



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

[www.yvbsg.org.uk](http://www.yvbsg.org.uk)

Newsheet No 45

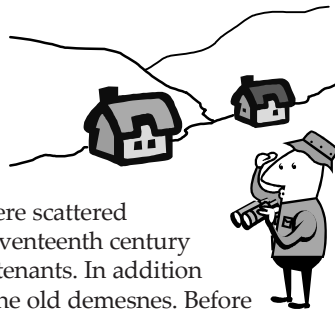
August 2006

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Excursion to Danby-in-Cleveland

Sunday 17 September 2006

The manor and forest of Danby lay at the heart of a great medieval estate with a castle, three deer-parks, a huge block of demesne pastures, extensive iron forges and well over one hundred small tenant farms. Some of the farms lay in small hamlets but most were scattered around the sides of the valleys. In the mid-seventeenth century the manor was sold off, mostly to the sitting tenants. In addition new small farms were created over parts of the old demesnes. Before long the freeholders began rebuilding their farmhouses and cottages, many of which have survived to the present day. During the agricultural boom of the Napoleonic War period (circa 1790-1815) several hundred new cottages were built, mostly on strips of common waste. We shall see numerous examples of buildings of both periods, viewed in the wider context of landscape and social history.



The excursion will begin with a walk above the Clitherbeck to a farm and scatter of cottages around the old moorland coal-pits. Then descending above the opposite side of the valley to Danby End where there is a good collection of houses of all periods. Then across the River Esk to the hamlet of Ainthorpe. There is a pleasant Green here, on which to eat your lunch (weather permitting), and an early eighteenth century pub (Fox & Hounds).

After lunch a short walk along minor roads, viewing early ruined cottages at Coums and Danby Castle Farm which has a seventeenth century courthouse with an interesting roof. Then crossing the Esk by Duck Bridge (fourteenth century) we arrive back at Danby Lodge.

We then take cars to Lealholm (3 miles) and walk up to the hamlet of Lealholm Side, with an interesting variety of buildings. Then by footpaths through Lealholm Park to see cottages and small farms on the edge of the moor at Oakley Walls, returning to Lealholm about 4.45pm.

This will be an active day, led by Barry Harrison, involving walking between scattered buildings and hamlets. Assemble in the car park of the North York Moors National Park Centre, Danby Lodge (grid reference NZ 717084) at 10.15am. Booking is not required – just turn up on the day. The Centre is signposted off the A171 (Guisborough/Whitby road) about 7 miles east of Guisborough. The more adventurous may prefer the route from the A170 just east of Kirkbymoorside and 'over the top' to Castleton.

If anyone gets delayed or lost en route they can contact Barry via his mobile: 07710 786499.

### Next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday 12 November 2006. If you'd like to raise any matter please contact David Crook.

### Conference Review Day

Sunday 24 September 2006

An afternoon to review the buildings recorded during the Swaledale conference in May, starting at 2pm in the Memorial Hall, Reeth. Do come along to hear about this varied collection of buildings, even if you didn't attend the conference.

Those who wish to should meet at noon in the King's Arms, Reeth (telephone 01748 884259, [www.thekingsarms.com](http://www.thekingsarms.com)) for a sociable lunch. Full menu as well as Sunday lunch available. The King's Arms informed us that it's not normally necessary to book if you arrive early, but if you intend to eat after 12.45 then it starts to get busy.

If group leaders intend to create their own PowerPoint presentations then Don doesn't need to have them until 1pm on the day. If, however, you'd like Don to prepare a presentation on your behalf then he'd like to have the materials plus details of content before the end of August (deadline not negotiable!).

### Wakefield Archives and Sites & Monuments Record

Friday 20 October 2006

A morning exploring the Sites and Monuments Record, followed by a break for lunch (not provided), with an afternoon session to be spent looking at the Wakefield office of the West Yorkshire Archive Service and the Registry of Deeds. If you would like to come please contact Tish Lawson, 22 Bank Walk, Baildon, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD17 5HH, telephone 01274 586644, who will then be able to provide details of times.

more YVBSG events on next page ...

