



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 36

April 2004

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Vernacular Buildings of Ryedale

Friday 14 to Sunday 16 May 2004

Annual recording conference, this year held in conjunction with the Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group. To be based at the Talbot Hotel, Malton, North Yorkshire. Booking form enclosed; additional forms available from Lorraine Moor.



### Harewood Village and Estate – a Brief History

Saturday 3 July 2004

Talk and walkabout at Harewood led by Jon Finch, University of York, Department of Archaeology. All welcome but numbers limited – apply to David Cook (contact details on back page). There may be a small charge for expenses, but the event will be free to people who booked on the YVBSG Estate Villages day school. Meeting place and time will be confirmed on application and as soon as details are available.

### Conference Review Day

Sunday 26 September 2004

A review of the buildings recorded during the conference in Malton in May.

### Cartographer needed

Does anyone in the group have cartographic skills? If so, Barry Harrison would welcome your assistance in drafting some Swaledale maps. If you think you could help, please give him a ring on 01287 633182.

### Personal data in reports

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act, YVBSG reports do not include the name of the owner of a building. The Archivist, however, needs to know the name and address of the owner so that he can send a copy of the report to them. Report writers are therefore asked to send these details on a separate sheet when submitting reports to Don McLellan. The addresses of any recorders who are not YVBSG members should also be sent to Don, again so that they may receive copies of the report.

### Villages of Vision

At the March day school on 'Understanding the Buildings of Estate Villages', speaker Gillian Darley mentioned that she hoped to reprint her 1975 book on British planned villages, *Villages of Vision* (currently out of print). If anyone has new or additional information on model villages in Yorkshire, Gillian would be happy to consider including it in the reprinted edition. Information may be sent to Gillian c/o David Cook.

### Copyright of maps

Members are reminded that Ordnance Survey maps are subject to a 50-year copyright law from the end of the year of publication. Even producing a sketch map based on an OS map still in copyright is illegal. There are no restrictions on copying maps published more than 50 years ago but the OS do ask you to show an acknowledgement and reference number – contact them on 023 8030 5030 for details. Further information about copyright of maps is available on the OS website at [www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk](http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk). Team leaders are asked to comply with copyright legislation when including maps with reports, bearing in mind that maps produced by organisations other than the OS are possibly also subject to copyright.

### Committee news

We welcome Tony Robinson as a member of the committee and hope that he enjoys his new role. All other committee members were re-elected *nem con* at the AGM in March.

The next full committee meeting will be held on Sunday 7 November 2004, although a 'virtual' meeting will be held during the summer to plan next year's events. If you'd like to raise any matter, please contact David Crook.

### Yorkshire Buildings

Please contact the editor as soon as possible if you feel inspired to make a last-minute contribution to *Yorkshire Buildings 2004!*

### Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. Please send items for the July newsheet to the editor by the end of June 2004.

### Mike Younge

We are sorry to report that YVBSG member Mike Younge died suddenly on 9 February 2004. Mike was the Director of the Ripon Local Studies Research Centre, and those who attended the YVBSG annual conference held in Ripon in 2002 will remember his invaluable contribution to the event.

## Other events of possible interest ...

Some of these events are publicised a long time in advance, so it's worth checking that they are still running before you go!

### Oldham's Listed Buildings

10 April to 8 May 2004

Photographic exhibition of listed buildings, many in Saddleworth (historically Yorkshire), taken from the fascinating Images of England database ([www.imagesofengland.org.uk](http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk)). Oldham Art Gallery, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, tel 0161 911 4653.

### Around Troutbeck

Thursday 22 April 2004

Walk with Andrew Lowe, building advisor from Lake District National Park. Meet 10am at Town End car park, Troutbeck, Ambleside. Tel 015394 46402.

### Local History Month

May 2004

See [www.history.org.uk](http://www.history.org.uk) for local events.

