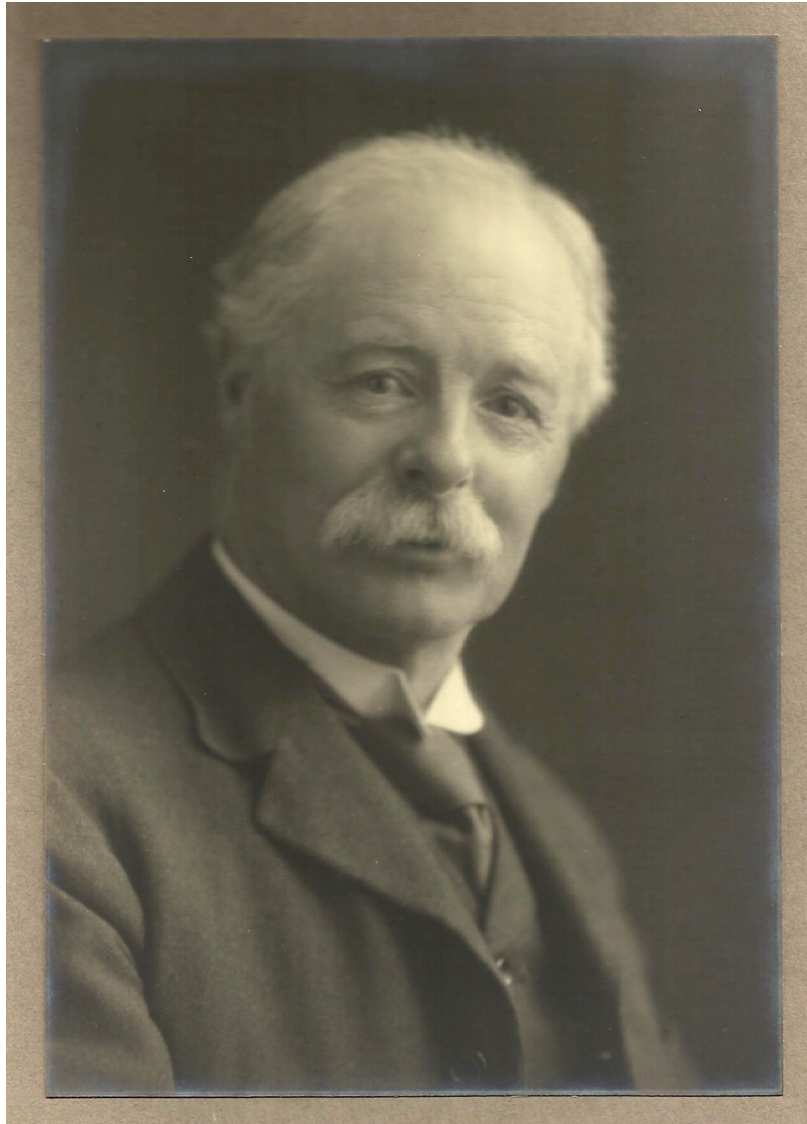


100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society



Dr. J. W. Walker, the first President

Weekly Posts on X (Twitter), Facebook, and the Society's blog
for the Centenary 1924 - 2024

Compiled by Richard Knowles



Wakefield Historical Society

These tweets were published weekly on Wakefield Historical Society's X (Twitter) feed from 21st January to 13th December 2024 during our Centenary year. They were also added to our Facebook page and the blog on our website.

They were compiled by Richard Knowles from his personal collection with a lesser number from the Minutes of the Society. He describes his long association with the Society:

My first connection with the Society was through the Sandal Castle excavations and I joined the Society in the late 1960s. I became Hon. Secretary in 1973 and remained in the post until finally stepping down in 1996 due to work commitments, as by then I was working for a company based in Bath. I enjoyed my time as Hon. Secretary and worked with some excellent Presidents who were collegiate and moved the Society forward. My time in the Society provided invaluable experience and at the same time I was active in the Monumental Brass Society and Journal Editor for The Church Monuments Society, which led to my being elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1996. I would thoroughly recommend the post of Hon. Secretary which can be both interesting and rewarding, it amply repays any effort put in.

Wakefield Historical Society X (Twitter):

<https://x.com/WkfdHistSoc>

Wakefield Historical Society Blog:

<https://www.wakefieldhistoricalsociety.org.uk/about-us/blog/>

Wakefield Historical Society Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/wakefieldhistoricalsocietyuk>

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: the first President

Introducing Dr J.W. Walker, our founding President in 1924. A local GP initially in his father's practice & Hon Surgeon to Clayton Hospital. Also a renowned historian, publishing books and articles of note.



21st January 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Sandal Castle Excavation

A significant activity of the Society in the 1960s & 70s was the Sandal Castle Excavations. In 1983 Wakefield Historical Publications (the Society & WMDC) published the full excavation report.

Magnus praises castle report



TV personality, Magnus Magnusson, leafs through the report watched by (from left) Mr Richard Knowles (secretary of Wakefield Historical Publications), Dr L. Butler (joint author of the report), Mrs Heather Lawrence (president of WHP), and Mr J. Feiweless (Wakefield's Chief Librarian). (W3223/1)

TELEVISION'S
"Mastermind" personality, Magnus Magnusson, this week launched a major archaeological report covering nearly ten years of excavations at Sandal Castle.

Mr Magnusson congratulated Wakefield

importance of local enthusiasm and support, both lay and learned.

Mr Magnusson was welcomed by Wakefield District Council's Chief Education Officer, Mr Bill Wright, who spoke of the co-operation between individuals and organisations in the public

the castle in the 17th century and includes 30 specialist reports on finds. The report costs £30, but a cheaper, shortened version will be available later.

Wakefield Historical Publications is a non-profit-making body formed by a

Fox Ltd.
OM

28th January 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: the 50th Year

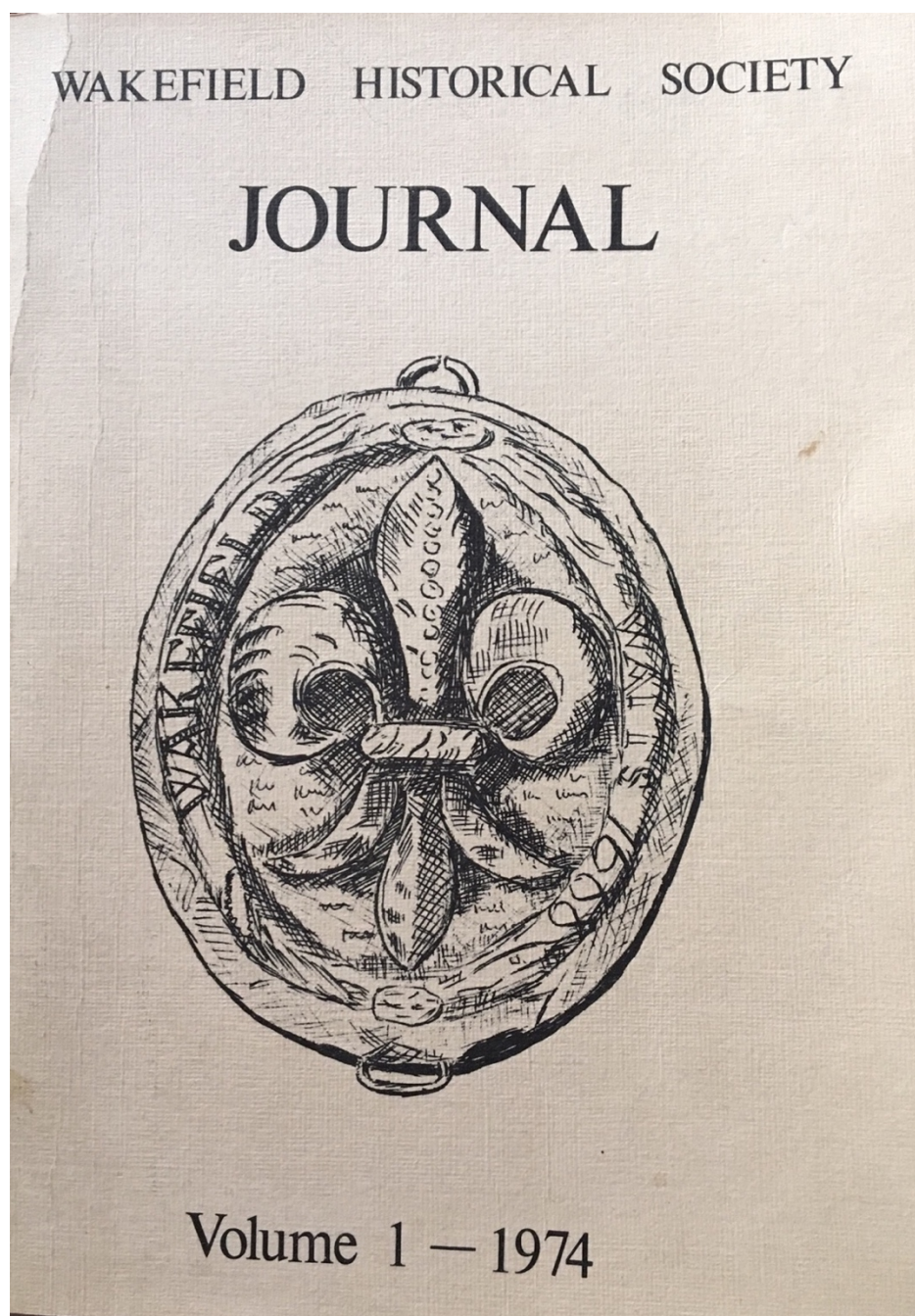
1974 was the 50th year of the Society and here is the 1974 Council in session, toasting the event. Can you spot the young man at the end of the table who is giving the Gingerbread talk this week? Name any other familiar faces?



4th February 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: first volume of the Journal

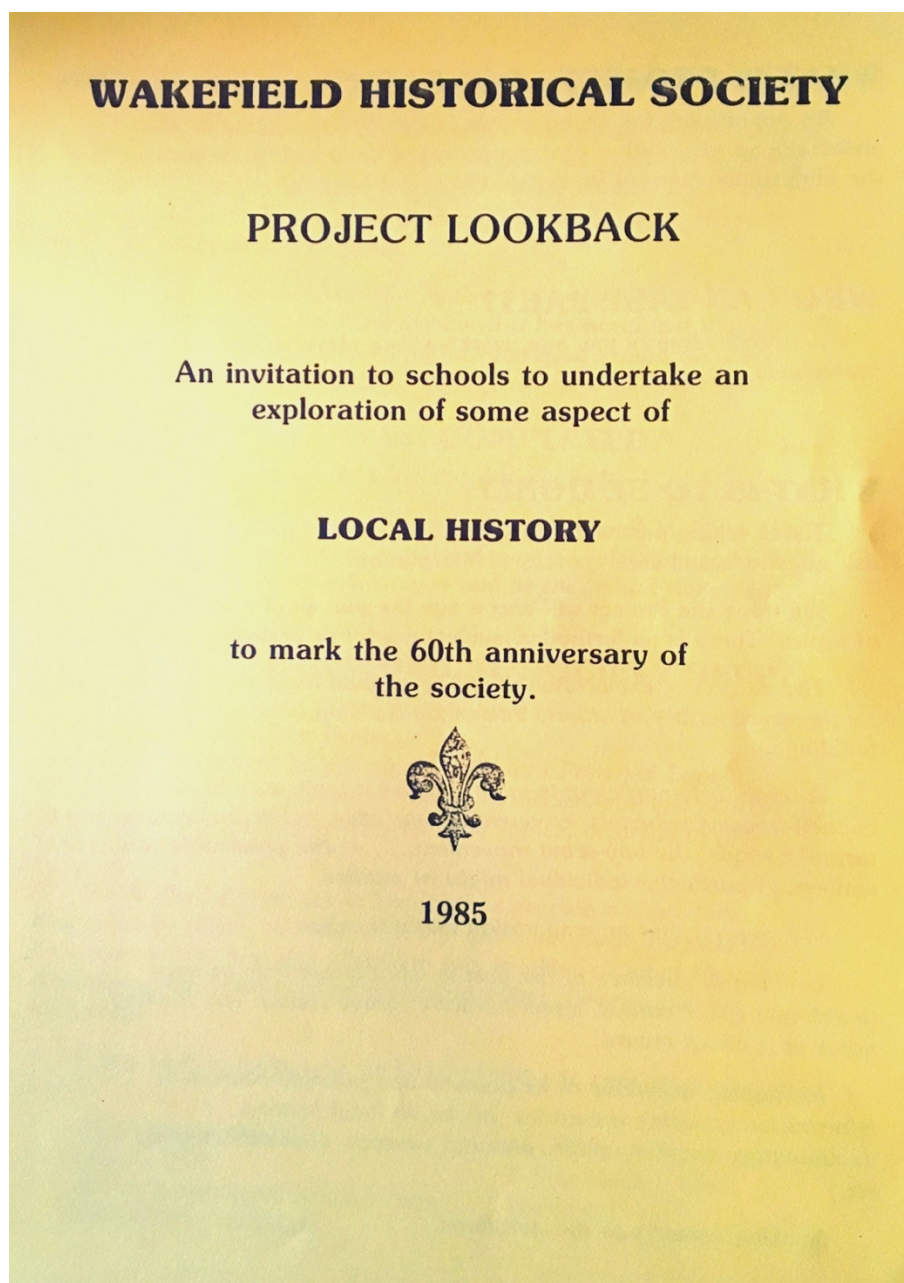
In 1974 the Society published the first Volume of the Journal. Using an image of the Wakefield Waits badge on the cover. 2 examples of the silver badge survive one in Wakefield Museum, the other in the John Goodchild Collection.



19th February 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Project Lookback

In 1985 the Society instigated "Project Lookback" to encourage young people to explore local history. Can anyone recall this and were you encouraged into local history?



3rd March 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: J. W. Walker's bookplate.