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary (continued)

### Annual Day School 2007

Saturday 10 March 2007

Next year's day school, to be held again at Leeds Metropolitan University Headingley Campus, will focus on the topic of Vernacular Buildings on Yorkshire's Fringes. If you would like to offer a presentation at this event, please contact David Cook.

### Annual Recording Conference 2007

Friday 18 to Sunday 20 May 2007

After encountering some fascinating buildings in Slaidburn during our visit in July, we've decided to hold next year's recording conference there! Further details early next year.

### Thank you!

Hearty thanks go to those involved in organising events so far this year, especially David Crook for the Richmond review day, Don McLellan for the Swaledale conference (and associated culinary delights!), David Cant for his Norland walk and Kevin Illingworth for the Slaidburn visit.

### Recent Slaidburn visit

Those members on the Slaidburn visit who didn't receive a copy of the Heritage Trust for the North West's first newsletter (Issue 1 1999) can receive one, an A3 black-and-white photocopy, by contacting me (I only handed out five copies on the day). This issue contains useful information about buildings that HTNW are involved in, including three Yorkshire examples, and would complement the two later HTNW newsletters handed out at the Heritage Centre.

A small number of members who had booked a place didn't turn up or telephone to say they were unable to come. Obviously something can suddenly happen to make telephoning difficult, but there was a reserve list of members who would have loved to have seen the spiral staircase in the west wing of Hammerton Hall or a glimpse of the 12-foot-wide fireplace in the front room of that wing, had there been cancellations.

When we were looking at the jettied stone porch of Hammerton Hall, I said that the three-storeyed porch of Wilderhope Manor in Shropshire appeared on photographs to have oversailing upper floors. I have since been there and it has indeed got a jettied porch to add to the 73 examples known so far. Are there any more stone jettied porches outside Lancashire and Yorkshire? Many authors never noticed them!

The best way to see Wilderhope Manor is to stay Saturday night and then return as a National Trust member on Sunday afternoon, when all the dormitories will be empty. Wilderhope Manor is owned by the National Trust and is also a YHA Youth Hostel.

*Kevin Illingworth, 5 High Street, Colden, Blackshaw Head, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 7HY, telephone 01422 844941*

### Friends of the Historic Houses Association

Kevin Illingworth reminds us that houses not normally open to the public can be visited by joining the Friends of HHA (currently £36 per annum). This also means that 280 houses that are open to the public can be visited by paying one annual fee. In addition, regional groups arrange tours to houses in their regions for an extra fee. A small sample of houses being visited this year, suitable for those interested in vernacular architecture, are the following.

Friends of the HHA Yorkshire Region:

- Swinton Park, near Masham
- Thornton Hall, near Bradford
- Danby Hall, near Middleham

Friends of the HHA North West Region:

- Thurstaston Hall, Wirral, Cheshire
- Wardley Hall, Worsley, Lancashire



Further details from Heritage House, PO Box 21, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 5SH, telephone 01462 896688, website [www.hha.org.uk](http://www.hha.org.uk).

### Howsham Mill

A Yorkshire building is to feature in the latest series of *Restoration* on BBC2. Howsham Mill near Malton is a Georgian watermill in 'gothic Revival style', built by the Cholmeley family of Howsham Hall, and probably the work of John Carr of York.

The programme featuring this building and two others from the north of England (Heugh Battery, Hartlepool and Higherford Mill, Lancashire) will be shown on BBC2 at 9pm on Friday 8 September, or see [www.bbc.co.uk/history/programmes/restoration/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/programmes/restoration/). Vote to give your favourite building a chance to win the prize fund!

### Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. Please send items for the November newsheet to the editor by 31 October 2006.