### 51 Fleetgate Open Days

Saturday 1 May, Saturday 26 June, Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 September, Saturday 27 November 2004

51 Fleetgate, Barton upon Humber, North Lincolnshire, has a 15th century timber-framed rear wing with crown post roof, originally an open hall. Open 10am-3pm on above dates. Details from website [www.geocities.com/fleetgate51/index.htm](http://www.geocities.com/fleetgate51/index.htm) or tel 01652 660630.

### Looking at Shibden Hall Estate

Monday 3 May, Monday 31 May 2004

Meet Michael Walton outside the front entrance of Shibden Hall, Lister's Road, Halifax, at 2pm for a free guided historic walk of the grounds. Tel 01422 352246.

### National Mills Weekend

Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 May 2004

A large number of wind and watermills will be open to the public. For further details tel 020 7456 0909, website [www.spab.org.uk/mills/index.html](http://www.spab.org.uk/mills/index.html).

### Red House Local and Family History Roadshow

Sunday 16 May 2004

Drop in to this special Kirklees Community History Service Roadshow where you can find out more about local and family history activity in the area and the resources available locally. 1pm to 4pm at Red House Museum, Oxford Road, Gomersal, tel 01274 335100.

### Yorkshire Archive Users' Conference

Saturday 22 May 2004

To be held at the National Centre for Early Music, York. Aims to highlight the views and needs of archive users and identify ways in which to engage new audiences. Further details from Claire Dyson, tel 0113 3875425, email [claire.dyson@ymlac.org.uk](mailto:claire.dyson@ymlac.org.uk).

### York Bricks and Brickmakers

Wednesday 26 May 2004

Meeting of the Borthwick Local History Forum, led by Sandra Garside-Neville, in room K111, King's Manor, York at 7.30pm. Details from Marjorie Harrison, tel 01904 744263. Non-members £1.

### Ponden Hall: Thrushcross Grange or Wuthering Heights?

Friday 28 May 2004

University of Bradford Friday Afternoon Walk with tutor Helen Broadhead. Includes tour of Ponden Hall with the owner. Details from website [www.brad.ac.uk](http://www.brad.ac.uk) or tel 01274 233216.

### East Riddlesden Hall

Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 June 2004

National Trust event. Explore the Hall's architectural development with Mike Freeman, House Steward, 10am-12 noon, followed by a light lunch. £12.95. Booking essential on 01535 607075.

### National Archaeology Days 2004

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 July 2004

Events will be held across the UK on this weekend. For further information contact Jan Cox, Marketing Officer, Council for British Archaeology, tel 01904 671417, email [nad@britarch.ac.uk](mailto:nad@britarch.ac.uk).

### YAS Hovingham Weekend

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 July 2004

Multidisciplinary event in Hovingham, organised by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society. For details telephone 0113 2457910.

### Craftsmen in timber and stone: Skilled workers of the 16th and 17th centuries and the houses they built

Saturday 2 October 2004

This day school at Kershaw House, mentioned in the last Newsheet, is already fully booked. No more applications, please.

### Yorkshire Landscapes Past and Future

Saturday 16 October 2004

Conference at York St John College, York, organised by PLACE Research Centre and the Society for Landscape Studies. Speakers include George Peterken, Robin Butlin, Andy Howard, Barry Harrison, Jon Finch, Ian Dormor, Simon Warwick, Stephen Moorhouse, Robert Wright, Jane Wheeler, Mary Higham. See website [www.yorks.ac.uk/centres/research/place/](http://www.yorks.ac.uk/centres/research/place/) or contact Dr Margaret Atherden, tel 01904 716753.

### Oakwell Hall

Further to the last Newsheet, I'm told that admission to Oakwell Hall is in fact FREE from November to February each year (and only £1.40 from 1 March to 31 October). Cafe nearby. Candlelight evenings sell out quickly - look out for publicity or telephone 01924 326240.

