



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

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## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Annual Day School and AGM

Saturday 25 March 2017

Annual day school on the theme of 'House and Home', looking at how houses were used and furnished in the seventeenth century. As usual, the venue is the Headingley campus of Leeds Beckett University. Further details about the talks and speakers may be found inside this Newsheet; the booking form is enclosed and is also available on the website. The Group's AGM will follow the day school.

### Barnsley's Best Buildings

Friday 12 to Sunday 14 May 2017

Annual recording conference, to be held this year in South Yorkshire, an area as yet relatively unexplored by the YVBSG. For a taster of the exciting buildings in store, see the article inside this Newsheet. Full details and booking form will be circulated in February.

### Walkabout in Bolton-by-Bowland

Saturday 17 June 2017

A walkabout in Bolton-by-Bowland, formerly in the West Riding, with Kevin Illingworth. There will also be a longer walk taking in farmhouses in the surrounding countryside. Full details of this and other events will follow in the new year.

### Committee meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Sunday 12 February 2017. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any events for next year please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

*Wishing a Very Happy New  
Year to all our members  
- and happy building spotting!*

### Membership renewal

Membership fees for the calendar year 2017 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!

### Acting Archivist

We're pleased to report that David Cook has offered to take on the role of Archivist on a temporary basis. In particular this will allow the Beverley reports to be properly accessioned into the Group's archive.

### Next Newsheet

The next edition will be in February 2017 - please send any contributions (for example details of events or publications of interest) to the editor by 31 January 2017.

## Early Fabric of Beverley - Project Update

This month we surveyed the last building in the town on our target list which means that no more survey work is outstanding or planned. Since the start of the project we have surveyed fifteen buildings in Beverley. Added to the six buildings already recorded in the town by the YVBSG the total comes to twenty-one. This, together with the surveys by other agencies, gives a substantial body of work which adds to the results of the documentary research and scientific dating and means we can write a new chapter on the history of the town and the development of its buildings up to around AD 1700.

Some reports have yet to be completed but I hope to make sure that all are completed by the end of the year.

On the scientific dating, we have exciting news that samples from 15 Flemingate and re-used timbers from the Guildhall roof which were sent for radiocarbon wiggle-matching dated to AD 1402-27 and AD 1441. We are waiting for the final reports of all the dendrochronology to be issued.

Lorraine Moor and I attended the VAG Oxford Recording Town Buildings Study Weekend in September. A report on what we learnt will follow soon.

*David Cook, Project Manager, [beverleyproject@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:beverleyproject@yvbsg.org.uk)*



56-58 Flemingate, Beverley

## Notes from the Chair

I was surprised at last year's AGM when no one offered to take on the vacant role of Chair, after David Cant's resignation. After sleeping on it I contacted David Cook to offer my services, and at a committee meeting I was made Acting Chair of the Group. I was encouraged to bring my own take to the role for both the day school and the recording weekend, and bring something new to the Group if at all possible. The notes below are intended to provide some background and context for next year's events.

### The Day School – 25 March 2017

*House & Home*, the theme for next year's day school, is an examination of probate records – inventories and wills – to provide a better understanding of how houses were used and furnished in the late seventeenth century. Our speakers have not only studied and recorded buildings but have also enjoyed the delights and frustrations of transcribing probate documents.

After the Group's three-year study of buildings in Beverley, Barry Harrison, our distinguished President who needs no introduction, will give us the benefit of his mammoth transcribing task of probate records in the town for the period 1680 to 1720, looking at fixtures, fittings and furniture, and its architecture.

Sheila Graham was a member of a WEA class run by the late Alan Petford who transcribed probate records in the Calder Valley commencing in 2007. Their latest publication released in January this year covers the Brighouse area – copies will be available to purchase (£10); David Cant was joint editor. They continue in their research and Sheila comments 'we are well advanced with our plans to publish the Halifax townships probate records ... which are rich in resources as they include the inventories of varied businesses as well as the usual yeomen and clothiers.'

