



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 39

December 2004

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Vernacular Buildings in the Landscape

Saturday 19 March 2005

The annual day school, followed by the AGM, to be held in Leeds. A booking form is enclosed with this Newsheet (additional copies available from Lorraine Moor). The organiser would sleep more easily at night if a reserve speaker could be available in case a scheduled speaker has to withdraw at the last minute – are any members willing to stand by with a relevant short talk already prepared? If so, please contact David Cook. If all goes according to plan on the day and you are not called upon to speak, we may organise an additional event later in the year, perhaps combined with a field visit, to offer members the chance to give presentations if they wish.

### Annual Recording Conference

Friday 13 to Sunday 15 May 2005

To be held in Upperthong (near Holmfirth) in West Yorkshire. A variety of buildings from different periods will be recorded. Details and booking form to follow in the new year. If anyone is interested in taking the opportunity to train as a team leader during the conference, please contact David Cook.



### Richmond Recording Day

Saturday 25 June 2005

A recording day to investigate five or six buildings in the historic centre of Richmond.

### Observation Day in York

Sunday 4 September 2005

An opportunity to learn and practise the skill of observation, by exploring the features of a selection of stone, brick and timber buildings in York.

### Conference Review Day

Sunday 25 September 2005 (provisional)

A day to review the findings of the conference in Upperthong in May.

### Season's Greetings!

Wishing a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members.

### Committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday 13 February 2005. If you'd like to raise any matter, or if you have any suggestions for future events, please contact David Crook.

Liz Reynolds has tendered her resignation from the committee and we thank her for all the work she undertook whilst being a committee member.

### Yorkshire Buildings

Are there any last-minute offerings for *Yorkshire Buildings 2005*? If so, please contact the editor as soon as possible – all contributions welcome.

### Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet – please do continue to send items of interest!

### Notice of AGM

The AGM will be held on Saturday 19 March 2005 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 12 March.

The committee wishes to establish a procedure for electing honorary vice-presidents, who would be members who have performed distinguished and dedicated service to the Group over a long period. The AGM will be asked to approve a change to the constitution to accommodate this procedure.

### Deeper pockets required

We regret that, this year, we are asking you to dig deeper into your pockets than you have done in previous years to remain a member of the Group. Our healthy-looking bank balance disguises a shortfall in income over expenditure for the last couple of years. In particular, the increased costs of printing, photocopying, postage and stationery have rendered it necessary to increase the annual membership fee to £7 per person – and we just hope that you will still think that we are good value at that price! Please return the enclosed renewal form to Jacky Quarmby as soon as possible to ensure that you remain on the membership list.

## Some recent publications

*The Vernacular Workshop: From Craft to Industry, 1400-1900* (CBA Research Report 140) edited by P S Barnwell, M Palmer and M A. M. Mentioned in the last Newsheet as 'forthcoming', this publication is now available and features a photograph of Honley on the cover. It includes two chapters specifically on Yorkshire: 'The Yorkshire textile loomshop: from weaver's cottage to the factory' by Colum Giles and 'Workshops of the Sheffield cutlery and edge-tool trades' by Nicola Wray. £17.50 post-free from York Publishing Services Ltd, 64 Hallfield Road, Layerthorpe, York YO31 7ZQ, telephone 01904 431213, cheques payable to York Publishing Services Ltd.

*Whales' Bones of the British Isles* by Nicholas Redman. In Newsheets 34 and 35 we published correspondence about the use of whale bones in Yorkshire buildings. You may be interested to hear that the above book has now been published as a comprehensive record of the decorative and practical ways in which whales' bones have been used in the British Isles, ranging from chopping blocks, inn-signs and roof supports, to the more familiar jawbone arches. Privately published by Redman Publishing November 2004, ISBN 0-9545800-0-1, available from N B Redman, 237 Harrowdene Gardens, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 0DP, price £35 (£30 + £5 p&p), cheques payable to N B Redman.

*Town Houses & Country Mansions of Whitby* by Alan Whitworth. 200pp, hardback, £35, December 2004. A study of the greater buildings of the seaport and its neighbourhood. Available from Culva House Publications, 10 The Carrs, Sleights, Whitby YO21 1RR, email alan@culvahouse.co.uk, telephone 01947 810819.

### A recommendation ...

I would like to recommend to you a little book I have used for years and found extremely useful. It was designed to help owners restoring old houses, and the first half tells you what to save and what to avoid, but the second half includes 287 photos of building details, mostly internal like ceilings, doors and stairs, which are invaluable to people like us because they are dated. Admittedly the dates are most often approximate, such as 'second quarter of the 19th century' or 'circa 1700', but this is better than can often be found apart, of course, from Linda Hall's superb *Fixtures and Fittings*. The book I refer to is called *House and Cottage Restoration* by Hugh Lander, published by Acanthus Books at Lanner, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 6BS, telephone 01209 217577. It costs £10.95 for the latest edition (2003).

Barbara Hutton

## Learning about ...

### Tracing the History of a Property

Tutor: Susan Wood. This two-day course run by the universities of Sunderland and Newcastle upon Tyne will introduce sources that will allow you to discover the history of a property, including sources relating to ownership and occupancy – census returns, directories, electoral registers, Land Tax, rate books, tithe maps etc. We will also consider how to date your property and establish whether its format has changed over time. Saturdays 12 and 19 March 2005, 10am to 4pm. Cost £25. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning, Joseph Cowen House, Newcastle upon Tyne, telephone 0191 515 2800, website <http://cll.ncl.ac.uk>.

### Building Stones of Ryedale III

Tutor: Richard Myerscough. This course is the third in a series of courses studying the building stones in Northern Ryedale. This course looks at: The geology of Northern Ryedale; Identification of building stones; Identification of potential source quarries. Previous experience helpful but not essential. Two Wednesdays and two evening field trips from 4 May 2005, at North York Moors National Park, Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley. Cost £24.50. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Hull, telephone 01482 465666, website [www.hull.ac.uk/cll](http://www.hull.ac.uk/cll).

## 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!

### The Windmills of Hull

Tuesday 11 January 2005

Session by Geoff Percival at the Family and Local History Lunchtime Club, Hull Screen, Central Library, Albion Street, Hull, from 12.30 to 1.30pm.

### England's Heritage in Stone

Tuesday 15 to Thursday 17 March 2005

Major conference at Tempest Anderson Hall, Yorkshire Museum, York. Cost: £100 for full conference (does not include accommodation), or £40 per day. Talks include *Historical use of building stone in England* by Eric Robinson, *Vernacular buildings in Northamptonshire* by Diana Sutherland, and *Vernacular slate and stone roofs* by Terry Hughes. Also included is a walking tour of York and visits to Selby Abbey and quarries at Tadcaster and Sherburn in Elmet. Further details from Lydia Dumont, The Conference Office, The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BG, telephone 020 7434 9944, website [www.geolsoc.org.uk](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk).

## Websites worth watching

### The National Archives

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

The National Archives was formed in April 2003 by bringing together the Public Record Office and the Historical Manuscripts Commission. The extensive website invites you to subscribe to the free email National Archives Newsletter, as well as offering information and guides on many aspects of documentary research. For the first time, indexes and scans of original documents from the 1891 and 1881 censuses for England and Wales are available. Searching the index is free but you pay a small fee to view the census entry.



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