Hall, with Fitzwilliam conservators acting in an advisory role. A temporary ceiling canopy has been in place for the last year to allow access to the lantern and decorative scheme of the ceiling.

Press | The Fitzwilliam Museum

Conservation work to the internal 18th century decorative scheme and plasterwork has included:

- To gild and restore parts of the original ceiling design to its former glory
- To return vents in the domed lantern to their original Victorian design
- To replace broken panes of curved glass in the lantern and make it water tight
- To secure the lantern balustrade and repair sections

The final stage concentrated on reducing the carbon footprint of the Museum by installing LED lighting, designed to be both environmentally and economically beneficial, a vital element for the building's future sustainability.

The Fitzwilliam Museum's Assistant Director, Kate Carreno commented: *'The Fitzwilliam is a historic Cambridge landmark, internationally recognised for its importance and beauty. This restoration will ensure the safety and sustainability of this much-loved building on the famous Cambridge skyline.'*

- ENDS -

Notes to editors:

To register attendance and for all enquires please contact Emma Shaw, Fitzwilliam Museum Press
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About the Fitzwilliam Museum

Founded in 1816 the Fitzwilliam Museum is the principal museum of the University of Cambridge and lead partner for the University of Cambridge Museums (UCM) Major Partner Museum programme, funded by The Arts Council. The Fitzwilliam's collections explore world history and art from antiquity to the present day. It houses over half a million objects from ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman artefacts, to medieval illuminated manuscripts, masterpiece paintings from the Renaissance to the 21st century, world class prints and drawings, and outstanding collections of coins, Asian arts, ceramics and other applied arts. The Fitzwilliam presents a wide ranging public programme of major exhibitions, events and education activities, and is an internationally recognised institute of learning, research and conservation.

www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

The Fitzwilliam Museum
Trumpington Street
Cambridge CB2 1RB

Free admission OPEN: Tuesday – Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays: 12.00 – 17.00; CLOSED: 24-26 & 31 December, 1 January, Good Friday

Business Partners

The Museum is supported by our Business Partners during 2018; TTP Group plc, Brewin Dolphin.