



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

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

Newsheet No 35

December 2003

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Understanding the Buildings of Estate Villages

Saturday 20 March 2004

The annual day school, to be held this year at Leeds Metropolitan University, Beckett's Park Campus, Leeds, 10am-4.15pm. We hope to follow up the day school with at least one visit later in the year to see some estate buildings *in situ*.



Booking form enclosed; additional booking forms available from Lorraine Moor. The day school will be followed by the Annual General Meeting at about 4.15pm.

### Annual Recording Conference

Friday 14 to Sunday 16 May 2004

To be based in and around Malton, North Yorkshire. Details in the new year.

### Conference Review Day

Sunday 26 September 2004

A review of the buildings recorded during the conference in Malton.

### In the pipeline ...

Other events will be arranged during the year and these will be publicised in future Newsheets.

### Next Committee Meeting

Sunday 8 February 2004

If you'd like to bring any matter to the attention of the Committee, please contact the Secretary, David Crook.

## Notice of AGM

The AGM will be held on Saturday 20 March 2004 at 4.15pm in Lecture Theatre 'C', Leeds Metropolitan University, Beckett's Park Campus, Leeds. 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 13 March.

## Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. Please send items (such as requests for information, or details of events or publications) for the April newsheet to the editor by the end of March 2004.

## Yorkshire Buildings

There is just time for budding authors to submit articles for the 2004 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!

## It's that time again ...

Subscriptions for 2004 become due on 1 January – please return the enclosed slip soon to remain on the mailing list and be included in the list of members circulated with *Yorkshire Buildings*. A very happy new year to all members!

## Tell us more!

As the time of year comes around when you get mugged for another year's subscription, perhaps you might like to know that we – that's the Committee – do really value the help that you give us by letting us know what interests you. Last year we asked you to fill in a series of tick-boxes on the membership form to give us an idea of who were the artists amongst you as opposed (if that's the right word) to those who get itchy fingers at the crackle of a vellum deed. The results were fairly even, except, not really surprisingly, for the relatively few prepared to take on the rather more onerous task of leading teams. Nonetheless, we are very appreciative of the help that those ticks gave us. So now is the time, having looked at what you said, to ask what you really meant! There were some people interested in CAD, as against the more old-fashioned pen and paper drawing, so would you like a day/afternoon looking at how we

might use computerised drawing methods without, with a bit of luck, having to arrange a bank loan to finance the software? This could be linked to laser measuring, just to get you all in the mood for the future. Would the document researchers value advice on what to look for and where to find the most relevant items? Nowadays there are so many places to look for information about a house, its situation, who lived in it and what they did. All of which helps us to inform our estimates about the age of a building and the changes that have been made to it throughout its life.

Or would you simply prefer an informal members' day when you could find out more about the activities of the Group and meet other members? A quick email or a note on the back of your membership renewal form would not fall on ... I was going to write 'deaf ears' but perhaps I should say 'blind eyes'!

Jacky Quarmby

## Some recent books and articles

*Historical Atlas of North Yorkshire* edited by Robin Butlin. October 2003, Smith-Settle. Paperback £20, hardback £30. Describes the physical evidence extant in the landscape today and highlights priorities for future research. Includes many colour maps, photographs and drawings, with sections on 'Vernacular Building Materials' by Alison Armstrong, 'Hebden Township, Upper Wharfedale: a case study' by Heather Beaumont, and 'Field houses of the Yorkshire Dales' by Adam Menuge.

*Rothwell: The Medieval Manor and Manorial Mills*. Published by West Yorkshire Archaeology Service. Detailed study of the timber-framed manor house made at the time of its demolition in 1977, and descriptions of archaeological investigations of Fleet and Rothwell Mills. Available at £5 + 75p p&p from WYAS, PO Box 30, Nephshaw Lane South, Morley LS27 0UG (cheques payable to Wakefield MDC).

*Halls & Manor Houses of North-East Lancashire* by Neil Webster. October 2003, Landmark Publishing (tel 01335 347349). ISBN 184306006X. £19.95 hardback. Includes 98 pen and ink drawings of extant old halls and manors in north-east Lancashire, accompanied by notes on settings and history.

*Ceramic Roofware* by Hans van Lemmen. Shire Publications, October 2003, ISBN 0 7478 0569 5, £4.50. The history, style and production techniques of ceramic roofware from the Middle Ages.

*A Directory of York Pubs 1455-2003* by Hugh Murray. Voyager Publications, November 2003, 256 pages, ISBN 095253925X, £12.95. The development of ale houses, taverns and inns in York.