## Retting, swingling and scutching in the Dales

Can any members shed any light on whether hemp-growing and retting was reflected in buildings? Some of the following information derives from Arthur Raistrick's WEA class in the 1960s. Flax wouldn't grow in the Yorkshire Dales but hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) did. Any flax spun or woven up here came from East Anglia or the Low Countries. (By contrast, eighteenth century Knaresborough was a major linen centre, growing some flax locally.) 'Linen'-weaving flourished in the seventeenth century at Airton and at Brigflatts. But I fancy much more hemp than flax was woven. Maybe 'linen



weavers' in parish registers, for example Conistone, in fact wove hemp into 'harden' for working clothes. Some villages, such as Starbotton, have fields called Hemplands. The process involved retting ('roteinge' in seventeenth century Arncliffe = rotting

in a trough or in a 'dubb' or pond; then swingling, ie beating to break the fibres; then scutching, ie more beating, on a post or beam; then combing, and finishing. The retting was done in the open (the stench was terrible); relics of what may be the dubb survive in Hemplands at Starbotton. But were any building features adapted for swingling or scutching?

Any information on the hemp industry gratefully received!

*Richard Harland, Four Winds,  
Grassington, Skipton BD23 5BJ,  
email [fourwinds@onetel.net.uk](mailto:fourwinds@onetel.net.uk)*

## Use of barn for hay!

A 200-year old field barn near Foxup at the head of Littondale has been restored by local builders trained in traditional skills, including the use of lime-based putty, under the supervision of a specialist from the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Unstable walls were rebuilt to match the original style and construction, and the whole building has been re-roofed. The project was funded by Defra's Environmentally Sensitive Areas Scheme, and included the rebuilding of about 1 kilometre of drystone wall nearby. The barn will be used by the farmer for traditional hay production and should help to restore the local land-use patterns of the nineteenth century.

## Caption competition

Many thanks to those who sent in entries for the Caption Competition in the December Newsheet. They were all very entertaining, but the judges have agreed that the prize (a copy of the new *Guide to Historic Scarborough*) goes to Tony Tolhurst with his apt caption:

This date stone will fool the YVBSG.

Close runners-up were Peggy Secor with:

At this rate I'll never get this report done ...

and Geoff Brown with:

RECONSTRUCTIVE ARCHAEOLOGY

The photograph shows recapitulation of a phase in the development of the wheel during the palaeolithic culture.

The stone-age man has had a flash of insight that the hollow centre of the communal ash tray (foreground) could be deepened in order to take a slender tree trunk as an axle.

Only when the slow, laborious chiselling had been completed did he realise that a rectangular profile was not ideal for the rim.



## Some recent publications

*The Earl of Derby's Courthouse at Burton-in-Lonsdale* by C T J Dodson. Published 2003 by Hudson History, tel 01729 825773. £5, with many illustrations and extracts from original archive documents. The location of the Courthouse was the building now comprising The Cross (which members may remember visiting in 2000) and The Manor House. The book traces the history of the building and its environment from medieval times.

*A Guide to Historic Scarborough*. Published by the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society, £5, available in Scarborough shops. Drawing upon recent archaeological and historical work, the Guide is useful for those who want to explore the town's historic buildings, fortifications, churches, streets, harbour and art. Includes three walks.

*History of Appleton-le-Moors, a 12th century planned village* by Margaret Allison. Includes chapters on field names, woodlands, boundaries, houses, garths and families. Available by post from Margaret Allison, Hamley, Appleton-le-Moors, North Yorkshire YO62 6TG, £12.95 + £2.50 p&p.

## Learning about ...

### Humber Heritage

Friday 2 to Monday 5 July 2004. Tutor: Mike Higginbottom. Examines the estuary itself and visits its most important settlements including Hull and Beverley. From £265.

### Sheffield's Heritage

Friday 3 to Sunday 5 September 2004. Tutor: Mike Higginbottom. Highlights the historic development of the industrial city and its recent revival. From £190.