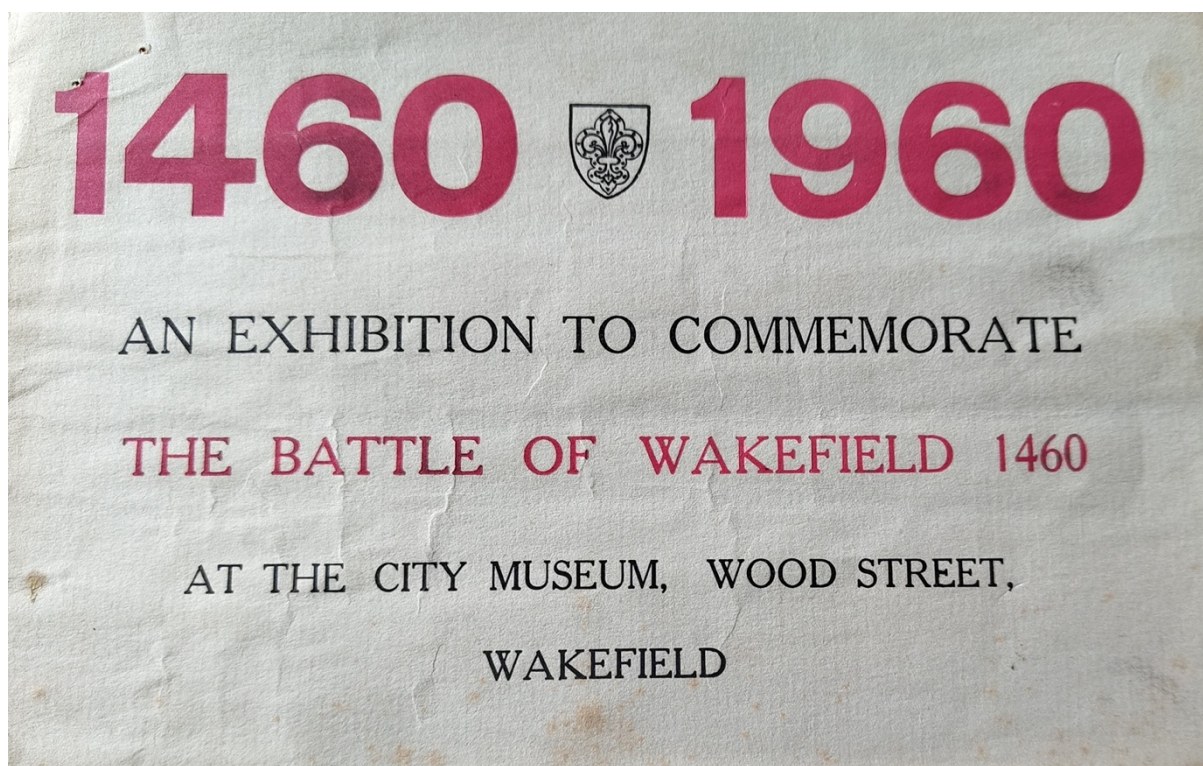
Here, the rather splendid bookplate of our founding President, J.W. Walker FSA from a volume from his library. A bookplate can be added to a book indicating individual ownership.



11th March 2024

**100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society:
500 years since the Battle of Wakefield**

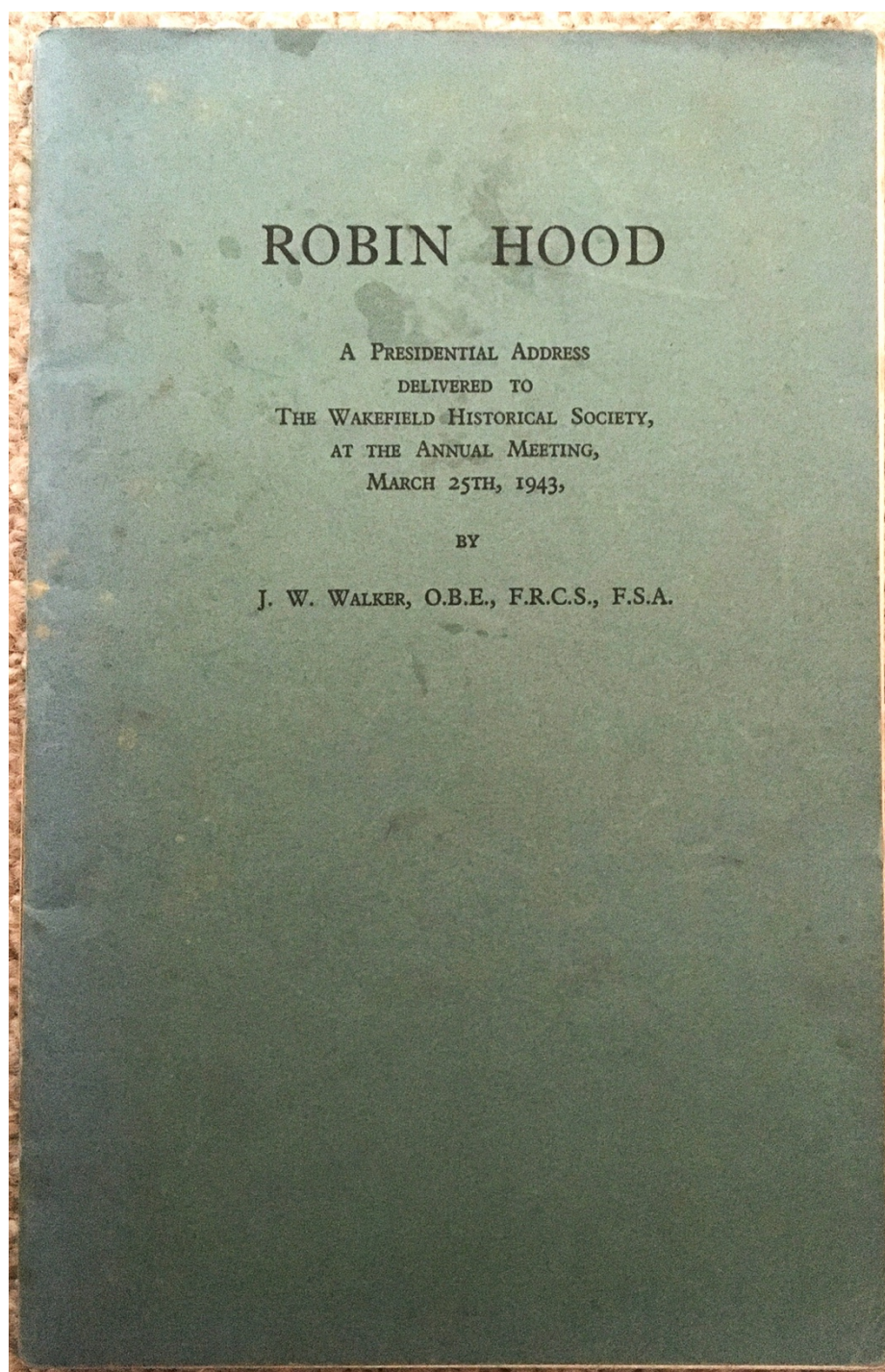
1960, members of the Society were involved with this important exhibition to mark the 500th anniversary of the Battle of Wakefield. Items being loaned by many national institutions.



18th March 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Robin Hood

In the midst of war, on March 25th 1943 J. W. Walker gave a Presidential address on the legendary figure Robin Hood.



24th March 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: the Sandal Castle dig

In the 1960/70s the Society was much involved with Sandal Castle. Young and not so young members participated in the dig.

SANDAL CASTLE DIG SHOWS 15th CENTURY 'JERRY-BUILDING'

IN THE 16th century several reports were compiled on Sandal Castle and with little exception, they intimated that the buildings were not fit for human habitation unless extensive repair works were carried out.

This year's "dig" has shown these reports to be well-founded and, if anything, they probably underestimated the state of decay into which the castle had fallen by the middle of the century.

Where, in the barbican moat, it was thought a level of considerable 17th century occupation would be found, it turned out that timber dwellings dating from the early 16th century were present. Why would these have been necessary if there had been a perfectly good standing building?

"It has the feeling of 'squatters' about it," says Kevin Stubbs, leader of the dig. "The Elizabethan reports said it was in a quite deplorable state."

RICHARD III

Further evidence leading to this conclusion has been gained from excavation of the well tower which, in 1484, Richard III ordered to be strengthened, to make it "a worthy and safe residence."

But no new foundations were laid, the foundations of the original turret were just pared down, the rubble core cut back, and a new work face put on it. Little habitation is evident and it seems it was hardly ever used.

Nor was the construction debris cleared away. "Limited-budget jerry-building," commented Mr Stubbs.

All this should go to show that when Cromwell's army bombarded Sandal, it was not a well-built castle they were attacking but a hastily defended fortress, subsidiary to Pontefract and occupied mainly for its nuisance value. The year 1484 was the last renovating date, and, says Mr Stubbs, "the castle was a shivering ruin by the Civil War, if not before."

In 1838, for instance, it was estimated that 975 cwt of lead and 1,000 ft. of timber were needed for repairs.



Work in progress at Sandal Castle. In the picture are Geoffrey Dunbar, Richard Knowles, Simon Lawrence and Graham Goulish. (W8183/2)

Friends of Sandal Castle

1st April 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Excursions in 1959

The Summer of 1959 was a good year for the Society, the Hon Excursion Secretary, Fred Grundy had organised an interesting range of visits.

THE WAKEFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Life President : H. C. HALDANE, Esq., F.S.A.
President : Capt. W. A. CRAVEN



EXCURSIONS SUMMER 1959

Wednesday, May 20th (whole day)	Gainsborough Old Hall, Lincoln Cathedral and Thoresby Hall, Ollerton
Saturday, June 20th (whole day)	Sledmere Hall and Boynton Hall, near Bridlington
Wednesday, July 15th (evening)	Wentworth-Woodhouse, near Rotherham
Saturday, August 22nd (whole day)	Ebberston Hall, Hackness Hall and Scarborough Castle
Wednesday, Sept. 9th (half day)	Gawthorpe Hall and Towneley Hall, Burnley

Members wishing to take part are requested to complete the attached slips and return them, together with the amount due, to the Hon. Excursions Secretary, Spinkwell House, Horbury, Nr. Wakefield, as early as possible and **not later than 14 days before the date of the excursion**. Seats cannot be reserved unless the full cost of the excursion is included with the application. The costs shown are inclusive of transport, meals (but not including morning coffee), entrance fees, donations and gratuities. Members may bring one or two guests, providing seats are available and an additional charge of two shillings per guest is paid.

The right is reserved to return the slips marked "Received too late" if no seats are available in the coaches.

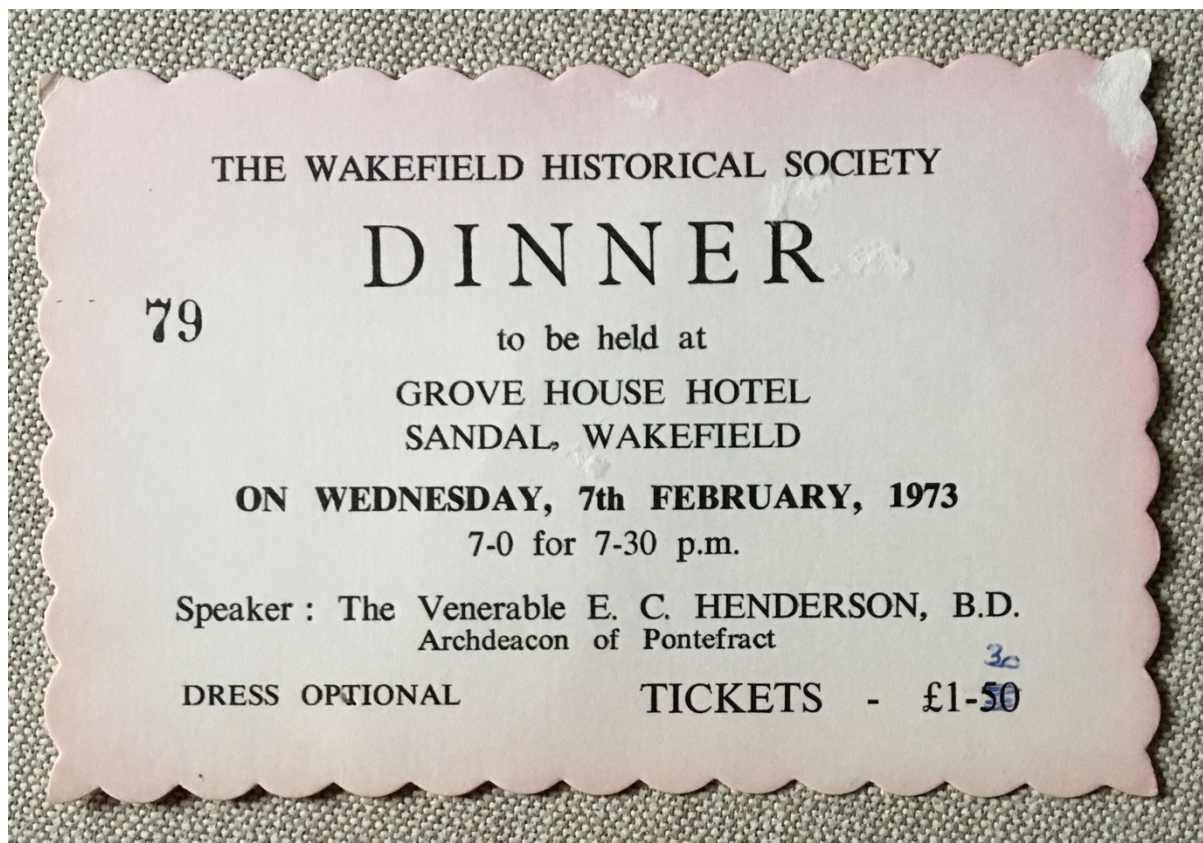
The coach will leave the Mechanics' Institute, Wood Street, Wakefield, **promptly** at the times stated. It is essential that all persons take their seats before the time of departure.

