



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk
www.facebook.com/yvbsg
twitter.com/YorksVernacular
youtube.com/@yvbsg

Newsheet No 114

February 2024

Dear Member,

Welcome to our 114th edition, our Winter 2024 Newsheet – appropriately while I am writing this it is snowing in Hebden Bridge! We look forward to our forthcoming year of events including a visit to Shandy Hall in March and our Recording Weekend in Bridlington in May (see page 2 for details).

We're also pleased this year to be able to offer an in-person day school on the theme of *Marks, Graffiti, Wall Paintings and Decoration in Yorkshire Buildings*, now booked at York St John University for Saturday 27 April (note that the date has changed from that previously advertised). YVBSG member David Cant will start the day off with a talk on *Marks on Timber and Stone*, used for construction and other purposes. Professor Kate Giles of the University of York will do a double act with her twin sister Melanie, also a Professor at the University of Manchester, both in the Departments of Archaeology. They will jointly speak on *Historic Farm Graffiti on the Yorkshire Wolds*. Kate has also agreed to speak to us on *The Medieval Wall Paintings of Pickering Church*. In January it was announced that her recent book on this subject has won The Historians of British Art (HBA) Book Award for 2024. The Awards Committee in their press release stated that 'few existing studies of English medieval wall paintings rival the importance of this one', and hopefully copies of this will be available to purchase on the day.

Caroline Stanford, the Historian for the Landmark Trust, has agreed to speak to us on the outstanding sixteenth century wall paintings discovered in 2021 at Calverley Old Hall in her talk titled *The Painted Chamber at Calverley Old Hall*. Such painted decoration is very rare and precious, and rarely discovered during renovation works. Last year much restoration work went on at the hall when they removed the wooden battens partly covering the painted decoration in an upper room. Caroline gave us a thoroughly researched Third Thursday Talk a year ago when she guided us round this complicated building where one addition is added on to another in an almost haphazard manner. A recent dendrochronology survey of the building has provided some reliable dates for the different phases of the building.



Ornate plasterwork at Bean Hole Head

In addition, Andrew Bower, who surveyed most of South Yorkshire in the listed building survey of the 1980s, will give a talk titled *A Farmer's Daybook Carved in Oak: Beam Carvings at Manor Farm, Upper Midhope*. The study of these remarkable inscriptions will include input from historic graffiti enthusiast Andy Bentham and builds on the valuable work done by YVBSG members. This building was recorded as part of our survey of South Yorkshire (YVBSG report 1893, and see page 10 of this Newsheet).

I will be giving the closing talk of the day that will give an overview derived from my observations made over the last forty years, mainly in West Yorkshire whilst working as Senior Historic Buildings Officer for the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service. Some of our local museums have painted decoration that I will be showing: Shibden Hall has some well-preserved wall paintings on its timber-framing discovered in the past behind some later oak panelling, and sixteenth century painted ceiling bosses; Oakwell Hall has some oak panelled rooms over-painted with trompe-l'oeil decoration, very rare and unusual but similar to that used in an upper room at The Black Swan, Peasholme Green, York. Calderdale is an area rich in yeoman clothier houses, many decorated with seventeenth century plasterwork ceilings and wall panels decorated with the Stuart royal coat-of-arms, usually, but not always, above the fireplace and lime-washed like those to be found in Bean Hole Head near Todmorden. A few of the gentry houses feature the Stuart royal arms painted with the correct heraldic tinctures, such as at New Hall, Elland above the fireplace in the great hall, and at The Howroyde, Barkisland where the large mullion-and-transom window is also infilled



Painted panelling at
The Black Swan, York

with contemporary stained glass, as is Shibden Hall's. Two important gentry houses also have carved fireplaces: one at Todmorden Old Hall in the parlour wing features the marriage coat-of-arms of the owners that is also painted. At Woodsome Hall in its great hall is a unique carved oak fireplace – its bressummer carved with an

inscription with, to one side, hanging-boards (like an inn sign) painted with separate man-and-wife portraits on one face and with coats-of-arms on the other; these boards are now on display at the Tolson Museum in Huddersfield. During our recent recording work in South Yorkshire, two of the houses we recorded are decorated with similar oak panelled rooms with profusely carved seventeenth century decoration featuring distinctive tall sunflowers, the flower-head overlaid with a design similar to a propellor.

