



The Falkland Society

Scottish Registered Charity SC017201

www.falklandsociety.org.uk

Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting

Held at The Stables, Falkland Estate, and online via Zoom, 14 May 2025

This AGM was preceded by a lecture by Robin Evetts on 'Cambo Walled Garden and new life for the 18th century stables.'

Present:

- Peter Burman – Chair
- John Smith – Vice Chair
- Ross Burgess – Secretary
- Robeena Dhar – Treasurer
- Alan Graham – Chair of Publications Committee & Acting Archivist
- Robin Bell – Committee Member
- John Fletcher - Committee Member
- 12 further members and supporters in the room and 9 on Zoom.

Apologies:

- Marietta Crichton Stuart

Minutes of last AGM (March 2024)

Peter Burman summarised the Minutes of the last AGM, which had been made available online.¹ Alan Graham proposed that the Minutes be approved, seconded by John Smith and agreed by the meeting.

Annual Report for 2024

Peter Burman read out his Chair's report for 2024, which had been made available online.² He proposed from the Chair that it be adopted; this was seconded by John Smith and agreed by the meeting.

¹ <https://falklandsociety.org.uk/docs/AGM-Minutes-13March2024.pdf>

² <https://falklandsociety.org.uk/docs/ChairsReport2024.pdf>

Accounts for 2024

Robeena Dhar presented the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.³ She noted that the membership year has now been confirmed as January to December, in line with the Society's financial year. The year to December 2024 showed a deficit of £728.88 compared to a surplus of £512,81. However for 2025 our income for the year to date already exceeds that for the whole of last year and we have so far not had major expenditures.

John Fletcher proposed, and Alan Graham seconded, the adoption of the accounts, which was agreed by the meeting.

Publications Report

Alan Graham reported that work has re-commenced on the Victorian book which is at quite an advanced stage but requires detailed checking of most of the chapters: the previous version had many errors which are being corrected. He has contributed extra material on burials in the old and new cemeteries for Chapter 9, proposed a list of illustrations, frontispiece, research on place-names, bleaching greens and textile manufacture. He has also taken on the job of seeking sponsorship in a similar way to the previously published book on Edwardian Falkland. All now depends on Ross being able to continue detailed checking of the current version of the text and completing Chapter 10 (Falkland's People) which is at an advanced stage.

The Sub-Committee have also been working on two other agreed projects - a new expanded edition of *The Falkland Guide* (ideally to be ready for this summer) and a book on Falkland during World War One and its aftermath. Marietta has assisted with valuable criticism and research throughout.

Archive Report

Alan Graham reported that by 21 January this year he had completed a full list of the contents of the FS archive. This work took about 18 months and has been a great help when looking for additions or corrections to the early edition of the Victorian book. The archive includes research on two main topics: the Falkland Cricket Club, which resulted in a book on the subject; and secondly the story of Education in Falkland undertaken by our late archivist Pamela McIlroy held in four A4 ring binders but not completed or written up. Equally important is the *History of the Falkland Estate* (84 pages) researched and written by Pamela McIlroy: Alan has produced a digital version which he and Marietta have checked thoroughly making a few minor corrections. The complete list shows that the archive is pregnant with possibilities for the future and Alan is considering how to use it creatively.

Future of Falkland Parish Church

Alan Graham has been taking a lead in the Society's efforts in respect of the church, and

³ Now online at https://falklandsociety.org.uk/docs/FalklandSociety_FY2024_YE.pdf

plans to arrange for Wi-Fi to be installed at his own expense, so that Society meetings could be held there in future.

Election of Committee and Office Bearers

Two new Committee members had been co-opted during the year: Robin Bell and John Fletcher. They each introduced themselves.

John Smith reported with a heavy heart that the time has come for him to move on, after about 25 years on the Committee, including long periods as Chair and then Vice-Chair. Peter Burman expressed the grateful thanks of the Society for John's long and valuable service.

The remaining Committee and Office Bearers all offered themselves for re-election and committed themselves in principle to serve until the next AGM in March 2026.

It was proposed by Robin Evetts and seconded by John Smith that the remaining Committee and office Bearers should be re-elected *en bloc*, and this was agreed overwhelmingly by the meeting.⁴

At John Smith's suggestion, the meeting thanked Don McClymont for his technical support.

Peter Burman, Chair, Ross Burgess, Secretary

⁴ Strictly speaking, according to the Constitution, the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer plus two further Committee members were elected, with two further Committee members regarded as co-opted.