



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

Website: <http://www.yvbsg.org.uk/>

Newsheet No 31

December 2002

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### The House and Family History Day School, and AGM

Saturday 15 March 2003

This year's annual day school will be held at the College of York St John, York. Please note the date in your diaries; booking forms and details will be circulated early in the new year. The day school will be followed by the AGM.

### Annual Recording Conference, Scarborough

Friday 16 to Sunday 18 May 2003

To be based at the Royal Hotel, Scarborough. Will we discover some re-used ships' timbers in this coastal town? Details and booking form to follow in the new year.

### Walk around Heptonstall

Sunday 15 June 2003

A walk led by David Cant. Details later.

### In the pipeline

It is hoped to arrange other events during the year and these will be publicised in future Newsheets.



### Next Committee Meeting

Sunday 9 February 2003

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 David Crook.

## Do you have hidden talents?

The Committee would like to see more publications being produced by the Group, but, unfortunately, most of us find that our weekdays are taken up by our day jobs and our spare time is limited! Are there any other members who would like to help in the research and production of publications (or indeed, in any other areas)? If so, please contact David Cook.

## Notes on recording

Some time ago, the Group put together some notes on the basic method used by the YVBSG to record a building. These are now available as a 15-page document (in pdf format) on our website. If you do not have access to the website and would like a copy of the notes, please send an SAE (A5 or A4 size with a 33p stamp) to Lorraine Moor.

## Thank you!

To Mike Younge at the Ripon Local Studies Research Centre for his help in organising a successful conference review day in September.

To Susan and David Neave for leading a most enjoyable walk around Beverley, culminating in a visit to a fascinating house which may prove to be a medieval open hall and cross wing!

## Membership

Subscriptions for 2003 become due on 1 January – please return the enclosed slip soon if you want to remain on the mailing list and be included in the list of members circulated with *Yorkshire Buildings*. The committee always welcomes your views so if you'd like your opinions or suggestions to be heard please use the optional tick boxes. Very best wishes for the new year (and happy recording!) to all members.

## Notice of AGM

The AGM will be held on Saturday 15 March 2003 at 4.30pm in the Lecture Theatre, York St John College, Lord Mayor's Walk, York. All members of the group are formally invited to attend. If you are unable to attend the AGM and wish to raise any matter, you may do so in writing to the Secretary, David Crook. Please send any nominations for officers or members of the committee to David Crook by Saturday 8 March.

## Next newsheet

Thank you to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. Please send any items for the next newsheet (such as requests for information, events, courses or publications of interest to other members) to the editor by the end of March 2003.

## Yorkshire Buildings

There is just time for budding authors to submit articles for the 2003 edition of the annual journal, *Yorkshire Buildings!* Please contact the editor as soon as possible if you feel inspired to put pen to paper. Even short items welcomed! As always, volunteers to write accounts of YVBSG events during the year for the 2004 journal are encouraged.

## Courses and classes for the spring term

Here are just a few of the daytime and evening classes on offer in the region during the spring term.

### Old East Yorkshire Towns

Tutor: Sam Wood. East Yorkshire has a fine selection of old towns; this course traces their origins and progress. WEA course in Drifffield, Wednesdays 1.30pm-3.30pm from 8 January 2003. Enquiries: Nicole Headley, tel 01482 610833, email nheadley@wea.org.uk.

### Domestic and Vernacular Architecture

Tutor: Warwick Burton. Includes houses of medieval peasants, the Great Rebuilding of the 16th and 17th centuries, and Victorian working-class housing. WEA course in Wigginton, York, Mondays 7pm-9pm from 13 January 2003. Enquiries: Lynda McNeill, tel 01904 764728.

### Avant-Garde British Buildings c1860-c1914

Tutor: Sheila Kirk. Mostly considering domestic architecture, chiefly private houses, but also some small public buildings and churches. WEA course in Thirsk, Tuesdays 2pm-4pm from 14 January 2003. Enquiries: Tony Kaye, tel 01845 522762.

### A History of Beautiful Buildings

Tutor: Peter Rogerson. Examines how and why such buildings were built, their development, and the people and architects who built them. WEA course in Stamford Bridge, Thursdays 7.15pm-9.15pm from 16 January 2003. Enquiries: Tom Wyles, tel 01759 371638, email tom-wyles@supanet.com.

