



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

[www.yvbsg.org.uk](http://www.yvbsg.org.uk)  
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Newsheet No 85

August 2016

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Conference Review Day in Beverley

Sunday 25 September 2016

Come and hear about the buildings recorded in Beverley during the recording conference held in May.

We will start with buffet lunch at The Best Western Lairgate Hotel, Beverley ([www.bestwestern.co.uk/hotels/best-western-lairgate-hotel-83900](http://www.bestwestern.co.uk/hotels/best-western-lairgate-hotel-83900)) at 12 noon. Please note the different venue to the conference and previous review days in Beverley.

Following lunch, we will have presentations and discussion on the buildings recorded in the James Neil Room at the hotel. The estimated finish

time is 4pm. The buildings we will be covering are The Guildhall, 22 North Bar Within, a former warehouse in Cross Keys Yard, 2-4 Lairgate and 18-24 Hengate. The buildings cover a wide range of ages and styles. We should hear of important new discoveries and current understanding challenged.

Everybody is welcome. Please send a cheque for £17 payable to YVBSG to David Cook, 12 Annand Way, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 4ZD by 9 September 2016. A buffet lunch at the Best Western along with tea, coffee and biscuits is included in the booking fee.

Please book early. A limited number of places that don't include the lunch are available; booking is essential through David Cook, [dcook0@talk21.com](mailto:dcook0@talk21.com) or call 07810 668975.

Group leaders: Please send copies of your reports to David Cook at [beverleyproject@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:beverleyproject@yvbsg.org.uk) before 12 September 2016.



### Early Fabric of Beverley – project update

Work is continuing on the writing of some reports which is taking longer than expected, mainly due to the level of detail and complexity encountered in these buildings. The buildings, 49-51 North Bar Within, 19-21 Ladygate, and 34 Saturday Market, date from the medieval period and share key characteristics.

The dendrochronology sampling has concluded with samples taken from the Minster Choir roof and transepts. These samples we hope will help improve the chronology of growth rings of timber used in Beverley and ultimately to date some of the as-yet undated samples already taken from other buildings.

The owner of one of the medieval buildings on our list uncovered a mysterious wall painting on the chimney breast, date still unknown but probably late medieval or early modern. This was reported in the local media. See the YVBSG Twitter feed for 6 July 2016 (<https://twitter.com/YorksVernacular>).

The YVBSG committee has kindly agreed for the Group to subsidise two places on the VAG Oxford *Recording Town Buildings* Study Weekend on 30 September to 2 October 2016. This will be a very useful input to our knowledge as it perfectly aligns with our Early Fabric of Beverley project. Lorraine Moor and David Cook are taking these places and will write reports for the YVBSG on their return.

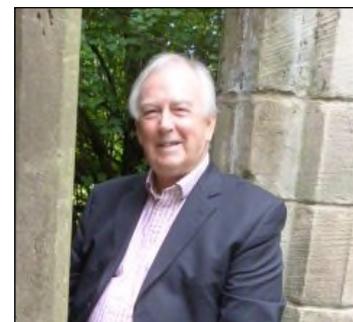
*David Cook, [beverleyproject@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:beverleyproject@yvbsg.org.uk)*

### Committee news

We reported previously that David Cant had stepped down from the three posts he had held: Chair, Archivist and Enquiries Secretary. We're pleased to report that Peter Thornborrow has now accepted the role of Acting Chair until the next AGM. Peter has had a long career in the field of historic buildings and conservation work. Living in South Yorkshire, he hopes to focus some recording work there and we look forward to exploring this area which is still relatively unfamiliar to the YVBSG.

Barry Harrison has taken on the role of Enquiries Secretary but we are still looking for help with the Archivist role – if you might be interested please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

We welcome Kevin Illingworth as a new committee member and are sorry to lose Gill Cookson from the committee; we thank her for her contribution to the running of the Group over the past few years.



Peter Thornborrow

The committee normally meets twice a year. The next meeting will be held on Sunday 16 October 2016. If you'd like to bring any matter to the attention of the committee, or if you have any suggestions for future activities, please contact Mary Cook. Planning for next year's dayschool and conference is underway – details in next Newsheet.

## Report on recent events

### Visit to Stephen Park Farmhouse and barns, Forest of Bowland

Twenty-two members and guests, and one dog, travelled from as far away as York, County Durham and Chorley for this event in July. Stephen Park, now owned by the Forestry Commission, once had 400 acres of land, but in 1997 was leased to Knowsley Council for Voluntary Service (near Liverpool) as a leisure and training complex. Diana Kaneps of Wigglesworth kindly gave us a talk, showing and sharing with us her many photographs and delightful drawings. The many decorated doorheads were mentioned in Newsheet No 84, but not the wide segmental arch fireplace in the left-hand room where the opening is 12 feet wide. Our thanks also go to Martin Colledge, Bowland Beat Manager, Gisburn Forest, who had the keys to the house and came in specially for our visit.

