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The Falkland Society

Scottish Registered Charity SC017201

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Committee for 2025–2026: [Peter Burman](#) (Chair), [Ross Burgess](#) (Secretary), [Robeena Dhar](#) (Treasurer), [Alan Graham](#) (Archivist), [Marietta Crichton Stuart](#), [Robin Bell](#), [John Fletcher](#).

Falkland Society Newsletter, March 2026

Dear Ross,

We're delighted to announce that our existing Committee and Office Bearers were all re-elected at our AGM - but with the proviso that Ross Burgess (Secretary) and I will be standing down on 31 August 2026.

Alan Graham, our Archivist and convenor of the Publications Sub-Committee, has volunteered to take over as Chair from 1 September, but we very much need someone to come forward to take on some or all of the varied tasks that fall to the Secretary. If you feel you would be able to help, please get in touch, particularly if you have some IT skills.

Once again, to view this Newsletter the way we intend it, we strongly recommend clicking the "View this email in your browser" link above.

Peter Burman (Chair)

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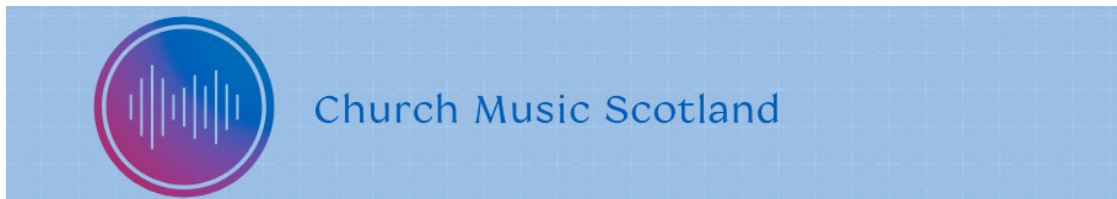
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March Meeting

Our next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on [Wednesday 11 February](#), at Falkland Parish Church, in conjunction with [Church Music Scotland](#), when **Robin Bell** will be presenting '**Falkland in Music**' - a programme of music on the church's historic pipe organ, with introductions and commentaries on the individual pieces.

Please join us from 6:45 p.m. onwards on the 11th.

All welcome, no charge, donations very welcome.



Please note - because of restricted WiFi coverage in the church, this meeting will not be available via Zoom.



A native of Airth near Falkirk, **Robin Bell** had organ lessons from Richard Galloway at the Church of the Holy Rude, Stirling. Robin was educated at Glasgow University (holding the post of Organ Scholar) and graduated with Honours in Music. He lives in Cupar and is happiest when playing a pipe organ! He is rota organist at the Scottish Episcopal Churches of St Mary's, Newport-on-Tay and St John the Evangelist, Pittenweem. Now

retired, Robin taught music at Madras College and St Leonards in St Andrews. He is a former Chair of the Friends of the Caird Hall Organ (FOCHO), contributes to the Church Music Scotland team and the Falkland Society, and is most recently concerned with supporting communities and churches across Scotland who want to get the best from their pipe organ.

Under the title **Falkland in Music** Robin will present a varied selection of music spanning 400 years, with introductions and commentaries on the individual pieces, showing how each of them relates, in various ways, to Falkland and its history.

Composers featured include Jehan Alain, Beethoven, Byrd, Chopin, Sumsion, and Vaughan Williams, plus Anon, and the contemporary Fife-based composer, Jim Tribble.

Jim Tribble is a composer, performer and teacher living and working in the East Neuk of Fife. He studied Music at Kingston Polytechnic and plays at least twelve instruments, including Medieval Fyddle, Hurdy Gurdy, Psaltery and Rebec. He is accompanist to the Anstruther Philharmonic and the Priory Singers. He teaches Piano and Composition. The premier of his *Theme and Variations on Kilmarnock* (for organ) was given by Robin Bell in a recital in St Joseph's RC Church, Kilmarnock in August 2024.



See [the full programme](#) for Robin's recital.

Please note: to see and hear the recital at its best, we recommend sitting in the gallery, but for those not wishing to climb the stairs there will be seats in the body of the church. We regret there is no step-free access to the church itself.

AGM Report

The Annual General Meeting of the Falkland Society was held on Wednesday 11 February 2026 at Falkland Parish Church, following a short break after John Fletcher's talk. We received reports about the Society's activities, approved the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025, and re-elected the existing Committee and Office Bearers.

For more details, see [the minutes of the AGM](#) (including links to the documents handed out at the meeting).

We hope to make a recording of the AGM available soon.

Last month's meeting

We had a packed room for John Fletcher's fascinating talk on "Reediehill Deer Farm – Past, present and future".

As usual, the talk was recorded: the recording is available at

<https://www.falklandsociety.org.uk/videos/2026-02-11-John-Fletcher.mp4>

Falkland Church - Latest News

We've been reporting from time to time on the discussions about the future of the Falkland Church building. Our Committee Member, Alan Graham, reports that a limited company has been set up to enable a possible community buy-out, sometime this year or possibly 2027. The initial Directors of the company are:

- Chair: Keith Rennie (local businessman)
- Vice-chair: John Smith (long-term chair and vice-chair of the Falkland Society)
- Secretary: Alan Graham (Falkland Society archivist)

With the Church of Scotland now selling the building, there is a real risk it could be lost to the community. At the same time, we have a unique opportunity to secure its future as a community-owned space – a place that preserves our history while opening new doors for social, cultural, and economic activity.

Please may we ask you to complete [the questionnaire](#), which is your chance to shape what happens next. Your views will guide our plans, ensure the project meets real community needs, and strengthen our applications for funding. Whether you use the building often, pass by it daily, or simply care about Falkland's heritage and future, your voice matters.



Future Programme

Wed 11 March: Robin Bell – *Falkland: its people in Music* (see main article above)

Wed 8 April: Carron Tobin, Director, Rural Solutions and founder of SCOTO –
Community-led tourism

Wed 13 May: Craig Cameron, formerly Head Gardener and now Factor of Teasses Estate, Ceres. *His talk on the revival of the Estate may be followed up by a visit to the outstanding gardens.*

Wed 10 June: James Simpson – *Highlights of his architectural career*

July–August: *Summer break*

Wed 9 September: Joe Fitzpatrick – *Recent archaeological finds in Falkland*

Wed 14 October: John Gilbert – *Hunting with Mary Queen of Scots*

*Look out for more details of all these events on our website
and in our future Newsletters.*

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