



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

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

Newsheet No 73

August 2013

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Conference Review Day

Sunday 6 October 2013

Come and hear about the exciting buildings recorded during the Spen Valley conference held in May. Starts 10.30am at the Black Bull, Kirkgate, Birstall WF179PB ([www.blackbullbirstall.co.uk](http://www.blackbullbirstall.co.uk)). No need to book unless you'd like lunch.

- 10.30 Presentation of reports on buildings recorded
- 12.30 Lunch – if you intend to eat at the Black Bull please let David Cant (see back page) know for numbers
- 14.30 Walking tour looking at buildings in Little Gomersal, led by Gill Cookson
- 16.00 Finish

Group leaders – please send reports to archivist by 20 September to allow time for copying.

### Annual Day School and AGM

Saturday 15 March 2014

The annual day school will be held again at Leeds Metropolitan University, on the theme of 'Beyond the Building'. Speakers will illustrate how further work beyond a survey can add to the understanding and interest of a building, for example by using documents, maps, works of art or comparative studies. Details to follow.

### Annual Recording Conference

Friday 9 to Sunday 11 May 2014

To be held in Sedbergh, jointly with the newly-formed Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group and Sedbergh Local History Society. Details to follow.

## Visit to Causeway Farmhouse and cruck-framed barn, Houghton, Lancashire

Saturday 5 October 2013

This is a joint visit for the YVBSG and Chorley Historical Society to Houghton, north-east of Chorley, Lancashire, led by Kevin Illingworth. The fifteenth or early sixteenth century barn has four cruck trusses of large scantling, described in Pevsner as being 'truly splendid, comparable with that at Stonyhurst' (which some YVBSG members visited recently with Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group). But here, some timber-framing survives.

The early seventeenth century, L-shaped farmhouse (dated 1728) is built of hand-made brick with stone dressings (but in a stone area). External features include: two two-storey porches, front and rear; a stair turret, not unlike a porch; a corbelled stack on three moulded corbels; and some windows with brick mullions. We will have access to part of the house, which has timber-framed partition walls and a cross incised above the nick (ogee) of a wooden lintel.

The farm is on the de Houghton Estate (Houghton Tower) and is not on a public footpath; the visit is courtesy of Ray and Judith Wilkinson. A buffet lunch will be served at a nearby hostel, cost around £5 to £5.50 each.



At the time of writing the maximum number is 25 people. After lunch there will be a chance to view Bury Farmhouse (externally), which is dated 1699. This has white-painted projecting hearts at knee level on the stone door jambs, an unusual feature. Also, an afternoon drink at the Lord Nelson public house, dated 1668 on the two-storeyed porch.

Directions – Meet at 11am. Using Junction 3 of the M65 motorway as a landmark, take the A675 (Bolton Road) in a north-westerly direction for about two-thirds of a mile. Then, with the whitewashed Royal Oak public house at Riley Green facing you, turn right along the A6061 (Riley Green Switch Road). After less than half a mile Causeway Farm will be found on the left, down a short farm road (grid reference SD 629 255).

If you'd like to come please telephone Kevin Illingworth on 01422 844941, leaving your telephone number.

## Recent YVBSG events

### Visit to Austwick Hall and village

On a somewhat chilly day in June members from as far away as Staffordshire, York, Northallerton and Chorley met in Austwick for a walk around this Craven village led by Kevin Illingworth. During the walk we were invited into six or more gardens for a closer look at the buildings, which offered much of interest. External and corbelled stacks were much in evidence, as were full-height internal flagstone partitions, one of which could be glimpsed by peering through the window of an empty property. Most of the older buildings were constructed of rubble apart from Backfold, a house of coursed limestone with a splendid doorhead of 1712 and carved dripmould stops. At Harden Cottage (dated 1719), the words 'cheese room' over a formerly-mullioned upstairs window led to much discussion – was it really a cheese room, and if so, was it unusual to find one on the first floor? Some



Window at Harden Cottage



Lintel at Backfold

subsequent reading-up revealed that, according to Brunskill (*Houses and Cottages of Britain*), a cheese chamber or room was 'sometimes in the loft space and sometimes at first-floor level, where its window was exempt from Window Tax under the same concession as for the dairy. Cheeses were stored and cured here.'

After lunch at the seventeenth century Game Cock Inn (much altered but still retaining a lot of its original openings as well as a diamond-set chimney), we had a guided tour of Austwick Hall, a house with sixteenth or seventeenth century origins, by the owners. If you want to treat yourself, luxurious B&B is available here – or instead you can take a virtual tour at [www.austwickhall.co.uk](http://www.austwickhall.co.uk).

Thank you to Kevin for organising another enjoyable outing.

