



STUDY DAY – Saturday 18 October 2025, 10:30 – 4:30 (from 10am)

THE AGE OF INNOVATION – BUILDINGS IN THE 19TH CENTURY

DOROTHY TREASURE - The Polite Revolution - Wiltshire Buildings in the 19th century

Dorothy is WBR's principal buildings historian, with over 30 years' experience in the study of vernacular buildings. She worked on National Trust's Survey of Wessex estates and cut her teeth on farmsteads, mills and breweries in North Wilts. Many older farmhouses, cottages and gentry houses benefited from a remodelling to bring them up to date: walls were raised, parapets added, windows lengthened, all to create the façade of a classical cube, or at least a nod in that direction. Dorothy will show some of the features to look out for from this exciting period.

JULIAN ORBACH – The Victorian Model Farm in Wiltshire The term model farm seems to be Early Victorian, but the improving of farms was much discussed in the 18th century, and taken up by major landlords including George Washington in Virginia. Improving farms was expensive, and where Georgian examples were often picturesque additions to the landscape Victorian model farms were part of the industrialisation of the agricultural world, increasingly by the addition of steam power. This talk will look at the great estates of the county and their varied response to this new world. Julian is well-known nationally as an architectural historian who worked on the listed building survey of Wiltshire in the 1980s. He revised Pevsner's Buildings of England volume for Wiltshire, published in 2021.

CLAUDIA SUCKLING – William Morris and his Ideal Home Claudia is the Director of the Wiltshire Historic Buildings Trust, a charity that rescues historic buildings at risk. An architectural and art historian, she has written on topics as diverse as Victorian Artists' Studio Houses and the workshop practices of Grinling Gibbons. Claudia was formerly Chief Executive of the William Morris Society, on whose work her talk will focus. This talk will explore Morris's work on buildings - from architecture, heritage preservation and garden design to interiors and the philosophy that governed their production, in order to create what Morris believed to be the ideal home. It will include images of rarely seen examples of works in his own hand.

ANTHONY COUSINS - From Ancient Greece and Medievalism to Gas Fires and Electric lighting; A journey through Victorian interiors The 'Battle of the Styles' heralded the dawn of the Victorian Era, as a new architectural identity was sought for the Imperial Age. Anthony will try to make sense of the eclecticism of the period, with a focus on interiors and innovations that influenced their appearance throughout the 19th century. He will shed light on period details and features still familiar in our environment today. Anthony's career has provided a variety of heritage experience from working as a skilled traditional craftsman restoring historic interiors, through to freelance design and working for National Trust as a Senior Collections and House Officer. Today he provides heritage consultancy and works as a heritage advisor for the Kennet & Avon Canal.

MICHAEL GRAY – Quaker Architect Brightwen Binyon 1846-1905 Brightwen Binyon, a pupil of Alfred Waterhouse, was responsible for the design and construction of over 70 buildings between 1870 and 1897. In Swindon, he designed numerous Board Schools, Swindon Town Hall, and remodelled the Mechanics Institution. Michael's presentation will focus on Binyon's Swindon work in the context of his wider portfolio featuring original drawings, watercolours, and photographs. Michael is a Chartered Architect with over 35 years' experience of working with historic buildings. He is currently Regional Surveyor to the Landmark Trust, Chairman of the Prospect Place Conservation Area Trust and a Trustee of the Friends of Lydiard Park.

ROLAND SMITH - From Rogues to Royalty: a brief history of England's Racecourses, some of our oldest historic sporting landscapes Horse racing has taken place at Salisbury from the 16th century and it is one of England's oldest racecourses. Salisbury racecourse is now Wiltshire's only commercial racecourse. Many others in use in the County in the 19th century have been lost. This talk will look at their fascinating history, and the many important listed and unlisted historic buildings that are integral to them. He will demonstrate that England's diverse, historic racecourses comprise some of our most important sporting landscapes and are worthy of appreciation and protection. Roland has been a professional archaeologist for over 40 years and has lived and worked for a large part of that time in Wiltshire. He is currently Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

At The Corn Exchange, Devizes. Tickets £26, Senior Citizens £25, Students £21 or £19.50 Members
Optional buffet lunch, booked in advance, £14.30 per head.

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