



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 79

February 2015

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Annual Day School and AGM

Saturday 14 March 2015

Some places are still available for the annual day school at the Headingley campus of Leeds Beckett University on the theme *Early Town Buildings and their Constructional Materials*. The day school will report on findings to date in the Beverley Project, review previous work in the town, and look at findings from similar projects in other English towns. Booking form enclosed with the previous Newsheet and also available on the website.

### An Introduction to Recording Urban Buildings

Sunday 26 April 2015

A training day to provide or refresh skills, focusing on observation, field recording and drawing-up techniques. A short walk to look at some examples of early urban buildings will be included. To be based at the Priory Street Centre in York, 10.30am to 4.30pm. The event is free of charge.

Booking form and full details enclosed with this Newsheet, and on the website.



### Annual Recording Conference in Beverley

Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May 2015

Annual conference in Beverley, estimated to be the second largest town by population in the fourteenth century and described by Leland in 1540 as 'well builded of wood'. We set out to discover and record selected buildings with phases dating from the late medieval to the early modern. Full details enclosed with this Newsheet and also available on the website.

### Team Leaders Day

Saturday 27 June 2015

An additional discussion meeting for survey team leaders and shadow team leaders from the recording conference, to facilitate report-writing.

### Conference Review Day

Sunday 27 September 2015

An opportunity for all to hear about the buildings recorded during the Beverley conference held in May.

## Our thanks to Barbara Hutton

We heard at the beginning of the year that our President, Barbara Hutton, has decided to step down. As a founding member and leading light of the fledgling group back in the 1970s, the Group's existence is due to her efforts, enthusiasm and persistence. It is a direct tribute to her that over 1800 vernacular buildings have been recorded in Yorkshire. Mind you, there are still a few to go at, as I've no doubt Barbara would remind me.

On hearing that Barbara wished to stand down as President, your committee recommends that Barry Harrison should be our next President.

David Cant

### Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 14 March 2015 at 5pm in the James Graham Building, Headingley Campus, Leeds Beckett 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, Mary Cook. Please send any nominations for officers or members of the committee to Mary by Saturday 7 March 2015.

The minutes of last year's AGM are available on the Members' Area of the website.

### Committee meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on 18 October 2015. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any events please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

### Beverley project

The Beverley project is progressing apace. Dendrochronology sampling has commenced and David Cook will report on findings to date at the day school in March. In conjunction with looking at the fabric of the buildings, a programme of documentary research is being carried out by Susan and David Neave, Barry Harrison and Jacky Quarmby. Barry and Jacky are seeking out and transcribing Beverley wills and inventories held in the Borthwick Institute; if anyone is interested in helping with this task, please get in touch with Barry Harrison on [gyseburn@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gyseburn@yahoo.co.uk).

### Next Newsheet

Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in May 2015 – please send any items of interest to members to the editor by 30 April 2015.

## 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!

### Drawing and Painting Classes

Saturdays and Thursdays

Full-day courses on Saturdays and Thursdays, some being on architecture, including *Drawing Architecture with Line and Wash* on Saturday 7 March and Thursday 23 April 2015. Held at The Tea Cottage, Bolton Abbey. Enquiries: Nigel Overton on 01943 608447 or visit [www.overtonfinearts.co.uk](http://www.overtonfinearts.co.uk).

### Bygone Buildings

Until 29 May 2015

An exhibition at Beverley Guildhall on interesting buildings in the town that no longer exist. Guildhall open Fridays 10am-4pm, Wednesdays 10am-1pm until end of April, and 10am-4pm from 1 May. Don't forget to view the Guildhall's medieval timber-framing too! Admission free, details at [www.museums.eastriding.gov.uk/beverley-guildhall](http://www.museums.eastriding.gov.uk/beverley-guildhall).

### Vernacular Architecture of the East Riding

Monday 2 March 2015

Talk by David Neave to Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society. 7.30pm in the Concert Room, Central Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough, fee £2. Enquiries: 01723 347597 or see [www.scarborough-heritage.org](http://www.scarborough-heritage.org).

### From Back-to-Backs to Penthouses

Monday 2 March 2015

Talk by Suzanne Bingham to Hallamshire Historic Buildings Society, 7.30pm at Quaker Meeting House, 10 St. James Street, Sheffield S1 2EW. The changing story of the homes we built, and how we lived in them, throughout the 20th century. How do you live in the home you do today and why? Website [www.hhbs.org.uk](http://www.hhbs.org.uk).

### The history and renovation of Markenfield Hall

Wednesday 4 March 2015

Talk by Keith Jones to Skipton Civic Society, about the hall built by the Markenfield family in the 13th century and the restoration programme that began in the 1980s, 7.30pm at the Soroptomists' Rooms, Otley Street, Skipton, £2. Website <http://skiptoncivicsociety.org>.

