



## Opening up!

### *Falkland Society Newsletter, May 2021*

Dear member/Dear friend,

The daffodills are starting to fade, tulips are appearing here and there, and local venues are opening up. Let's hope for a good summer, and not too many traffic jams in our narrow streets.

We hope to revert to meeting in person for at least some of our meetings, starting with our trip to Wemyss in July. But for May we are still meeting online via Zoom; our speaker is **Alexandra Lotz**, who will be talking about **Horses and Heritage** - see below.

And don't forget if you missed any of our previous Zoom lectures you can view the recordings at [falklandsociety.org.uk/recordings.shtml](https://falklandsociety.org.uk/recordings.shtml).

#### In this issue:

- [Invitation to the May meeting](#)
- [Falkland Historic Buildings](#)
- [Falkland is a rural paradise ...](#)
- [Future meetings](#)

A reminder that this Newsletter comes to you from **The Falkland Society**, Scottish Registered Charity SC017201, [falklandsociety.org.uk](https://falklandsociety.org.uk).

*Peter Burman (Chair)*

## May Meeting

Your invitation to the Falkland Society meeting for May 2021



Horses fascinate and inspire us through their beauty, their elegance and their character. They fire our imagination, symbolise freedom, strength and power. They are ambassadors, build bridges and connect humans across borders and generations.

Until a few decades ago the hoof-beat of the horse determined the rhythms of agriculture, transport, courtly representation, war and peaceful existence. Today, most people are not aware of the distinguished role horses used to play and are not familiar with the

cultural significance of the different breeds, their breeding places and the numerous evidences of the human-horse-relationship from prehistoric times onwards. In her lecture Alexandra Lotz offers a journey through the European horse world in history and today!

Alexandra Lotz has studied Interior Architecture, Architectural Conservation and World Heritage Management at Wiesbaden, Cottbus, Virginia and Melbourne. She is part of the Cultural Heritage Centre of the Brandenburg University of Technology and currently works on her doctorate about Marbach state stud near Stuttgart. She is an active horsewoman and has worked for several different European state studs. Over the past decade she set up a network of 30 traditional horse-breeding institutions in 15 European countries. With her consultancy "Horses & Heritage" she focuses on equestrian heritage and especially on European stud culture. She has published widely about European stud culture and enjoys sharing her experience at international conferences and on the tours she organises for lovers of horses and heritage.

**18:45 for 19:00, Wednesday 12 May**

**Meeting ID: 836 6641 2324**

To join the Zoom meeting, click on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83666412324>

From 18:45 on the 12th.

If you can't join from your computer, you can dial in by phone on

**0131 460 1196** or **0203 481 5237** or **0203 901 7895**,

and then quote the meeting ID **836 6641 2324**



*Alexandra with her Kladruher Horse Generale Aluma II-20*

For more about Alexandra, see <https://www.horses-and-heritage.net/english/>.

## **Falkland Historic Buildings**

Have you visited our Wikipedia-style encyclopaedia of Falkland Historic Buildings? We are adding to it all the time, but we always welcome more information about the buildings of Falkland and its historic burgh and parish. If you live locally, you may find an article about your own house or street - take a look, and let us know if we've got anything wrong, or if there's more information to be added. And some of the photos were taken earlier in the year when the light was not so good. Your own photographs, or old photographs of Falkland as it used to be, are always very welcome.

<https://historicfalkland.scot/wiki/>

***Ross Burgess***

## **Falkland is a rural paradise ...**

**... but like all visions of paradise it needs hard work to realise its actuality**



The two images of Ross show two of our favourite moments on the walk which we take almost daily. The first shows him at that moment, with a glorious backdrop of daffodils, when we leave the village and begin to trudge up the hill road, into the territory of the Falkland Estate; and the second shows him towards the eastern end of the 'Faulds Road', half-way up the hill. From the Faulds Road walking from west to east a series of panoramas unfold of breathtaking beauty, and as you walk eastwards almost the whole of the village of Falkland comes into view. It is a matter for debate whether these vistas were ever consciously intended or whether they have just evolved by chance. But I am always reminded of the famous 18th-century designed landscape of the Rievaulx Terrace above the spectacular ruins of Rievaulx Abbey in North Yorkshire. As you walk from one end of the terrace to the other - there is a temple at either end - a series of rides cut through the woodland allow the spectator to glimpse different aspects of the ruined abbey. It is a thrilling experience, the conjunction of Gothic abbey and Baroque terrace, and the experience of 'moving through the landscape' as we can so readily do here at Falkland.

