



# The Falkland Society

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## FALKLAND AND ITS PEOPLE 1901–1913

Research by Thomas Playfair

Edited by Ross Burgess

With a Foreword by Marietta Crichton Stuart

**Hardback, about 560 pages, 55 illustrations and 4 maps. Publication late 2020.**

Our new book covers the full spectrum of life in and around Falkland in the Edwardian era, from the 12-year old twins convicted of breaking into a house to steal a penny and two apples, to the grand civic welcome for the young Laird and his lady taking up residence in the House of Falkland. A few names crop up frequently – the Jacksons, the Gullands, the Lawsons, the Bonthrones and of course the Crichton-Stuarts.

The period saw the end of the hand-loom weaving industry and the building of a factory to make floor-cloth – does anyone now remember what that was? There were a few motor cars but the main mode of transport was horse and cart. Telephones were coming into use, but causing much frustration to their users.

In the town of Falkland, never then referred to as a village, social events of all kinds abounded, with the ladies' dresses often reported on at length in the papers. Local organisations included the Freemasons, the B.O.A.F.G. (read the book to find out what that stood for), the Literary Society, the Popular Lecture Committee, the newly-founded Boy Scouts and the Girls Club. The Golf Club was founded, the Cricket Club flourished, the Curling Club had a new pond, and the Y.M.C.A. started a football club.

The Town Council, meeting in the Town Hall, presided over the affairs of the Royal Burgh, but the Estate, represented by the Laird and his factor, had enormous influence in the rest of the parish. The two Presbyterian churches led oddly parallel existences, and ministers of either kirk still held important positions in local society. The Roman Catholics had their new Chapel Royal in Falkland Palace, but there were problems with a difficult priest, and provision for Catholic children in the local school was very controversial.

Recurring themes included permission to use the Lodge Gate entrance to the Estate, the doings of the gentry, and the progress of plans for a Falkland Light Railway

A fascinating picture of life in rural Fife in the last few years before all would be changed, and so many of the people in these pages swept away, by the Great War.

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