



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

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Newsheet No 109

December 2022

Dear Member,

Welcome to our 109th Newsheet. In the previous Newsheet I reported on the preparations for our Annual Recording Conference held in Doncaster on 23-25 September 2022. This was not without its problems when two of the building owners pulled out having booked last-minute foreign holidays. Anxious to find an alternative we did another recce visiting Laughton-en-le-Morthen in Rotherham District to see if the owner of Old Hall Farm – where I had taken people to on our Little Cotswolds trip during the Rotherham conference in 2018 – might let us record their outstandingly interesting and unspoilt seventeenth century farmhouse the following weekend; thankfully they agreed! In addition to Old Hall Farm our various recording teams recorded five other buildings including Watchley Farm, Hooton Pagnell; Stainton Hall Farmhouse, Stainton; The Customs House, Fishlake; Norton Priory Farm complex where a drone camera was used by one of the members to good effect; and Campsall Rectory – concentrating on the wing roof structure where Roger Lambert did a perspective sketch that shows its timber arched construction.

The event in the hotel went very well with many appreciative comments made not least for the delicious food and facilities in the main hotel with mostly ground-floor bedrooms. The modern hotel is built in the grounds of



The Dutch House, Bawtry



Old Hall Farm, Laughton-en-le-Morthen

Warmsworth Hall, a rather grand Grade II* listed post-Restoration manor house where I gave the two evening talks that were well received. Everyone also liked meeting other members for the first time since the Covid lockdown and there was a cheerful camaraderie amongst the attendees. After a morning of drawing up plans and an excellent lunch on the Sunday, we set off in the afternoon to Tickhill for a visit to see the superb parish church and the fascinating medieval (c1460) part timber-framed St Leonards Hospital which is unlike any building I have ever seen before. We then drove to Bawtry for a circular walk around this fine market town of Georgian houses characterised by semi-circular bay windows and to see the Dutch House with its characteristic shaped gables.

More recently on Monday 21 November 2022 we held our 50th Anniversary celebration of the formation of the Group in an attractive panelled room in Wakefield Town Hall. Thirty-one members and one guest attended for some excellent talks, lunch, and a delicious cake. We were preparing to leave when a lone piper struck up – our very own David Cook playing his Northumbrian pipes – a very atmospheric end to an enjoyable day. Some photographs of the event can be found on page 4 of this Newsheet.

Future Events in 2023

At our last committee meeting, held by Zoom on Sunday 11 December 2022, we discussed outline plans for next year's events. These included a possible day school to be held in the autumn, probably at King's Manor in York, following discussions with Dr Kate Giles, Co-Director of the MA in the Archaeology of Buildings at the University of York, who was keen to involve her students in such an event, and to help support YVBSG. A suggested theme is interior decoration, which might include apotropaic marks, graffiti and wall paintings.

As we still have a number of identified buildings of interest to record in the Doncaster/Rotherham/Sheffield areas it was decided to hold next year's annual recording conference in South Yorkshire again. We are currently looking into the possibility of basing the weekend at the historic Hellaby Hall Hotel near Rotherham on the weekend of 9-11 June 2023. The Hall is a Grade II* listed building of 1690; the front elevation has a shaped gable with huge kneelers carved with volutes.

We also discussed a possible day event in Bridlington to see some of the fine historic houses in the Old Town. A useful town trail can be found online at www.bridlingtonoldtown.com.

continued ...

I hope you have managed to get out and about this year to view and visit interesting buildings. If you need further ideas, why not try the Lancashire/Yorkshire borderlands? I have recently been in discussion with Kevin Illingworth about arranging a car trip for the two of us to the area near Burnley visiting villages such as Hurstwood, full of fascinating Elizabethan houses, and Worsthorne which has some fine seventeenth century yeoman houses. Kevin arranged a tour here for the Group some ten years ago (described in his article 'A Visit to the Villages of Winewall and Worsthorne, 21 July 2012' in *Yorkshire Buildings* 41, 2013). Nearby is

Extwistle Hall at Briercliffe, Burnley; recommended too is a visit to the Pendle Heritage Centre at Park Hill (1661), in Barrowford, which also has some impressive seventeenth century houses in the village. Not far away is delightful Wycolter, a hidden hamlet of old houses with its ruinous Hall. Also in this part of the world is Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham (National Trust) – well worth a visit. So, lots to see if ever you're tempted to the borderlands – enough for a weekend stay in a local hostelry.

We're pleased that Kevin Illingworth has confirmed that he will be running another of his historic houses walks for

the Group later next year, in and around Todmorden.

Our Membership Secretary, Pat Leggett, reported that in November we had 213 members with 19 new members joining. Many of these have been attracted by our programme of Third Thursday Zoom Talks, and we intend to continue these next year, starting in February.

