

NORTHERN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Programme

2020-21

October 2020

www.northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk



Blackfriars Restaurant, Newcastle upon Tyne
The venue for our Post-Christmas Event
January 2020

THE NORTHERN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society was established in the 1970s. It aims to encourage the study and enjoyment of architecture, buildings, their contents and settings by organising lectures and visits. It usually holds its lectures in Newcastle upon Tyne and enjoys a close association with the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape of Newcastle University.

Sadly, in view of the current COVID-19 precautions, it is not possible for us to hold our lectures in their usual form of a physical gathering in an indoor lecture theatre. Instead we will be holding them on the internet conference platform Zoom. Invitations with details of how to join the meetings on this platform will be sent a few days before each lecture to all members who have provided the Society with an e-mail address.

All lectures will start at 7:30 p.m. The host will open the meeting at 7:00 p.m. to enable members to foregather in a virtual waiting room until granted admission.

You will be able to join these meetings using a desktop P.C., laptop, iphone or android device. For some of these latter you may have to download a free app beforehand. If your device does not have an in-built or attached camera or audio device you may not be able to contribute to the question and answer element of the proceedings but you should still be able to watch and hear all that goes on.

The committee is aware that members with no form of internet access will be unable to participate and very much regrets that the current situation precludes any other practicable form of meeting. Members who are excluded as a result may, if they wish, request a refund of the current year's subscription by contacting the Treasurer (contact details on last page).

The current situation being somewhat fluid this programme is inevitably provisional and the committee reserves the right to substitute lectures of equal value should this prove necessary!

The Restoration of Greek Thompson's 1 Moray Place, Glasgow

Lecturer: Andrew Greg

Wednesday 21 October 2020



In 2009 Andrew and his wife Charlotte bought this end-of-terrace house from the architectural historian Gavin Stamp and have been carrying out a painstaking and historically-informed restoration ever since. The terrace is a fine example of the work of Alexander 'Greek' Thompson and Andrew will be sharing his appreciation of the house as well as describing aspects of its restoration.

Andrew is well known to many of us from his former role with the Tyne & Wear Museums service before his move to Glasgow, and from his co-authorship with our late former chairman Tom Faulkner of the best book on John Dobson.

Gertrude Bell and the Scottish Government Architect of Iraq

Lecturer: Sana Al Naimi

Wednesday 18 November 2020



In this lecture, Sana will share some of the exciting findings uncovered during research for a Ph.D. thesis entitled *Architecture and Urbanism in Twentieth Century Iraq: The Enduring Legacy of Gertrude Bell*. The talk will focus around a dramatic event that happened during the first year of the creation of the Kingdom of Iraq in 1921. Part of the *Sarai* building which housed King Faisal I of Iraq, Gertrude Bell's infant Iraq Museum and the Government Architect J.M. Wilson's office, collapsed into Baghdad's River Tigris.

The contradictory reactions to this event reflect contrasting agendas and resonate with the present day to a great extent. The lecture also highlights the importance of the architectural archive in re-examining historical accounts.

Turret Clock Conservation in the North

Lecturer: Keith Scobie-Youngs

Wednesday 9th December 2020



After study in Birmingham and several years working with Public Clocks in London, in 1990 Keith (with his wife Lynn) established The Cumbria Clock Company based in Dacre. Rapidly gaining an enviable reputation, the company is now responsible for the maintenance of hundreds of clocks throughout the UK. It has carried out substantial restorations on some of the most prestigious clocks in the land and includes Durham Cathedral amongst its clientele. Recently it made and fitted a temporary mechanism to Big Ben to keep it going whilst its original mechanism was away for restoration.

Keith has worked on projects with at least two architect members of our Society and will share something of his knowledge and experience of clock and dial restorations here in the north.

Members' Evening including Short Talks

Organiser: Hugh Dixon

Wednesday 20 January 2021



Following the successes of the last three years we are planning another evening devoted to short talks giving members an opportunity to address favourite subjects, share enthusiasms, outline early research or simply fly architectural-historical kites. So far topics range from the 18th century to our own times, from vernacular to highly formal and to the unexpected. If you have a concise tailpiece to get off your chest, this is your chance. As an added attraction, we are investigating the possibility of including one of Tom Yellowley's fiendish art and architecture quizzes!

Contact Hugh Dixon

E mail: hughdixon7@gmail.com

**This evening will be what members
make it;
please don't be shy.**

Pevsner Reviewed

Lecturer: Martin Roberts

Wednesday 17 February 2021



With the mammoth task of revising the County Durham volume of Nikolaus Pevsner's *The Buildings of England* series completed and publication imminent, Martin will share his thoughts on Pevsner (pictured left), on the revision history of the County Durham volume and his experiences in carrying out this latest upgrade.

A long-standing member of and previous lecturer to our Society, Martin qualified as both an architect and town planner, then worked in the planning department of Durham City Council for almost 25 years before moving to English Heritage as an Historic Building Inspector. He is a leading light in the North East Vernacular Architecture Group. Always concerned for and encouraging the welfare of historic buildings, knowledgeable and enthusiastic, his lecture promises to be inspirational.

Eighteenth Century Plasterwork

Lecturer: Professor Christine Casey

Wednesday 17 March 2021



Professor Casey is an architectural historian with a particular interest in the relationship of architecture and decoration and the role of craftsmanship in architectural production in early modern Britain and Ireland. Author and editor of splendid and authoritative books on stuccatori and decorative plasterwork in Ireland and Europe, Christine will share her enthusiasm for and knowledge of the finest achievements of the plasterer's craft in eighteenth-century interiors with examples from both sides of the Irish Sea, executed by renowned craftsmen working at an international level.

Distinction on the Cheap:

Sir John Vanbrugh and the Fine Art of Client Management

Lecturer: Professor Christine Stevenson

Wednesday 15th April 2021



The houses designed by Sir John Vanbrugh, including Seaton Delaval Hall (begun in 1718), are remarkable for their bold forms and unorthodox ornament. Yet in one respect Vanbrugh's work was supremely delicate: the way in which he persuaded clients that boldness and unorthodoxy were the most economical routes to displays appropriate to status. His arguments are gossipy, funny and often untrustworthy. They also offer us a fascinating insight into the complicated social relations at play on the early eighteenth-century building site. Christine Stevenson is Professor of Early Modern Art and Architecture at the Courtauld Institute of Art.

Annual General Meeting Event 2021

A Saturday in May – subject to lifting of COVID-19 restrictions

Summerhill Square, Newcastle upon Tyne

Details to follow



For Further Information about Events

Please Contact:

Ian Wells, 4 Swindon Terrace, Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 5RB

telephone: 0191 265 6391

E-mail: events@northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk

Ideas for future events are always welcome!

**Subject to lifting of COVID-19 restrictions,
events for Summer 2021 provisionally include:
Sunday city walk on the theme of 'Capital Newcastle'
Walking tour of Whickham village
Day trip to explore historic Middlesbrough
Tour of Newcastle University's historic buildings
Summer weekend away in late June/early July
Details to Follow**

Membership is by Annual Subscription

Membership is due for renewal on 1st March each year.
To join please download the membership form from our website and send it
to our treasurer:

LESLIE STARKIE, 11 St. Leonard's Walk,

Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 3SZ

Telephone: 01670 513514

E-mail: treasurer@northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk

SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE 2020/21 SEASON

Individual subscription £14

Two people at the same address £18

Students in full time education £9 (for the academic year)

Visit our Website for the Latest Information

www.northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk

PDF copies of the latest programme can be downloaded from the site.

