

# NORTHERN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Programme

2026 - 2027

Sept 2026

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

**Founded in 1975**



## **JUPITER ARTLAND**

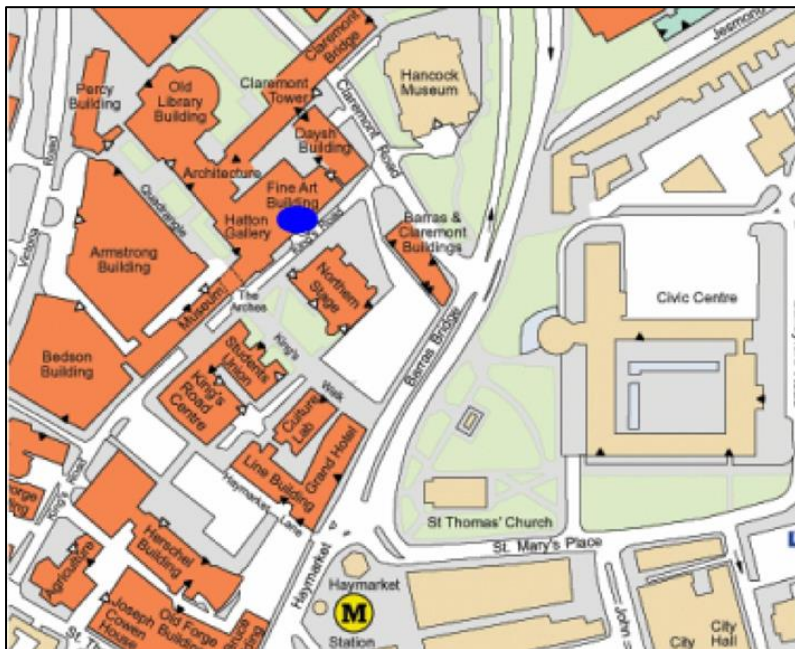
It features historic buildings, contemporary art, and magnificent landscapes.  
The park is near Edinburgh, and we visited it during our 3-day trip to Perth in 2026.

# NORTHERN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society was established in 1975. 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. Please note: The photographic attributions are on our website.

## 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.



# **BUILDING CONSERVATION IN THE LAKE DISTRICT**

Rose Lord

21 October 2026

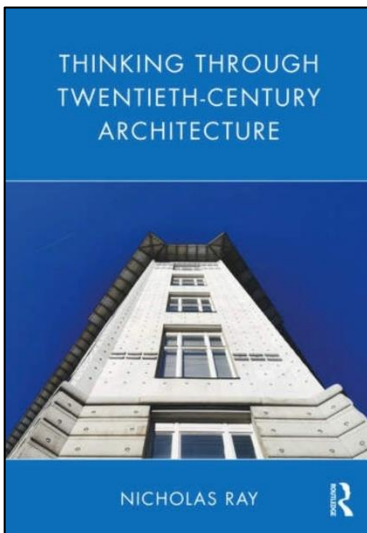


Rose is the Built Environment Adviser at the Lake District National Park and has been involved in all aspects of building conservation in the park for many years. She has been involved in the grant aided conservation of historic buildings with landscape significance and recently put forward the conservation area proposal for the Windermere Villas. The popularity of the park with tourists can create challenges. Rose will talk about this unique landscape and the importance of the historic buildings and standing structures within it.

## **FIVE TYPES OF BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS** **And how our reading of Vitruvius could do with correction**

Nicholas Ray

11 November 2026

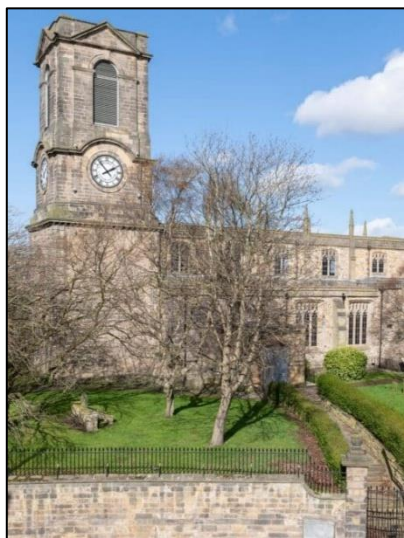


Nicholas practised as an architect in Cambridge and also taught in the University's Department of Architecture. He is an Emeritus Fellow of Jesus College Cambridge. This book arose from lectures and seminars given as a Visiting Professor at the University of Liverpool. His lecture will concentrate on the idea of Beauty, the third of the trinity of Firmitas, Utilitas, and Venustas, appearing in Vitruvius's *De Architectura*, using examples from different periods, including those from the twentieth century which continue to provoke widely different reactions.

## CHRISTMAS EVENT:

St. Mary's by the Tyne, Gateshead.

2 December 2026



As usual we will hold our Christmas event at one of the region's most historic buildings, this year at Gateshead's St. Mary's Church, recently taken under the wing of the Tyne + Wear Building Preservation Trust.

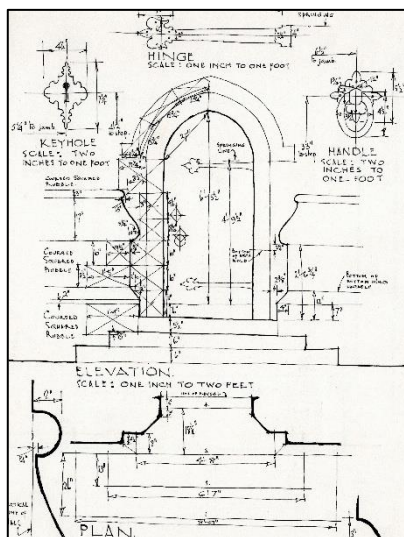
This Grade I listed church has survived against the odds. Elements date from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but it has been extensively remodelled and suffered several fires. In 1991 it became an auction house, but since 2008 it has been a heritage centre.

