

Doors Open Days

**Sat 16 & Sun 17
Sept 2017**



Falkirk

**peek behind the scenes feed your
curiosity unlock your imagination**



Falkirk
Community
Trust

ADMISSION FREE

Unlocking Scotland's architecture & heritage

WELCOME

Doors Open Days in the Falkirk area are coordinated by the Falkirk Community Trust, which would like to express its gratitude to all of the owners or agents who, by opening their buildings to the public, make the Doors Open Days event possible. We would also like to acknowledge the support of the volunteers who man the venues and provide guides. To receive information about future Doors Open Days events send your name, email and/or full postal address to bookings@falkirk.gov.uk, write to Bookings Team, Falkirk Stadium or call 01324 506850.

Buildings in Scotland that are not normally accessible to the public are opened free of charge over weekends during September as part of the Doors Open Days scheme. Coordinated nationally by the Scottish Civic Trust as part of the wider European Heritage Days initiative, Doors Open Days events are designed to stimulate interest in the built environment and cultural heritage of the area. For a full programme of Doors Open Days events visit www.doorsopendays.org.uk or request an area brochure on 0141 2481188.

This year we again have a range of buildings from all over the Falkirk district providing a variety of architectural styles from different periods. This includes a palace/castle, two churches, a tolbooth/prison and a monumental burial ground. Two of the buildings were designed by the famous Glasgow architect David Hamilton.

Many of these buildings are being given new leases of life by changing their function. The Erskine Church is now the Erskine Community Halls; the Falkirk Steeple was an administrative centre, shop and prison, and subsequently became an information centre and then a booking office. Its next role is under debate, but it has just completed a major overall of its fabric to ensure its future. The church at Larbert has completed remedial building work to save it. The stained glass is particularly attractive with windows by Alf Webster of Glasgow, Dickson & Walker of Edinburgh and Stephen Adam of Glasgow. (Illus.)

The week of Saturday 16 – Sun 24 September is BIG ROMAN WEEK. Details of events will be found on the websites of the Falkirk Community Trust and the Friends of Kinneil, www.bigromanweek.org.uk or email info@bigromanweek.org.uk. This year there is a free conference in the Hippodrome cinema in Bo'ness, which featured during its renovation in a previous Doors Open Day.



FALKIRK STEEPLE



Completed in 1814 according to designs by David Hamilton of Glasgow the Steeple is the iconic landmark of the town. 140ft tall, it has four stages – the bottom being severe Florentine; the second Greek Doric; the third or clock chamber Italianate; and the belfry Ionic. It was constructed to house the town's bell and clock, as well as containing temporary lockups. The design was a reflection of civic pride. The original Steeple on the site was erected in 1697 and was the first building to be owned by the Stentmasters – the precursor of the town council.

The building has just been completely refurbished as part of the Townscape Heritage Initiative and this will be your first opportunity to see the results.

During this weekend there will be an opportunity to inspect the two prison cells (lockups). These retain their original reinforced doors and traces of the iron cladding of both the ceilings and the floors. People had escaped from the previous tolbooth, but this was not going to happen here!

Please note that access is to the first and second floors of the building only, by a small spiral staircase. You will need to be able to ascend and



descend the stairs. We reserve the right to refuse access in reasonable circumstances. Booking is recommended in order to avoid disappointment – free at the Booking Office.

To enable it to open to the public, work on the building has been supported by the Falkirk Townscape Heritage Initiative. Further work will be undertaken in future years.

Open courtesy of Falkirk Council & Falkirk Community Trust

Location: Falkirk Steeple, High Street, Falkirk. FK1 1NW.

