



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

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Newsheet No 81

August 2015

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

Conference Review Day

Sunday 27 September 2015

Come and hear about the exciting buildings recorded in Beverley during the recording conference held in May. Starts 10.30am at the Beverley Arms Hotel, North Bar Within, Beverley (website www.thebeverleyarms.co.uk). Sunday lunch is available at the hotel.

- 10.30 Welcome – refreshments available
- 10.45 Presentation of reports on buildings recorded and discussion
- 12.45 Lunch
- 14.00 Beverley Wills and Inventories: what they have told us so far – Barry Harrison
- 15.00 Refreshments
- 15.15 Project Update – David Cook
- 15.30 Finish



Beverley Friary, recorded in May

Everybody welcome. Please email David Cook at dcook0@talk21.com or write to him at 12 Annand Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 4ZD to book your place, indicating whether or not you would like to take the Sunday lunch carvery at the Beverley Arms. Please book by 21 September 2015.

Group leaders – please send reports to David Cant, Archivist, by 5 September 2015 to allow time for copying.

Annual Day School & AGM

Saturday 12 March 2016

Full details with the next Newsheet.

Annual Recording Conference

Friday 13 to Sunday 15 May 2016

Provisional date – details to follow.

Committee meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Sunday 18 October 2015. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any events for next year please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

Help needed!

As a longstanding event, the annual day school in March is one of our most successful activities. We are looking for assistance in the preparatory organisation – contact with speakers, managing bookings etc. If you could help please contact our Chair, David Cant (contact details on back page).

Early Fabric of Beverley – project update

170 dendro samples have been taken to date; 147 of these have been suitable for analysis, and 48 have returned dates. All the dating is interim at the moment: later on we hope the dates-to-samples ratio will improve as the database of tree-ring sequences increases. Our earliest in-situ date is AD 1336 and the latest is AD 1674. We have an earlier date (from the Friary) of AD 1226-1251 but this was for re-used timber.

The Friary was the focus of interest from BBC Radio Humberside in August. I, along with Susan Neave and Mary Cook, recorded a short interview and video with the station's reporter and this was broadcast on 20 August, and the video posted to the station's Facebook page on the same date (the video is also available on the YVBSG Facebook page – do have a look!). In addition we have had reports published in the *Hull Daily Mail* and the *Beverley Guardian*.

Samples from one of the town's key pre-1700 buildings, 19-21 Ladygate, were submitted for radiocarbon wiggle-matching by Historic England. This building has a series of

crown post roof trusses similar to the early types identified in York and summarised by Don McLellan in 1992 (article available on Members' Area of website at www.yvbsg.org.uk/members/yb-articles/1992-crownposts.pdf). The wiggle-matching dated the roof as AD 1310-1335.

We are still looking for 'yet-to-be-discovered' early timber in Beverley. However, the project's deadline for dendrochronology assessments passes at the end of August. Sampling will continue, though, to the end of the year. As we move through 2015 and into 2016 we will be also looking at other building fabric types, such as brick and its pre-1700 examples of survival and use.

Presentations on three of the buildings in the project's pre-1700 scope will be given at the Conference Review Day on 27 September. Other survey work and report writing is in progress. Also in progress is the work on wills and inventories and Barry Harrison will be talking on findings to date at the Review Day.

David Cook, Project Manager

Report on recent events

Six Days Only!

On Sunday 14 June 2015, sixteen members and guests from as far away as York and County Durham booked for the tour of houses north-west of Bradford, led by Kevin Illingworth. Sixteen was the suggested maximum to tour Royds Hall Farm at the end of the day.

We started with ten members in Wilsden, looking at nineteenth century cottages, then two seventeenth century houses on Main Street. The rather small Manor House was much-altered, but had an interesting single-storey porch dated 1684 above the decorative ogee lintel, a type more commonly seen in the Dales/Lune Valley areas. (The *Images of England* website photograph shows the wrong house.) At mid-seventeenth century Lee Farmhouse, we had permission to enter the garden to see the more interesting steeply-pitched north gable of the cross-wing, but we were also invited inside to see every room and to return sometime. The adjacent barn had re-used spiral hoodmould stops over datestones of 1793 and 166-?.

