

Members' Centres & Friends' Group

Events Listing 2024



Make the most of your National Trust for Scotland membership by joining your local Members' Centre & Friends' Group.

Get closer to the places you care about, become an advocate of our charity, and join our wonderful community of supporters who help members experience and enjoy Scotland's unique heritage, all the while raising vital funds for the places, stories, and collections in our care.

Members' Centres & Friends Groups charge a small annual fee to be a member of their group. Events below are open to both members and non-members.

For more information about your local group, get in touch:
memberscentres@nts.org.uk



ABERDEEN & DISTRICT MEMBERS' CENTRE (SC 000109)

Judith Falconer, Programme Secretary
01224 938 150
judithfalconer@rocketmail.com
ntscentres.org.uk/aberdeen.html

For more information about this group's events, please contact Judith Falconer.

ANGUS MEMBERS' CENTRE (SC 024891)

Joyce Cooper, Membership Secretary
01674 676 783
amcnts@tiscali.co.uk
ntscentres.org.uk/angus.html

Afternoon Talks

All Afternoon Talks take place in the Guide Hall, Myre Car Park, Forfar, DD8 1AZ. All are welcome, no pre-booking necessary. The admission charge is £4, which includes light refreshments after the meeting. For more information about this group's events, please contact Joyce Cooper, Membership Secretary.

Thursday 11 January, 2.30pm:

Afternoon talk, "The Forfar Skiffs - A Community Project - The Build, The Club, The Fun".
Three speakers talking about different aspects of the local St Ayles Skiff project.

ANGUS MEMBERS' CENTRE (SC 024891) CONTINUED

Thursday 1 February 2024, 2.30pm:

Afternoon talk, "The Eden Project, Dundee" by Caishlan Sweeney, Project Engagement Manager, Eden Project Dundee.

Sunday 25 February 1.30pm – 3.30pm:

Snowdrop Sale at House of Dun.

Thursday 7 March, 2.30pm:

Afternoon talk, speaker to be confirmed

Saturday 9 March, 10am - 12 noon:

Coffee Morning at The Glens and Kirriemuir United Parish Church Hall, Kirriemuir.

Sunday 19 May, 1.30pm – 3.30pm:

Angus Members' Centre Spring Plant Sale at the House of Dun.

Come along and replace any plants you have lost over the winter at bargain prices. There will be a wide selection of perennials, grasses, shrubs, rockery plants and more grown by the Members' Centre gardeners, but come early for the best selection.

If you are unable to come along for the plant sale, the Members' Centre volunteers stock the plant stall in the House of Dun courtyard regularly, as plants become available.

Sunday 23 June, time to be confirmed:

Meet the Gardeners, House of Dun.

Friday 30 August, 7pm:

Summer Concert, St. John's Church, Forfar.

Sunday 15 September, 1.30pm – 3.30pm:

Angus Members' Centre Autumn Plant Sale at the House of Dun.

There will be a wide selection of perennials, shrubs, and fruit bushes, as well as produce grown by the Members' Centre gardeners and other volunteers. Why not come along and make an afternoon of it? The House, Courtyard and Cafe will be open and the gardens and grounds are well worth a visit.

Thursday 3 October, 2.15pm:

AGM, followed by guest speaker.

ARDUAINÉ FRIENDS

Rachel Ross, Secretary & Treasurer

01852 200233

rachel@lochmelfort.co.uk

arduainegarden.org

For more information about this group's events, please contact Rachel Ross.

CAMBRIDGE FRIENDS OF THE NTS

Donald Douglas, Chairman and Membership Secretary

Judy Potter, Deputy Chairman and Secretary

Jim Stewart, Treasurer

donalddouglas710@btinternet.com

ntscentres.org.uk/cambridge.html

All talks listed below are held at the Newnham College, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9D. Tickets are £10.00 in advance (£12.00 on the door) – detailed here: ntscentres.org.uk/cambridge.html.

For more information about this group's events, please contact Donald Douglas.