### The Old Hall, Askrigg

In the last Newsheet, J T Smith asked for information on the demolished Old Hall, Askrigg. Angela Kershaw, who runs a website relating to the Dales, has kindly pointed out that her site has a section on this and other buildings in the area, including old photographs. See [www.thedales.org.uk/LocalHistoryOfTheDales](http://www.thedales.org.uk/LocalHistoryOfTheDales).

### Digitisation bid needs your support!

A proposal by Oxford Brookes University and the Paul Oliver Vernacular Architecture Library to catalogue, digitise and make available online a substantial international vernacular architecture collection of books, papers, slides, photographs and theses is one of twenty-four bids for funding which have been shortlisted in a national competition. Compared to some of the other proposals, vernacular architecture is an unknown field, and perhaps not likely to attract the same level of support as some of the bids relating to more traditional and high-profile areas. Therefore, if you would like to support the bid, please complete the online questionnaire at <http://jiscdigitisation.typepad.com/> by 1 September 2006.

### Knedlington survey

Malcolm Birdsall is arranging for a team to survey Knedlington Old Hall near Howden, East Riding (a seventeenth century brick house with dovecote and other farm buildings) on Sunday 15 October. If you are interested in joining the team (numbers are limited), please contact Malcolm on 01943 830460 or email [malcolm@brhc.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@brhc.co.uk).

## Learning more ...

It's the start of a new academic year and a variety of courses is on offer during the autumn term. Here are just a few:

### The Landscape History of Wharfedale

Tutor: Steve Moorhouse. This course will examine the landscape history of Wharfedale, what determined the landscape and the sources used to understand it.

20 Wednesdays from 20 September 2006, 2pm-4pm at St Johns Church, Ben Rhydding, Bolling Road, Ilkley LS29 8PN. Enquiries: Ivan Minto (WEA), 6 Westwood Rise, Ilkley, West Yorkshire, LS29 9SW, telephone 01943 600870.

### Yorkshire Houses and Their Families

Tutor: Sheila McGeown. The grand houses of Yorkshire, their architecture and the people who lived in them.

20 Tuesdays from 26 September 2006, 2pm-4pm at Westborough Methodist Church, Scarborough. Enquiries: Alison Ainsbury (WEA), Allat House, 5 West Parade Road, Scarborough, YO12 5ED, telephone 01723 506670.

### Vernacular Architecture of the Central Pennines

Tutor: Alan Petford. Our area is rich in historic buildings built by ordinary people. This class investigates origins, style and purpose, and will help you date any house built up to 1939.

10 Wednesdays from 27 September 2006, 2pm-4pm at Tolson Memorial Museum, Moldgreen, Huddersfield. Enquiries: WEA Yorkshire & Humber Regional Office, 6 Woodhouse Square, Leeds, LS3 1AD, telephone 0113 2453304, email [yorkshumber@wea.org.uk](mailto:yorkshumber@wea.org.uk).

### Buildings and People in the East Riding: Roman to the Present Day

Tutors: Mary Carrick and Richard Myerscough. Aimed at anyone with an interest in the history of buildings and the lifestyle of the people who lived, or worshipped, in them. Focuses on building materials and contents.

4 Thursdays from 28 September 2006, 1.15pm-3.10pm at University of Hull, plus 2 field trips. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Hull, 49 Salmon Grove, Hull HU6 7SX, telephone 01482 466100, email [cll@hull.ac.uk/cll](mailto:cll@hull.ac.uk/cll).

### Introduction to Timber Frame Building

Tutor: Nick Parsons. A hands-on course on the Walter Segal method of post-and-beam building. After the theory session we will build two typical post-and-beam frames, using basic joinery techniques and trying out different frame joints.

Saturday day school on 30 September 2006, 9am-6pm at Heeley City Farm, Richards Road, Sheffield. Enquiries: Glynis Andrews (WEA), c/o Alan Wilkinson, 27 Park Walk, Sheffield S2 5JE, telephone 0114 2786262.

