



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 77

August 2014

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

Osmotherley and Mount Grace Priory

Sunday 7 September 2014

A visit to Osmotherley and Mount Grace Priory led by Barry Harrison. Please assemble by the cross in Osmotherley village centre for 9.30am. Early start due to the difficulty of parking in the village at weekends. Tour of the village (a major centre of linen-weaving from the seventeenth to late nineteenth century) from 9.45am to 12.00 noon. Move to the Manor at nearby Mount Grace, dated 1654 (English Heritage and National Trust) for lunch (bring your own) in car park set in pleasant gardens. Internal tour of house, including the roof, from 1.15pm to 3.30pm. Proceed to Hutton Rudby, another large weaving village (about 6 miles away) for village tour lasting until about 5.30pm. No need to book in advance.

Location of Osmotherley: SE 455972. Approach from south by A19, turn off at junction with A684 and follow signs.

Conference Review Day

Sunday 28 September 2014

Come and hear about the exciting buildings recorded in Dent and Sedbergh during the recording conference held in May. Starts 10.30am at the People's Hall, Howgill Lane, Sedbergh LA10 5DQ (website www.peopleshall.org). Free buffet lunch included even for those who did not attend the weekend in May (but please bring your own if you have any special dietary needs).

- 10.30 Welcome refreshments available
- 10.45 Presentation of reports on buildings recorded
- 12.45 Buffet lunch
- 14.00 Walk to look at some Sedbergh buildings led by Kevin Lancaster – please bring appropriate clothing and footwear as the walk will be over rough, uneven and potentially muddy ground
- 16.30 Finish



Group leaders – please send reports to David Cant, Archivist, by 1 September 2014 to allow time for copying.

Please email Mike Kingsbury at m.kingsbury455@btinternet.com or write to him at High Bank House, Barbon, Carnforth LA6 2LG to book your place so we know how many to cater for – please book by 21 September 2014.

Annual Day School

Saturday 14 March 2015

Annual day school in Leeds on the theme *Early Fabric in Town Buildings – early town buildings and the materials used in their construction*. Details in the next Newsheet.

Annual Recording Conference

Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May 2015

Annual conference in Beverley in conjunction with the *Early Fabric of Beverley* project. Details early 2015.

Early Fabric of Beverley

This project is progressing well having started in March 2014. Since then three project team meetings have been held and the next one is scheduled for 11 October 2014. The Group has received its first instalment of funding from English Heritage.

The project team is arranging dendro assessment visits by English Heritage on eight buildings in Beverley (from our 'priority A' list) that have timber framing or structures, such as roof trusses, that are likely to be of pre-1700 date. These buildings include three of those surveyed by the YVBSG during the 2010 conference and one from 2003. We hope that these assessments will be successful and that subsequent sampling at a later date can be done on them all. If the sampling is successful, only then will we be able to get dates for these structural items. We are also planning to investigate buildings on our 'B' list along with those on the 'A' list which missed the deadline as a result of us not being able to get consent from owners in time. All this represents our first stream of activity.

The second stream covers recording work to be done by the YVBSG. We will organise recording during 2015 and 2016 of the buildings on the 'A' list, (and later, the 'B' list) that have not already been surveyed.

The final stream covers the documentary research and part of this is being done by Dr Susan Neave. The other part, wills and inventories, is being done by Barry Harrison and Jacky Quarmby, and they have already copied the bulk of wills and inventories and are currently transcribing them.

If you have any questions about the project, please contact David Cook, beverleyproject@yvbsg.org.uk, 01325 310114.

Report on recent events

Barningham Walkabout

This was a successful event held on Saturday 28 June 2014 and attended by about 20 people in the village hall. Phil Hunt of the Barningham Local History Group gave a presentation on the history of the village based on J Merryne Watson's *As Time Passed By: A History of Barningham* (1997), a book drawn from a series of Merryne's articles in the parish magazine. This was followed by a presentation by David Cook based on the findings of the eleven surveys done in the village by the former Tees and Greta section of the Group led by Merryne from the late 1970s to the early 1990s. This presentation will be made available on the Members' Area of the website soon.

After lunch in the village hall those attending split into two groups for the walkabout of the village.

The eleven houses surveyed are distributed evenly along the length of the village which lies between Richmond and Barnard Castle on the north facing slopes of the Yorkshire Dales. The earliest houses (three examples from the late seventeenth century) seem to have had a direct entry into a housebody plan form. Later examples were of central entry with gable stacks, often with service rooms at the rear. Most of the houses are situated on the north side of the village road, and some take advantage of the fall of the land to the rear by having service rooms in basements at the rear.

