

NORTHERN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Programme

2025 - 2026

Sept 2025

www.northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk

Founded in 1975

This is our 50th Anniversary Year



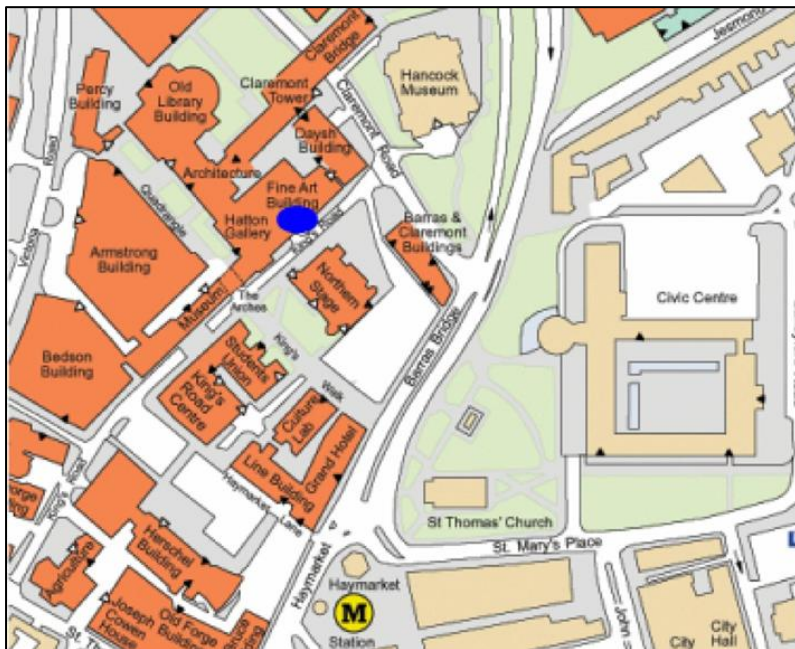
St George's Cullercoats, the venue for our AGM in May 2026.
Architect: John Loughborough Pearson

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.

THE LECTURE THEATRE

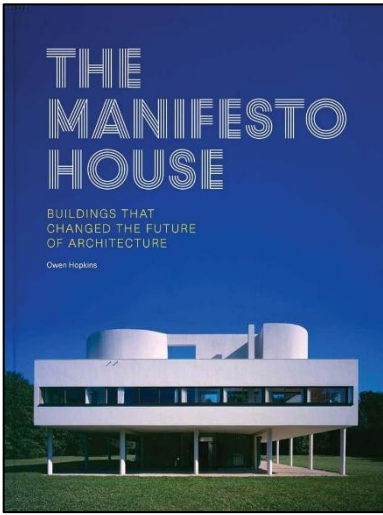
Unless otherwise stated lectures are held in the Fine Art Lecture Theatre of Newcastle University - its location marked by the blue oval on the map below. Main access to the lecture theatre is through the doors at the top of the flight of steps alongside the building, whilst for those with mobility issues there is an access door near the foot of the steps. This latter has a push button for signalling to people inside that you require access. Doors open at 7.00pm with liquid refreshment usually available, and lectures start at 7.30pm. Disabled parking and easy access to the lecture theatre are available, on King's Road.



THE MANIFESTO HOUSE: Buildings that Changed the Future of Architecture

Owen Hopkins

22 October 2025



This recently published book looks at the most influential house designs, those that changed thinking about design. It considers the works of 21 of the most famous architects. Often extreme and uncompromising, they are vehicles for innovation, new ideas, and new ways of doing things.

Owen Hopkins is the director of the Farrell Centre, Newcastle University where we held our 2025 AGM. Along with writing contemporary and historical architectural books he has worked at Sir John Soane's Museum and the Royal Academy.

SOPHIA ROBSON Conservation Architect

Sophia Robson

12 November 2025



Sophia has an MSc in historic conservation and recently qualified as an Architect Accredited in Building Conservation. She works in the premier practice Tom Ford Architects in London and has advised on many very well-known historic buildings.

We have asked her to select some of her favourite projects to present to us. This may include a tower, museums, churches and cathedrals from all over the country. Sophia will shed light on this little-known branch of the architectural profession and explain how satisfying and rewarding it can be.

CHRISTMAS EVENT:

Holy Trinity Church, Sunderland

Tim Mosedale

3 December 2025



As usual we will hold our Christmas event at one of the region's most historic buildings, this year at Sunderland's Holy Trinity Church.

The Grade I listed structure stands in a conservation area in Sunderland's East End and was on the Heritage at Risk register. Now rescued for community use it retains its architectural integrity while providing modern facilities.

Architect Tim Mosedale will guide us around the church and describe the major works that were completed a few years ago. Since completion the project has won several prestigious awards.