Lunch was at Chellow Grange Farm (West Bradford Golf Club House), where the other six members joined us. The earliest part is late seventeenth or early eighteenth century with a basket-arched doorway and string-course, but the mullions are flat-faced. The added main house to the left is listed as mid-eighteenth century, but has a porch dated EB 1720. At the rear all mullions of both parts are chamfered. Other features were oval and round openings. We were invited to see the ground-floor rooms, but everything was boxed-in.

Next was a single-aisled six-bay late seventeenth or early eighteenth century barn, with gabled porch, at Heaton Royds Farm in the hamlet of Six Days Only, seeing the interior thanks to Stephen Holder. At Royds Hall Farm (1671 and earlier) opposite, we were welcomed into the east wing by owner John Tempest, then the main range and west cross-



Porch at Manor House, Wilsden

wing (courtesy of Colin and Gillian Wright) where the main features of interest were wall paintings, mainly of pomegranates and fleur-de-lys, and remains of a possible timber frame. We finished the day with tea and cakes galore in the kitchen, with an invitation to return sometime. Donations of £74 went to The Leprosy Mission. The hamlet of Heaton Royds received its intriguing name of Six Days Only many years ago when homemade dandelion-and-burdock and nettle beer were sold from a cottage, but not on the Sabbath.

A Wilsden Conservation Area Assessment document offering useful information about the topography, building materials and architectural features of the village can be found in pdf format at www.bradford.gov.uk/bmdc/the_environment/conservation_and_design/wilsden.

Kevin Illingworth

VAG Conference in Cumbria

Around twenty YVBBSG members attended the annual 'spring' conference of the national Vernacular Architecture Group which was held later than usual this year in Cumbria in July. The event was superbly organised by June Hall, Mike Kingsbury and colleagues from the Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group and involved three full and contrasting days of viewing almost fifty buildings in total, with the added bonus of some stunning scenery and only a bit of rain!



Meadowbank, West Curthwaite – a clay dabbin

The first day saw us in the central Lake District, where we observed features such as cylindrical chimney stacks, crow-stepped gables, 'spinning galleries', wrestler ridges, hecks, mells (passages leading from the cross passage into the housebody) and binks (fixed benches).

Day two included a stop in Carlisle to see the timber-framed Guildhall and buildings associated with the Cathedral. We then ventured onto the salt marshes and the Solway Plain to visit cruck-framed clay dabbins, constructed by layering mixtures of clay and straw.

On the final day we journeyed east to the Pennines, to explore the market town of Alston and its surroundings. Several bastle houses, comprising first-floor dwelling accommodation over a ground-floor byre, were visited.

Next year's VAG conference will take place on 29 March to 2 April 2016 and will be based in Lincoln. For details of how to join the VAG, see www.vag.org.uk.

Lorraine Moor

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!

Two Great Churches – One Town's Story

Until 6 November 2015

An exhibition to show the importance of Beverley Minster and St Mary's Church and highlight the restoration work needed. At Beverley Guildhall, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10am to 4pm.

A Medieval Parish

Sunday 6 September 2015

Explore buildings, customs, myths and mysteries in Robin Hoods Bay and Fylingthorpe. Free but reservations essential – call The Moors National Park Centre, Danby, on 01439 772738.

Building stones of Yorkshire Wold churches

Tuesday 8 September 2015

Talk by Richard Myerscough to Beverley Civic Society, 7.30pm at the Beverley Arms Hotel. Enquiries: Pam Hopkins, telephone 01482 861836, www.beverleycivic.co.uk.

Calder Valley buildings – the craftsmen and their patrons

Friday 11 September 2015

Talk by David Cant to Mytholmroyd Historical Society, 7pm at Church of the Good Shepherd, Mytholmroyd. Visitors £3. Enquiries: 01422 350886.

Houses and Halls of the Colne area

Wednesday 16 September 2015

Talk by Gill Pengelly to Pendle Forest History Group, 7.30pm in Barley Village Hall. Enquiries: Joan Parsons, telephone 01282 699580, or see website www.pendleforesthistorygroup.co.uk.

Buildings of Northowram Village

Thursday 17 September 2015

Talk by David Cant to Northowram Local History Society, 7.30pm at Northowram Methodist Chapel. Web <http://northowram.org/history.html>.

Hebden Bridge Walk

Sunday 20 September 2015

A heritage walk led by David Cant – meet at 2.15pm at the Information Centre on New Road. Full details of this and other walks, most of which contain something of vernacular interest, at www.CalderdaleHeritageWalks.org.uk.