*Historic Buildings of Essex*, Issue 12, September 2003, published by Essex Historic Buildings Group. Articles include 'Editing Cecil Hewett', 'Outhouse at Gill House - Runsell Green', 'Elms Farm, Thorpe-le-Soken', '12 St Johns Green, Writtle, Essex' and 'Another Look at Shutters'. If you'd like to borrow the YVBSG's complimentary copy, please contact Lorraine Moor.

*Discovering Traditional Farm Buildings* by J E C Peters has been revised and republished by Shire Publications, £4.95.



Steven Wood reports that he has recently made contact with Nigel Morgan who has made a study of housing in Preston in the nineteenth century. Nigel's first book was *An Introduction to the Social History of Housing in Victorian Preston*, Preston Curriculum Development Centre, 1982. He later replaced this book with a three volume work, two of which are published:

- *Vanished Dwellings, Early Industrial Housing in a Lancashire Cotton Town, Preston*. Mullion Books, 1990.
- *Deadly Dwellings, The Shocking Story of Housing and Public Health in a Lancashire Cotton Town, Preston from 1840 to 1914*. Mullion Books, 1993.

A few copies of the former and plenty of copies of the second are available from Nigel Morgan on 01772 716473. Prices are thought to be around £4.95 and £9.95 respectively (prices not confirmed).

The remaining title, *Desirable Dwellings*, is written but unpublished; it covers middle class dwellings in the first half of the nineteenth century. It may be published in due course.

## Whale bone in Yorkshire buildings

I was interested to see Colin Howes' letter in your September Newsheet. The number of instances of the uses of whales' bones as a building material is comparatively rare. Apart from Moorsom's warehouse at Whitby, said to be constructed of jawbones, there are no other examples in Yorkshire beyond those mentioned by Colin.

The only other ropewalk to the one at Thorne in the country to use whales' bones is at Montrose in Angus. Many of the bones survive in situ. There was a jawbone shed, similar to the one at Whitby, but with only four pairs of jawbones, in Liverpool; and the roof of the old blubberhouse at King's Lynn was partly supported by 13 upright jawbones. There was a fascinating summer house at Gillingham, Medway, built entirely out of the bones of a whale stranded nearby in 1888. Sadly none of these survive. A jawbone arch in Oakmere, Cheshire, supported a hut, home to the 'Old Lady of Delamere Forest' in the early 19th century. Most of the other examples, all minor, occurred in far flung places such as Shetland, Orkney, the north of Scotland, and the west of Ireland, where the general absence of trees made the use of whales' bones a practical option.

Note that the jawbones mentioned in the Beck Isle Museum in Pickering originally stood as an arch at the entrance to a field in Swainsea Lane.

There are three separate photographs of the exterior of the Whitby Whale Jaw Shed, and one of the interior, before the roofing was removed.

*Nicholas Redman, 237 Harrowdene Gardens, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 0DP*

- *Whales' Bones of the British Isles* by Nicholas Redman, with over 500 pages and 350 illustrations, is due for publication in early 2004 and has more detail on all Yorkshire's whale bones, as well as those mentioned above.
- Steven Wood of Haworth came across another reference to Yorkshire whale bones: a whale bone arch at a mill dam in the upper Worth valley is mentioned in *Textile Manufacture and other Industries in Keighley* by John Hodgson, 1879.

## Offprints for sale

Looking for an elusive article? Heritage Marketing and Publications Ltd offer archaeological offprints and books for sale. Enquiries: Hill Farm, Unit F, Castle Acre Road, Great Dunham, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE32 2LP, tel 01760 755645, <http://www.heritagemp.com>. Articles currently available include:

- Atkinson F, Aisled Houses in the Halifax Area. *Antiquaries Journal - London* 47 1967. £5.
- Brears P, Clarke Hall Wakefield: architectural innovations in 17th-century West Yorkshire. *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 12 1978. £4.50.
- Hutton B, Timber-framed houses in the Vale of York. *Medieval Archaeology* 17 1973. £4.
- Manby T, Fletcher House Almondbury - A Late Medieval Timber-Framed Building. *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 41 1964. £4.
- Ryder P, Five South Yorkshire Timber Framed Houses. *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 59 1987. £6.50.
- Atkinson F, Yorkshire Miners' Cottages. *Folk Life* 3 1965. £2.50.
- Short P, The Fourteenth-Century Rows of York. *Journal Royal Archaeological Institute* 137 1980. £8.



## 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!

### **Vernacular Architecture in the North-West**

Wednesday 14 January 2004

Talk by Nigel Morgan to Lancaster Civic Society, in Lancaster Town Hall at 7.30pm. Enquiries: John Cousins, tel 01524 67939.