### Castles in the Yorkshire Landscape

Tutor: Dr Robert Wright. The course will explore Yorkshire's rich heritage of castle monuments, their history and links with their hinterlands.

6 Fridays from 20 October 2006, 7-9pm at York St John University College. Includes a field trip. Fee £35. To reserve your place, please send a cheque, payable to 'PLACE' to: Dr Margaret Atherden, PLACE Office, York St John University College, Lord Mayor's Walk, York, YO31 7EX.

### Tracing the history of a property

Friday 8 - Sunday 10 December 2006

Course at Higham Hall College led by Sue Wood, Senior Archivist, Northumberland County Council. £100 non-residential, £157 residential. Contact: Higham Hall, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9SH, telephone 017687 76276, website <http://highamhall.com>.



## Some recent publications

*The Almshouses in the West Riding of Yorkshire, 1600-1900* by Helen Caffrey. Published by Heritage Marketing and Publications Ltd, Hill Farm, Unit F, Castle Acre Road, Great Dunham, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE32 2LP, telephone 01760 755645, [www.heritagemp.com](http://www.heritagemp.com). ISBN 1-905223-2108, July 2006, around £12.95. Drawing heavily upon original archive material and previously unpublished documents, the author explores the role played by both the buildings and their associated organisations in early modern society.

*History of Yorkshire: County of the Broad Acres* by David Hey. Carnegie Publishing, October 2005, ISBN 1859361226. The changing fortunes of the many different regions of the county – from Pennine moors and valley towns to the flats of Holderness; from industrialised cities to quiet market towns – are a major theme in this book. And if you peruse the photographs very closely, you will spot YVBSG member Kevin Illingworth's Land Rover in one of them!

*The Building Stone Heritage of Leeds* by Francis G Dimes and Murray Mitchell. Published 2006 by Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society and available at £8.95 from Oblong Creative Ltd, 416B Thorp Arch Estate, Wetherby LS23 7BJ, telephone 01937 849646. A revised and expanded edition of the 1996 publication, researching the stone used for building around the city from the twelfth century onwards.

'Buildings at Risk: Clegg Hall, Milnrow near Rochdale' by Kevin Illingworth (in *Northern Vernacular Buildings* Vol 2, No 2, 2006). A description of an early seventeenth century house, unoccupied since the 1930s but now being restored.

'Old Park House, Hornby, near Bedale, North Yorkshire – a late Medieval hunting lodge?' by Erik Matthews. Also in *Northern Vernacular Buildings* Vol 2, No 2, 2006.

## Websites worth watching

### Ryedale Folk Museum

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

A redesigned website which now includes a clickable site plan with new and old photographs of the buildings, some taken during reconstruction.

### Palaeography – a practical online tutorial

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/)

This web tutorial will help you learn to read the handwriting found in documents written in English between 1500 and 1800. Great fun! And you can also learn Latin for Beginners here.

### Ripon Local Studies Research Centre

[www.riponlocalstudies.org](http://www.riponlocalstudies.org)

An attractively revamped website including news, details of projects and local events, publications for sale, and even a recipe for Ripon Spice Bread!

## 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!

### Heritage Open Days

Thursday 7 - Sunday 10 September 2006

This annual event offers free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. Buildings of every age, style and function will throw open their doors. Look out for local information, or see the online event directory at [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk), or telephone 0870 240 5251.

### Townhead House, Slaidburn

Saturday 16 - Sunday 17 September 2006

Townhead House, seen from a distance during our Slaidburn visit, is open to the public from 2-5pm on these days.

### Family and Local History Day

Saturday 30 September 2006

10am to 3pm at Batley Library. There will be talks, activities, and the chance to use the internet for research. For further details please ring 01924 326021. If anyone can spare an hour or two to help on the YVBSG stand, please contact David Cant on 01422 883846 or [davidjcant@hotmail.com](mailto:davidjcant@hotmail.com).