Further details of the event and the festive catering arrangements will be issued in early November.

## MEMBERS' EVENING

Host: Hugh Dixon

20 January 2027



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](mailto: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.

## **KEELMEN'S HOSPITAL:**

### **Repair and Reuse Project**

Maya Polenz and Sam Dixon

17 February 2027



The Keelmen's Hospital was built in 1701, paid for by levying a penny a tide on the keelmen who carried coal between ships and the shore.

Sam and Maya are both conservation architects involved in the project to rescue one of Newcastle's finest buildings. We will hear how the Keelmen's Hospital is being repaired and how its new use will secure its future. Tyne + Wear Building Preservation Trust is leading the project in partnership with Newcastle City Council, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Historic England, Pilgrim Trust, and other funders.

## **URSULA CLARK (1940-2000):**

### **Architectural Historian and Photographer**

David Barber

17 March 2027



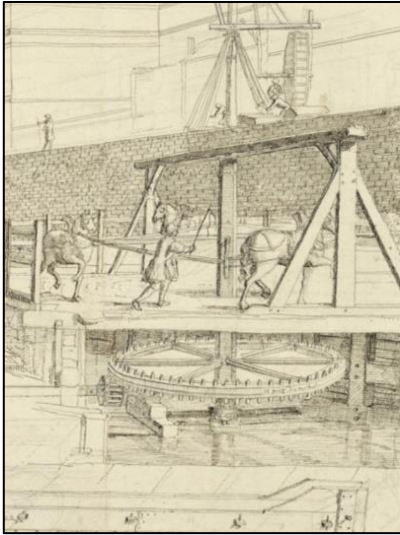
In 1962 Ursula Clark, aged 22, was appointed photographic editor of Oriel Press, a new publishing venture based in Newcastle upon Tyne. She collaborated with leading architectural historians of the period including Oriel's founder Bruce Allsopp, Neville Whittaker, George Hay, Derek Linstrum, and Harold Booton. The books were largely illustrated by her photographs. The images she took are the largest collection by a woman photographer in the care of Historic England. This talk will share new research into her career as a pioneering figure in architectural history.

## ARCHITECTURAL INTELLIGENCE:

### English Eyes on Colbertian France

Elizabeth Deans

7 April 2027



Elizabeth is an architectural historian based at Downing College, Cambridge. She is a Christopher Wren scholar, Assistant Research Professor in the History of Art, and Deputy Director of the Centre for the Study of Classical Architecture.

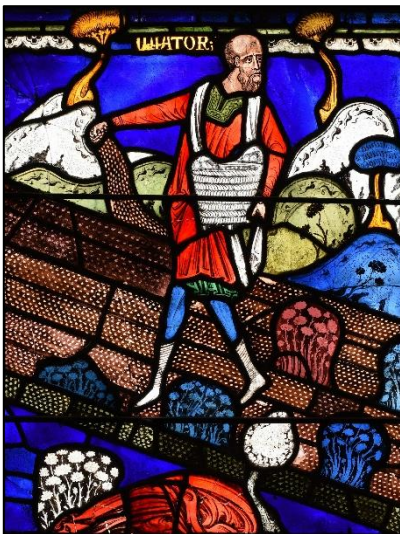
Christopher Wren went to Paris in 1665 to investigate architecture, with the aim of advancing the art of building in England. Elizabeth interprets this episode as a symptom of broader evidence of intelligence-gathering.

## Divine Light: The Stained Glass of England's Cathedrals

Janet Gough

Saturday 19 June 2027

Venue: St George's Church, Jesmond



A lecture on the Stained Glass of England's Cathedrals by Janet Gough OBE, based on her recently revised and beautifully illustrated book. One reviewer declares, *'the book is a window into another realm of colour, a prism through which buildings, glass, and light can be experienced'*.

The venue is an Arts and Crafts church, Grade I, consecrated in 1888. It is known for its exceptional decoration, furnishings, and stained-glass which was paid for by the local Mitchell family. Guided tour of St George's Church by Barbara Peacock. Booking details will be issued in March.

Photo: Andy Marshall and Kulturalis Ltd.

## **Annual General Meeting**

**Early May 2027**

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 2027.

## **DAY TRIPS**

**by Coach, Car or Foot**

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

In 2027 we will have a trip to the Borders, which will include the Union Chain Bridge (subject of an excellent lecture in 2025), 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 welcome.**

In September 2026 we had a day trip to visit churches in the area around the meeting of the North and South Tyne, in Northumberland. This was expertly organised by Hugh Dixon, and Pamela Robson Wallhead.



The tower of St Michael's Church  
Warden, near Hexham.



The trip organisers lead the way.

## **LONG WEEKEND ARCHITECTURAL TOUR**

**Early July 2027**

Each year we organise a three-day coach tour to visit buildings of architectural interest. In recent years we have visited West Yorkshire, Dumfries and Galloway and Perthshire. For next year we are considering either Glasgow or Rutland.

# NORTHERN ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Visit our website for the latest information:

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

For further information contact the events secretary:

E-mail : [events@northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk](mailto: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 of 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:

e mail : [treasurer@northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@northernarchitecturalhistory.org.uk)

## **SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE 2026/2027 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.**

Please note: The photographic attributions are on our website.