



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 49

August 2007

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Craftsmen and Vernacular Buildings: masons, carpenters and plasterers

Saturday 15 September 2007 (to be repeated on 20 October 2007)

At the time of writing, some places are still available for what promises to be an excellent day school in Upper Wharfedale based at Kilnsey Village Hall with tours of Kilnsey Old Hall and houses in Conistone. Talks for the September date include 'Building craftsmen in the seventeenth century' by Malcolm Airs; 'Researching building craftsmen from Cumbrian documents' by Blake Tyson; and 'Decorative plasterwork in Wharfedale houses' by Sonia Wilkinson. There will be different speakers on the second date. Booking form circulated with the February Newsheet – further copies available from Lorraine Moor.



### Conference Review Day in Slaidburn

Sunday 30 September 2007

An afternoon to review the findings of the recording conference held in May in Slaidburn, in the beautiful Forest of Bowland. We recorded a fascinating selection of buildings during that weekend so do come along and hear about them, even if you didn't attend the conference. The afternoon will start at 2pm upstairs at the Hark to Bounty Inn, Slaidburn, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 3EP, telephone 01200 446246, website [www.harktobounty.co.uk](http://www.harktobounty.co.uk). It is expected that some members will meet at noon to have lunch first – if you wish to do this please make your own arrangements with the Hark to Bounty to ensure a table.

### Visit to Rotherham and district

We hope to arrange a visit to the Rotherham area later this year, guided by Peter Thornborrow, Conservation and Urban Design Officer for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. The tour, to an area as yet relatively unexplored by the YVBSG, will show an interesting range of buildings and periods, including, we hope, Whiston Manorial Barn. A date for this event is not yet confirmed, but as it may take place before the next Newsheet is published, please contact Malcolm Birdsall now, email [malcolm@brhc.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@brhc.co.uk), telephone 01943 830460, to express your interest and request further details. There is likely to be a small fee for the day.

### Annual Day School 2008

Saturday 8 March 2008

To be held again at Leeds Metropolitan University's Headingley Campus. Please note that the date has changed from that published previously. Further details with the next Newsheet.

### Annual Recording Conference 2008

Friday 16 to Sunday 18 May 2008

The recording conference next May is being organised by Malcolm Birdsall and will be based in Burnsall in the heart of the Yorkshire Dales. Meals will be at the Red Lion and lectures in the seventeenth century Burnsall School (which we will be recording). We will record buildings in nearby Thorpe as well as in Burnsall. Make a note in your diary for what should be an enjoyable weekend! Participants will need to book their own accommodation – early booking is recommended as Burnsall is a very popular place. There will be speakers on Friday and Saturday evenings and a walkabout of Burnsall on the Sunday afternoon. Booking details early next year.

### Next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday 11 November 2007. If you'd like to raise any matter or suggest any events please contact David Crook.

### Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in November – please send any items that may be of interest to other members (events, books, courses, news of particular buildings) to the editor by 31 October 2007.

### Dendrochronology update

On 25 May 2007 several members of the Dendrochronology Working Group accompanied Cathy Tyers of Sheffield University on a visit to three cruck houses: Glebe Farm, Octon; Spout House, Bilsdale; and Delves Cottage, Egton. The suitability of the buildings for dendro-dating was assessed: most of the timbers associated with the cruck trusses are likely to be of oak but some have a better potential for dating than others. We are now considering the question of funding for the dating of at least two of the buildings.

## Recent YVBSG events



We thank Kevin Illingworth for leading a most enjoyable walk around the Colden valley in June, and even arranging for the sun to shine! Much discussion arose over the unusual features we spotted, including the mysterious pairs of raised circles on the underside of lintels.

Our thanks go to Barry Harrison for leading an entertaining and informative walk, also in June, around the town of Yarm and its more rural neighbour, Egglecliffe, where we spotted diaper brickwork on the gable wall of the house pictured below.

We thank Alison Armstrong for arranging the visit to Idle and Thackley in July and Eileen White for guiding the walk around these two adjoining settlements. Despite the adverse weather conditions (somewhat wet!) we saw some fascinating buildings and were invited to record some of them at a later date – watch this space for details.

Finally, thank you to William Blyth Tileries for allowing us to look round their traditional tileworks at Barton on Humber, and to Geoff Brown and Richard Clarke respectively for arranging and leading the excellent guided walk around the historic town. A highlight of the walk was the timber-framed wing at 51 Fleetgate with its crown post roof ([website www.geocities.com/fleetgate51/](http://www.geocities.com/fleetgate51/)); this building will be open to the public on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 September 2007 from 10am to 3pm.