### In Memory of John McDonnell

Sunday 8 October 2006

A celebration of local history and archaeology in recognition of John McDonnell's contribution to this region. 10am-5pm at Helmsley Arts Centre, Helmsley. Sponsored by North York Moors National Park Authority and Helmsley Archaeological Society. Speakers include: Kevin Cale (Local Heritage Initiatives in and around the North York Moors), Ed Dennison (Bransdale Survey and Sheriff Hutton Castle), Barry Harrison (Early Cottages and Cottage-Holdings in Danby Parish c.1650-1730), Graham Lee (Recent Work in the North York Moors National Park), Alan Powell (A Date with the Iron-Makers: Archaeo-magnetic research in Bilsdale and at Rievaulx), David Pybus (The Industrial Archaeology of the Heritage Coast), Sam Taylor (Some Ryedale Epitaphs), Rob Vernon (Iron-working in Bilsdale and Rievaulx), Jane Wheeler (The Impact of the Iron Industry on the woodlands of Bilsdale and Rievaulx). Fee £10, lunch not included. Enquiries: Graham Lee, North York Moors National Park Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley YO62 5BP, telephone 01439 770657, email [g.lee@northyorkmoors-mpa.gov.uk](mailto:g.lee@northyorkmoors-mpa.gov.uk).

### City Walls: their conservation and use

Saturday 14 October 2006

A conference organised by PLACE to bring together academics, city planners and the general public, to consider the future of York's city walls. Fee £25. For details contact Dr Margaret Atherden, PLACE Office, York St John University College, telephone 01904 716753, website [www.place.uk.com](http://www.place.uk.com).

### Approaches to Studying Past Landscapes

Saturday 4 November 2006

Subtitled 'The role of community', this day school will take a broad look at how past landscapes can be best understood by placing archaeology in a structured framework for studying the heritage. Held in association with the CBA and the YAS, at Tempest Anderson Hall in York, 9am-5pm. Confirmed speakers are Andrew Howard (Geomorphology and past landscapes); Peter Halkon (Excavation and the community); Dominic Powesland (The West Heslerton Project); Stephen Moorhouse (Land boundaries and past landscapes); Barry Harrison (Buildings in the landscape: Danby); David Hey (Maps and the historic landscape); Marcus Jecock (Surveying earthwork landscapes) and Andrew Morrison (Museum collections and the community). £10, not including lunch. Enquiries: Stephen Moorhouse, Deighton House, 8 Deighton Lane, Healey, Batley WF17 8BJ, telephone 01924 475618.



### Beverley Local History Book Fair

Saturday 11 November 2006

Annual book fair at Beverley Minster from 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Beverley Reference Library on 01482 392755. If anyone would like to help on the YVBSG stand, please contact David Cook.

### The History of Warter and its Buildings

Wednesday 15 November 2006

Talk by Dr David Neave to Pocklington Arts Society, telephone 01759 301442. 7.30pm in Lecture Theatre E block, Woldgate School, Pocklington.

### West Yorkshire Archaeology Day School

Saturday 18 November 2006

Annual day school organised by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service at Leeds Metropolitan University's Beckett Park Campus. A wide range of contributions will be on offer. Local societies will also be represented again, including the John Wheelwright Archaeological Society on its excavation of a sixteenth century and later mill in Dewsbury, and the Rothwell & District Historical Society on work at Rothwell castle. Fee £12, lunch £6.95. For further information please contact Linda Birch on 0113 2898280 or email [lbirch@wyjs.org.uk](mailto:lbirch@wyjs.org.uk).

### Brass Castles: Yorkshire's New Rich and their Houses in the 19th century

Saturday 2 December 2006

Tutor: George Sheeran. What did the industrial barons do with their money? What sorts of houses did they build? These will be some of the themes that we will be exploring. Fee £17.50. Further details from School of Lifelong Education and Development, University of Bradford, telephone 01274 233216 or 233213, [www.brad.ac.uk/admin/conted/](http://www.brad.ac.uk/admin/conted/).

