



## Welcome

The Committee have decided to send an extra newsletter this year to welcome the new members who have joined the Friends since the AGM, to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year and to bring you up to date with the progress at the Museum since there have been no events these past few months because of the refurbishment.

Unfortunately there have been delays in the planning stages so that work will not now begin until January, but it is hoped that things will move on in a straightforward manner after that.

The Committee have suggested various possibilities for members who wish to help in this interim period, and towards that end visits behind the scenes in the Museum store are being organised to let people see what is needed. I hope many of you will be able to take up this offer which will almost certainly open your eyes to a whole new world and let you see the many ways in which volunteers can help. It is also interesting and fun.

*Mary Kean, Chairman*

## Helping Hands

Even though the museum is closed, a lot of work is still going on behind the scenes.

All the displays and objects in the museum needed to be safely packed away and thanks to a tremendous response from volunteers the museum was emptied in record time.



Left: a group of volunteers are busy wrapping and packing objects which are safely waiting to be installed in their new home.

## Restoration Donation

We have received two donations from a Mr J F Steele of Motherwell for the "restoration of the museum". To this end we have decided to use the money to partly pay for the restoration of the Alexander Falconer Portrait previously hanging in the gallery area of the museum. The first stage in the process is to have the portrait surveyed by a conservator to see how much conservation would cost.

Right: Volunteers and staff taking down the portrait of Alexander Falconer so it can be packed and sent to a conservator.



## Meet the new boy!



Following Claire's departure to a permanent post in Aberdeenshire, we were able to secure the talents of Mark Macleod.

Before accepting this post Mark was employed by The Missouri History Museum as the Oral History Clerk. Mark hails from Lochgilphead and was keen to return to Scotland.

We asked him to write a short biography for this newsletter and this is what he came up with:-

### Mark at the Falconer Museum

(to be sung to "Donald Where's Your Troosers")

1. I've just come back from the USA  
Where I finished my MA  
My new job is in Forres  
At the Falconer Museum
- Chorus  
*Now I am here I can say  
Forres seems very dreech and grey  
But not after redevelopment  
Of the Falconer Museum*
2. With all the staff and our Friends  
On all of us it depends  
To reach the glorious new ends  
Of the Falconer Museum
3. I've studied Art History and History  
Even marketing, strategy and economies  
Now we will see how well they work  
At the Falconer Museum
4. Since coming to this wee toon  
I've learnt that I'm a loon  
Now I need a quine, and soon  
At the Falconer Museum
5. Thank you for welcoming me  
All the way from Saint Louis  
If you want to chat I'm always free  
At the Falconer Museum

Song-writing was not a prerequisite of the job!

Mark will always be pleased to hear from you with any ideas or comments. Contact him by telephoning his office in the Tolbooth on 01309 696261 or email him at [mark.macleod@moray.gov.uk](mailto:mark.macleod@moray.gov.uk)

## Purchase of Digital Projector

The Committee have recently purchased a digital projector. The projector allows us to use the laptop for illustrated talks and screen displays. Those of you who were able to attend the closing down party in October saw the display of objects that Mark put together. The projector has also been put to use at recent publicity events Mark attended. We will also be able to hire out the projector to the organisers of the "Skills-for-Life" courses run locally and other groups.

## Oral History Training Day

Some volunteers attended a training day in June to see and learn how to use the small digital recorder. To date we have recorded conversations with nine people resulting in nearly six hours of recordings with 81 snippets which can be used on the internet and to enhance panel displays in the new museum. If you would be interested in taking part in the Oral History Project either recording people or having your own reminiscences recorded please let our secretary know.

## Questionnaire

You should have received a Questionnaire from Mark asking for your thoughts on membership, the museum collection and volunteering. If you have not done so, please return the questionnaire to Mark so he can collate the replies. Individual opinions will not be shared with the committee but we will be given an overview of your comments.

## Kelvingrove Bus Trip



Unfortunately the bus trip has had to be postponed until the Spring.

17 people wished to go on the trip but sadly we needed a few more to make the trip viable.

We hope to arrange the trip

again in the Spring and will also try to include a stop off for an evening meal.

## Email addresses

It would help us in updating the members' database if you could let Chris know your email address. Please send your details to [friends@falconermuseum.co.uk](mailto:friends@falconermuseum.co.uk)

## Help Wanted

We are in desperate need of someone to help transcribe the oral history recordings. This can be done through a PC and we will provide the necessary software. The recordings are digital and not on tape. If anyone with typing or audio typing experience can help us please contact either Chris or Mark.

## Blog

Mark has come up with the idea to produce our own Museum blog to enhance the current website.

A blog is simply a diary which is placed on the internet and we hope to use this to keep people up to date with what the volunteers are doing and also detailing events which will be held when the museum opens.

We hope to start the blog in January and also re-launch the website at the same time. The website has had a make-over to bring it more up to date.

An example of a museum blog can be found at:- [www.eastlothianmuseums.org/wp/](http://www.eastlothianmuseums.org/wp/)

## In House Training

A new initiative will be launched in the New Year when Friends Members will be given training on various subjects by museum staff and suitably skilled people. This training will take place on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm with an evening session perhaps once a month. Some of the subjects will be:- Handling Objects Correctly, Researching, Technology Training, Cataloguing and Photographing Objects.

## Marketing Initiatives

To tell people about the Museum Development and also to try to get some new Friends Members, Mark pitched up his stall at recent Christmas Fairs at Brodie Castle and Community Centre.

Volunteers helped Mark at these events and there will be an opportunity for more volunteers to help at this type of event next year.

## Subscriptions

The current subscriptions are:-

Concessions, OAP & Under 16	£ 4.50
Individual Adult	£ 7.50
Family	£ 15.00
Corporate	£ 25.00

Membership Applications are available at the museum or from our Secretary.

## New Members

We welcome the following new members:-

Mrs A Gordon, Mrs V Hawkes, M Macleod and J Paterson

## Contacting The Friends

You can obtain more information about the Friends from:-

The Falconer Museum,

Tolbooth Street,

Forres

Moray, IV36 1PH

Tel No: 01309 673701

e-mail: [museums@moray.gov.uk](mailto:museums@moray.gov.uk)

Our Secretary

Chris Bridgeford,

19 Knockomie Gardens, Forres,

Moray IV36 2TN

Tel No: 01309 673626

e-mail: [friends@falconermuseum.co.uk](mailto:friends@falconermuseum.co.uk)

The Friends web site

at

[www.falconermuseum.co.uk](http://www.falconermuseum.co.uk)