I hope that has whetted your appetite and that you will come and support our day school in York. Please make a note of the date (Saturday 27 April), and look out for more details and the

booking form that will be sent by email in a month or so when the details have been finalised.

Finally, I must report that in January, together with some members of the committee, I attended the funeral of Alison Armstrong held at Brocklands Woodland Burial Site at Rathmell and afterwards at the Falcon Manor Hotel in Settle, a sad start to the year. The recently scanned copies of Alison's slide collection are now available to view on our website; I think that this is an appropriate memorial to this dedicated and skilled recorder of vernacular buildings.

Peter Thornborrow

Future YVBSG events: dates for your diary

Shandy Hall bread ovens and Coxwold walkabout

Thursday 28 March 2024

Join us on a visit to look at the newly discovered bread oven at Shandy Hall, Coxwold, followed by a walkabout in Coxwold. There is much of interest in this attractive village located eight miles south-east of Thirsk. The Group has recorded one building here: report 911, The Old School or Old Hall.

- 10.00-10.30 – Arrive at Coxwold. Parking is at the Village Hall, YO61 4BB, where there are also toilets. Allow at least five minutes for the walk to Shandy Hall at the top of the hill. There is also village street parking for a shorter walk to Shandy Hall up Thirsk Bank. Unfortunately the Coxwold Tea Rooms do not open until 11.00.
- 10.30 – Shandy Hall. Chris Pearson will give a guided tour round the outside of the building to explain what is known of its development (the recently revealed oven is on the outside too) before going inside to look at the bread ovens. She will also show us the wall painting in the parlour downstairs and a picture of the one upstairs.
- 12.00 – Lunch. Members are advised to book a table at The Fauconberg, or try the Tea Rooms or bring a packed lunch.
- 13.30 – Gather at St Michael's church for walkabout of Coxwold village with Moira Fulton.
- 15.30 – Moira has kindly offered tea at her Coxwold home for those wishing to have refreshments before departing. Closing time around 16.00.



Shandy Hall, Coxwold

Numbers are limited to 10 members. Please contact David Cook on archivist@yvbsg.org.uk or call 07810 668975 to book a place, first come, first served.

Annual Day School and AGM

Saturday 27 April 2024

For an outline, see Peter Thornborrow's article above. Further details to follow.

Annual Recording Conference in Bridlington

Friday 10 to Sunday 12 May 2024

This year's recording conference will take place in Bridlington. Full details and the booking form have been sent to members and are available on the website. On Friday night we meet at 6pm at St John's Bridlington Methodist Church for our evening meal and introductory lecture by Dr David Neave. Our base for Saturday and Sunday is the Priory Rooms (next to Bridlington Priory). There is ample parking at both venues. Please note that you will need to make your own arrangements for overnight accommodation and breakfasts as well as Saturday lunch. Other events are taking place in Bridlington over that weekend and we advise that you find accommodation as soon as possible.

We'd particularly like to hear from any YVBSG members who are local to the area who might like to get involved; please do get in touch if you're interested.

*Gunhild Wilcock and David Cant,
gunhildwilcock@icloud.com
davidcant@hotmail.com*

Annual General Meeting 2024

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 27 April 2024 at York St John University, York. 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 (contact details on back page). The agenda will be circulated by email and will also be available on the Members' Area of the website, together with the annual accounts and the minutes of last year's AGM.

Third Thursday Talks

We intend to continue our online talks during 2024 although none are scheduled at present. These talks normally take place by Zoom at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month; they are free of charge and are open to all (including non-members). We are still looking for volunteers to give future talks and if you are interested in doing so, or would like to suggest a speaker, please contact Mary Cook on secretary@yvbsg.org.uk. Recordings of previous talks can be watched online by going to our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@yvbsg.

YVBSG interactive map of buildings recorded – latest update

The interactive map has been live now for three years and many members have benefited from using it. It enables members to identify any building recorded by the Group and to download a copy of the report produced.

