View this email in your browser

The Falkland Society

Scottish Registered Charity SC017201
www.falklandsociety.org.uk
www.historicfalkland.scot
www.falkland.wiki
news@falklandsociety.org.uk

Falkland Society Newsletter, November 2022

Dear <<First Name>>,

Now that the clocks have gone back and the evenings are getting dark, we're reverting to online-only meetings, starting with a talk by Mary Contini of Valvona & Crolla (see below) on Wednesday 9 November. Hybrid meetings will start again in the spring.

Hope to see you all by Zoom next Wednesday!

Peter Burman (Chair)

In this issue:

- November Meeting
- Last Month's meeting

November Meeting

Our next Falkland Society meeting will be on Wednesday 9 November, starting at 7 p.m., when the speaker will be **Mary Contini**, speaking on the subject **Friend or foe: a story of immigration**. Her talk for us is based on the story of immigration in her book *Dear Olivia – an Italian journey of love and courage*, highlighting the impact of war on the Italian families who immigrated to Scotland at the start of the last century.

You're invited to join us from 6:45 p.m. onwards at
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89524510819
ready for a prompt start at 7.

You can also join by phone on **0203 481 5240**, **0131 460 1196**, **0208 080 6591** or **0330 088 5830**, quoting the meeting ID: **895 2451 0819**

Please DO NOT copy these details to Facebook or other social media.



***Cavaliere* Mary Contini OBE** – writer, cook, co-owner with her husband Philip Contini of the famous shop and restaurant Valvona & Crolla at Elm Row, Edinburgh, honoured for her contribution to Slow Food and for her brilliant books about the Italian and Scottish histories of members of her own family, their relations and friends.

She has been honoured by the Governments of both Italy and Britain and so is a *Cavaliere dell'Ordine della Stella della Solidarietà Italiana*, the equivalent of a Dame, and also was awarded an OBE for her contribution to Scottish-Italian relationships.

Mary is the granddaughter of Italian immigrants who moved to Scotland at the beginning of the last century. She grew up with her seven brothers and sisters in a house over her father's ice cream and fish-and-chip shop just outside Edinburgh. Her parents ran a busy seaside restaurant and catering business.

Having been involved in the food business all her life, and having grown up with strong women who were all distinctive great cooks, Mary has a direct attitude to food and cooking. She believes in using the best seasonal produce and treating it very simply to get the best out of the natural flavours.

My first introduction to Scots Italians was through becoming a regular customer of Valvona & Crolla, the iconic Italian food shop and café in Elm Row, towards the top of Leith Walk. For fifteen years I lived about ten minutes' walk away and my Saturday morning routine was to go to Valvona & Crolla for breakfast and then to sit with a cappuccino and read my way through *The Guardian*. Hence, I got to know Mary and Philip Contini and bought, as they came out, Mary Contini's brilliant books of family history: *Dear Francesca* came out in 2002; *Dear Olivia* in 2006; and *Dear Alfonso* in 2017. At home in Falkland, we make frequent use of her cookery book

Valvona & Crolla – a Year at an Italian Table. I also used to make a point of attending sessions of the Edinburgh branch of the Slow Food Movement when they were held at Valvona & Crolla, and I remember an especially memorable demonstration about Italian cheeses (and how to handle them) from the Professor of Cheese at the Slow Food Movement's University of Food near Turin. Being able to shop and eat at Valvona & Crolla has enriched my life immeasurably and contributed to my knowledge and love of both Italy and Scotland.

Peter Burman (Chair)

Last month's meeting

Our speaker on 12 October was Ben Tindall, architect, who gave us a fascinating talk about his life and achievements, culminating in his work at Jupiter Artland, near Edinburgh Airport.

This was another hybrid meeting, with a good size audience in the Stables and also online via Zoom. As wtih our previous Zoom meetings we had one or two technical difficulites, which interrupted the proceedings for a time, but the meeting as usual was recorded, and we've been able to edit the recording to remove most of the interruptions. You can view the recording at https://falklandsociety.org.uk/videos/2022-10-12-Ben-Tindall.mp4.

Ross Burgess (Secretary)

Back to top.

Copyright © 2022 Falkland Society, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

mailchimp