Walling materials are predominantly coursed or unevenly coursed sandstone. A handful of roofs were drawn for the reports. One house has two 'type A' cruck pairs, scarf-jointed purlins resting on collar ends. Another is said to have two upper cruck 'type A' apex with V-notch for ridge later collars, threaded through purlins (no drawing).

After this excitement, most of the rest of the roofs recorded have, from the late seventeenth century, principal rafter trusses with king posts; the later and larger examples with wide spans for double piles have purlin posts and struts. Purlins are threaded through or 'clasp' the principal rafters.

Heptonstall and the Golden Valley

On Saturday 16 August 2014 a number of YVBSG members joined the Calder Valley Historic Buildings Group (making 28 people in total) for a tour of buildings in the Heptonstall area led by Kevin Illingworth, as advertised in the last Newsheet. Our first visit on this wild and windy day was to Greenwood Lee, an F-shaped house just off Widdop Road. The decorative two-storey porch, with its finials, hoodmould stops and plinth inscribed with scroll pattern, was dated 1712 but did the rest of the house date from an earlier period? The adjacent gabled and aisled barn was featured in *Yorkshire Buildings* 33 (2005).



The porch at Greenwood Lee

External features in the reports and seen on the day include outshuts, datestones, 'polite' arched headed windows, a stair turret, external stack, blocked windows, kneelers and string courses. We saw two large stone fire surrounds with massive lintels, both on what have now become external walls. One is well-known and visible from the street, but the other is not and was a new revelation. Neither has been recorded in a report. The same applies to a cottage elevation, not visible from the street, with mullions still in place. It seems that all the other mullioned windows in the village have either been blocked or replaced.

So, there is more to discover and more to record in Barningham should the opportunity arise.

Thanks to the Barningham Local History Group for co-organising this event.

David Cook



Observing an external stack in Barningham

Across the road, Bent Head is an early seventeenth century hearth-passage house, rather plain in external appearance. Peering through the windows (the house is currently unoccupied), the hefty timber bressumer could be seen, supported by heck post with oak-panelled heck screen. A charm to ward off evil is reported to have been found wedged in the joint of the heck post. For anyone interested in looking inside, a Google search for 'Bent Head Widdop Road' should come up with estate agent's interior photos showing the splendid hearth area.

Lunch was in the White Lion in Heptonstall, where an eight-foot wide segmental arched fireplace was recently discovered and uncovered. After lunch, our tour took in Sutcliffe House, High Gate Farmhouse and Ingham Well Barn. Great Lear Ings, dated 1648 and 1604 and unoccupied for half a century, was in a ruinous state but still exhibited many interesting features, including another two-storey porch with scroll-patterned plinth as at Greenwood Lee.

At Land Farm, we saw an unusual feature whereby a thinner stone wall (only about 8 inches thick) on the ground floor separating the parlour from the housebody flares out just below ceiling level to support a wall more than twice as thick (about 20 inches) on the first floor above. A second example was seen later in the day at Everill Shaw; there are about a dozen of these known in the locality but their purpose isn't clear.

YVBSG member Yvonne Davis kindly welcomed us to her home, Everill Shaw, a linear three-cell house dating from the early seventeenth century, with a wealth of intriguing timbers and other features including a former smokehood arching over the cross-passage.

Some common features began to emerge as the day progressed – several carved stone balls and faces at gable apexes, scroll-decorated plinths, and a number of lintels with strange circles carved in relief underneath. Were these simply for decoration or did they have some other meaning?

Thank you to Kevin for organising an excellent day out, and to Yvonne for providing the very welcome tea and cakes at the end of the day.

Lorraine Moor



Scroll-decorated plinth

Next committee meeting

Our next committee meeting is on Saturday 11 October 2014 in Beverley. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any events please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

Next Newsheet

Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in November 2014 – please send any contributions to the editor by 31 October 2014.

Publications

Laithe and Looms, Cows and Combstocks by Hazel Seidel. Published by Marsden History Group, November 2013. This book describes what it was like to live – and to die – in the small South Pennine community of Marsden between 1655 and 1855. There are chapters on farming, the domestic textile industry, crafts and trades, transport, Marsden housing and domestic life, family and inheritance, Marsden women, religion and education, and burials. £7 plus £3 p&p – order form available on the group's website www.marsdenhistory.co.uk.