Every year the map is updated to include points for reports on buildings that have been recorded in the previous year. The latest update, now live, includes all those buildings recorded at the Doncaster conference in June 2023 for which

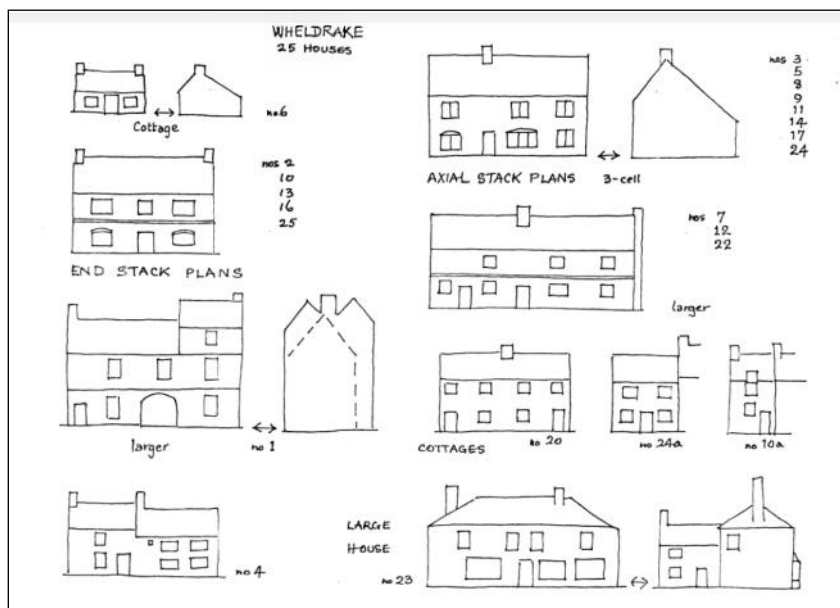
reports have been completed. It means that all reports for the South Yorkshire buildings recording project are now accessible via the website at www.yvbsg.org.uk/reports.html.

With this update a new feature is the mapping of Village Profiles which were produced mainly by Barbara Hutton in the early 1980s. There are seventy-eight of these. Barbara explained the rationale in 1980 thus:

“We have developed a new aid to understanding village buildings, which we call the ‘Village Profile’. For this, we sketch the elevation of every house in a village, paying careful attention to the relation of windows and doors to the chimneys, and to the spacing of windows in the facade; these are collected and sorted into plan types, which are then sketched onto a sheet showing the numbers of each type. The aim is to discover the balance of plans in the village – Goathland, for instance, has all hearth-passage plans whilst Nun Monkton has a majority of lobby entrance. Against this background, we can assess how characteristic of its surroundings is a house which we have measured and recorded in detail. It is important to use the Village Profile only as a working tool, partly because differential survival means that the pattern must change with time, but chiefly because it is rash to judge plans from the outside.”

The Village Profiles can now be downloaded from the interactive map. We hope you find this addition useful and of interest.

*David Cook, YVBSG Archivist
archivist@yvbsg.org.uk*



Village profile for Wheldrake, East Riding of Yorkshire

Membership renewal – a reminder

Membership fees for this year became due on 1 January 2024. Thank you to all those people who have already renewed their membership for this year. Members seem to like the new online form introduced for 2023. Don't forget to complete this online form for 2024 even though you will have done so for 2023. If you need the link to the form again, please email me.

You can still pay by cheque; however if you would prefer to pay by bank transfer (BACS) please let me know you have done so at membership-secretary@yvbsg.org.uk. If you need a reminder of the YVBSG bank details, do not hesitate to email as above. Please do contact me for further assistance if you have any problems with the renewal process.

A reminder will be sent in due course to members who haven't yet renewed for 2024. Do note that the password to the Members' Area of the website changed in January and you'll receive the new details when you renew your membership. The Members' Area provides access to around 1900 building reports and over 200 articles from back issues of *Yorkshire Buildings* up to 2019, 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 2024 and you would then receive no further correspondence from us, so if you haven't already done so, please do renew soon – we don't want to lose you! But don't worry – we would send you notification before taking you off our membership list.

