



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 58

December 2009

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

East Keswick Buildings Event

Sunday 7 February 2010

A joint event to learn more about the buildings of the East Keswick area and look at recent work in other areas by the YVBSG. Everyone welcome but places limited – book soon! Includes a guided walk round the village, talks, optional buffet lunch and tea, and an opportunity to socialise. From 12.15 to 7.30pm – come along for all or just some of the varied activities. A booking form is enclosed with this Newsheet.



Vernacular Buildings of Market Towns and AGM

Saturday 13 March 2010

At the annual day school, to be held again this year at Leeds Metropolitan University Headingley Campus, we will examine the vernacular buildings of market towns in Yorkshire. In addition one paper will look at the work and role of English Heritage in our understanding of these buildings and another will consider what the buildings tell us about the way people lived in the eighteenth century. A booking form is enclosed with this Newsheet.

The YVBSG will hold its AGM immediately after the talks as usual.

Potteries north of Halifax

Sunday 25 April 2010

A 2½ to 3 hour walk with Stuart Crowther looking at potteries in the Halifax area, starting at 10.30am at the Sportsman Inn, off the A647 Bradford to Halifax Road (grid reference SE 093 272). Meals available at the Sportsman. Further details in the next Newsheet.

Annual Recording Conference

Friday 14 to Sunday 16 May 2010

To be held in the East Riding, as part of the 'Timber-Framed Buildings in the Historic East Riding and City of Hull' project. Details with the next Newsheet.

Timber-Framed Buildings in the Thirsk Area

Sunday 4 July 2010

A day looking at buildings with Barry Harrison. Details to follow.

Committee News

We are sorry that Tish Lawson has resigned from the committee because of other commitments. We thank Tish for all the work she has carried out whilst being a committee member, which includes organising a walkabout in Baildon and a recording day in Idle.

Tish's departure leaves a vacancy on the committee. If anyone is interested in becoming a committee member and in having a say in how the group organises itself and its activities, please contact David Crook before the AGM.

Next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday 14 February 2010. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any events please contact David Crook.

Membership renewal

Membership fees for the calendar year 2010 become due on 1 January. We hope that you will renew your membership by returning the enclosed form to Jacky Quarmby at your earliest convenience.

*We wish all members a very
Happy New Year and much
successful building recording
for 2010!*

Some current work in Richmond

At the beginning of October we started the recording work for a block of houses at Anchor Hill in Richmond. I was joined by three members of the Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Vernacular Buildings Study Group which was formed in 2007 (see www.swaledalemuseum.org/vernacular.html). We were a little short handed so we were only able to look at one house. There are another four to look at and at the moment I am in the process of organising the next visit. The house we did look at was interesting. It had got into a terrible state before the current owners took it over. The roof had to be rebuilt but as part of the rebuild the owners kept pieces of the single original truss in place. There is also an original stair turret at the back of the house. The Swaledale group members did a good job recording the ground floor plan plus various bits and pieces. One of the other buildings, to be recorded, has got some relocated crucks which might be of interest to people.

Dave Crook

Updates from members on work in progress are always welcome – please send to the Newsheet editor at any time.

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!

Gayle Mill Demonstration Days

First Sunday of every month

Special two-hour sessions at 11am and 2.30pm demonstrating historic water-power and woodworking machinery at Gayle Mill, Wensleydale. Find out about the kinds of wooden items that used to be made at the Mill and watch some of them being made. Adults £10, children £5 (including light refreshments). Enquiries: 01969 667320, www.gaylemill.org.uk.

Slides of Old Sedbergh and Area

Wednesday 6 January 2010

Illustrated talk by Richard Cann to Sedbergh and District History Society, 7.30pm at Settlebeck High School. £2. Enquiries: Elspeth Griffiths, telephone 015396 20677.

Early water mills in Saddleworth

Saturday 9 January 2010

Talk by Mike Buckley to YAS Industrial History Section, 11am at Claremont, 23 Clarendon Road, Leeds, LS2 9NZ. During the 18th century, hundreds of water powered textile mills appeared along the River Tame in the Saddleworth area. Prior to this, manorial mills existed and the talk explores evidence of their existence. Enquiries: telephone 0113 2457910, web www.industrialhistory.yas.org.uk.