F. GRUNDY, Hon. Excursions Sec.

8th April 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Society Dinners

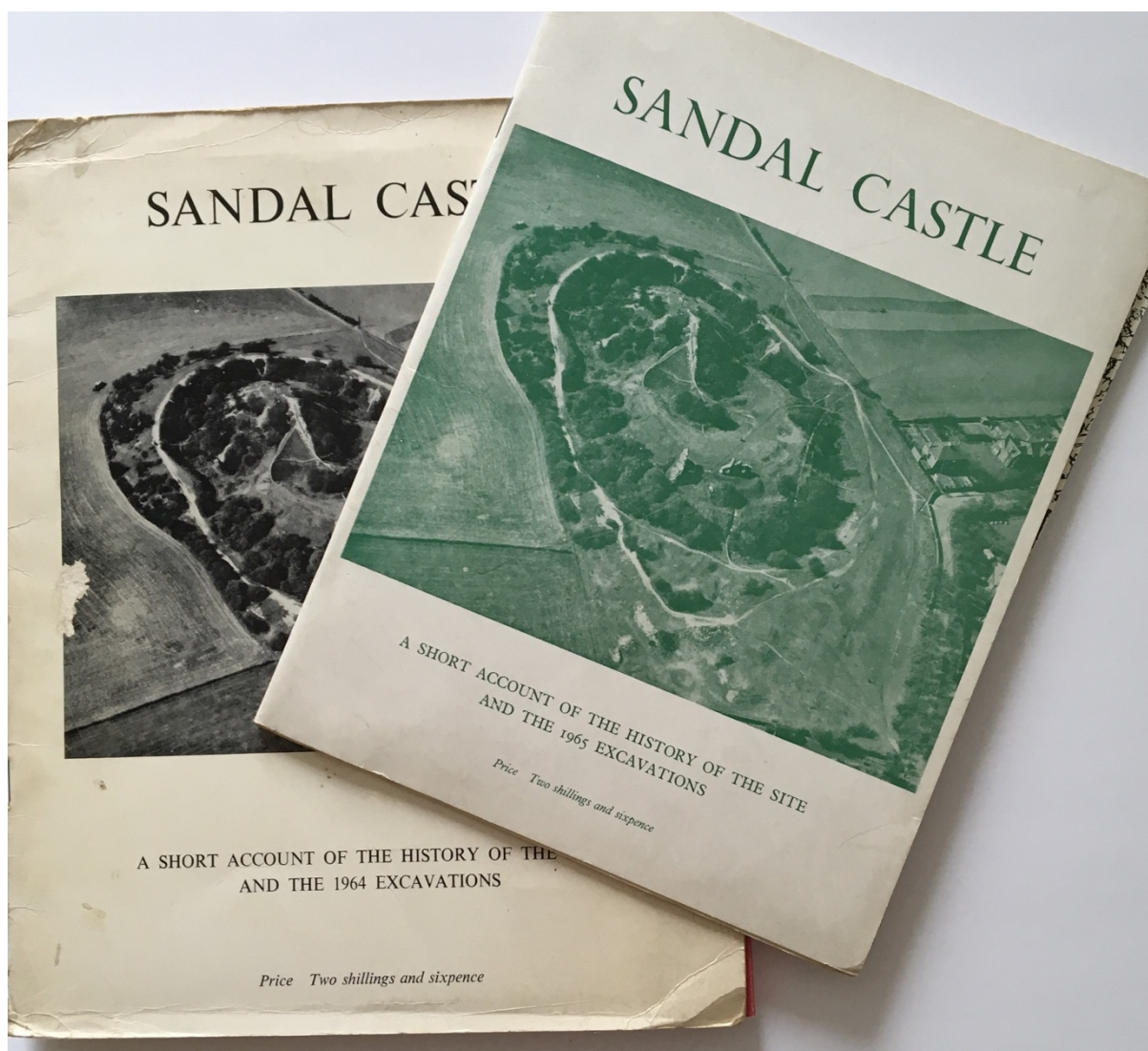
Rather grand Dinners were always an annual part of Society life with speakers to match. Here a ticket from 1973, these were an occasion to enjoy, particularly as dress was optional!



14th April 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Sandal Castle Excavation Reports

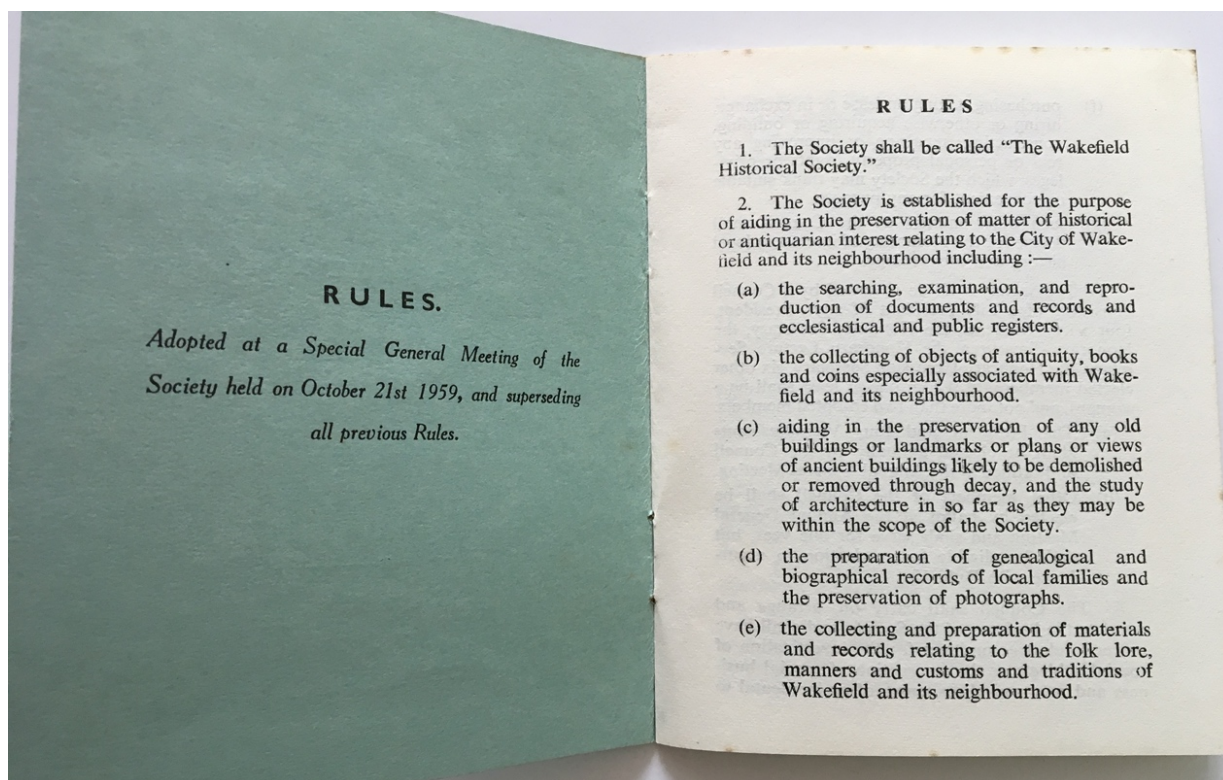
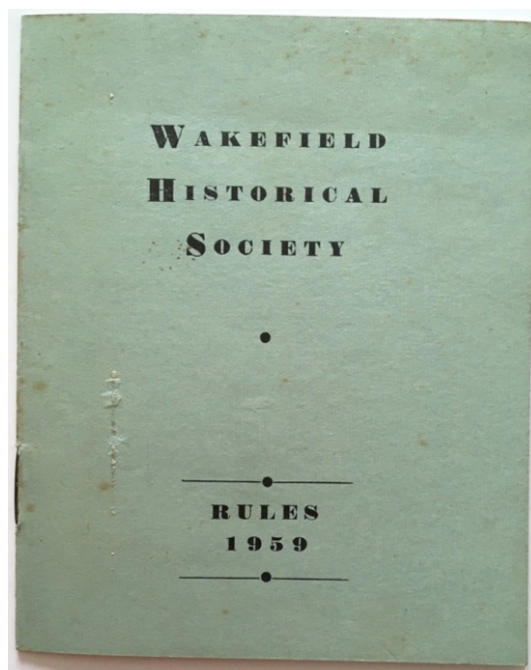
Sandal Castle was a focus for the Society in the 1960s and 70s. It attracted many new members both young and older. Here are two early Excavation Reports, more were to follow.



22nd April 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Society Rules

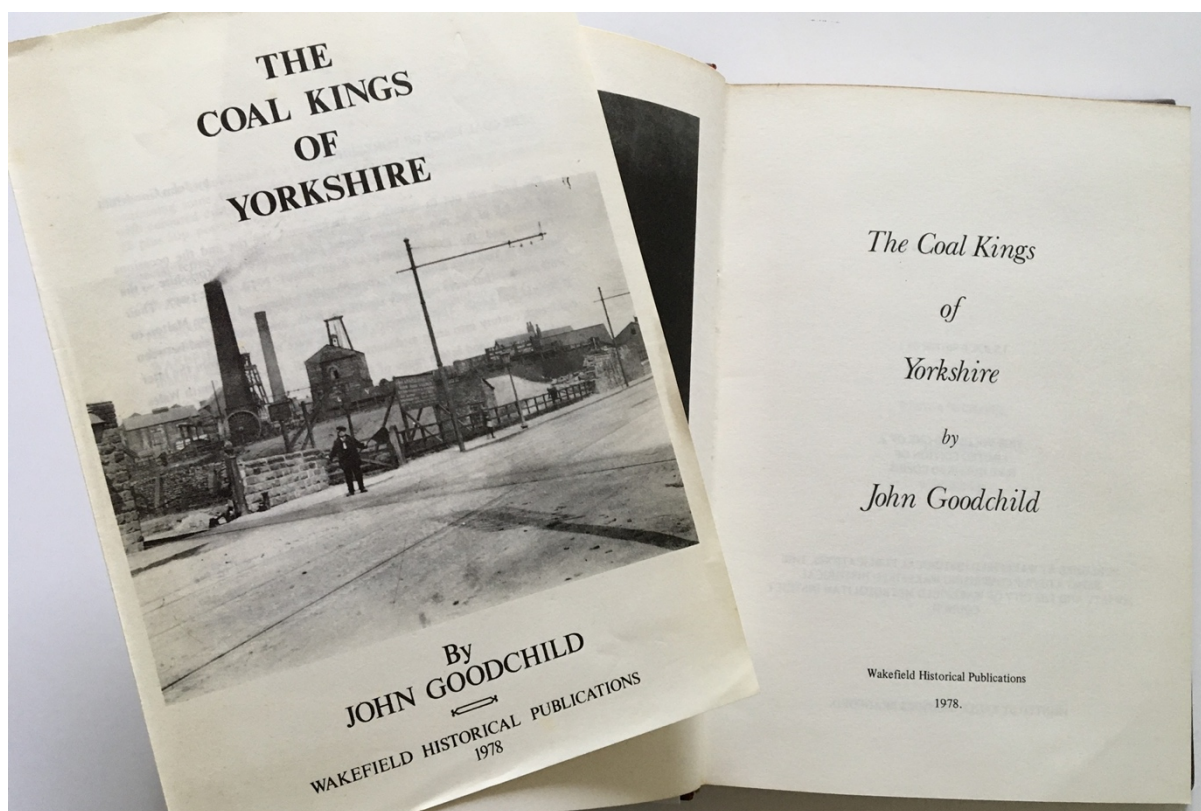
In 1959 Rules were rules, they are still as relevant today. We continue to maintain the Society's high standards some 65 years later.



27th April 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Wakefield Historical Publications

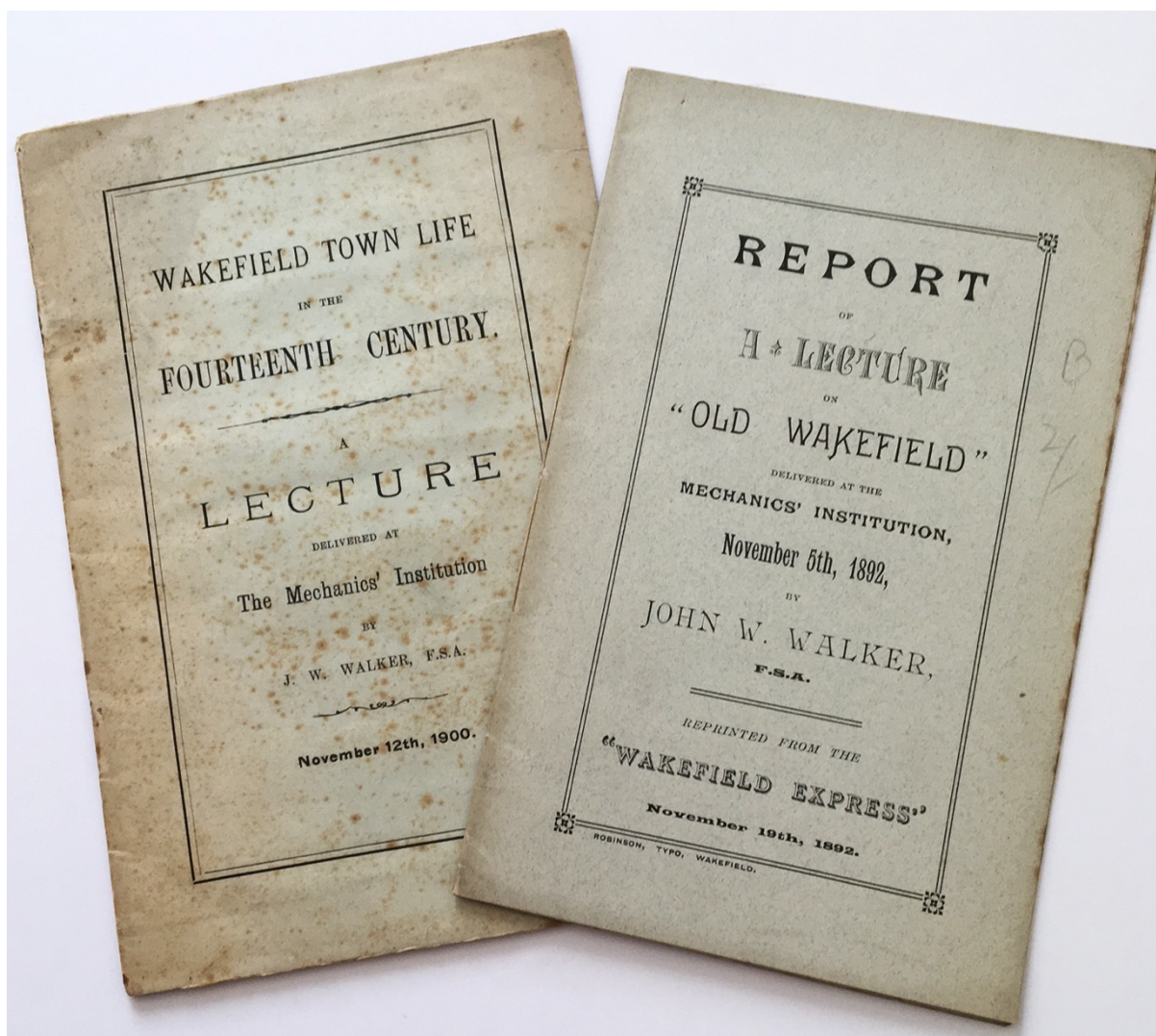
It was in 1978 that Wakefield Historical Publications was founded, the first publication being "The Coal Kings of Yorkshire" by John Goodchild.