*Pat Leggett, Membership Secretary,
membership-secretary@yvbsg.org.uk*

Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy

A new Code of Conduct and Safeguarding Policy for the Group was approved by the committee in January. This can be found on the website at www.yvbsg.org.uk/membership.html.

Publication of Beverley wills and inventories: can you help?

The YVBSG is in contact with the Surtees Society over a proposal to publish the transcripts of Beverley wills and inventories, and we are offering members an opportunity to get involved.

The work by Barry Harrison and Jacky Quarmby to transcribe 680 wills and inventories from Beverley was a huge achievement which the Group believes should be recognised in the form of publication. The hard copies of the transcripts have already been accepted by East Riding Archives Service.

We are looking for volunteers to :

- Check the transcripts for accuracy and this could be done in either Beverley or York.
- Write a study of the Peculiar Court of the Provost of the Collegiate Church of St John as it was in the late seventeenth century, with details of its probate procedures and personnel.
- Write an article on the significance of the documents and their features.
- Provide a contextual study on the town and liberty of Beverley at the time.

Please contact David Cook on archivist@yvbbsg.org.uk or call on 07810 668975 if you are interested.

David Cook, Archivist

Check out the YVBSG tweets

Do explore our X (or Twitter, as most of us still call it!) account – we are currently featuring selected buildings of interest from around the county which have been recorded by the Group. You can view the tweets from our website.

Next committee meeting

The next meeting of the YVBSG committee will be held on Saturday 23 March 2024. If you'd like to raise any matters, or have ideas for future events, please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

Could you be our next Treasurer?

Despite several appeals, no-one has yet come forward to express an interest in taking on the role of Treasurer to allow Sue Southwell to stand down after several years in the post. We're therefore trying again, and are providing the following information in the desperate hope that somebody might be able to help – please do give it some consideration! If you are interested or would like any further information, please contact Mary Cook on secretary@yvbbsg.org.uk.



What is the role of the YVBSG Treasurer?

What would I have to do?

- To provide the YVBSG committee with financial updates and produce an annual financial account, published at the AGM. This is a simple list of expenditure and income. Committee meetings are usually held four times a year, sometimes in person, sometimes by Zoom. Attendance at committee meetings is optional.
- Keep a record of any monies paid to the YVBSG and any expenses paid out.
- Have oversight of the bank statements to check who has paid money to the YVBSG via BACS and bank transfers.
- Work with the Membership Secretary to update the membership list.
- Work with anyone organising a paid-for YVBSG event, eg the day school organiser, to review who has paid either electronically or by cheque.
- Pay in cheques to the YVBSG bank account.
- Counter-sign cheques to refund members who have paid out agreed expenditure on behalf of the YVBSG.
- Counter-sign cheques and/or pay balances to those providing an agreed service to the YVBSG, for example conference venues.

The YVBSG Newsheet

Next Newsheet

The next Newsheet will be in May 2024 – please send any contributions to the editor at newsheet@yvbbsg.org.uk by 30 April 2024. Always welcome are articles on buildings or features, and details of publications or events of interest.

Contents list for back issues

Over the years the Newsheet has grown in size, and recent issues have included some substantive items. With this in mind, I've added a basic contents list for back issues to the website. The list highlights some of the articles which might be of longer-term interest, to make it easier to find items or perhaps to attract the attention of people browsing the site. You can find the downloadable back issues and contents list on the website at www.yvbbsg.org.uk/newsheet.html.

Lorraine Moor

My collection of Newsheets!



I have saved all of my Newsheets from number 1, August 1993, and have printed (in colour) the emailed Newsheets from numbers 100 to 113. There are 476 pages clipped together with a large foldback clip, but it's now time to reduce the thickness by having two volumes! It is not just 'news', as there are many worthwhile articles that span more than thirty years.

Kevin Illingworth

Buildings and people

One of the enjoyable aspects of visiting and recording buildings is meeting the people who live in them or use them. It is often illuminating to find an older person who has lived there for many years and can tell you about their life. Over the last couple of years I have been particularly fortunate in meeting a lady who had lived for most of her life in one building, a farmstead near Mytholmroyd in the Calder Valley.