On to Stocks Reservoir Car Park, where features from demolished houses are built into a dry-stone wall. When the valley was flooded in 1933 by the Fylde Water Board to create Stocks Reservoir, Stocks village was submerged. There's a decorated doorhead of 1706, and one of 1709 with ornamental dripmould stop from Swinshaw Farm, which was above the waterline but was nevertheless demolished.

Next, Higher Halsteads, a United Utilities farm of 1200 acres and farmed by the Wallbank family since 1927. Helen wanted to greet us and join us, but had to dash off due to a sudden illness in the family. She is part-time administrator at the Slaidburn Archive. The main feature of interest is the jettied parlour (like a porch) with gadroon decoration under the jetty. The only other known decoration of this



Jettied parlour at Halsteads

type is at Browsholme Hall, seen by YVBSG members in July 2011. The ornate window lintel is similar to those at The Folly, Settle.

Higher Stony Bank (late seventeenth century) is described by Pevsner (2009) as an exotically detailed specimen. It is an outlier of the Slaidburn Estate. Ground floor mullion and transom windows with central porch of one and a half storeys, the first floor oversailing with a monopitch roof. The doorhead has carved decoration reading as two 'M's. Three dripmoulds had decorated stops, all different. Tenant Damian Riley greeted us. The large segmental-arch fireplace in the left-hand room was 10 feet 3 inches wide (the opening).

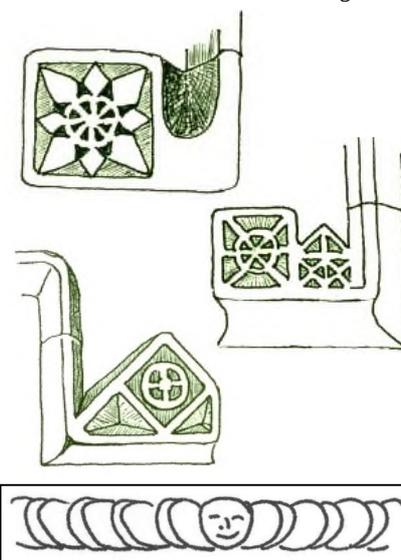
At Crow Trees Inn at Tosside, near Wigglesworth, within the 130-acre Bowland Fell (holiday) Park, we enjoyed end-of-day drinks and chat on this sunny afternoon until 5pm. Everyone was invited to do some detective work, such as looking for a secret decorated doorhead of 1697 (behind the creeper). A doorway of

1678 was not in its original position, so where was it? A four-light window originally had five lights, but which one? The scarf-jointed ovolo-moulded spine beams suggested a former smokehood.

Thanks go to David Shore for his regular contributions over the years to my travelling costs when carrying out 'recces.'

Members will find further details and drawings of Higher Halsteads and other buildings in the locality in *Yorkshire Buildings 36* (2008) - available online in the Members' Area of the website. Also of interest is the Dalehead website at [www.dalehead.org](http://www.dalehead.org), which contains photographs of over forty farmhouses that were submerged, dynamited, abandoned, or survived intact.

Kevin Illingworth



Above: three hoodmould stops at Higher Stony Bank, and gadroon decoration at Halsteads. Drawings kindly provided by Diana Kaneps.

## The public YVBSG archive

The publicly-available YVBSG archive has now been transferred from the Yorkshire Archaeological Society at Claremont to the Special Collections Section of Leeds University Brotherton Library. Reports are held under three references:

- YAS MS 1077: Pre 1974 reports from NYCVBBSG.
- YAS MS 1275: Reports 1 to 1503 (produced 1970-1995).
- YAS MS 1627: Reports 1504 onwards (1996 onwards).

To access the reports you need to give at least two working days' notice - for further details please see <https://library.leeds.ac.uk/special-collections-use>.

The YVBSG committee would be interested to hear views on how easy it is to access the archive in its new location. If you use the collection, please send any comments you may have to [archivist@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:archivist@yvbsg.org.uk) so that we can feed them back to Leeds University Library to improve the service.

## Thank you

Thank you to everyone who has been in touch and helped me get through several months of depression. I'm pleased and relieved to say that the combined effects of care, kindness, medication and counselling seems to have done the trick. A special thank you for the support from those who covered the various gaps left by my absence - and the kind letter of appreciation from the committee.

