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### **Some key dates in the history of Wakefield**

- 1. Early 12th century.** The first (wooden) castle built at Sandal
- 2. 1340s** The stone bridge over the Calder built.
- 3. 1356** The Chantry Chapel first licensed.
- 4. 1460** The Battle of Wakefield. Richard Duke of York killed.
- 5. By the 16th century** Wakefield had become a major centre for marketing cloth.
- 6. 1592** Wakefield Grammar School founded.
- 7. 1702** The River Calder made navigable to Wakefield with the consequence that in the 18th and 19th centuries Wakefield was a major inland port.
- 8. 1765** Wakefield cattle market opened, subsequently becoming the largest in the north of England..
- 9. 1776** Wakefield's first purpose-built theatre opened (on site of present Theatre Royal and Opera House)
- 10. 1783** Wakefield's first textile mill established
- 11. 1786** Wakefield's first subscription library founded.
- 12. 1803** Wakefield's first local newspaper published.
- 13. 1810** Wakefield Court House opened (one of the first purpose-built sessions houses in the area and the first of the public buildings in Wood Street)
- 14. 1832** Wakefield becomes a Parliamentary Borough. Daniel Gaskell of Lupset Hall elected as first MP
- 15. 1840** First passenger trains to run through Wakefield on the Manchester and Leeds Railway Company line, for Normanton to Hebden Bridge, via Kirkgate Station.
- 16. 1848** Wakefield becomes a municipal corporation; thus first has a mayor and council.
- 17. 1848** The Chantry Chapel was renewed and reopened for worship after some 300 years in secular use.

18. **1854** The Wakefield Dispensary and Clayton Hospital founded in premises in Gill's Yard.
19. **1857** Novelist George Gissing born in Wakefield.
20. **1878** Wakefield Girls' High School established.
21. **1879** Clayton Hospital opened on its present Northgate/ Wentworth Street site.
22. **1888** Wakefield parish church becomes a cathedral and Wakefield itself becomes a city; the diocese of Wakefield gets its first bishop.
23. **1893** Wakefield's first public park, Clarence Park, opened.
24. **1904** Trams first run across Wakefield Bridge.
25. **1905** Statue of Queen Victoria erected in Bull Ring.
26. **1906** Wakefield's first municipal public library opened (in Drury Lane)
27. **1910** Wakefield's first cinema opened, the Grand Electric, in the Corn Exchange.
28. **1912** King George V and Queen Mary visit Wakefield
- 29.. **1919** Wakefield's first council houses built.
30. **1919** Wakefield's first municipal maternity hospital opened.
31. **1933** The new bridge over the Calder is opened.
32. **1940** The Wakefield Shirt Company founded.
33. **1945** Wakefield Trinity won the rugby league challenge cup.
34. **1960** Wakefield-born writer David Storey's first novel published (*This Sporting Life*) and wins the Macmillan Fiction award.
35. **1974** Local government re-organisation: Wakefield becomes a part of the Wakefield Metropolitan District.

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(2015, Kate Taylor comments that this is rather a random list, and not exhaustive)  
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