



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 78

December 2014

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Annual Day School and AGM

Saturday 14 March 2015

Annual day school on the theme *Early Town Buildings and their Constructional Materials*. The venue is the Headingley campus of Leeds Beckett University – note that this is the same venue as in previous years, but it has changed its name from Leeds Metropolitan University. The day school will report on findings to date in the Beverley Project, review previous work in the town, and look at findings from similar projects in other English towns. Booking form enclosed with this Newsheet and also available on the website.

### Annual Recording Conference

Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May 2015

Annual conference in Beverley in conjunction with the *Early Fabric of Beverley* project. Full details in the February Newsheet.

### In the pipeline ...

Kevin Illingworth hopes to arrange two visits for the YVBSG in 2015. One will be to a seventeenth century house near Bradford, which has two cross-wings (listed grade II\*). Details of these and other events to follow.

### Beverley Project



The Nottingham Tree-ring Dating Laboratory has been selected by English Heritage for the dendrochronology work on the 'A' list of buildings in Beverley. The process starts with a visit by the dendrochronologists to assess the historic timbers where they look for characteristics that determine their suitability for sampling. On 10 and 11 November, they assessed ten buildings in the town, leaving only three to be arranged for a later date. Then follows the selection of targets for sampling. Naturally we are hoping that all our buildings have suitable targets for sampling, but there are practical and technical reasons why this might not be the case. Once sampling has been completed, interim results of successful samples are made available within a few weeks. The reports normally follow a few months later.

I hope to be able to reveal the interim results from the first batch of buildings to be sampled at the day school on 14 March 2015 in Leeds.

Documentary research on the buildings is progressing. We also hope to arrange some surveys in addition to those planned for the Annual Recording Conference in Beverley on 16 May 2015.

Finally, we will be arranging some training in recording timber framing to be delivered by English Heritage experts, hopefully in the first half of 2015. Look out for details in February's Newsheet.

David Cook

### Change of Treasurer – thank you, Jacky and Sue!

As Jacky Quarmbly, who has efficiently managed the Group's finances and membership for nearly twenty years, has decided to stand down, we are pleased to announce that Sue Southwell, who recently joined the committee, is taking over. Thank you Sue for stepping into this role, and a special thanks to Jacky for all the work she has done in keeping us on an even keel. Jacky will be remaining on the committee.

### Reports online!

We're pleased to report that, from now onwards, we will make building reports available online to members via a link in the Members' Area of the website. This takes you to the Dropbox account where the reports are stored; you can then view them or download them in pdf format. We hope that this will prove to be a useful resource for members.

The password to the Members' Area will change in January and you'll receive the new details with your membership card (or for a reminder send an email at any time to [webmaster@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@yvbsg.org.uk)).

### Committee meeting

Our next committee meeting is on Sunday 8 February 2015. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any events please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

*We wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

### Membership renewal

Membership fees for the calendar year 2015 become due on 1 January; the price remains at £10. We hope you will keep up your membership by returning the enclosed form to Sue Southwell at your earliest convenience!

### Next Newsheet

Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in February 2015 – please send any items of interest to members (events, new books, queries, comments) to the editor by 31 January 2015.

## Report on recent events

### Osmotherley and Mount Grace Priory

Members met in Osmotherley on Sunday 7 September 2014 for a day of walks and visits organised by Barry Harrison. Barry started by outlining the history of Osmotherley, formerly noted for its linen weaving. This was a village of handloom weavers - not as part of a dual economy as in the Pennines, but rather as a full-time occupation. Some flax was grown locally in back garths but not in any great quantity, most of it being imported from the continent, initially from Holland and later the Baltic. Handloom weaving was not a cottage industry here but instead was carried out in shops or small factories. Employees worked for the yeoman owners; the pay was poor and the days were long. The flax trade in general contracted in the 1820s, but not in this area where it continued up to the end of the nineteenth century and beyond at Brompton, Osmotherley and Hutton Rudby. The only other major industry, which lasted for just a short time, was jet mining.