*Clockwise from right: Yarm, William Blyth Tileries, Egglecliffe, Colden and Idle*

## SPAB in Yorkshire

The Yorkshire Regional Group of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has announced its latest programme of visits. YVBSG members are welcome to attend but SPAB does encourage you to join! For details please contact Ray Wilson, SPAB Yorkshire Regional Group, Padside Hall, Thornthwaite-with-Padside, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 4AN, email [r.wilson@padside-hall.co.uk](mailto:r.wilson@padside-hall.co.uk).

- Howsham Hall and Mill – Saturday 8 September 2007
- Duncombe Park – Sunday 30 September 2007
- Abbeydale Hamlet, Shepherd Wheel and Rivelin Valley – Sunday 21 October 2007
- English Heritage Stone Collection at Helmsley – Saturday 3 November 2007
- Yorkshire Group Christmas – details to be confirmed
- Wakefield Cathedral and the Fourteenth Century Bridge Chapel – Saturday 19 April 2008
- Traditional Skills Fair, Gibside Hall – Saturday 12 July 2008

## Cowside – in need of help

The Landmark Trust recently launched an appeal to raise £600,000 to restore Cowside, a neglected farmstead in Upper Wharfedale. Cowside stands on a grassy shelf on a steep gritstone hillside facing south onto the fell which once provided summer grazing to cattle from Fountains Abbey. In 1682, Jane and Frances Slinger farmed there. Building archaeology suggests that the house dates from around this time, though it includes fragments re-used from an earlier building. The house has a hall (containing a fine inglenook fireplace) and parlour with chambers above, and an unusual two storey service wing of dairy, wash house and storage rooms, and two cowsheds, a detached pigsty and privy.

The Landmark Trust has already raised over £100,000 towards the total. If you are interested in making a donation, please contact The Landmark Trust, Shottesbrooke, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3SW, telephone 01628 825920, website [www.landmarktrust.org.uk](http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk).

## Courses

Publicity is now beginning to appear for courses to be held during the autumn term. Here are just a few on offer:

### Geology and Buildings in Landscape

Tutor: Richard Myerscough. Begins on 18 September 2007 with an afternoon session in Pickering Memorial Hall, 2pm to 4pm; the remaining three sessions are all field trips, 9am to 4pm, in the North York Moors, Howardian Hills, and Yorkshire Wolds respectively. Pre-booking essential. Enquiries: WEA Yorkshire & Humber Region, 6 Woodhouse Square, Leeds LS3 1AD, telephone 0113 245 3304, email: yorkshumber@wea.org.uk.

### Looking at Old Houses

Tutor: Alan Petford. This course will investigate historic buildings in the local area, with an opportunity to explore the fascinating properties of Red House and Oakwell Hall with the input of Kirklees Museums and Galleries staff. Pre-booking advised. Ten Mondays from 24 September 2007, 2pm to 4pm, at Red House Museum, Gomersal, Cleckheaton BD19 4JP. Enquiries: Linda Croft, WEA, telephone 01422 382952.

### Traditional Lake District Buildings

Tutor: Andy Lowe. What makes Lake District buildings distinctive? On this course we will explore the historical evolution of vernacular styles for houses, farms and industrial buildings, giving special attention to construction methods. As we explore the relationships of the buildings to their surroundings, we shall learn about the geology of the area and its socio-economic background. The course includes field trips to Troutbeck and Askham. Seven Wednesdays from 3 October, 7pm to 9pm, at Burton in Holme Holy Trinity Church Hall, and two Saturday field trips on 13 and 20 October. Enquiries: Lancaster University, telephone 01524 592623 or 592624.

### Villages in Wensleydale

Tutor: Steve Moorhouse. This course will look at the total landscapes of Wensley and Carperby, explaining why the original settlements and their landscapes have developed. Saturday 6 and 13 October 2007 from 10am. Please telephone to check where to meet. Enquiries: WEA Yorkshire & Humber Region as above.

### More Villages in Wensleydale

Tutor: Steve Moorhouse. This course will look at the total landscapes of West Burton and Thornton Rust, explaining why the original settlements and their landscapes have developed. Saturday 27 October and 3 November 2007 from 10am. Please telephone to check where to meet. Enquiries: WEA Yorkshire & Humber Region as above.

