



## Falconer Museum

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**W**elcome to The Falconer Museum. We hope you enjoy your visit. Should you require assistance at any time during your visit, please ring the bell located on the reception desk.

Founded in 1871, the museum is named after two local brothers Alexander and Hugh Falconer. Alexander, born in 1797, was a merchant in Calcutta and bequeathed £1,000, upon his death in 1856, to be used to establish a public museum in Forres for objects of art and science. The younger brother, Hugh, born 1808, was one of the leading geologists and botanists of his day and he bequeathed £500, upon his death in 1865, to help with the museum. Hugh was a friend and contemporary of Darwin and his work has been recognised as having a significant impact on Darwin's theories on evolution.

The total cost of the museum was £1,564. This used up all of the Falconer trust funds so an admission charge of 6d (2½p) was imposed with "the working class" being allowed entry for 3d (1¼p).

Round the exterior of the building are a number of carved heads. The heads depict:- Hugh Falconer – Geologist and Botanist, Georges Couvier - a French Baron and naturalist, Sir Isaac Newton - Mathematician and philosopher, Hugh Miller - Geologist from Cromarty, Sir Walter Scott - novelist and poet, Sir David Brewster - philosopher and scientist, Edmund Forbes - Professor of Natural

History, Dr John Malcolmson – Geologist, and James Watt - Inventor of the steam engine.

Management of the museum was transferred from the Falconer Trust to Moray District Council in 1975. With the dissolution of the Falconer Trust in 1992, the Moray Council has now assumed full responsibility for the building and its contents.

The Museum is on two floors with many interesting and informative displays giving the visitor a chance to see the civic memorabilia of Forres together with displays detailing the archaeology of the area, rural life, religion, social history, education and industry.

The Museum also houses the Forres 500 Time Capsule. This time capsule was buried by the Forres Quincentennial Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1996. A list of the capsule's contents is displayed above the capsule.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1995 "The Friends of the Falconer Museum" was formed under the chairmanship of the late Sandy Kean, a local solicitor, to support the activities of the Museum. You can find out more about the "Friends" from their display board on the ground floor of the Museum.

A selection of postcards, books and other items are available for sale from the Museum Staff.

Please leave your comments in the Visitors' Book or speak to any of the Museum Staff.



**Produced by The Friends of The Falconer Museum.**  
Scottish Charity No. SC023649  
For more information on the Friends please contact their Secretary:-  
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