During the walk around the village we noted early terraces of industrial houses, dating from the early 1820s. Other houses had been subdivided to create informal terraces. All were built of the local sandstone and most appeared to be one-room deep with no

protrusions. Gable entries were spotted - or were they the remains of cross-passage houses? A number of mid to late eighteenth century two-unit central entry houses were also observed. The Methodist Chapel of 1754, together with one or two other houses, has a form of 'tumbled' gable but in stone rather than the more usual brick.

A back lane enclosing very short tofts gave access to the fields. Barry pointed out several former loom shops (see photo right); no long weavers' windows were in evidence as linen weaving did not appear to require much light.

After lunch we moved on to Mount Grace Priory to visit the former monasterial gatehouse which was rebuilt as a dwelling by the Lascelles family in 1654. Of primary interest here were the seventeenth century staircase and the truncated principal rafter roof trusses which are easily visible in the attic rooms, and on which could be seen carpenters' marks and burn marks.

The rest of the day was spent in Hutton Rudby, a village similar in size to Osmotherley. Hutton Rudby had a reputation for high quality linen, but moved to sailcloth manufacture in the nineteenth century; its location was handy for the ports and the Stockton shipyards and this industry continued

until the days of the sailing ship came to an end.

The cross-passage plan continued for a long time in this area. No lobby entry plans appear to exist before the nineteenth century; instead an arrangement was adopted whereby two flues from fireplaces on each side of a cross-passage unite over the passage, and we saw a such a layout at 33 West End, dated 1745. Cobble walling can be seen in the village, the cobbles presumably having been collected from local fields. Sometimes the walling texture is almost like mud reinforced by cobble or stone - was this an intermediate form of building between mud and brick construction?

Our thanks go to Barry for organising and leading a pleasurable and interesting day.

*Lorraine Moor*



### Conference review day

On Sunday 28 September a group of YVBSG and Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group members, together with householders, met to hear about the buildings recorded during the annual conference held in May. These buildings were Wheelwright Cottage and workshop, Wardses Cottage and barn, Low Branthwaite and barn, and Croosedale Beck Farmhouse (all in the Sedbergh area) and Flintergill House and The White House, Flintergill (both in Dent). Following a buffet lunch kindly provided by local residents, we set off across the fields for a walk led by Kevin Lancaster, looking at some of the more isolated farmhouses around Sedbergh. We are grateful to Mike Kingsbury and his team for arranging this enjoyable day.

## Historic Farm Buildings Group conference 2014

The HFBG held its autumn conference in Lancashire on 19-21 September 2014, with around 25 participants from various parts of the country. The weekend was based in Downham, an attractive village situated on the north side of Pendle Hill about three miles from Clitheroe. The village is still largely in the ownership of Lord Clitheroe, who allows no overhead wires, aerials or satellite dishes, making it a popular location for period films. The programme for Saturday included a coach tour of the Downham Hall estate farms. The earliest building on the estate is the seven-bay aisled barn at Home Farm, dating from the seventeenth century. The aisle posts stand on stylobates of roughly dressed sandstone of various heights, with the shortest stylobates (and longest posts) being used near to the large central cart entrance.

Sunday morning offered two contrasting (and very large) barns: the aisled Great Barn at Gawthorpe Hall (National

Trust) and the hugely impressive cruck barn at Hall Barns Farm, Stonyhurst. After lunch, a visit to Little Mearley Hall Farm near Worston gave us a tantalising glimpse of the exterior of the late sixteenth century farmhouse with its two-storey semi-octagonal bay window relocated from nearby Sawley Abbey as well as a small dairy window ... but we were there primarily to explore the farm buildings, not the house!