Both the above are University of Nottingham Study Tours. For a brochure, telephone 0115 951 6526 or see website [www.nottingham.ac.uk/continuing-education](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/continuing-education).

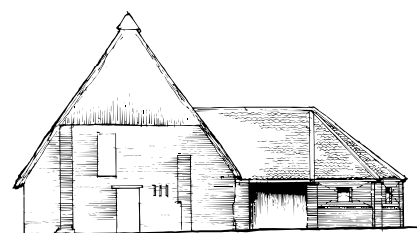
### New Villages for Old

Sunday 30 May to Wednesday 2 June 2004. Tutor: David Brazendale. Examines the origins and growth of industrial villages in Lancashire, their design and architecture and the impulses that led to their creation. Includes visits. Alston Hall College, Longridge, Preston PR3 3BP, tel 01772 784661. £181.

## Horse engine houses

I am a YVBSG member, studying for an MA at the University of York. I am researching Horse Engine Houses (also known as Horse Mills, Wheelhouses or Gin Gans) in the East Riding and North York Moors for my dissertation. I would be very grateful for any information about them and particularly any remaining buildings. Postage and photocopy costs would be gladly reimbursed.

Wayne Parker, 29 Main Street, Beeford, Driffield YO25 8AY, tel 01262 488563, email [dcwp100@york.ac.uk](mailto:dcwp100@york.ac.uk)



Horse engine house at Easington Tith Barn, Holderness, drawn by Malcolm Birdsall

## Websites worth watching

### Scarborough Community Heritage Initiative

[www.scarborough-heritage.org](http://www.scarborough-heritage.org)

Includes drawings of the Newcaste Packet public house, which has a medieval timber frame with richly-carved corner post, originally recorded by the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society and investigated more recently by Arnold Pacey.

### Historic Farmhouses in Cumbria

[www.historicfarmsnw.co.uk](http://www.historicfarmsnw.co.uk)

Thinking about a short break in Cumbria? This website gives details of a dozen or so interesting historic farmhouses offering B&B and self-catering accommodation, including pele towers and a cruck-framed building with a 'crog loft'.

## NMR local history packs

The National Monuments Record has hundreds of black and white aerial photographs at its Swindon headquarters, mostly taken between 1945 and 1975. These are available in Local History Packs, at £15 per pack. Send details of your location (the name of a street, a six-figure grid reference, or a map with the centre of your area marked on) and they will send you three aerial photographs of your area, laser copied on to A3 paper. You will also receive an index of the listed buildings in your area and full listing for local archaeology. For an application form and further details, contact NMR Enquiry and Research Services, English Heritage, NMRC, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ, telephone 01793 414600, website [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk).

# Vernacular Architecture in the North West

This conference was held at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston on 29 March 2003. Information was received about a week beforehand so that there was no time for the details to be put in any newsheet. However, I sent details of the conference to some people on both sides of the Pennines and a small number of YVBSG members attended.

## Is there a Vernacular Architecture? – Dr Peter Leach

Peter Leach, of the university, showed only a small number of slides. These were of Yorkshire buildings, including Myddleton Lodge, Ilkley; Peel House, Gomersal; and Friar's Head, Winterburn. One member of the audience was unhappy seeing only Yorkshire buildings and used the sharpness of his tongue to show his feelings. The talk should have lasted 75 minutes but overran by another 15 minutes, which annoyed someone else on the back row. This was made worse by Peter Leach having what seemed to be a private conversation with someone at the front, that no-one else could hear. When I got home I looked at Brunskill's map showing the vernacular divisions of Great Britain (*Traditional Buildings of Britain*, page 133) and found that some of the other Yorkshire houses shown are actually on, or near, the border of the Yorkshire Dales Division and North-West England Division. And it did prompt me to view Friar's Head after visiting Gargrave Open Gardens in July!

