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The Falkland Society

Scottish Registered Charity SC017201

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Chair: **Peter Burman** (until 31 August), **Alan Graham** (from 1 September).

Secretary: **Ross Burgess** (until 31 August), **Darryl du Plooy** (from 1 September).

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Committee members: **Marietta Crichton Stuart**, **Robin Bell**, **John Fletcher**.

Publications Sub-Committee:

Alan Graham, **Marietta Crichton Stuart**, **Ross Burgess**, **Elizabeth Jackson**.

Falkland Society Newsletter, May 2026

Dear Ross,

We had a good turnout for our meeting on 8 April, when Carron Tobin told us about the Scottish Community Tourism network, and prompted a discussion about the ongoing problem of how to deal with the impact of tourism in a historic village such as Falkland,

Our next meeting, on 13 May, features Craig Cameron, who has been warmly recommended to us as a fascinating speaker, talking about his work to revive the Teasses estate near Ceres.

And a reminder to those who've not paid your Falkland Society membership for 2026 that we very much rely on your subscriptions to keep the Society going.

Peter Burman (Chair)

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[May Meeting: Craig Cameron](#)

Our next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on **Wednesday 13 May**, when our speaker will be **Craig Cameron**, formerly Head Gardener and now Factor of the Teasses Estate, Ceres.

This will be a hybrid meeting: online via Zoom, and in person at Falkland Parish Church.

Please join us from 6:45 p.m. onwards on the 8th, at
The Craig Room, Falkland Parish Church, KY15 7BU
what3words: [///wooden.backpacks.recipient](#)
All welcome, no charge, donations very welcome.

Or you can join us online by Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83325047179>

Meeting ID: 833 2504 7179

One tap mobile:

+442080806591,,83325047179# or +442080806592,,83325047179#



Craig Cameron has been Factor at Teasses Estate (<https://teasses.com/>) since 2023, having previously served as Head Gardener following an earlier career teaching in Shropshire. He trained at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, an experience that opened opportunities for international travel, including time spent working in China.

Over the past decade, Craig's role has evolved to encompass events and property management, with experience spanning London and the South of France. Alongside his professional work, he has a strong personal interest in history and genealogy, having spent over twelve years researching his own family tree.

In his spare time, Craig is closely involved in charitable and community work in southern India. He supports a primary school as its principal sponsor and serves on the Board of Governors. He is also involved with a local farming initiative producing mangoes, cereals, and pulses, helping to provide a sustainable income for residents of the Chatnalli leprosy village.



[A Summer Visit to Harthill:](#)
Gardens, Deer, and Good Company

Join us on **Saturday 6 June at 2pm** for a special afternoon at Harthill, Reediehill Deer Farm, the home of John and Nichola Fletcher, just outside Auchtermuchty, as featured in John's talk at our February meeting.

We'll begin with a short welcome before you're free to explore a truly distinctive garden—one that shifts from carefully tended borders near the house into something much wilder and more natural as you wander further out. Along the way, you'll find colourful planting, productive growing spaces, and quieter corners shaped as much by wildlife as by design.

Beyond the garden lies the deer park, home to a remarkable herd of red deer. You may meet Licketysplit—a famously friendly stag (featured in *Outlander*)—as well as a rare group of striking white red deer. Early summer is a particularly special time to see them, with antlers in velvet and growing rapidly.

You're welcome to wander at your own pace—perhaps looping through the more formal garden, then heading uphill into the wilder areas, or simply settling with tea, coffee and cake to take it all in. There will also be a selection of plants for sale.

All proceeds from plant sales and donations will support the [Tim Stead Trust](#), with a contribution also going to the Falkland Society.

£8 for members, £10 for non-members, with donations very welcome.

Please email me at darrylgduplooy@gmail.com to let us know if you're coming—we'd love to welcome you.

Darryl du Plooy

Last month's meeting

Our April lecture was given by **Carron Tobin**, the inspirational Director and founder of **SCOTO**, the Scottish Communities Tourism network, the only tourism network in the UK to focus on the aspirations and issues of local communities who find themselves inundated with visitors. You can see more about this invaluable network at www.scoto.co.uk, you can join as a supporter, you can attend their annual conference (which I shall endeavour to do in March 2027), or you can request meetings with Carron to explore what would be relevant and helpful to our specific local community of Falkland and around.

We had a good audience for the lecture and many questions were asked. The Community Council, the Falkland Estate and the Falkland Futures Trust were all well represented. The National Trust for Scotland were not represented as an organisation but could be in future conversations: many of us who were present that evening belong to the NTS as members. The simple fact is that communities can either endure over-tourism (which is generally the product of outside pressures) or plan for tourism collectively, with

sustainability and a greater depth of experience as objectives. It would be good to know if any member of the Society has it in mind to explore the contact with SCOTO more deeply and with the needs of 'community-led tourism' in mind.

You can see and hear the recording of Carron's talk [here](#) but we apologise that the quality of the sound is not up to our usual standard.

Peter Burman



The impact of tourism on a historic city --- Grandi Navi in Venice

East Lomond Archaeology Dig

As in previous years, there will be a dig this summer on the important Iron Age and Pictish site on the East Lomond Hill. It will be directed by Joe Fitzpatrick, Chairman of the Falkland Stewardship Trust (who will be coming to talk to us in September) and Professor Gordon Noble, Head of the Archaeology Department at Aberdeen University. It will take place from Monday 6 July until Friday 17 July.