Called Hollin Hey, it featured in my article in Newsheet No 110 and was the subject of my recent talk sharing the story of the farm. Although we have pictures of an earlier building, with characteristic late-sixteenth century features, the farmhouse itself and other buildings are situated on a new site further down the hill – about a field's length away. Surprisingly, the masonry of the rebuild incorporates many of the stones from the earlier structure. There are doorheads, finials and round-headed mullioned windows, albeit altered by the insertion of a high transom, quite unlike anything from an earlier period.

The story of the rebuilding, which was carried out by the old lady's great grandfather, Edward Helliwell, provides an unusual example of the redesign of a farm at a time when many of the older sites were no longer productive. Their location, on the not particularly fertile soil on the plateaux and steep slopes of the tributary valleys of the Calder, made traditional farming more difficult. Traces of early habitation can be found on the highest moors; medieval inhabitants settled the lower areas, just above the flood plain, and supplemented their income by other activities. In this area it was the production of cloth from wool and, at a later date, cotton. As the population increased, the wealth of this remote area grew and further land was taken and new farms created on higher ground, culminating in the late eighteenth and nineteenth century enclosures. The changing economic conditions towards the end of the nineteenth century reduced the viability of the more remote farms. The recently enclosed moors returned to rough pasture and farms were deserted.



Hollin Hey: front elevation. The new laithe house built with materials from the demolished 16th century building.



Hollin Hey: rear elevation

Against this background Edward Helliwell purchased two farms at Hollin Hey in an auction in 1894. The tenants left soon afterwards and Edward resolved to rebuild the farm on a new site. Some buildings remained on the old site; today they are cottages and a barn converted to domestic use. On the new site the old materials were combined with new to produce a modern farmhouse with adjoining barn, probably one of the last laithe-houses (a single building with dwelling and farm facilities accessed by separate entrances) to be built. The plans produced for the newly-formed Urban District survive in the West Yorkshire Archives in Halifax.

More interesting, perhaps, drawings of some of the old buildings were made by an articulated student from the Halifax practice of J F Walsh, who became an important local architect in the twentieth century. These survive in the possession of the family, who still live at the 'new' Hollin Hey. They reveal an L-shaped building, altered by the insertion of a second external door. The wing appears to be unusually narrow for this area. There is also an upstairs room with a window, but 'no access' to it inscribed on the plan.

It was lovely to be able to sit in the kitchen of the farmhouse and talk about earlier times – the daily milk round with horse and cart; hay making, sometimes with itinerant Irish labourers; and how things had changed dramatically in the last fifty years. The family had already collected together details of their family trees. There were also photographs and memorial cards carefully preserved for posterity.

However, a few months ago I was sad to hear that the old lady had died. But I feel privileged to have known her, only briefly, and to have been able to hear about past times. It reminded me that in looking at, measuring and interpreting these buildings, we should not forget the human stories that lie behind them. That has made me appreciate the value of our studies so much more.

David Cant

Buildings and animals

Dried cats were concealed in houses across the country from the seventeenth century, apparently to help protect them from everything from house fires to vermin infestations to witches. The Ryedale Folk Museum in Hutton-le-Hole

is on the lookout to borrow one for an upcoming exhibition on magic and beliefs. If you've found a concealed dried cat in your home during house renovations and would be willing to lend it to the museum this year, they

would love to hear from you on info@ryedalefolkmuseum.co.uk. More information about mummified cats, shoes and other concealed objects can be found on the Apotropaia website at www.apotropaia.co.uk/dried-cats.html.

Alison Armstrong: 8 May 1948 – 21 December 2023

As you may have read in a recent email message to members, Alison Armstrong died at the end of last year after a long illness. Alison was a YVBSG committee member for many years and made an immense contribution to the activities of the Group and to the study of vernacular architecture more widely. Her skill at interpreting buildings was outstanding and her sketches conveyed a wealth of information; she was an inspiration to many of us. She was actively involved in many groups and projects, particularly in the Craven area, and she leaves a remarkable legacy of work on the county's vernacular architecture and landscape.

