



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

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

Newsheet No 53

August 2008

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Conference Review Day in Burnsall and Thorpe

Sunday 21 September 2008

A meeting to draw together and review the information gathered during this year's recording conference. The morning session will comprise presentations on the buildings recorded on 17 May 2008, to be held in Burnsall Grammar School (dated 1602) starting at 10am. Whether or not you attended in May, you are invited to attend in this splendid building!

In the afternoon there will be a walk round the delightful nearby village of Thorpe to see an array of seventeenth and eighteenth century buildings, starting at 2pm.

If you'd like to come, please contact Malcolm Birdsall (contact details on back page). Places are limited and there will be a nominal charge to cover the cost of the hire of the school. You will need to make your own arrangements for lunch: if you would like to eat at the Red Lion in Burnsall, please let Malcolm know so that we can give them an idea of numbers beforehand.



*Thorpe*

### An Idle Recording Day

Saturday 4 October 2008

Following an enjoyable walk around the village of Idle, near Bradford, in July 2007, Tish Lawson and local historian Eileen White have arranged for us to pay a return visit to record three or four of the buildings seen. We will meet at 10am, and there are plenty of pubs in Idle for lunch or people can bring sandwiches. All members, new or experienced, are invited to come along – please contact Tish Lawson, telephone 01274 586644, email [mikeandtish@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mikeandtish@hotmail.co.uk). Tish will provide finalised details nearer the time.

### Next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday 9 November 2008. If you'd like to raise any matter or suggest any events please contact David Crook.

### Tour of York House, Malton, and Talk on Recording Techniques

Saturday 25 October 2008

YVBSG members attending a Ryedale Heritage Day in Malton in June were very impressed by a tour of York House and a talk on building recording techniques. So, we thought, why not invite the contributors to repeat this for the YVBSG? What an excellent idea! Nigel Copsey ([www.nigelcopsey.com](http://www.nigelcopsey.com)) and Alex Holton (<http://holton.alex.googlepages.com>) have kindly agreed to lead the event for us. York House is an exceptional building undergoing restoration, showing much of the c1684 build but also earlier phases of construction. Much to see and discuss. More information at [www.york.ac.uk/depts/arch/Wolds/malton.html](http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/arch/Wolds/malton.html).

Programme:

- 13:15 Meet at York House, 41 Yorkersgate, Malton (SE 7851 7158)
- 13:30 Introduction, followed by tour of York House with Nigel Copsey
- 15:00 Break
- 15:30 Talk on Recording Techniques and Case Studies, with particular emphasis on stone buildings, by Alex Holton
- 16:15 Questions and Discussion
- 16:30 Close

Malton has good bus and rail connections. Trains run between York and Scarborough, calling at Malton. For more information see [www.northyorkstravel.info](http://www.northyorkstravel.info).



*Front view of York House*

Numbers are limited – please apply to David Cook (01740 620098 or [dcook0@talk21.com](mailto:dcook0@talk21.com)) for a place before 30 September 2008. Acknowledgements will be sent.

### Some dates for next year:

**Annual Day School and AGM** – Saturday 14 March 2009. The theme of the day school will be cruck-framed buildings. Full details in the next Newsheet.

**Annual Recording Conference** – Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May 2009. Venue still to be confirmed.

## 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!

### Great Ayton and Stokesley

Sunday 7 September 2008

A visit by the North East Vernacular Architecture Group, including a guided walk round Great Ayton and the conservation area of Stokesley. For information about NEVAG, contact the secretary, Peter S Fletcher, email [petersfletcher@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:petersfletcher@tiscali.co.uk), telephone 01434 632853.

### Smithills Hall and Rivington: Gentry Landscapes in South Lancashire 1200-2008

Tuesday 23 September 2008

A guided excursion with Dr Alan Crosby, including refreshments in the cruck-framed Rivington Hall Barn near Bolton, followed by tour of Smithills Hall which has medieval origins. 9am to 6pm, £29. For details contact Centre for North West Regional Studies, Lancaster University, Fylde College, Lancaster LA1 4YF, telephone 01524 65201, [www.lancs.ac.uk/users/cnwrs/](http://www.lancs.ac.uk/users/cnwrs/).