5th May 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: lectures by J. W. Walker

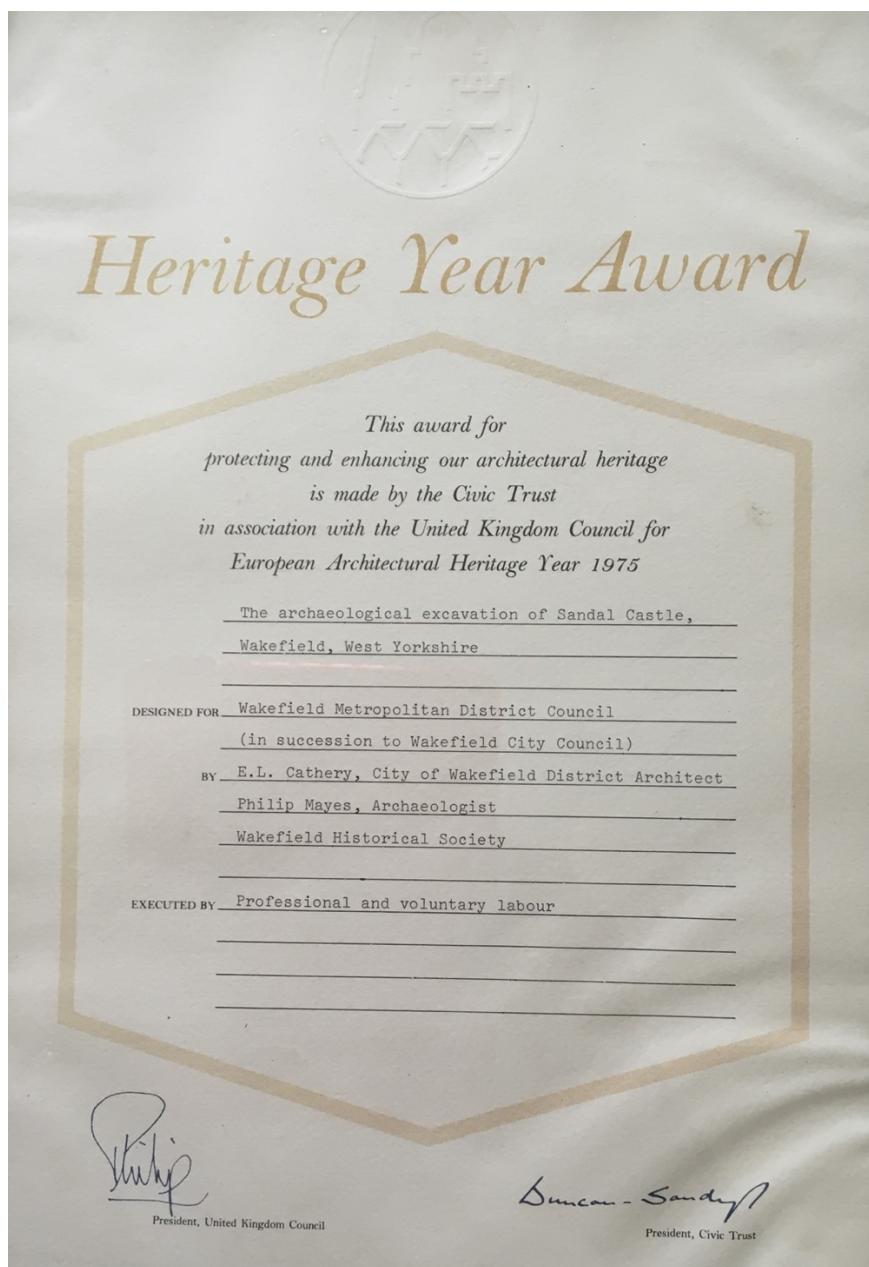
Many years before becoming our founding President in 1924, J.W. Walker had been speaking on Wakefield history. Here in 1892 and 1900



12th May 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Civic Trust Heritage Award

Returning to Sandal Castle, in 1975 the Society was delighted to be included in a Civic Trust Heritage Year Award for its years of work.



20th May 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Article in the Dalesman

In our fiftieth year, 1974, The Dalesman published a brief account of the Society, written by our member Ernest Wright. Still of interest.



*Dr. J. W. Walker (left)
was founder of the
Wakefield Historical
Society of which there
are over 200 members.*

A Wakefield Jubilee

ON December 19, 1924, Dr. John William Walker, a Wakefield medical practitioner who was also an eminent local historian and vice-president of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, addressed a public meeting in Wakefield Town Hall, speaking on the subject of *Wakefield Town Life in the 15th and 16th Centuries*.

As a result of that meeting and lecture the Wakefield Historical Society was formed, with Dr. Walker as president. He remained as life president until his death in 1954, being succeeded by Henry C. Haldane, of Stanley.

In the audience at that inaugural meeting was a schoolgirl, Kathleen Eastwood, of Sandal. Miss Eastwood is still a member of the Society. Recalling the lecture, she says that Dr. Walker jokingly remarked that he had assisted at many births, and he was there to assist at the birth of a new society.

The infant society has so flourished that today it has a membership of over 200. It celebrated its golden jubilee 50 years to the day since Dr. Walker's address with a lecture on *Wakefield in the Civil War*, by Peter Wenham, of St. John's College, York.

Naturally, the new society's primary concern was with the history of Wakefield and district, and four years after its forma-

tion the members heard a lecture on the gradual extinction of medieval buildings in Wakefield. Perhaps because of what was said then the Society has, almost since its formation, been engaged in intermittent warfare to retain as much as possible of the City's heritage from the past and for the preservation of its outstanding buildings.

In some cases—the transformation of Clarke Hall into a living museum, for instance—the Society's efforts have been crowned with success. In others—the Old Six Chimneys or Haselden Hall—the Society has had to accept defeat, and the buildings have either collapsed through neglect or been demolished in the cause of "progress."

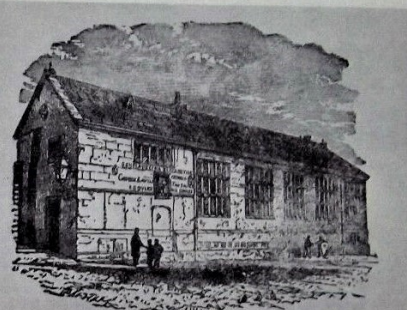
Where demolition has been inevitable, the Society's Archaeological Research Group, working closely with the city engineer's department of the former Wakefield Corporation, and led by the enthusiastic Ken Bartlett of Horbury, has made detailed records of the doomed buildings.

At the present time, the Historical Society is preparing itself once again to fight for the retention of the Old Grammar School, erected in 1593 on the Goodye Bower (now Brook Street) and one of only four Elizabethan Grammar Schools remain-

ing in England. Here, once again, the hand of the developer is threatening to sweep away an irreplaceable relic of the past.

In 1950 the minutes of the Society's council expressed concern at the deterioration of the remains of Sandal Castle. Twelve years later Wakefield Historical Society was playing a leading part, along with Wakefield City Council and Leeds

TWO stone querns dating from the Iron Age (about 800 B.C.) were returned to Wakefield to mark the jubilee. The querns (small hand-mills for grinding corn) were found at Standbridge, near Sandal, Wakefield, many years ago during the construction of a colliery tramline (both tramline and colliery have long since disappeared). They came into the possession of Dr.



WAKEFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

University, in the initiation of a scheme for the excavation and preservation of the castle site.

Work began in 1964 under the direction of Mr. Philip Mayes, a lecturer in archaeology at Leeds University, and continued each summer until 1973. Society members took an active part in the "dig," engaging in the actual excavations, serving as guides for visitors, and in a multitude of fund-raising activities.

Last year saw the completion of the work, its culmination being the uncovering of the foundations of the first wooden hall erected in 1106 by William de Warenne, first Norman lord of the manor of Wakefield. Another discovery was the skeletons of seven of the Royalist defenders who had perished in the siege and destruction of the castle by Parliamentary forces in 1643.

To commemorate its part in the excavations, the society has presented a seat suitably inscribed, to be placed on the summit of the motte.

Walker and were handed into the Society's keeping by Dr. Walker's son, Mr. J. H. Milnes Walker, who now lives in Cheshire.

Specialist groups of the Society are quietly but steadily working through the Parish Records of Sandal and the Constables' Accounts of the Township of Horbury with the intention of eventual publication, and in the early weeks of last year the Society ran a course in heraldry.

Ernest Wright

At Withernsea

I READ THE article concerning Miss M. E. Braddon (September *Dalesman*) with interest. May I suggest that the *Victoria* is the former hotel, adjoining Withernsea station? Built by the promoters of the Hull and Withernsea Railway it was later bought by Sir James Reckett and his brother (1894), being presented by them for use as a convalescent home.

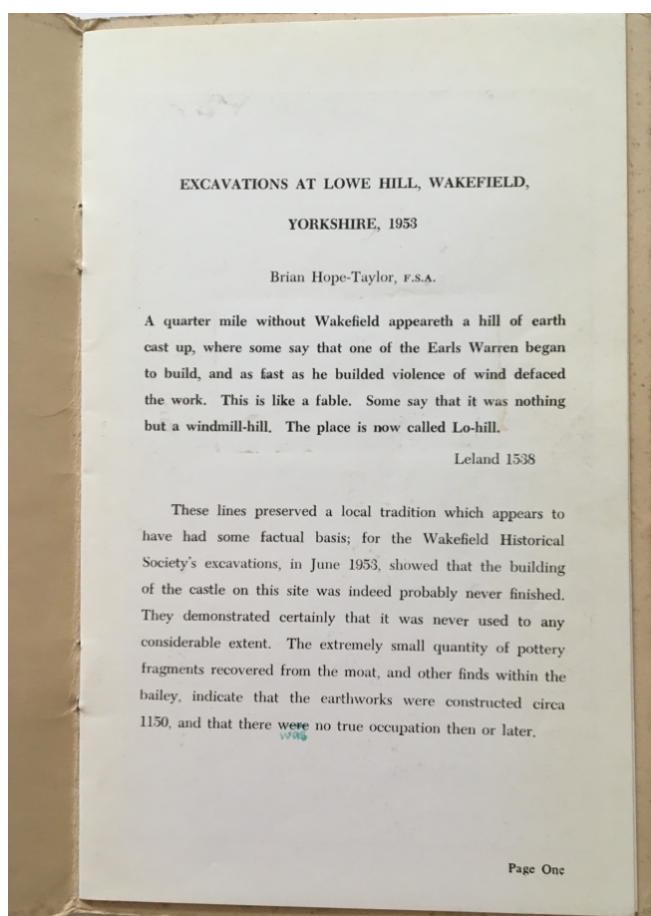
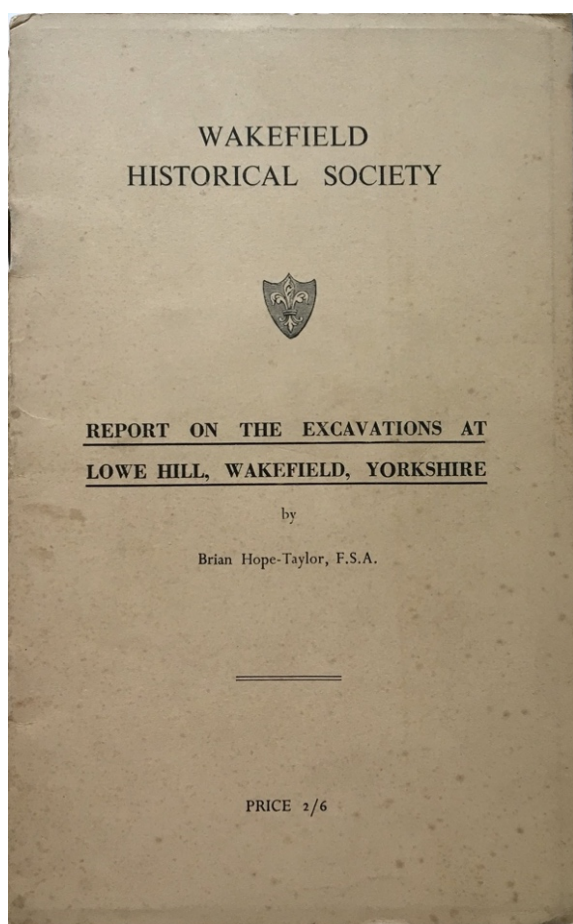
John M. Meadley

963

27th May 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Lowe Hill

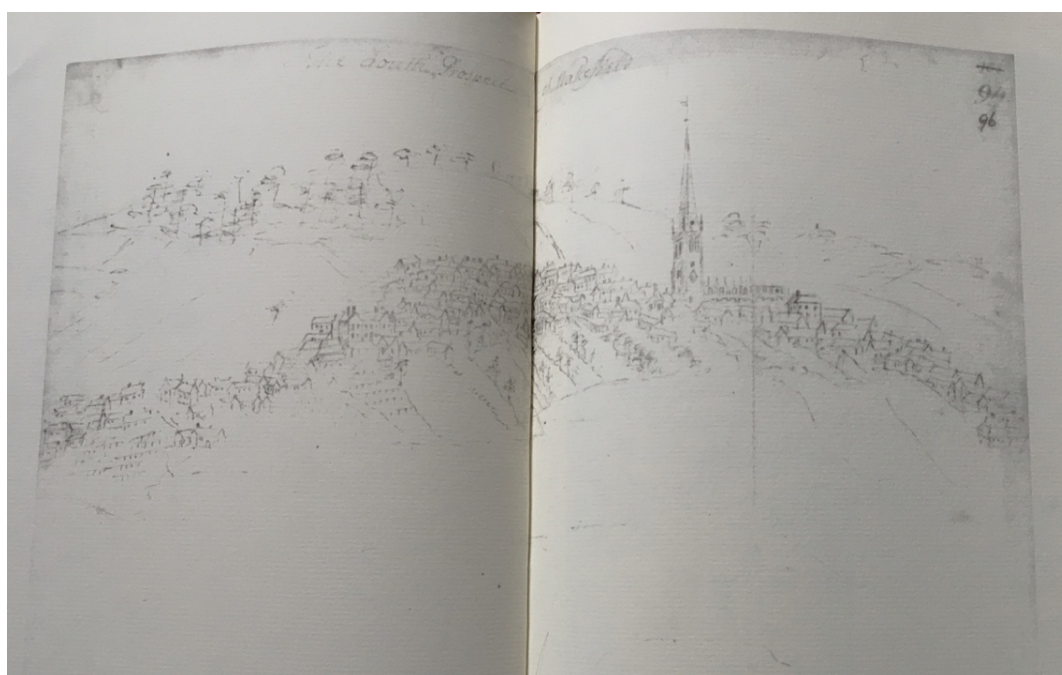
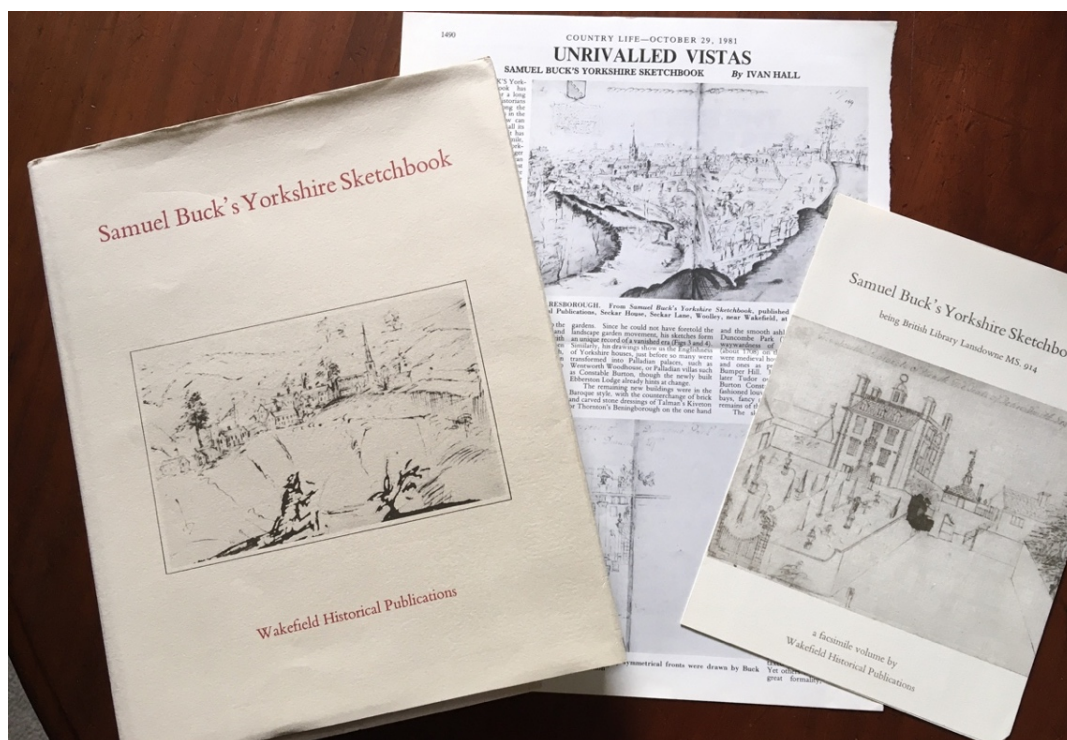
Wakefield's other castle, Lowe Hill. In 1953 the Society was involved in a "dig" there with Brian Hope-Taylor and published a Report on the findings in the same year.



