



WAKEFIELD CIVIC SOCIETY

Building Interest in Wakefield

Registered Charity No 236034

Autumn-Winter Programme 2016/17

The Society is pleased to confirm details of its Autumn-Winter programme for 2016/17. Full information of the arrangements made so far is given below. Further details will be released as they become available.

While some events are free, for others there will be an admission charge to help us with the cost of room hire, speaker fees and so on.

Advance booking is advisable for all events not only because it guarantees you a place but also because it allows us to cater for the number of people expected. A booking form is attached but you can also book places on-line via Eventbrite (note that for chargeable events, a booking fee is payable to Eventbrite when using this option).

As ever, unless otherwise stated, our events are open to members and their guests and also to non-members.

Thursday to Sunday, 8th to 11th September: Heritage Open Days.



Yes, it's the annual event where England's built heritage is celebrated through openings, exhibitions, guided walks and other activities.

You can find out what is happening locally and further afield by having a look at the Heritage Open Days website: www.heritageopendays.org.uk

As part of the Heritage Open Days programme, the Society has organised two events as below.

Book on line now for these Civic Society tours via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) or use the booking form.

Friday morning, 9th September, at 10.30 am

Join us for a walking tour of Wakefield city centre beginning with an illustrated talk about the history of the city and its buildings. The tour will include a visit to the Theatre Royal Wakefield and will finish back at the Town Hall no later than 1 pm.

Meet in Room 3, Ground Floor, Wakefield Town Hall, Wood Street, Wakefield. Booking advisable as places are limited.

Friday afternoon, 9th September, at 1.45 pm

We have arranged a walking tour of the public rooms at Wakefield's Town Hall and County Hall. There will be a short talk about the buildings before the tour and it is expected that the tour will finish no later than 4 pm.

Meet in Room 3, Ground Floor, Wakefield Town Hall, Wood Street, Wakefield. Booking advisable as places are limited.

Note that both of these tours include steps and some uneven surfaces will be encountered. They also involve a mix of indoor and outdoor activity. Please wear appropriate shoes and clothing and consider bringing a bottle of water if the weather is hot.

Founded in 1964

Thursday, 22nd September to Sunday, 2nd October: Wakefield Lit Fest



wakefieldlitfest.org.uk

Wakefield Lit Fest, organised by Beam, returns for a fifth year and, once again, the Society is supporting the Festival as a partner. We have organised two events of our own as part of the programme. You can find out about other Lit Fest events on the Lit Fest website at www.wakefieldlitfest.org.uk

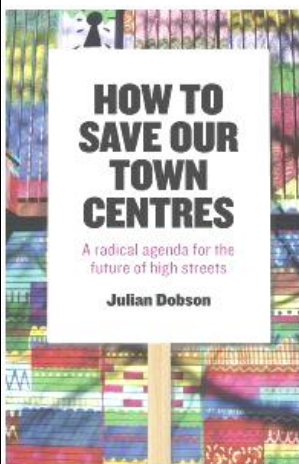
Please note that Lit Fest events, including those organised by the Society, can be booked on-line at www.wakefieldlitfest.org.uk or in person through the Unity Works box office, Westgate, Wakefield – telephone 01924 831114. Opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

Civic Society events can, of course, also be booked directly through the Society using our booking form or via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk).

Thursday, 22nd September, 7.30 pm, Wakefield Town Hall: 'A place to be and a place to belong: town centres for everyone' - a talk by Julian Dobson - Tickets £6 (£5 WCS Members and concessions)

Has the age of the internet killed our high streets? Are town centres becoming obsolete? Can anything be done to save them? In this talk, being offered as an 'Eve of Wakefield Lit Fest 2016' event, writer and social commentator Julian Dobson will outline a radical agenda for their future.

Julian Dobson is a writer, researcher and commentator with a special interest in how places can work well for everyone. He is director of Urban Pollinators Ltd, a practical research consultancy.



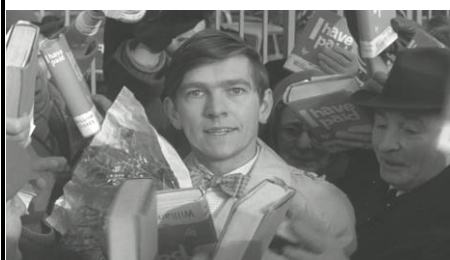
His book, How to Save Our Town Centres, published by Policy Press in 2015, delves below the surface of empty buildings and 'shop local' campaigns to focus on the real issues: how the relationship between people and places is changing, how business is done and who benefits, and how the use and ownership of land affects us all.

In this talk, Julian will set out what can be done to revitalise our town and city centres in the internet age. How can ordinary people help to make them the sort of places we want and need them to become in the future? What challenges will communities face in trying to keep their town and city centres alive, making them not only places to be but places that can offer something for everyone?

For anyone wishing to purchase a copy of the book, Julian will have copies available on the evening and will be happy to sign them after the talk when we will also be serving complimentary drinks. Doors will open from 7 pm. Please note that seating is unreserved.