### English Heritage Archaeology Store

Wednesday 24 September 2008

Open day with free guided tours at 11am, 1pm and 3pm of the Archaeology Store at Helmsley, which contains carvings and other objects from English Heritage properties. Please book with Helmsley Tourist Information Centre on 01439 770 173. Directions to the store will be given at the time of booking.

### A Celebration of the Local History and Archaeology of the Region

Sunday 5 October 2008

A day school sponsored by North York Moors National Park Authority and Helmsley Archaeological and Historical Society. 10am to 5pm at Helmsley Arts Centre. Speakers include: Barry Harrison – *Recent Work on Cruck Buildings in North-East Yorkshire*; Ed Dennison – *Recent work at Ayton Castle*; Graham Lee and Mags Waughman – *Recent Work and Discovery in the North York Moors National Park*; Stephen Sherlock – *The Excavation of an Iron Age settlement and later Royal Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Street House, Yorkshire*; Peter Wilson – *Cawthorn: from Camps to Forts*, and others. Fee £10. Details from Graham Lee, Senior Archaeological Conservation Officer, North York Moors National Park Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, York YO62 5BP, telephone 01439 770657, email [g.lee@northyorkmoors-mpa.gov.uk](mailto:g.lee@northyorkmoors-mpa.gov.uk), or see website [www.helmsleyarchaeologicalandhistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.helmsleyarchaeologicalandhistoricalsociety.org.uk).

### York Archaeology and History Fair

Saturday 18 October 2008

At the Guildhall, York. Displays from local societies, community groups and specialist booksellers. Free admission. Enquiries: York Archaeological Trust, telephone 01904 663000.

### Beverley Local History Book Fair

Saturday 18 October 2008

10am to 4pm in Beverley Minster. Free admission. Includes up to thirty organisations, booksellers and publishers with an interest in all aspects of local history. Enquiries: 01482 392788.

### Pennine Ways and Waymarkers

Sunday 19 October 2008

Held by The Milestone Society at 10am in Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill, telephone 01457 874093. Find out about ancient highways and turnpike features as well as recent restoration activities: a day of talks, displays and a stroll. Fee £2, not including lunch. Details from Jan Scrine, [yorkshirerestoration@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:yorkshirerestoration@hotmail.co.uk), web [www.yorkshire-milestones.co.uk](http://www.yorkshire-milestones.co.uk).

### Valley of Stone

Thursday 23 October 2008

Talk by Arthur Baldwin to Friends of Rossendale Museum, 7.30pm at Rossendale Museum, Haslingden Road, Rawtenstall, telephone 01706 260785. Non-members £1.

### Field Systems Through Time

Saturday 25 October 2008

A CBA Yorkshire study day looking at field systems from prehistory through to the modern era. Held at the University of Leeds, cost £12.50. For details contact Mike Edwards, Secretary CBA Yorkshire, 12 Smithwell Lane, Heptonstall, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 7NX. Please reserve place by sending your name, address, telephone number and email address (if applicable), enclosing a cheque payable to CBA Yorkshire.

### Arts and Crafts Buildings and Gardens in the Region

Tuesday 11 November 2008

Talk by Mark Whyman to Northallerton and District Local History Society in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Hall, Thirsk Road, Northallerton at 7pm. £2 per person. To join this friendly team of volunteers carrying out ongoing research into the history of the Northallerton area, contact Dorothy Edwards, telephone 01609 778947.

### Lancashire Archaeology Day School

Saturday 15 November 2008

Annual event at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston, with talks including *Dendrochronology and dated buildings from Lancashire* by Ian Tyers. Details from Lynda Sutton, Lancashire County Council Archaeology Service, telephone 01772 533404.