More information will be available in the next Newsheet to be published in February 2023. On behalf of your hard-working committee I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Peter Thornborrow

Future YVBSG events: dates for your diary

Team Leaders' Meeting

Saturday 4 February 2023

A chance for team leaders (and other interested team members) to get together by Zoom at 2pm, to compare and contrast their respective buildings recorded during the annual conference in September 2022. Details to follow.

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 18 March 2023

The AGM will again be held by Zoom and will include a talk. Details to follow in the new year.

Annual Recording Conference

Friday 9 to Sunday 11 June 2023

We are planning to hold the recording conference in South Yorkshire again.

Annual Day School

Autumn 2023

We hope to resume our live day schools with an event later in the year.

Committee meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Saturday 21 January 2023. If you'd like to raise any matters, or have ideas for future events, please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

We wish our members a Happy Christmas and all the very best for 2023, and we hope to see you soon either online or in person at our events during the coming year. Happy building spotting!

Third Thursday Talks

We hope to continue our online talks during 2023. These normally take place by Zoom at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month and there will be the opportunity for questions after each talk. The talks are open to all (including non-members) and are free of charge. Members will be notified by email when booking is open for each talk, or you can keep an eye on the 'Events' page of our website. We are still looking for volunteers to give future talks and if you are interested in doing so, please contact Mary Cook on secretary@yvbsg.org.uk.

The Development of Calverley Old Hall

By Caroline Stanford, on Thursday 16 February 2023. Calverley Old House was the family seat of the Calverley family from c1150 to 1750, after which it was colonised as cottages and declined in status. Today it presents as a much evolved grouping that contains embedded fabric from its earliest days. Owned since the 1980s by the Landmark Trust, it is now the subject of a major restoration project to give the whole site a financially sustainable future. This talk will provide an overview of the latest interpretation of the construction phases of Calverley Old Hall within their historical context, including the discovery of sixteenth century wall paintings and a remarkable number of concealed deposits. Caroline Stanford (FSA, BA (Oxon), MA, MSc) is Landmark's in-house historian and a member of the project team.

Recordings of previous talks

Recordings of previous talks can be watched online by following the links on the 'Events' page of the YVBSG website, or by going directly to our YouTube channel.



Calverley Old Hall

Previous YVBSG events

Doncaster Taster Day

Our introduction to the Doncaster area, postponed from April 2020 due to Covid, eventually went ahead on Saturday 20 August 2022, after having been moved back by yet another week due to the extreme hot weather conditions this summer!

The packed programme for the day, arranged and led by Peter Thornborrow, fitted in no fewer than four churches, a medieval rectory at Campsall, a farmstead at Norton Priory, a seventeenth century school house and almshouses at Arksey, and two vernacular houses – Watchley Farm at Hooton



The gateway to the Cooke Almshouses



The Cooke Almshouses in Arksey, built in 1660

Pagnell and The Custom House at 2 River View in Fishlake. Both of these houses were recorded during the annual conference in September, together with Norton Priory Farm, and summaries will be published in *Yorkshire Buildings* in due course. A few hardy souls also took a quick look at the Hooton Pagnell Hall gatehouse at the very end of the day.

We thank Peter for a very interesting day and particularly for all his last-minute efforts to re-arrange the programme when the date had to be changed!

Lorraine Moor

YVBSG Annual Conference 2022 in the Doncaster area

The following report was contributed by new YVBSG member Richard Knisely-Marpole, who was awarded a bursary to attend the Doncaster conference with his wife Angela.

It may come as a surprise to many but, for Angela and I, there were two positives from the Covid pandemic. Firstly, many different groups around the UK put their talks online, meaning that we could enjoy new subjects which otherwise we would not be able to. It was from this that we discovered and joined YVBSG, even though we live in Derbyshire. The second positive, very personal to us, was that Angela's hole-in-the-heart was diagnosed and recently remedied, which is allowing us to slowly get back to life as we used to know it, hence our attendance at the conference.

What an excellent weekend it was, splendidly organised in a comfortable hotel with good food!

On the Friday evening, we were treated to some first-class lectures on vernacular buildings. It was good to note that there were so many still standing and that YVBSG's very own 'Jehova's witnesses' were busy knocking on doors asking for access to survey, sometimes with success, other times not.

On Saturday, we were divided into groups, assigned to a leader and sent off to various localities to carry out a survey. Angela and I were put into Malcolm Birdsall's team, which had Norton Priory Farm as its target. On arrival, we were met by the owner who gave us an hour-long guided tour around the site. We were then divided into pairs and given various buildings to survey. Angela had to do the 'hennery' on her own, as I concentrated first on getting some aerial images with the drone, then spent the rest of the day trying to capture as much detail of the site as possible, a task which was thoroughly enjoyable, but which there was simply not enough time to do completely. A return trip is definitely needed! A gallery of images can be seen here: www.rakm.co.uk/heritage_pages/norton_priory/index.html.