A number of talks were presented during the conference. Nigel Neil outlined twenty years of planning-condition surveys in Lancashire and showed illustrations of possible bank barns and other farm buildings. Joan Grundy spoke about Lancashire dairy farming and its buildings from the seventeenth to twentieth centuries - a very informative talk which explained the development of Pennine shippens. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries many of these were located in the gable end of a barn and had three external

doors in a row across the gable, those at each end being for the cattle to enter and the central one to give access to the feeding passage. The cattle faced the central passage and food was put onto the floor from buckets rather than in mangers or troughs. As the demand for milk increased, more accommodation was needed for cows so typically extensions were added to barns, often as lean-to outshuts. Nineteenth century improvements included larger windows, the raising of lofts, deeper steps for hygiene and ventilated slits in doors. In the improved shippens, cattle faced outwards, back-to-back, thereby losing the central feeding passage which was often replaced by a raised walkway. Lofts were underdrawn and boskins were built in concrete. The two outer gable doors were often blocked.

A local feature in farm buildings in this area is the use of short lengths of rafter running from purlin to purlin rather than down the entire height of the roof; this may have been a sign that good timber was in short supply here. Another local custom was the use of material other than straw for animal bedding, such as shoddy, cotton waste or bracken; corn was not grown in this area. Regarding vernacular terminology, it was interesting to note that participants from other parts of the country were unfamiliar with some of our more northern words such as laithe, boskin, skelbuse and foddergang.

This informal, friendly and enjoyable conference was very efficiently organised by Les Hardy. Before leaving, Les recommended paying a visit to the unique gents public toilets which are housed in a refurbished agricultural building in the village, each former animal stall now containing a couple of urinals with its own gate (pictured right). If any of the local residents happened to be watching they may have been somewhat concerned to see occasional lone females loitering outside to make sure that the building was empty, then slipping inside ...



Lorraine Moor

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## Appeal for volunteers

Keen amateur historians are needed at an East Riding country house. Sewerby Hall near Bridlington has recently re-opened to visitors after a major restoration as an Edwardian country house, and is looking for volunteers to help with projects like developing ideas for exhibitions, guided tours, cataloguing and recording display items and developing the archive. For further details or an application form, please contact Sewerby Hall curator Janice Smith, [janice.smith@eastriding.gov.uk](mailto:janice.smith@eastriding.gov.uk) or 01262 677874.

## YAS archive move

The Yorkshire Archaeological Society plan to move their archives from Claremont to the University of Leeds Brotherton Library during February and March 2015. In preparation for this, they decided to close the archives from October this year, so the archives will not now be available for consultation until next April. This includes our public archive of YVBSG reports; if you need to consult any reports during the closure period please contact David Cant.

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## Spring term courses

### An Introduction to Buildings Archaeology

This course provides an art historical and archaeological understanding of building construction and evolution to enable students to research, record, analyse and interpret a range of historic buildings ranging from vernacular dwellings to ecclesiastical and industrial structures.

Tutor: Emma Wells. Six Wednesdays from 21 January 2015, 7-9pm, fee £40.50. Enquiries: University of York Centre for Lifelong Learning, telephone 01904 328473, [www.york.ac.uk/lifelonglearning](http://www.york.ac.uk/lifelonglearning).

### Medieval Homes: Domestic Comforts

The focus of this course is the medieval home, focusing on furniture, soft furnishings and kitchen equipment. We will examine several probate inventories and compare rural and urban homes.

Tutor: Louise R Wheatley. A one-day course on Saturday 28 February 2015, 9.30am-4.30pm, fee £35. Enquiries: University of York as above.

## Publications

*Cabbages & Kings: Saturday Market, Beverley* by Barbara English, Ann Bennett and Susan Neave. 2014, ISBN 978-0-9513966-4-3, £6, published by Beverley Civic Society and Georgian Society for East Yorkshire. Produced as part of a Georgian Festival organised in 2014 to celebrate the 300th birthday of the Market Cross. Concentrates on Saturday Market especially in the eighteenth century but also brings the story up to date, including a chapter by Susan Neave on 'Now and Then: the Buildings of Saturday Market'.