Civil War, Brontes and the Mysterious Batts – The story of Oakwell Hall

Wednesday 13 January 2010

An illustrated talk by Senior Museums Officer Eric Brown, 1pm at the Light Reading Room, Huddersfield Library. Enquiries: Pam Riding, telephone 01484 221965.

The Buildings of Hebden Bridge

Wednesday 13 January 2010

Talk by Alan Petford to Hebden Bridge Local History Society, in Hebden Bridge Methodist Hall, Market Street at 7.30pm. We investigate the rich variety of building in Hebden Bridge, from eighteenth century chapel to late nineteenth century railway architecture, including the fascinating diversity of houses built for ordinary people. Enquiries to the Secretary, Mrs. Diana Monahan, telephone 01422 845982, web www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk.

Mythological Creatures and Symbolism in a Medieval Minster

Wednesday 13 January 2010

Talk by Toria Forsyth-Moyer, Ripon Cathedral's Heritage Project Manager. Focusing on the medieval stone and wood carvings Toria will use a multiple of disciplines – including history, palaeontology, anthropology and depth psychology – to explain the gargoyles, monsters, and other mythological creatures that can be found in Ripon Cathedral. Also enjoy a guided tour of the Cathedral. 2pm, free. To book, contact Harrogate Museums and Arts, telephone 01423 556188, web www.harrogate.gov.uk/harrogate-1406.



Stone in Calderdale

Friday 15 January 2010

Talk by Margaret Usher to Halifax Civic Trust at Oddfellows Hall, Coleridge Street, Halifax at 7.30pm. A highly entertaining 'must' for all lovers of the built environment. Fee £5. www.halifaxcivictrust.org.

Building stones in Scarborough

Monday 8 February 2010

Talk by Professor Pete Rawson to Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society at 7.30pm in the Concert Room, Central Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. Fee £2. Enquiries: Kate Flounders, Secretary SAHS, telephone 01723 374973, web www.scarborough-heritage.org.

Vernacular architecture

Thursday 11 February 2010

Talk by Don McLellan to Skipton and Craven Historical Society at the Swadford Centre, Swadford Street, Skipton at 7.30pm. Fee £2. Enquiries: Mr D Grant, c/o YAS, Claremont, 23 Clarendon Road, Leeds LS2 9NZ.

Tour of Ripley Hotel De Ville

Wednesday 17 February 2010

Illustrated talk and tour exploring the history and recent refurbishment of this intriguing building with Andy Herrington of Ripley Hotel de Ville. 2pm, cost £3. To book, contact Harrogate Museums and Arts, details above. Payment for charging events is requested as soon as possible, and at least a month in advance, in order to guarantee a place.

The Buildings of the Settle to Carlisle Railway

Thursday 18 February 2010

Talk by Don McLellan to Olicana Historical Society at All Saints Church House, Church Street, Ilkley, 7.30pm. Guests £2. Enquiries: Ron Samuel, telephone 01943 601160. Website www.ilkley.org/clubs/ohis.htm.

A new look at Hull's historic buildings

Wednesday 3 March 2010

Talk by Dr David Neave to Cottingham Local History Society in The Red Hall at Hallgate Primary School at 7.30pm. Enquiries to the Chairman, Peter McClure, telephone 01482 848014 or Secretary, Pat Elliott on 01482 842661.

A Career in Ruins

Monday 8 March 2010

Talk by Andrew Lowe to Kirkby Lonsdale Civic Society. The title refers to Andrew's career as Conservation Officer for the Lake District National Park for over 30 years. It will be informative and amusing with marvellous slides. 7.30pm at The Institute, New Road, Kirkby Lonsdale. Web www.communigate.co.uk/lakes/kirkbylonsdaledistrictcivicsociety.

New findings on Harlsey Castle, Northallerton

Tuesday 9 March 2010

Talk by Erik Matthews to Northallerton and District Local History Society, 7pm at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Hall, Thirsk Road, Northallerton. To be followed by a guided tour of Harlsey Castle on Tuesday 9 June. Enquiries: NDLS secretary, John Sheehan, on 01609 771878, or see website www.northyorkshistory.co.uk.

