

Aberdeen Heritage Lectures

in association with
Robert Gordon University

Autumn 2019

Aberdeen City Heritage Trust is pleased to present its inaugural series of Heritage Lectures in association with the Scott Sutherland School of Architecture and the Built Environment.

In developing well-considered projects it is essential to appreciate the context and underlying principles of a design.

Aberdeen Heritage Lectures provide an excellent opportunity to consolidate and develop a greater understanding of the historic built environment for those who have the on-going challenge of funding, commissioning, assessing, designing and managing historic buildings and places. They will be of interest to building professionals, professional agents, property owners, planners and anyone with an interest in historic buildings.

Lectures will be held at Robert Gordon University where ample evening visitor car parking is available. Tickets can be purchased via Eventbrite using the links provided.

**Room - N204
Sir Ian Wood Building
Garthdee Road
Aberdeen
AB10 7GJ**

Programme for each lecture

19.00 Arrival, registration, refreshments

19.30 Lecture, questions and discussion

20.30 Finish

Programme may be subject to change.

Booking Details

Tim Meek - Wednesday 9 Oct 2019

From Walling Brick to PhD. What's the point? Lime mortars and harls

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/72493198107>

Dr Peter Burman MBE FSA - Wednesday 30 Oct 2019

John Ruskin (1819-1900) The Good Steward and his influence for us today

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/72705864197>

Robert Grant - Wednesday 6 Nov 2019

Paradise Lost - Reflections on the Evolution and Decline of Great Gardens and Designed Landscapes

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/72702293517>



Participants



Tim Meek

Tim Meek pioneered the sensible use of lime in building repair and in particular, the surface finish of buildings in Scotland. Major Scottish projects include the Great Hall at Stirling Castle, Wormistoun House in Fife and his work at Brodie Castle in the early 1990s. Tim's work has taken him across the globe, including New England, Trinidad, Calcutta, and Puerto Rico. Closer to home he recently acted as an advisor at Lindisfarne Castle in Northumberland. He is co-author of the Historic Environment Scotland Technical Paper 31 "Historic External Lime Finishes In Scotland" and is currently a PhD researcher at Stirling examining the cultural and physical factors of surface finish in Scotland.



Dr. Peter Burman MBE FSA

Dr Peter Burman is an enthusiastic and influential educator and practitioner. After 22 years at the Council for the Care of Churches and the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England, he ran the Centre for Conservation Studies at the University of York for over a decade and was later Professor of Cultural Heritage Management in the World Heritage Studies programme at Brandenburg Technical University, Cottbus. Reawakening of interest in lime led to him founding and chairing the Building Limes Forum. He was Chair of the Fabric Committee of St Paul's Cathedral for 20 years and Arts Adviser to Lincoln Cathedral. He is a Director of the Guild of St George, founded by John Ruskin in 1871, and a member of the Fabric Committee of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. Peter has an all-round knowledge of Ruskin and is currently writing about Ruskin and landscape. In Scotland, he was Director of Conservation & Property Services of the National Trust for Scotland from 2003-2007 and is currently Chair of SPAB in Scotland, the Falkland Society and the Falkland Stewardship Trust.



Robert Grant

Robert Grant is a horticulturist and freelance heritage garden consultant with over 38 years' experience and has a special interest in the management of historic gardens and designed landscapes; he has produced conservation plans, management plans, garden schedules, work plans and minimum standards statements, restoration proposals, heritage impact assessments, statements of significance and historic landscape studies for many nationally important and locally valued sites across Scotland. He is a fully trained time-served and experienced horticulturist and has worked for the Royal Horticultural Society; Brighton and Hove Parks Department; the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and the National Trust for Scotland.



Prof. Ian Mitchell Davidson

Ian will facilitate this series of Aberdeen Heritage Lectures. He is a Chartered Building Surveyor and Heritage Consultant working throughout Scotland offering conservation planning and project support for cultural heritage. He is a Visiting Professor at Robert Gordon University and Chairs the RICS Conservation Accreditation Panel.

Aberdeen Heritage Lectures - Autumn 2019

9 October 2019

“From Walling Brick to PhD. What’s the Point?” Lime mortars and harls

Lecturer - Tim Meek

This lecture will consider approaches to the repair of historic buildings and how conservation practice has sometimes by-passed analysis and fact in favour of approaches that respond to a romanticised view of Scottish built heritage. Has there been an undue focus on pointing when surface finishes were the traditional means to protect fabric in the past? These surface finishes have increased relevance with the onset of climate change.



30 October 2019

John Ruskin (1819-1900) The ‘Good Steward’ and his influence for us today

Lecturer - Dr Peter Burman MBE FSA

This lecture will explore the many-sided nature of Ruskin’s genius. In his *Seven Lamps of Architecture* (1849) and in other writings he gave intellectual substance to ideas about stewardship of the earth’s resources which are uncannily relevant to the present day. He urged us to ‘cherish, above all things, local associations and hereditary skill’. His respect for the age values of ancient buildings led him to inspire the foundation of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings SPAB (1877) and the National Trust (1895). His own foundation, the Guild of St George (1871), enabled him to put theory into practice and the Guild still flourishes today.



6 November 2019

Paradise Lost - Reflections on the Evolution and Decline of Great Gardens and Designed Landscapes

Lecturer - Robert Grant

This lecture will look at the influences that have shaped gardens over the centuries leading to the early development of gardens in Scotland from the earliest in c1165 through to the present day. Celebrating the successes and wonderful creations of land owners and garden makers and reflect on both the loss of the country house in Scotland in general and their gardens and designed landscapes in particular. With illustrated examples of great gardens that have come and gone from across Britain and Scotland, a couple of notable examples from Aberdeenshire will be assessed in detail as well as considering the revival of a few special places where dedicated individuals have committed to create their own new versions of paradise.