### More Huddersfield Architects and Buildings

Tutor: Albert Booth. This course will continue the study of Huddersfield's fine legacy of buildings. New students welcome. WEA course, to be held in Huddersfield Town Hall, Wednesdays 10am-noon from 29 January 2003. Enquiries: Linda Croft, tel 01422 253020, email lcroft@wea.org.uk.

### University of York Centre for Conservation courses

The University of York Centre for Conservation is running its annual programme of courses which include:

- The study and conservation of historic interiors: 13-15 January 2003, fee £150
- Brick, terracotta and tiles: 20-22 January 2003, fee £150
- The study and conservation of metals in architecture: 3-5 February 2003, fee £150
- The study and conservation of timber: 10-12 February 2003, fee £150
- The study and conservation of earthen structures: 17-18 February 2003, fee £120
- Historic plasterwork: 18-19 February 2003, fee £120

Details from the Graduate Secretary, Dept of Archaeology, University of York, The King's Manor, York YO1 7EP, tel 01904 433963. Website <http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/arch/gsp/openshort/menu.htm>. 50% discount for students.

## 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!

### So Versatile a Stone – History of the Yorkshire Limestone Industry

Saturday 18 January 2003

Talk by John Goodchild, 11am at Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Claremont, 23 Clarendon Road, Leeds LS2 9NZ, tel 0113 245 7910.

### Medieval Houses 1500 to 1750

Thursday 23 January 2003

Lecture to the Local History Section of the Hebden Bridge Literary and Scientific Society by Kathy Fishwick. 7.30pm at Hope Baptist Church, Cheetham Street, Hebden Bridge.

### Wrestlers, Crucks and Mullions

Thursday 13 February 2003

Talk by Andrew Lowe, Conservation Officer for Lake District National Park, to Mourholme Local History Society. 7.30pm in Yealand Village Hall (9 miles north of Lancaster just west of A6). Details from MWright, tel 01524 701258.

### Industrial Revolution in country and town – evidence of buildings

Thursday 20 February 2003

Talk by Dr Paul Barnwell at Olicana History Society, All Saints Church Hall, Church St, Ilkley, 7.30pm.

### Vernacular Buildings of Swaledale

Monday 24 February 2003

Talk by Sue Wrathmell to the Upper Wharfedale Field Society at Grassington. Details from the secretary, Mrs H Dye, tel 01756 752012.

### The History of Thoral Cottage, Thoraby

Wednesday 26 February 2003

Talk by Ann Hartley. Meeting of the Upper Dales Family History Group at Middleham, 2pm to 4pm, £1 at door. Tel 01969 663738 for details.



### National Farm Survey 1941–1943

Saturday 15 March 2003

Talk by Dr Paul Barnwell to the YAS Family History Section at Claremont, 2pm (note that unfortunately this event clashes with the YVBSG day school!).

### Luddenden Valley Walk

Sunday 11 May 2003

A full day looking at buildings and landscape, led by David Cant (this is a fund-raising event for the Yorkshire Archaeological Society). Will probably include a visit to one house and finish at Kershaw House (Grade I listed, 17th century) for tea. Booking via Janet Senior, YAS, Claremont, 23 Clarendon Road, Leeds LS2 9NZ, tel 0113 245 7910. Cost will be about £5 or £6.

### Yorkshire Textile Mills

Saturday 17 May 2003

University of Bradford day school led by Colum Giles, Helen Gomersall and George Sheeran. Further details from 01274 233216/233213, email scu@bradford.ac.uk, or see website <http://www.brad.ac.uk/admin/conted/cfa/dayschools.html> (note that unfortunately this event clashes with the YVBSG annual recording conference!).

### Yorkshire Textiles before the Factories

Wednesday 21 May 2003

Talk by Stephen Counce. Meeting of the Upper Dales Family History Group at Hawes, 7.30pm, £1 at door. Tel 01969 663738 for details.

## Some recent books and articles

**Traditional Buildings of Cumbria** by R W Brunskill. 224p, Cassell, 2002, ISBN 0304357731. Hardback £30. An updated and revised edition of Brunskill's study on vernacular buildings in the Lake District and surrounding areas of Cumbria. In it he discusses and describes various different types of building – large and small houses, cottages, farm buildings, industrial buildings, churches and chapels, urban vernacular architecture – as well as the materials used, different forms of construction and various notable architectural details. The area covered includes Sedbergh and Dent, traditionally part of Yorkshire.

