



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 63

February 2011

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

Markings and Dateable Features on Vernacular Buildings

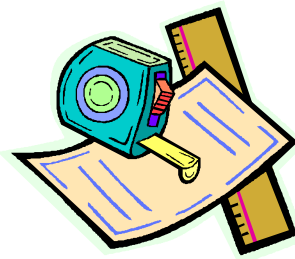
Saturday 26 March 2011

Places are still available at this year's annual day school which will examine markings on buildings and dated features such as doorheads. These can help us understand buildings and the people associated with them, thereby expanding our knowledge of construction, culture and symbolism. The venue once again is the Headingley campus of Leeds Metropolitan University. The talks will be followed at 5pm by the Group's AGM. Booking forms were enclosed with the previous Newsheet and are also available on the website. Additional presentations on witch posts and on Beverley buildings have been added to the programme since the booking form was circulated.

Annual Recording Conference

Friday 13 to Sunday 15 May 2011

To be held in Long Preston, an attractive Dales village between Skipton and Settle. Full details and booking form enclosed with this Newsheet and available on the website. Includes talks on the local area and on stone buildings.



Visit to Knaresborough

Sunday 19 June 2011

A walk around Knaresborough led by Barry Harrison, 10am to 4.30pm. Knaresborough has the greatest number of known timber-framed buildings in Yorkshire, outside York itself. Details in the next Newsheet.

Visit to Browsholme Hall, near Clitheroe

July 2011

A full-day visit to Browsholme Hall, near Clitheroe, in the historic West Riding of Yorkshire, organised by Kevin Illingworth. Date and details to follow in the next Newsheet.

Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 26 March 2011 at 5pm 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 19 March 2011.

Committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday 2 October 2011. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any future events please contact the Secretary, David Crook.

Next Newsheet

Many thanks to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in May – please send any items that might interest other members to the editor by 30 April 2011.

Thank you for volunteering!

Many thanks indeed to the five members who, in response to the appeal in the last Newsheet, offered to help produce drawings for *Yorkshire Buildings*. Your help is much appreciated. Thanks also to those who expressed interest in hearing about recording opportunities – if anyone else would like to be added to the email list, just email enquiries@yvbsg.org.uk at any time.

Publicity

The YVBSG has been out and about in recent months promoting the study of vernacular buildings and the work of the group. If you're aware of any events at which we might have a publicity stand, please let us know.

Right: Bob Greaves demonstrates his wonderful timber models on the YVBSG stand at the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service day school in November 2011. Photo by Ros Buck.



Message from the Chairman

Having had the privilege of being Chairman of the Group for over ten years, I feel that it is now a good time to make arrangements to step down and make way for the election of a new Chairman.

We discussed this at the last YVBSG committee meeting and agreed a process whereby we would call for a nomination from the membership for a member to be co-opted to the committee at the March 2011 AGM (with the agreement of the AGM) as preparation for the role of Chairman. The committee hopes that this will encourage nominations from the membership as it will give the opportunity for a potential candidate to experience how the Group works before deciding whether or not to stand for election as Chairman at the 2012 AGM. Of course, any member if proposed and seconded at the 2011 or 2012 AGMs can stand for election as Chairman. If I am re-elected in 2011 and if there is more than one nomination for the co-opted committee post, then the 2011 AGM can vote on the matter.

For me the Chairman's role has been a very rewarding one in terms of personal development. The committee has been very supportive throughout and this support has enabled me to continue with recording work. My approach to assigning responsibility for the organising the annual

recording conference in May has been to accept volunteers from the committee to do this, and if none have been forthcoming, to take on this responsibility. The conference has always been improved by involving local members or related local societies in the event. As Chairman, I have organised the annual day school and AGM in March for the last ten years, with help from David Cant on the selection of speakers for the last two years. I offer this to give an indication of past practice. Of course it is the decision of any new Chairman, with agreement of the committee, as to how this is assigned in the future.

I'd like to conclude, for anyone thinking about these opportunities, by saying that the Group is an active recording society first and foremost. Its ethos is one of discovery, collaboration, encouragement, sociability and fun. From its inception this has been case, and I hope my legacy has been to maintain and nurture this, and I hope that this will be secure in the future.

If you are interested please get a proposer and seconder to nominate you at the AGM, or of course, you can propose another member. If you'd like an informal chat about the role, please don't hesitate to contact me.