## Lancashire, a timber-framed county – Nigel Morgan

Nigel Morgan has worked on the Listed Building Re-survey in Lancashire and has worked in Sedbergh and West Yorkshire, to name two areas within Yorkshire's traditional boundaries. Some 40 slides of timber-framed buildings were shown, mainly from the Preston area southwards. Many of these houses displayed highly decorative patterns of ogee braces, cusped concave-sided lozenges, St Andrew's crosses, quatrefoils, roundels etc. Another Lancashire (and Cheshire) characteristic shown was the rounded cove under the eaves, or under the overhang of a jetty.

Standish and Agecroft Halls were shown, these being shipped to America in c.1923 and 1926, the latter being re-erected in Richmond, Virginia, and open to the public. Also shown was Worden

Old Hall, which, with Buckshaw Hall and others, has been trapped inside the Royal Ordnance Factory near Chorley since 1936. Both of these timber-framed houses are listed Grade II\* and could soon be seen by the public for the first time in nearly 70 years. Next on the screen were cruck buildings, and an oxen-house with a weatherboarded, jettied upper floor (also Grade II\*).

## The Vernacular Architecture of South Lancashire – Phillip Powell, Conservation Officer for Wigan Metropolitan Borough

All types of vernacular building and materials were shown by Phillip Powell, mainly south of the River Ribble. These were timber, gritstone, coal measures sandstone, red sandstone, and hand-made bricks. An unusual and localised walling material was copper slag, in squared blocks, used for the mid 19th century Welsh Chapel at Sutton Oak, St Helens. Next came 16th and 17th century brickwork, showing the decorative ways that burnt headers and projecting bricks were used to form lozenges, crosses, hearts and dates. Sometimes all-over diaperwork was used for the whole of the front wall. Next came two timber-framed churches, Denton (c.1530) and Altcar (1879).

The rest of Mr Powell's slides were of 17th and 18th century chapels, meeting houses, schools, almshouses, inns, smithies and nailmakers' workshops. Finally, two village lock-ups. Euerton lock-up (1787) is the last surviving village building in Euerton, which was once a village on the brow of a hill. Even when Pevsner was there, in the 1960s, he mentioned a 17th century survival.

Incidentally, Ronald Brunskill was born in the Wigan area.



## Vertically extending the 18th century Lancashire house – Jennifer Lewis, student

The last talk of the day was all about Firwood Farm, Samesbury, and showed how the house grew upwards and sideways from being a single-storey house. This talk lasted 30 minutes. There was a white-painted carved face in the apex of the porch (probably ex-situ). The speaker didn't mention this at all in the talk, only at the end when its presence was pointed out.

## Conclusions

There are other building materials in Lancashire which were not part of this conference. These include limestone, cobbles, clay, slates, mudstones etc in the rest of the county north of Preston.

I also attended two dayschools later in the year, at Manchester and Lancaster (reports in YVBSG Newsheet 33). All four speakers at Preston had obviously been on-site to see their buildings first-hand, which doesn't always happen. And I didn't see anyone nodding off, either. This was, for me, the best dayschool of the three.

I would suggest that future dayschools on vernacular architecture in the North-West could include the Fylde, Lancaster, and Lancashire, North-of-the-Sands. The distribution of certain features on vernacular buildings, and which can be very localised, could be the theme of a conference. Features, or parts of buildings, I have in mind are doorheads, decorative hood-mould stops, crow-stepped gables (as in the Fylde), two- and three-storeyed porches, cylindrical chimneys, corbelled garderobes or latrines (as in North-East Lancashire and Bowland) and so on. This, to my knowledge, has not been the subject of conferences in recent years.

Kevin Illingworth

[Kevin sent in this account last year but for reasons of space we haven't been able to print it until now – Editor]

## An unusual domestic water supply?

The museum in Grassington Square has an internal stone trough fed through the wall by roof water. This appears to me to be original to one of the cottages from which the museum was adapted. The cottagers could draw water by a plug or tap near the foot of the trough, which I calculate had a capacity of 90 gallons. An ingenious arrangement! Is it found elsewhere?

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