*The East Anglian Cottage* by Trevor Yorke. 2014, £6.95. This is the first in a series investigating the history, construction, interiors and gardens of English cottages. Members might be interested to know that the author's website at [www.trevoryorke.co.uk](http://www.trevoryorke.co.uk) includes a selection of water colours and pencil sketches from his books, which you can download for personal use (quoting the reference [www.trevoryorke.co.uk](http://www.trevoryorke.co.uk) when publishing online).

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## Request for speaker

The Bolsterstone Archaeology and Heritage Group is looking for a speaker on vernacular buildings, ideally those in that part of the country. Bolsterstone is about ten miles north-west of Sheffield; a recent visit by some members to a cruck barn in the locality has fired interest. The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month and the date they have in mind is 16 September 2015 (<http://bolsterstoneheritage.weebly.com/>). If you can help, please contact David Cant.

## Historic maps online

The National Library of Scotland has made available over 91,000 online maps of Scotland and beyond (including England!). See their website at <http://maps.nls.uk/> for details.

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## Thank you!

We thank member Nick Nelson for running a YVBSG stand at the International Medieval Congress held in Leeds in July.

## 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!

### **Bishop's House, 500 years of a Derbyshire farmhouse**

Friday 5 December 2014

Talk by Ken Dash to the Hunter Archaeological Society, 7.30pm at Horizon Methodist Church, Ecclesall Road, Sheffield. Details at website <https://sites.google.com/site/hunterarchaeologicalsociety>.

### **Yuletide at The Folly, Settle**

Saturday 6 December 2014

Mulled wine and mince pies and a last chance to look round this year's exhibitions. 10am to 12 noon, free entry, refreshments £3.50. [www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/events/](http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/events/).

### **Christmas at Ryedale Folk Museum**

6 and 7 December 2014

Annual festive weekend with stalls and more! Free entry for all. 10am-3.30pm. [www.ryedalefolkmuseum.co.uk](http://www.ryedalefolkmuseum.co.uk).

### **Shandy Hall by Candlelight**

6, 7, 13 and 14 December 2014

Experience Christmas in Laurence Sterne's 18th century country parsonage at Coxwold. Candlelit rooms and a tour of the house seeing parts of the Hall not normally open to the public. Tours at 4pm, £15. Telephone 01347 868465, web [www.laurencesterne.net](http://www.laurencesterne.net).

### **From a Yorkshire Glossary: the wonderful world of words**

Wednesday 10 December 2014

Talk to Wakefield Historical Society by George Redmonds, author of many books on place names and surnames. 7.30pm at the Orangery, Back Lane, Wakefield WF1 2TG. Visitors £2. Details at [www.wakefieldhistoricalsoc.org.uk](http://www.wakefieldhistoricalsoc.org.uk).

### **Mince Pie Walk**

Sunday 14 December 2014

North Craven Heritage Trust walk. Meet Langcliffe (near Settle) Village Hall car park at 2pm, then Manor House Farm (a building of interest) at 3pm. £2. [www.northcravenheritage.org.uk](http://www.northcravenheritage.org.uk).

### **Where are the medieval buildings?**

Monday 15 December 2014

A talk by Alison Armstrong to Ingleborough Archaeology Group on what local dendrochronology results have revealed. 7.30pm at Ingleton Community Centre. Website [www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk](http://www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk).

### **Farmsteads in Focus**

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 January 2015

VAG winter conference in Leicester, held in association with the Historic Farm Buildings Group, looking at the way in which economic changes and technical innovation affected the appearance, construction and planning of both the farmhouse and the farm buildings. Open to members and guests only: see [www.vag.org.uk](http://www.vag.org.uk).

### **Architectural Investigations: English Heritage, Historic England and Yorkshire**

Wednesday 21 January 2015

Talk by Simon Taylor of EH to Yorkshire Architectural and York Archaeological Society, 7.30pm in the Friends Meeting House, Friargate, York. Details at [www.yayas.org](http://www.yayas.org).



