



The 53rd Viking Surgeon Annual Conference 2026

Orkney - Remote, Rural & Resilient



Information for Delegates

NHS Orkney is delighted to host the 53rd Viking Surgeon Annual Conference on 29th and 30th October 2026. This event promises an excellent learning opportunity for aspiring surgeons and a platform for experienced practitioners to share their knowledge and experiences. Beyond the rich academic program, attendees will have the chance to experience the unique beauty of Orkney, from its remarkable history to its stunning natural landscapes—a truly unforgettable setting for both professional and personal inspiration.

Travel Information

Travel from Kirkwall airport (about 10 minute drive to town centre):

- Bus - costs £3.10 per person
 - Service that serves this route is **number 4** – see timetables and other bus information here: [Stagecoach Orkney](#)
 - **N.B.** buses leave Kirkwall Airport promptly at the advertised time - they do not wait for delayed aircraft arrivals – the bus will take you to the Town Centre, a taxi may still be required to your accommodation
- Taxis – typical cost is £15-£20 per taxi from airport to Lynnfield Hotel/Town Centre
 - **Advance booking is strongly advised**
 - Full list of taxi companies/contact details:
 - Orkney Cabs: 01856 875 000
 - Craigies Taxis: 01856 878 787
 - Ronnie's Taxis: 07764 813 418

Orkney is a breathtaking archipelago of about 70 islands just off the north coast of mainland Scotland. Renowned for its rich blend of Norse and Scottish heritage, it features world-class Neolithic monuments, incredible local produce, and a unique, ruggedly beautiful island lifestyle.



Thursday Evening Formal Dinner

Venue: The Lynnfield Hotel

Time: 19:00

Cost: £50 per person

Dress code: Smart casual

Dinner will be followed by a ceilidh dance with a performance from The Kirkjuvagr Dancers. Attendees will be served their pre-ordered menu choice. Menus will be sent out by email nearer the time. Finish at 23:00 approx.



Friday Afternoon

Neolithic Tour & Highland Park Distillery Whiskey Tasting

Explore the ancient heart of West Mainland Orkney on this short Neolithic tour, featuring a visit to the magnificent Ring of Brodgar—one of Britain's most impressive prehistoric stone circles and part of Orkney's UNESCO World Heritage landscape. Along the way, enjoy stunning views across Scapa Flow, where the German High Seas Fleet was famously scuttled in 1919 following the First World War. This tour combines thousands of years of history with some of Orkney's most spectacular scenery, offering a fascinating glimpse into both its ancient past and more recent maritime heritage.



There is no toilet on board the coach.

Guide: Lee Inkster

Depart Balfour Hospital: 2.00pm

Cost: £30 per person

Discover the spirit of Orkney with an unforgettable whisky tasting at the world-renowned Highland Park Distillery. Established in 1798, Highland Park is one of Scotland's most celebrated single malt whisky producers, renowned for its distinctive balance of honeyed sweetness, aromatic peat smoke, and sherry-cask richness. Guided by knowledgeable hosts, you'll explore the fascinating story behind the distillery's centuries-old traditions before sampling a carefully selected range of exceptional whiskies. Whether you're a seasoned whisky enthusiast or completely new to Scotch, this experience offers a warm Orcadian welcome and a true taste of Orkney's heritage in an atmospheric and historic setting.

Both of these tours are required to be booked as soon as possible, this can be done on the registration form.



The venue for the Conference will be The Balfour Hospital, Kirkwall

Thursday 29th October 2026		
	Speaker	Topic
09:00	REGISTRATION	
09:45	Mr Aziz Anjum	Welcome
10:00	George Ramsay	Overview of Outcomes in Emergency General Surgical Sphere
10:30	James Milburn	HPB Cancer in Scotland – Challenges & Opportunities in National Networking
11:00	BREAK	
11:30	Stuart Fergusson	Rural Trainees
12:00	TBC	Legal Matters/GORD
12:30	LUNCH	
13:30	Keith Buccan	Practical Tips on Chest Trauma
14:00	Josep Blondal	Back and neck pain. Some thoughts on the diagnosis and treatment after 40 years
14:40	BREAK	
15:10	Keith Buccan	Insertion, Adjustment and Removal of Chest Drains: A Practical Guide
15:30	Trainee Doctors 1. Christopher McCaffery 2. Kate Vavasour/Olivia Lovstad/Sarah Makka/Andrew Mitchell 3. Allan Leslie/Kate Vavasour 4. Psoas Rupture/Olivia Lovstad	Case Presentations 1. An Absorbing Case of Bowel Obstruction 2. Local Experience of Management of Hip Fractures in Orkney 3. TBC 4. TBC
16:30	Viking Surgeons AGM	

Friday 30th October 2026		
	Speaker	Topic
09:25	Mr Aziz Anjum	Welcome
09:30	Judith Kendall	TBC
10:00	Peter Alexander	A Trip to Madagascar: combining humanitarian surgery into an NHS contract
10:30	Srihari Vallabhajousula	Smart Watch, Smart Phone and Stock Cube – Resourcefulness in Remoteness
11:00	BREAK	
11:30	Trainees Presentation	(1) TBC (2) TBC
12:30	CLOSE OF CONFERENCE	
13:00	LUNCH	
14:00	Bus departs for pre-booked tour & whiskey tasting	