3rd June 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Samuel Buck's Yorkshire Sketchbook.

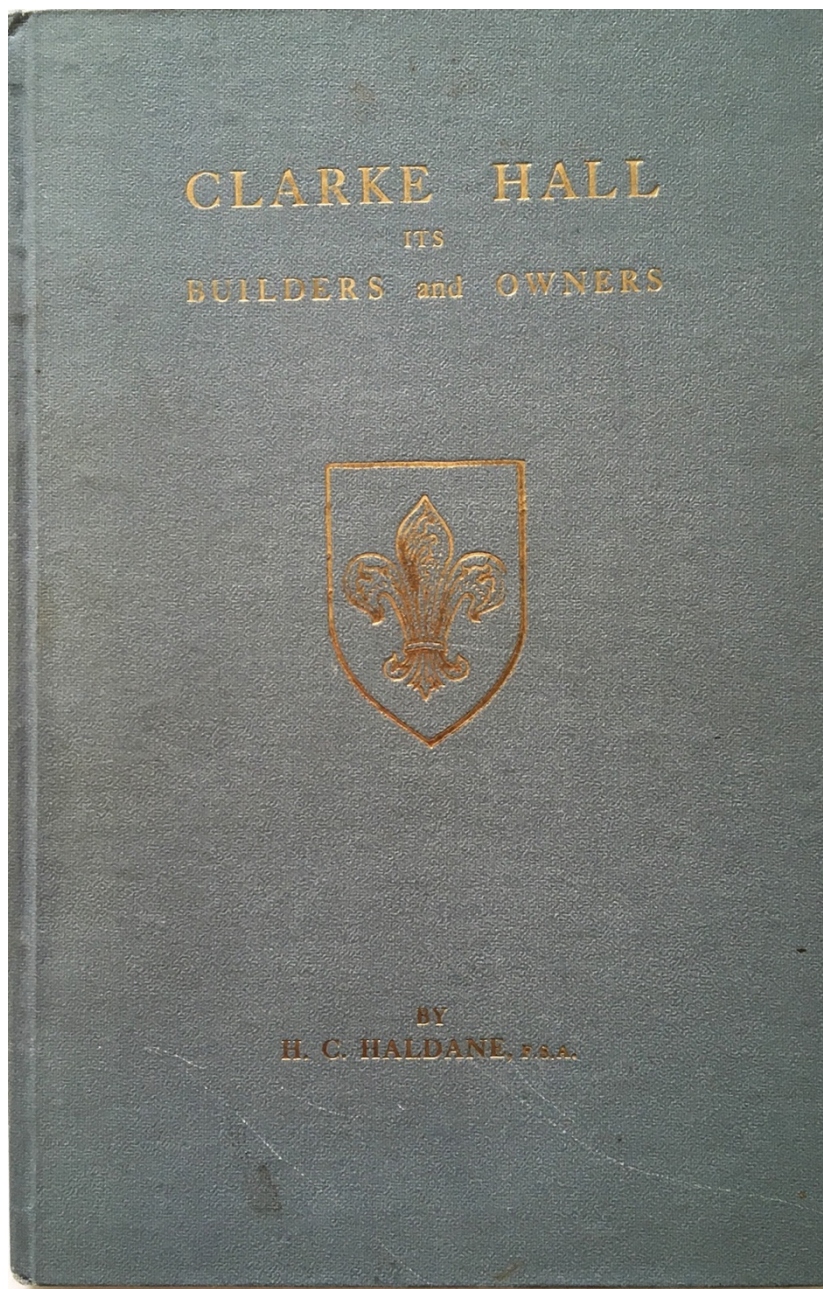
It was in 1979 that Wakefield Historical Publications took the bold decision to publish "Samuel Buck's Yorkshire Sketchbook". It was featured in Country Life.



20th June 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Clarke Hall

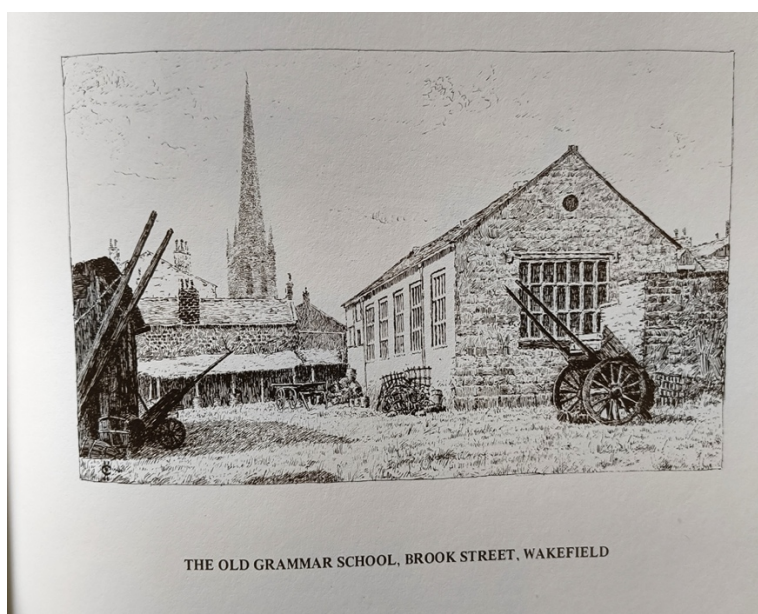
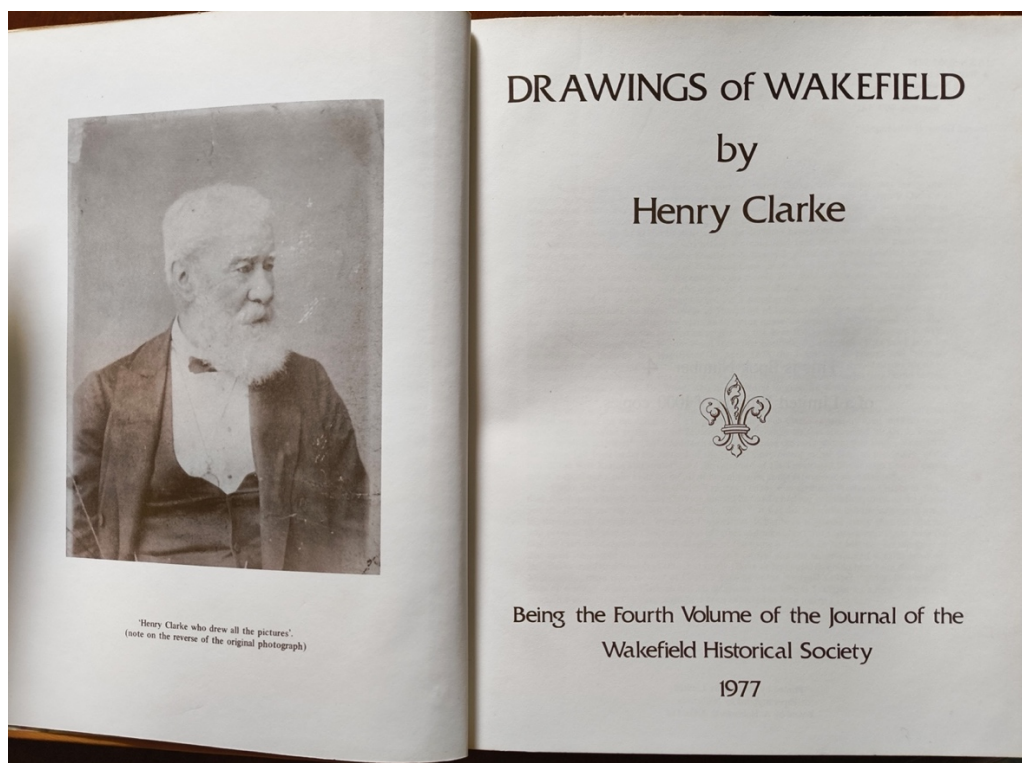
Recall visiting Clarke Hall? In 1957 the Society published an illustrated history of the Hall written by its then owner H.C. Haldane, a former President of our Society.



22nd June 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: The Drawings of Henry Clarke

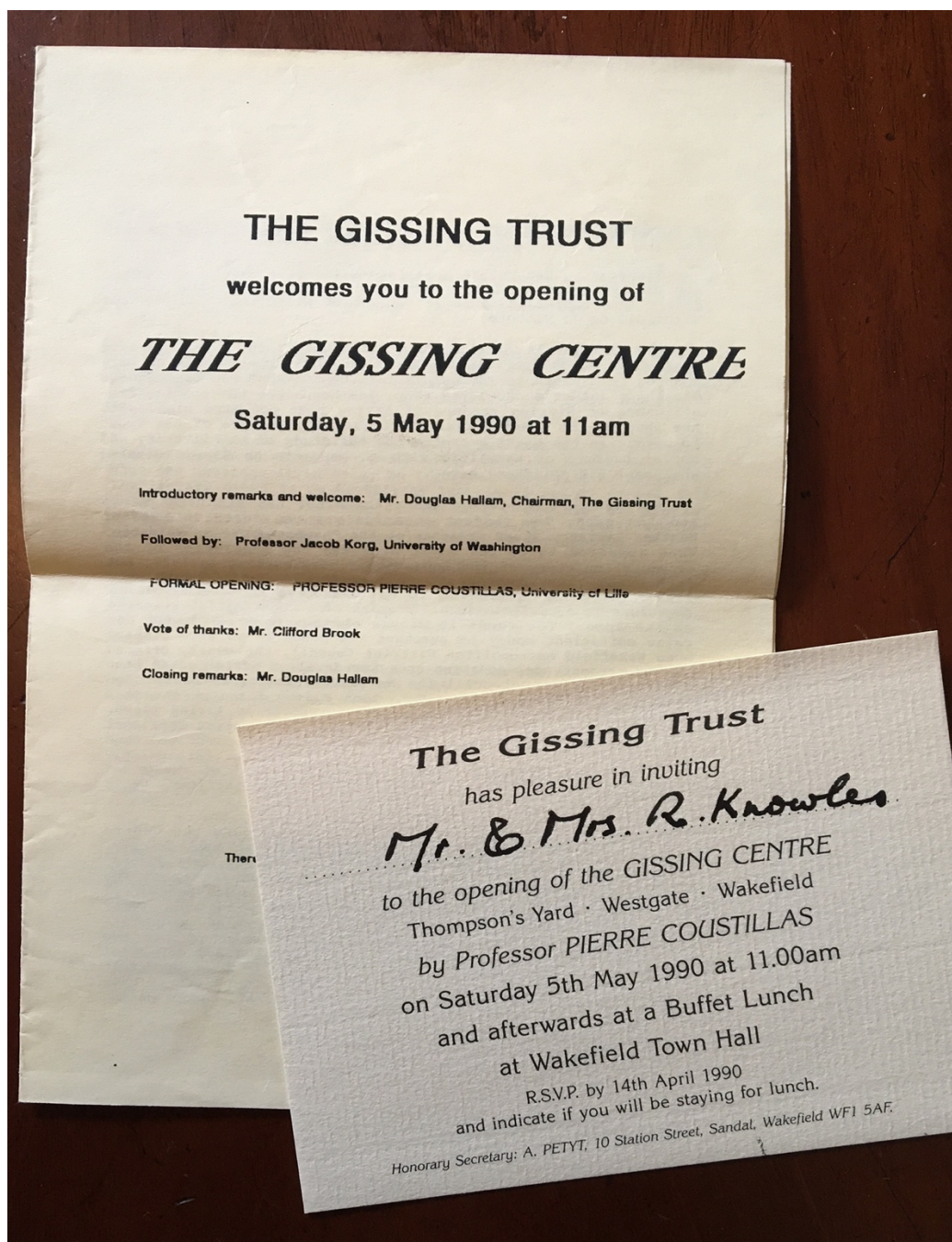
In 1977 the Society published "The Drawings of Henry Clarke" as the Journal. These were successful and provided a financial springboard for WHP to be formed.