Wednesday, 23rd October, 7.30 pm

"James Gibbs: The Making of an Eighteenth-century Architect" with Dr William Aslet, Scott Opler Fellow in Art and Architectural History, Worcester College, Oxford

James Gibbs (1682-1754) was an Aberdeen merchant's son who became one of the most influential architects of the eighteenth century working in Britain.

From the Church of St Martin's-in-the-Fields in London to the Radcliffe Camera in Oxford, he was responsible for among the best-loved buildings in some of Britain's most famous urban spaces.

Gibbs's work is well known to Cambridge residents through the Fellows' Building at King's College and the Senate House, both of which are fragments of larger, more ambitious schemes.

Through his books, particularly the 1728 *A Book of Architecture*, Gibbs's influence spread widely, in England and beyond, with St Martin's-in-the-Fields having claim to being the single most influential Anglican church design of the eighteenth century.

This talk will focus on Gibbs' formative years to show what laid behind his remarkable success as an architect, not least his training in Rome – at that time without parallel in the Britain of his day.

Wednesday, 13th November, 7.30 pm

"120 years of smoking" with Lance Forman, the owner of Forman & Sons, the producers of high quality Scottish smoked salmon, and how the business his great grandfather founded has succeeded in catering for lifestyle choices, via online selling.

Wednesday, 11th December, 7.30 pm

"Puffins" with Euan Dunn MBE. Euan, retired Head of Marine Policy at the RSPB, has worked not just on puffins but also other seabirds in numerous islands around the world including the Shiant and St Kilda where he helped census the declining puffin population.

In 2014 he wrote 'Puffins' which distilled the knowledge of this enduringly popular seabird for a non-scientific audience.

EAST LOTHIAN MEMBERS' CENTRE (SC 026085)

Margaret Russell, Membership Secretary
01875 853 370
magr8@outlook.com
ntscentres.org.uk/eastlothian.html

For more information about the programme of visits listed below, please contact Margaret Russell.

Thursday 9 May

Visit to Rosslyn Chapel, Midlothian.

Founded in 1446, as the Collegiate Church of St Matthew, attracts visitors from far and wide, drawn by its unique and mysterious carvings and the beauty of its setting. The chapel took some 40 years to build and its ornate stonework and mysterious symbolism have inspired, and intrigued, artists and visitors ever since. Today, there are countless theories, myths and legends associated with the Chapel, many of which are impossible to prove or disprove conclusively.

Tuesday 18 June

Visit to Falkland Palace & Garden, Fife.

Falkland Palace is one of Scotland's finest Renaissance palaces. James IV and his son, James V, commissioned the best stonemasons and craftsmen of the day to create a pleasure ground for their country pursuits.

The palace was saved from ruin in the 19th century by the 3rd Marquess of Bute. Innovative and passionate, Bute gave the palace a new lease of life, and the fruits of his labour are still enjoyed by his great-grandson Ninian, who lives on site today.

Monday 22 July

Visit to Mellerstain House & Garden, Gordon.

Mellerstain is the residence of the Earl and Countess of Haddington and is one of Scotland's grandest Georgian houses. It was designed and built by William and Robert Adam, who also built Floors Castle.

Enjoy a guided tour where the interior decoration is opulent in a way that only the Georgians knew how to do. The rooms retain their period colour schemes, with ornate ceilings, marble busts, lots of original furniture and a large collection of paintings.

Thursday 15 August

Visit to Maid of the Forth.

Join for a spectacular 90 minute sightseeing cruise, where you will cruise under all three Forth Bridges and down towards Inchcolm Island. Spot the abundance of seals, puffins, and other seabirds and wildlife while enjoying the breathtaking views as you cruise under the Forth Bridges. If you are lucky you may also manage to spot some passing Dolphins, Porpoises or even Minke Whales which have been spotted near Inchcolm.

Wednesday 18 September

Visit to New Lanark World Heritage Site, South Lanarkshire.

This is a unique 18th century Mill Village sitting alongside the picturesque River Clyde, less than one hour from Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Founded in 1785 with a focus on philanthropy, education and the welfare of the mill workers, New Lanark became a model for industrial communities that was to spread across the world in the 19th and 20th centuries. New Lanark was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2001.