David Cant

## Walkabout in Brompton and Romanby, near Northallerton

On a warm, sunny June day, a group of members met in Brompton near Northallerton for a walkabout around Church Green, the historic core of this large village. We were given a historical introduction to the village by Barry Harrison, who explained that during the medieval period, Brompton was a 'peculiar' of the Diocese of Durham, in which city most of the records are kept.

A list of repairs made in 1450 contains a number of references to Brompton and Romanby for the repair of 'siles' (crucks), 'cripples' (gable end timbers) or 'end forks' (half crucks in gables), although our walk revealed no obvious signs of timber framing.

Brompton was enclosed early, between 1585 and the 1680s, when farmsteads were built out on the enclosed holdings, leaving no trace of older farms around the green. However, we saw much evidence of later cobble and brick building, with raised eaves and extra storeys and traces of fire windows.

Brompton was a noted linen weaving centre, with looms in single storey garden loomshops, some of which survive, and two large mills from the 1850s which didn't close until the 1950s.

Our walk began at The Three Horseshoes, reputedly the oldest domestic building in the village. This has a roof with curved principal rafters and external pilaster strips to each elevation, a seventeenth century 'mannerist' feature. We were also able to view the inside of the parish church with its collection of hogsback grave covers, before looking at more houses around the green including two much larger mill owners' houses.

After lunch we reconvened on the Green at Romanby, historically a separate village, but now a suburb of Northallerton. Here too the survey of 1450 has several references to timber framed elements of buildings, but as at Brompton, there were no obvious signs of timber framing.



Exploring Romanby. Originally a 3-unit house with through passage between stacks (spot the missing stack!).

The green has a long frontage of cottages along its south side, with clusters of older buildings along the north side, infilled with twentieth century houses, which suggests a degree of shrinkage here in the historic past.

At the east end of the green is a large three unit house with external pilaster strips similar to The Three Horseshoes at Brompton and thus of presumed seventeenth century date.

One unusual feature noted was the two houses with closely spaced chimneys with a cross passage between; few if any other arrangements of this type have been noted elsewhere.

The group has not recorded any buildings in either village and there is clearly scope for some recording work here.

Our thanks go to Barry for leading the walk and providing the historical background.

*Tony Robinson and Sue Southwell*

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## Websites Worth Watching

The National Library of Scotland publishes a useful collection of old maps on its website at <http://maps.nls.uk/>, which is well worth exploring. A nice feature added recently is a 'map spy viewer' (<http://maps.nls.uk/projects/layer-spy/index.html>) which shows a satellite image of the modern landscape with a 'spy glass' through to the relevant map of about 1900. You can drag the screen and zoom in and out, or click on the 'Explore Georeferenced Maps Spy Viewer' link at the top of the page to search for specific areas.

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## Publications

*Drawing for Understanding: Creating Interpretive Drawings of Historic Buildings* by Allan T Adams. New guidance document describing a method of recording historic buildings for the purpose of historical understanding using analytical site drawing and measuring by hand. The techniques described here can be used for making records of buildings of all types and ages, but are particularly useful for vernacular buildings and architectural details which are crucial to the history of a building. Includes case studies of two Yorkshire buildings, Nappa Hall near Askrigg and Old Manor House in Manningham. Downloadable in pdf format from <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/drawing-for-understanding>. Allan has led several YVBSG training workshops in the past few years; we wish him all the best for the future following his recent retirement from Historic England!

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## Heritage Open Days

8 to 11 September 2016

Annual four-day extravaganza of open buildings, guided walks, talks and other events, usually free of charge. Some 5000 events are taking place across the country and an impressive number of buildings (vernacular or otherwise) are opening their doors in the Yorkshire region. See local publicity or browse the full online programme of events on the website at [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk) to find out what's going on.

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## Next Newsheet

The next edition will be in November 2016 – please send any contributions (for example details of events or publications of interest) to the editor by 31 October 2016.

## Other events of possible interest ...

Some of these events are publicised a long time in advance, so you may wish to check details before you go!

### **Gone but not forgotten**

Until 20 December 2016

Exhibition at Skidby Mill near Beverley looking at some country houses in the East Riding that have disappeared over the years. Enquiries: 01482 848405 or see [www.museums.eastriding.gov.uk/skidby-mill/](http://www.museums.eastriding.gov.uk/skidby-mill/).

### **Lancashire and Yorkshire farm-houses of the 16th to 18th centuries: porches**

Tuesday 20 September 2016

An illustrated talk by Kevin Illingworth to Halifax Antiquarian Society, 7.30pm at Calderdale Central Library, Northgate, Halifax. See <https://sites.google.com/site/halifaxukhistory>.

### **Richmond Walking & Book Festival**

24 September to 2 October 2016

A festival of daytime and evening walks and talks. Includes walk along Frenchgate with Jane Hatcher and Richmond's Best Buildings with Mark Whyman. Enquiries: 01748 824243, full programme available online at [www.booksandboots.org](http://www.booksandboots.org).