The other reason we love this walk is because the beginnings and endings of it, whichever way we go, are quite arduous, while the middle part, the Faulds Road, is tranquil and we can catch our breath. This feeling of being tranquil, of our spiritual as well as our physical energies being replenished, is a gift which the Falkland Estate gives to all of us who exercise the extraordinary privilege of being able to walk on it, whenever we choose, and in whichever direction we choose, with a few exceptions. The exceptions are mostly what might be called 'common sense', especially in this Covid-time, though I think we are coming to realise that considerate behaviour towards other users should be the norm, wherever we may be, and not just a response to a highly transmissible pandemic.

There is also the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, but I have a suspicion that most of us would find it difficult to recite its precise contents (see <https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/>). We might well feel able to suggest the key thinking behind it, though, as it can be summed up in the deeply meaningful word 'respect': respect in this context means concern for the well-being and safety of other people; it means respecting the rhythms of the agricultural year with respect to the activities of farming and the nurture of animals; it means respect for wild-life, embracing birds and mammals as well as trees and wild flowers. It means, if you are on a bicycle, taking extra care to avoid people and animals and to let them know of your presence; it means, if you are walking a dog, remembering that you have a responsibility to keep it under control at all times (and that it is your own responsibility to take home and dispose of those little plastic bags and not to hang them artistically on the branch of a tree); it is the responsibility of all of us to take our rubbish home and dispose of it responsibly and ecologically; and so on.

How can all these good and sensible practices be achieved? Good management is part of the answer, and harnessing the energy and goodwill of all users (as far as is possible) is surely another. As a long-term trustee of the Falkland Stewardship Trust, working in harmony with the Falkland Estate Trust and the farming trust, I know how enormously hard Ninian Stewart and his team work to try and ensure good management, which has many constituent aspects. It is a small team, though highly motivated. The past year has been especially tough for all the Covid-related reasons that have affected all other organisations one way or another. Yet the Estate has never been so highly visited and appreciated, and it is likely that this year's numbers will be even greater.

What can members of the Falkland Society do to support and help? Our Vice-Chair, John Smith, has suggested the establishment of a **Falkland Estate Users Group**. It is far and away the most imaginative suggestion I have heard recently, and it is something that other estates popular with visitors might equally consider. The immediate response has been positive and we shall no doubt rapidly move on to a highly necessary stage of consultation with other entities within and outwith the local community. We have a warm relationship with some other local Estates, including Cambo, and there are national organisations which can and will offer us that wider experience along with 'Dos' and 'Don'ts'. But what I hope will not be lost is that vision of wisdom and good sense enshrined in John's suggestion: embracing visitors, ensuring through good management that they feel welcome and get the best possible benefit out of their visit, and harnessing the energy, skills and goodwill, especially of regular visitors - likely to live not too far away - to act in a whole range of voluntary capacities that will buttress the work of the professional team.

It is very early days as yet but it occurs to me that one of the things that members and supporters of the Falkland Society could do would be to send us (by email to [news@falklandsociety.org.uk](mailto:news@falklandsociety.org.uk), or to John or me personally) ideas which have occurred to you or experiences and good practice you have noticed elsewhere - and the elsewhere might be not only in Scotland but anywhere where visitors are invited into a living working landscape, across Europe and on other Continents. The British concept of a National Park (very different in emphasis from those in North America) is of 'working landscapes'. I lived for seven years in the North York Moors National Park and it was fascinating to see and hear how the 'working landscape' of the Park was managed - through many different initiatives, through good communications including interpretation, through keeping local residents well informed and consulted about changes or problems, through the advice and wisdom of the National Park staff, and through their skilful working with 'conservation volunteers'. I would hope that we might seek to share in and benefit from the experience of the National Trust for Scotland, some of whose Estates - Culzean or Mar Lodge, for example - struggle with the pressures (and the countless opportunities) that many visitors bring.

**Peter Burman**



## Future meetings

- 12 May: Alexandra Lotz, Horses and Heritage
- 9 June: David F. Wilson, public artist
- 14 July: A day on the Wemyss estate

For more about these meetings, see [falklandsociety.org.uk/2020-21programme.shtml](https://falklandsociety.org.uk/2020-21programme.shtml).

And if you missed any of the previous lectures in this series there's information about them at [falklandsociety.org.uk/2020-21programme.shtml](https://falklandsociety.org.uk/2020-21programme.shtml) with links to download the recordings.

[Back to top.](#)



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