### Place Detectives

Tutor: Sarah Holland. Explore buildings, landscapes and architecture. Six Mondays from 8 October 2007 to 7 January 2008, 3pm to 4.30pm at United Reformed Church Hall, Hallgate, Doncaster. Enquiries: WEA Yorkshire & Humber Region as above.

### The History of the Pub

Tutor: Paul Jennings. The pub has a fascinating history from medieval inns, taverns and alehouses through to gin shops and beerhouses down to the modern pub. This course will examine this long and varied history, from the buildings to the people who ran and frequented them, with particular emphasis on Yorkshire. One-day course on Saturday 27 October 2007 at 9.30am at Trinity Methodist Church, Trinity Road, West Park, Harrogate. Enquiries: WEA Yorkshire & Humber Region as above.

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## Old Halls and Manor Houses online

Have you always fancied a copy of *The Old Halls and Manor Houses of Yorkshire* by Louis Ambler (1913), but haven't wanted to part with £100 or more? If so, the book can now be downloaded from an internet archive by following this link:

[www.archive.org/details/oldhallsmanorhou00ambluoft](http://www.archive.org/details/oldhallsmanorhou00ambluoft)

However, you'll need a good connection to download it – the book comprises a single large document of about 46Mb in size – but the site also offers a 'Flip Book' facility whereby you can flick through the pages one at a time on screen.

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## Websites worth watching

### Google Book Search

<http://books.google.com/books>

More online books can be found here. Search the full text of books to find ones that interest you and download them or learn where to buy or borrow them. Clicking on a search result, you'll be able to see anything from a few short excerpts to the entire book, depending on a few different factors such as copyright. Fantastic.

### The House Archive

[www.TheHouseArchive.com](http://www.TheHouseArchive.com).

This recently-launched house history website hopes to eventually build into a resource of information on the history of the UK's houses and their neighbourhoods. Using the latest wiki technology, anyone can contribute pictures and text and so share the results of their own research, including projects organised by local history societies and individual householders sharing what they know about the history of the houses they live in. Contributors can create pages on the website for their neighbourhood, street or house and link them to similar pages. If you are missing information in a research project, you can create a page to tell the world what you know and ask for anyone who has information to add it to the page.

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## Wentworth Castle and Gardens

Wentworth Castle Gardens at Stainborough, near Barnsley, featured on the BBC TV series *Restoration* and opened fully to the public for the first time in May. The parkland includes twenty-six listed buildings and monuments, which are being restored in a major Heritage Lottery Fund project. Guided tours of Wentworth Castle itself, home to the Northern College for Residential Adult Education, are normally available in summer but have now finished for 2007. A visitor centre café has been created in the restored Long Barn. The barn dates from 1715 and is the earliest building within the Home Farm complex, which comprises a collection of 18th and 19th century stone farm buildings designed to serve the needs of Wentworth Castle. The roof structure is reported to be a re-used medieval timber construction of unknown origin. Gardens are open daily from 10am to 5pm until September, and then 10am to 4pm October to March. Enquiries: telephone 01226 776040 or website [www.wentworthcastle.org](http://www.wentworthcastle.org).

## 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!

### Carleton-in-Craven

Sundays 2 and 9 September 2007

A chance to explore Carleton-in-Craven's local history is offered with three 'Tea and History' events at St Mary's church. At 2.15pm each day Sue Wrathmell will give a short talk, followed by a half-hour walk. The first event has already taken place, but two are still to be held on 2 September with *What did the Victorians do for us?* and on 9 September with *Piecing Carleton together*. There will also be a display at the church, including maps, documents and photographs of the surprise discovery of medieval timbers under the Victorian pews. A donation of £5 is invited to cover running costs.

### Heritage Open Days

Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 September 2007

Buildings open in Yorkshire this year include the Great Barn at Bolton Abbey, Hoylandswaine Nail Forge, Whiston Manorial Barn, Oakwell Hall, Farfield Quaker Meeting House at Addingham, The Ow'd Towser in Holmfirth, The Counting House in Pontefract, and many many more. Look out for local publicity or see the events listings at [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk).

### Dales Heritage Fair

Sunday 16 September 2007

To be held in Skipton Town Hall, 1.30pm to 5pm. Organisations and groups will have display stands and literature. Details from Ann Harding, email [aharding@craven-college.ac.uk](mailto:aharding@craven-college.ac.uk).

