



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

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Newsheet No 82

December 2015

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

Annual Day School and AGM

Saturday 12 March 2016

Annual day school on the theme of Inns and Public Houses. The speakers will discuss the development of these buildings and how they have been used, drawing on documentary sources and the buildings themselves. Talks are: *Inns and Alehouses in Cleveland, with particular reference to Guisborough* by Barry Harrison; *The social history of the English public house* by Paul Jennings; *Room function within the alehouses, inns and beer houses of the Halifax area* by Peter Robinson; *Garrets and Ale: hostleries in Craven identified from inventories* by Alison Armstrong; and *Historic Pub Interiors – the Real Thing* by Geoff Brandwood. As usual, the venue is the Headingley campus of Leeds Beckett University. Booking form enclosed with this Newsheet and also available on the website.



Annual Recording Conference

Friday 13 to Sunday 15 May 2016

To be held again in Beverley, recording more buildings to build upon the work of our Early Fabric in Towns project. More details with the next Newsheet.



Ladygate, Beverley

Researching king post roofs

As reported in the February Newsheet, we are making a tentative start on a research project on king post roofs. A small working group met on Friday 13 November to consider how to approach this study. The group discussed the types of roof to be investigated (which include king posts, king struts, king blocks and upper king posts sitting on a collar) and the associated features that will need to be noted (such as type of building, purlins, struts, braces, ridges, carpenters' marks and others). Barry Harrison and Jacky Quarmby already have made a good start on working through the group's reports to identify buildings with king post roofs, and will continue with this task over the coming weeks. If you're interested in being involved in the project, or know of examples of king post roofs, please contact Alison Armstrong, 21 Ingfield Lane, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 9BA, email alisoncarmstrong@yahoo.co.uk.

Committee meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Sunday 21 February 2016. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any events for next year please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

Membership renewal

Membership fees for the calendar year 2016 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 2016 – please send any items to the editor by 31 January 2016.

*Wishing a very Happy New Year to
all our members for 2016
- may you find many interesting
buildings during the year!*

A Christmas message from the Chair

Along with the traditional Christmas greetings I'd like to thank the committee and all active members for their support during 2015. We have made good progress on the Beverley project, started analysis of king-post roof types, and made progress on digitising our reports; all this would not be possible without you. I'd also like to encourage other members to gain a bit more experience on recording and interpretation. The annual conference is the ideal opportunity but we also have 'one-off' requests for recording. Let me know if you are interested. Your committee would also be interested to hear suggestions for future activities and offers of walkabouts or visits.

David Cant

Barbara Hutton, 1920-2015

Barbara Hutton, who died on 2 October this year, was instrumental in founding the *North Yorkshire & Cleveland Vernacular Buildings Study Group* in 1973. She was chairman of the Group from that year until moving to Derbyshire in 1986. She was then elected as our first Honorary President, a post she held until last year.

Barbara read Modern History at Oxford University during the Second World War and it was there that she met – and subsequently married – Kenneth Hutton who graduated in Chemistry. Both went into the teaching profession and came to live in Hatfield, Hertfordshire. Barbara became a keen member of the Hatfield WEA where she attended classes in vernacular architecture tutored by John Smith, senior investigator with the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. She was inspired to start measuring and documenting the houses of the town, often just by herself, and in 1963 this led to the publication by the WEA of a small book dealing with no fewer than thirty-one buildings. It remains to this day an excellent example of what to do and how to do it. Barbara was also elected to the national Vernacular Architecture Group, and soon attained high office as editor of their new journal *Vernacular Architecture* (1970) and subsequently served a term as President. Her contacts with the ‘great and the good’ of the VA scene were to be of huge importance to the development of our Group. It should also be said that Barbara was – and always remained – active in left-wing politics. Her fascination with vernacular architecture was grounded, like that of many other pioneers of the subject, in a desire to study ‘the houses of the people’ rather than the great country houses of the rich.

When Kenneth was appointed a Schools Inspector for the North Riding, the couple moved to Clifton, just outside York. Barbara was anxious to start recording houses locally and she soon found allies in David Neave, a young WEA tutor-organiser for the then East Riding, and his then wife Vanessa. They recorded a number of houses in the villages south-east of York. Meanwhile, she discovered considerable interest in the subject in North Yorkshire (as it had now become) among tutors and students in local history classes, mostly run by Leeds University Extramural Department. Some such groups had already started recording buildings in their areas. To bring these people together, I organised

a weekend school at the University’s Middlesbrough Centre in 1972 with a strong line-up of major experts in the subject. There I was introduced to Barbara, whom I had never before met. By the end of the weekend she had persuaded us to form a Group covering the whole of the newly-created counties of North Yorkshire and Cleveland! The Group was duly established a few months later, with Barbara as chairman and myself as secretary.

