



The Falkland Society

Scottish Registered Charity SC01720

www.falklandsociety.org.uk

Dr Peter Burman, MBE FSA, will be speaking on 'Why Orkney Matters' to be preceded by our Annual General Meeting (agenda overleaf).

**7 p.m., Wednesday 11 September 2019
at the Chapel Royal, Falkland Palace KY15 7BY**

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All welcome, retiring collection.

Why Orkney matters

This talk arises from Peter's many visits to Orkney since attending the second St Magnus Festival, founded by the composer Peter Maxwell Davies, 41 years ago. He will show by word and image why the Orcadian islands, which he is still exploring, are so special. Mainland Orkney is by far the largest island, with a capital at Kirkwall and a second but architecturally and historically rewarding town at Stromness. But he has gradually been visiting other islands, and will show what marvellous landscapes there are and what beautiful buildings, ranging from medieval castles to humble and beautiful vernacular buildings, some open to the public – Melsetter House on Hoy is one of the two or three most significant houses of the Scottish Arts & Crafts Movement. There is also phenomenal archaeological interest: not only Skara Brae and Maes Howe but countless other sites including the exceptional ones on the island of Rousay. There is music and a long and distinguished tradition of literature. All will be touched upon, and Peter hopes that it will persuade some who have not yet been to Orkney to consider going.



Peter Burman grew up on his father's farm in deeply rural Warwickshire and has a lifelong passion for the countryside, its histories and its ways. While at school he composed, sang, played and conducted music. He gained a scholarship to the 'college of his dreams', King's College, Cambridge, and realised that he most wanted to study architectural and art history. After leaving Cambridge he tumbled into not so much a job as a 'role' – working for the Council for the Care of Churches and the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England, as Assistant, Deputy and for twelve glorious years as the Director.

During that time he was joint organiser of a major exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum; he took six months off to attend the Wall Paintings Conservation Course at the International Centre for Conservation, in Rome, which enabled him to see his life's work in an international context; and he visited Orkney for the first time. He was invited to speak at conferences in Australia, Greece, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand, the USA and several other European countries. He was a British Council 'specialist visitor' to East Germany, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Poland and Latvia.

After twelve years running the Centre for Conservation Studies at the University of York he came north to be Director of Conservation & Property Services at the National Trust for Scotland. There followed five years as Professor of Cultural Heritage Management at the Brandenburg Technical University at Cottbus, in former East Germany.

He has lived in Falkland for four years but was a trustee of the Falkland Stewardship Trust for ten years before that. His house is one of the four Category A listed buildings in the village. He is Chair of the Falkland Society and of SPAB Scotland. He is a member of the Fabric Committee of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. He is a Director/trustee of John Ruskin's Guild of St George founded in 1871: during this year the Guild is celebrating the 200th anniversary of Ruskin's birth and so 2019 has been and is still being an unusually hectic one.