If you're interested in taking part as a volunteer excavator, please [download the Expression of Interest form](#) and return it as soon as possible to the address given on the form.

More details at falklandestate.co.uk/east-lomond-archaeology-dig-2026.

Fife Climate Festival



Fife Climate Festival is a celebration of community climate action across Fife, rooted in culture, creativity and connection.

This year's festival runs throughout June 2026. Look out for events across Fife inspire people to come together in action on climate emergency and make our communities fairer, healthier and more vibrant places to live.

There are fun and interesting events for everyone, and any group can take part, from football clubs to gardening groups whether you're already working on climate issues or just starting out. Events can include workshops, film nights, walks, cycle rides, talks or creative sessions. Support is available for participating groups. You can add your event to the festival programme through the Fife Climate Hub website.

Fife Climate Festival is led by Fife Climate Hub with support from Climate Action Fife and funded by the Scottish Government.

More information at fccan.org.uk/fife-climate-festival-2026.

A York Miscellany

From 11 to 20 April this year Ross and I welcomed a visitor from Dresden, Germany, Andreas Ammon. When I first met him, in the 1980s, he was working as a highly skilled stonemason on the restoration of the *Frauenkirche* (Church of Our Lady) in Dresden, but with the aspiration – since fulfilled – of becoming a qualified architect working on historic buildings. Last year he came to visit us with his wife Annett and daughter Magdalene, but this time he came on his own bringing his saxophone – he is a very keen player in a marching band – and a sketch book. He was excellent company. We had great pleasure in devising a programme for him. He enjoyed it all, and participated enthusiastically, and I will try to capture some of the enjoyment which we all felt.

Our first visit, on Sunday after church, was to Newhailes House, a National Trust for Scotland

property at Musselburgh. It is a good place to take visitors to see. It is near, there is always an agreeable bustle in the Stables courtyard, and the house itself tests one particular theory of conservation – ‘conserve as found’ – to its limits. It can look as though nothing has been done yet considerable sums of money have been spent on every aspect of the house and its contents. The objectives have been to preserve authenticity and practice consistency.



The front entrance (originally the back) of Newhailes House

The approach for the interiors has been to preserve the arrangements and the atmosphere of the house as they were when the last member of the Dalrymple family moved out, a quarter of a century ago.



The following day we caught a train to York, getting us there in time for lunch with the Minster Architect, Oliver Caroe, a friend of mine for many years.



Ross, Oliver and Andreas

I had asked Oliver for the opportunity to see the new craft training workshops. We also wanted to experience the new restaurant at the south-east corner of the Minster precincts which in my time at York (1990–2002) had been the Minster School.



The new restaurant, with the vast bulk of the Minster behind

After lunch we had the most enthralling visit to a group of new buildings that have been grant-aided by the York Minster Fund, which, for many years, has been a most effective channel of funding for the support of the 'Forth Bridge philosophy' of always being active in repairing and conserving the fabric of the Minster and its treasures, including one of the greatest collections of medieval stained glass in the world.



Inside the Minster workshop

Later we walked round that section of the ancient City Walls which surrounds the Minster precincts, and could appreciate the impact the new craft training workshops have on the centuries-old buildings.



The workshop seen from the City Walls

Oliver Caroe was generous with his time – he is also Surveyor to the Fabric of St Paul's Cathedral, so an exceedingly busy man – and brilliant at explaining the philosophy and skills which are needed for the Minster never to fall behind with repairs to the stone fabric of the building.



Andreas and Oliver in the workshop

There is also a never-ending programme of conserving the other main element of the building, the stained glass, through the agency of a specialist workshop I was a trustee of for twelve years called the York Glaziers Trust.

It was fascinating to see the maquette of the recently installed statue of our late Queen Elizabeth II in the workshop and then later on to see the finished work high up on the west front.



The maquette in the workshop, and the finished work high up on the west front

While at the west front of the Minster I delighted in pointing out the magnificent double lantern which

is still lit by gas.



Gas lamps in front of the Minster

Some years ago I made a special study of historic gas street lighting, both in Britain and in Germany. In London the district around Buckingham Palace and Clarence House is still lit by gas, and so is much of Covent Garden. Much more survives in Germany than in Britain but there is still a suburb of Nottingham called The Park which is lit by gas, and the gas street lighting of Great Malvern was given a new lease of life some years ago.

We never visit York without admiring the west doorway, the sculpture of which was designed by another friend of ours, the late Rory Young.



The West Doorway

Inset, the foot of the arch, showing the start of Rory's depiction of the start of the Genesis story: the creation of the world, and Adam and Eve

After our time at the York Minster Stoneyard and walking the Walls, we had an enjoyable afternoon exploring the district of Aldwark east of the Minster.



During the post-War period it had become very run down but a major report of the 1960s by architect Lionel Brett (Lord Esher, so his report was known as the Esher Report) strongly recommended that people should be encouraged to come back to live in that quarter which is full of quaint and characterful buildings. One of them is probably the oldest inhabited building in York, Our Lady's Row, built in 1316 in the churchyard of Holy Trinity Goodramgate.



Our Lady's Row (on the right)