Penistone: from market town to industrial town

Monday 22 March 2010

Lecture by David Hey to South Yorkshire Industrial History Society/Barnsley Council at Cooper Gallery, Church Street, Barnsley at 7pm.

YVBSG publicity at events

The YVBSG has been out and about recently, with publicity displays at various events including the York Archaeology and History Book fair on 10 October, the 'New Research into the History of Yorkshire' conference on 7 November, and the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service Annual Day School on 14 November.

What went on at recent YVBSG events ...

Conference Review Day

A well-attended Conference Review Day took place in Carlton-in-Coverdale on Sunday 27 September 2009. In the morning, presentations on the buildings recorded earlier in the year highlighted some unique or unusual features, such as a particularly well-preserved dairy at The Moorcock, nicely fitted out with stone shelves and wooden ventilation slats. Some features common to several buildings were noted, for example wide stone staircases with a rounded bottom step. The presentations were followed by a walk round the village in the afternoon, with the opportunity to visit some of the buildings and see in situ the features discussed, including round chimney stacks and spiral kneelers. Thanks go to the householders and to David Cook, Isobel Jenkins, Elaine Joynes and everyone else involved in making the arrangements.



Long Preston Vernacular Buildings Training Day

On Saturday 17 October 2009 several members got together with the Long Preston Heritage Project for a study day on vernacular buildings, which followed a similar format to the day held in April at East Keswick. In the morning, a talk by Alison Armstrong on why and how we record vernacular buildings was followed by a local history overview of Long Preston by Tony Stephens. Kath Lord then described the recent conversion of a village barn into a desirable dwelling. Once again, Bob Greaves' models of timber trusses and joints were on display and much admired. The afternoon saw a guided tour looking at village buildings, with a close inspection

of Maypole Barn and the opportunity to observe (and take part in) the recording of the barn. Participants reported later that they were amazed at what they could learn in a barn! We hope to maintain the relationship with Long Preston and carry out more recording in the village in the future.

Further information about Long Preston can be found on the village website at www.longpreston.info.

A recent publication, *Take a Closer Look at Long Preston* by Phil and Rita Hudson, March 2009, describes many of the vernacular houses in a walk around the village, with old and new black and white photographs. Available at £4.50

(+ 50p p&p) from Hudson History, Procter House, Kirkgate, Settle BD24 9DZ, telephone 01729 825773. A donation of 25p from each book sold goes to the North Craven Historical Research Group, whose members contributed to the research.



Buildings and the Building Process in Guisborough before the Industrial Age



Members were offered a fascinating insight into the buildings of Guisborough on Sunday 18 October 2009, when Barry Harrison, Jacky Quarmby and Joyce Williams led a guided walk round the town. Their



extensive research has enabled them to trace the history of the original plots and of the buildings located on them, and we spent several enjoyable hours exploring these plots and wandering around the paths and back lanes of the town to catch glimpses of the backs of the buildings. We thank Barry, Jacky and Joyce, and also Roger Darnton, curator of Guisborough Museum, who contributed much useful information on the day.

We were joined in Guisborough by a journalist who intends to write an article for *The Dalesman* about the YVBSG. The publication date is not yet known but you might like to look out for it in the coming months!

Courses on vernacular architecture and building history

A few courses forthcoming in the new year, both within the region and further afield ...

English Vernacular and Domestic Architecture

The story of the humble dwellings of peasants, workers and the middle classes, from prehistoric to Medieval, Victorian and modern. Includes a field trip.

Tutor: Warwick Burton. Ten Tuesdays from 5 January 2010, 7pm-9pm at Dunnington Sports & Social Club, Common Road, Dunnington, York. Fee £58. Run by WEA Dunnington And Grimston Branch, Yorkshire and Humber Region, telephone 0113 245 3304.

The Vitality of the English Country House

This course will look at how, and why, the country house evolved – who were the owners, the builders, how they were paid for and its dependent community. Yorkshire has a wealth of examples to study in all shapes, sizes and periods.