### Craftsmen of Beverley Minster – A Continuing Tradition

Saturday 17 March 2007

A day school organised on behalf of the Friends of Beverley Minster by Paul Barnwell, Arnold Pacey and David Cant, to be held in the Parish Room, Minster Yard North, Beverley, 10am-4.30pm. Talks include 'Medieval masons' by Jenny Alexander, 'Eighteenth-century craftsmen' by Paul Barnwell, 'Sculptors in the Minster' by Nicholas Dawton, and 'The present-day craftsmen' by Ian Stewart. Tours will examine the roof carpentry and treadwheel hoist, the sculpture at the east end and in the nave, and masons' marks. Fee £12 (including refreshments but not lunch). To obtain a booking form please send an A5 SAE to David Cant, 3 Middle Hathershelf, Luddendenfoot, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX2 6JQ or email David on [davidjcant@hotmail.com](mailto:davidjcant@hotmail.com). This day school is one of a series looking at building craftsmen in Yorkshire – in autumn 2007 a YVBSG day will look at the buildings in Kilnsey and Conistone, Upper Wharfedale (details to follow).

**Chair:** David Cook, 23 North End, Sedgfield, County Durham TS21 2AZ. Tel: 01740 620098, Email: [dcook0@talk21.com](mailto:dcook0@talk21.com)

**Secretary:** David Crook, 18 Sycamore Terrace, Bootham, York YO30 7DN. Tel: 01904 652387, Email: [yvbsgenquiries@btinternet.com](mailto:yvbsgenquiries@btinternet.com)

**Membership Secretary:** Jacky Quarmby, 16 Mount Pleasant, Guisborough TS14 6RA. Tel: 01287 636834, Email: [jacky.quarmby@virgin.net](mailto:jacky.quarmby@virgin.net)

**Journal/Newsheet Editor:** Lorraine Moor, 102 Queen Victoria Street, South Bank, York YO23 1HN. Tel: 01904 632124, Email: [ism1@york.ac.uk](mailto:ism1@york.ac.uk)

## Obituaries

We are very sorry to report the recent deaths of two longstanding members of the YVBSG: Kate Mason of Addingham, who last year was elected honorary Vice-President of the Group, and Joy Hotchin of Guiseley, former committee member.

### Kate Mason

Kate Mason was born in Bradford in 1914. Her father had been a journalist but was then a company secretary in a textile firm and her mother was an environmental health inspector. Both parents were active in the Independent Labour Party, and Kate's godmother, Margaret Bondfield, later became an MP.

During part of Kate's childhood the family lived near the edge of Bradford, where it was possible to visit the farm where their milkman lived. Some seeds of Kate's interests in farming and history were probably sown then – she certainly remembered that the milkman's farmhouse had a datestone inscribed 1631.

When Kate left school and went on to Leeds University, it was to take a degree course in agricultural botany. This led to Kate becoming interested in dairying, and whilst studying near Ayr for a diploma in dairying, Kate developed skills in butter and cheese-making. She stayed on to help teach these subjects and for some years in the 1930s she continued to work professionally in this field.

Kate's closest friend at Leeds University was Emma Mason from Addingham. Emma invited Kate to her home, which was a farm called Reynard Ing, and it was one of her brothers, Tom Mason, who Kate married in 1941. From then until just a few months before she died, Kate lived at Reynard Ing. Through to the 1960s it was a typical small farm where everyone helped with all the work including hay-making and milking. Kate also made butter and cheese, looked after the hens and bees, and made bread. Kate and Tom kept Guernsey cows, and one of the things that impressed me on my first visit forty-four years ago was the yellow cream on the Guernsey milk, and the especially brilliant yellow of the butter Kate made from it.