The Cloth of the World: the archaeology of the Lancashire's Weaving Mill

Friday 25 September 2015

CBA event at the Burnley Mechanics Institute. For details, see www.archaeologyuk.org/cbanw.

Richmond Walking and Book Festival

25 September to 4 October 2015

A festival of daytime and evening walks and talks. Includes walks with Mark Whyman around *Richmond's Wynds and Lanes* on Sunday 27 September and *Richmond's Best Buildings* on Monday 28 September. Enquiries: 01748 824243, full programme available at www.booksandboots.org.

Cobwebs and Cream Teas

Tuesday 29 September 2015

A tour behind the scenes at Burton Constable Hall from the roof tops and attics to the cellars. Tickets £17.50, includes afternoon tea. Enquiries: 01964 562400, www.burtonconstable.com.

Northallerton in Old Postcards

Tuesday 13 October 2015

Talk by Colin Narramore to Northallerton & District Local History Society, 7pm at the Catholic Church Hall, Thirsk Road, fee £2. Enquiries: Mike Sanders on 01609 774662, www.northyorkshistory.co.uk.

The Care and Maintenance of Historic Buildings

Wednesday 14 October 2015

Talk by Robert Parker, following the AGM (members only) of the North Craven Heritage Trust. 7.30pm at Victoria Hall. Details available at www.northcravenheritage.org.uk.

Burton Agnes Evening History Talk and Dinner

Thursday 15 October 2015

Enjoy a meal prepared with produce from Burton Agnes Hall's gardens, a talk about the history of the hall from the head guide, and a tour including behind the scenes. 5pm, £35 per person. Booking essential. Please call the Estate Office on 01262 490324.

Gateways to the Past

Thursday 15 October 2015

Talk by Janet Niepokojczcka at Markenfield Hall, 7pm to 9pm. A far-reaching look at gatehouses in the north of England, with special reference to the one at Cartmel, originally part of the Augustinian priory. Enquiries: 01765 692303, www.markenfield.com.

Homegrown architecture ... Towards a new vernacular

Thursday 15 October 2015

A conference at the Friends' Meeting House, Manchester, organised by the Institute of Historic Building Conservation North West Branch.

Programme includes a good range of speakers covering local and regional vernacular, new vernacular, and materials and design, with a choice of walking tours in the afternoon. Fee £110, £65 concessions. Full details available at <http://vernacular.ihbc.org.uk/>.

Archaeological Studies in and around East Yorkshire

Saturday 17 October 2015

Study Day at Beverley Minster, organised by East Yorkshire Local History Society. Talks include *Not all archaeology is below ground – recent building recording in East Yorkshire* by Ed Dennison. £25 including lunch. www.eylhs.org.uk.

Seventeenth century oak furniture and vernacular houses of the Pennines

Tuesday 20 October 2015

A talk by Peter Thornborrow to Halifax Antiquarian Society, highlighting fascinating regional differences. 7.30pm at Calderdale Central Library, Halifax. <https://sites.google.com/site/halifaxukhistory/home>.

Traditional Farm Buildings in Upper Ribblesdale

Thursday 12 November 2015

A talk by David Johnson to Skipton and Craven History Society, 7.30pm at Swadford Centre, Swadford Street, Skipton. Visitors £3. Enquiries: 01756 794534.

The Listed Buildings of the Leeds and Bradford area

Monday 16 November 2015

Talk by Patrick Clarke to Bradford Family History Society, 7.30pm at Gumption Centres Ltd, Glyde House, Glydegate, Bradford. Visitors £2. www.bradfordfhs.org.uk.

The Workplace: Industrial Vernacular Buildings

Saturday 26 November 2015

Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group Study Day at Caldbeck Village Hall, 10am to 4pm. Cost £15 including buffet lunch. Enquiries: June Hall on 07547 081631, www.cvbg.co.uk.

Heritage Open Days

10–13 September 2015

Annual extravaganza of open buildings, guided walks and other events, usually free of charge. See local publicity or browse through the website at www.heritageopendays.org.uk to find out what's going on.