## Heritage Open Days

Thursday 11 to Sunday 14 September 2008

Heritage Open Days celebrate England's architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. Watch out for local publicity or see listings at [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk), or telephone 020 7539 7918. Events and open buildings include:

- Manorial Barn, Chaff Lane, Whiston, Rotherham (Sunday at 10am-4pm).
- A guided walk around the Domesday village of Ughill, Sheffield, looking at listed and other buildings (Saturday at 10am, pre-booking required on 0114 2337463).
- Storeys of Stone – a guided walk in the central Otley Conservation Area (Sunday at 2pm, pre-booking required on 01943 465398).
- 2 Blackburn's Yard, Church Street, Whitby, with mullion windows, 17th century wood panelling, Georgian fireplace, and curved principal roof trusses (Saturday and Sunday at 11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm).
- Clarke Hall, Aberford Road, Wakefield. The Friends of Clarke Hall will be costumed in the hall throughout the day, garden open if weather permits (Saturday at 10.30am-2.30pm).
- The Cragg, Whitby. From the 17th century this narrow lane along the cliff face below the Khyber Pass was tightly packed with fishermen's cottages, many of which have gone. The residents of some of the surviving cottages will be available to talk to visitors (Sunday at 2pm-4pm).



## More events of possible interest ...

### South Yorkshire Archaeology Day

Saturday 15 November 2008

Annual Archaeology Day at the Showroom Cinema, Sheffield, providing an opportunity to hear about recent projects from the archaeologists who undertook the work. For a booking form contact South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, Development Services, Howden House, 1 Union Street, Sheffield S1 2SH, email [syorks.archservice@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:syorks.archservice@sheffield.gov.uk), telephone 0114 2736354.

### Agecroft Hall, the house that emigrated to America

Wednesday 19 November 2008

Talk by Chris Whitefoot to Boothstown and District Local History Group at Boothstown Community Centre, Stansfield Drive, Boothstown, Manchester at 7.45pm. Agecroft Hall is a large timber-framed house now in Virginia and open to the public. Further details from Ann Monaghan on 0161 799 6091 (evenings) or email [ann.monaghan@salford.gov.uk](mailto:ann.monaghan@salford.gov.uk).

### The Historic Timber-framed Buildings of South and West Yorkshire

Wednesday 26 November 2008

Evening event in the new Lecture Theatre, Thomas Rotherham College, off Moorgate Road, Rotherham, South Yorkshire. Sponsored by The Heritage Lottery Fund and Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council as part of the celebration of Rotherham's Townscape Heritage Initiative. There will be a drinks reception at 6.30pm followed by a lecture at 7pm by Peter Thornborrow on *The Historic Timber-framed Buildings of South and West Yorkshire*, with a supper break followed by an additional talk on *Case Studies on Timber-framing Restoration*. The entire event, including supper, is free of charge, but admission is by ticket only and you need to book in advance by contacting Katharine Boyes, THI Officer, Environment and Development Services, 2nd Floor, Bailey House, Rawmarsh Road, Rotherham S60 1TD, telephone 01709 823802, email [katharine.boyes@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:katharine.boyes@rotherham.gov.uk).

### Vernacular Buildings of the Calder Valley: an overview

Wednesday 10 December 2008

Talk by Peter Thornborrow to Hebden Bridge Local History Society, 7.30pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Market Street, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire. Calderdale has one of the richest legacies of historic vernacular buildings, aisled halls and barns, and seventeenth century yeoman farmhouses with diverse detailing and decoration of any area in the country. Peter will share with you some thirty years' research on this particular topic and area. For further information please contact the Secretary, John Billingsley, email [johnbillingsley@jubilee10.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:johnbillingsley@jubilee10.freeserve.co.uk), or see the society's website at [www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk](http://www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk). There may be a small entry charge.