Despite the hours of work demanded of a mother of small girls who was also a cook, cheese-maker and farmer, Kate found time for many other activities. Remembering that her father was a journalist, one should not be surprised that she wrote occasional articles for the *Farmers' Weekly*. She helped the local Young Farmers' Club and was elected its president. And with her sister-in-law Nan and two farmers' wives from Addingham Moorside, she established a local branch of the WI early in the 1950s, and was elected president of that as well.

By 1969, when Tom was two years past retiring age, he did partially retire, and when I stayed for a weekend in 1970, there was certainly less activity on the farm. But there were still one or two cows to provide milk for the table and for making butter – and there were young turkeys in the yard which woke me in the very early morning in a particularly alarming way.

I was there because I had been roped in to help with a project on the history of Lothersdale. This resulted in a book, for which Kate wrote chapters on farming and farmhouses. Partial retirement had given Kate and Tom more time for their interest in history, and I learned how they worked together when transcribing old documents, one of them reading the text aloud while the other wrote it down.

During the 1970s, Kate became quite famous for the adult education courses on local history she was running, and the talks and demonstrations she gave in local museums. She conducted classes not only in Addingham, Ilkley and Skipton but also in several villages in lower Craven. I have spoken to quite a number of people who attended. They comment on how Kate would arrive for each class with her papers in a shopping bag. They would include maps and pictures that she would pass round, and copies of documents that she had duplicated so everyone could have a copy. But sometimes her own notes for the class got lost among all these, and there was occasionally something of

the absent-minded professor about her conduct of a class. From a conventional point of view, she was not a good lecturer, but she presented her material with enthusiasm, and she had a great deal of knowledge that was entirely first-hand. She also drew people in by asking them to bring things to do with their own houses and localities, especially deeds and other documents. The highlight of many a course came, towards the end, when participants were invited to Reynard Ing – a real, unspoiled farmhouse that always made an impression.

What was unique and important about Kate's approach was that she was a farmer as well as a historian. She was able to talk about the development of rural communities such as Addingham had been on the basis of direct experience which nobody else could match. For those of us who study the history of rural buildings, it was wonderful to look round a farm with Kate and learn from her exactly how the buildings functioned and why they were designed as they were.

Much of the content of Kate's classes went into her two books on the history of Addingham – *Addingham: Woolcombers, Worsteds and Watermills* (1989) and *Addingham from Brigantes to Bypass, a history* (1996). Her name also appears as co-author of two important articles on the archaeology of the church site. In addition, her historical work included active involvement in the Olicana Historical Society, of which she



Kate (seated) extends her warm hospitality to YVBSG members at Reynard Ing during a visit to Addingham in 1997.

was programme secretary for a while and later vice-president. But a less public aspect of Kate's work in local history, some of it done with Tom, consisted of transcribing old documents so they could be more easily used by others. A few of her transcripts are now in the Yorkshire Archaeological Society archives in Leeds, and her transcript of part of the parish registers of Addingham has been published by the Wharfedale Family History Group.

Going beyond conventional history, a subject which especially interested her was recording the traditional life of the countryside. That brought a particular slant to her membership of the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group. And it meant that she especially valued her membership of the Society for Folk Life Studies. However, she included very little of this in her writings. Going round a farm with her, she might comment on the design of an old hay rake, or show us a horse-hair riddle or a cheese-weight, but she wrote very little about such things. Or she would talk about her memories of working a horse-drawn harrow in an arable field, and carefully avoiding a peewit's nest, but experiences of that sort were never recorded either. The Folk Life Society was one place where such things could be discussed, and this September its national conference will be held in

Skipton, and I know that Kate's influence will be felt there.

I'm reminded of another aspect of the life of the countryside by a postcard of Reynard Ing which may date from the 1950s. It has a photograph of the Guernsey cows and a caption explaining that the Masons also kept 'registered Wensleydale sheep'. Some long time after that postcard was printed, it became apparent that breeding records for Wensleydale flocks were not being kept up properly and the breed was in danger of losing its identity. Kate set about remedying the situation, and work she did with her daughter Agnes has been fundamental in ensuring that the Wensleydale breed has survived. Not surprisingly, then, Kate became President of the Wensleydale Longwool Sheep Breeders' Association.