Sue Wrathmell is an independent architectural historian and one of our members. She has made a particular study of her home village of Carleton-in-Craven but has also extended her village studies into the Dales and Skipton researching the houses using various records. I first met Sue in 1982 at Fortress House, Savile Row, London when we were both on the same training course at the Inspectorate of Historic Building to be field workers to undertake the national re-survey of the country (Yorkshire in our case) for listed buildings. She was author of the Pevsner Architectural Guide to Leeds (2006) which remains the definitive guide to the city's architecture and its suburbs using a series of well-illustrated walks; it would make a good Christmas present!

Peter Brears has a long association with Leeds, being the former Director of the city museum, and a local resident of Headingley. He is a prolific author with over a dozen books to his credit and is an expert on historical food of many periods. His latest book, *The Real Wuthering Heights: the story of the Withins Farms*, was published in March this year (paperback £13.48), and forms the basis of his talk. As well as tracing the history of the Withins farms and their inhabitants from 1567 to the present day, his book looks at the everyday life of the farmers who lived there and gives a full account of the building history, farming practices, textile production and domestic life over the years. This is illustrated by Peter's splendid reconstructions of the buildings and their interiors and of the tools and utensils used in farming, weaving and cooking.

I will be giving my first talk to the Group for some years. This is titled: *Yeoman & Gentry Houses of the Upper Calder Valley in the 17th century: architecture & oak-furniture as described*

*in probate inventories – Chests, Kists, Coffers & Arks*. It combines my love of both antique furniture and regional vernacular architecture. I wrote the listed building descriptions for over 5,000 buildings in West Yorkshire in the 1980s and started photographing Calder Valley furniture from the 1970s for the next forty-five years! I will show illustrations of most of the items mentioned in local Calder Valley inventories of the late seventeenth century and examples of the type of houses where they might have been found.

I am pleased to report that I have gained the agreement of Dr Adam Menuge to give an introduction to recording vernacular buildings. Adam is Course Director of the part-time Master of Studies (MSt) degree in the School of Architecture, Department of History of Art, University of Cambridge. This pioneering new building history course was developed in a partnership between English Heritage, the University of Cambridge, and the Institute of Continuing Education, Madingley Hall. The aim of the course is to provide the knowledge and practical skills needed to research and investigate historic buildings and areas, and to pursue a career in the heritage sector. For our day school Adam will introduce us to various approaches to investigation, research and recording with select case studies to include Nappa Hall, on which he produced a report for English Heritage (Research Report Series no. 44 – 2013); this magnificent medieval building is owned by one of our members. Adam has worked previously for the National Trust, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and RCHM(E), later for English Heritage as an Investigator in York involved in recording and surveying many buildings in Yorkshire before becoming Head of Emergency Recording (Cambridge) in 1996-1999. Then for fourteen years he was the Senior Investigator for English Heritage until 2013, with an overlap of his present role commencing in 2011 when the Masters course was launched.



### The Recording Weekend – 12-14 May 2017

After three years of recording buildings in Beverley I am anxious to focus our attentions on buildings in South Yorkshire mostly unknown to most of our members. I am a resident of Barnsley and prior to my retirement was the Conservation & Urban Design Officer for Rotherham MBC, so know part of the area quite well. This is a new project where the Group will aim to undertake a four-year programme recording the higher graded listed buildings of the county, ie those listed Grade I and Grade II\*, but also to include other interesting Grade II listed buildings of particular special interest to us, such as those that are timber-framed. Such targeted recording hopefully will result in a publication for each district with a more comprehensive book celebrating South Yorkshire's Best Vernacular Buildings that I look forward to introducing you to over the forthcoming years. Our

programme begins in Barnsley in 2017, Rotherham in 2018, Sheffield in 2019, and Doncaster in 2020. Our next recording weekend (of Barnsley's Best Buildings) is planned for Friday 12 May through to Sunday 14 May 2017. Our base will be the Fairway Hotel, Elmhirst Lane, Dodworth, S75 4LS; website [www.sleeptighthotels.com](http://www.sleeptighthotels.com); telephone 08712 002289. This is an attractive medium sized hotel with a local reputation for good reasonably priced food. The hotel is just one mile from Junction 37 of the M1. There are thirty-nine bedrooms at a good value price of around £50 per night. There is great demand in the area at that time due to a number of weddings, and the larger hotels are already full that weekend. It is recommended that those who intend to come to the weekend book their room as soon as possible (before the New Year) to ensure that we can all stay together in the same hotel.