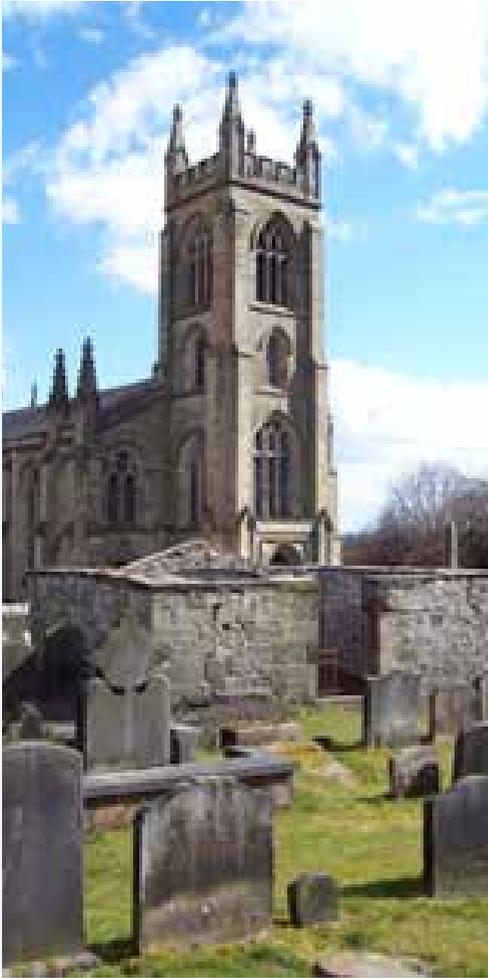
Opening Times: Saturday 10.00am - 4.30pm, Sunday 12.30-4.30pm. Booking essential – see the introduction.

Parking: Car parks are available in the town centre.

Disabled Access: None. Access is by a spiral stair.

Toilets: Public toilets are available in the Howgate Shopping Centre, about 150m away.

LARBERT PARISH CHURCH



Set beside the River Carron, the present church is a prominent landmark and dominates the skyline for miles around. The church opened in 1821 at a cost of £4,400. Its architect, David Hamilton, also designed Falkirk Steeple. The style is Gothic with prominent crocketed finials on the corner buttresses and the west tower. The tower contains the main entrance and opens into a vaulted vestibule from which stairs rise to right and left to the gallery landings.

Between the stepped buttresses are tall traceried windows, many of which now contain stained glass. The styles are varied and well worth a visit in their own right.



The approach from the main road is between chamfered sandstone gatepiers with crenellated polished ashlar caps and decorative cast-iron gas lamp fittings. On the left is a pink granite marble fountain with a shallow bowl on a turned circular plinth, presented in 1923. On the right is the 1905 hall, designed by P. MacGregor Chalmers.

On the Saturday morning there will be an organ recital in the church. Guided tours of the churchyard will take in many fascinating aspects of local as well as national history, and of art. The latter includes some idiosyncratic poetry set in stone, as well as statues by leading sculptors.

LARBERT PARISH CHURCHYARD



Adjacent to the parish church is a burial ground whose magnificent monuments neatly encapsulate the advent of the Industrial Revolution in Scotland. They are dominated by those relating to the Carron Ironworks, which was established in 1759. The large edifices to its managers range from an Italianate tomb, to a huge urned column and a Roman temple. Cast iron features strongly throughout the graveyard with elaborate railings and obelisks.

The Carron Enclosure contains beautiful examples of public art, including two tombs designed by John Hutchison of Edinburgh, one of the most famous sculptors of the late 19th century.

In its own separate enclosure stood the earliest cast iron funerary obelisk anywhere in the world. It commemorates the most famous Scottish explorer of his generation, as recorded on its panels:

"James Bruce esq of Kinnaird, / who died on the 27th of April 1794, / in the 64th year of his age /

his life was spent performing / usefull, and splendid actions / he explored many distant regions. / He discovered the fountains of the Nile. / He traversed the deserts of Nubia."

Although the graveyard is open all the year round, guided tours will be conducted on the hour during the Saturday of the opening of the church.

Courtesy of the congregation of Larbert Old Church.

Location: Larbert Old Church, Denny Road, Larbert FK5 3AB.

Opening Times: Saturday 10.00am – 4.30pm, Sunday 12.30 – 4.30pm.

Parking: Large car park beside the church.

Disabled Access: Wheelchair access.

Toilets: Toilets available in the church hall.

FALKIRK TOWN CENTRE



As part of the Falkirk Townscape Initiative there will be a temporary exhibition and a guided walk to illustrate and explore the lost and living history of the town centre. The THI is a grant-giving scheme funded by Falkirk Council, HLF, Historic Environment Scotland and others, that has seen £5.5 million invested in Falkirk Town Centre between 2013 and 2018. The aim is to help regenerate the area through investing in its unique and rich heritage.

