



The Falkland Society

Scottish Registered Charity SC017201

www.falklandsociety.org.uk

www.historicfalkland.scot

www.falkland.wiki

news@falklandsociety.org.uk

Falkland Society Newsletter, April 2023

Dear <<First Name>>,

Our meeting on 12 April will feature a talk (originally scheduled for 8 March) by the building archaeologist Tom Addyman. He will be talking about a variety of garden buildings and grottos, some of which it would not be difficult for us as a Society to visit.

Peter Burman (Chair)

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April Meeting

Our next Falkland Society meeting will be on Wednesday 12 April, starting at 7 p.m., when the speaker will be **Tom Addyman**, an outstanding building archaeologist living close to Falkland. The title of his talk will be **"A tale of a few grottos: archaeology of Scottish garden buildings"**.

You're invited to join us from 6:45 p.m. onwards at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84249782547>

ready for a prompt start at 7 p.m.

You can also join by phone on **0203 481 5240**, **0131 460 1196**, or **0208 080 6591** quoting the meeting ID: **842 4978 2547**.



Tom Addyman

Tom Addyman is our near neighbour: he and his wife Emily live up the road in Strathmiglo: ‘a very busy place in the 14th century’, he remarked to me as we sat down for a cup of tea in their extensive multi-layered garden. They live at Mansfield House, known locally as ‘the Vet’s House’, on the eastern edge of the village. Last year Ross Burgess and I visited the church and richly historical burial ground at Strathmiglo with Tom and Emily; Tom told me that underneath the burial ground lie the remains of a medieval Collegiate church, of which there were quite a few in Fife. Such churches were served by colleges or communities of priests in the Middle Ages, who went out to minister to the surrounding villages and hamlets.

Tom Addyman is a very fine and distinguished archaeologist, specialising in the archaeology of buildings or structures; he is often on the road (or in the air) pursuing his passionate interests and investigating buildings for his clients whether in Scotland, England (especially York, where we first knew one another), or abroad. In March, when he was initially to have given his talk to us, he was in Saudi Arabia assessing for the Saudi government the archaeological sites on the Darb Zubayda Hajj pilgrimage routes. On 12 April he will be giving his talk to the Falkland Society by Zoom from Donegal. At the beginning of the year Tom and Emily had been in Georgia, USA for two-and-a-half weeks, staying at his mother’s historic house up-country near the Savannah River and then in the historic town of Savannah.

In the multi-disciplinary atmosphere of the Centre for Conservation Studies, Department of Archaeology, for which I was responsible from 1990-2002, I used to watch with satisfaction how mid-career students learned so much from one another. So it was probably at York that Tom honed his passionate interest in historic gardens and designed landscapes. I suspect that one of the grottoes Tom will speak about is that on the small but choice estate at Newhailes, near Musselburgh, one of the least spoiled and most intriguing properties of the National Trust for Scotland. For two or three years I used to go there once a month for regular meetings as we began to build up our knowledge and understanding of a very special place. If you haven’t visited

it yet, make a note to go there this year, especially after you have heard Tom's talk.



Newhailes House

Professional Background

Tom studied Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Cambridge before training in Conservation Studies at the University of York where he achieved an MA with distinction in the Conservation of Historic Buildings. He established his own consultancy, Addyman Archaeology. This is now one of the leading archaeological companies in the north of Britain concerned with historic buildings, and their recording and analysis.

Tom has participated in over 300 archaeological excavations in the UK and internationally. For a number of years he worked in Central America on archaeological sites of the Maya, then in the United States on colonial period sites and Native American sites. He spent four years in Puerto Rico as the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer working on colonial Spanish sites and buildings for the Governor's Office.

Tom has carried out archaeological work for the National Trust for Scotland on many of their sites including Culzean Castle, Ayrshire; 26-31 Charlotte Square Edinburgh; and major surveys at Pitmedden Garden and Brodick Castle. He also oversaw a two-year-long archaeological and analytical study of Newhailes House and its designed landscape at Musselburgh.



The Grotto at Newhailes

A series of inter-related recording, analytical and historical studies have contributed significantly to the ongoing restoration of Ossian's Hall and the Hermitage Gardens at Dunkeld in Perthshire, also for the National Trust for Scotland.

Tom has been involved in the assessment of cultural significance of a number of outstanding historic buildings and sites including a lead role in the conservation plan for St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, and more recently the Mint Yard, York.

Tom was a principal contributor to the Scottish Parliament archaeology project report focusing on Queensberry House, and of 'Understanding Historic Buildings' in Historic Scotland's *Technical Advice Note: Recording Historic Buildings*, the leading technical publication in this field. He was also principal author and editor of *Kirk Ness*, North Berwick, reporting the excavations of this major pre-Reformation Scottish site completed in 2006, aimed at a wide readership, and currently in production.

Tom has also acted as consultant on a number of large-scale landscape assessment projects including Chillingham Park, Northumberland; Dalquharran Estate, South Ayrshire; Newhailes Estate, Musselburgh; Mavisbank Estate, Midlothian; and the landscape surrounding Lindisfarne Castle. He also undertook the Culzean to Dunure Coastal survey in south Ayrshire and multiple landscape assessments for the Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme.

Peter Burman

Exhibition of Paintings by Jean Drew



Throughout April the Stables Gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings by the late Jean Drew, better known to many of us as Dr Jean Balfour CBE.

Jean Drew was born in 1927 and spent much of her childhood in Highland Perthshire. She graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1949 with an Honours degree in Biological Sciences. She lived in Fife following her marriage to John Balfour of Balbirnie in 1950. She and her husband were both involved with the management of Balbirnie Estate. As a Chartered Forester, she always had a special interest in forestry.

She was involved in many rural charities and was a founder council member of the Scottish Wildlife Trust. She was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and had been awarded Honorary Doctorates by the Universities of St Andrews and Stirling.

Jean Balfour had an interest in and love for the countryside all her life. She always enjoyed painting in watercolour in particular. For many years she had gone to Iceland and Greenland to explore arctic vegetation and to paint the landscapes. However most of the paintings in this exhibition are local subjects in Fife and elsewhere in Scotland.

The exhibition is free to view, and is open every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until 30 April.

The Stables, Falkland Estate, Falkland, Fife, KY15 7AF

Ruskin and the Crafts

The series of live readings, which explored John Ruskin's writing on crafts and craftsmanship

concluded last month. The series was organised by our Chair, Dr Peter Burman, for the Guild of St George. All the readings were recorded and are now available on the Guild's website: go to <https://www.guildofstgeorge.org.uk/resources/previous-lectures-online-events-symposia/ruskin-the-crafts> and follow the links.

Coming events

Future Dates:

- 12 April, **Falkland Society meeting: Tom Addyman**, distinguished archaeologist, particularly of buildings, who lives in Strathmiglo.
- 10 May, **Falkland Society meeting: Catherine Rice**, a local author who lives in Perth, on Fife cottage gardens and gardeners '100 years ago', which promises to be a fascinating insight into our garden culture.
- 14 June, **Falkland Society meeting: Ross Burgess** on 'Reflections of the ancient world in Scotland'.

The May and June meetings will both be hybrid, that is we can attend them in person (at The Stables) or join with our computers.

Peter Burman

Last month's meeting



Nic Boyes

If you missed last month's talk by Nic Boyes on "Climate change action and historic buildings; old buildings / new roles", or would like to see and hear it again, you can view the recording at:

<https://www.falklandsociety.org.uk/videos/2023-03-08-Nic-Boyes.mp4>

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