Tutor: Anthony Powell. 10 Wednesdays from 6 January 2010, 2pm-4pm at Robert Craven Memorial Hall, Old Lane, Bramhope, Leeds. Fee £61. Run by WEA Leeds Branch, Yorkshire and Humber Region, telephone 0113 245 3304.

Tracing the History of Your House

Do you live in an old property? This course will provide you with the knowledge and skills to establish its date, reveal substantive changes to its structure and identify occupants.

Tutor: Sue Wood. Friday 19 to Sunday 21 February 2010. Residential £180, non-residential £120. Enquiries: Higham Hall College, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9SH, telephone 017687 76276, www.highamhall.com.

House History Day School

Find out about the history of your house or an ancestor's – houses need not be local to the area.

Tutor: Jacqueline Depelle. Saturday 27 March 2010, 10.30am-3pm at Bradford Industrial Museum. Standard fee £18. Run by WEA Bradford Branch, Yorkshire and Humber Region, telephone 0113 245 3304.

How to Read a Building

To be able to unpick a building's history you need to know not only about the different architectural styles but also about how builders changed and adapted buildings. Your tutor explains this secret life of buildings.

Tutor: Philip Wilkinson. Sunday 9 May 2010. Fee £55. Enquiries: Farncombe Estate, Broadway, Worcestershire WR12 7LJ, telephone 01386 854100, web www.farncombeestate.co.uk.

The Tower Works, Leeds

YVBSG member Adrian Bailey brings to our notice the recently-started regeneration of Tower Works, Holbeck, Leeds – not a vernacular building but interesting nonetheless! During the summer the Black Dogs artist collective (www.black-dogs.org) organised guided 'Tower Walks' taking in viewpoints of the Italianate towers of this former factory. Information about the building can also be found at www.holbeckurbanvillage.co.uk/history/tower-works.htm.

Yorkshire Buildings

As promised in the May Newsheet, we're now catching up with the delayed publication schedule for *Yorkshire Buildings*, and if you were a member in 2006 or 2007 you will find the appropriate editions enclosed with this Newsheet. No 34 is the final one to be produced by me; No 35 is the first produced by our new Publications Team which includes members with professional experience in illustrating and laying out publications. A new software package, Adobe InDesign, has been purchased to produce the new-look *Yorkshire Buildings*, which I'm sure you'll find to be much improved. If you'd like to discuss contributions to a future edition, please contact David Cant in the first instance, or email editor@yvbsg.org.uk.

Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet, and in particular to Kevin Illingworth, David Cant and Simon Green for continuing to keep me informed of what's happening on the far west and east sides of the county. The next edition will be in February – please send items to the editor by 31 January 2010.

Eight figures please!

A reminder to all report-writers that each report should include an *eight-figure* grid reference for the building (for example, TA 0345 3978) as our database is set up to take eight digits rather than just six. Thank you!

Contacting the Archivist

Our Archivist, Malcolm Birdsall, has now moved to the new address shown at the bottom of this page. All completed reports and other correspondence should be sent to this new address. At the time of writing Malcolm does not yet have a telephone number, but his email address remains the same as previously. We wish Malcolm and his partner Pam all the best in their new home in Derbyshire.

Recent books

Yorkshire West Riding: Leeds, Bradford and the North by Peter Leach and Nikolaus Pevsner. Pevsner Architectural Guides/Buildings of England, October 2009. This volume, the first of two for the area, covers the northern half of the West Riding from the outskirts of York to the edge of the Lake District. It is full of contrasts, from the urbanised landscape of Leeds and Bradford to their hinterland of mill-towns and villages pushing into the Pennines. There can be found the highly distinctive houses of the seventeenth-century minor gentry, and the substantial yeoman farmers and clothiers. To the north-west are the Yorkshire Dales; to the east are Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal, Ripon and Harrogate, and the agricultural 'broad acres' beyond. Normal price £29.99.

Also published this year is *Lancashire: North* by Clare Hartwell. Pevsner Architectural Guides/Buildings of England, February 2009. The landscapes range from Morecambe Bay and the Forest of Bowland in the north to the coastal flatlands and Pennine mill towns in the south, and to Lancaster with its fine Georgian buildings. Normal price £29.99.

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