EDINBURGH MEMBERS' CENTRE (SC 025732)

Peter Westbrook, Membership Secretary
0131 539 2826
emcnts@virginmedia.com
ntscentres.org.uk/edinburgh.html

Meetings are held in Augustine United Church, 41-43 George IV Bridge in Edinburgh, EH1 1EL, on Thursdays at 2.30pm or 7.30pm, unless otherwise notified. A hearing induction loop is available.

For more information about this group's events, please contact Peter Westbrooke.

Thursday 22 February 2024, at 2.30pm:

A talk by Eric Melvin, Historian & Author, "The visit of George IV to Edinburgh in 1822".

Thursday 7 March 2024, at 2.30pm:

A talk by Christine Murdie, Marine Mammal Surveyor, "A year in the life of an ORCA Ocean conservationist".

Thursday 21 March 2024, at 7.30pm:

Kath Hay, Author & Publisher, "Falkland's Lady of Ostrabrama - an icon in the Palace's Royal Chapel".

Thursday 12 September 2024, at 7.30pm:

A talk by Adam Cumming, Chairperson, Scotland's Churches Trust, "St Giles & the Large Burgh Churches in Scotland - 900 Years of Development".

Thursday 26 September 2024, at 7.30pm:

A talk by Bob Cunningham, Historian, "The History of Morningside from 1800 to 1930".

Thursday 10 October 2024, at 7.30pm:

A talk by Elizabeth Cumming, independent art historian & curator, "Henry Taylor Wyse: Artist, Teacher & Craftsman".

Thursday 24 October 2024, at 2.30pm:

A talk by Bruce Keith, retired surveyor & environmentalist, author & speaker. "Are we nearly there yet?".

Thursday 7 November 2024, at 2.30pm:

A talk by Leo du Feu, Scottish Artist - landscape, wildlife, conservation, "Sketching Scotland's Landscapes & Wildlife".

Thursday 16 January 2025, at 7.30pm:

50th Annual General Meeting

FRIENDS OF BROUGHTON HOUSE & GARDEN (SC 012686)

Mike Duguid, Chairman
Gwen Shaw JP, Honorary Secretary
01557 330239
gwendoline.shaw@gmail.com
ntscentres.org.uk/broughton.html

For more information about this group's events, please contact Gwen Shaw.

Thursday 7 March, 2.00pm for 2.30pm:

AGM with a speaker from the National Trust for Scotland. Including a glass of wine or soft drink.

FRIENDS OF CRARAE (SC 033244)

Victoria Winters, Secretary
contact@friendsofcrarae.com
friendsofcrarae.com

For more information about this group's events, please contact Victoria Winters.

FRIENDS OF CULZEAN (SC 037983)

John Rattenbury, Secretary
01292 264344
john_rattenbury@yahoo.co.uk
friendsofculzean.co.uk

For more information about this group's events, please contact John Rattenbury.

FRIENDS OF HUGH MILLER (SC 037351)

Lara Reid, Secretary
secretary@thefriendsofhughmiller.org.uk
thefriendsofhughmiller.org.uk

For more information about this group's events, please contact Lara Reid.

FRIENDS OF LEITH HALL (SC051409)

Grainne Patton, Chairman
friendsofleithhall@outlook.com
ntscentres.org.uk/leith.html

For more information about this group's events, please contact Grainne Patton.

FRIENDS OF ROBERT BURNS BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM (SC043931)

Alison Wilson, Chairperson
info@friendsofrbbm.org.uk
friendsofrbbm.org.uk

All talks listed are free and take place from 2.30pm - 3.30pm in the Robertson Room at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. Booking on Eventbrite is advised, any unreserved places on the day will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Speakers and titles may be subject to change so please check the Friends of RBBM Facebook Page for updates. The group hold a wide variety of events throughout the year, from raffles and book clubs, to crafts and workshops.

For more information about this group's events, please visit friendsofrbbm.org.uk.