### Local and Family History Fair

Saturday 14 March 2015

At The Pavilions of Harrogate on the Great Yorkshire Show Ground, 10am to 4pm, entry £2. Organised by North Yorkshire County Records Office, enquiries 01609 777585.

### Small Towns of Cumbria - Urban Survivals of Vernacular Buildings

Saturday 21 March 2015

Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group study day at the Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale. 10am to 4pm, £15 including lunch. To include talks, with a walk around Kirkby Lonsdale in the afternoon. Enquiries: Mike Kingsbury on 015242 76434, [www.cvbv.co.uk](http://www.cvbv.co.uk).

### 'Ships' Timbers'?

Monday 23 March 2015

Talk by David Cant to Upper Wharfedale Field Society, 7.30pm at Octagon Theatre, Grassington. [www.upperwharfedalefieldsociety.co.uk](http://www.upperwharfedalefieldsociety.co.uk).

### The Terraced House in Skipton

Wednesday 1 April 2015

Talk by Louisa McFarland to Skipton Civic Society, 7.30pm at the Soroptomists' Rooms, Otley Street, Skipton. <http://skiptoncivicsociety.org>.



### Traditional Farmhouses in and around The Forest of Bowland

Thursday 9 April 2015

Illustrated talk by Kevin Illingworth to Pendleton History Society (near Clitheroe). 7.30pm at Pendleton Village Hall. Visitors £3. Enquiries: Jilly Farthing on 01200 428202.

### The Survival of Ripon's Leper Chapel

Wednesday 15 April 2015

A presentation about this rare building, the Chapel of St Mary Magdalen, followed by a guided tour. 10am to 12 noon, £7. To book, telephone Harrogate Museums and Arts on 01423 556188.

### Old Photographs of Burnsall

Thursday 16 April 2015

Talk by Alan Stockdale to Olicana Historical Society, 7.30pm at All Saints Church House, Ilkley. Fee £2. Enquiries: 01943 870952.

### Historic Buildings of Grassington Area

Thursday 16 April 2015

A scenic 5-mile walk along the River Wharfe from Grassington to Linton and Hebden. 10am. Suggested donation £15. Enquiries: Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust, telephone 015242 51002, web [www.ydmt.org/get-involved](http://www.ydmt.org/get-involved).

### The Industrial Legacy and Landscapes of Sheffield and South Yorkshire

Saturday 18 April 2015

PLACE spring conference at the Sheffield Showroom and Workstation. £25. Full details available at <http://place.uk.com/>.

### Archaeology and the Historic Environment

Saturday 18 April 2015

Annual day school of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority at Grassington Town Hall, 10am to 4.30pm, looking at the results of recent archaeological and historical survey and research across the Dales. Talks include *Nappa Hall* by Dave Went and Adam Menuge. Fee £15, not including lunch. For more information, email [herinfo@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:herinfo@yorkshiredales.org.uk) or call 01969 652 353.

### 'Ships' Timbers'?

Tuesday 21 April 2015

Talk by David Cant to Halifax Antiquarian Society, 7.30pm at Halifax Central Library. <https://sites.google.com/site/halifaxantiquariansociety/>.

### Vernacular Buildings in Malham – architectural features and their regional distribution

Tuesday 28 April 2015

A walk led by Kevin Illingworth for North Craven Heritage Trust. Meet in the YDNPA car park in Malham at 2pm. Visitors £2. Website [www.northcravenheritage.org.uk](http://www.northcravenheritage.org.uk).

### Conserving medieval stonework

Saturday 9 May 2015

Talk by Sam Sportun of Manchester Museum to Medieval Section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, 2pm at Claremont, Clarendon Road, Leeds, [www.yas.org.uk](http://www.yas.org.uk).

### Manor House to Elizabethan Hall

Thursday 14 May 2015

One of a series of history talks at Burton Agnes Hall, given by head guide Pauline Waslin in the Dining Room. 2pm, no booking necessary, normal hall admission. [www.burtonagnes.com](http://www.burtonagnes.com).

### The Archaeology of Drinking

Saturday 16 May 2015

University of Bradford day school looking at the physical remains (artefacts, buildings and records) of drinking. £21. Enquiries: telephone 01274 235339, [www.brad.ac.uk/study/our-courses/cpd/public-programmes/](http://www.brad.ac.uk/study/our-courses/cpd/public-programmes/).

### Cawood Castle Open Days

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 May 2015

The late medieval rooms of Cawood Castle gatehouse are now a Landmark Trust holiday property. Open 10am to 4pm this weekend, no booking required. [www.landmarktrust.org.uk/news-and-events/upcoming-events/cawoodGW-open-day/](http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/news-and-events/upcoming-events/cawoodGW-open-day/).