Lorraine Moor

### A Walk around Whitby

In sweltering heat and blazing sun (not a phrase frequently employed in this newsletter), Barry Harrison in late July led a fascinating tour of Whitby's streets and houses, medieval, early modern and straying into the Georgian.

While internal viewings were not part of the itinerary, several kind householders invited us in. In Linskill Square, off Baxtergate, a yard of planned terraces of the late-eighteenth century, we were thus able to inspect an apparently original panelled screen dividing the ground floor of one house. We also crowded into a cottage in Cliff Street which Barry and other YVBSG members have been recording. This two-storey house with a loft shows evidence of a firehood at its southern end, and also a fine upper cruck on the north side, the only one found in Whitby, estimated by Barry to be mid- to late-seventeenth century.

Other highlights included a glimpse of a medieval doorway inside a souvenir shop in the old market square, suggesting that the name 'Monk's Haven' on the next-door cafe may not be too far-fetched as this appears to have been the site of a chapel; Poplar Row, a pair of large Georgian houses with features distinctly in contrast to those of the nearby St Hilda's Terrace; and John Yeoman's magnificent Georgian residence of about 1760 on Hagersgate, the town's oldest recorded street, which is now the Mission to Seamen. There was also the Seamen's Hospital in Church Street, which behind a facade by Sir G G Scott reveals older (and newer) almshouses.

Thanks to Barry for an excellent day out.

Gill Cookson

### Great Broughton Recording Day

A number of members gathered on Sunday 11 August under the spectacular backdrop of the Cleveland Hills escarpment to record further buildings in the Great Broughton area following the annual conference held there last year. With valuable help and input from the local history group, three very different buildings of varying sizes and dates were surveyed. We are grateful to Barry Harrison and the local group for arranging the day.



Linskill Square

### Priory attics on view

Barry Harrison reports that the former guest house at Mount Grace Priory (English Heritage), rebuilt as a Lascelles residence in 1656, is now fully open to visitors. This includes the loft with all its roof trusses – truncated principal rafter form with curved principals. Well worth seeing!

### Next committee meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Sunday 13 October 2013. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any events please contact the Secretary, David Crook.

### Next Newsheet

Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in November 2013 – please send any items of interest to members to the editor by 31 October 2013.



## 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!

### Every Picture tells a Story

Until end of September 2013

Exhibition of historic building photos in the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority offices in Bainbridge. Open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm, [www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/lookingafter/caringfor/historicfeaturesbuildings/every-picture-tells-a-story-exhibition](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/lookingafter/caringfor/historicfeaturesbuildings/every-picture-tells-a-story-exhibition).

### A Short Stroll round Bordley

Wednesday 4 September 2013

Walk with Alison Armstrong for North Craven Heritage Trust, 2pm at Boss Moor old quarry site. £2. Enquiries: Alison on 01535 633592 or see [www.northcravenheritage.org.uk](http://www.northcravenheritage.org.uk).

### Domestic Stone Buildings

Wednesday 18 September 2013

Talk by Chris Terry to Ramsbottom Heritage Society. 7.30pm at Ramsbottom Civic Hall, Lancashire. [www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk](http://www.ramsbottomheritage.org.uk).

### Restoration of Stone Buildings

Friday 20 September 2013

Talk by Nigel Copey to Helmsley Archaeological and Historical Society, focusing on York House, Malton (see [www.nigelcopey.com/reports/york\\_house/york\\_house\\_future.pdf](http://www.nigelcopey.com/reports/york_house/york_house_future.pdf)). 7.30pm at the North York Moors National Park Offices, Helmsley. Enquiries via [www.helmsleyarchaeologicalandhistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.helmsleyarchaeologicalandhistoricalsociety.org.uk).

### A Dales Farm Walk

Thursday 26 September 2013

The re-sited, rebuilt, Gouthwaite Lodge Farm is c.1900 in seventeenth century style and listed Grade 2. The eighteenth century field barn is a good example of a partial bank barn with stalls intact. Also on the walk is a well-restored dry-stone sheepfold leading to a sheepwash. Starts 1.30pm. See Pateley Bridge Walking Festival website at [www.pbwf.co.uk](http://www.pbwf.co.uk), telephone 01423 712088.

### Medieval Manchester

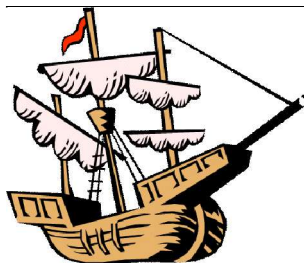
Thursday 26 September 2013

Talk by Mike Nevell to Middleton Archaeological Society, 7.30pm in timber-framed Boar's Head, Middleton, Manchester, £3. [www.middletonas.org](http://www.middletonas.org).

