



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

[www.yvbsg.org.uk](http://www.yvbsg.org.uk)

Newsheet No 55

February 2009

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### **Crucks and Cruck-Framed Buildings, and AGM**

Saturday 14 March 2009

Places are still available for the annual day school, to be held at Leeds Metropolitan University Headingley Campus. If you would like to come, please book quickly! Booking forms were circulated with the last Newsheet and are available on the website. The YVBSG will hold its AGM immediately after the talks as usual.

### **Visit to Padside Hall**

Sunday 15 March 2009

At the time of writing, only six places are left for this visit to Padside Hall, Braithwaite, Harrogate. The visit will start at 2pm, with optional lunch beforehand at the Stonehouse Inn, near Thuscross, at 12.30pm. If you are interested, please contact Malcolm Birdsall as soon as possible (contact details on back page) indicating whether you require lunch.

### **East Keswick Study Day**

Sunday 26 April 2009

A day school to be held jointly with the East Keswick Local History Group at the Village Hall, East Keswick, from 10.45am to 4pm. Cost: £5 to include a ploughman's lunch. During the day we shall have a look at what is left of the village's vernacular buildings and we also hope to provide inspiration to those keen to know more about tracing the history of their own properties. Despite being only ten miles from Leeds the landscape of the village retains features of its agricultural heritage. The morning will consist of a few short talks and after lunch there will be guided walks and an opportunity to learn about recording vernacular buildings. See the East Keswick Group's website at [www.eastkeswick.org.uk](http://www.eastkeswick.org.uk) where you can download a copy of the booking form or telephone Liz Parr on 01937 572867 for more information.

### **Annual Recording Conference**

Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May 2009

This year we return to the Yorkshire Dales for our annual conference, which will be based in Carlton-in-Coverdale. A booking form providing full details is enclosed with this Newsheet.



*Carlton-in-Coverdale in the snow*

### **Crucks in North-East Yorkshire**

Sunday 21 June 2009

Following the day school on crucks, we hope to spend a day observing some crucks in situ, led by Barry Harrison. Full details in the next Newsheet.

### **Visit to Roundabout Farm, Nidderdale**

Saturday 27 June 2009

An afternoon visit to a small, late seventeenth century farmhouse near Pateley Bridge, organised by Kevin Illingworth. Full details will be provided in the next Newsheet.

### **Vernacular Buildings in the Barnsley district**

Saturday 11 July 2009

We are pleased to announce that we now have a date for the long-awaited foray into South Yorkshire, and very exciting it sounds too. The programme, which is being arranged by Dr David Mercer of Sheffield, is still provisional and may yet change. However, the day is likely to start at Cawthorne Victoria Jubilee Museum (complete with post-and-truss and cruck-framed buildings). From here we will probably look at the outside of The Golden Cross – a timber-framed medieval house in Cawthorne – then to Barnby Hall farm where the medieval hall house is preserved in a barn. We then hope to visit Gunthwaite Barn, a part-stone, part timber-framed building of 1550 with king-post roof, followed by Alderman's Head Cote Farm – a cruck-framed barn. Finally back to Barnsley for Field Head Farmhouse, an interesting example of a converted seventeenth century hall preserving an earlier timber-framed structure. Numbers will be limited – to book a place, please contact Malcolm Birdsall (contact details on back page).

### **Conference Review Day**

Sunday 27 September 2009

A meeting to draw together and review the information gathered during this year's recording conference in Carlton-in-Coverdale. Details nearer the time.

### **Guisborough Study Day**

Sunday 18 October 2009

Following extensive research on documents, much knowledge has been acquired about the building processes in Guisborough from the mid eighteenth to the mid nineteenth centuries. Barry Harrison, Jacky Quarmby and Joyce Williams will share their knowledge with us on this day. Full details to follow.

### **Next committee meeting**

The next full committee meeting will be held on Sunday 4 October 2009, although a 'virtual' meeting will be held by email in spring to consider future events. If you'd like to raise any matter or suggest any events please contact David Crook.

