



Cambridge Friends of the National Trust for Scotland

Supporting the National Trust for Scotland
Spring 2025 programme and newsletter

My favourite place March 2025

Dear Friends,

Last month we had a wonderful cheese tasting evening – four, highly individual Scottish cheeses were presented to us by Charlie Gerard of *d'Arry's*, the Cambridge luxury British cheesemonger.

Jill Tuffnell writes: A cheese specialist is a 'turophile'! Charlie is certainly a connoisseur and his enthusiasm was apparent as he took us through the structured approach to tasting cheese.

This involves first describing the cheese according to key elements such as milk type, heat treatment and region.

Attention to rind type, texture, consistency, colour, blueing and smell is required before you actually taste it.

Once in the mouth we were asked to assess

sweetness, savoury and acidity notes before considering more complex flavours, such as herbs and fermentation.

Our four cheeses were Connage Gouda from a farm near Inverness, Isle of Mull Cheddar and Hebridean Blue from near Tobermory and Blue Murder! from Ross-shire.

They were all a class apart from typical supermarket cheeses – and all these cheeses

can be bought from *d'Arry's* shop (which is also a café and restaurant), in King Street, Cambridge.

It is good to know that these cheese producers have all built sustainable businesses as interest in more complex flavours has grown.

This month we have another different style of evening with five speakers instead of our usual single specialist – details below.

Tickets for this event revert to our usual price of £10 per person via BACS or £12 'on the door'.

Details of the rest of our spring programme of events are listed on page two.

Donald Douglas,
Chairman

Samples of Isle of Mull cheddar and Blue Murder! – two of the Scottish cheeses Charlie Gerard brought to the tasting.



Wednesday, 19th March / 7.30 for 8.00 pm / Newnham College

My favourite place – five CFNTS members enthuse about their favourite places in Scotland

Something new this month – four short talks, with lots of pictures, from members and supporters of the Cambridge Friends of the NTS on their favourite places in Scotland.

Professor Kevin Edwards will tell us about the delights of St Kilda; **Jill Tuffnell** will be recalling a trip along the West Highland Way; **Vibeke Romose** and **Judy Potter** will be tarrying

at Craigievar; and **Robert Smith** will take us on a splendid journey to John O'Groats.

We're in for rapid mini-tour of Scotland covering hundreds of miles – so hold on tight!

Spring 2025 meeting dates

Wednesday, 19th March –

Four short talks, with lots of pictures, from members and supporters of the Cambridge Friends of the NTS with a special fondness for certain places.

These include St Kilda, the West Highland Way, Craigievar and John O'Groats.

NB Tickets for this event are **£10.00** each (**£12.00** on the door) – application details below.

A glass of wine on arrival is included.

Wednesday, 16th April –

Erica Utsi will tell us how she used ground-penetrating radar at Dunfermline Abbey to uncover secrets of the final resting place of Robert the Bruce.

Dunfermline Abbey, a major royal foundation in medieval times, has undergone many changes since the Reformation in Scotland.

It was originally thought it was not worth investigating the subsurface to learn about its past due to the vast changes that the building had endured.

This changed in 2016 with the start of a series of geophysical investigations, with the project continuing in 2017, 2019 and 2022.

Erica will use these to talk about the structure of the abbey, its international relationships and its 'lost' royal burial places.

Wednesday, 21st May –

Felicity Starr on the Kelpies, the world's largest equine sculptures: a pair of monumental steel horse-heads which stand next to the M9 between Falkirk and Grangemouth.

Where we meet...

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

Tickets are £10.00 in advance (see below)

or £12.00 cash / cheque on the door – they include a glass of wine on arrival. Raffle tickets are £5.00 / strip – first prize is, sometimes, a bottle of whisky.

Ticket application

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.

NB We will not pass your details on to any other organisation.

Committee members

Donald Douglas, Chairman and Membership Secretary

Judy Potter, Deputy Chairman and Secretary

Jim Stewart, Treasurer

Peter Mann, newsletter editor

Patsy Glazebrook

Julian Landy

Dr Robert Smith

Jill Tuffnell