### Ships' Timbers

Thursday 3 October 2013

Talk by David Cant to Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group. 7.30pm at Soroptimist Rooms, 28 Otley Street, Skipton. £3. [www.uwhg.org.uk](http://www.uwhg.org.uk).



### The Future of the Uplands

Saturday 12 October 2013

PLACE autumn conference at York St John University, 9.30am to 4.45pm, £20. Includes talks on farm buildings in Nidderdale by Jen Deadman and the manor court of Danby by Gill Cookson. Full details, including how to book, available at <http://place.uk.com>.

### Caring For Your Historic Building

Saturday 12 October 2013

A reminder of this day event at Burnsall. A reminder of this day event at Burnsall for owners and occupiers of historic buildings. Includes a talk on the buildings of Lower Wharfedale by Jonathan Ratter and an architectural tour of the village. Fee £15 including lunch. Enquiries: Nidderdale AONB on 01423 712950, email [aonbevents@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:aonbevents@harrogate.gov.uk).

### John Carr's Classical Mansions

Tuesday 15 October 2013

Talk by Peter Thornborrow on architect John Carr's classical mansions built for Calderdale's Georgian gentry, which contrast with the vernacular farmhouses of the Yeoman clothier and the terraced houses of the millworker. 7.30pm at Calderdale Central Library in Halifax. Enquiries: Halifax Antiquarian Society, [www.halifaxhistory.org.uk](http://www.halifaxhistory.org.uk).

### Care of Historic Buildings

Thursday 17 October 2013

Talk by Robert Parker to North Craven Heritage Trust following their AGM which is at 7.30pm at Victoria Hall, Settle (NCHT members only for AGM). [www.northcravenheritage.org.uk](http://www.northcravenheritage.org.uk).

### Vernacular Buildings in and around Lancashire, including Stockport

Friday 18 October 2013

A talk by Kevin Illingworth for Stockport Historical Society at Tiviot Dale Methodist Church, Tiviot Dale, Stockport, £2.50. Enquiries: Morris Garratt on 0161 439 7202.

### West Yorkshire Archaeology Day School 2013

Saturday 19 October 2013

Annual event at the Royal Armouries, Leeds, with reports on recent archaeological work undertaken, including standing buildings. £15. To book, telephone 0113 3939824, web [www.archaeology.wyjs.org.uk](http://www.archaeology.wyjs.org.uk).

### York Archaeology and History Fair

Saturday 19 October 2013

Annual York Archaeological Trust Fair at York Guildhall. Talks and stalls by booksellers, groups and societies.

### SPAB Visit to Martholme

Saturday 26 October 2013

SPAB Yorkshire Region are visiting the medieval Martholme, Great Harwood, Lancashire. You normally need to be a SPAB member or a guest of a member to join visits – contact Ray Wilson, [rwilson@padside-hall.co.uk](mailto:rwilson@padside-hall.co.uk), 01423 781467, [www.spab.org.uk](http://www.spab.org.uk).

### Traditional Windmills

Tuesday 12 November 2013

Talk by Peter Morgan to Northallerton and District Local History Society. 7pm in Sacred Heart Catholic Church Hall, Thirsk Road, Northallerton, visitors £2.50. Enquiries: John Sheehan, telephone 01609 771878, [www.northyorkshistory.co.uk](http://www.northyorkshistory.co.uk).

### Beverley Local and Family History Bookfair

Saturday 23 November 2013

At the Treasure House, Beverley, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: 01482 392790.

### Traditional farms and farm buildings in Tatham

Saturday 23 November 2013

Talk by Mike Harrison to Tatham History Society at 7.30pm at The Old School, Tatham Fells, Lancashire. Contact Mike Winstanley, 015242 21277, [www.tathamhistory.org.uk](http://www.tathamhistory.org.uk).

### Vernacular Buildings of Lancashire

Saturday 22 February 2014

Early notice of a dayschool in Haslingden, Rossendale. Full details should be available in time for the next Newsheet.

## Heritage Open Days

Thursday 12 to Sunday 15 September 2013

A huge variety of buildings and events are on offer during this annual event. There's only room to choose one at random and mention it here: guided tours of Stank Hall Barn, Dewsbury Road, Beeston, Leeds are available on the Saturday – a rare opportunity to see inside this fifteenth century timber-framed barn. Watch out for local publicity or see [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk) for a full list of events.