Monday, 26th September, 7.30 pm. Mechanics' Theatre, Wakefield College, Wood Street, Wakefield (former Museum building), Film Screening *Billy Liar* Tickets £6 (£4 WCS members and concessions)



Join us for this special screening of the 1963 classic film *Billy Liar*, presented as part of Wakefield Lit Fest 2016.

Day dreamer Billy Fisher (played by Tom Courtenay) is trapped in a humdrum life, one from which he is desperate to escape. Constricted by living with his parents and grandmother in a northern town, and stuck in a boring job as a clerk at a firm of undertakers, he longs for some excitement in his life. He fantasises about the imaginary kingdom of Ambrosia where he is both ruler and military hero while making up stories about himself when speaking to his boss, his

friends and family; stories (for which read 'lies') which complicate his life and get him into even more trouble when he is confronted about them, especially by his two girlfriends who are unaware of each other's existence.

Then freewheeler and free spirit Liz, a former girlfriend (played by Julie Christie) comes back into his life and offers Billy a chance to escape to find a new life in the city lights – but will he be brave enough to take the plunge?

Released in 1963, *Billy Liar* is a classic comedy of the 'kitchen sink' genre. Filmed in and around Bradford, and based on the 1959 novel by Keith Waterhouse, the film was directed by John Schlesinger and features Leonard Rossiter, Mona Washbourne, Wilfred Pickles, Helen Fraser and Rodney Bewes.

Founded in 1964

Thursday, 20th October, 7.30 pm, The Kingswood Suite, Wakefield Town Hall:

‘All around is Fairy ground - Pleasure and the Regency Garden’ - a talk by Professor Timothy Mowl, architectural and landscape historian

- Tickets £6 (£5 WCS Members and concessions)

We know how much our members, like many others, enjoy visiting the nation's stately homes, not just for their architecture, but also for their often delightful gardens and it is with this in mind that we offer our October talk which comes highly recommended!



Timothy Mowl's career has included work as a freelance Architectural Historian; an Inspector of Historic Buildings for English Heritage; an Architectural Consultant and Journalist in Bath; and Lecturer and Writer on architecture, conservation, historic landscapes and gardens.

Professor Mowl joined the University of Bristol in 1992 after a period working as an Inspector of Historic Buildings for English Heritage, an advisor to the Bath Preservation Trust and an architectural critic, writer and consultant. He first taught art and architectural history in the Department of History of Art becoming Reader in Architectural and Garden History in 2003. In 2005 he moved to the Department of Archaeology & Anthropology, setting up the Institute for Garden and Landscape History in the following year. He is now Emeritus Professor of History of Architecture and Designed Landscapes at Bristol and was until recently the Director of its MA in Garden History, which he ran from its inception in 2000. He is also a Professorial Research Fellow in the Humanities Research

Institute at Buckingham University for whom he directs an MA in Garden History by research.

The gardens of the Regency period in particular are characterized by exuberant formal parterres, jewelled island beds of graduated flowers, frothy basket-work borders, shrubberies laced with flowers and over-arching trellises covered with rambling roses, jasmine and clematis; while the lawns, enamelled with spring bulbs, are enlivened with elegant vases, strewn with Chinese barrels for casual alfresco seating, cut with oval reflecting pools backed by specimen trees and dramatized by deep-delved grottoes and garden buildings in every conceivable style from Turkish to Indian. Each pleasure ground had its meshed aviary and pheasantry, there were fountains with writhing dolphins, rustic garden seats, thatched and pebble-floored, Swiss-style bridges, greenhouses and conservatories overflowing with exotics. These flowery paradises were readily accessed from the house via ground-length sash windows, tree-trunked verandahs entwined with climbers and conservatories arcing out from the house into the garden. By day they were ablaze with colour and by night, lit by coloured lamps hanging from the trellises and the trees, they sparkled and glittered.

The approaching twin anniversaries of the deaths of Jane Austen, in 1817, and Humphry Repton, in 1818, have galvanised Professor Mowl into preparing a treatment on the gardens of the Regency period. It is hoped that the book will appear in late 2017 or early 2018 entitled *All around is Fairy Ground - Pleasure and the Regency Garden* to coincide with an exhibition on Repton.

Join us for what we are sure will be an informative and interesting talk and have a complimentary drink with us afterwards while chatting to other members of the Society.

You can find out more about Professor Mowl and details of the books he has written on his website: www.timothymowl.com

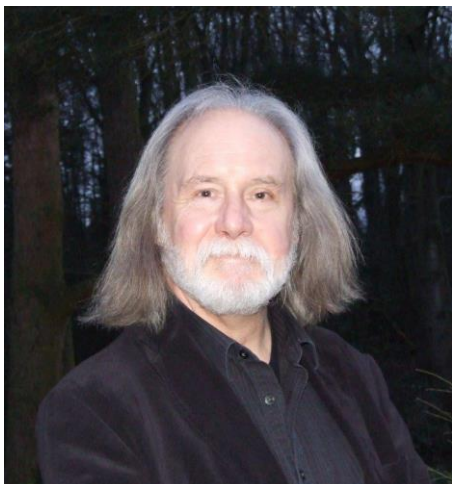
Book tickets on line now via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) or by using the attached booking form.

