



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 47

February 2007

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

Vernacular Buildings on Yorkshire's Borders

Saturday 10 March 2007

Places are still available for the day school at Leeds Metropolitan University Headingley Campus. This year we've put together what we think will be a very enjoyable programme of talks from renowned experts on buildings outside the county boundaries. A copy of the booking form is enclosed with this Newsheet – as time is now short please phone or email David Cook to book, in addition to posting the form.

The YVBSG AGM will follow the day school as usual.

In accordance with the subject of the day school, some of our other events this year are taking place in locations around the borders of the county!

Annual Recording Conference 2007

Friday 18 to Sunday 20 May 2007

The weekend recording conference will take place in Slaidburn, a village in the Forest of Bowland (historically in the West Riding but now under Lancashire administration) with attractive stone-built houses, many of which have datestones. Full details and booking form enclosed with this Newsheet.



Slaidburn windows

Visit to the Colden Valley, above Hebden Bridge

Saturday 9 June 2007

A day of walks to see traditional buildings in this green valley, some having unusual features peculiar to the upper Calder valley. Includes a guided tour of Land Farm Garden, with tea and ample cakes. This part costs £6. Distances between buildings are not excessive, and minor roads are never far away. The programme for the day will include:

10.15am at Highgate Farm shop. Morning coffee can be purchased here (the award-winning May's shop). We'll be around here until 11am, looking at the curious door lintels of a seventeenth century barn, which have circles carved in relief on the undersides. Followed by ...

Broadstone Farm, laithe house (1811). See the unusual internal transverse stone arch supporting the roof of the barn, again a feature of this area (there is also a seventeenth century one near Chorley, Lancashire).

Colden Great House (sixteenth century). Exterior only, so far.

Lunch: Bring your own, or sandwiches and pies at May's, or New Delight public house ('The Newdy').

At 3pm John Williams will give a guided tour of Land Farm garden which is Bodnant-inspired, north-facing, and covers five acres. A thousand feet above sea level, yet sheltered. Himalayan poppies and garden sculptures. House of 1755, yet still clinging on to the seventeenth century in style, has earlier remains, and some imported from Schofield Hall, Lancashire. Ground floor visit, a rare chance to see an unusual parpoint wall, between housebody and parlour, which splays out to double thickness before first floor. The reasons for these walls are unknown, so come along and suggest one!

If you'd like to come, please telephone Kevin Illingworth on 01422 844941, leaving your own telephone number. Directions will be published in the next Newsheet.

Yarm and Egglecliffe walkabout

Sunday 17 June 2007

A full-day visit led by Barry Harrison to look at brick buildings of an urban type in the ancient port of Yarm and of a rural type in nearby Egglecliffe. Meet at the Town Hall, High Street, in the centre of Yarm at 10am. No need to book – just turn up. Please make your own arrangements for lunch – there are plenty of pubs and other eating places.

Walk around Idle and Thackley

Sunday 15 July 2007

Dr Eileen White of the Idle and Thackley History Group will lead a walk around these hilly settlements near Bradford, looking round Idle during the morning and Thackley in the afternoon. No booking required; own arrangements for lunch. Details of meeting place and time will be published in the next Newsheet.

Visit to Barton-on-Humber

Saturday 18 August 2007

Take a trip across the Humber Bridge for a visit to William Blyth's Brick and Tile Works followed by a walk around Barton. Details in the next Newsheet.

more YVBSG events on next page ...

YVBSG Events For Your Diary (continued)

Craftsmen and Vernacular Buildings: masons, carpenters and plasterers

Saturday 15 September 2007 (repeated on 20 October 2007)

A day school in Upper Wharfedale based at Kilnsey Village Hall with tours of Kilnsey Old Hall and houses in Conistone. Note that there are different speakers on the second date. Full details and booking form enclosed with this Newsheet.

Next committee meeting

The next full committee meeting will be held on Sunday 11 November 2007, although a 'virtual' committee meeting will be held by email during the spring to consider events for next year. If you'd like to raise any matter or suggest any events please contact David Crook.

Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in May – please send any items of interest to other members (events, books or journals, courses, news of particular buildings) to the editor by 30 April 2007.

Notice of AGM

The AGM will be held on Saturday 10 March 2007 at 4.30pm in the James Graham Building, Headingley Campus, Leeds Metropolitan University, Leeds. All members of the group are formally invited to attend.

If you are unable to attend the AGM and wish to raise any matter, you may do so in writing to the Secretary, David Crook.

Please send any nominations for officers or members of the committee to David Crook by Wednesday 7 March 2007.