Heritage Open Days

Thursday 11 to Sunday 14 September 2014

Annual extravaganza of open buildings, guided walks and other events, usually free of charge. Have a browse through the website at www.heritageopendays.org.uk to find out what's going on – Hull has a particularly impressive array of buildings open especially for the weekend, both modern and old.

Request for information

Job Cole was a York stonemason and carver who operated from 1850 to 1900. He was born in 1835 and died in 1901. He was the great grandfather of someone I know who is trying to put together all the information she can get about him and his work. His work included 'artistic' carving for house fronts as well as headstones. If anyone has any information about Job, it would be gratefully received.

Beth Shurter, email york.beth2@hotmail.com

Some autumn term courses

The Lost Houses of Yorkshire

Some exceptionally fine houses were lost in Yorkshire after World War Two – we shall examine why, using specific examples. Tutor: Anthony Powell. 8 Wednesdays from 24 September 2014, 2pm-4pm at Washburn Heritage Centre, Fewston, Harrogate. WEA course, enquiries: Gill White, 01943 880446, enrolonline.wea.org.uk.

The Medieval English Household: Livelihood, Lifestyle and Standards of Living (c.1250-1500)

From hovels of peasants to homes of princes, this course will examine the many forms of the medieval household. Tutor: Alice Bennett. 11 Wednesdays from 1 October 2014, 7-9pm. Accredited course, fee £107. Enquiries: 01904 328473, www.york.ac.uk/lifelonglearning.

Discovering Timber-Framed Buildings in Suffolk and Essex

An insight into the development and dating of surviving medieval houses, with visits to private houses. Friday 3 to Sunday 5 October 2014 at Flatford Mill. Tutor: John Walker. £183 to £254. Enquiries: Field Studies Council, telephone 01206 297110, www.field-studies-council.org.

A Journey of Yorkshire's Historic Houses

A virtual journey to discover what Yorkshire's historic houses can reveal. Tutor Jocelyn Hayes. Saturday 18 October 2014, 9.30am to 4.30pm, £35. Enquiries: University of York on 01904 328473, www.york.ac.uk/lifelonglearning.

The Gott Collection

The Gott Collection was assembled in the nineteenth century by John Gott, Vicar of Leeds and later Bishop of Truro, and his father William, a wool merchant. It was presented to Wakefield Art Gallery in 1930. The collection, bound in ten volumes, includes 1200 images consisting of watercolours, drawings and prints in the form of maps, sketches, plans and detailed architectural drawings. Themes include ecclesiastical buildings, castles, prospects of cities and towns of Yorkshire, and grand houses. In all, the collection documents over 200 Yorkshire villages, towns and cities.

Until The Hepworth in Wakefield opened in May 2011, the Gott Collection had largely been in storage. However, a conservation and digitisation project supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation has allowed the collection to be accessible online for the general public for the first time. To view it, go to www.hepworthwakefield.org/collection/the-gott-collection.

Some locations shown in the volumes are as yet unidentified and the gallery hopes that viewers of the online collection might finally be able to shed new light on some of the forgotten landmarks. Many of the buildings and landscapes represented no longer exist.

On 24 September 2014 at 2pm, Hepworth curator Frances Guy will be talking about the project. Tickets are free, but places limited. To book email hello@hepworthwakefield.org or call 01924 247360.

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!

Dent Town Trail

Wednesday 3 September 2014

A short easy walk looking at historic buildings and associated people. 2pm to 4pm. Enquiries: Hawes National Park Centre, telephone 01969 666210, www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

Architecture and Sculpture Tour

Thursday 4 September 2014

A tour of the exterior of Burton Agnes Hall, looking at the architecture and sculptures surrounding the Hall, Norman Manor House and church. Tickets £15, must be booked in advance by contacting the Estate Office on 01262 490324. www.burtonagnes.com.

A Classical Arrangement: the archives of architects Francis Johnson and Partners

Tuesday 9 September 2014

A talk by Claire Weatherall and Simon Wilson. Part of Hull History Centre's regular Lunchtime Club talks. 12.30-1.30pm at Hull History Centre, Worship Street, Hull, telephone 01482 317500, www.hullhistorycentre.org.uk.

