

# Falkland Society

7:00 p.m., Wednesday 26 September 2018

Upper Town Hall, Falkland

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*All welcome, retiring collection*



## Memorials, Memories, Histories and the Art of Lettering

The first lecture of our 2018–2019 programme will be given by our Chairman, Dr Peter Burman.

**This year's programme** will have two overriding themes:

- The first theme reflects the fact that we are about to mark the hundredth anniversary of the end of the first World War. The scale of loss, and the poignancy and sharpness of grief, led to the commissioning of countless memorials in all the countries involved: some of them fine works of art, some not, but almost all of them involved the craft of lettering. That craft is still alive today.
- The second theme looks at some of our surrounding towns and villages, many of them of immense historic importance, yet with a vibrant present. There will be lectures on Cupar and Markinch. We will also cover our highly significant local archaeology, with an exploration of 'Fife's Pictish hill-forts in their wider national perspectives', and our local architecture, with an exploration of the *significance* of the Temple of Decision on the Falkland Estate. The designer of the Temple was the architect Alexander Roos who also designed the drinking fountain in Falkland High Street.

**Peter Burman** is an art and architectural historian with a special interest in craftsmanship in traditional materials, especially stone and wood. He served for twenty years as Chair of the Fabric Committee of St Paul's Cathedral, London, and for seven years in a similar role at Lincoln Cathedral. In his role as a consultant he has been responsible for commissioning fine works of art for houses and gardens as well as churches, and believes passionately that there is a continuing role for traditional craftsmanship. The challenge is to give opportunities to talented men and women.

Thirty years ago he supported the founding of an organisation called *Memorials by Artists* which has done an immense amount to create and foster interest and opportunities for artist-craftspeople. In the first *Memorials by Artists* handbook he wrote 'For most people the commissioning of a headstone or some other form of memorial will be one of the rare opportunities in their lives for commissioning a work of art from a living artist or craftsman. The talent exists, the costs are not exorbitant, and the relationship between the bereaved and the artist-craftsman can be part of the healing process.'



Peter has recently been collecting material for a wider study of lettering, in places as far afield as Rome and Malta. His talk will be a celebration of the art and craft of lettering. It will show how many of the histories of human affairs, from intimate loss to the governance of empires ancient and modern, can be found in inscriptions.