Lost Falkirk Exhibition

Howgate Shopping Centre, Falkirk (tbc)
Saturday: 10am - 4pm
Sunday: Noon - 4pm

Explore the lost and hidden histories of Falkirk town centre at this free exhibition. Supported by Falkirk Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI).

(Please note this is a special Sunday opening).

Falkirk THI Talks

Falkirk Trinity Church, High Street
Saturday: 10.30am
Steeple Restoration in Focus

The Steeple restoration works are complete. But what actually happened? Join ZM Architecture the architects on the project and find out more about the work.

Saturday: 12.30pm
3D Scanning and the Built Environment

New technologies are being used to record the built environment. Join Professor Douglas Pritchard who will explain how these techniques are being used for architecture, design and heritage conservation.

Drop in LEGO Event Let's Build!

Howgate Shopping Centre
Saturday & Sunday
11am-3pm

Come along to our builder's yard and get creative with **LEGO!** Try to create a local shop, building or just have fun with bricks! This is part of the Falkirk Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI). All ages

Free Falkirk Town Centre Heritage Walks

Saturday: Noon, 2pm & 4pm
Sunday: 2pm & 4pm

Meet at the Cross at Falkirk Trinity Church Stroll into the past with our Tour Guides and find out more about the rich heritage of Falkirk Town Centre. Supported by Falkirk Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI).

KINNEIL HOUSE



Set within a carefully designed park landscape Kinneil House or Palace was built for James Hamilton the second Earl of Arran when he was the Protector and Governor of Scotland from 1542 to 1554 during the minority of Mary, Queen of Scots.

It still houses the best 16th and 17th century murals in Scotland. The bed chamber is now known as the Arbour room and the painting is full of foliage, scrolls and animals. This was later painted over in imitation of wainscoting and a coffered ceiling containing the 1621 coat of arms of Arran. The withdrawing chamber has a number of biblical scenes on the walls, notably the Good Samaritan.

This year access has been created to extra rooms in the residential wing and to the ground floor of the tower house - meaning there is even more to see!

In 1677 Anne Duchess of Hamilton began a programme of renovation, producing the house and grounds as they appear today. By the late 18th century the house was being let. Dr John Roebuck lived here 1764-94 and invited James Watt to perfect his separate condenser here. Dugald Stewart the philosopher was another famous tenant

1809-1828 and has a memorial on Carlton Hill in Edinburgh.

The grounds are also the setting for events connected with the Roman Week, which runs from 16 - 24 September. The Antonine Wall runs close to the House and the remains of a Roman fortlet can be seen. There is also a 12th century church. Kinneil Museum, located in the old coachhouse, is open from 12.30-4.00pm.

Courtesy of Historic Scotland and the Friends of Kinneil.

Location: Kinneil House, Kinneil Estate, Provost Rd, Falkirk. EH51 OPR.
Opening Times: Saturday 1.00pm - 4.00pm.
Parking: In the park.
Disabled Access: Wheelchair user access to ground floor only.
Toilets: available.

ERSKINE COMMUNITY HALLS



Designed by William Black of Messrs A. & W. Black, architects, Falkirk, the Erskine Church was built in 1905. It is in the Gothic style of architecture of the Perpendicular period, with a square tower at the south-west corner some 90 ft tall. The south gable presents a five light tracery window and twin doors to the street, approached by an imposing broad flight of steps.

The church is cruciform in plan, with nave, aisles, chancel and two shallow transepts. There are galleries over the end of the nave and each of the transepts. A creamy sandstone from Eastfield Quarry was used. Internally the bases of the pillars are of freestone but the walls and ceiling have been finished with lathe and plaster. Behind the church and communicating with it is a hall to accommodate 200 people, a smaller hall,

vestry, session room, ladies room, waiting room, kitchen and offices. The total cost of the building was put at £9248.

The building ceased functioning as a church in 2014 and is used as community halls. It now provides a great venue for functions.

Courtesy of The Erskine Community Halls.

Location: Erskine Community Halls, Hodge Street, Falkirk FK1 1BL.

Opening Times: Sat 12.00am-4.00pm

Parking: Street parking nearby

Disabled Access: Wheelchair access to rear of building

Toilets: Toilets available in the church hall
Refreshments available.



Falkirk **THI**