Town and country: Halifax's special historic environment

Friday 12 September 2014

Talk by Colum Giles, describing vernacular architecture of the Calder valley and the buildings of the town and its relationship with the country. 5pm in Halifax Town Hall. Part of Halifax Heritage Festival – see www.facebook.com/HalifaxHeritageFestival.

Beverley Georgian Festival

Saturday 13 to Sunday 21 September 2014

Open buildings, talks, walks, performances – full details available at www.beverleygeorgianfestival.co.uk.

The Roman Roads of North Yorkshire

Saturday 13 September to December 2014

A series of talks on *The Roman Roads of North Yorkshire*, designed to both report on recent activity in the field and to encourage future research within a professional framework. Talks will be held at Thornton le Street village hall near Thirsk at 2pm and will last about an hour. Admission £2. Further details from John Sheehan on 01609 771878, or email jgsheehan@btinternet.com.

Bowland and Pendle Chapels

Saturday 13 September 2014

Coach tour with The Chapels Society. The majority of chapels to be seen were built in a vernacular style and initially had an adjoining cottage for the pastor or chapel keeper. Fee £32. Details at www.chapelssociety.org.uk/events/bowland-and-pendle/.

Richmond Walking and Book Festival

20 to 28 September 2014

Annual festival of daytime and evening talks and walks. Walks include *Richmond's Wynds and Lanes* on 21 September and *Richmond's Best Buildings* on 22 September. Full details available at www.booksandboots.org.

Caring for Your Historic Building

Saturday 27 September 2014

An event for owners and occupiers of historic buildings, including a talk by Jonathan Ratter on *The Buildings of Lower Wensleydale*. 9.30am to 5pm at West Burton Village Hall. Full details at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/caringforyourhistoricbuilding2014.



Traditional Farm Building Surveying

From 7 October 2014

With Jen Deadman, Historic Buildings Consultant, the Heart of Teesdale Landscape Partnership is organising training in surveying as part of a Field Barns project. Introductory meetings on 7 and 10 October, 10am-noon in Barnard Castle. Hands-on training on 25 and 26 October, 10am-4pm in Romaldkirk. Contact heartofteesdale@durham.gov.uk, www.heartofteesdale.net.

Talk by a Master Mason

Monday 6 October at 7.30pm

A talk to York Artworkers by Matthias Garn, Master Mason. 7.30pm at Jacob's Well, Trinity Lane, Micklegate. Visitors £5. Web www.yorkartworkers.org.uk.

"Servants nowadays are so inconsistent..."

Wednesday 8 October 2014

Talk by Julie Day to Wakefield Historical Society on the social history of Nostell Priory in the eighteenth

century. 7.30pm at Chantry Chapel on Wakefield Bridge. Visitors £2. www.wakefieldhistoricalsoc.org.uk

Markenfield Hall tour

Wednesday 8 October 2014

A tour with owner Ian Curteis, with the chance to see areas of the house not normally open to the public. 6pm to 8pm. Enquiries: 01765 692303 or 603411, www.markenfield.com.

York Archaeology and History Day

Saturday 11 October 2014

Annual York Archaeological Trust event at the Guildhall with book stalls and information from community groups. Enquiries: Jon Kenny, telephone 01904 663020, jkenny@yorkat.co.uk.

Vernacular Buildings in and around Lancashire and Craven

Monday 27 October 2014

Talk by Kevin Illingworth to Ewecross Historical Society at Bentham Town Hall at 7.30pm, £3. Enquiries: Edward Huddleston 015242 61553, <http://ewecrosshistoricalsociety.wordpress.com>.

Back to Back Housing

Thursday 30 October 2014

Talk by Geoff Timmins to Lancaster Archaeological and Historical Society, 7.30pm at St Paul's Hala Centre, Lancaster, £3. www.archaeologyuk.org/lahs/LAHS.htm.

2013 YVBSG Surveys

Monday 3 November 2014

Talk by Barry Harrison to Kirby, Great Broughton, and Ingleby Greenhow Local History Group. www.kgbighistory.org.uk.

Boskins, Booses and Barns

Thursday 6 November 2014

Talk by Pat and Phil Carroll to Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group on the Kettlewell with Starbotton survey. 7.30pm in Soroptomist Room at 28 Otley Street, Skipton. www.uwhg.org.uk.

The Great Rebuild – how complete was it?

Saturday 15 November 2014

Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group study day. £15, includes lunch and visit to fifteenth-century Percy House, Cockermouth. Enquiries: June Hall at infocvbg@mypostoffice.co.uk, or see www.cvbg.co.uk.