Some recent publications

English Architectural Drawing: Medieval Craftsmen and Design by Arnold Pacey. This short book can be read as an introductory account of drawings used in England by medieval masons and builders, including drawings on stone surfaces and plaster as well as on parchment. It is also intended as a supplement to an earlier, larger book – *Medieval Architectural Drawing* – and it reviews examples of draughtsmanship discovered or reinterpreted since that book was published in 2007. Includes a gazetteer listing where architectural drawings have been recorded. 46pp, 2015, available from York Publishing Services Ltd, telephone 01904 431213, www.ypdbooks.com. £7.50+£2.95p&p.

Designation Yearbook 2014-2015. Fascinating examples of architecture from different periods are included in the newly published *Designation Yearbook 2014-2015*, which is now available as a free download from the Historic England website at www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/designation-yearbook-2014-15/. The Yearbook gives highlights of additions or revisions to the National Heritage List for England, with a gazetteer arranged according to themes for ease of navigation.



Northowram Probate Records 1688-1700. Edited by Alan Petford and David Cant. June 2015, available £12.50 including p&p via <http://northowram.org/history.html>. A study of the wills, inventories and related documents of the people of Northowram township which reveals a vivid picture of life and death in the West Riding at the end of the seventeenth century. Many were involved in farming and the growing textile industry, others had considerable wealth through mining and quarrying. These documents provide an intriguing insight into the links between families through bequests, property transfers, indebtedness and support for those surviving.

Tree-ring dates

If you're interested in finding out which buildings in Yorkshire (or indeed, any other county) have been dated by dendrochronology, an easy way to do so is to visit the VAG website at www.vag.org.uk/databases and follow the link to 'Tables of tree-ring dated buildings in England and Wales'.

The tables (arranged by county or by date) are in pdf format which can be easily printed, and were recently updated in June 2015.

Autumn courses

Traditional Buildings of the North West, and the West Riding of Yorkshire

Ten well-illustrated talks covering three historic counties of the north-west, and the West Riding, concentrating mainly on Lancashire (especially north), Craven, Forest of Bowland, and Westmorland. Speaker: Kevin Illingworth BA. Ten Tuesdays, 7-9pm, starting 15 September 2015 at Clapham Primary School (north Craven). Cost £50. Enquiries: 015242 51324.

Pevsner's Perambulations

Between September and November, Yorkshire and Humber WEA is taking to the streets with a series of twelve Saturday walking tours around various towns which will reconstruct the 'perambulations' as described in Nikolaus Pevsner's series *The Buildings of England*. For further details, please go to <https://enrolonline.wea.org.uk/Online/CourseSearch.aspx>, and enter 'Pevsner' as the keyword.

The Wellington door knocker

Unrecognised, across Britain there are hundreds of discrete memorials to the victor of arguably the most iconic land battle ever fought by the British army in Europe. There have been many battles before and since but none quite equal the lasting impression on national memory and imagination as that fought on 18 June 1815 near the then insignificant Netherlands village of Waterloo.

Known as 'The Wellington' door knocker, the memorials go unnoticed but can be discovered in almost every town and city in the United Kingdom where early nineteenth century domestic buildings survive. The celebratory iconography is self-evident. The Duke of Wellington's right hand grasps a Field-Marshal's baton from which depends a triumphal laurel wreath terminating at the base with the head of the British Lion. A variant pattern used a cubic patera instead of the clenched fist, softening the martial aspect.

The door knockers were manufactured in several sizes, the smallest costing the not insubstantial sum of one shilling and six pence and the largest three shillings, by the Black Country iron founder and manufacturer Archibald Kenrick. Established at West Bromwich in 1791, the firm became Archibald Kenrick and Co in 1812, and Archibald Kenrick and Sons in 1827. The company produced a huge range of cast iron and enamelled hardware and is still trading in 2015.

Anthony Skelsey

(Reprinted with kind permission from the *Military Historical Society Journal*)



King post study

A reminder that we are starting to gather together data on king post roofs in Yorkshire in preparation for a research project (Newsheet 79, February 2015).

Further consideration will be given to the aims of this study, but in the meantime please send any examples of king post (or king strut) roofs which you may know of in Yorkshire to Alison Armstrong, 21 Ingfield Lane, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 9BA, email alisoncarmstrong@yahoo.co.uk.

Please provide as many details as possible (for example building name, township, grid reference, type of kingpost truss); a sketch or photo would also be valuable.

Next Newsheet

Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in November 2015 – please send any material to the editor by 31 October 2015.