From the beginning, Barbara had a clear idea of how the Group should be organised and developed. I do not think I had ever met anyone with such energy and commitment. She set about training us in measuring and drawing both in the field and at the drawing board. Within a couple of years we had managed about 120 sets of drawings and reports and Barbara was confident enough of the quality of our work to offer to host the VAG annual spring conference, which involved setting up internal visits to about thirty houses, over three days.

The local recording groups were doing excellent work, but Barbara was keenly aware of the fact that many parts of our vast area had not yet been touched. She tackled this problem in two ways. Firstly she turned our annual conference into a recording conference to be held in areas where little or no work had so far been done. The first such conference was held at Dent (about as remote as you can get!) where five or six teams were sent out, each to record two buildings in one day and then to do as much drawing and report-writing as possible on the following morning. This pattern has been repeated, with slight modifications, every year since. In addition Barbara began, through lectures and WEA courses, to form her own local groups, notably in York and Easingwold, to record buildings in the northern Vale of York. To fill other gaps, Barbara and Kenneth went out at every opportunity to record houses in Wharfedale and Ribblesdale. Barbara’s dedication and energy was phenomenal and she had huge support from Kenneth. Pages from her journal for 1979, published in Newsletter No.15 (Spring 1987), make amazing reading, as she perambulated the Dales picking up buildings right, left and centre, and often recording them on the spot.

By 1982 the Group had recorded upwards of 600 houses and Barbara reckoned we had enough coverage to begin thinking about producing a definitive book on the Vernacular Buildings of North Yorkshire and

Cleveland. This was duly accomplished in 1983, in spite of some difficulties with the publisher, which were eventually ironed out by Barbara and Kenneth during several visits to Edinburgh. Barbara, as ever, won the argument. Not long afterwards, Barbara entered the Group for the BBC Archaeology Awards and we gained second place ahead of our great rivals, the Surrey VA Group, who, as she said, had the temerity to compete with us!

The work of the Group continued at a rapid pace, so that over 1100 reports had been completed by 1986. Barbara and Kenneth’s departure to live nearer to their family was of course a great blow, but by this time there were enough dedicated members to ensure that the ‘Hutton Tradition’ was continued and indeed further developed. Barbara continued to advise us from afar and, when possible, to attend our major events. She strongly approved and promoted our decision to extend our activities to the whole of the historic Yorkshire, a decision which was to bring in many new members (particularly from West Yorkshire) as some of our older members fell away.

As Barbara wrote in her journal, shortly after leaving Yorkshire: ‘Gosh, I have enjoyed Yorkshire and the N. Yorkshire and Cleveland Group!’

Dear Barbara, the pleasure has been mutual.

Barry Harrison

Ronald Brunskill

Dr Ronald Brunskill died in October aged 86. His publications, and in particular the *Illustrated Handbook of Vernacular Architecture*, inspired many of us to take up the study of vernacular architecture and continue to provide an invaluable source of reference for anyone interested in the subject. See the YVBSG Facebook page for a link to his obituary in *The Telegraph*.

Thank you ...

We are grateful to David Cook for arranging an enjoyable and informative day on Sunday 27 September to review the buildings recorded in Beverley during the conference in May and to bring us up to date with the dendrochronology results received so far. Thanks also go to the team leaders for their presentations and to Barry Harrison for his overview of what Beverley wills and inventories are revealing to us.

Early Fabric of Beverley – project update



19 Ladygate, Beverley (drawn by Mary Cook)

As announced elsewhere in this Newsheet I'm very pleased that the YVBSG committee has agreed to hold the 2016 Annual Recording Conference in Beverley. This means we can significantly add to our stock of reports on historic buildings in the town, and the new information and knowledge will then feed in to our final report on the pre-1700 fabric in Beverley to meet the key objective of the project.

The last dendrochronology assessment and the last-but-one sampling job have been done by Nottingham Tree Ring Dating Laboratory (NTRDL). Next year they will be working on the production of final reports on each of the buildings that have been sampled.

Please join us in Beverley on 13-15 May 2016 at the Annual Recording Conference. A booking form will be circulated with the February 2016 Newsheet.

