

# NORTHERN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Programme

2021-22

September 2021

[www.northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk](http://www.northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk)



Bottom of Westgate Road showing planting in front of the  
North East Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineering building  
Photo by Dr. Tom Yellowley

# 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, despite lifting of most of the COVID-19 precautions, we are still not able to hold our events in a real lecture theatre. So we will continue on the internet conference platform Zoom for this coming season. Should the situation change we will investigate ways of combining live and Zoom formats, this latter having proved very popular with a significant proportion of our membership. Invitations with details of how to join the meetings on Zoom will be sent a few days before each lecture to all members who have provided the Society with an e-mail address. If you are uncertain as to how to access Zoom please contact the chairman by e-mail on [chris-downs@outlook.com](mailto:chris-downs@outlook.com)

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.

An unexpected advantage of holding our events on Zoom has been that we have been able to record (when copyright issues permitted) and post them as unlisted files on 'YouTube'. The playlist of available recordings (currently seven) will be updated and re-issued periodically to new and existing members for whom we have an e-mail address, or you can ask the chairman for it at any time.

The committee is aware that members with no form of internet access will still be unable to enjoy the lectures and very much regrets that the current situation precludes any other practicable format. 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 prevailing situation being somewhat fluid this programme is inevitably provisional and the committee reserves the right to substitute lectures or events of equal value should this prove necessary!

## Shadow-Makers: episodes in the cultural history of shadows in architecture

Lecturer: Stephen Kite

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021



In this talk Stephen examines episodes in the little-explored cultural history of shadows in architecture based on the research that led to his book *Shadow-Makers: a cultural history of shadows in architecture* (Bloomsbury, 2017); a study whose narrative – combining close readings of significant buildings both ancient and modern with architectural theory and art history – reveals the key places and moments where shadows have shaped architecture in distinctive and dynamic ways. Major figures examined in the lecture include: Nicholas Hawksmoor, Sir John Soane, and John Ruskin.

Stephen studied at Newcastle University and is a past chairman of this Society. Now an Emeritus Professor at the Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University, his research explores the history and theory of architecture, and its wider links to visual culture. His many publications include *Building Ruskin's Italy: Watching architecture* (2012). Currently his research examines the faces of British architecture (1840-2000).

## How to read a Quaker meeting house

Lecturer: Christopher Skidmore

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021



Most churches and chapels have obvious architectural reference points – pulpit, sanctuary, table, pews – but Quaker meeting houses seem to be defined by an absence of such things. The talk will describe what to look for in a Quaker meeting house and discuss what that might tell us about Quaker worship and the age and history of the building.

Chris Skidmore is a Quaker and retired academic whose interests lie in denominational and architectural history. He has been for the last 13 years the Hon. Editor of The Chapels Society. His book – *Quakers and their Meeting Houses* – will be published by Historic England in November.

## Pre-Christmas Event

Tours of the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, and of The Common Room (former Mining Institute) Newcastle, followed by a party  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021



Still under discussion, we hope to arrange a tour and talk at the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, Newcastle with its recently re-ordered nave and visit to the recently redeveloped but still very historic former Mining Institute building on Neville Street, Newcastle, followed by seasonal festivities including a buffet supper.

## Members' Evening including Short Talks

Organiser: Hugh Dixon

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022



Following the successes of recent 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 have ranged from the 18th century to our own times, from vernacular to highly formal and from the overlooked commonplace to unexpected rediscoveries. If you have a concise tailpiece to get off your chest, speak up now!

Contact Hugh Dixon

E mail: [hughdixon7@gmail.com](mailto:hughdixon7@gmail.com)

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



# **An Acquaintance with Pevsner**

## **Revising Pevsner's Yorkshire: North Riding**

**Lecturer: Jane Grenville**

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022**



With his wife Lola as driver, Pevsner toured the North Riding in the summer of 1963 and loved everything about it - the buildings, the scenery and especially the people. The resulting volume was famously dedicated to 'those publicans and hoteliers...who provide me with a table ... to scribble on'. Unlike others in the series, it did not undergo a thorough desk-top edit in the 70's or 80's, so Jane was commissioned to carry out the first comprehensive revision since 1966. In the course of her work she got to know the man - understanding his enthusiasms, his dislikes, and (by working out his routes) his curious omissions.

This lecture will cover Pevsner's background and that of the Buildings of England series before going on to give a (necessarily selective) account of Jane's work of the past five years.

## **Annual General Meeting Event 2022**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May in the Bowling Clubhouse**

**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](mailto:events@northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk)

Ideas for future events are always welcome!

**Events for Summer 2022 provisionally include:**

**Day trip to explore historic Middlesbrough**  
**Tour of Newcastle University's historic buildings**  
**Summer weekend away in late June/early July**  
**Day trip to north-west Northumberland to include**  
**Shepherd's Law, Callaly Castle and Biddlestone Chapel**

Details to Follow

## **Membership is by Annual Subscription**

Membership is due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:treasurer@northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk)

**SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE 2021/22 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](http://www.northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk)

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