### The Work of a Master Thatcher

Tuesday 19 May 2015

A talk by retired Southport thatcher Barry Milne to Mawdesley U3A at 7.30pm at Farmers Arms public house, Chorley Road, Bispham L40 3SL. Visitors £3. Contact 01257 464640 (pub) Mawdesley is 8 miles SW of Chorley.

### Historic Farm Buildings

Wednesday 20 May 2015

A talk by Les Hardy to Pendle Forest History Group at the Village Hall, Cross Lane, Barley, near Burnley at 7.30pm. £2. [www.pendleforesthistorygroup.co.uk](http://www.pendleforesthistorygroup.co.uk).

### The Work of the Mediaeval Masons

Thursday 21 May 2015

This illustrated talk by Simon Tomson looks at the work, training, techniques, tools and terms associated with the medieval masons. Their marks and personal achievements are described, with special reference to one family who are followed round the country using their mason's marks. 7pm at Markenfield Hall, fee £10, booking

required. Full details available at [www.markenfield.com](http://www.markenfield.com) or telephone 01765 692303. The Hall's open days this year are 2-17 May and 13-28 June.

### VAG Spring Conference in Cumbria

Tuesday 7 to Saturday 11 July 2015

The Vernacular Architecture Group is holding its annual 'spring' conference in summer this year, in Cumbria. It will include three packed days of visiting buildings in the central Lake District, on Alston Moor, and around the Solway Plain. £345 residential, £185 non-residential. The conference is open to VAG members and their guests only. Membership is open to all and costs £20 a year; see [www.vag.org.uk](http://www.vag.org.uk) for details.

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## Publications

*Addingham Houses 1750-1850: built in a time of village expansion* by Arnold Pacey. October 2014, ISBN 1502791269. Available from Amazon: paperback 58 pages £3.50, or Kindle edition £1.99. Before 1750 Addingham was a small farming community but during the next 100 years (the period covered by this book) the village was transformed by the coming of the textile industry and the construction of substantial mills and related enterprises. This expansion produced wealthy mill owners who needed suitable housing for themselves and their families and also lesser properties for their workers. In the first part of this book, Arnold writes about the principal property owners and describes the houses that they built, with photographs and detailed pen and ink drawings. The second part is devoted to the builders, stonemasons and other craftsmen who built the houses and their distinctive working methods.

Budding authors and other organisations may be interested to know that Arnold's book was published through CreateSpace, a self-publishing service owned by Amazon (<https://www.createspace.com/>) which is designed to allow authors and societies to self-publish on a small scale and at very low cost. Books are produced on a 'print on demand' basis, so there is no need to order a large print run.

*York: An Artist's View, an architectural guide* by Hubert Pragnell. The author's watercolours illustrate an architectural walk through York. Paperback, around £20.

*Nappa Hall, Askrigg, North Yorkshire: an investigation and assessment of the late Medieval hall in its immediate setting* by Adam Menuge and David Went is now available online. English Heritage Research Report Series no 44-2013 (68 pages). Go to <http://research.english-heritage.org.uk> and search for 'Nappa Hall'.

*The Town of Stockton on Tees and its Buildings* by Robin Daniels, Tees Archaeology, 2014. In 2009 Tees Archaeology began to work with local volunteers to create a 'snapshot in time' of the buildings in the historic town centre, resulting in this booklet which can be downloaded free of charge from [www.teesarchaeology.com](http://www.teesarchaeology.com), or printed copies can be obtained for free from all Stockton Borough libraries or the Rediscover Stockton shop.

*Beverley exhibitions*. Beverley Guildhall produces inexpensive A4 format publications containing the text of all previous exhibitions held there. These offer interesting historical information on Beverley and are available from the Guildhall, or you can download them in electronic format from [www.museums.eastriding.gov.uk/beverley-guildhall/past-exhibitions-online](http://www.museums.eastriding.gov.uk/beverley-guildhall/past-exhibitions-online).

*The Yellow Book* for 2015 published by the National Gardens Scheme is now on sale at £11.99. Gardens open this year include Austwick Hall; Low Hall, Dacre; Cawood Gardens; and Great Mitton Hall. Details also at [www.ngs.org.uk](http://www.ngs.org.uk). A good way of seeing the exteriors of buildings!

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## Mince pies and architectural surprises

As listed in the recent December newsheet, the North Craven Heritage Trust walk on 14 December 2014 ended inside Manor Farmhouse, Langcliffe, with mince pies and hot drinks. Full of architectural surprises such as a massive arched fireplace with arched doorways either side, decorated king-block roof trusses, and spine beams with painted tendril pattern (does anybody know of any more of these?). A good turnout, but only four YVBSG members, who were also NCHT members.