David Cook, Project Manager

A recent publication

The Bricks and Brickwork of Northumberland and Durham 1650-1850 by Neil Weightman. Topics covered include: the effect of the brick tax and other acts on the size of bricks; the development of brick bonding; and characteristics of seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth century bricks. 106 A4 pages. Price £13 (or £12 to NEVAG members) including postage and packing. To order a copy, please contact Margaret Maddison, 189 Wingrove Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 9DA. Please make your cheque out to 'North East Vernacular Architecture Group'. Further details and order form available at <https://nevagwriter.wordpress.com/programme/>.

Historic graffiti

Historic England report that they are developing advice and guidance on the recording and understanding of historic graffiti, using research carried out by John Buglass on the roof of the tower of St Oswald's church, Filey, North Yorkshire as a test case. This site was discovered while working on a different Historic England project and was found to retain an extensive and well-preserved collection of seventeenth- to twentieth-century graffiti. Overall, studies of graffiti have been able to provide an insight into a wide range of topics.

For further information see the article at <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/periodicals/historic-england-research/historic-graffiti>.

Courses

Industrial history and heritage of West Yorkshire

Discover more about the industrial history and heritage of West Yorkshire. Through primary sources, visual images and field trips this course will explore how and why industry developed in the area. Tutor: Jennie Kiff. Ten Tuesdays from 12 January 2016 at 10.30 at Halifax Central Library, £70.88. Enquiries: Kenneth Wilson, Halifax and Upper Calder Valley Branch, telephone 01422 822342, www.wea.org.uk.

Conservation of the Historic House: Dilemmas, Conflicts and Solutions

Today the unique layering of history poses many ethical, philosophical and technical conservation challenges. Drawing on current practice, this course will examine these challenges, alongside an exploration of the history of conservation, and the risks posed to historic houses and their ongoing conservation needs. Tutor: Tracy Wilcockson. Eight Tuesdays from 19 January 2016, 7-9pm at University of York, £55. Enquiries: University of York Centre for Lifelong Learning, <http://www.york.ac.uk/lifelonglearning>, telephone 01904 328473.

West Yorkshire Textile Heritage Trail

The textile industry has left its mark across West Yorkshire, from weavers' cottages to mill owners' mansions, from pack horse trails to large factory complexes. A leaflet outlining a heritage trail is now available from Tourist Information Offices and other places, and a website is under construction at www.westyorkshiretextileheritage.org.uk.

In addition, a nationally important archive has been established at Farsley, Leeds. The archive is housed within the historic Sunny Bank Mills, and it represents a unique look at 180 years of cloth produced at the mill founded in 1829. Enquiries: 0113 256 3238, www.sunnybankmills.co.uk.

Websites Worth Watching

Historic pubs in Hull, Beverley and the East Riding

www.paul-gibson.com

If the topic of the 2016 YVBSG day school appeals to you, this excellent website might also be of interest as it offers a wealth of fascinating information (including old photographs) on the history of pubs in Hull, Beverley and the East Riding. The pages on historic public toilets are also worth a look!

Red Box Collection

Historic England has published online a collection of photos of English cities, towns and villages, known as the *Architectural Red Box Collection* (because the photos were previously stored in red boxes!). To view the collection, visit <http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/archive-collections/englands-places/>. Vernacular buildings are rather under-represented but this is still a wonderful resource.

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!

Every Picture Tells a Story

Until 2016

A touring exhibition of photos of historic buildings from the Yorkshire Dales Historic Environment Record. Currently at the National Park Authority's offices in Bainbridge until 24 December 2015, moving to The Station in Richmond in January 2016. Enquiries: telephone 0300 456 0030, www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

A Timeless Village

Sunday 6 December 2015

A 1¼ mile stroll around Pockley to see several thatched houses and visit the small church. 11am to 12 noon, meet at Church of St John the Baptist. Free but suggested donation of £2. To book, contact North York Moors National Park Authority on 01439 772738, www.northyorkmoors.org.uk.

History in Helmsley

Sunday 6 December 2015

A 1½ mile walk around this historic market town will explore its past and reveal the story behind its buildings and monuments. 1.30pm to 3pm. Free. Booking as for Pockley above.

Historic halls and houses of Lancashire

Friday 11 December 2015

Lecture at Alston Hall, Longridge, Preston, 2pm – 4pm. Cost £18.50 including afternoon tea. Speaker Tertia Dowdall. Enquiries: 01772 784661, www.lancashire.gov.uk/adultlearning/our-colleges/alston-hall.aspx.