Wednesday 7 February

Poet and Writer Hugh McMillan in *The Leaves of the Years* will explain and illustrate why Ayrshire born and educated poet Willie Neill was probably the finest poet writing in Dumfries and Galloway in the 20th century.

Wednesday 21 February

Author and Playwright Catherine Czerkawska talks through *Writing About Family History: Pleasures, Problems and Pitfalls* with reference to her book *The Last Lancer: A story of Loss and Survival in Poland and Ukraine*.

Wednesday 6 March

Author L Bruce Keith presents *Bridgescapes* (based on his book of the same title) a journey through Scotland celebrating the country's bridge building heritage. References to and quotations from Robert Burns.

Wednesday 20 March

Joan McAlpine, Project Director for the Robert Burns Ellisland Trust, in *The Management of Robert Burns' Legacy at Ellisland* discusses the exciting work, already undertaken and scheduled, to preserve and present the life and work of Scotland's National Bard at the farm, Museum and Heritage Centre there.

Wednesday 3 April

Gordon Wilson, Paddle Steamer Preservation Society, illustrates and discusses *The MacGeorge Collection: Scottish Steamers in the 1930s* covering the variety of vessels, piers and operators to be seen in this, the heyday of Scottish steamers.

Wednesday 17 April

Jennifer Smith, Professor of Sociolinguistics at Glasgow University in the *Scots Syntax Atlas* considers how users of Scots, dialects of Scots and English with Scots variants structure sentences, phrases and words.

FRIENDS OF ROBERT BURNS BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM (SC 043931) CONTINUED

Wednesday 1 May

Hamish Husband investigates and considers the significance and history of Scotland versus England: 150 years of Friendly Rivalry at the fitba/football. In 2022 Scotland celebrated the World's first international football match which was played in 1872 at a Glasgow cricket ground. Annual Scotland and England games continued for over a century. Hear all about it.

Wednesday 15 May

Roger Griffith discusses The Glencairn Aisle and Ayrshire's Glorious Tombs A memorial plaque at the Glencairn Aisle, Kilmaurs commemorates James Cunningham, the 14th Earl of Glencairn, friend and patron of Robert Burns who is himself likely to have visited the aisle on one of his journeys to visit Frances Dunlop The other 'Glorious Tombs' existing at Ballantrae, Largs, Dunlop and Ayr will be mentioned in passing.

Wednesday 29 May

Gerry Carruthers, Professor of Scottish Literature at Glasgow University, in Robert Burns: The Ellisland Effect examines the poet's time at Ellisland Farm and it's impact on his work.

Wednesday 12 June

Robert Crawford, poet, scholar, critic, retired Professor of Literature at St Andrews University, in – Writing Robert Burns Biography – talks about what is involved in the enterprise of bringing Burns's life and work to the page. Robert Crawford's The Bard is an acclaimed example of the genre. It is recognised as doing Robert Burns a great service.

Wednesday 26 June

Dr Steven Reid, Glasgow University, in The Memorialisation of Mary Queen of Scots discusses what preserves her memory and why. Robert Burns contributed to this phenomenon with his poem 'Lament Of Mary, Queen Of Scots, On The Approach Of Spring'.

The Burns Birthday Book Club

The Book Club are a friendly group who love reading a variety of books and meet to discuss each month's novel supplied by South Ayrshire Libraries. The club reads a wide variety of material and is very light-hearted with some lively debate. The Club meets at 2pm on the last Tuesday of each month in the Red Room of The Education Pavilion at Burns Cottage. Probably the best part of the afternoon is a very welcome cup of tea or coffee and a delicious scone or cake for £2, so please join, enjoy some refreshments and conversation, and make some new friends.

GALLOWAY MEMBERS' GROUP (SC 026207)

Janet Brennan, Chairperson
barholmcastle@gmail.com
www.ntscentres.org.uk/galloway.html

For more information about this group's events, please contact Janet Brennan.