### **Patterns in the Landscape – the evolution of settlement and enclosure in the Upper Calder Valley**

Wednesday 28 January 2015

Talk by Nigel Smith to Hebden Bridge Local History Society, 7.30pm at Hebden Bridge Methodist Hall. This talk considers the evidence for the origins of settlement and its associated enclosures in the valley. [www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk](http://www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk).

### **Growing up in Sowerby**

Wednesday 11 February 2015

Talk by Jean Illingworth to Hebden Bridge Local History Society, 7.30pm at Hebden Bridge Methodist Hall. A look at Sowerby and the historic buildings lost with the building of corporation housing estates. [www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk](http://www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk)

### **Buildings and Landscapes of the Vale of Pickering**

Wednesday 18 February 2015

Talk by Nigel Copsey to Ryedale Family History Group, 7.30pm in Old Malton War Memorial Hall, Town Street, Old Malton. Enquiries: 01653 628132, [www.ryedalefamilyhistory.org](http://www.ryedalefamilyhistory.org).

### **Barnsley History Day**

Sunday 22 February 2015

Annual event at Barnsley Town Hall, 10am to 3pm. Stalls and displays from over forty local heritage groups and organisations, along with activities and talks. Telephone 01226 773950 to book a stall. [www.experience-barnsley.com](http://www.experience-barnsley.com).

### **Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century Houses of the Huddersfield Area**

Monday 23 February 2015

Talk by David Cant to Huddersfield Local History Society, 7.30pm at Heritage Quay, Huddersfield University. Details on website [www.huddersfieldhistory.org.uk](http://www.huddersfieldhistory.org.uk).

### **Wakefield and its Buildings**

Thursday 26 February 2015

Talk by Dr Ian Adams to Skipton and Craven Historical Society, 7.30pm at the Swadford Centre, Skipton. Enquiries: 01756 794534.

### **The Castle Dairy at Kendal**

Thursday 26 February 2015.

Talk about one of Kendal's oldest buildings by Dan Elsworth to Lancaster Archaeological & Historical Society. 7.15pm at St Paul's Hala Centre, Lancaster. [www.archaeologyuk.org/lahs/LAHS.htm](http://www.archaeologyuk.org/lahs/LAHS.htm).

### **The Vernacular Architecture of the East Riding**

Monday 2 March 2015

Talk by David Neave to Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society, 7.30pm in the Concert Room, Central Library, Scarborough. Visitors £2. [www.scarborough-heritage.org](http://www.scarborough-heritage.org).

### **Traditional Farm Buildings in Upper Ribblesdale**

Thursday 12 March 2015

Talk by David Johnson to Burnley Local History Society. 7.15pm at the New Church, Briercliffe Road, Burnley. [www.burnleyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.burnleyhistoricalsociety.com).

### **Ships Timbers?**

Monday 23 March 2015

Talk by David Cant to Upper Wharfedale Field Society, 7.30pm at the Octagon Theatre, Grassington. [www.upperwharfedalefieldsociety.co.uk](http://www.upperwharfedalefieldsociety.co.uk). (This talk is likely to be repeated in Halifax in either February or April but date not confirmed yet.)

**Chair and Archivist:** David Cant, 3 Middle Hathershelf, Luddendenfoot, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX2 6JQ. Tel 01422 883846, email [chairman@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:chairman@yvbsg.org.uk)  
**Secretary:** Mary Cook, 12 Annand Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4ZD. Tel 01325 310114, email [secretary@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@yvbsg.org.uk)  
**Treasurer/Membership Secretary:** Sue Southwell, 2 Water End, Brompton, Northallerton DL6 2RL. Tel 01609 776863, email [treasurer@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@yvbsg.org.uk)  
**Yorkshire Buildings Editorial Team:** Tony Berry, Tony Robinson, Beth Shurter, email [editor@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:editor@yvbsg.org.uk)  
**Newsheet and Web:** Lorraine Moor, 102 Queen Victoria Street, South Bank, York YO23 1HN. Tel 01904 632124, email [lorraine.moor@york.ac.uk](mailto:lorraine.moor@york.ac.uk)