4th July 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: The Gissing House

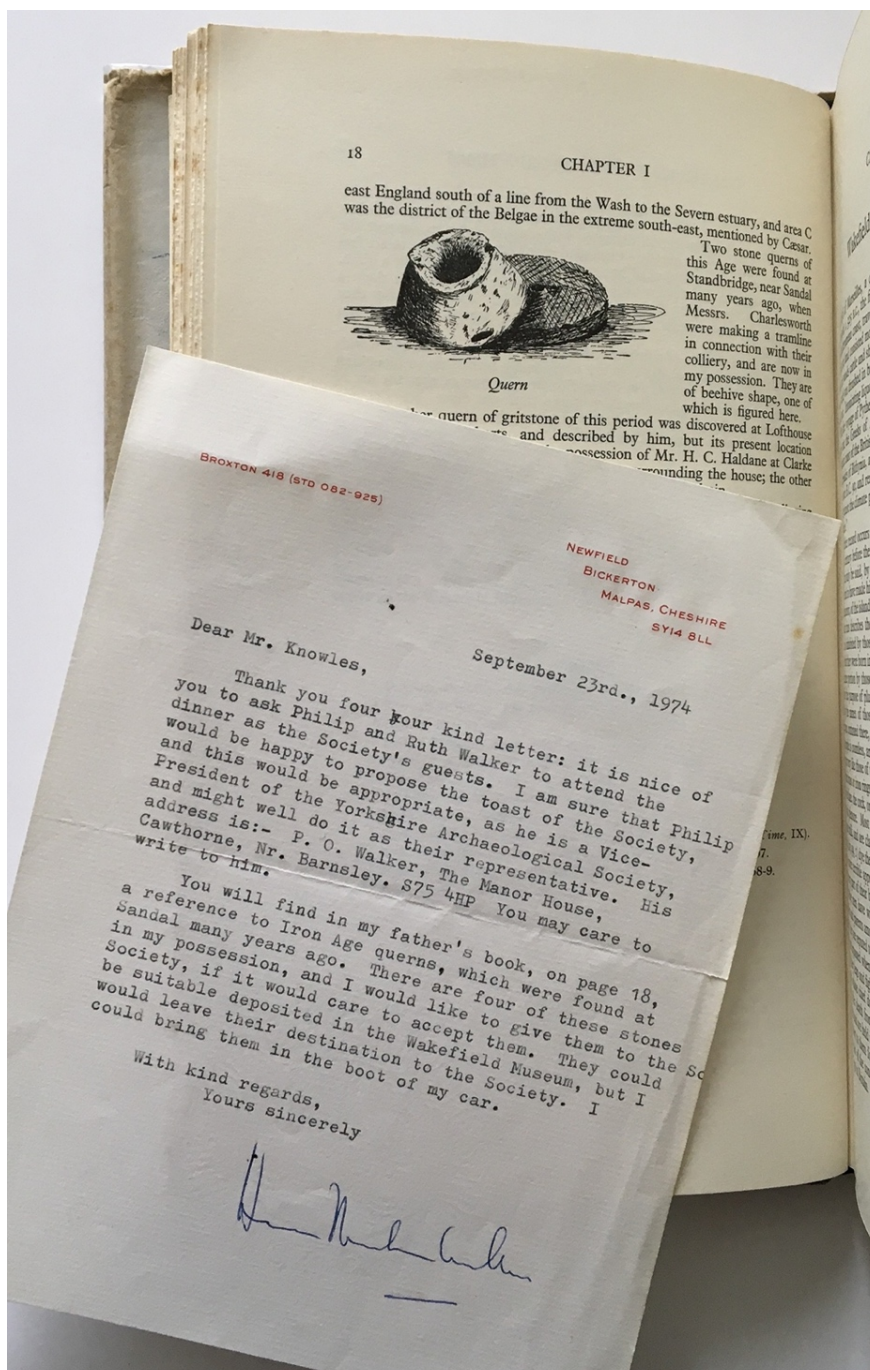
The Gissing House opened in 1990, the first Chair, our President, Douglas Hallam. A delightful small museum surely worth saving for the City.



11th July 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Presentation of Querns

Henry Walker, guest at the 50th Anniversary Dinner, in 1974, presented to the Society the querns on p.18 of his father's book. Querns passed to Museum



19th July 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: removal of Queen Victoria's statue.

In 1952 a prophetic President, H.C. Haldane commented vigorously on the first removal of Queen Victoria's statue from the Bull Ring and remarked on "modern" sculpture!



26th July 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: the Elizabethan Grammar School

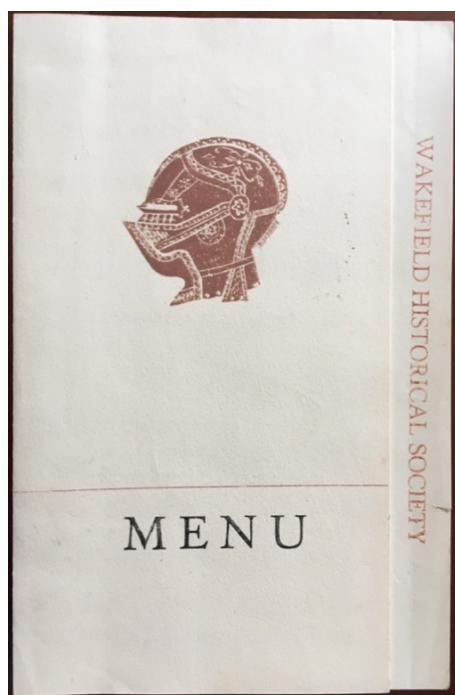
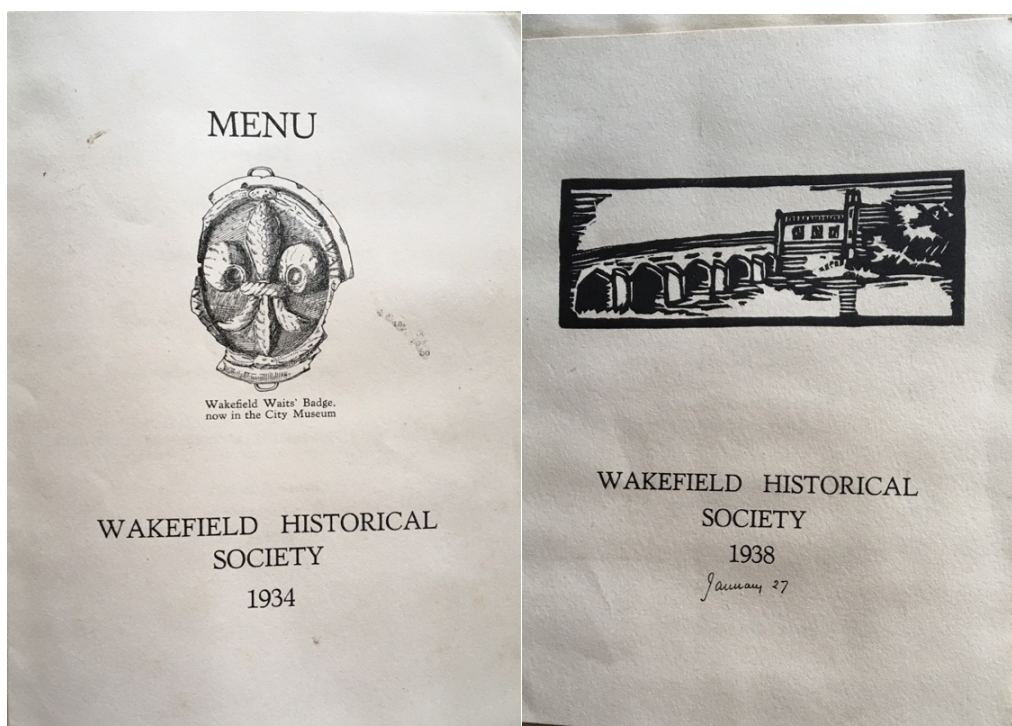
In the 1970s the Society campaigned hard to save the Elizabethan Grammar School. By the 80s what a difference a few years made! It needs us again now.



2nd August 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Dinner menus

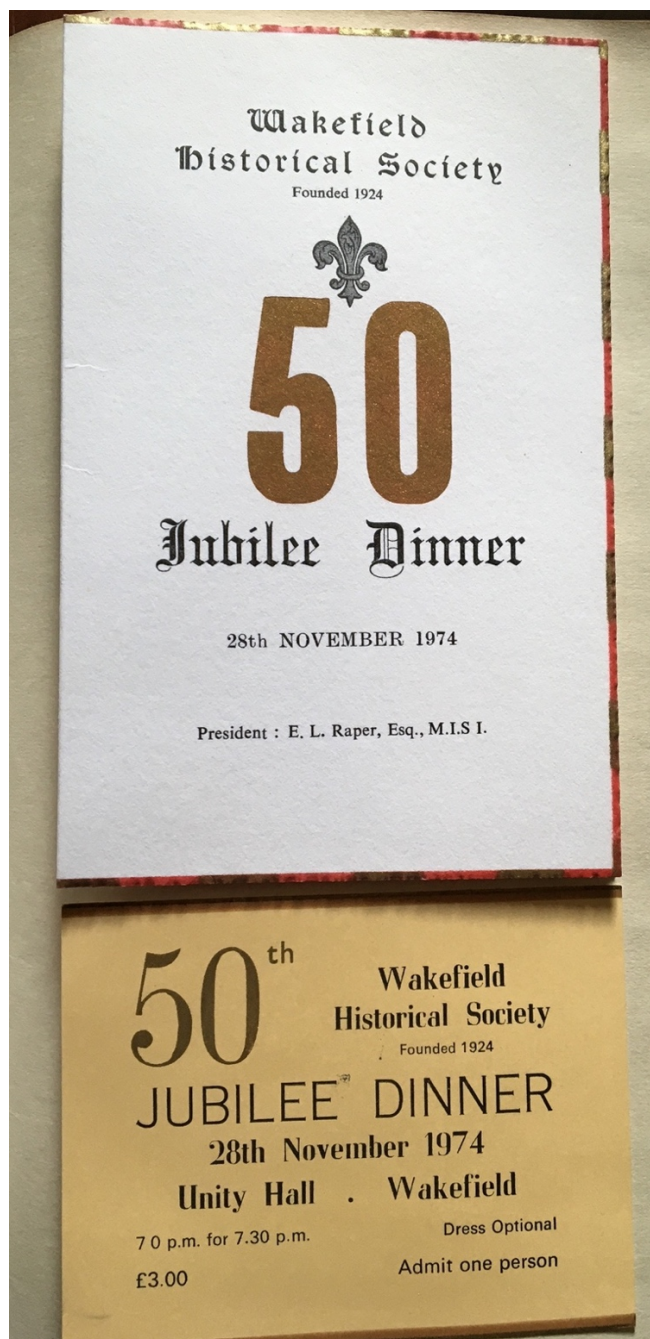
In the earlier days of the Society Annual Dinners were a feature of social life in the City. The menus were minor works of art



9th August 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: 50th Anniversary Dinner

In 1974 our Society's 50th Year, a grand Dinner was arranged with the Mayor and Philip Walker as guests. A good time was had by all.



16th August 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Dinner at Bolton Castle 1973

In 1973 to mark the end of the Sandal Castle excavations, 90 members in costume attended a dinner at Bolton Castle prepared by our member Peter Brears.

A great time had by all!



Venison served in 1646-style

NINETY MEMBERS of the Wakefield Historical Society will be dining in style at Bolton Castle, next Saturday.

The menu, which will include venison supplied by Lord Bolton, from one of his estates in Scotland, has been chosen from a 17th-century recipe book, and will be served in 17th-century style. The members will complete the scene by dressing in the costume of 1646.

The occasion? To celebrate the completion of the Sandal Castle excavations, and the significance of 1646 is that this was the year Sandal Castle was destroyed during a Civil War siege.

Bolton Castle, in Leyburn, Wensleydale, was chosen as the venue because it fell to Cromwell shortly after Sandal, but did not suffer the same fate.

Among the other guests at the banquet will be the Mayor of Wakefield, Coun. John Dean, the Mayoress, and the deputy mayor and mayoress, Coun. and Mrs. J. W. Cranswick, Philip Mayes, director of the excavations, a number of the long-serving members of the excavation team, and Peter Wenham, of York, an authority on the Civil War.

It'll be venison rost, mongoably and draughts of mead

MEMBERS of Wakefield Historical Society are to dine in style — the style of 1646. A dinner to mark the completion of the Sandal Castle excavations will be held in Bolton Castle (where period meals are a speciality) on September 15.

The significance of 1646 is that it saw the siege and destruction of Sandal Castle during the Civil War.

Ninety members of the Society will journey to Bolton, and half of them have chosen to go in the costume of the period. The meal has been selected from a 17th-century recipe book in the Yorkshire Archeological Society's library. It will begin with Peas Pottage.

The main course will be Venison Rost; Beans; Onyon Rost, and Carrott Pudding (to the Receipt of Mrs Savile of Methley). This will be followed by Mongoably (a concoction of Calves' foot jelly with cream and sherry, to the receipt of Mrs Stringer. For sweet there will be the choice of Ginger Breads, Curd Tartes, Apple Pyes, Seed Cakes, Cheese or Baked Custards, and the

meal will be accompanied by draughts of mead and ale.

The Historical Society was largely instrumental in getting the Sandal excavations begun ten years ago, and has continued to support the "dig," financially and by practical work by its members.

Among the guests will be the Mayor of Wakefield (Ct John Deen), whose enthusiasm initiated and has continued to give drive to the excavations. He will be accompanied by the Mayoress and the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress.

Also present will be Philip Mayes, Director of the Excavations, together with many of the long-serving members of the excavation team, and Peter Wenham, of York, an authority on the Civil War and a leading member of the Sealed Knot.

24th August 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Phil Mayes' talk at Sandal Castle

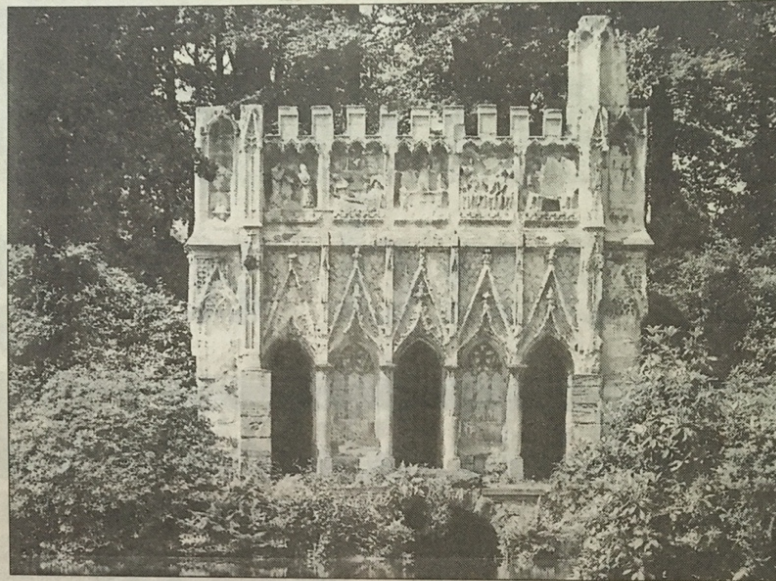
Members in the early 1970s listening to Phil Mayes speak about Sandal Castle. Can you spot three Presidents of the Society? Observe the beauty of the stonework.



31st August 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Chantry Chapel Frontage

Not all things turn out well. The remarkable 1340s original & superb Chantry Chapel front at Kettlethorpe as it appeared in the 1940s and 50s before vandalism virtually destroyed it in the 1970s.



The gothic chantry chapel pictured in 1947.

A GOTHIC chantry chapel may never be seen in public again, Wakefield Historical Society fears.

Kettlethorpe's chantry chapel was dismantled and stored last year by Wakefield Council after being persistently damaged by vandals.

It was hoped that when funds became available, the monument, described as a 'medieval gem,' would be re-assembled.

But news this week that the National Heritage has 'de-scheduled' the chantry, means cash for the reconstruction won't be provided.

The society is angry with both Wakefield Council — who it blames for failing to protect the chapel — and National Heritage for its decision.

Society president, Kate Taylor said, "The council is entirely to blame for the de-scheduling."

"The Society has warned them time and time again that the front was at risk. 'Even after serious vandalism in 1975 they they dragged their heels allowing further destruction to take place.'"

The Chantry was funded by Wakefield townspeople in the 14th century as a buttress to their new stone bridge across the River Calder.