Monday 4 March

Rewilding debate on the future for Scotland's landscapes with panel of landscape experts. Join the group along with Will Williams, NTS Board member and Treasurer of the Friends of Broughton House, as Panel Chair for a wide-ranging and good-natured debate that addresses the challenges facing our landscapes, explores solutions, with time for audience participation. The debate will take place in Gordon Memorial Hall of St Ninian's Episcopal Church, 68 St Andrew Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1EN.

GLASGOW MEMBERS' CENTRE (SC 024399)

Jean Currie, Treasurer & Excursion Enquiries
j.currie744@btinternet.com
ntsglasgow.org.uk

The Centre has a Winter series of talks between November and March. Talks are free to members. New Members are always welcome. Meetings are held in Renfrew St. Stevens in Bath Street on Wednesday afternoons starting at 2.00pm.

To join any of the events listed below, please contact Jean Currie.

Wednesday 14 February, 2pm

AGM followed by a talk "Working for the National Trust for Scotland" by Liz Davidson.

Wednesday 13 March at 2pm

Talk "The Burrell Collecxtion" by Samuel Gallacher, Keeper of the Burrell Collection.

HIGHLAND MEMBERS' CENTRE (SC 006203)

Fiona Mackenzie, Secretary
highlandnts@gmail.com
ntscentres.org.uk/highland.html

Programme of events for 2024 coming soon. For more information about this group's events, please contact Fiona Mackenzie.

LANARKSHIRE MEMBERS' GROUP (SC 024465)

Liz Craig, Vice Chairperson
elizabeth.a.craig@btinternet.com
ntscentres.org.uk/lanark.html

Programme of events for 2024 coming soon. For more information on the events below, please contact Liz Craig.

LONDON MEMBERS' CENTRE (SC 027207)

Charles Hope, Chairperson
chairman@nts-lmc.scot
www.nts-lmc.scot

Programme of events for 2024 coming soon. For more information on the events below, please contact Charles Hope.

NORTHEAST ABERDEENSHIRE MEMBERS' CENTRE (SC 024227)

Patricia Shaw, Chairperson
ne.aberdeenshire.mc@gmail.com
ntscentres.org.uk/neaberdeen.html

For more information about this group's events, please contact Patricia Shaw.

Thursday 22 February, 11.00am

Talk, "Silk, satin, cotton and wool: Haddo's hoard of household textiles" with Regional Curator, Emma Inglis in Haddo House Library.

We don't often get the chance to get "up close and personal" with most of the items in the fabulous collections at our local properties. This talk will take a closer look at some of the amazing textiles at Haddo House, some of which are displayed for all to see but many that are not.

Emma Inglis will share some of their lesser-known histories, as well as giving an insight into the challenges of researching and displaying these fabulous yet fragile links with the past.

Friday 22 March, 11.00am

Talk, "The work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission" with Elaine Edwards, CWGC Public Engagement Co-Ordinator (Scotland N&E) in Haddo House Library.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission's mission is to ensure those who died in service, or as a result of conflict, are commemorated so that they, and the human cost of war, are remembered for ever.

They care for 23,000 war memorials and war cemeteries around the world commemorating 1.7 million Commonwealth casualties. This work covers the distinctive headstones, the buildings and monuments associated with them and the detailed horticultural work to the grounds they stand in. Elaine Edwards will tell us more about their work and their archives.

ST KILDA CLUB (SC 034266)

Julie Hunt, Chairperson
kildaclub@gmail.com
stkildaclub.co.uk

For more information about this group's events, please contact Julie Hunt.

WEST FIFE MEMBERS' GROUP (SC 025426)

Fiona Moore, Chairperson
Alison Henderson, Secretary
fifraefife@gmail.com
01383 737233
ntscentres.org.uk/westfife.html

For more information on the events below, please contact Fiona Moore.

This information is correct at the time of publication, but all events are subject to change.

Visitors are welcome although some events are for group members only and prior booking may be necessary. Please check before attending.

For more information about **Members' Centres and Friends' Groups**, and how to join your local group, please contact the Fundraising Team:

memberscentres@nts.org.uk