David Cook

The Wadsworth mystery object – a solution!

In the last Newsheet we asked readers for help in identifying a mystery object situated in a wall next to Raw Farm, Wadsworth, in the upper Calder Valley. Bob Greaves shares his thoughts on the object with us:

"I think the object shown is a hand activated water pump as there was (and still is) a similar one in my home village in South Lonsdale/North Lancashire. I have found illustrations of two similar pumps that are currently for sale on eBay.

Referring to the picture in the newsheet, the lower circular bracket would hold the main body of the pump and the two metal prongs above would act as stops for the handle, a central pivot being located between them, but in this case missing. The 'substantial fixing' referred to in the text would be required as the pump action activated by the handle (possibly around a yard long) would be quite powerful and vigorous."

Our thanks go to Bob for solving the mystery! Don't forget that if you have something that's puzzling you about a building, you can always ask other members for their views via this Newsheet.



SPAB Yorkshire Regional Group

The spring programme of the SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) Yorkshire group is as follows. To enquire whether places are available, please contact Ray Wilson, SPAB Yorkshire Regional Group, telephone 01423 781467, email rwilson@padside-hall.co.uk.

- Saturday 19 March 2011 – Gayle Mill, Hawes. All the mill's woodworking machinery and power systems will be fully operational during the visit and we will have the opportunity to experience the atmosphere of a working mill powered only by water. £12
- Saturday 16 April 2011 – Wentworth Woodhouse Park and Monuments. We will have access to the Rockingham Monument and the Hooper Stand where the more energetic can climb the 30 metre high tower and survey the park landscape from the viewing platform. £8

- Saturday 14 May 2011 – Norton Conyers, with Steve Moorhouse and Peter Ryder. Norton Conyers, near Ripon, is a Grade II* listed late medieval manor house with later additions. The recent removal of boards for repair has allowed for the first time a full archaeological survey of the early history of the house. £12

YVBSG members' website

In the last Newsheet we mentioned that a number of articles from previous editions of *Yorkshire Buildings* would be made available on a password-protected Members' Area on the YVBSG website. If you are a paid-up YVBSG member, you'll find enclosed some instructions on how to access this area. If you're not yet a paid-up member for 2011, instead you'll find enclosed a membership renewal reminder!

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!

Lincolnshire's Farm Buildings

Saturday 5 March 2011

A two-hour talk on Lincolnshire farm buildings by Dr Shirley Brook. Free event, 10.30-12.30, at the Jubilee Hall, High Street, Heighington (just east of Lincoln). Open to all but please book by calling 01529 461499 or emailing heritage-at-risk@lincsheritage.org. Website www.lincsheritage.org.

A Tour around Hardwick Hall

Monday 7 March 2011

Talk by Maureen Taylor to Hallamshire Historic Buildings Society. See the treasures of Hardwick without having to drive there! 7.30pm in the Quaker Meeting House, St James Street, Sheffield (near the Anglican Cathedral). Visitors £2. Website www.hhbs.org.uk.

The Role of a Planning and Conservation Officer

Wednesday 9 March 2011

Talk by Rob Clews for Poulton-le-Fylde Historical and Civic Society, 7.30pm at Church Hall, Fleetwood Road, Carleton. Visitors £2.50. Enquiries: Christine Storey, telephone 01253 885167.

The Geology behind York's Buildings

Wednesday 16 March 2011

10.30am-12.30pm, 2pm-4pm. Join the Yorkshire Museum's Geology Curator for a different and surprising look at what the buildings of York are built from! Following the walk there will also be chance to examine specimens from the Yorkshire Museum Geology collection. £5 per person. To book a place ring York Museums Trust on 01904 650333.

Regenerating Breweries, Maltings and Oast Houses

Thursday 17 March 2011

Day conference at the National Brewery Centre, Burton upon Trent, 10am to 4pm. Cost £120, or £60 for voluntary organisations. See www.ngcs.net for further details.

Traditional Farmhouses in and around the Forest of Bowland

Wednesday 23 March 2011

Talk by Kevin Illingworth, focusing on architectural features, for Downham History Group at Downham Village Hall (3 miles east of Clitheroe) at 7.30pm. Visitors £1. Enquiries: Elizabeth Wrigley on 01200 423005 or Jenny Palmer on 01200 445619.