### **Oakwell by Candlelight**

Thursday 22 January 2004 and  
Friday 27 February 2004

On certain winter evenings Oakwell Hall is lit by candles and a buffet of 17th century recipes is served. Admission £11. You are advised to book early, as tickets sell very quickly. Contact Oakwell Hall & Country Park, Nutter Lane, Birstall, Batley, West Yorkshire WF17 9LG, tel 01924 326240.

Otherwise, the Hall is open daily throughout the year: Monday to Friday 11am to 5pm, Saturday and Sunday 12 noon to 5pm, entrance fee £1.40.

### **A Look at Some Historic Buildings in Craven**

Thursday 5 February 2004

Talk by Sue Wrathmell to Skipton & Craven Historical Society. Meet 7.30pm at the Swadford Centre, Swadford Street, Skipton. Enquiries: 01756 791067.

### **Lancashire, A Timber Framed County**

Thursday 12 February 2004

Talk by Nigel Morgan to Whalley & District Historical & Archaeological Society, Meet 8pm in Whalley Abbey, Lancashire. Enquiries: 01254 248437.

### **History & Development of Parceval Hall**

Thursday 19 February 2004

Talk by Keith Hillery to Skipton & Craven Historical Society. Meet 7.30pm at the Swadford Centre, Swadford Street, Skipton. Enquiries: 01756 791067.

### **Georgian Life in Town and Country: Ripon and Studley Royal**

Friday 27 February 2004

University of Bradford Friday morning lecture by George Sheeran. 10.30am, fee £3. Details from University of Bradford, tel 01274 233 210, website <http://www.brad.ac.uk/admin/conted/civic-community/>.

### **Mills and Moors: Keighley and the Central Aire Valley 1700-1900**

Saturday 6 March 2004

University of Bradford day school with Alison Armstrong and George Sheeran. Contact details as above.

### **The Central Pennines: Environment, History and Culture**

Saturday 27 March 2004

University of Bradford day school with panel of speakers. Contact details as above.

### **Playing The House Detective**

Wednesday 7 April 2004

Talk by Nigel Neil to Whalley & District Historical & Archaeological Society, Meet 8pm in Whalley Abbey, Lancashire. Enquiries: 01254 248437.

### **Vernacular Architecture of the Vale of York**

Sunday 25 April 2004

Yorkshire Archaeological Society coach tour with Erik Matthews. Booking via YAS, Claremont, 23 Clarendon Road, Leeds LS2 9NZ, tel 0113 245 7910.

### **Markenfield Hall**

Markenfield Hall, near Ripon, will be open to the public daily 2pm-5pm from 2 to 15 May and 13 to 26 June 2004. Entrance £3, children and concessions £2. For details ring 01765 603 411.

### **Ripon and Studley Royal**

Saturday 19 June 2004

University of Bradford study visit with Paul Jennings and George Sheeran. Contact details as above.

### **Craftsmen in timber and stone: Skilled workers of the 16th and 17th centuries and the houses they built**

Saturday 2 October 2004

Halifax Antiquarian Society day school at Kershaw House, Luddenden, 10am to 4pm. Speakers: Mark Girouard, author currently engaged in research on craftsmen of this period; David Lloyd, author of articles on Ludlow buildings; and David Cant, currently researching building craftsmen of the West Riding. The day includes lunch and a guided tour of Kershaw House, a handsome Calder Valley building. Cost £18. You are advised to book early for this event. Tickets available from early March 2004 by sending an sae to Mrs M P Perks, 34 Manor Heath Road, Halifax HX3 OBE. Cheques payable to Halifax Antiquarian Society.

## Caption Competition!

No newsletter is complete without an occasional caption competition! Pictured here is YVBSG Archivist, Don McLellan, taking a break from maintaining the Group's collection of reports. But what on earth is he up to? A modest prize will be awarded to the wittiest caption sent to the editor (by post or email) by 29 February 2004.



## Learning about ...

Listed below are just a few of the courses on offer during spring and summer 2004 in the region.

### Churches and Chapels on the Yorkshire Coast

Tutor: Geoffrey Morris. The architecture and principal features of buildings of a range of denominations will be analysed from imposing urban parish churches to small rural chapels.

WEA course. Fridays, 6 weeks from 9 January 2004, 2-4pm, at Westborough Methodist Churchrooms, Westborough, Scarborough. Enquiries: Albert Adamson, tel 01723 364373.

