



The Falkland Society

Scottish Registered Charity SC017201

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Committee for 2025–2026: **Peter Burman** (Chair), **Ross Burgess** (Secretary), **Robeena Dhar** (Treasurer), **Alan Graham** (Archivist), **Marietta Crichton Stuart**, **Robin Bell**, **John Fletcher**.

Falkland Society Newsletter, October 2025

Dear <<First Name>>,

As usual, our Society has taken a break during the summer months, so you won't have heard from us for a while.

However things have been going forward during the break. In particular, our archivist Alan Graham has taken the initiative to install a broadband connection in Falkland Parish Church, enabling us to host Zoom meetings from there. So from now onwards our regular monthly meetings will normally be held in the Craig Room at the church – a more convenient location for many people, especially during the winter months – with the benefit of being able to share them by Zoom for those who can't attend in person, and also to have the talks recorded for posterity.

The Committee has had a trial run of the new wi-fi arrangements, with valuable support from John Smith and Don McClelland, so we're keeping our fingers crossed for our first public airing of the new facilities, on Wednesday 8 October.

Peter Burman (Chair)

In this issue:

- [October meeting: Dr DJ Johnston-Smith](#)
- [Our Newsletters saved for Posterity](#)
- [Future Programme](#)

October Meeting

Following our summer break, our October and November meetings cover related subjects but from very different angles. Both DJ Johnston-Smith (October) and Judith Roebuck (November) are national figures, and can speak with great authority about the implications of so many Church of Scotland churches being closed. You might care to pass the message on to friends living in other communities where the future of the church is uncertain: they will be very welcome to join our lecture sessions.

The first meeting will be at 7 p.m. on **Wednesday 8 October**, when Dr DJ Johnston-Smith will be talking about **Sacred Places to Secular Spaces: the changing face of Scotland's Churches**. 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](https://www.what3words.com/wooden.backpacks.recipient)

All welcome, no charge, donations gratefully accepted.

Or you can join us online by Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88247636753>
or one tap on your mobile: **+442080806591,,88247636753#**

You can also join by phone on **0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196**,
or **0208 080 6591**, quoting the meeting ID: **882 4763 6753**



Dr DJ Johnston-Smith is Director of Scotland's Churches Trust. His subject is **'Sacred Places to Secular Spaces: the changing face of Scotland's Churches.'**

Scotland's Churches Trust is an independent charity dedicated to safeguarding and celebrating Scotland's remarkable religious heritage – not only the historic church buildings themselves, but also the stories, traditions and communities that surround them. DJ will tell us about the Trust's history and how it is evolving to meet today's challenges to the preservation and promotion of Scotland's heritage during this era of unprecedented church closures in the Church of Scotland.



He will also introduce the Trust's rapid **church recording** methodology and project, which was the overall winner of the European Religious Heritage Innovator of the Year award last year. The project mobilises community volunteers to speedily document the fragile moveable cultural treasures located in Scottish churches that are closing, before these items are lost, sold or forever scattered.

Our Newsletters saved for Posterity

You possibly know that you can access all our past Newsletters online via our website at <https://www.falklandsociety.org.uk/newsletters.shtml> – but they are now also available online at the Scottish National Library, as part of their Digital Deposit scheme. This means that they will be preserved there in perpetuity, for consultation by future researchers, or just anyone interested in what we may have been getting up to.

Go to the following link:

https://search.nls.uk/discovery/search?vid=44NLS_INST:44NLS_VU1&lang=en

and search for "Falkland Society newsletters" – you may have to scan down to find a particular month.

We are talking to the Library, with a view to maybe having more of our online presence archived there – and of course they already have copies of our printed books in their physical stores, available for consultation at the George IV Bridge reading rooms.

Ross Burgess



**National Library
of Scotland**

**Leabharlann
Nàiseanta na h-Alba**

Future Programme

Wed 8 October: Dr DJ Johnston-Smith (Director of Scotland's Churches Trust) – *Sacred Places to Secular Spaces: the changing face of Scotland's Churches* (see main article above)

Wed 12 November: Judith Roebuck (Sanctuary Development Officer, Church of Scotland) – *Closure of parish churches in Scotland: rationale and consequences*

Wed 10 December: Marietta Crichton Stuart – *Mausoleum, Mansion and Monuments: a virtual walk through the Falkland Estate in times gone by*

Wed 14 January 2026: Ross Burgess – *Falkland's Historic Buildings*

Wed 11 February: John Fletcher – *Local deer, climate change and the environment*

Wed 11 March: Falkland Society AGM

Wed 8 April: Carron Tobin, Director, Rural Solutions and founder of SCOTO – *Community-led tourism*

May–Jun: *Speakers and subjects to be announced*

Jul–Aug: Summer break

Sep–Dec: *Speakers and subjects to be announced*

Look out for more details of all these events in our future Newsletters.

[Back to top.](#)

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