Markenfield Hall

14 to 17 December 2015

Additional tours whilst the hall is normally closed. With mince pies, starting at 10.30am, £15. Booking essential – telephone 01765 692303 or 603411, or see www.markenfield.com.

Elland Centre

Sunday 3 January 2016

A look at the development of Elland, one of the oldest town centres in Calderdale. A Calderdale Heritage Walk, £3, no need to book. Meet David Nortcliffe at 2pm by Elland Parish Church notice board. Further details at www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk.

Vernacular Boundaries

Thursday 7 and Friday 8 January 2016

The winter conference of the national Vernacular Architecture Group will

look at the movement of craftsmen, ideas and craft traditions across borders. To be held at the University of Leicester. Open to VAG members and guests only, residential fee £110, booking deadline 7 December 2015. Further information about the VAG at www.vag.org.uk.



Pop-up Archaeology Laboratory

9-16 January 2016

Visit the former Robson & Cooper shop in Lendal, York, and see archaeologists' high tech methods of recording and interpreting sites, and analysing objects in detail. 10am to 4.30pm each day. The 1714 building was once the home of astronomer John Goodricke. Booking essential for tours of building; call AOC Archaeology at 01904 413404 or email rebecca.hearne@aocarchaeology.com.

Early Industry in the North West

Saturday 16 January 2016

This dayschool at Lancaster University will explore the medieval origins of a range of industries. Talks will be given by Dr Alan Crosby. Fee £25. Enquiries: Regional Heritage Centre, Lancaster University, www.lancaster.ac.uk/users/rhc/, telephone 01524 593770.

Yorkshire Dales Textile Mills

Saturday 16 January 2016

A talk by Dr George Ingle organised by the Yorkshire Dales Society and open to all. 2.15pm to 4pm at St Andrew's Church Hall, Newmarket Street, Skipton, £3. Enquiries: 01756 749400, www.yds.org.uk. No need to book.

Early Fabric of Beverley to AD1700

Wednesday 20 January 2016

Talk by David Cook to East Riding Archaeological Society on the YVBSG Beverley project, new building surveys and tree-ring dating. 7.30pm in room LT1, floor 1 of the Wilberforce Building at Hull University, Cottingham Road, Hull. Open to the public, £1. Enquiries: Rose Nicholson on 07770 470443 or see www.eras.org.uk.

Maps Day

Saturday 23 January 2016

A free 'drop-in' day on maps at Huddersfield Heritage Quay Archive, a new facility at Huddersfield University,

from 11am to 4pm. No more details as yet – enquiries to 01484 473168, <http://heritagequay.org/events/>.

Lost Houses of the South Pennines

23 January to 9 April 2016

A new exhibition of artworks by local artist Kate Lycett. Drawing upon plans, photographs and written accounts, as well as the sites themselves, Kate hopes to recreate some of the lost houses of the South Pennines, including Castle Carr, New Cragg Hall and High Sunderland. At Bankfield Museum, Halifax, telephone 01422 352334, <http://museums.calderdale.gov.uk/>.

The Bill Mitchell Archives

Friday 19 February 2016

A talk by Sita Brand. W R Mitchell was the editor of the Dalesman for thirty years and wrote over 200 books on local history. 7.30pm at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes. Free event but donations welcome, booking not required. Enquiries: 01969 666210, www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

Traditional Crafts in Lancashire

Saturday 20 February 2016

A day school at Preston Masonic Hall, Saul Street, Preston, organised by the Lancashire Local History Federation. 9.30am to 4pm, £16 including lunch, £10 without. Talks include *Building bridges: masons at work in SE Lancashire* by Diana Winterbotham. Further details from Zoë Lawson, telephone 01772 865347, email zoe.lawson@talktalk.net, www.lancashirehistory.org.

Bygone Burnsall

Saturday 20 February 2016

Talk by Alan Stockdale organised by the Yorkshire Dales Society and open to all, with images from postcards and photographs collected over the last forty years. 2.15pm to 4pm at Burnsall Village Hall, £3. Enquiries: 01756 749400, www.yds.org.uk.

'Where there's a Will ...'

Saturday 16 April 2016

This day school organised by the Halifax probate group will look at recent work on transcribing and interpreting wills and related documents in the old West Riding. To include a talk by David Cant on *Buildings and their contents: evidence from probate documents*. More details in the next Newsheet, but please contact David Cant if you would like to know more in the meantime.