**Historic Houses in Lancashire – The Douglas Valley 1300-1770** by Garry Miller. November 2002, 212pp, paperback, ISBN 0948743050. Published by and available from Heritage Trust for the North West Ltd, Pendle Heritage Centre, Park Hill, Barrowford, Nelson, Lancashire BB9 6JQ, tel 01282 661704. Price £30 including p&p. Looks at historic houses in the Douglas Valley area of Lancashire between Chorley, Wigan and Ormskirk. This area contains a wealth of fascinating buildings, and the author examines both the development of the style of houses – from timber framed to brick and stone buildings – and the lives of the people who built them.

'Winskill in Langcliffe' by Phil Hudson, in **Yorkshire History Quarterly** Vol 6 No 3, February 2001 (published by Hudson History, Procter House, Kirkgate, Settle BD24 9DZ, tel 01729 825773). Not a new publication, but one that might be of interest to those who took part in the visit to Lower Winskill Farm in June 2002.

'King Blocks' in North Craven' by Phil Hudson, in **Yorkshire History Quarterly** Vol 8 No 2, November 2002. An article about 'king block' trusses observed in the Settle area by the North Craven Historical Research Group.

**Dwellings: The Vernacular House Worldwide** by Paul Oliver. October 2002, £35 hardback. 288 pages, Phaidon Press, ISBN 0714842028. A useful survey for understanding how different communities cope with issues that affect everyone who builds, such as climate, migration, symbolic/cultural meaning in architecture, building into an informative document of the ways in which houses are constructed, decorated and inhabited worldwide.



**How Old is Your House?** by Pamela Cunnington. New edition, £9.95 + £1 p&p from Marston House Publishers, Marston House, Marston Magna, Yeovil BA22 8DH, tel 01935 851331.

**Caring for Old Houses** by Pamela Cunnington. New edition, £14.95 + £1 p&p from Marston House Publishers as above.

**The Domesday Book.** Hardback, 1456 pages, ISBN 0141005238, Penguin Books, November 2002, £30. Complete English translation available for the first time in a single volume.

**Complete Streets of Beverley** by David Sherwood. Documents the history, derivation and origins of all Beverley's 1100 streets. Published by East Riding of Yorkshire Council Library & Information Services in association with the Local History Unit, Hull College, 2002. ISBN 1898398593, price £9.95. Available from local bookshops, from East Riding Libraries and from the Local History Unit, Hull College, Park Street, Hull HU2 8RR, tel 01482 598952, website [www.historyofhull.co.uk](http://www.historyofhull.co.uk).

**House History Starter Park** by Nick Barratt. Published by The Public Record Office, November 2002, ISBN 1903365422, £10.99. A booklet and 18 record sheets based on the main house history sources. Contents include: census record sheets; wills record sheet; 1840s tithe appointment survey sheet; 1910 Valuation Office survey sheet; Ordnance Survey summary sheet; estate map sheet; tithe deed sheet; and ownership summary sheet. Available (post free in the UK) from Publications Marketing, Public Record Office, FREEPOST SEA 7565, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4BR, tel 020 8392 5271. 10% off all publications ordered via website <http://www.pro.gov.uk/bookshop>. Also by the same author:

**Tracing the History of Your House** by Nick Barratt. Published by The Public Record Office, 2001, ISBN 1903365228, £12.99. Describes the many sources of information available to the amateur house detective. Available from the PRO (details above).

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## Hearts, circles, diamonds and scrolls

I've written a chapter in *Aspects of Calderdale* (published by Wharnccliffe books, £9.99, ISBN 1-903425-20-4) entitled 'Hearts, Circles, Diamonds and Scrolls' on the external decoration, particularly hoodmould terminals, of the stone seventeenth century houses in Calderdale. I've received quite a bit of support from other YVBSG members, who send me sightings, and I'm collecting examples from other parts of the country. I'd appreciate hearing about any decoration of this sort, and I could supply anyone interested with a list of ones known about already.

David Cant

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## Craven Lime Works project completed

In October 2002 the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority completed a two-year conservation project to preserve the Craven Lime Works. The lime works, north of Settle, was first developed in the mid-nineteenth century. Today the site contains a unique collection of industrial remains, representing the different stages in the development of the lime industry; including a 128 metre long stone built Hoffmann lime kiln – a scheduled ancient monument of national importance. The site is also important for nature conservation.

