**The King's Park History Group are hosting a one day, FREE conference in the Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Dumbarton Rod, Stirling on 31st August entitled ' King's Park; Stirling's Overlooked Jewel.'**

 **ALL WELCOME. We would be grateful if you could forward this email to your members or others who might be interested.**

**OUTLINE PROGRAMME**

**9.30am Doors Open**

**10am Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

**10.15 am Dr Piers Dixon, RCAHMS, ''The royal park at Stirling Castle: the landscape context'**

**10.55am John Harrison, SLHS, 'The maist plesand sycht'; nine centuries of change in the King's Park**

**Short break**

**11.45 am Stephen Digney, RCAHMS  'An imputation on that whole kingdom' : New perspectives on the King's Knot**

**12.15pm Dr. John M Gilbert (author, *Hunting and Hunting Reserves in Medieval Scotland*), "Falkland Park: An Introduction"**

**12.50pm LUNCH - OWN ARRANGMENTS; NOTE THAT THE SMITH HAS AN EXCELLENT CAFE, SERVING SOFT DRINKS, SNACKS AND MEALS.**

**14.00 pm Murray Cook, Stirling Council Archaeologist, 'Exploring Frontiers: community excavation on Gowan Hill's vitrified fort'**

**14.40pm Professor Douglas Robertson, Stirling University, 'King's Park Homesteads: A forgotten pioneering housing experiment of European significance.**

**At around 15.30pm, weather permitting, there will be a guided walk to look at some aspects of the landscapes; there are some steep slopes so please wear sensible footwear and clothing.**

**c. 17.00 Finish**

**COST**

 **THERE IS NO FORMAL CHARGE FOR THIS MEETING BUT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE SMITH WILL BE ASKED FOR TO COVER THE COSTS OF THE ROOM.**

**BOOKING**

**THERE IS NO FORMAL BOOKING; FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!**

**The day will outline something of the historical and archaeological importance of Stirling's castle landscapes and also provide an opportunity to consider its future management whilst discussions are under way about transfer of ownership from the Crown to Scottish Ministers.**

**The area under discussion is much wider than the public park and golf course, taking in the Gowane Hills, north of the castle, the steep braes below it, the King's Knot, the adjacent Haining and the Homesteads as well as some agricultural fields and woodland.**

**FURTHER INFORMATION;** [**http://www.johnscothist.com/index.html**](http://www.johnscothist.com/index.html)

**The King's Park History Group is an expert committee of historians and archaeologists with a remit to improve the information available about and understanding of the King’s Park. This independent Group is recognised by Historic Scotland.**