Kevin Illingworth, [j.k.illingworth@btinternet.com](mailto:j.k.illingworth@btinternet.com)

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## Members' Area

The Members' Area of the YVBSG website continues to expand as we add items to it, including electronic copies of our building reports and articles from back issues of *Yorkshire Buildings*.

The password to this area changes every January and those of you who have renewed your membership for 2015 will find the new details in your welcome letter (or send an email at any time to [webmaster@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@yvbsg.org.uk) for a reminder). If you haven't yet renewed your membership, you'll find a renewal slip enclosed with this Newsheet!

## 'Baltic' timber markings in Yorkshire

I am researching 'Baltic' timber marks in eighteenth/nineteenth century buildings in Yorkshire for a master's dissertation (expanding beyond the county in the future). I have obtained examples from HER offices and some archaeology units, but this does not cover all sources so any examples people could contribute will really help my studies.

Basic information needed includes:



- National grid reference/address
- Type of building
- Type of mark (race-knife/painted/chiselled)
- Date of construction/repair/extension
- Timber the mark/s are present on (e.g. tie-beam/purlin)
- Photographs (or sketch/description)

but any photographs with an address if no other information is available will be useful. Examples will be gratefully received.

*Tansy Collins, email tc436@cam.ac.uk*

## Researching king post roofs

In the May Newsheet, J T Smith suggested that the YVBSG should consider initiating a research project on king post roofs. Resources are limited until we complete the Beverley project, but nevertheless we're now making a tentative start by gathering together some data.



King posts are present in a wide range of buildings in the Pennine uplands from parish churches to timber-framed

aisled structures to field barns and village barns. In date they range from the fifteenth century in local oak to nineteenth century bolted trusses of 'Baltic' timber imported on canals. The origin of king posts, however, is unclear and the study hopes to address this. There are related upper king post trusses and king block trusses when a full king post may have restricted use of the roof space. We have examples of former crown post roofs (even in the Pennines) which were cut down and the former crown post re-used as a later king post. We have recorded quite a lot of king posts in Craven and the Yorkshire Dales and upper Calderdale.

There are two ways in which members can help with this study. Firstly, by providing examples of king post (or king strut) roofs in Yorkshire; please send as many details as possible, with illustrations if possible as verbal or written information is difficult to interpret without a picture. Secondly, by joining a small working group to gather the information together (this could include searching our 1800 building reports for records of king post roofs).

Please send your examples or offers of help to Alison Armstrong, 21 Ingfield Lane, Settle, North Yorkshire BD24 9BA, email [alisoncarmstrong@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alisoncarmstrong@yahoo.co.uk).

## Looking for a researcher?

My name is Claire Dearing and I am a freelance historical researcher based in East Yorkshire. I am just beginning my career in this field and hope to build up more clients. I hold a BA degree in History and a Masters degree in Historical Research. I am happy to provide examples of my work if necessary – please send me an email if you would like me to do so. My main areas of interest include rural and agricultural history, family history, local history, sporting history and social history in general. Further details may be found at my website, [www.cjdhistoricalresearch.weebly.com](http://www.cjdhistoricalresearch.weebly.com).

## We're on Facebook

Don't forget that the YVBSG has a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/yvbsg](http://www.facebook.com/yvbsg). Here you'll find up-to-date information about events and other activities which may be of interest. Recent entries, which you'll find if you scroll far enough down the page, include a selection of masons' marks found at Pontefract Castle and a collection of photographs of Whitby doorways taken by Linda Hall (author of *Period House Fixtures and Fittings 1300-1900*). Have a browse, and feel free to post your own notices or enquiries!

## Mystery objects

During a visit to a cottage in Farndale, the owners asked if we knew what the objects below were for. One suggestion is that they were used for spreading plaster. If anybody has any other thoughts on their purpose, please contact David Cook, [dcook0@talk21.com](mailto:dcook0@talk21.com).



**Chair and Archivist:** David Cant, 3 Middle Hathershelf, Luddendenfoot, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX2 6JQ. Tel 01422 883846, email [chairman@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:chairman@yvbsg.org.uk)  
**Secretary:** Mary Cook, 12 Annand Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4ZD. Tel 01325 310114, email [secretary@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@yvbsg.org.uk)  
**Treasurer/Membership Secretary:** Sue Southwell, 2 Water End, Brompton, Northallerton DL6 2RL. Tel 01609 776863, email [treasurer@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@yvbsg.org.uk)  
**Yorkshire Buildings Editorial Team:** Tony Berry, Tony Robinson, Beth Shurter, email [editor@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:editor@yvbsg.org.uk)  
**Newsheet and Web:** Lorraine Moor, 102 Queen Victoria Street, South Bank, York YO23 1HN. Tel 01904 632124, email [lorraine.moor@york.ac.uk](mailto:lorraine.moor@york.ac.uk)