But for many people in Addingham, it is not Kate the historian, nor Kate the farmer that mattered so much as Kate's role in the village, especially perhaps her role as a member of the WI, the Civic Society, and earlier, the Young Farmers' Club.

The Civic Society was served by Kate in many ways, as a member of its planning committee, as a speaker, and as adviser on a photographic exhibition which led to the production of a book of old

pictures of Addingham. Kate's books were published by the Civic Society, and she was its president for many years.

How do we sum up all this? In conversations I had with her, Kate often said things that expressed a strong sense of belonging to a community. In fact we can think of Kate as belonging to several overlapping communities – the village community in Addingham; the Wharfedale farming community; the adult education community; and a wider community of local historians, folk-life researchers, and vernacular building historians. She believed in joining in and contributing all she could to these communities – and as a result, ended up as president, vice-president or chair of seven or eight different societies. What is remarkable to me is that she still had time left for transcribing documents and historical research. Kate's life was a remarkably full and fruitful one. Through her diverse activities, she passed on knowledge and enthusiasm to many, many people, and strengthened all the communities to which she belonged.

Kate Margaret Mason (née Harbutt) died on 16 July 2006 in The Gables nursing home, Silsden, aged 92. She leaves her three daughters (Agnes, Ruth and Laura) and her sister, Betty.

*Arnold Pacey*

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## Ode to Joy

This afternoon there were butterflies around the office window and the Dales were clothed in sunshine: this evening, as the sky is filled with swallows and martins, the jazz and wine meld into the twilight of a memorable summer day. It has been the perfect time to remember Joy Hotchin, former Committee member, who died in the spring of this year.

Joy and I first came into contact, in 1989 I think, at one of Barry's famous evening classes: where else? I would have liked to say we met there; but in our house she was regarded as a pushy and dominant female. A year later, nevertheless, in the course of the Swaledale survey, she offered me a lift up to Reeth: I argued that it would have been boorish to say no. From that point onwards the 'official' view of Joy began to be put to rest.

That same day, as twilight failed, we decided that I would grab a rapid survey of one last house while she went back to Reeth for the car. To save me from the discomfort of walking back to the road in the increasingly driven rain, Joy drove down the track to collect me: the farmer spotted the headlights and I spent an uncomfortable half hour persuading him that I wasn't from that 'Bloody National Park'.

We laughed like idiots as we drove back to the Black Bull, she warm and comfortable; me soaked and frozen down the right side, bone dry down the left. The friendship was formed (though cemented would probably be a more appropriate term). In the next few years we shared many lifts

and recorded a number of houses together as the Airedale Group, all two of it. Although never a word was spoken, whenever we recorded together a bottle of wine appeared: she would bring white, I, red. Working with Joy was a joyful experience.

On the longer journeys I began to realise what a special person she was. The daughter of a builder, she reached school leaving age during the Second World War and became the first woman to register as a student at Leeds College of Building. In the course of time she went into the family firm as a fully qualified builder. The drawings in the archive bear witness to her tremendous skill and, though I have no first hand knowledge of how well she managed a building site, I'll bet that she was good!

We worked together infrequently but consistently until about 1998 when Joy suffered a minor stroke. Her rehabilitation took her into hospital; as a DJ: can you imagine that? Sadly, each preoccupied with new horizons our paths drew apart but we still exchanged cards on birthdays and at Christmas: zany, mad inventions; the one of Lady Godiva was insane!

In April this year she wrote to apologise: because of a septic toe she would not be able to attend the conference in Reeth; within the month ... . Sadly Joy, I have to admit that I didn't think about you as often as I should in the last five years. I do now though. You will be missed. No: you already are.

*Don McLellan*