



Cambridge Friends of the National Trust for Scotland

CFNTS

Supporting the
National Trust
for Scotland

Autumn 2026 programme

October
edition

CFNTS Facebook

www.facebook.com/cfnts

NTS website

www.nts.org.uk

Hands of the Past tartan.
Photo: NTS



Ballater Gallery Wednesday, 21st October

Dear Friends,

This month, our speaker is **David Reid**, owner of the Ballater Gallery in Aberdeenshire.

David is a brilliant speaker and highly knowledgeable about Scottish contemporary art, so his talk promises to be both informative and very entertaining – more details below.

The event, on **Wednesday, 21st October**, is, as usual, at Newnham College, Cambridge, at 7.30 for 8.00 pm – ticket details are on page two.

Regular visitors will know there's always a warm welcome, a glass of wine or soft drink on arrival and a raffle is drawn at every meeting... plus, of course, our talks – coming up are:

- **18th November**: Dr Matthew Thompson on Abbotsford, Sir Walter Scott's house, and the fascinating items he collected.
- **17th Feb 2027**: whisky tasting.

Last month, Eamonn Butler gave us a very well researched talk on Scottish inventions and the people involved.

Continued on page two

Wednesday, 21st October
7.30 for 8.00 pm
Newnham College
Ballater Gallery – with
David Reid

David's gallery, established in 2019, specialises in original art, sculpture and objets d'art – mainly from established Scottish artists, many of whom have shown in London and abroad but never exhibited in Scotland before.

"I pride myself by having visited every single artist, from London to Inverness. The aim is to find something for everyone, from the affordable to the expensive," says David.

In addition to telling us about his gallery on Royal Deeside – and some of his (very) famous visitors – he will be bringing a number of paintings and bronzes for us to value.

As a taster, do look at his website: ballatergallery.co.uk.



David Reid outside his gallery in Bridge Street, Ballater.

www.facebook.com/cfnts

Where we meet

Our meetings are at **Newnham College**, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DF, at **7.30 for 8.00 pm**.

At this time of day, parking in Sidgwick Avenue outside the college is free.

Tickets are £10.00 in advance (see below right) or £12.00 'on the door' (cash or via our credit card reader) – they include a glass of wine or soft drink on arrival.

Raffle tickets are £1.00 each or £5.00 per strip; first prize is usually a bottle of wine.

CFNTS committee

Donald Douglas
Chairman, Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Judy Potter
Deputy Chairman and Secretary

Peter Mann
Newsletter editor

Patsy Glazebrook
Julian Landy
Vibeke Romose
Robert Smith
Jill Tuffnell

In aid of



Cambridge Friends of the National Trust for Scotland

Dear Friends, continued

Of the 81 inventions Eamonn listed, not all were inventions in the true sense of the word, for many came on the back of something thought of years, centuries even, before – but without the bright minds, entrepreneurship, finance and, often, newly available materials and manufacturing processes, those modern inventions and major improvements would not have been possible.

Eamonn was particularly keen to understand why such a small country as Scotland could produce so many new ideas.

It was most likely through a combination of factors: the **Scottish Enlightenment** encouraged a positive attitude to invention; the country's **Calvinist** approach to education encouraged learning at Scotland's ancient universities and its tax-funded schools; the improved 'cultural frontier' after the union with England gave Scots freedom to travel to England; the urbanisation of the great cities of Glasgow, with its shipbuilding, and Edinburgh, as the financial centre and with innovations unique to Scotland, enabled those with the ideas

to find willing investors – and shipbuilders to open new markets for them in the colonies.

So who were the notable inventors? Eamonn's top eight are: **James Watt**, who made the steam engine an efficient reality; **Alexander Graham Bell** who patented the first practical telephone; **John Logie Baird** gave us the world's first mechanical television system; **Robert Watson-Watt**, pioneer of radio direction finding and radar technology; **Kirkpatrick Macmillan** invented the first pedal driven bicycle; **William Thomson, 1st Baron Kelvin** was instrumental, at the University of Glasgow, in the formulation of the first and second laws of thermodynamics (the Kelvin scale was named after him); **James Clerk Maxwell**, physicist and mathematician, responsible for the theory of electromagnetic radiation; **John McAdam**, the civil engineer and road-builder who invented 'tarmac'.

Alexander Fleming? Yes, of course, even if his realisation penicillin mould could kill bacteria took many years and the efforts of many others to turn his idea into a wonder drug.

Donald Douglas, Chairman

Ticket application for autumn 2026 meetings

1. Buy your tickets in advance via your bank – please let Donald know (see point two):
 - **£10.00** per person via BACS.
 - **To** Cambridge Friends of the NTS.
 - **Sort code** 30-91-56.
 - **Account number** 03771503.
 - **Reference** Your name!
 2. Let Donald Douglas know: donalddouglas710@btinternet.com.
 3. Or send a cheque (£10.00 per person) to CFNTS, Mar House, Long Lane, Fowlmere, SG8 7TG, made payable to **Cambridge Friends of the NTS**.
 4. **Tickets on the door** will be **£12.00** per person – cash or via our credit card reader.
- NB** Your details are confidential to CFNTS.

www.facebook.com/cfnts