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Summer is here!

Falkland Society Newsletter, June 2021

Dear member/Dear friend,

Ross and I have been away for almost a fortnight and so this month's Newsletter comes to you when the month is already three days old. Our visit to London featured hard work, but also great cultural richness. We spent a morning at the British Museum's outstanding exhibition on the Archbishop of Canterbury and saint, Thomas Becket, and then visited an exhibition at the Art Workers' Guild, in Queen Square, Bloomsbury, of works collected by Alan Powers, Master of the Guild (some of you may remember meeting him on his visit to Falkland last year). We also spent a day with friends at their house, Shulbrede Priory in Sussex, a magical combination of medieval architecture and the Arts & Crafts Movement, rescued from decay by their grandparents in 1904, a perfect date, and with memories of the composer Sir Hubert Parry.

Back in Scotland, we have recently been to two exceptionally beautiful places about an hour's drive from Falkland: the 17th century Library at Innerpeffray (https://innerpeffraylibrary.co.uk/), and the gardens of Drummond Castle (https://www.drummondcastlegardens.co.uk/). More about these below.

Before we went away, we were glad to join other societies in Cupar & District for fascinating lectures from two very engaging academics at the University of St Andrews, on aspects of Old Scots language and literature. We are very appreciative of our member Bill Pagan's initiative in collaborating with the University of St Andrews, and it's good that the University is prepared to work with local community organisations in this way.

Many thanks also to our speaker for May, Alexandra Lotz. Her talk on the historic horse heritage of Europe is now available to view at https://falklandsociety.org.uk/videos/2021-05-Alexandra-Lotz-Horse-Heritage.mp4. She would be very willing to organise a study tour of historic horse studs: would anyone be

intrerested in principle in participating in such a tour in the Czech Republic?

A very happy summer to all our members and friends; may we all do our best to look after one another and to keep safe, and may we enjoy and benefit from the occasions when we can be together both by Zoom and, with all due caution, in-person.

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A reminder that this Newsletter comes to you from **The Falkland Society**, Scottish Registered Charity SC017201, falklandsociety.org.uk.

Peter Burman (Chair)

June Meeting

Your invitation to the Falkland Society meeting for June 2021

David F. Wilson, public artist



David was one of the first graduates in Scotland to achieve an MA in Public Art & Design. What he has done with this achievement he puts very well in his own words: 'My passion for art has always been for work in public spaces. Inspired by the new art works that were springing up around Scotland in the New Towns of Glenrothes and Irvine, and in Dundee specifically, I directly experienced the benefits that art and artists can have on communities. I came to realise that if the environments we live in or pass through as visitors are respected, treated as important and designed as if they really matter, the wider public reaps the benefits and has a far more positive experience within those settings.'

Peter Burman writes: 'I was thrilled and inspired the first time I heard David speak in public about the wonderful work he does as an artist, not only for the beauty of textures and pattern-making in his work, but also for the skilful and sympathetic way in which he works with the communities for whom his work is generally commissioned.'

18:45 for 19:00, Wednesday 9 June
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 Wednesday.

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**



Visit David's website for more about him and his work.

An outing to the Wemyss Estate

Last year was for all of us the strangest year of our lives; this year is different but we still don't propose to revert to in-person lecture evenings for some time to come. In any case, we often get a better attendance by holding our lectures online through Zoom. We intend to look into the option of hybrid evenings where there is both an in-person audience and the ability for those who can't be there to enjoy the lecture by Zoom.

It does make a good deal of sense to have outings where we are mostly in the fresh air, and we've now organised our first outing for a long time, on Wednesday 14 July, to the Wemyss School of Needlework and the gardens of Wemyss Castle. Two linked but contrasting experiences, only half an hour from Falkland. More about this, and how to book, in our next Newsletter - meanwhile please put the date in your diaries.

Let us know of any other places you'd like us to visit together; we're considering a Falkland Society outing to Abbotsford following the September meeting, and maybe another trip could be to Innerpeffray Library and Drummmond Castle. There are very few formal gardens in Britain as spectacular as that at Drummond Castle, first laid out around 1630 but with 18th and 19th

century additions, and a wonderful woodland walk.

The season continues!

In past years our season of lectures has finished in June or July, to start again after a summer break. This year however we will try the experiment of a lecture meeting in August. Elspeth Crichton Stuart, a keen member of the Society, has researched and put together a special lecture for us on three exceptional women associated with Falkland Palace: a Queen (no prizes for guessing which one!), a literary lady (Mary Wortley Montague) who was also responsible for bringing smallpox inoculation to the West from Constantinople, and Anna Gordon, who lived in Falkland Palace until 1802 and has been described as 'the female Robert Burns'. It promises to be a fascinating evening!

In September we start our new season of lectures, commemorating some exceedingly important anniversaries, beginning with Sir Walter Scott, who died in 1821. That lecture will be given by Kirsty Archer-Thompson, the Curator of Sir Walter Scott's celebrated Abbotsford House in the Borders, and we shall arrange a visit to Abbotsford very soon afterwards. The Abbotsford evening will be on 15 September and will also include our AGM, when we will be electing office bearers and committee for the year ahead.

Peter Burman

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 and its People 1901-1913

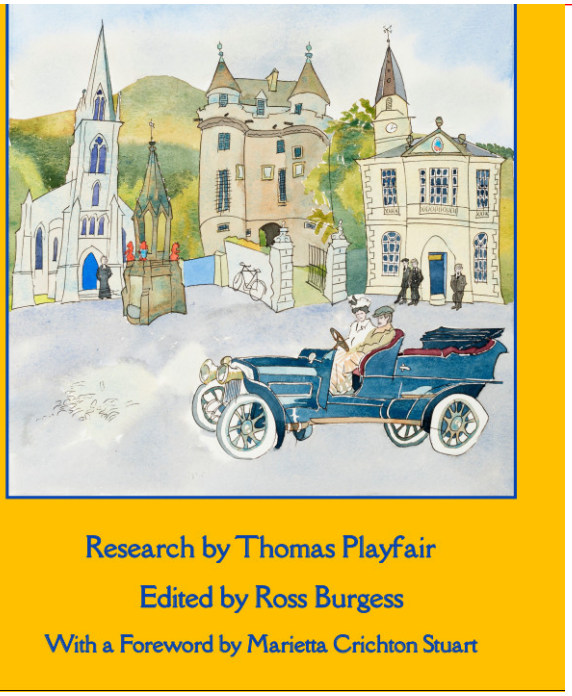


The Librarian at Innerpeffray has offered to sell copies of our new book, *Falkland and its People 1901-1913*, in their shop, so we will be taking some copies over there as soon as

we can. We also have been able to place copies at Pillars of Hercules (who now have an ambitious section of books) and at the excellent independent bookshop in Cupar; it can also be ordered from the Scottish Local History Forum.

We realise that such a publication as ours will inevitably be ‘slow moving’, but there has been a trickle of sales ever since the beginning of the year. If you've not yet got your own copy, you can still order it from us:

https://falklandsociety.org.uk/newbook.shtml



Future meetings

- 9 June: David F. Wilson, public artist
- 14 July: A day on the Wemyss estate
- 18 August: Elspeth Crichton Stuart: A Queen, a Lady of Letters and a Collector of Ballads
- 15 September: Kirsty Archer-Thompson: 250 years of Sir Walter Scott: Past, Present and Future

For more about these meetings, see falklandsociety.org.uk/2020-21programme.shtml.

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

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