

The Falkland Society

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7:00 p.m., Wednesday 12 December 2018

Upper Town Hall, Falkland

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All welcome, retiring collection

The Transformation of the Earldom of Fife in the Twelfth Century

This evening's lecture will be given by Dr Alex Woolf, Senior Lecturer in Dark Age Studies, University of St Andrews.



Alex in the Atlas

Alex Woolf holds his degrees from the University of Sheffield and taught at the University of Wales in Lampeter and the University of Edinburgh before taking up his post at St Andrews in 2001. He has published many articles on Dark Age Britain and Ireland and on Scotland in the central Middle Ages and is best known for his book *From Pictland to Alba* charting the History of Scotland in the Viking Age.

Alex lives locally, in Kettlebridge, and is a great supporter of our Falkland Archaeological Research Programme.

One of the perennial questions of medieval Scottish History is how the provincial chiefs, often regarded as something akin to sub-kings, known in Gaelic as *mormaer*, transformed into the earls of the later middle ages, a class of property owning magnates.

In this talk I shall take a handful of documents relating to Fife from the twelfth century and show how during this crucial 'Anglo-Norman' era at least one *mormaer* began to transform the basis of his power from royal lieutenancy to land owner. It will be suggested that this might be the clue to a wider transformation of status in the course of the middle ages.



The coronation of the seven-year old King Alexander III at Scone. He is being greeted by the *Ollam Righ Alban* (Royal Poet of Scotland). Malcolm II, Earl of Fife, is holding the sword.