### A History of Beautiful Buildings

Tutor: Peter Rogerson. What makes buildings beautiful? This course will allow you to follow their development throughout the ages. Includes a special look at Victorian buildings. Visits to local buildings will also be arranged.

WEA course. Thursdays, 10 weeks from 15 January 2004, 7.15-9.15pm at Stamford Bridge Junior School, Church Road, Stamford Bridge. Enquiries: Tom Wyles, tel 01759 371638, email tom-wyles@supanet.com.

### Searching into the Past

Tutor: Dr. Mary Higham. A series of three day-courses:

*How to Look at Walls*. Friday 30 January 2004, £23.50.

*How to Look at Boundaries*. Friday 12 March 2004, £21.50.

*Place-Names for Local Historians*. Friday 30 April 2004, £21.50.

10am-4pm at Alston Hall College, Alston Lane, Longridge, Preston PR3 3BP, tel 01772 784661, website <http://www.alstonhall.com/>.

### Understanding Dry Stone Walls

Tutor: Tom Lord. During the course you will examine different types and styles of dry stone walls in the vicinity of Malham Tarn including well preserved examples of medieval walls with their distinctive projecting top stones to deter wolves. Factors affecting preservation will be explained and you will be shown how to undertake survey work.

Field Studies Council course at Malham Tarn Centre. Friday 28 May to Sunday 30 May 2004. Residential £140, non-residential £105. For a brochure contact Field Studies Council, tel 01743 852100, <http://www.field-studies-council.org>.

### Building Stones of Ryedale – Part II

Tutor: Richard Myerscough. This course is the second in a series of courses studying the building stones in Northern Ryedale. Previous attendance will be helpful but is not essential. This course looks at: The geology of Northern Ryedale; Identification of building stones; Identification of potential source quarries.

University of Hull course. 4 Tuesdays from 29 June 2004, 7-9pm, at North York Moors National Park Centre, Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley. Includes 2 evening field trips and 2 Saturday field trips. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Hull, tel 01482 465666, email [cll@hull.ac.uk](mailto:cll@hull.ac.uk).

### Archaeology of the Dales

Tutor: Alan King. An introduction to the field archaeology of the Dales to give you an understanding of man's impact on the landscape and the basic interrelationships between geology, soils, changing climate and man. The archaeological monuments, cairns, hut circles and farmsteads still stand above ground level and are therefore easily identified. You will need to be able to walk 4-5 miles per day to reach the sites.

Field Studies Council course at Malham Tarn Centre. Friday 30 July to Friday 6 August 2004. Residential £350, non-residential £263. Contact details as above.

### Looking at Medieval Art in York

Tutor: Allan B Barton. England's cathedrals, parish churches, castles and domestic buildings are a wonderful resource for understanding the lifestyle and interests of medieval English people, as well as being demonstrative of the great skill of English medieval craftsmen. This introductory course looks at medieval craftsmen's workshop methods and examines York's parish churches and also the medieval domestic and civic buildings in the city. A visit to Beverley is included.

University of York residential course. Wednesday 4 to Tuesday 10 August 2004. Fee £500 residential or £350 excluding b&b. Further details from the Centre for Continuing Education on 01904 434628 or email [residential-schools@york.ac.uk](mailto:residential-schools@york.ac.uk).

## Websites worth watching

### Now Then Dewsbury

<http://www.nowthen.org>

Pilot site intended for schools. Information on 19th century family life is accessed via images of buildings on historic maps of Dewsbury.

### The Online House Detective

<http://www.house-detectives.co.uk/>

Website inspired by the BBC TV series 'The House Detectives' and based on the book *Tracing the History of Your House* by Nick Barratt.

### The British Sundial Society

<http://www.sundialsoc.org.uk/>

If you ever come across a sundial whilst recording a building, you might find this website useful!

### Stone Roofing Association

<http://www.stonerroof.org.uk/>

The illustrations from the new publication *English Heritage Transactions Volume 9: Stone Roofing* can be searched here under regional, geological, stone slate, slate making and roof detail sections.



### Wentworth & Warter Estate Villages

If you have time to do some browsing before the day school, try these:

<http://www.wentworthvillage.net>

<http://www.historyfootsteps.net/>

## NMR Review

A fundamental review of the National Monuments Record, the nation's archive of the historic environment (and home to a collection of YVBSG building reports), is being carried out. As part of the review process, a full public consultation is underway and the NMR welcomes responses from organisations and individuals.

If you wish to express your views, copies of the consultation paper are available from Claire Attridge, NMR Review Project Manager, English Heritage, NMRC, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ, tel 01793 414732, or online at website <http://www.nmrreview.org>. The period of consultation will close on 4 February 2004.

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