### **Seventeenth century oak furniture and vernacular houses of the Yorkshire and Lancashire Pennines**

Monday 26 September 2016

Talk to the Halifax Antiques Society, 7.30pm at The Albany Club, Somerset House, Clare Road (behind swimming baths). Peter Thornborrow will give Part 2 of the talk he first gave to the Halifax Antiquarian Society in 2015. Small charge for non-members, all welcome.

### **The Archive of the Graham family**

Friday 30 September 2016

Talk by Maxine Willett on the archive of the Graham family of Norton Conyers. 12.30pm at County Record Office, Malpas Road, Northallerton, £2. Enquiries: 01609 777585, or follow link to County Record Office at website [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk).

### **Exploring Eberston**

Wednesday 5 October 2016

Discover Eberston on a two-mile walk including St Mary's church and a private visit to Eberston Hall and its gardens.

Free, 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Booking essential: contact the North York Moors National Park Centre, Danby, 01439 772738. [www.northyorkmoors.org.uk](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk).

### **Burton Agnes Hall tour**

Thursday 6 October 2016

A behind-the-scenes tour with the head guide, Pauline Waslin, 11am or 2pm, £15, must be booked in advance on 01262 490324. More details at [www.burtonagnes.com](http://www.burtonagnes.com).

### **The 17th century oak furniture and vernacular houses of the Pennines**

Friday 14 October 2016

Talk by Peter Thornborrow to the Mytholmroyd Historical Society. 7.30pm at the modern Catholic Church, at the foot of Scout Road (first road to left under railway station bridge having crossed the bridge over River Calder in centre of Mytholmroyd village). Another chance to see the complete talk Peter gave to Halifax Antiquarians in 2015. Enquiries: 01422 350886.



Peel House, Warley

### **Traditional Buildings of the Fylde, Bowland, and Lune Valley areas**

Friday 14 October 2016

An illustrated talk by Kevin Illingworth to Poulton-le-Fylde Historical and Civic Society, 2pm at Poulton-le-Fylde Methodist Church Hall, Queensway. Visitors £3. Some West Riding buildings will be shown. See [www.poulton-le-fylde-hcs.co.uk](http://www.poulton-le-fylde-hcs.co.uk).

### **Historic Buildings of the Yorkshire Dales National Park**

Monday 17 October 2016

A talk by Sue Wrathmell to The Nidderdale Society, 7.30pm at Dacre Banks Village Hall. Visitors £2. See [www.nidderdale-society.co.uk](http://www.nidderdale-society.co.uk).

### **Stank Hall Barn, Leeds**

Monday 17 October 2016

Talk by Sue Otley-Hughes to the Thoresby Society on the origins, history and future of the barn. 7.15pm at the Friends' Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9DY. Details at [www.thoresby.org.uk](http://www.thoresby.org.uk).

### **Vernacular Buildings in and around South-East Lancashire**

Thursday 27 October 2016

A talk by Kevin Illingworth to Middleton Archaeological Society, 7.30pm at Ye Olde Boar's Head, Long Street, Middleton, Rochdale. Visitors £3. Venue is a picturesque timber-framed inn of c1624-1654. Talk includes Yorkshire buildings. See <http://middletonas.com>.

### **Beverley Local History Book Fair**

Saturday 29 October 2016

10am to 4pm at Memorial Hall, Beverley, organised by East Yorkshire Local History Society, <http://eylhs.org.uk>.

### **Traditional Farmhouses and Buildings in and around the Lancashire and Yorkshire Pennines**

Wednesday 9 November 2016

An illustrated talk by Kevin Illingworth to Hebden Bridge Local History Society, 7.30pm at Hebden Bridge Methodist Church Hall, Market Street. Visitors £3. Enquiries: 01422 845982.

### **Lost Buildings of Beverley**

Thursday 10 November 2016

The Margaret Powell Memorial Lecture by David Neave, for Beverley Civic Society. 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall. [www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk](http://www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk).

### **Houses and Halls in the Colne area**

Wednesday 16 November 2016

A talk by Jill Pengelly and Elaine Watson to the Pendle and Burnley Family History and Heraldry Society. 7.30pm at Colne Library, Market Street. See [www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk](http://www.lfhhs-pendleandburnley.org.uk).

### **Sheffield Castle & Sheffield Manor Lodge – Myths, Misconceptions and Mysteries**

Wednesday 16 November 2016

A talk by Ron Clayton, 7.30pm at Bishops House, Sheffield. See [www.bishopshouse.org.uk](http://www.bishopshouse.org.uk).

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