Some YVBSG members started to explore South Yorkshire a few years ago when we toured the Barnsley area on 11 July 2009 with Dr David Mercer of Sheffield. At that time we visited The Golden Cross in Cawthorne, one of the buildings we hope to record, and the magnificent eleven-bay Gunthwaite Hall barn, as well as several other buildings.

Subsequently, in mid-November this year, David and Mary Cook and Lorraine Moor came to join me on a tour round



The Golden Cross, Cawthorne



Houndhill, near Barnsley

potential buildings to record. These included an aisled barn and seventeenth century farmhouse with a lobby entry, carved and moulded bressummer beam and collar above showing the position of the former firehood. Other buildings of interest include a single-storey nailmaker's workshop in Thorpe Hesley that survives with its forge and bellows intact. There is also the outstandingly interesting seventeenth century Bullhouse Farm, chapel and summer house that appears to be an intact seventeenth century banqueting house. The partly timber-framed, Tudor, Houndhill on the outskirts of Barnsley was described by Peter Ryder as 'probably the finest surviving sixteenth century house in the county'. Further information about these buildings can be found by searching the National Heritage List for England at [www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/).

In the next newsletter I will do a piece on South Yorkshire vernacular style; the booking form for the recording weekend will also be included. I hope this outline has whetted your appetite sufficiently for you to come and help record these wonderful buildings.

*Peter H Thornborrow, Acting Chair*

## Cleveland and Teesside Local History Prize

Are you interested in the local history of Cleveland and Teesside? Have you carried out some original research? Do you want to share your findings with other local historians? Would you like to see your work published? If so, then you may be interested in a competition organised by Cleveland and Teesside Local History Society. Every two years the Society awards a prize of £250 for a newly researched essay on a local history topic. The closing date for entries for the 2017 prize is the end of March 2017. This competition is not open to professional historians. More information is available on the Society's website at [www.ctlhs.co.uk](http://www.ctlhs.co.uk), or email the society's secretary at [martin@peagam.co.uk](mailto:martin@peagam.co.uk).

## Thatched Buildings in Scotland

Scotland has a long tradition of using thatch, and one of the most diverse ranges of thatching materials and techniques found in Europe. In some parts of the country the local traditions of thatching continued until the beginning of the twentieth century. However, since then, thatched buildings have largely disappeared from the rural landscape in many parts of Scotland.

A recent survey was the essential first step in identifying the type and quality of thatched buildings which remain, so that skills and resources can be directed most effectively. The report was published in September 2016, and is downloadable in pdf format from website [www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/](http://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/) (but do note that the document is 642 pages long!).

## Registry of Deeds

The North Riding Registry of Deeds, one of only four such registries in the country and now held at the Record Office in Northallerton, can help you to discover more about the history of your house. From 1736 to 1970, hundreds of thousands of transactions relating to property located in the North Riding were copied and recorded at the Registry. As part of a wider research project looking at women's relationship to land and property in the North Riding, Dr Joan Heggie of Teesside University has created a searchable online database of the indexes from 1784-1790 and 1885-1889. The names in the database include additional names, such as those of wives and trustees, who do not appear in the original indexes.

For further details or to search the database, please visit the website at [www.registerofdeeds.org.uk](http://www.registerofdeeds.org.uk).

## Other events of possible interest ...

Some of these events are publicised a long time in advance, so you may wish to check details before you go!

### Seeing the wood and the trees

Saturday 7 - Sunday 8 January 2017

Annual winter conference of the Vernacular Architecture Group in Leicester, exploring the management of timber from source to building site. Further details at [www.vag.org.uk](http://www.vag.org.uk).

### Mytholmroyd – the development of a Pennine village

Wednesday 25 January 2017

Talk to Hebden Bridge Local History Society by Rodney Collinge. 7.30pm at Hebden Bridge Methodist Church Hall. Details on the society's website at [www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk](http://www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk).

### The latest news from a Yorkshire Glossary

Monday 30 January 2017

Talk by Dr George Redmonds to Huddersfield Local History Society, 7.30pm in the Bronte Lecture Theatres, University of Huddersfield. Visitors £2. [www.huddersfieldhistory.org.uk](http://www.huddersfieldhistory.org.uk).