### Using Sheffield Archives & Local Studies to Trace the History of Your House

Wednesday 19 September 2007

Talk at Walkley Library, Sheffield, 2pm to 3pm. Please book on 0114 231 2947.

### Place Names in the Landscape

Saturday 22 September 2007

Tutor: Steve Moorhouse. One in a series of free study days organised by the Greater York Community Archaeologist for people who want to find out more about the historic environment. Although designed for people living in the York area, those from elsewhere are welcome. For further details, please contact Jon Kenny, telephone 01904 663020 or email [jkenny@yorkarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:jkenny@yorkarchaeology.co.uk). Website [www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk) (follow the 'Get Involved' and 'Community Archaeology' links).

### Malton and Ryedale Stone Conservation and Repair Day

Wednesday 26 September 2007

A day of theory, discussion and practice to be held at the Fitzwilliam Estate Office, Old Malton. To include: principles of repair; stone replacement and its alternatives; cleaning; coatings and treatments; hands-on sessions and demonstrations; illustrative tour of Malton. Fee £50 including refreshments. For details telephone 01653 600421.



### Hildenley Quarries and Malton Cellars

Saturday 29 September 2007

The Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group hopes to organise a morning visit to the quarries at Hildenley, near Malton, source of a fine white limestone used as a building stone perhaps since Roman times, followed by an afternoon tour of the vaulted undercrofts of medieval Malton. Please email Richard Myerscough at [geoland06@aol.com](mailto:geoland06@aol.com) for details of where and when to meet. Web: [www.ryedale-buildings.org.uk](http://www.ryedale-buildings.org.uk).

### The Secrets of Sinnington

Wednesday 3 October 2007

North York Moors National Park Authority walk through the village of Sinnington, with its old cottages, pinfold, pub and bridge over the River Seven. There is an opportunity to visit Sinnington Hall, one of the finest medieval buildings in Ryedale. 10.30am to 12.15pm, free. To book, telephone 01439 772738.

### Small Towns in North Yorkshire

Saturday 13 October 2007

A day school held by CBA Yorkshire in association with the Northallerton and District Local History Society and the Medieval Section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society. To be held at Hambleton Forum, Northallerton. Mentioned in the last Newsheet, details of the programme are now available. Sessions include: *What happened to Roman towns?* by Peter Wilson; *The origin of East Coast towns* by Trevor Pearson; *Early commercial centres in Wensleydale*

by Stephen Moorhouse; *Village or town?* by Robin Daniels. The afternoon will consider case studies: *Ripon* by Maurice Taylor; *Scarborough* by Chris Hall; *Helmsley* by Paul Everson; *Northallerton* by Christine Newman; and *Thirsk and Yarm* by Barry Harrison. Cost £12.50. Further information from Stephen Moorhouse, telephone 01924 475618.

### Vernacular Building Materials

Sunday 21 October 2007

Tutor: Peter Goldsborough. Another study day organised by the Greater York Community Archaeologist. For further details and to book places, please contact Jon Kenny as above.

### Beverley Local History Book Fair

Saturday 27 October 2007

Annual book fair in Beverley Minster, 10am to 4pm, admission free. The YVBSG will have a stall. Enquiries: Pamela Martin, telephone 01482 392755.

### South Yorkshire Archaeology Day

Saturday 3 November 2007

To be held at the Showroom Cinema, Sheffield. Annual event providing an opportunity to hear about recent projects. Details from South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, email [syorks.archservice@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:syorks.archservice@sheffield.gov.uk), telephone 0114 2736354.

### House History

Saturday 10 November 2007

A day school to be organised by the North Yorkshire County Record Office. Programme details have not yet been finalised – please contact the Record Office in due course for further information, telephone 01609 777585.

### Lancashire Archaeology Day School

Saturday 10 November 2007

Jointly organised by Lancashire County Archaeology Service and the University of Central Lancashire. To be held at University of Central Lancashire, Preston. Cost £6. To reserve places please telephone 01772 533404. Sessions include *Excavations and survey at Bank Hall, Bretherton* by Richard Peterson, *Preston's Lost Medieval Friary?* by Steve Rowland, and *Building Recording at Barcroft Hall, Cliviger* by Stephen Haigh. In addition, Kevin Illingworth will talk about *Architectural Features of Traditional Houses in and around Bowland*, covering some of the features seen during the YVBSG recording conference in Slaidburn.

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