### A Social History of Housing in the North West

Saturday 24 January 2009

A study day with Dr Alan Crosby. Topics include *Rural housing in North-West England 1750-1850*; *Workers' housing during the Industrial Revolution 1780-1850*; *Middle-class housing 1850-1939*; and *Slum clearance and council housing 1860-1939*. Fee £17. For details, contact Centre for North West Regional Studies, telephone 01524 65201, [www.lancs.ac.uk/users/cnwrs/](http://www.lancs.ac.uk/users/cnwrs/).

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## Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in November – please send any items that might be of interest to other members (such as publications, events, or snippets about local buildings) to the editor by 31 October 2008.



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## Learning more ...

A selection of courses on offer in the region during the autumn term.

### Quaker Meeting Houses in North Lancashire and South Cumbria

Tutor James Houghton. An exploration of the plain Quaker meeting houses which are important landmarks in north Lancashire and south Cumbria.

Monday 15 September 2008, 11am–4pm. Enquiries: Alston Hall, Alston Lane, Longridge, Preston, PR3 3BP, telephone 01772 784661, [www.alstonhall.com](http://www.alstonhall.com).

### The World of the Tudor and Stuart Country House

Tutor: George Herring. Concentrating on the period c1500-1700, this course will examine the political, economic and social context of the development of the English country house.

Ten Thursdays 10am-12 noon, from 25 September 2008, at Pickering Memorial Hall, Potter Hill, Pickering. Enquiries: WEA Yorkshire and Humber Region as above.

### The Making of the West Riding Landscape

Tutor: Alan Petford. We shall explore how the fields and farmsteads of the West Riding evolved from medieval times to the Second World War and how people used the resources of moor and mountain to wrest a living from the landscape.

Ten Mondays 2pm-4pm from 29 September 2008 at Red House Museum, Gomersal, Cleckheaton. Enquiries: WEA Yorkshire and Humber Region as above.

### Hothersall: A Study of a Small Lancashire Parish

Tutor: Mike Pearson. We will explore by minibus and short walks the geography and history of this small parish near Alston Hall College, investigating various features including the vernacular architecture of the buildings.

Monday 6 October 2008, 10am-4pm. Enquiries: Alston Hall College, Alston Lane, Longridge, Preston PR3 3BP, telephone 01772 784661, [www.alstonhall.com](http://www.alstonhall.com).

### Furnishing the Medieval Home

Tutor: Louise Wheatley. Using a selection of York-based primary sources, the class will examine furniture, soft furnishings, utensils and equipment in the medieval home.

Ten Wednesdays 7pm-9pm from 15 October 2008 at University of York. Enquiries: University of York Centre for Lifelong Learning, Heslington, York YO10 5DD, telephone 01904 434620, web [www.york.ac.uk/inst/cce/](http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/cce/).

### A Walk around Barton in the late 17th Century

Tutor: Geoffrey Bryant. Using surviving probate inventories we shall explore houses of labourers, yeomen and the gentry to see how big they were and how they were furnished.

Friday 5 December 2008, 7.30pm-9pm, at St. Marys Church Hall, Barton-upon-Humber, South Humberside. Enquiries: WEA Yorkshire and Humber Region as above.

## Thank you!

Our thanks go to Malcolm Birdsall for all his hard work in organising an excellent recording conference in Burnsall and Thorpe in May. We look forward to hearing about the building surveys at the Review Day in September!

Thanks are also due to Barry Harrison for leading a most enjoyable walk around Thornton-le-Dale on a somewhat breezy day in June. Highlights included an interior viewing of Cruck Cottage in Maltongate, with its crucks recently dated to 1512 as reported in the last Newsheet, and its hearth typical of the area with heck post and fire window.

In July the Group ran an introductory/training day on recording buildings, held at King's Manor, York, in conjunction with the Greater York Community Archaeology Project. Thanks are due to David Cook and Tony Tolhurst for giving talks and to Tony Berry for assisting with the practical recording session. The day was well received by participants and we hope to arrange a follow-up session next year.

## A Yorkshire building rescued

There is hope for a longstanding entry on English Heritage's Buildings at Risk Register, the fifteenth century Bolton Percy Gatehouse, near York. Built in 1467 by Thomas Pearson, a yeoman's son, the Grade II\* gatehouse is a two-storey timber-framed building. It was partly repaired in 1972, but the south west end has collapsed. Owned by the Bolton Percy Gatehouse Trust, a provisional agreement has been struck to lease the property to The Vivat Trust, who plan to restore it and let it as a holiday cottage. The aim is to give the building a viable future, which preserves both its ancient fabric and retains public access.

## Exhibition highly recommended!

In the last Newsheet we mentioned an exhibition on *Farming Life and Farmsteads in the Forest of Bowland* at the Museum of North Craven Life at The Folly, Settle. Designed by the Heritage Trust for the North West, the display features the work of Slaidburn Village Archive and the YVBSG who have visited and recorded the history of a number of farm buildings in the vicinity of the Hodder Valley. Several YVBSG members have now seen the exhibition and thoroughly recommend a visit. Normally open 10.30am to 4.30pm on Tuesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays until the end of October 2008. Enquiries: 015242 51388 or 01729 822361 or see [www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/exhibitions/exhibitions\\_2008/](http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/exhibitions/exhibitions_2008/).



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## Websites worth watching

### Yorkshire Dales National Park Feature of the Season

[www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/fos](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/fos)

Feature of the Season (FoS) is a project designed to enhance our understanding of historic features within the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It aims, with considerable help from the Dales Volunteers, to find unrecorded historic features ranging from unusual gate posts, troughs and churn stands to turbary stones and stock underpasses. Also included are hennery-piggeries, and the website includes descriptions and photographs of examples of this type of dual-purpose building where the pigs would be housed on the ground floor, with the hens kept in a loft overhead. Side-by-side forms are also known; it was thought that the hens would keep the pigs warm while the pigs frightened away predators such as foxes.

## Weather walls

From time to time, including at Slaidburn in 2007, we have noticed the occurrence of weather walls – an additional wall built on to the gable end of a house forming a double skin, seemingly to offer protection from the worst of the weather. Kevin Illingworth now writes:

I have seen yet another weather wall. This is at Town End Farm, Airton (farm shop and tea room). The wall is eighteen inches thick with an eighteen-inch gap between it and the original seventeenth century gable wall. There are now at least eleven of these known in North Craven and Bowland. Are they peculiar to this area, or do they occur elsewhere? Sometimes they go unnoticed, but when they are known they become lost in the small print of a survey or listed building description.

*Kevin Illingworth*

## Some new and forthcoming publications

*Tadcaster Pubs – A Brief History* by Tadcaster Historical Society. This new illustrated booklet contains lots of interesting historical information, together with old photographs of pubs and brewing, ale houses, tipplers' houses, inns and taverns as well as the beer sold, in an era when Tadcaster had around eighty pubs. Available from Ian Page, telephone 01937 835327.

*Barns of the Dales* by Andy Singleton and David Joy. Due to be published October 2008 by Great Northern Books Ltd, Ilkley, telephone 01274 735056, web [www.gnbooks.co.uk](http://www.gnbooks.co.uk). Hardback, 128 pages, ISBN 1905080190, £16.99. Thousands of barns are scattered throughout the Yorkshire Dales and make the landscape like no other. This book falls into two distinct halves, representing the diverse interests of its authors. David Joy comes from Upper Wharfedale farming stock and knows many individual barns at first hand. He writes about their rise and decline, and portrays a year in the life of a typical barn before farming practices changed out of all recognition. He also provides a profile of each barn on the Wharfedale farm that he owns. Andy Singleton, a builder in the Dales, has worked on many barns. He takes up the story by covering the construction methods and materials used, and explains how barns can be converted into dwellings. The practical information is complemented by case studies.