Update from the Dendrochronology Working Group

The working group reports that excellent progress has been made on the project to instigate dendrochronology in Yorkshire. As reported in a previous Newsheet, members of the group had investigated the possibility of dendro-dating the roof timbers at St Agnes Lodge in Ripon. On 23 January 2007, Ian and Cathy Tyers of Sheffield University's Dendrochronology Laboratory carried out the sampling and their report was received in early February. Out of fourteen oak timbers sampled, eight proved to be a good match for dating, resulting in felling dates of 1625-1641 in the front range of the building (upper cruck trusses) and 1542-1573 in the rear wing (king posts). This confirmed our typological analysis and provided approximate dates for two types of roof, which will be useful for purposes of comparison with other buildings. The original YVBSG report on St Agnes Lodge dating from 1975 will be updated to incorporate the new findings. The venture was funded jointly by the YVBSG and the owner of the property.

As this exercise has been successful and has produced useful results, the Committee has agreed that the Group should continue to promote further dendro-dating in the county and has thus decided to provide funding for dendro-dating of a second building, up to a total of £600. This is likely to be a cruck-framed building in north or east Yorkshire, where confirmed dates for timbers are rare, and the working group has already identified a number of possible candidates.

There is some suspicion that the cruck timbers of one of these buildings may be of ash rather than oak, in which case they may prove to be undateable as Sheffield do not yet have facilities for dating ash, though they hope to build up a set of dating standards for this type of timber in the future.

Further news on the next building to be selected for dendro-dating will be reported in the Newsheet as the project progresses.

Requests for timber for tree-ring dating

Many years ago Barbara Hutton began amateur tree-ring dating, supported by Jennifer Hillam at Sheffield. I have continued this with varying success for over a decade. Whilst dendrochronology has become a very professional activity, there is still a place for the 'Barbara Hutton method'. I would welcome any suitable slices to try out and thank those who have already been in touch. Timber must be of oak, fairly smooth (machine sawn is good), sliced at right angles to growth, have at least 65 rings, likely to be seventeenth century or earlier and preferably have some provenance data. Any samples could be handed to me via members or at meetings.

Alison Armstrong



The Treasure House

January 2007 saw the opening of The Treasure House in Beverley. Enthusiasts for East Riding history will now be able to access under one roof a wide range of locally relevant material. The Treasure House's state-of-the-art stores hold the collections of the East Riding Archives, Beverley Local Studies Library, Beverley Art Gallery, Beverley Guildhall and the Archaeology of the East Riding Museums Service. Visitors are able to view documents, books, pictures, and historical objects from these collections, with staff on hand to help with enquiries.

Open from 9.30am to 5pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 9.30am to 8pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 9am to 4pm on Saturdays. Enquiries to East Riding Archives and Local Studies, The Treasure House, Champney Road, Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire, telephone 01482 392790.

North West Traditional Building Trust

It was announced last year that YVBSG member W John Smith and his wife, Kit, from Middleton in Manchester, had kindly offered to donate their large collection of slides, measured drawings and records relating to vernacular buildings in the north-west of England to the North West Traditional Building Trust, a specially-constituted subsidiary charity of the Heritage Trust for the North West. The objects of the new Trust are to establish and develop a centre for the study of traditionally constructed buildings in the North West of England (covering Cheshire/Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cumbria). The Trust was launched by Dr R W Brunskill at the Pendle Heritage Centre on 30 August 2006. Enquiries to Heritage Trust for the North West, telephone 01282 661704, www.htnw.co.uk.

Learning more ...

A selection of courses on offer during spring and summer was published in the last Newsheet: here are a couple more:

'Windmill Land' Revisited

Tutor: Colin Dickinson. During the First World War, Allen Clarke published his 'Windmill Land', an idyllic account of country life in the Fylde area of Lancashire. Examine the history of its watermills and windmills, followed in the afternoon by a study of Preston's contribution to flour milling. Tuesday 4 September 2007. Fee £29. Alston Hall, Alston Lane, Longridge, Preston PR3 3BP, telephone 01772 784661, www.alstonhall.com.

Country Churches and Chapels of North Lancashire

Tutor: James Houghton. The course will explore some of the churches and chapels of north Lancashire and look at how church architecture changed over the centuries, considering specific examples with special emphasis given to 19th century 'restoration' and rebuilding. The course will discuss whether the Victorians were 'improvers' or vandals!

Monday 10 September 2007. Fee £29. Contact Alston Hall as above.

Friends of the Historic Houses Association

Kevin Illingworth reminds us that a wide variety of houses can be visited by joining the Friends of HHA (currently £36 per annum). In addition, regional groups arrange tours to houses in their regions for an extra fee. Some of the houses being visited this year by the Friends HHA Yorkshire Region, suitable for those interested in vernacular architecture, are the following.

- Parceval Hall, Skyreholme (c.1600 and 1671) on 3 July
- Farnley Hall, near Otley (1581, early 17th century and 1780s) on 10 September
- Martholme Hall, Lancashire (1561, 1607 and earlier) on 2 September

Further details from Heritage House, PO Box 21, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 5SH, telephone 01462 896688, website www.hha.org.uk.



New cruck barn opens in Appletreewick!

The Dalesman magazine for January included a feature on the newly-built and heather-thatched cruck barn added to the rear of the Craven Arms at Appletreewick. The 'barn' is used as a restaurant/function room and can accommodate sixty diners (telephone 01756 720270). The design is said to be based on that of a cruck barn from Barden, which was taken down and rebuilt at Shibden Hall, Halifax, but burned down soon afterwards.

Some recent publications

The Dated Buildings of South Lonsdale by Emmeline Garnett. Revised and updated edition published by Centre for North West Regional Studies, Lancaster University, telephone 01524 593770. ISBN 9781862201927. £17.95 + £1 p&p. Dating and initialling buildings has been a widespread local habit since the seventeenth century. This book attempts a complete collection of examples in the old hundred of Lonsdale South of the Sands. The arrangement by townships, and within the township by dates, makes it easy to identify a particular building, while indexes of names and places allow family and local historians to follow their particular interests.

The Yellow Book 2007. The Yellow Book comprises a list of gardens open for charity each year under the National Gardens Scheme. Kevin Illingworth recommends this as a good way of seeing gardens and perhaps even parts of houses not normally open to the public. Sometimes the 'tea-room for the day' can be in part of an historic house. Available in February each year, £7.99.

Northumbrian Building Studies 6. Published by the Traditional Architecture Group. Includes studies of: the seventeenth century farmhouse Tanfield Leith, Tantobie, County Durham; the so-called Deerkeeper's Cottage or Deer House, Meldon Park, Northumberland, a seventeenth century standing from which to view deer; and Harbottle Kennels, Harbottle, a putative poultry house of the nineteenth century. Copies available from Mrs V Bolter, 20 Osborne Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1JQ, price £4 including p&p (cheques payable to Traditional Architecture Group).

House Histories for Beginners by Colin and O-Ian Style. October 2006, Phillimore & Co Ltd, ISBN 1860774059, £15.99. The reader is guided through each stage of researching the history of a house, from the first exploration of the archives to the completion of the project. Characteristics of research on particular types of property – such as cottages, manor houses, inns, mills, and farms – are discussed.

Coming soon ...

Pennine Perspectives: Aspects of the History of Midgley. Published by the Midgley History Group. A 'must have' for anyone connected with the Midgley area or interested in local history in general. Chapters include Geology, Agriculture, Early industry, Names and population, Folklore, Pubs and much more. Launch date: 30 June 2007, £18. Advance subscribers (with your name printed in a subscribers list in the book) £15. Enquiries: Ian Bailey on 01422 886840 or email midgleybooks@3-c.coop.

Black Diamonds: The Rise and Fall of a Great English Dynasty by Catherine Bailey. To be published March 2007 by Viking, £20. The extraordinary story of Wentworth Woodhouse, near Sheffield. Surrounded by seventy collieries, it is said to be the finest and largest Georgian house in Britain. The book tells the story of its demise: family feuds, forbidden love, class war, and a tragic death played their part. But coal, one of the most emotive issues in twentieth-century British politics, lies at its heart.

Ryedale Village Building Studies

Until now the Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group has been looking mostly at the building stones used in churches and in the grander houses of the area. However, the group now hopes to start a series of village building studies around the North York Moors, noting local materials and how they are used, as well as features of the buildings.

Dates and locations are not yet arranged, but if you are interested in helping with the surveys (guidance will be provided), either keep an eye on the RVBMRG website (www.ryedale-buildings.org.uk) where details will be published, or email the co-ordinator, Edward Freedman, e.freedman@northyorkmoors-npa.gov.uk.

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!

Craftsmen of Beverley Minster – A Continuing Tradition

Saturday 17 March 2007

This event, advertised in the last Newsheet, is now fully booked.

Family and Local History Day

Saturday 31 March 2007

Join representatives from Kirklees Local Studies Libraries, Kirklees Museums and Galleries, the Huddersfield and District Family History Society, Wyke Local History Group, the YVBSG, the Friends of Judy Woods, the Low Moor Local History Group, the WEA and many others to find out more about sources available locally to help with family and local history research. From 10am to 3pm at Cleckheaton Library. For further information contact Cleckheaton Library on 01274 335170.

The Archives Come to Town

Thursday 19 April 2007

Learn about the collections at the County Records Office in Northallerton – join Archives staff to find out what they hold and how you can use it. Discover how you can preserve your own archives for future generations. 2pm at the Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate. Free but please book in advance: telephone Harrogate Museums and Arts on 01423 556188.

Interpreting the woodwork of Ripon's medieval craftsmen

Saturday 21 April 2007

A study day to investigate not only the dating of timbers in the magnificently restored sixteenth century Thorpe Prebend House but also the inspiration, craftsmanship and symbolism of the internationally renowned work of the so-called 'School of Woodcarvers'. Sessions include: 'Dendrochronological investigation in Ripon' by Cathy Tyers; 'Woodcarvings of Ripon Cathedral' by Maurice Taylor; and 'Interpreting the woodcarvings' by Rev Derek Chung; tours of Thorpe Prebend House and of the cathedral woodcarvings are also included. The day is based at Thorpe Prebend House, Ripon. Cost £15. Contact M H Taylor, Woodwork Day School, Friends of Ripon Cathedral, Chapter House, Ripon Cathedral, Ripon HG4 1QT, telephone 01765 604778.

Archaeology and the Historic Environment in the Yorkshire Dales

Saturday 21 April 2007

A day school organised by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in association with the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, 10am- 4.30pm in Grassington Town Hall. Speakers at this day school will discuss some of the results of recent archaeological and historical survey and research. The day will include the following papers: 'The influence of geology on the historic environment of the YDNP' by Adrian Kidd; 'Kinsey: changing perspectives in cave archaeology' by Tim Taylor; 'Archaeology on the Pannal to Nether Kellet gas pipeline' by Stuart Noon; 'Greenhow Hill Lead Mines Survey: and beyond!' by Martin Roe; 'The Yorkshire Dales Stone Industries: Stonehouse Marble Works and Burtersett Quarries' by Shaun Richardson; 'Historic Landscape Characterisation: the Yorkshire Dales' by Steve Toase; and 'And on that farm he had a barn; and a barn; and a ...' by Don McLellan. Fee: £10 (£7.50 full time students and YAS members). The fee includes refreshments but not lunch. For further information please telephone 01756 751690 or email herinfo@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Medieval Churches Tour

Tuesday 24 April 2007

Talks and tour highlighting the histories and uniqueness of local medieval churches, including Aldfield, West Tanfield and Masham, with local historians Anne Carrick and Maurice Taylor. Cost £20. Depart from and return to Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate. To book, telephone Harrogate Museums and Arts on 01423 556188.



The Arts and Crafts Movement in the Pennines: Buildings and Writings

Saturday 19 May 2007

Day school with tutor Peter Leach. The region contains a number of houses built 1880-1930 in a revived version of the traditional style of Pennine manor houses and farmhouses. Relationships will be examined between these and both the Arts and Crafts movement and the first serious studies of traditional Pennine architecture itself. Fee £17.50. Enquiries: School of Lifelong Education and Development, University of Bradford, telephone 01274 233217.

Traditional Buildings of the North Yorkshire Dales

Wednesday 23 May 2007

Talk by Barry Harrison to the Upper Dales Family History Group at Fremington, 2-4pm, admission £1. Enquiries: 01969 640436.

Bowland Festival 2007

Saturday 2 to Sunday 17 June 2007

A celebration of wildlife, landscape, heritage and rural life of the Forest of Bowland, an AONB. For further information contact Clitheroe Travel on 01200 420301 or Clitheroe Tourist Information Centre on 01200 442226.

SPAB in Yorkshire

The Yorkshire Regional Group of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings has published its programme for spring 2007. Although these visits are organised for SPAB members, there is occasionally space for non-members who are, of course, encouraged to join!

- Kirkham Priory, Hildenley Quarries and Medieval Malton – Saturday 31 March.
- Selby Abbey: Masonry Repairs and Conservation – Saturday 21 April.
- Wortley Top Forge: Forge and Watermill Tour of the River Don – Saturday 26 May.
- Longbottom Ironfounders and Wormsworth Quarry – date in June to be confirmed.
- Abbedale Hamlet, Shepherd Wheel, Rivelin Valley – Sunday 8 July.

Further information from Ray Wilson, email r.wilson@padside-hall.co.uk, or visit www.spab.org.co.uk.

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