Founded in 1964

Thursday, 17th November, 7.30 pm, The Kingswood Suite, Wakefield Town Hall:
'The Importance of Trees in the Urban Landscape' - a talk by Professor Alan Simpson

Free event

Trees are a source of natural beauty but they can also provide useful shade and amenity in our urban centres. Visitors to Wakefield have often remarked how many trees there are in the centre of Wakefield but do we have enough of them and should we try to plant even more? In the 1960s and 70s, the Society planted over 1,000 trees in and around the city and many of these still survive. The Emerald Ring – the tree-lined boulevard that will skirt the city – is part of the vision for Wakefield first put forward under the Urban Renaissance programme over a decade ago and some new trees have been introduced in recent years as part of that vision.



The 21st century is the century of the city, and the world is continuing to urbanise at an alarming rate, even in the UK. The quality of urban life however is not improving at the same rate; indeed, Professor Simpson argues, it is measurably deteriorating.

This talk will focus upon the proven benefits that trees can bring to the health and well-being of urban areas – economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits, and why trees are now deemed to be crucial to developing successful urbanism.

Professor Alan Simson is Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urban Forestry at Leeds Beckett University, where he is involved in research, teaching, and consultancy on urban forestry, landscape urbanism and landscape architecture in the UK, the EU and on the international stage.

Professor Simson is a Chartered Landscape Architect and Urban Forester. He has gained extensive professional experience in the UK New Towns, private practice and higher education. Currently, he is a Professor of Landscape Architecture and Urban Forestry at Leeds Beckett University, involved in research, trans-disciplinary teaching and consultancy on adaptive / landscape urbanism, urban forestry and green infrastructure. He has published widely, mostly in Europe.

He has led several European urban forestry research projects on behalf of the UK and is involved in a number of international and regional initiatives and activities.

This is a free event open to all. Booking is advisable to guarantee your place.

Book on line now via [Eventbrite](#) (no fee for free events) or use the attached booking form.

SAVE THE DATE!

On Friday evening, 18th November, we are planning to unveil another of our blue plaques at a city centre location!

More information will be issued nearer the time but if you are interested in attending, please put the date in your diary now!

AND SAVE THIS DATE TOO!

On Friday evening, 25th November, we will be hosting our annual dinner at the Cedar Court Hotel, a highlight of our social calendar – and this year, we will be doing things a little differently!

We'll be issuing more information shortly but do keep this date free in your diary!

Founded in 1964

Thursday, 19th January 2017, 7.30 pm, The Kingswood Suite, Wakefield Town Hall:
‘Transports of Delight: Travels on the Orient Express and other stories about trains’
- a talk by Kevin Trickett, President of Wakefield Civic Society

Free event



Kevin Trickett is well known to anyone connected with Wakefield Civic Society, having been the Society's President for over 14 years. However, when he's not running the Society, he does do other things such as writing for local business to business magazine TopicUK and giving talks around the country on a range of fascinating subjects.

Back in 2015, he gave a lively talk to a joint meeting of Wakefield's Civic and Historical Societies on one of his favourite themes – Art Deco. Now, for our 2017 joint meeting with the Historical Society, he has agreed to entertain and inform members about another of his interests – steam trains and railway travel.

Kevin says he has been under the spell of trains since he was a child and he knows he's not the only one whose heart beats faster on seeing a steam train! Having travelled from Venice to London on the style icon that is the Venice-Simplon Orient Express a few years ago, he began thinking about how luxury train travel has evolved and this talk tells the story not only of his own journeys by train, starting at Kirkgate Station, but also something of the history of the golden era of rail travel.

You don't have to be train buff to enjoy this talk – just someone who enjoys the romance of luxury travel.

Join us for this annual joint meeting of Wakefield Civic Society and Wakefield Historical Society, which this time it falls to the Civic Society to host, and stay on after the talk to join us for a complimentary glass of wine.

A free event, open to all. Booking is advisable – please use the booking form provided or book on line now using [Eventbrite](#).

LOOKING AHEAD.....

We haven't finalised all the details for our Winter programme yet but we propose to hold events on Thursday evening, 16th February 2017 and again on Thursday evening, 16th March 2017. Our AGM and Awards evening will be on Thursday evening, 20th April 2017.

As soon as we have more information for these events, we'll let you know.

Please note that events start promptly at the time stated and it may not always be possible to admit latecomers.

Requests for refunds will be dealt with at our discretion and will depend on our judgment of how overall ticket sales are going for each event.

For more information about the Society, keep an eye on our website www.wakefieldcivicsociety.org.uk

and follow us on Twitter ([@WakefieldCivicS](#)) and [Facebook](#) to keep up to date with our plans

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