Nesting boxes inside the hennery at Norton Priory Farm



Norton Priory Farm, with hennery in foreground, and dovecote and barn complex behind

Sunday morning was spent 'drawing up', then after lunch, visits were organised to local areas to look at some of the buildings there. As Angela was by that time rather tired (it was only six weeks post-op), we decided to set off home.

I was not sure how, as new members, we would fit in, but we were made to feel very comfortable and definitely part of the team. We look forward to further involvement. What a shame that Derbyshire does not have a similar group!

Richard Knisely-Marpole

YVBSG 50th Anniversary Celebration

Members gathered on a foggy Monday morning on 21 November 2022 in the grand surroundings of Wakefield Town Hall to celebrate the Group's 50th anniversary.

David Cant kicked off the proceedings with an entertaining talk on the history of the group, giving due praise to its founder members Barbara Hutton and Barry Harrison, and describing some of the early events. David had roped in a few other 'volunteers' to help him with this presentation: Malcolm Birdsall spoke about his mentor, Kate Mason, historian and farmer from Addingham; Tony Robinson talked about how he had first become interested in vernacular buildings, and showed some images of buildings and events that were particularly significant to him; Sue Southwell gave a fitting tribute to Barry Harrison, the Group's president and a founder member who was unable to be present at the celebration; and I gave a short account of my first recording conference together with a light-hearted look at what it means to be a YVBSG member.

After a convivial three-course lunch, our guest speaker, Peter Brears, gave an enjoyable presentation on Wakefield's historic buildings, many of which have now disappeared. The talk was illustrated with Peter's superb drawings, taken from his book *The Buildings of Tudor and Stuart Wakefield*. This was followed by the final talk of the day, by another Peter who'd also written a book on the town's architecture – our chair Peter Thornborrow on *Wakefield in 50 Buildings*.



Freda cuts the cake



Peter Brears takes the stage

By this time the draughts creeping into the Victorian building on a damp and chilly day were taking effect and many of us were now sitting in our coats. A hot cuppa was therefore very welcome, and this was accompanied by a wonderful celebratory fruit cake baked by Gunhild Wilcock, proudly displaying the Group's logo in blue icing on the top. The cake was cut by Freda Tolhurst, longstanding YVBSG member and former treasurer of the Group for many years. We then departed to the music of Northumbrian pipes played by David Cook.



Members enjoy lunch and a chat

All in all, it was a great day and it was really good to see people again. Our thanks go to the speakers for their entertaining presentations and to Peter Thornborrow, Gunhild Wilcock and David Cook for organising the event and for making the day run smoothly.

Here's to another 50 years of the YVBSG!

Lorraine Moor



Yorkshire Buildings – past, present and future

Having just celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the YVBSG, it is perhaps an appropriate moment to look back at the evolution of its annual publication, *Yorkshire Buildings*.

This began as an annual *Newsletter*, latterly produced by Don McLellan, which morphed into an *Annual Report* in 1995-6, and under the new editor, Lorraine Moor, into *Yorkshire Buildings* from Issue 25, 1997. Lorraine remained as sole editor until Issue 34 in 2006, producing at the same time the Group's Newsheet three times a year, as well as acting as Newsletter Officer for the national Vernacular Architecture Group from 2003-2021.

It took three men and one woman to fill Lorraine's shoes after 2006 – Beth Shurter, Tony Berry and myself, with David Cant as ringmaster. After a few years, David had licked us into shape and Beth, Tony and I were left to get on with it.

However, firm foundations had been laid by our preceding editors who had established the broad outlines of the journal and to whom we owe a great debt. Whether *Newsletter*, *Annual Report* or *Yorkshire Buildings*, the principal purpose of the publication has always been to provide a summary of the Group's activities – conferences, day schools and one-off recording days, and to present summaries of buildings recorded.

The A5 format was established early on and has been retained, for better or worse. A move to A4 would allow greater use of drawings at scale, since plans and elevations are mostly drawn on A4 at 1:100 scale. However, changing the format would disrupt many members' shelving arrangements!

The journal no longer includes the accounts nor the AGM minutes, but these are now included in the members' area of the website. The list of members no longer appears, but can also be accessed via the website.

An innovation by David Cant from 1994 was the opening editorial piece, 'From the Chair', which offers the Chairman the opportunity to thank the Group for its efforts and achievements over the previous year.

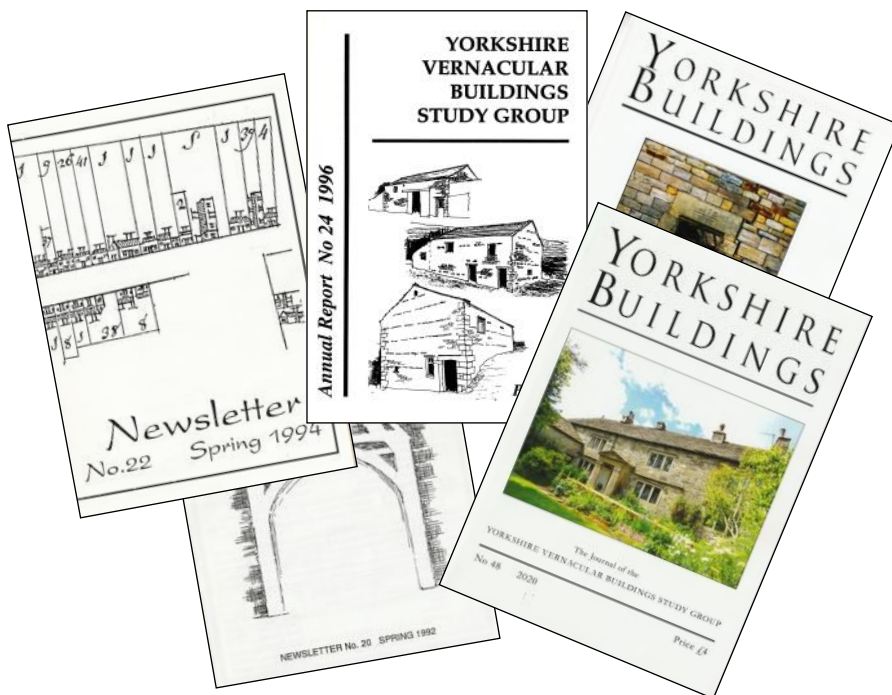
The now widespread use of home computers and digital photography has enabled desktop publishing of a high standard to be achieved in a way that was unthought of in the 1970s, when the Group began. I must thank my co-editors, Beth, Tony and David for all their efforts over the years.

Finally, how might *Yorkshire Buildings* develop in coming years? Well, this

depends on the Group and its membership, as the journal seeks to reflect and record the activities of the Group and its members. However, with an archive of almost 2000 buildings recorded and, thanks to David Cook and his volunteers, now mapped and available to all members online, there is surely much scope for 'mining the archive', certainly geographically by parish, river catchment or other sub-area. In future, it may be possible to interrogate the archive for building type, for specific structural features or building elements and materials. We have scarcely begun to exploit this unique archive, and that surely is a task for the future.

Hopefully, *Yorkshire Buildings* will continue in the coming years to record and reflect the Group's activities.

Tony Robinson, Editorial Team,
Yorkshire Buildings



Membership renewal – a new form to make it easier!

Membership fees for the coming calendar year will become due on 1 January 2023. We're trying something new this year and you should already have received an email asking you to fill in a short online form if you wish to renew. If your copy of the email has gone astray, you can also find a link to the form on the Members' Area of the website. We hope that this will be easier than returning an email attachment as in previous years, although you'll still need to send your payment (£12 per person) by cheque or BACS.

Do note that the password to the Members' Area of the website will change in January and you'll receive the new details when you renew your membership for 2023. The Members' Area

provides access to around 1900 building reports and 150 articles from back issues of *Yorkshire Buildings* up to 2018, as well as information sheets and other handouts.

We gently remind you that in line with our Privacy Statement which came into effect with the introduction of GDPR in 2018, membership may be terminated if you do not renew within three months from 1 January 2023 and you would then receive no further correspondence from us, so please do renew soon – we don't want to lose you! But don't worry – we would send you a final reminder before taking you off our membership list.

From the archive: Dent

Dent now lies within Cumbria but was formerly part of the West Riding. The Settle and Carlisle railway passes nearby. The village was the birthplace of the geologist Adam Sedgwick in 1785 and a drinking fountain in his memory (one of 203 listed structures in the parish) can be seen in the photo of Sedgwick Cottage below. Dent was also famous in the past for its 'terrible knitters', the local hand-knitters so-called because of their astonishing speed with the needles. The Group has recorded some nineteen buildings in Dent and a selection is pictured below; copies of the reports can be found in our Archive.

Photos and text by Mary Cook



Sedgwick Cottage (YVBSG 531). The cottage is three storeys high and built with sandstone rubble with large well-worked quoin blocks. The original cottage consisted of one room on each of the three floors.



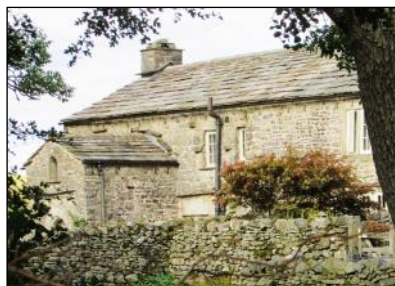
High Hall (YVBSG 543). High Hall is unusual in terms of having large stacks with round caps. It is currently in a state of considerable disrepair. However, a large plaque with Latin inscription, apparently dated 1665, is still in situ.



Coombe House (YVBSG 368). When Coombe was visited in 1977 it was in a state of disrepair. The stone chimney had fallen in and the remains of a lathe and plaster firehood were visible on the upper floor. The building is currently being renovated.



Flintergill House (YVBSG 1835). Despite first appearances, Flintergill House is older than it may initially look. Documentary sources trace the property back to 1730. It has been substantially remodelled, but still has the corbelled chimney feature.



Toft's House (YVBSG 367). There are two porches which have been added onto Toft's; one is much larger and more finely built than the other. It has an arched door, with a small arched window above it. There have been numerous phases of development at the property.



High Barth Farm (YVBSG 541). Reportedly built in 1812 but there is evidence to suggest parts of the building are older. In the west end gable there is an early spice cupboard and a built-in backstone. The central room contains a 17th century heavily carved cupboard built into the wall.



The Old Parsonage (YVBSG 533) (left). The report written in 1979 queries whether this house was originally a one cell unit. The differences in the roof ridges and the straight-line joints would suggest that it was.



Coventree (YVBSG 369). A fairly typical house of the area: built of coursed rubble, with a porch, dairy and a corbelled chimney.



West Banks Farm (YVBSG 430). Now uninhabited but striking features include porch leading to front door of simple wood panels, with heavy nail decoration. The arched fire windows and the hood moulding add character to the building.

New Hall, Elland – a well-documented house

Overlooking the ancient town of Elland, on the south side of the Calder valley, is a late-medieval house known as New Hall. This was to distinguish it from the hall near the bridge, which was summarily demolished to make way for a bypass in the 1970s. The demolition process revealed a medieval timber-framed structure which had been clad in stone, probably in the seventeenth century. The principal timbers were saved for re-erection, but as yet ...

New Hall, however, was securely away from any major routes. There have been several changes to the structure, particularly in the seventeenth century. Some were meticulously recorded by the owner, Henry Power, a physician and scientist who lived here in the 1650s. These records survive in the British Library's Sloane collection, including payments to various craftsmen engaged in his improvements. These have been studied and an article published in *Old West Riding* magazine by Jennifer Stead. In addition, Colum Giles penned an interpretative essay drawing together the documentary evidence with the results of the survey carried out as part of the preparation for the *Rural Houses of West Yorkshire* Royal Commission volume (*Old West Riding* Autumn 1981).

The building has featured in a number of other publications, including Louis Ambler, *Halls and Manor Houses of Yorkshire* (1913) and James Walton, *Early Timbered Buildings of the Huddersfield District* (1955). One of the most impressive features of the building is the open hall, lit by a large mullion and transom window, with impressive plasterwork bearing the royal arms and dated 1670. Some of the best masonry is found in the two-storey porch, which has a circular 'apple and pears' window, one of a group in the area described by Arnold Pacey in his article in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* for 1965.



Local historians have also shown considerable interest in the building. There are articles in the *Halifax Antiquarian Transactions* for 1902, following a visit, which traced the Savile, Foxcroft and Power family connections. Subsequent articles in 1912 and 1917 gave further details. By this time the building had been subdivided, as were many of the older prestigious houses in the area, into three or four households. Fortunately much of the historic fabric survived thanks to careful restoration in the 1940s by the Grotte family, and more recently by the Halsteads and the present owners. One 'addition' was a doorhead from Stott Ing, Rishworth, with the date 1668 and initials SGR for the Ramsden family.

Recently part of the property has become available as holiday accommodation (www.newhallelland.co.uk) so you can enjoy the splendour of the building for yourself.

David Cant

Cat on a hot straw roof

In a previous Newsheet we reported that The Star Inn at Harome, near Helmsley, had suffered a serious fire in November 2021. As you can see in these two photos taken in October this year, the cruck-framed building has now got a new thatched roof topped with Smokey the straw cat (who also lived on the previous roof). The Star told us via Twitter that Smokey used up a few lives on the night of the fire!

The YVBSG archive contains a photo of the inn taken in c1900 (YVBSG 0343), although a clearer copy can be found on the excellent thatching website at thatchinginfo.com/thatching-in-north-east-ridings-of-yorkshire.



Lorraine Moor



A volunteering opportunity

The JORVIK Group is currently welcoming applications for volunteering roles. A variety of positions is available for anyone wishing to meet new people, share their passion for history or archaeology, or support the York Archaeological Trust in engaging visitors with the rich heritage and archaeology of York.

Opportunities are available to volunteer at Barley Hall, at the Jorvik Viking Centre, at the City Walls Experience and at the 2023 Viking Festival.

Descriptions of all roles on offer and details of how to apply can be found at thejorvikgroup.co.uk/volunteer. Any enquiries should be emailed to volunteer@yorkat.co.uk. The closing date for applications is 5 January 2023.

Ever had the feeling you're being watched?

Visit a building nowadays and you may well be caught on CCTV. However, this farm building, which has been brought to our attention by one of our Facebook followers, might give you the feeling that you are being watched in a different way, as each kneeler bears a carved head on it. The building is a traditional cart shed of the second half of the nineteenth century at Wild Slack Farm in Lealholm, near Whitby.

A similar face carved onto a kneeler was seen in 2014 by a team recording Hollins Farm in Glaisdale. The report on that building (YVBSG 1840) suggested that the kneeler, which no longer fulfils its original purpose, 'might represent the lower roofline of an earlier structure, which was perhaps retained for its ritual significance'.

Peter Brears, in his excellent book *North Country Folk Art* (chapter 3, 'The Old Man's Face'), discusses the numerous carved heads which are found around the county, the origins of which appear to go back many hundreds of years. In vernacular buildings, they can sometimes be seen on gable-ends or around doorways. The carving of heads by local stonemasons continued into the nineteenth century and Peter relates how a stonemason and poet, John Castillo, who lived in Lealholm, carved a number of heads from about 1805 onwards. Other carvers were active in the area at the same time, and it's possible that the Wild Slack Farm heads were the work of one of these local craftsmen.



Cart shed at Wild Slack Farm

Carved heads are also found in other locations such as on bridges or associated with springs and wells.

Peter suggests that the heads might have fulfilled some protective function, and proposes that the 'Old Man's Face' (a traditional name for these heads) provides 'an interesting example of the long continuity of custom and belief in both local and European contexts, a continuity which was only interrupted by the great social changes and population movements brought about by nineteenth-century industrialisation.'

Further Yorkshire examples are illustrated in the booklet *Celtic and other stone heads* by Sidney Jackson (1973).

Lorraine Moor

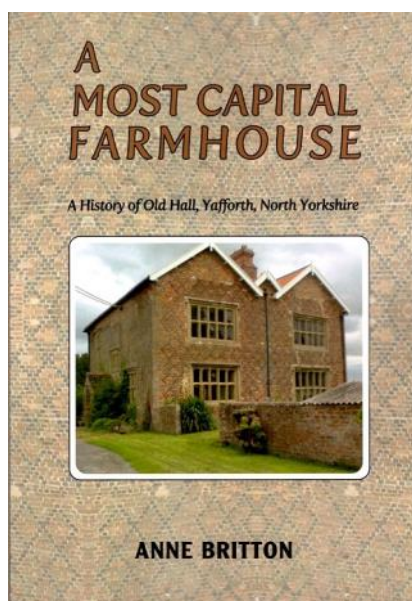


The four kneelers at Wild Slack Farm

Publications

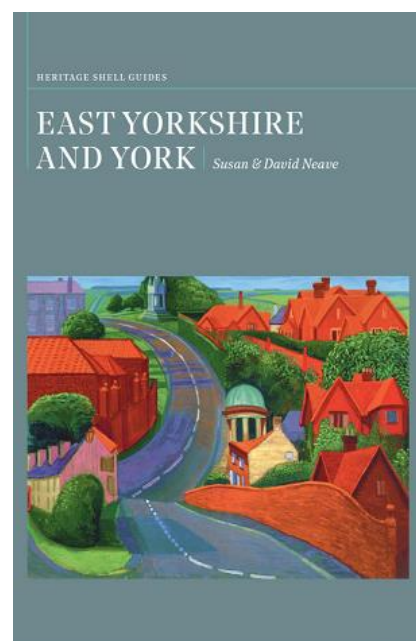
East Yorkshire and York by Susan and David Neave, published by the Heritage Shell Guide Trust. ISBN 978-1-7397907-0-7, £24.95. Shell Guides were the brainchild of John Betjeman in the 1930s when people began to explore the country by car. Here is an introduction to the towns, villages and buildings of the East Riding, and the cities of Kingston upon Hull and York – a region just waiting to be explored!

Researching House History. North Yorkshire County Record Office has produced this new online guide to researching house history to accompany their current exhibition (see page 9 for details), available at nycroblog.com/house-history.



A Most Capital Farmhouse – a History of Old Hall, Yafforth, North Yorkshire by Anne Britton. The story of a farmhouse near Northallerton, built of brick with decorative diaper patterning. Although the house has a datestone of 1614, it is thought to have earlier origins and the story begins soon after the Battle of Hastings. £9.99 plus £3.75 p&p from www.ypdbooks.com.

Traditional Food in the South Pennines by Peter Brears. Hebden Bridge Local History Society Occasional Publications No 12, 2022. An account of the everyday lives of South Pennine working people from 1800 to around 1918, as experienced through their food and drink. Details are included of both poverty and prosperity, social gatherings and local customs. In addition, there are over 170 recipes for local dishes for those who wish to recreate the authentic tastes of the South Pennines. £11.99 plus £2.80 p&p from hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk.



Other events of possible interest ...

Raising the Roof! Researching House History

Until 31 January 2023

An exhibition at the North Yorkshire County Record Office in Northallerton, open Tuesday to Friday 9.30am to 4pm, free admission. The exhibition highlights resources people can use to discover the history of their home and the people who lived there. Items from the archive from the early 1300s to the 1970s will be on display, including historic maps, old photographs, architectural drawings and property deeds. For further details see www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/learn-how-uncover-your-homes-hidden-history.

In Search of Britain's Oldest Pubs

Thursday 29 December 2022

An online talk by James Wright at 7pm. Using archaeological and documentary evidence, James will delve into the historical development of British pubs through the mediaeval period. Can we begin to define the physical characteristics and date of pubs from their architecture? The claims of well-known buildings will be put to the test – just where is Britain's oldest pub? To book, follow the link from the website at triskeleheritage.triskelepublishing.com/public-talks.

Trans-National Connections – Vernacular Architecture in Britain & Beyond

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 January 2023

The Vernacular Architecture Group's winter conference at University of Leicester, exploring the ways in which buildings in different parts of Britain may share features with building traditions elsewhere in the world. Conferences are normally for VAG members only, but this time open to all.

17th century yeoman farmhouses and oak furniture of the Upper Calder Valley

Wednesday 25 January 2023

A talk by Peter Thornborrow to Hebden Bridge Local History Society, 7.30pm in Hebden Bridge Methodist Church. www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk.

A Little Village of Stones

Sunday 29 January 2023

Ripponden's fine buildings, textile history, and influential names make a fascinating story which goes back 1000 years. Meet Anne Kirker at 1.30pm by Ripponden Parish Church gates. Details of this and other walks at calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk; walks are held fortnightly throughout the winter. £4, no need to book.

Witchcraft in C16/C17 Yorkshire

Monday 27 February 2023

A talk by Dave Weldrake to Batley History Group, 7.30pm in Batley Town Hall. See batleyhistorygroup.co.uk.

Carbrook Hall – the latest investigations

Tuesday 28 February 2023

A talk by Andrew Bower to the Hunter Archaeological Society, 7.30pm in the Showroom Workstation at 15 Paternoster Row, Sheffield. Carbrook Hall in Sheffield was recorded by the YVBSG during the Sheffield recording conference in 2019. Details at sites.google.com/site/hunterarchaeologicalsociety.

VAG Spring Conference 2023

Tuesday 11 to Saturday 15 April 2023

To be held in the Greater Manchester area. YVBSG member Kevin Illingworth is a member of the organising team. VAG conferences are normally open to members and their guests only. For details see vag.org.uk.

Hidden Charms 4

Saturday 15 April 2023

The next *Hidden Charms* conference will be held at the National Centre for Early Music in York, organised by Brian Hoggard. See www.apotropaios.co.uk.

Old Cumbria Gazetteer

This online gazetteer, also known as *Guide to the Lakes*, was an unsupported fifteen-year retirement project for Jean and Martin Norgate. They started updating and expanding the gazetteer in recent years, but Martin died in 2018. Jean finished the update in July 2022 with the help of Richard Light. It is now about twice the size of its predecessor, with some 50,000 photographs. To view the gazetteer, go to www.lakesguides.co.uk and click on 'Gazetteer'.

There are 200 topics, in alphabetical order from A to Y, with photos from all over Cumbria, the administrative county created in 1974. Also included are the Dent, Garsdale, and Sedbergh areas, historically within the former West Riding of Yorkshire. Places in adjacent counties are sometimes mentioned in the gazetteer. A few topics suitable for vernacular architecture students are listed below.

- Topic D, for Datestones. There are 1,020 datestone photos here, including some decorative doorheads as illustrated in *Doorways in the Dales*.
- Topic B, for Barns. There are hundreds of barn photos, including barn windows and ventilation slits, roof structures, barn doors, latches and bolts.
- Topic W can be for Water Troughs. At Blindcrake, near Cockermouth, is a row of four stone water troughs, not unlike the row we saw this year at Mankinholes, in the Todmorden countryside. At Lupton is a water trough built with five stone slabs. Others like this were seen by us in Horton in Ribblesdale and in some Doncaster villages.
- Topic S can be for Stone Walls. In the Gazetteer are several walls built of vertical slabs, as seen on our visit to Wilsden, near Bradford, in 2015.
- Topic S can also be for Summer Houses. We visited one at Bashall Hall in 2011, and recorded another near Bullhouse Hall, Penistone, in 2017.
- Other topics to explore include structures such as Bridges (1,500 photos), Spinning Galleries (30), Pinfolds and Pounds (64), Bee Boles (19), Dovecots (11), Chimneys, Doors (houses), Roofs, Gargoyles, and many more.

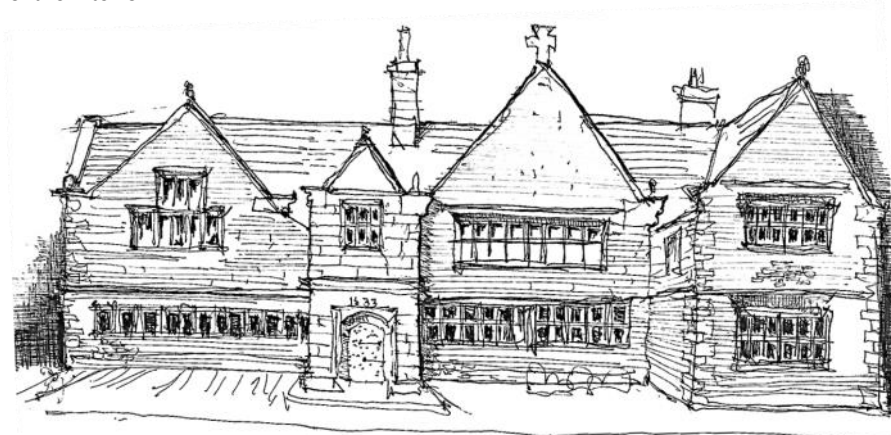
Kevin Illingworth



Going to a wedding? Don't forget your pencils!

Most of us, whilst at a wedding, listen politely to the speeches, toast the bride and groom, and perhaps take a turn around the dance floor afterwards. However, YVBSG member Malcolm Birdsall also managed to fit in a spot of recording whilst he was at a wedding some twenty years ago, including making a sketch of the venue and some of the building's features too!

Holdsworth House is dated 1633 and is located just to the north of Halifax. It is now a hotel and restaurant; the website at www.holdsworthhouse.co.uk gives a potted history and photos of the interior.

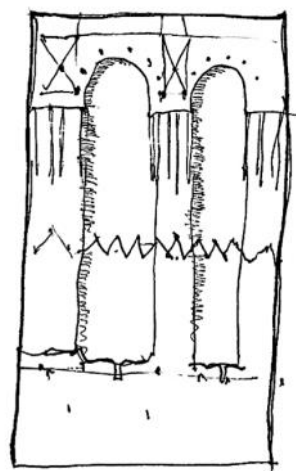


DOORWAY
HEAD.



DOORWAY
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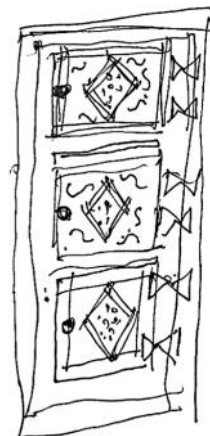
HOLDSWORTH HOUSE
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DOORWAY - FREEMASONRY
MARKINGS?



WALL
WIG
CUPBOARD?
first floor



Villages by the Sea

The third series of the television programme *Villages by the Sea* featured the Yorkshire coastal village of Flamborough (shown on BBC2 on 2 November 2022), when archaeologist Ben Robinson explored chalk construction and visited some of the local chalk buildings including Flamborough Castle and the Chalk Tower (also known as the old lighthouse). The half-hour episode is still available for viewing on iPlayer – well worth a watch if you haven't yet seen it.



Manor Cottage, Flamborough – one of the buildings visited in the programme.

The first and second series featured the villages of Staithes and Robin Hoods Bay but these programmes are not currently available online.



Flamborough Castle – not normally open to the public but visible from the road

Next Newsheet

The next Newsheet will be in February 2023 – please send any contributions to the editor at newsheet@yvbsg.org.uk by 31 January 2023. Short articles on buildings or features would be welcome, as well as details of publications or events of interest to other members.

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