The recently completed works included the consolidation of the main industrial archaeological features, including the lime kiln and its loading bays. Interpretation panels will help visitors understand the importance of the remains and the area's wildlife habitats. The project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Craven Counts Regeneration Partnership, English Heritage and the European Union. For more information contact the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's Press Office on 01756 752748 or 0780 3238719.

## Correspondents wanted!

The Council for British Archaeology has vacancies for voluntary listed buildings correspondents in various parts of England. In Yorkshire, volunteers are needed for Leeds, the North Yorkshire County Council region, North York Moors, Ryedale, Scarborough, Selby, East Yorkshire, Holderness and Hull.

The volunteers look at listed building applications sent by the planning authorities to the CBA. David Cant has performed the role for some time and reports that volunteers get to see some fascinating places, and the only drawback is the tight turnaround time dictated by the development process.

If you feel that you would like to take an active role in the saving and regeneration of historic buildings in any of the areas mentioned above, please contact Lynne Walker or Carole Barrowclough at the CBA, Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York YO1 9WA, tel 01904 671417, email [buildings@britarch.ac.uk](mailto:buildings@britarch.ac.uk), for details.

## Water corn mills and tithe barns

I am compiling historical records on the *social history* of tithe barns and medieval water corn mills in England and Wales and would urgently like to hear from anyone who can put me in touch with books or papers or individual records which could be said to relate to social history, for example disputes, soke rights, multure, names of owners and tenants particularly with respect to the period before the seventeenth century.

I made enquiries on the British Library Database on the web. The British Library lists only six book titles for tithe barns, one the second edition of another! But they are all concerned with archaeological and architectural history. No record of any records.

For water wheels the bibliography is a tiny bit better. I have had access to possibly half a dozen printed books on water mills/wheels. They, too, give very good descriptions of the development of the mechanical engineering, machines in operation, commercial modern wheels in business/Heritage Sites today; but still historical and documentary references and records are few. Flooding, for instance, was a common problem. Quarrels about soke rights were frequent and fierce. Neurosis about tenure of soke rights was endemic. Various forms of fraud by both miller and customers were a source of constant litigation, often at the County Court.

We have only one record of a water corn mill in Bury, but we are not entirely certain where it is! For tithe barns we have only anecdotal evidence for the town centre, but we are lucky to have a fully-fledged, standing, indeed rather too frequently restored barn (thieves stole the rather nice medieval stone slate roof) in the suburbs, but no historical records.

I would be grateful for any help anyone can offer on this subject.

*Charles Walker, 35 Cromer Road, Brandlesholme, BURY BL8 1ES,  
email [charleswalker56@hotmail.com](mailto:charleswalker56@hotmail.com)*

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## National Monuments Record building searches

Are you interested in finding out more about the history of a certain building? The architectural collections of the National Monuments Record (NMR) contain a wealth of information on the buildings of England. Millions of photographs, some dating from the earliest days of photography, are complemented by measured drawings, surveys and written reports. A wide range of buildings are covered from village churches to cathedrals, rural farm buildings to urban industrial complexes, coal mining cottages to stately homes and prisons.

NMR staff will search the archive on your behalf and will send details of their holdings on a particular building. They aim to reply, subject to demand, within 15 working days of receiving your request. No fee is charged for this service.

For details of how to request a building search, telephone the NMR on 01793 414628. Alternatively, an online request form is available via the English Heritage NMR website (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/nmr> - select *NMR Services*, then *Free Services*).

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## Conservation and craftsmanship

The York Foundation for Conservation and Craftsmanship is offering a number of training bursaries of up to £1250 each. These bursaries are designed to further the knowledge and skills of craftsmen and conservators at various stages of their careers and to assist the taking on of apprentices and trainees. Application details and conditions can be obtained by writing to: The Secretary, YCCC, c/o The Merchant Adventurers Hall, Fossgate, York YO9 1XD or from the Consortium website at [www.conservationyork.org.uk](http://www.conservationyork.org.uk). The closing date for applications is 29 March 2003.

The Foundation is the charitable arm of the York Consortium for Conservation and Craftsmanship, an association of companies, organisations and individuals working in the Yorkshire Region in the field of heritage conservation and associated crafts.

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## VAG 2004

As reported previously, the Vernacular Architecture Group is to hold its 2004 spring conference in Yorkshire. Delegates will visit the North York Moors, York, and the Wolds during the three day conference. Organisation generally is advanced, but some extra assistance with the arrangements for the Wolds day may be needed. Please contact Malcolm Birdsall on 01943 830460 if you are able to help.

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