MEMBERS' EVENING

Host: Hugh Dixon

21 January 2026



The Members' Evening is an opportunity for members to raise topics of interest, air architectural enthusiasms, or simply fly architectural kites. Please volunteer to Hugh Dixon.

hughdixon7@gmail.com

The evening's topics could include:

- A favourite artist or crafts person.
- The biography of a relative with an interesting architectural career.
- A favourite building which deserves more attention.

WILLIAM GEORGE FOOTITT'S DIARY

Official Book Launch and Lecture

Dr. Michael Johnson

18 February 2026



W. G. Footitt was a draughtsman in the office of Charles Hodgson Fowler, architect to Durham, Lincoln and Rochester Cathedrals. He also worked with leading archaeologists, illustrating their publications. Recently discovered in a private collection, Footitt's personal diary (1897–1914) is a fascinating record of an important architectural practice during the final years of the Gothic Revival and a vivid chronicle of social history. This unique primary source has been published on behalf of the Surtees Society. The official book launch will be introduced by the Rt. Hon. Lord Shipley OBE.

WOMEN'S WORK:

Designing and building the 'man-made' environment

Prof. Katie Lloyd Thomas

11 March 2026



Although women have long been involved in making and designing the built environment, their contributions have been largely invisible. This talk explores their contributions, as patrons, designers, activists and in the production of buildings and materials. Katie trained as an architect and received her PhD in 2010, before joining the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape at Newcastle University, where she is now a Visiting Professor. Widely published, her research explores feminist theory and practice, technology, materials and building labour and the intersections between them.

GEORGE CORSON OF LEEDS

Sue Wrathmell

22 April 2026



Corson was born in Dumfries, where he was articled to Walter Newall before moving to Leeds in 1849 to work with his brother. By 1898 he was president of the Leeds and Yorkshire Architectural Association and designed many of the best buildings in Leeds.

Sue has written the Pevsner Guide to Leeds and has been involved in Yorkshire building conservation all her working career. Recently she was our guide on our summer walk around Skipton town centre. On the same trip we were impressed by one of Corson's buildings in Bradford's Little Germany.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

St George's Church, Cullercoats

9 May 2026

Each May we arrange to have our AGM at a building or area of great architectural interest. The meeting includes a buffet, a short lecture, and a guided tour of the building and the environs. We will send out booking information in January 2026.

DAY TRIPS

by Coach, Cars or Foot

We organise day trips every summer to places or areas of interest.

In 2026 we will have a trip to the borders, which will include the Union Chain Bridge, (subject of an excellent lecture last year), one of the country houses, and possibly a radical 1960s design workshop which is undergoing rescue and restoration.

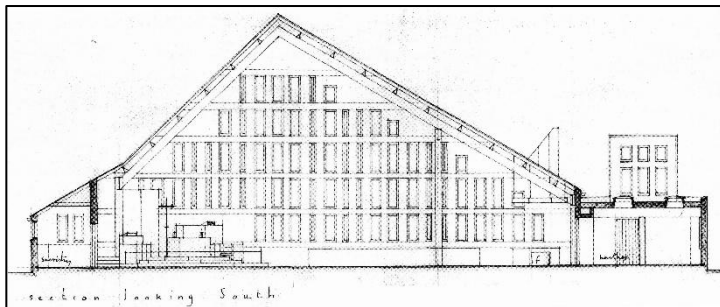
Any suggestions for visits and offers to help with the organisation are always very welcome.

LONG WEEKEND ARCHITECTURAL TOUR

Destination and Itinerary to be Resolved

4 – 6 July 2026

Each year we organise a three-day coach tour to visit buildings of architectural interest. Last year we visited West Yorkshire concentrating on Bradford and Skipton. We sampled several mid-20th Century works by the remarkable architect George Pace. A few of the gems we discovered are illustrated below.



Section of St Saviours Church, Fairweather Green by George Pace. Circa 1966



Bradford Cathedral
World War I Memorial Window
Designer Archibald John Davies



Warehouse in Little Germany, Bradford,
by Architect George Corson.
He is the subject of our April Lecture.

NORTHERN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Visit our website for the latest information:

www.northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk

For further information contact the events secretary: Ian Wells

e mail: events@northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk

Phone: 07766 258581

Ideas for future events are always welcome!

ZOOM BROADCASTS

For those who cannot get to the lecture theatre, whenever possible (and when permitted by the speaker) we aim to stream the event live on Zoom. The necessary link code is sent to members' e-mail addresses a few days before each lecture.

An extensive library of recordings is available to members.

MEMBERSHIP

The annual subscription is due for renewal on the 1st March. Your first year's membership will last for up to 18 months. To join please download the membership form from our website or use this QR code and send it to our treasurer: Maria Carballeira.



e mail : treasurer@northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk

SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE 2025/2026 SEASON

Individual subscription £21.

Two people at the same postal address £27.

Additional people at the same postal address plus £6 each.

For example: Subscription for three people in the same office £33.

Students in full time education can attend our lectures for free.