Northallerton History Day

Saturday 26 March 2011

North Yorkshire County Record Office event at the Hambleton Forum in Northallerton. Groups and societies from all parts of North Yorkshire will mount displays of their work. 10am to 3.30pm, admission £1. Enquiries: telephone 01609 777585 or email archives@northyorks.gov.uk.

Bishops House Community Heritage Weekend

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 March 2011

Bishops House, located at Meersbrook Park in Norton Lees, dates from around 1500 and is one of Sheffield's historical gems. The Friends of Bishops House are holding this event to produce an archaeological and historical survey of the site. Members of the public can join Sheffield University's Archaeological Department and Heeley City Farm's Community Heritage Officer in three activities: resistivity (a form of geophysical survey); projection survey (drawing an accurate scale plan of a house); and a window survey (this will date the windows by analysing the composition of the glass). Bishops House itself will also be open. 11am to 3.30pm, free of charge. Further details at www.bishopshouse.org.uk.



Yorkshire's Historic Landscape and Buildings at Risk

Saturday 2 April 2011

The historic environment faces many and varied threats, from coastal erosion to urban development, from visitor pressure to neglect and under-funding. In this conference at York St John University, we will explore a wide range of sites at risk, from historic buildings to whole landscapes. Cost £15 (£10 for unwaged/retired) including tea/coffee. To book, please send a cheque payable to PLACE to Dr Margaret Atherden, PLACE Office, York St John University, Lord Mayor's Walk, York, YO31 7EX, telephone 01904 766291. Details at <http://place.uk.com>.

Interesting Houses in Clitheroe

Monday 4 April 2011

A talk by Gordon Taylor and John Lambert to Clitheroe Civic Society, 7.30pm at Ribble Valley Council Chambers in Church Street. Visitors £2. Enquiries: Pauline Wood, 01200 429187. www.clitheroecivicsociety.webs.com.

Tour of Goldsborough Hall

Wednesday 6 April 2011

Enjoy a tour of the gardens, a talk about the history of the hall and, where possible, access to the ground floor state rooms. Tea and scones included. 2pm, cost £12. To book, telephone Harrogate Museums and Arts on 01423 556188.

Nappa Manor Farm Walk

Thursday 14 April 2011

A North Craven Heritage Trust walk led by farmers Mr and Mrs George Bargh, telephone 01729 850288. Meet at 6pm at Nappa Manor Farm (just west of the A682 Gisburn to Hellifield road). £2. www.northcravenheritage.org.uk.

Old Inns of the Yorkshire Dales

Tuesday 19 April 2011

Talk by David Johnson for Earby and District Local History Society, 7.30pm at New Road Community Centre, Earby. Visitors £1.50. www.eurebi.org.

Historical Tour of Knaresborough

Tuesday 19 April 2011

Guided tour with Brian Forshaw. Discover the castle, historical buildings, medieval streets and famous characters. 2pm, cost £4. To book, phone Harrogate Museums and Arts on 01423 556188.

Yorkshire Dales Textile Mills

Thursday 21 April 2011

Talk by George Ingle to Olicana Historical Society, 7.30pm at All Saints Church House, Ilkley. Enquiries: Ron Samuel, telephone 01943 601160.

The Building Stones of Huddersfield

Monday 23 May 2011

Talk by Alison Tymon to Huddersfield Local History Society, 7.30pm in the Reception Room, Huddersfield Town Hall. Visitors £1. Website <http://huddersfieldhistory.wordpress.com>.

Tour of Markenfield Hall, near Ripon

Tuesday 24 May 2011

Guided tour of the hall and landscape. 2pm, £6. To book, telephone Harrogate Museums and Arts on 01423 556188.

Some recent books

Yorkshire's Real Heritage Pubs, edited by Dave Gamston. January 2011, ISBN 978-1-85249-277-9, £4.99. YVBSG members may remember an appeal from CAMRA in the February 2008 Newsheet for information on historic pub interiors in Yorkshire. Based on this regional inventory, a book has now been produced which sets out to celebrate the genuine pub heritage that survives in Yorkshire. The guide's listings cover the whole spectrum of pub heritage, from simple rural time-warp establishments to Victorian drinking palaces and some of the unsung interiors from the inter-war and later years that we take so much for granted.