The front was moved to Kettlethorpe hall in 1847, where it remained in good condition for 100 years.

Kate went on: "We are afraid that other treasures of our local heritage will go the same way. We see stones tipped off Sandal Castle into the moat week after week whilst its moat is used as a cycle track."

Battle to save gothic chapel

By Joanne
Duckles

Article from a newspaper article about 1995:

7th September 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Our President, Pam Judkins

President, Pam Judkins came to Wakefield in 1975 as Keeper of Archaeology. Here she is with finds from the excavation of St Swithin's chantry chapel, now under housing.



13th September 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: John Goodchild

John Goodchild, historian, archivist & collector served on Council for many years, a huge influence on our Society.
He left his vast Collection to Wakefield Council for you.



20th September 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Wakefield Flower Show Award

In the 1970s the Society was nothing if not versatile. In 1975 we gained a Silver Medal Award at the Wakefield Flower Show.



28th September 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: 1937-38 Lectures

An entertaining and erudite collection of lectures for the pre-war 1937-38 season, with of course the feature of the Annual Dinner with principal guest.

LECTURES 1937-38

1937

Oct. 28th (Thur.) ***Heraldry—Science and Art.**
The Rev. H. Lawrance, M.A.

Nov. 18th (Thur.) ***Mines and Miners.**
G. F. F. Eagar, Esq., M.I.Min.E.

Dec. 9th (Thur.) ***St Paul's Cathedral in the Middle Ages.**
The Provost of Wakefield.

1938

Jan. 27th (Thur.) **Annual Dinner.**
(Principal Guest, Sir Charles Peers).

Feb. 10th (Thur.) **Annual Meeting.**

Feb. 23rd (Wed.) ***Some Old Houses in Halifax and district.**
J. W. Houseman, Esq., M.A.
(Mr Houseman will conduct an excursion to these houses in the summer).

Mar. 9th (Wed.) **The Pilgrimage of Grace.**
Prof. G. R. Potter.

Mar. 24th (Thur.) ***Sundials**
J. Charlesworth, Esq., F.S.A.

The Lectures will be given in the **Institute of Literature & Science**, Wood Street, Wakefield, and will commence at 7.30 p.m.

*Illustrated by Lantern Slides.

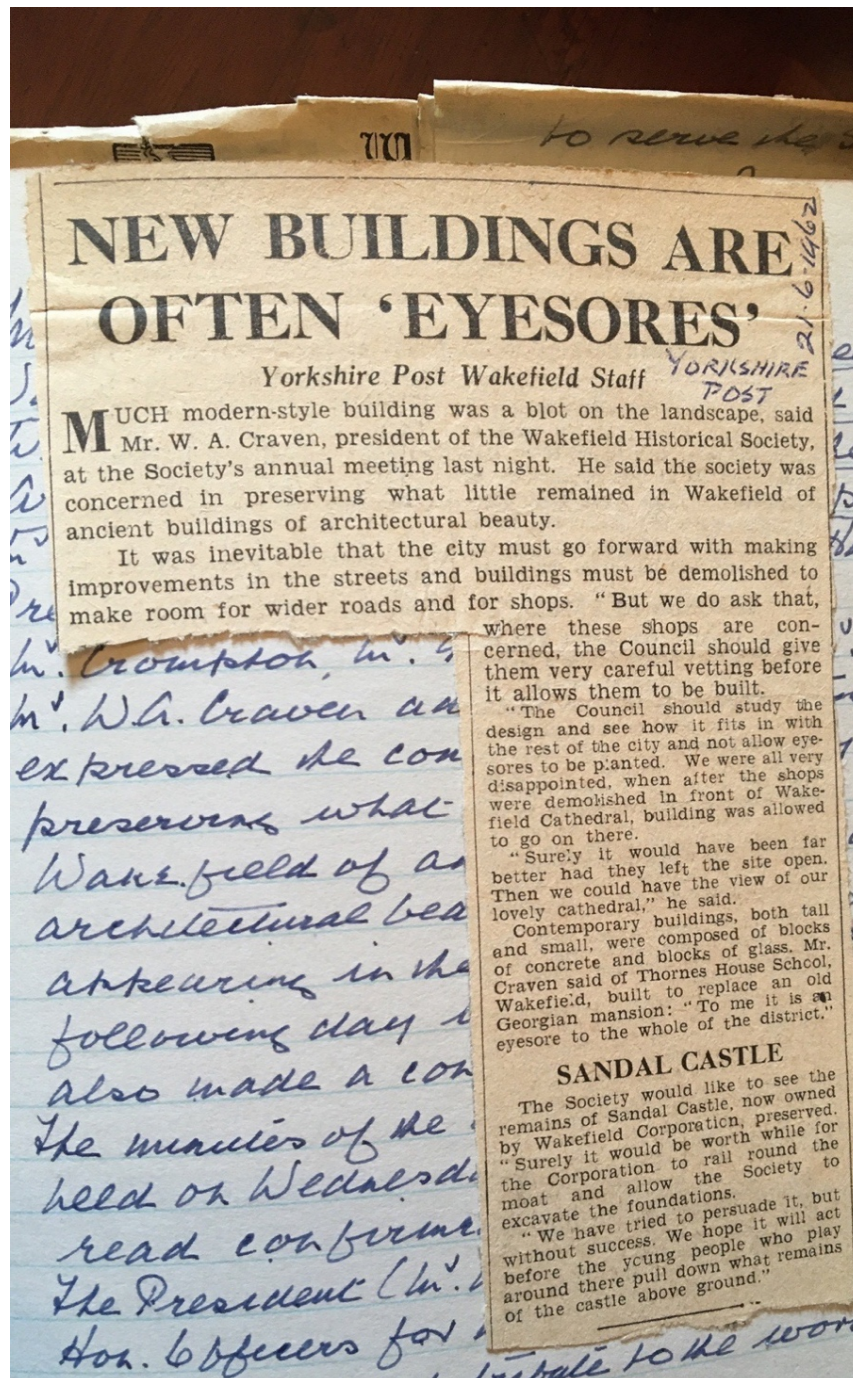
All communications concerning these Lectures should be addressed to the Hon. Lecture Secretary:

S. H. WATERS, 5 Belmont Road,
St John's, Wakefield.
Telephone 2058

5th October 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: 1962 Preservation of ancient buildings

It was 1962 when our then President W.A. Craven called for the preservation of ancient buildings in the City and hoped that the remains at Sandal Castle might be excavated. Our work never ends!



12th October 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Harold Speak and Jean Forrester

Harold Speak was President of the Society, 1968-1971 and around this time, in association with Jean Forrester, produced some interesting works relating to the area.



19th October 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: The Clarke Drawings

In 1977 the bold decision was made to publish the Clarke Drawings. We borrowed £1500 from the late WYCC (soon repaid) and we never looked back. It laid the foundations for WHP.

present. be that Kirklee's, 1880

Loan will aid drawings gift for the Queen



Showing one of Henry Clarke's sketches of Victorian Wakefield, in this case of the market place.

WAKEFIELD
Historical Society is to get an interest-free loan of £1,500 from West Yorkshire County Council to help it to produce a book.

The book will contain 97 sketches of Wakefield drawn between 1880 and 1900 by Henry Clarke, a surgeon at Wakefield Prison.

The book is being produced to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee and a copy is to be presented to the Queen when she visits Wakefield in July.

In ink
A limited edition of 1,000 copies is to be printed by Multiplicity Printers, of Bradford, and will be issued to members of the Society instead of their annual journal. Copies will be on sale to the public for about £3.00.

The drawings came to light in 1960 when a copy of the 1889 edition of Henry Clarkson's "Memories of Merrie Wakefield" was bequeathed to Wakefield Corporation by Miss Gladys Taverner Clarke — Henry Clarke's daughter.

They are in ink on double pages and each one corresponds with the text at that point. The volume, as far as is known is unique, and is in the collection of the Metropolitan District Library.

Identification of the subjects of many of the drawings proved a major task, as did their dating.

The research was done by the President of the Historical Society, Mr E. L. Raper and the District Archivist, Mr John Goodchild.

Clues were found in the shopkeepers' names on the buildings Clarke sketched; in the erection or demolition dates of the buildings and by reference to trade directories, registers of electors and ordnance survey maps of the period.

Appeal
Henry Clarke came to Wakefield in January, 1876, as resident medical officer at the prison. He succeeded Dr William Wood; a house was built at the prison for him at a cost of £2,250 and he lived there until he retired in 1908.

The Historical Society is appealing for people who knew of Clarke, his daughter, or with information of any more of his drawings, to come forward.

The only known connection between the Clarke family and Clarkson is that Clarke's daughter attended Westgate Chapel, as did Clarkson, but the Historical Society is seeking for a less tenuous connection.

The title of the book of drawings is still to be decided, but one suggestion is "The Clarke Illustrations."

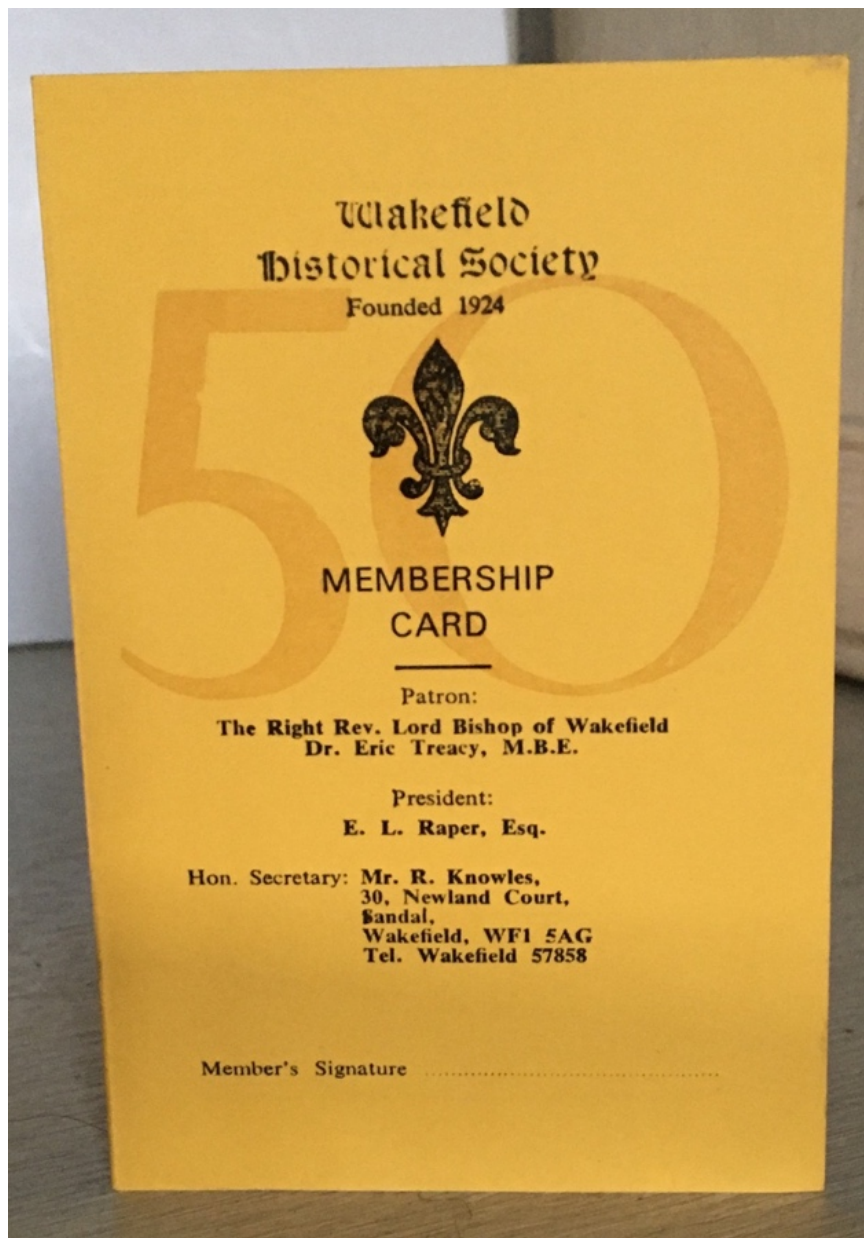
The society intends to make the reproduction as near a facsimile as possible and the drawings will be in the same order, size and printed in a similar sepia colour to the originals in "Memories of Merrie Wakefield."

As well as the £1,500 interest-free loan from the County Council, the District Council is offering £100 grant aid.

27th October 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary

In our 100th year it is pleasant to reflect on the activities of the 50th in 1974.
Despite challenging economic times there were good lectures to hear
and dinner to be had.



Hon. Lecture

Secretary: **Mr. E. Wright,**
33, Ruskin Avenue,
Bradford Road,
Wakefield. Tel. 76401

Hon Treasurer: **Mrs. B. Andrassy,**
2, Castle Road,
Sandal,
Wakefield. Tel. 55641

Hon. Excursion Secretary:
Mr. G. Blakeley,
9, Woolgreaves Close,
Sandal,
Wakefield. Tel. 56452

(Members please note that the annual subscription of £1 is due on the 1st January, and must be paid before the following 31st December, or membership will lapse).

LECTURE PROGRAMME 1974-75

- 11th September, 1974
Films - James Cook: 19th Century London:
Board School.
by Mr. Eric Woodward, Wakefield.
- 16th October, 1974
Stained Glass in York Minster.
by Mr. Peter Gibson, York.
- 6th November, 1974
Tramways in and around Wakefield.
by Mr. Walter Pickles, Garforth.
- 28th November, 1974
Jubilee Dinner.
(details to be announced later).
- 19th December, 1974
Wakefield in the Civil War.
by Mr. Peter Wenham, York.
- 8th January, 1975
Wentworth Castle.
(joint meeting with the Civic Society, venue to be announced later).
- 5th February, 1975
Annual General Meeting.
followed by **The History of Clayton Hospital and Wakefield General Dispensary.**
by Mr. William Reed, Wakefield.
- 12th March, 1975
A History of Costume.
by Mr. Arthur Starkie, New Farnley.
- 9th April, 1975
The Aire and Calder Navigation.
by Dr. R. Unwin, Leeds.
- All meetings to be held in Unity House, at 7.15 p.m., unless otherwise notified.
-

1st November 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: National Maritime Year 1982

In 1982 we drifted out to sea to consider our local maritime history in a series of lectures by John Goodchild to mark National Maritime Year.

Wakefield Historical Society and Wakefield Metropolitan District Libraries



DOWN TO THE SEA...