## Some forthcoming courses

### Vernacular Architecture

Tutor: Kevin Illingworth. A short course on vernacular buildings, covering mainly the Lancashire and Yorkshire Pennines, Westmorland, and the Fylde. Five sessions on Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm, starting on 17 September 2013, at Clapham Primary School. Cost £25. Enquiries: Elga Balmford, telephone 015242 51324.

### Lost Houses of Yorkshire

Tutor: Anthony Powell. The devastation of British country houses that took place after World War Two was incredible. By the mid 1950s one was lost every five days. Yorkshire was not spared and some exceptionally fine houses were lost. Ten Tuesdays from 24 September 2013, 10am to 12 noon at Kirklands Community Centre, Menston. Enquiries: WEA Yorkshire and Humber Region, telephone 0113 2453304.

## Archive news

A new archive and local studies library has just opened in Barnsley to collect, preserve and make available the documentary heritage of the Metropolitan Borough of Barnsley. Full details can be found at [www.experience-barnsley.com/archives-and-discovery-centre](http://www.experience-barnsley.com/archives-and-discovery-centre).

Bradford will also open a modernised local studies library and archive in December, in a refurbished area of the old Central Library, offering access to a wide range of archived material.

## New publications

*Alston Moor, Cumbria – Buildings in a North Pennines landscape* by Lucy Jessop and Matthew Whitfield, with Andrew Davison. Illustrations by Allan Adams, photographs by Alun Bull. English Heritage, July 2013. This book presents an informed account of Alston Moor's vernacular buildings from their earliest survival onwards, and sets them within their regional and national context. It takes a whole-landscape view of the area, relating its buildings and settlements to the wider patterns of landscape evolution resulting from agricultural and industrial activity and the development of communications. Normal price £14.99 but currently on special offer at £12 with free postage and packing. Contact Orca Book Services Ltd, Order Department, 160 Milton Park, Abingdon OX14 4SD. Email [direct.orders@marston.co.uk](mailto:direct.orders@marston.co.uk), telephone 01235 465577. Please quote reference 7220130011 in order to obtain discount. Offer expires 30 November 2013.

*Britain's Best Real Heritage Pubs* by Geoff Brandwood. Full-colour guide to over 260 pubs throughout the UK which have interiors of real historic significance, some of them stretching back a century or more. The guide's extensive listings are the product of years of surveying and research by CAMRA volunteers dedicated to preserving and protecting our rich pub heritage. With a foreword by Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage. May 2013, £9.99.



Cheers!

## Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group

This new group is making a promising start and plans are now in preparation for a busy year ahead. Work has begun on recording seven buildings around the county and a full programme of events is being arranged, including:

- Saturday 14 September 2013 – *first* AGM. To be held at Acorn Bank, Temple Sowerby, Penrith, followed by a guided tour led by Adam Menuge around buildings which include a watermill, a bank barn and vernacular pigsties!
- Saturday 29 October 2013 – *Village Walkabout: In Brunskill's Footsteps*. At Milburn, near Appleby.
- Sunday 17 November 2013 – *The Hearth – its development and significance in understanding plan forms and room use*. Study day at Mungrisdale Village Hall, near Keswick.
- Wednesday 4 December 2013 – *Christmas lunch and visit*. At the Castle Dairy, Kendal's oldest inhabited house, sixteenth century, now a restaurant.

Events planned for 2014 include a study day on building materials, a walk around Alston, and a weekend recording conference in Sedbergh held jointly with the YVBSG. Annual membership costs £10 for an individual, £15 for two people at the same address, or £25 for a group. Enquiries may be directed to [infocvbg@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:infocvbg@mypostoffice.co.uk), or contact June Hall, Chapel Farm, Newbiggin, Stainton, Penrith, CA11 0HT, telephone 01768 480286, email [june-hall13@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:june-hall13@mypostoffice.co.uk).

## Websites worth watching

### Royal Commission Inventories

[www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)

A number of Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England inventories have recently been published online via the British History Online website, including those for York. To view the volumes, go to [www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk), click on 'Catalogue' and scroll down to 'Royal Commission on Historical Monuments'. As well as written descriptions of buildings, the volumes also contain drawings and photographs – click on the thumbnails to enlarge these.

The same website also provides access to online copies of Victoria County Histories, historical Ordnance Survey maps, ecclesiastical records and many other resources.

### English Heritage County Building Stone Atlases

[www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/buildingstones/StrategicStoneStudy/EH\\_atlases.html](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/buildingstones/StrategicStoneStudy/EH_atlases.html)

This excellent website consists of a series of studies of building stones by English Heritage and the British Geological Survey, normally one per county although there are several covering Yorkshire. For most counties, you can view an illustrated atlas which gives an overview of the building stones used, together with spreadsheets providing in-depth information on the types of stone, quarries, and even on individual stone buildings and villages.

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