## 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!

### **A Different View: the Changing Landscape in York**

Until 3 May 2009

Exhibition at York Art Gallery. Despite the survival of much medieval architecture, the only remaining record we have of many demolished buildings are the sketches and studies of local artists. In *A Different View* we explore the York of yesteryear through drawings and prints from the gallery's collections. Enquiries: 01904 686687, [www.yorkartgallery.org.uk](http://www.yorkartgallery.org.uk).

### **Bolton Percy Medieval Gatehouse**

Saturday 28 February 2009

An open day from 10am to 3.30pm. The gatehouse was once the main entrance to a complex containing a huge tithe barn amongst other buildings, and also the ancient medieval rectory house which preceded the present Old Rectory built in the 1690s. This will be a last opportunity to see the interior as it is now before the Vivat Trust restore the building and convert it into a holiday let. The church of All Saints will also be open. Enquiries: Marjorie Harrison, telephone 01904 744263.

### **The Slaidburn Village Archive**

Monday 9 March 2009

Talk by Jenny Bradley to Heysham Heritage Association at 2pm in St Peter's Church Hall, Heysham, Lancs. Enquiries: 01524 859517. Further information about Heysham is available at [www.htnw.co.uk/heysham.html](http://www.htnw.co.uk/heysham.html).

### **Old Bradford in Pictures**

Wednesday 11 March 2009

Talk by David Croft to Bradford Historical and Antiquarian Society at 10:30am in Room 1, 2nd floor, Bradford Central Library. £2 for visitors.

### **Mud Masonry**

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 March 2009

A two day symposium to explore and discuss the history, theory and practice of mud masonry and to have a go yourself. Mud survives in buildings throughout Malton and Ryedale – it was the mortar of choice for highly skilled stonemasons building with limestone, and the plaster of choice until at least the early eighteenth century. Talks will cover the history and cultural significance of mud masonry; regional types and methods, including cob, mud and stud, earth pise will be covered, as will simple on-site testing and options for improvement of found materials. Practical sessions will include earth

plastering, adobe block-making and the construction of a rammed earth wall. Fee: £75 per day. Venue: York House, Malton. Pre-booking essential – contact Nigel Copsey, Estate Office Stables, 90 Old Maltongate, Malton YO17 7EG, telephone 01653 690115, email [nigelcopsey@hotmail.com](mailto:nigelcopsey@hotmail.com).



### **Skipton Community Research Project**

Thursday 2 April 2009

A talk by Susan Wrathmell to the Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group. The Skipton project is being co-ordinated by historical buildings consultant Sue, who is involving volunteers from the local community to help with the surveying and research. 7.30pm in the Soroptimist Rooms, 28 Otley Street, Skipton. Website [www.uwhg.org.uk](http://www.uwhg.org.uk).

### **Castle to Country House, the metamorphosis of the aristocratic residence**

Sunday 5 April 2009

A field trip by coach to Castle Howard led by Erik Matthews. Cost £25 includes entrance fee. Enquiries: Miss J Senior, Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Claremont, 23 Clarendon Road, Leeds LS2 9NZ, telephone 0113 245 7910.

### **Life in the 1640s at Clarke Hall**

Sunday 12 and Monday 13 April 2009

See Clarke Hall brought to life with costumed demonstrators from the 1640s. Pike drill, historical crafts and cooking. 10am to 4pm, £5. Clarke Hall, Aberford Road, Wakefield, WF1 4AL, telephone 01924 302700.

### **Sir Christopher Sykes and the Landscape of Sledmere**

Thursday 16 April 2009

Talk by George Sheeran to Olicana Historical Society, 7.30pm at Church House, Church Street, Ilkley. Enquiries: The Hon Secretary, Ron Samuel, 12 Queens Drive Lane, Ilkley LS29 9QS, web [www.ilkley.org/clubs/ohis.htm](http://www.ilkley.org/clubs/ohis.htm), telephone 01943 601160.

### **Quarrying in Yorkshire**

Thursday 16 April 2009

Talk by George Bower to Malhamdale Local History Group, 8pm at Malham Village Hall. Entry fee £2. Enquiries: Rosemary Bundy, telephone 01756 748220.

### **Archaeology and the historic environment in the Yorkshire Dales**

Saturday 25 April 2009

A day school at Grassington Town Hall reviewing some of the results of recent archaeological and historical survey and research in the Yorkshire Dales. Cost £10. For more information contact Lynne Johnson at Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Bainbridge, email [Herinfo@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:Herinfo@yorkshiredales.org.uk), telephone 01969 652338.

### **Markenfield Hall**

3 to 16 May and 14 to 27 June 2009

The hall is open on the above dates, 2pm to 5pm. Entrance includes access to the Inner Courtyard, Undercroft, Great Hall, Chapel and Moat Walk. Charge £4. Enquiries: Markenfield Hall, Ripon, North Yorkshire HG4 3AD, telephone 01765 692 303, web [www.markenfield.com](http://www.markenfield.com).

### **Castles, Landscapes and Lordship**

Saturday 16 to Sunday 17 May 2009

A joint conference at Tempest Anderson Hall, York, hosted by the Royal Archaeological Institute and Yorkshire Archaeological Society, discussing the many aspects of 40 years of castle studies. Speakers include Shaun Richardson, Peter Brears and Steve Moorhouse. Sunday morning guided tours to either York castles and city walls or Sheriff Hutton Castle. For details contact Caroline Raison, Administrator, Royal Archaeological Institute, c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BE, [www.royalarchaeolinst.org](http://www.royalarchaeolinst.org). The cost is £60 for full conference.

### **Brass Castles**

Saturday 30 May 2009

A field trip by own transport on the theme of the mansions of the 19th century industrialists. Morning at Bradford Industrial Museum where there will be a lecture, a look round the museum and a buffet lunch. Afternoon at Cliffe Castle, Keighley, which is a 'Brass Castle'. Cost about £15. Enquiries: Miss J Senior, Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Leeds, telephone 0113 245 7910.

### **The listed buildings of Skipton; a snapshot**

Thursday 18 June 2009

A walk with the Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group led by Sue Wrathmell, to complement Sue's presentation in April (see above) and to illustrate some of the structural contributions to this project. Website [www.uwhg.org.uk](http://www.uwhg.org.uk).

## Yorkshire Buildings

You've probably noticed that the production of our journal, *Yorkshire Buildings*, hasn't been as regular lately as it should have been, and I would like to apologise for this. *Yorkshire Buildings* No 34 2006 should appear this spring, and that issue will be my last as editor. Having produced the journal since 1995, I've decided that too much of my spare time is spent sitting at a computer, so I'll be standing down to let somebody else have a go (although I'll continue to look after the website and the Newsheet).

We are therefore looking for someone to take on the role of journal editor. At the moment, one person deals with the whole process from commissioning articles, preparing images, compiling the document electronically, arranging printing, and distributing the finished journal to members. However, it may be possible to share the duties between two or more people if no-one feels able to commit to the whole job.

If you think you might be interested in taking on the role, or can help in any way, please contact me or any member of the committee. I'd be happy to provide more information about what is involved.

To help us get back on schedule, if anyone would like to write up any of the Group's recent day schools or other events for the journal, please let me know.

Lorraine Moor

## Guidance, forms and templates for recording

We have recently updated our *Notes on the Recording of Vernacular Buildings* and the revised version is available for downloading from the YVBSG website at [www.yvbsg.org.uk/recording.htm](http://www.yvbsg.org.uk/recording.htm). We advise that everyone involved in recording should read the notes, which sets out the Group's recommended recording methods.

Also available on the website are the individual forms and templates which the group recommends for use when recording buildings and writing reports. The following documents are available for downloading:

- Guidance for Householders
- Guidance for Survey Group Leaders
- Building Survey Sheet and notes on completion
- Fixtures and Fittings Recording Form
- Report Cover Form
- The Building Report - suggested list of headings

Please see the *Notes on the Recording of Vernacular Buildings* for full details on how to use these documents.

The website also has a link to English Heritage's *Guide to Good Recording Practice* which includes the drawing conventions normally followed by the YVBSG.

## YVBSG Hull and East Riding Project

In the November Newsheet we announced that the Group would apply for 'Your Heritage' lottery funding. Since then we have held a successful meeting with our project partners, at which a list of potential buildings was compiled. We also had help in completing the pre-application to 'Your Heritage', and this has now been submitted.

The second step will be to complete the full application and this process will take longer, but if all goes according to plan we may be able to start the project in July 2009.

In the last Newsheet we asked for members who were interested in taking part to come forward and we are grateful to Geoff Brown for doing so. We also thank Susan and David Neave, and Dave Evans of the Humber

Archaeology Partnership, for their advice and involvement.

We expect to draw recording resource from our membership across the whole of Yorkshire if and when it comes to surveying the buildings, and we will publicise these opportunities when they arise. However, if you are also interested



Oak Cottage, South Dalton

in joining the main project team, please let me know.

We would be interested in helping members, or indeed anyone with experience or interest in recording buildings in the East Riding and Hull, to form a local recording group. In addition, if you know of any timber-framed buildings (or ones with significant and original roof timbers) in the area, please send me details so that we check this against our list.

We see the project as an excellent opportunity to carry out a planned programme of recording work and dendrochronology in a relatively neglected area, and to draw together the results to reach some conclusions as to how and when the buildings under investigation were built.

David Cook

## Dendrochronology Project

Another cruck-framed building in north-east Yorkshire has been successfully dated as part of this project. In November 2008, Ian Tyers took core samples from the large crucks at Roxby Farm Cottage, Thornton-le-Dale. He managed to obtain a date range but it was a near thing: the cruck blades and collar did not yield a result due to being 'stressed' or 'managed' timber. We were saved by the saddle which gave a felling date between 1584 and 1620. This result helps to consolidate the dating evidence for crucks in north-east Yorkshire, which so far includes the following date range:

- Cruck Cottage, Thornton-le-Dale: 1512
- Harome Manor House, now in Ryedale Folk Museum: 1530-75 (*dendro-dated in 1988*)
- Roxby Farm Cottage, Thornton-le-Dale: 1584-1620
- Glebe Farm, Octon, East Riding: 1670

## Notice of YVBSG AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 14 March 2009 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 Saturday 7 March 2009.

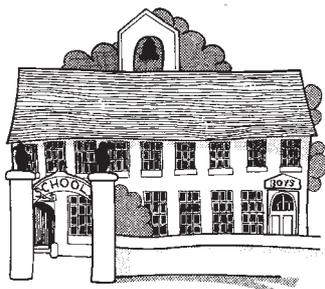
## Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in May – please send any items that might be of interest to other members to the editor by 30 April 2009.

## Surveying schools

The Norfolk Historic Buildings Group is embarking on a survey of rural schools in Norfolk. Many of these have already been closed and many more are due for closure, yet they represent an important source of both architectural and social history as well as forming an important part of the village scene. The Norfolk group plans to visit their sites and photograph all that survive. More detailed surveys will be undertaken on some. Supporting documentary material survives, both in the record office and in the schools themselves, and in Kelly's and White's *Directories*. An important source are the plans drawn for applications to the Privy Council for grants towards building, available from 1846 into the 1870s.

The Norfolk group would like to know of any other groups or individuals working in this field with whom they might be able to share thoughts on findings and methodologies. If you can help, please email Susanna Wade Martins, scwmartins@hotmail.com.



## Medieval roofs in Yorkshire

As part of a survey of medieval roofs in Yorkshire, I am examining church roofs – not of the flat or near-flat ceilinged variety, but pitched roofs such as are also found in some larger domestic buildings with both common rafters and principal rafter trusses. I have examined most extant examples in the North and East Ridings and I would be very grateful for information about such roofs in the West Riding. Photographs and/or drawings would be particularly welcome. Your contribution will of course be acknowledged in any subsequent publication. If possible please send the information electronically to barryguisbro@hotmail.co.uk. My address is 17 Whitby Avenue, Guisborough, Cleveland TS14 7AP.

Barry Harrison

## SPAB Yorkshire Regional Group

The SPAB Yorkshire Regional Group has published its programme for spring 2009. YVBSG members are welcome to attend events if spaces are available. Further information and booking form from Ray Wilson, Padside Hall, Thornthwaite-with-Padside, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 4AN, email [rwilson@padside-hall.co.uk](mailto:rwilson@padside-hall.co.uk).

- St John's Church and the City of Leeds – Saturday 4 April 2009
- Kirklees Priory – Saturday 16 May 2009.
- Gibson Mill, Hardcastle Craggs – Saturday 6 June 2009
- Castle Howard – to be confirmed

The following courses and events at York House, Malton, have been organised by the SPAB Yorkshire Regional Group in collaboration with People & Places, The University of York and the Fitzwilliam (Malton) Estates. For further information and booking please contact Nigel Copsey, email [nigelcopsey@hotmail.com](mailto:nigelcopsey@hotmail.com) or phone 07845 739 596.

- Mud Masonry – 19-20 March 2009
- Building Bridges – 21 May 2009. Building regulations and the structural repair of old buildings.
- North Yorkshire Stone Symposium – 18 June 2009. Covering geology and the use and performance of local building stones.
- Malton Lime Day – 9-10 July 2009. A comprehensive two day event covering all aspects of the use of lime in the repair and conservation of old buildings.

## The Yellow Book

*The Yellow Book 2009* (National Gardens Scheme) is now available at £8.99. Open gardens are a good way of getting closer to houses, or even getting inside!

## Courses around the region

### Drawing Architecture with Line and Wash

Saturday 14 March 2009

Tutor: Nigel Overton. Spend a day at Bolton Abbey Tea Cottage with good food and expert tuition from a professional artist. £48 including lunch. For more information, telephone 01943 608447 or see website [www.overtonfinearts.co.uk](http://www.overtonfinearts.co.uk)

### How Cities Grow: Historic Suburbs in Northern Cities

Saturday 28 March 2009

This day school will review the approaches taken to historic suburbs by historians and demonstrate new approaches to understanding the landscapes and life of suburbia. Programme includes: The Study of Historic Suburbs: an Overview (Colum Giles); Approaches to Studying Suburban Landscapes: Anfield (Adam Menuge); How the Motor Car Shaped Suburban Landscapes (Matthew Whitfield); Suburbs on Historic Film (Alex Southern); Manningham: Change in a Bradford Suburb (Simon Taylor); Denominational Competition: the Suburb and Places of Worship (Allison Borden); and more. Venue: Norcroft Centre, Bradford. Fee £5. To book, contact University of Bradford, telephone 01274 233217 or 233213, web [www.brad.ac.uk/events/dayschools](http://www.brad.ac.uk/events/dayschools).

### Country Houses of North West England

Tutor: Roger Mitchell. Three linked but separate days studying a rich mix of country houses. Fee: £35.50 per day. Enquiries: Alston Hall, Alston Lane, Longridge, Preston PR3 3BP, telephone 01772 784661, [www.alstonhall.com](http://www.alstonhall.com).

- **Country Houses of South Lancashire and Cheshire** Thursday 7 May 2009. To include Little Moreton, Bramall, Rufford, Knowsley, Dunham Massey and Tatton.
- **Country Houses of East Lancashire and the Yorkshire Pennines** Thursday 11 June 2009. Martholme to Gawthorpe and East Riddlesden to Gledstone.
- **Country Houses of North Lancashire and Cumbria** Thursday 16 July 2009. To include Browsholme, Leighton, Levens, Holker and Blackwell.

### The Geography and History of Heptonstall and Area

Monday 11 May 2009

Tutor: Mike Pearson. Heptonstall is a hill village in a region of wild moors, crags and ravines. We will see the vernacular architecture of the Weavers Square and Heptonstall's two churches. Price: £44.50. Enquiries: Alston Hall as above.

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