THE WAKEFIELD DISTRICT'S MARITIME CONNECTIONS

A series of lectures to mark National Maritime Year by
John Goodchild
(Local Studies Officer & Archivist, Wakefield Metropolitan District Libraries)

ON TUESDAYS
9, 16 & 23 NOVEMBER 1982, AT 7.15pm

AT LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS,
BALNE LANE, WAKEFIELD

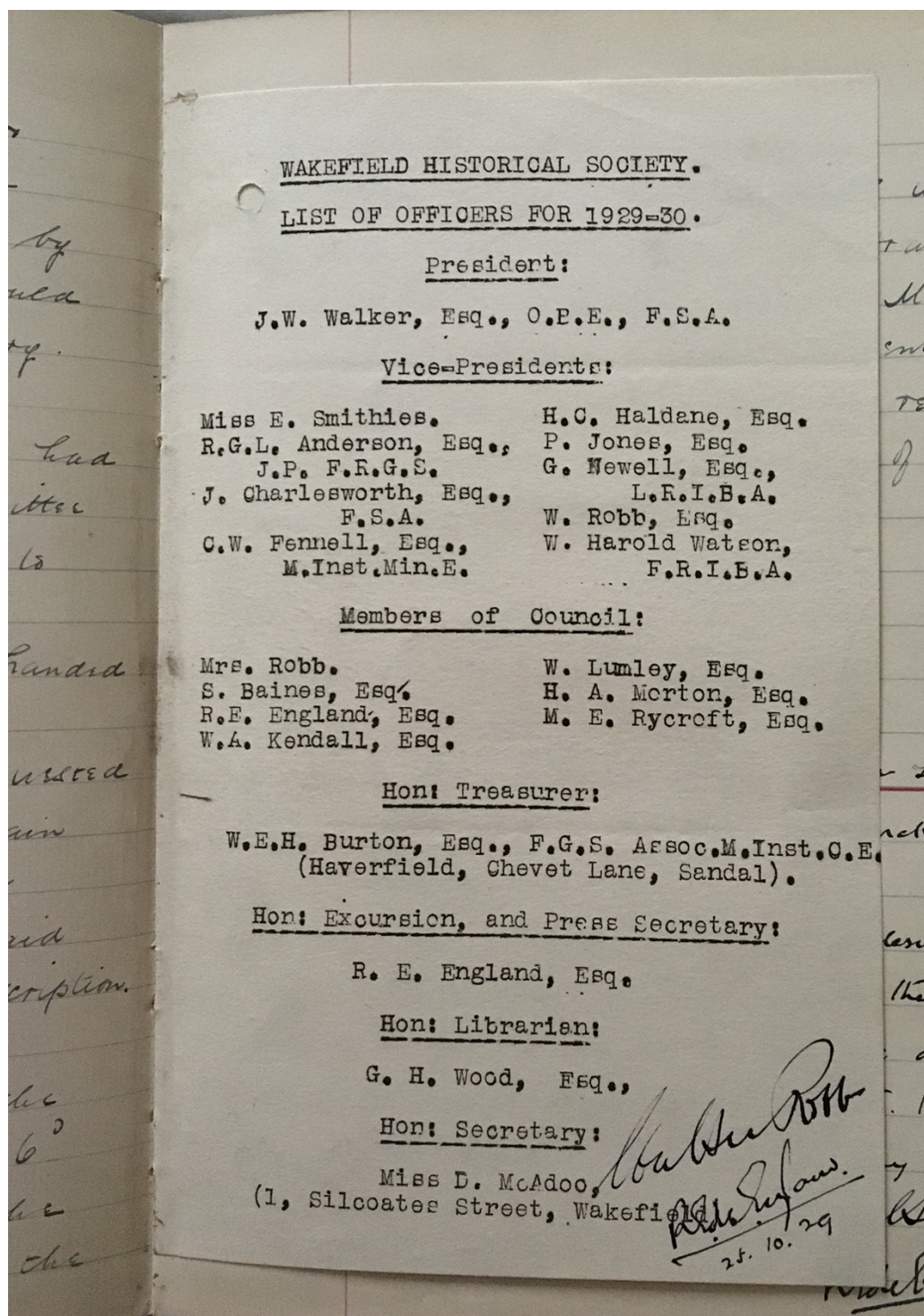
The lectures are based upon original and hitherto unpublished research
and will be illustrated with original documents, maps, pictures etc.

Course fee £3, payable in advance to Richard Knowles, 30 Newland Court,
Sandal, Wakefield, or on the evening. Cheques should be made payable to
Wakefield Historical Society

9th November 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: The Early Years

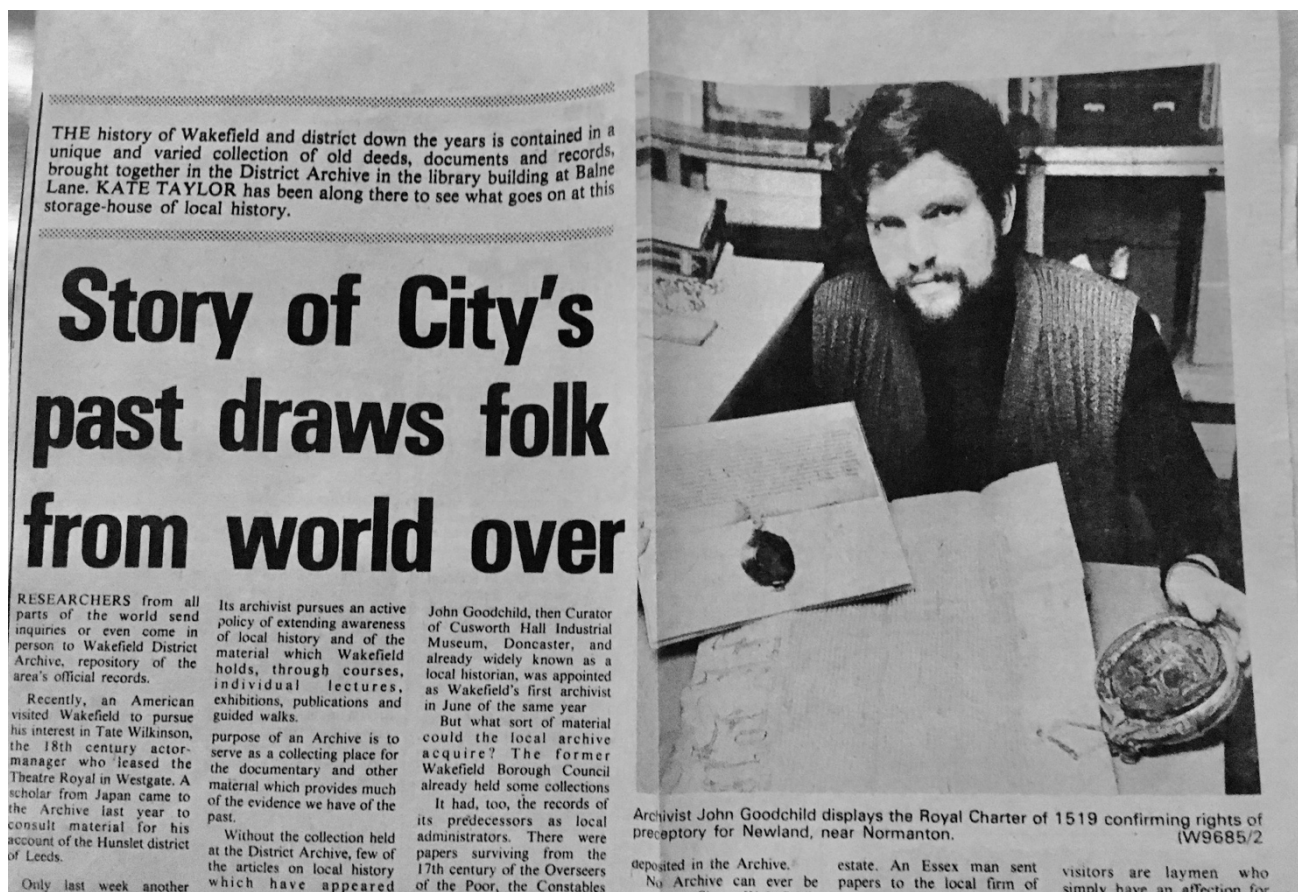
Here from 1929/30 are the names of those influential in the Society's activities during those years between the wars. Anyone we know?



16th November 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: 1519 Charter from Newland

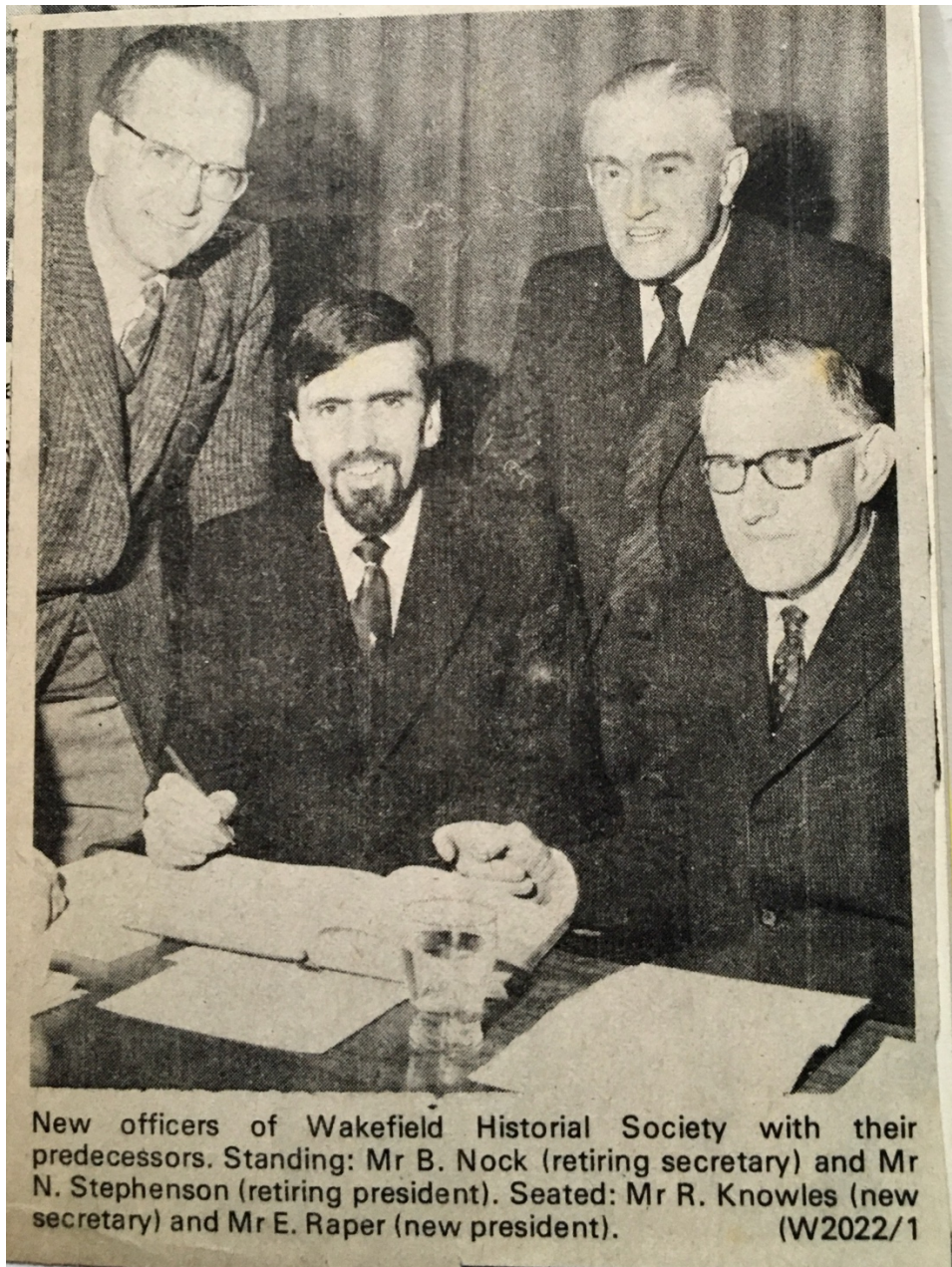
100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society. Former Vice President, John Goodchild displays the 1519 Charter from the Newland papers in his great Collection, bearing the seal of Henry VIII. Shades of Wolf Hall.



23rd November 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: 50 years ago, a new President and Secretary

All those years ago, the handover in 1973, with both a new President and Hon. Secretary taking the helm saw the drawing to a close the first 50 years of our history.



New officers of Wakefield Historical Society with their predecessors. Standing: Mr B. Nock (retiring secretary) and Mr N. Stephenson (retiring president). Seated: Mr R. Knowles (new secretary) and Mr E. Raper (new president). (W2022/1

30th November 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: the Elizabethan Grammar School

From the February 1974 Minute book a record of our concerns for the Elizabethan Grammar School building. Is it once more under threat 50 years on!

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday 6th February 1974 in the Reference library, Drury lane Wakefield at 7.15pm.

Present. The President, Mrs B. Androssy, Mrs M. Marshall, Mrs E. Marshall, Mrs A. Parker, Miss S. Fenton, Mr H. Waddington, Mr K. Bartlett, Mr N. Stephenson, Hon. Sec. Mr G. Blakely.

Apologies. were received from Mr E. Wright Mr B. Spencer, Mrs H. Lawrence.

Minutes. The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16th January 74. ^{were read and signed.}

Matters Arising. A letter was read from the City Engineer to Mrs Lawrence, regarding the old Cathedral Grammar school, stating that its demolition will most probably be considered by the new authority. We also learned that in the opinion of an architect the structure is in an excellent condition and would need a minimum of expense to restore the 16th Cent central part. It was the unanimous opinion of the council that we do all in our power to preserve this building and attract public opinion to its plight.

The President raised the matter of producing a journal for the Society, it was felt that it would be a good idea to put this suggestion to the A.C.M and invite members to subscribe to a copy each or per family. We would also want any members to send in articles. The Council



7th December 2024

100 Years of Wakefield Historical Society: the Founding of the Society

The very first Minute of the Society records the founding on the 19th December 1924, at a meeting in the Town Hall. Hear all about it, same venue this 14th December.

At a meeting held in the Town Hall
Council Chamber on December 19. 1924:
His Worship the Mayor being in the Chair,
it was unanimously decided; on the
proposition of Mr H.C. Haldane, seconded
by Mr J. Charlesworth, that a Wakefield
Historical Society be formed.

On the proposition of Ald Eggleston, seconded
by Mr C.W. Carr, Mr J.W. Walker was
elected First President of the Society,

On the proposition of Mr J. Swire seconded
by Mr M.E. Rycroft, Mr George Newell
was appointed Secretary pro tem:

The following Gentlemen were appointed
as a provisional Committee to draw up a
set of rules and deal with other necessary
detail: - The Mayor (Mr J.W. Smith), Col.
Haslegrave, and Messrs Allibone, Burton,
Charlesworth, Haldane, Haley, Milner,
Rycroft, Wade Swire. - Power being
given to co-opt further members if necessary

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks
to the Mayor for Presiding and to the
Corporation for the use of the Council Chamber -
proposed by Mr. Haslegrave seconded by
Mr. W. Rendall.

H. C. Haldane.

13th December 2024