Newton Hall and the cruck buildings of North West England, by Michael Nevell, University of Salford, CfAA Archaeological Monographs 1. 120pp, 123 colour photos and drawings; gazetteer of cruck buildings in Greater Manchester. £8.95 plus postage. ISBN 978-0-9565947-0-9. Published by Centre for Applied Archaeology, University of Salford, CUBE Building, 113-115 Portland Street, Manchester M1 6DW. Chapter 1 can be downloaded from <http://usir.salford.ac.uk/11925/>.

The Almshouses of York by Carole Smith. Quacks Books, 2011, £15. The impetus for this study came from William Kaye Sessions who in 1946 was commissioned by the Nuffield Foundation to report on York almshouses and charities for a survey of poverty in old age in the UK. Part One defines almshouses, and is a brief history of poverty, and social and charitable responses to it, since the tenth century. Part Two is a gazetteer of fifty named almshouses established in York since about 936AD, the possible founding date of the first English almshouse, St Leonard's Hospital in York. The most recent York almshouse was founded in 1983.

The National Gardens Scheme's *Yellow Book 2011* is now available at £9.99. Visiting gardens is a good method of getting closer to houses and buildings!

Yorkshire Museum of Farming: library and archive

The museum's library and archive is open to the public for research by appointment. The archive has recently been fully audited and a digital catalogue created, and the library catalogue is currently being updated. The collections include:

- Agricultural Journals from 1800s onwards.
- Books, manuals and magazines covering a wide range of farming topics including agricultural practice, farm buildings, animal husbandry, herd books, mechanisation of farming, crop varieties, and the rural locality.
- Over five thousand photographs and slides relating to farming, agriculture and the rural vicinity.
- A substantial Women's Land Army collection.
- Administrative documents, rural estate records, legal and probate documents, manufacturers' accounts, advertising and promotional material, and manorial documents as well as personal collections.

For further information or to make an appointment, please contact the Yorkshire Museum of Farming, Murton Park, Murton Lane, Murton, York YO19 5UF, telephone 01904 489966, website www.murtonpark.co.uk.

Yorkshire Friends of HHA

An annual subscription of £40 allows you to become a Friend of the Historic Houses Association and join a variety of tours, or, if you know a 'friend', you can go along as a guest. Enquiries: Friends Membership Department, HHA, Heritage House, PO Box 21, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 5SH, telephone 01462 896688, web www.hha.org.uk. Visits include:

- Sunday 27 March and Sunday 18 September 2011 – Visit to Hellifield Peel and Broughton Hall. £59 including three-course lunch.

Current research into markings on buildings

As our day school this year will explore markings and datable features, here are a couple of current projects on this topic ...

Norfolk graffiti project

The Norfolk Medieval Graffiti Project began in January 2010 with the aim of carrying out the first large-scale study of surviving medieval graffiti inscriptions in Norfolk churches. Results so far have revealed Latin inscriptions, prayers, ships, animals, windmills, caricatures and geometric patterns. The church of St Nicholas at Blakeney has proved to be a treasure trove of merchants marks, illuminated capitals, prayers and symbols, as well as a large amount of 'ship' graffiti found in the nave – over thirty individual ships. At Binham Priory, researchers found architectural graffiti inscriptions that appear to be the original master mason's drawings for the west front of the Priory. The project website can be found at www.medieval-graffiti.co.uk.

Taper burns or burn marks?

Another current research project which has just been initiated by two members of the national Vernacular Architecture Group is to investigate 'taper burns' (charred marks from candles or rush-light tapers occurring on the structural timbers of buildings), to try to determine whether they are caused accidentally or whether they are deliberately applied 'burn marks', another category of those ritual marks on buildings which have become quite widely recognised in recent years.

The researchers are eager to collect more recorded examples of 'burn marks', particularly with any associated dating evidence. Details to note when recording such marks include the specific location of the marks within the building, whether marks are single or multiple, and whether they appear random or follow a particular pattern. Sometimes a single mark is found in regular locations, such as the side of a principal rafter. In other instances, burn marks are clustered in a single location such as a fireplace lintel or tie-beam. Where clustered, the marks are sometimes separately spaced, and sometimes overlapping. The size, shape and depth of the burn mark may also be significant.

If you have any information to contribute, please contact John Dean, Waterheath Cottage, Waterheath Road, Aldeby, Norfolk NR34 0EL (email john.william.dean@gmail.com) or Nick Hill, Rose Cottage, Bringham, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 8RJ (email nick.hill@english-heritage.org.uk).

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