

The Falkland Society

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7:00 p.m., Wednesday 9 January 2019

The Craig Room, Falkland Parish Church

All welcome, retiring collection



David Munro: Remembering Kinross – the past, present and future of a former county town

In 1975 Scotland's smallest county by population – Kinross-shire – was absorbed into the newly formed district of Perth and Kinross. Nearly 50 years on, Kinross-shire still has a great sense of place, with its former county town, Kinross, sitting next to the iconic landscape of Loch Leven which has, over many years, drawn naturalists, artists, writers, fishermen and curlers to its shores. However, local government reform, the closure of the railway and the development of commuter settlement in the area have imposed planning and development challenges that have so far only served to erode the essential character of Kinross-shire. Kinross, a languishing former county town, and its neighbouring settlement, Milnathort, a once prosperous market town, need to reinvent themselves, and rural settlement needs to be able to demonstrate a distinctive character that makes it different from elsewhere. David Munro looks at the way in which an understanding of local landscape and rural settlement evolution can make a positive contribution to future planning in Kinross-shire.



An historical geographer with a special interest in landscape studies, David Munro lives in the Kinross-shire village of Kinnesswood which overlooks Loch Leven. In addition to being chairman of Kinross (Marshall) Museum Trust and the Michael Bruce Memorial Trust, he is President of Kinross-shire Civic Trust and a founding member of The Rural Access Committee of Kinross-shire (TRACKS) which created the Loch Leven Heritage Trail, completed in 2014. Local publications include *Loch Leven and the River Leven: A landscape transformed* (1994), guides to the Michael Bruce Way (2013) and the Loch Leven Heritage Trail (2015) and a volume of local tales entitled *Carlin Maggie and other stories from the Bishopshire* (2017).

Currently a geographical consultant focusing on landscape, heritage, environmental conservation and toponymy, David was a research fellow at the University of Edinburgh before being appointed director of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, a post he held for 12 years until 2008. Awarded an honorary professorship at the University of Dundee in 2007 and an MBE in 2008 for services to the community and environment in Perth and Kinross, David was invested in 2015 as a Knight Officer of the Order of St Charles for his work as an advisor to the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation.