



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 65

August 2011

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

Conference Review Day at Long Preston

Sunday 25 September 2011

We'll spend the morning reviewing the houses and barns recorded at the annual conference in Long Preston in May. In the afternoon, we'll reassemble in Settle for a guided tour of The Folly, an unusual seventeenth century town house, now restored by the North Craven Building Preservation Trust. The building also houses the Museum of North Craven Life which contains interesting local history displays.

- 10.00 Arrival and coffee at Long Preston Village Hall (on the Green)
- 10.30 Presentations on buildings recorded
- 12.30 Lunch (bring your own or local pubs)
- 14.00 Arrive at The Folly for guided tour. Settle is 5 miles north off the A65. Nearest car park is Greenfoot (about £2.80 for 3 hours). Turn right (east) before the Market Place and up Chapel Street or Cheapside, following the 'Parking' signs.

There will be a charge of £4.50 per person, payable on the day, to include morning coffee at the village hall and the guided tour in the afternoon. Numbers for The Folly visit are limited so please book by 18 September by contacting Alison Armstrong, email alisoncarmstrong@yahoo.co.uk, telephone 01535 633592.

Team leaders from the conference are asked to send their completed reports to the Archivist, Malcolm Birdsall, as soon as possible before the Review Day.

Visit to Yorkshire Archaeological Society in Leeds

Saturday 28 January 2012

A day at Claremont which is likely to involve a bit of work for a limited number of volunteers (checking through the YVBSG reports held at the YAS) and also perhaps a talk on the work of the YAS and a tour of the building. Full details will appear in the November Newsheet.

Annual Day School & AGM

Saturday 24 March 2012

The annual day school, to be held again at Leeds Metropolitan University's Headingley Campus, will explore 'How Yorkshire became polite', looking at the changes which occurred in vernacular building layout and styles as classical features were adopted. If anyone can suggest any possible speakers on this topic, please contact David Cant, email davidjcant@hotmail.com. As usual, the day school will be followed by the Group's AGM.

Annual Recording Conference

Friday 18 to Sunday 20 May 2012

To be held in collaboration with Great Broughton and Kirby-in-Cleveland Local History Group.

Next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday 2 October 2011. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any future events please contact the Secretary, David Crook.

Change of address

Our Chair, David Cook, has recently moved house – see the back page for his new address and phone number. We wish him and Mary all the best in their new home.



Long Preston doorhead dated 1707

Thank you!

Our thanks go to Isobel Jenkins and Tony Tolhurst for arranging a successful and enjoyable recording day in Carlton-in-Coverdale on Saturday 20 August 2011. Fifteen members recorded three buildings in total, and the rain held off until we'd finished!

Membership

Current members will find the List of Members 2011 enclosed with this Newsheet. If you haven't yet renewed your membership for this year, instead you'll find enclosed a renewal slip!

Next Newsheet

Many thanks to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in November – please send any items that might interest other members (events, new publications, news on buildings etc) to the editor by 31 October 2011.

Recent YVBSG Events

The Borough of Knaresborough and its Early Buildings (15th-17th centuries)

Ominous clouds gathered overhead and the rain began to stream down as we met by the market cross in Knaresborough on Sunday 19 June 2011 for a walk around the town guided by Barry Harrison. Undaunted by the weather (well, almost), we set off to explore the buildings bordering the market place. At the Old Royal Oak we stepped inside to examine the timbers and to spot the clues as to the location of the cross-passage. Across the square, the proprietors of Ye Oldest Chymist Shoppe in England (now a sweet shop and tea room) kindly allowed us to wander, with waterproofs and umbrellas dripping, around the shop and to venture upstairs amongst the tea-room customers to view the timber-framing, the rather good doors and the splat balusters. The plan here is unusual, with the main roof located at the rear aligned with the street, and a front range comprising two parallel wings with gables facing the street.



Ye Oldest Chymist Shoppe in England



Manor Cottage

After looking at a variety of buildings around the Market Place and High Street, and a taking break for lunch, we continued our perambulations around Cheapside and Kirkgate, and then down to the riverside, by which time the weather had faired up enough for us to enjoy an ice-cream by the Nidd.

Manor Cottage on Water Bag Bank was a surprising building to find in the town – a timber-framed, thatched house of rural Vale of York type, with three-bay lobby entry plan and continuous aisle at the rear.

All in all, an excellent day and we thank Barry for guiding us round and preparing the useful handout. Those whose handouts disintegrated in the rain (and of course anybody else interested) can download a copy from the Members Area of the website. (Lost the password? Email webmaster@yvbsg.org.uk to be reminded.)

Visit to Bashall Hall and Browsholme Hall, Forest of Bowland, near Clitheroe

A party of members met on Saturday 16 July 2011 at the Bashall Barn Food Visitor Centre (on another rainy morning) and walked a short distance down the lane to Bashall Hall and its farm buildings. We climbed the external staircase to the upper floor of the building said to be a barracks/lodgings for a private army over stables, dating from about 1600. A number of taper burns or burn marks were spotted around the frame of one of the timber mullion windows – as mentioned in the February Newsheet, such marks are being researched by a couple of Vernacular Architecture Group members to try to determine whether they were made accidentally or deliberately. In an area like this, infamous for the Pendle witches in the seventeenth century, one is tempted to wonder whether these could have been ritual marks!

We strolled through the gardens to the summer house, the shelter sheds and the eighteenth century barn, noting its owl hole, its finials, and its circular openings in the gables matching those on the house.

After an excellent lunch at the visitor centre we moved on to Browsholme Hall for a guided tour round the building; we were then left to explore the back of the house at our leisure, and to walk through the grounds to the lodge at the main gate (thankfully the rain had stopped by this time!). Of interest were the re-set carvings found on the Hall itself, on garden walls and, most spectacularly, on the gable wall of the lodge house; these included a number of celtic heads as well as gadroon decoration.



Burn marks at Bashall



Carved celtic heads on lodge house

We ended the day at Little Mitton Hall hotel (www.mittonhall.co.uk). Well worth dropping in if you're in the area – go up to the balcony for a closer look at the carved trusses of the great hall (which dates from about 1500). Our thanks go to Kevin Illingworth for arranging this splendid day.

Postscript from Kevin:

I was very impressed by the enthusiasm of the 31 members who all turned up on a very wet Saturday morning, from as far away as York, Guisborough and Staffordshire. Later on, 14 keen members were still enjoying end-of-day drinks in comfortable armchairs in the great hall at Little Mitton Hall (Lancashire proper) until 6.50pm. Sadly, no Lancashire YVBSG members attended the event, nor the recent independently-arranged Gisburn and Winewall visits, which attracted 13 and 18 people respectively, including YVBSG members! If anyone on the visit would like a photocopy (seven A4 pages) of *A Short History of Bashall Hall* by A W Snape (1995) please contact me.

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!

West Riding in Miniature

Until Sunday 25 September 2011

Exhibition on 'beautifully crafted miniature vernacular buildings' by local craftsman Robert Silkstone at the Colne Valley Museum, Golcar, near Huddersfield, telephone 01484 659762, www.colnevalleymuseum.org.uk. Open weekends 2pm to 5pm only.

Heritage Open Days 2011

Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 September 2011

Free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. Yorkshire properties and walks on offer this year include: Paull Holme Tower, Padsde Hall, Foulbridge Hall, YHA Whitby, Bolton Percy Gatehouse, New Hall Cruck Barn (visited by the YVBSG in June 2010 before restoration), Whiston Manorial Barn, Clarke Hall in Wakefield, and historical walks round High Bradfield near Sheffield. Hull is offering an extensive range of events this year – see www.hodshull.co.uk. Full events listing at www.heritageopendays.org.uk, telephone 0844 3351884.

Challenge and Change: Building Styles in Skipton and North Craven

Saturday 10 September 2011

Talk by Sue Wrathmell at The Folly, Settle, at 7.30pm. Tickets £6. Enquiries: 01729 825192 or 01524 251388.

Addingham: parish church and village

Tuesday 13 September 2011

A walk led by Alison Armstrong for the Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group. www.uwhg.org.uk.

Newton Hall and the Cruck Buildings of the Manchester Area

Wednesday 14 September 2011

A talk by Michael Nevell to Wilmslow Historical Society at 7.45pm at St Bartholomew's Parish Hall, Chancel Lane, Wilmslow. Visitors £2. Contact Mrs Pam Savage on 01625 524777.

Beverley Local History Book Fair

Saturday 17 September 2011

Books, maps and other ephemera produced by local history organisations. 10am to 4pm at the Treasure House, admission free. Enquiries: 01482 392790.

Vernacular Architecture

Thursday 22 September 2011

Talk by Judy Popley to Preston Brook & District Local History Group at 7.30pm at the Methodist Hall, Windmill Lane, Preston on the Hill, Warrington area. Visitors £3. Enquiries: Des Rylands on 01928 712123.

Kiplin Hall

Friday 30 September 2011

Lunchtime lecture by Dawn Webster organised by North Yorkshire County Record Office with Northallerton and District Local History Society. 12.30pm at the Record Office, £2. To book, ring John Sheehan on 01609 771878.

Vernacular Architecture of the Upper Calder Valley, Part Two: 1600-1750

Tuesday 4 October 2011

Talk by Peter Thornborrow to Halifax Antiquarian Society at Halifax Central Library at 7.30pm. Enquiries: Corinne McDonald, telephone 01422 348863.

The Lordship of Bowland

Tuesday 4 October 2011

Talk by the Lord of Bowland in the Tithe Barn at Browsholme Hall. Tickets £4.50 from Slaidburn Archive, telephone 01200 446161, or Forest of Bowland AONB, telephone 01200 448000. Proceeds to Slaidburn Archive.

Archaeology of the North York Moors

Sunday 9 October 2011

A day school in Helmsley Arts Centre presenting recent work on the archaeology and historic buildings of the North York Moors National Park. Talks include 'Historic Building recording in the North York Moors' by Barry Harrison. Fee £10. Details from Graham Lee, telephone 01439 770657, email g.lee@northyorkmoors-mpa.gov.uk, or see website www.helmsleyarchaeologicalandhistoricalsociety.org.uk/news.htm.

Some Historic Houses of Lancashire

Wednesday 12 October 2011

Talk by Professor John Tarn to Wilmslow Historical Society at 7.45pm at St Bartholomew's Parish Hall, Chancel Lane, Wilmslow. Visitors £2. Contact Mrs Pam Savage, telephone 01625 524777.

York History Bookfair

Saturday 15 October 2011

Annual archaeology and history fair from York Archaeological Trust, at the Guildhall, York. Details from Jon Kenny, Community Archaeologist, telephone 01904 663020.

Caring for Your Historic Building

Saturday 22 October 2011

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority event for owners and occupiers of historic buildings. Fee £15 including lunch. Booking essential – details from 01969 652354 or herinfo@yorkshiredales.org.uk.

Norton Conyers

Friday 28 October 2011

Lunchtime lecture by Steve Moorhouse organised by North Yorkshire County Record Office with Northallerton and District Local History Society. 12.30pm at the Record Office, £2. To book, ring John Sheehan on 01609 771878.

Building Cheshire: Halls and Houses

Saturday 29 October 2011

Cheshire History Day at Northwich Memorial Hall. Cost £10. Bookings: Cheshire Local History Association, www.cheshirehistory.org.uk/cheshire-history-day.html, telephone 01244 602559.

Samuel Hill of Making Place

Tuesday 1 November 2011

Talk by Anne Kirker to Halifax Antiquarian Society, 7.30pm at Halifax Central Library. Enquiries: 01422 348863, www.halifaxhistory.org.uk.

Tumbled Brickwork in Beverley Town Centre

Wednesday 2 November 2011

Guided tour with Dr Joan Kemp, 10am at the Treasure House. £5. Booking essential via Archives and Local Studies Service, telephone 01482 392790 or at www.eastriding.gov.uk/events.

Vernacular Buildings in North West England

Tuesday 8 November 2011

A talk by Kevin Illingworth to Chorley Historical and Archaeological Society at Chorley Library, Union Street. Includes some buildings in western Yorkshire. Visitors £1. Enquiries: P Robinson, telephone 01257 274148.

Recording the Buildings of East Yorkshire

Thursday 10 November 2011

Talk by Ed Dennison in the Treasure House, Beverley, at 7.30pm. £5. Booking essential via Archives and Local Studies Service, telephone 01482 392790, or at www.eastriding.gov.uk/events.

West Yorkshire Archaeology Day School

Saturday 12 November 2011

Annual day school at the Royal Armouries, Leeds, summarising recent archaeological work in West Yorkshire, including a talk on work on historic buildings by Elizabeth Chamberlin. Tickets £15 from Nicola Wharton, email nwharton@wyjs.org.uk, telephone 0113 2898 267, or online at www.archaeology.wyjs.org.uk/wyjs-archaeology-dayschool-11.asp.

Cornelius Ashworth: book and day school

Diaries of Cornelius Ashworth 1782-1816. Transcription and chapters on life and activities of this farmer and handloom weaver from Walthroft, Halifax; edited by Richard Davies, Alan Petford and Janet Senior and published by Hebden Bridge Local History Society, £19. Publication: early November 2011. Copies can be collected from any meeting of the Halifax Antiquarian Society or Hebden Bridge Local History Society, or posted to you for £5. Special subscription offer to guarantee copy on publication with your name printed in the book: £16 (orders for this offer must be received by 30 September 2011). Send your cheque payable to Hebden Bridge Local History Society to The Treasurer, Bramble Dene, Moss Lane, Hebden Bridge HX7 7DS.

There will also be a day school organised by Halifax Antiquarian Society on Saturday 8 October 2011 including speakers on aspects of Cornelius Ashworth's life and the use of diaries in studying history. Further details from Corinne McDonald, 13 Grandsmere Place, Halifax, HX3 0DP.

The photo shows where Cornelius Ashworth lived – still remarkably well preserved. The farm also featured in *Little Hill Farm* by W B Crump.



Another new book

The English Medieval Roof – Crownpost to Kingpost, edited by John Walker. Report of the Essex Historic Buildings Group 2008 day school. An exciting new book in which leading experts in vernacular buildings explore the regional development of medieval roofs up to the sixteenth century on buildings in England. Includes chapters on 'Roofs in Yorkshire Timber-Framed Buildings' by Barry Harrison and 'Medieval Roofs in the North of England' by Robert Hook, as well as chapters on Hampshire, West Midlands, Devon and East Anglia. Price £17.75 including postage, cheques payable to Essex Historic Buildings Group. Available from John Walker, Marks Cottage, Stoke Road, Layham, Ipswich IP7 5RB, email englishmedievalroof@hotmail.co.uk, or see www.ehbg.co.uk.

Online resources updated

Two online databases from the Vernacular Architecture Group have been updated with new data and interface changes to make them easier to use. The VAG Bibliography can be found at <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/vagbiblio/> and the VAG Cruck Database can be found at http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/vag_cruck/.

Stone gatepost group

Members of the Boston Spa Archaeology and Heritage Group are working on a project to record surviving stone gateposts in their area. For further information, or if you are interested in carrying out a similar survey in your area, see www.bsparch.org.uk/gateposts/gatepost1.htm, or telephone 01937 844115.

Courses

Some forthcoming courses on offer around the region during the autumn term ...

The Buildings, Geology and Scenery of the Northern Yorkshire Wolds

Aimed at anybody interested in local geology, buildings and landscape features of the Wolds.

Tutors: Richard Myerscough and Mary Carrick. Five meetings starting Wednesday 14 September 2011 to include lectures and field trips. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Hull, telephone 01482 465666, web www2.hull.ac.uk/ifl/cll/short-courses-ufa.aspx

Drystone walls, fields and field barns in the Yorkshire Dales

The countryside of the Yorkshire Dales is famous for its walls, with a barn in almost every field. This course will look at the origins of the open field system and its enclosure.

Tutor: Alan Barnett. Ten Thursdays from 22 September 2011, 10am to 12 noon at St Peters Church, Shipley. WEA course, Bradford Branch. Enquiries: Christine Tidswell on 01274 416891 or email cftidswell@yahoo.co.uk.

Farmsteads and Villages in Upper Wharfedale

Discover how the limestone dales attracted settlers and formed the background to the story of villages and farmsteads.

Tutor Alan Barnett. Ten Thursdays from 22 September 2011, 2pm to 4pm at Kirklands Community Centre, Menston. WEA course, Aireborough Branch. Enquiries: Nadine Greenwood on 0113 2507768 or Derek Robinson on 01943 876320.

English Domestic Vernacular Architecture

The humble dwellings of the peasants, workers and middle classes through the ages from prehistoric to the twentieth century, with an emphasis on social history.

Tutor: Warwick Burton. Twenty Mondays from 3 October 2011, 7.15pm to 9.15pm at St Olave's Church Hall, Marygate Lane, York. WEA course, York Branch. Enquiries: Terry Fowler on 01904 627791 or Edna Ward on 01904 708307.

The Great Houses of Yorkshire

The course will look at houses both architecturally and with a special emphasis on the social history of the servants who worked in them and the families they served.

Tutor: Warwick Burton. Twenty Tuesdays from 4 October 2011, 10am to 12 noon at Community House, East Parade, Harrogate. WEA course, Harrogate Branch. Enquiries: Paula Winchester on 01423 506657 (evenings only) or email pwinchester@wea.org.uk.

Unpicking Sash Windows

Part of the Pennine Lancashire Townscape Heritage Initiative Training Programme (www.htnw.co.uk/downloads.html). A technical day including overview of period and vernacular styles, and renovation of sash windows.

Speaker: John Miller. Tuesday 18 October 2011, 10am to 4.30pm at Lomeshaye Mill, Nelson. Free. To book, email pxholland@aol.com.

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