### Beverley Friary Spruce Up

6-10 February 2017

Volunteers are sought to help with internal painting and deep cleaning at Beverley Friary Youth Hostel (see [www.yha.org.uk/hostel/beverley-friary](http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/beverley-friary)), recently recorded by the YVBSG as part of the Beverley project. Stay overnight at the Friary. For details, email [katiesmith@yha.org.uk](mailto:katiesmith@yha.org.uk) or call 01629 592562.

### The Liverpool Cowkeeper

Thursday 9 February 2017

A talk by David Joy to Burnley Historical Society on Yorkshire farmers who moved to Liverpool (see Publications below). 7.15pm at the New Church, Briercliffe Road, Burnley. Details at [www.burnleyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.burnleyhistoricalsociety.com).



### Historic Heptonstall

Sunday 12 February 2017

The village has many fine old buildings and was the centre of the local cloth trade long before Halifax took over that role. Meet Margaret Nortcliffe at 2pm in Heptonstall Bowling Club car park. £3. [www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk](http://www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk).

### Boskin, Skelbuse and Foddergang: Traditional Farm Buildings in the Yorkshire Dales

Wednesday 15 February 2017

Talk by Jim Brightman to the Friends of Castleshaw. 7.30pm at the Civic Hall, Lee Street, Uppermill, Saddleworth. [www.castleshawarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.castleshawarchaeology.co.uk).

### Regional Datestones

Thursday 16 February 2017

A talk by Dr Mike Slater to Malhamdale Local History Group. 8pm at Malham Village Hall, £3. Enquiries: telephone Colin Lugton on 01729 830201 or see [www.kirkbymalham.info](http://www.kirkbymalham.info).

## Publications

*Liverpool Cowkeepers* by Dave Joy. The mid-1800s witnessed a mass exodus from the Pennine dales as farmers and miners sought a new life in the New World. Others became Liverpool Cowkeepers, keeping cows in their back yards and selling milk to a rapidly expanding city population. Dave Joy draws on the history of his own family from Wharfedale to tell the story. Available from Amberley Publishing, [www.amberley-books.com](http://www.amberley-books.com), £11.69, or if you would like a signed copy, drop an email to [david.joy1@tesco.net](mailto:david.joy1@tesco.net).

*Lost Houses of the South Pennines* by Kate Lycett. £48. Drawing upon plans, photographs and written accounts as well as the sites themselves, the author has painted a body of work in which she recreates some of the lost houses of the South Pennines. Details at [www.katelycett.co.uk](http://www.katelycett.co.uk).

*Internet Sites for Local Historians (3rd edition)* compiled by Jacqueline Fillmore and edited by Alan G Crosby. A revised reprint of this popular guide to local history resources on the internet, now back in stock after having been unavailable for a while. £10 + £1.50 postage from British Association for Local History, [www.bahl.org.uk](http://www.bahl.org.uk).

*Names for Things* by Victor Chinnery. A description of household stuff, furniture and interiors 1500-1700. Glossary entries are backed up by inventory references and other documentary evidence to explain how the objects would have been used in a period setting. Due October 2016, around £35. Details at <https://regionalfurnituresociety.org>.

## Yorkshire Buildings back issues

We have stocks of the following editions of *Yorkshire Buildings* available for purchase at £4 each: 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2015. The contents lists are available on our website at [www.yvbsg.org.uk/yorkshire-buildings.html](http://www.yvbsg.org.uk/yorkshire-buildings.html). Copies are available from Tony Robinson, [editor@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:editor@yvbsg.org.uk), or at our day schools.

Members will also find over a hundred articles from back issues in pdf format on the Members' Area of the website.

## Tree-ring dates

The Vernacular Architecture Group provides a useful set of tables of tree-ring dated buildings in England and Wales at [www.vag.org.uk/databases](http://www.vag.org.uk/databases). These printable lists have been recently updated and are available in two forms: arranged by date and by county. The list for Yorkshire now contains dates for over 150 buildings. Our Beverley project dates have yet to be added!

## Courses

**A Brief History of the Home.** This course takes a historical wander around the Western home, looking at the development of features and facilities. Tutor: Emma J Wells. Six Wednesdays 7-9pm from 25 January 2017 at University of York, £43. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning on 01904 328473, [www.york.ac.uk/lifelonglearning](http://www.york.ac.uk/lifelonglearning).

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