Alison's collection of slides of buildings can be found on the YVBSG website at www.yvbsg.org.uk/photo-archive.html. More documents and photos from her research projects are available via the websites of other organisations, including at www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/content/catalogue_item/alison-armstrong-archive and also on the Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group's website at www.uwhg.org.uk/project-reports. The Stories in Stone publication, *Tree-ring Dating Programme: dating of traditional farm buildings around Ingleborough* by Alison C Armstrong and David S Johnson with Alison Arnold and Robert Howard, can be downloaded from www.storiesinstone.org.uk/Resources/Publications.



Alison gets waylaid by a friendly horse at Tattersalls Farm, Hurstwood, during a YVBSG visit to Lancashire in 2012

A tribute

Although trained as a geologist, Alison developed a wide interest in the natural landscape and evidence of human activity. This included a particular interest in vernacular buildings. Living in the Craven area of the old West Riding, she developed her skills in collaboration with local historians and archaeologists as a member of many groups, including the YVBSG and Vernacular Architecture Group. Leading recording groups, she was particularly good at detailed

observation, quick sketches and understanding the development of buildings in their context. She developed her interest in dating through dendrochronology and her knowledge and understanding of cruck timbers, their assembly and re-use featured in many reports and resulted in several articles. To record with Alison was always a very satisfying experience in terms of seeing, drawing and understanding.

In recent years Alison devoted her energies to studying the area around Settle and Ingleton, accompanying her partner David Johnson in producing detailed surveys. Her interests included gardening, baking, caring for wild life and looking after her cats. It was a pleasure to know and work with her. The Group would like to pay tribute to her work and send condolences and best wishes to David.

David Cant

A personal memoir

Alison came into our lives when our two girls were still quite young. They very soon named her 'Cat Alison', even though we had no other friends by that name, but with the astuteness of children, they identified one of Alison's great passions. We were often able to visit Alison and her cats in Bradley. Moggies of all sizes, colours and personalities were attracted to Alison and her garden, where certain spots were reserved for a particular feline. Alison was a very knowledgeable plants-woman and cultivated wild plants as well as traditional cottage garden plants. She was a private person with a gentle, generous, caring and kind spirit.



Alison in cruck barn at Bolton Abbey in 1999

Our get-togethers always included tea and cakes, and we loved to swap recipes. I especially remember the coffee cakes and a fruit cake she baked to her granny's recipe which requires:

4 oz of raisins, 4 oz of margarine, 3 oz of brown sugar, 1 tblsp golden syrup, a pinch of salt, 8 oz of self-raising flour and 2 eggs.

Cover the raisins with hot water and soak for at least five minutes. Beat together the soft margarine, syrup, salt, sugar and eggs in a warmed bowl. Add the fruit with the water and stir until well mixed. Sift in the flour and mix to a soft consistency. Pour into a greased and lined tin and bake. [Note: the baking instructions for a modern oven are a little unclear, but baking for 50-55 minutes at 180° (160° fan) in a 7½ inch round tin seems to work quite well.]

Many readers will remember Alison's passion and great knowledge of farm and cruck buildings in particular, her enthusiasm for sharing her knowledge, her ability to observe every detail and sketch features and buildings with accuracy and an artistic flair. She dedicated much of her research to her closer environment and inspired and led many local individuals and groups as well as contributing so much to the YVBSG. It was always a great privilege to spend time with her and I will be forever grateful for her friendship.

Gunhild Wilcock

Cappleside (or Brocklands) Barn

Alison Armstrong's funeral took place at Brocklands Woodland Burial at Rathmell near Settle with a ceremony in a restored farm building now called the Haybarn – particularly fitting, given her love of landscape and farm buildings.

Adjacent to the Haybarn is a larger stone barn, known as Cappleside or Brocklands Barn. This barn was recorded by Barbara Hutton in 1974 (YVBSG report 51) and was also surveyed in 2016 by Alison. It has been dendro-dated.

Over the west cart entrance is an inscribed stone reading HAN 1714, the construction date for the barn. Inside, the collars and upper king-posts of the roof trusses are ornamented with simple forms of embellishment.

In 2018 the barn was designated Grade II* because of its architectural interest, 'particularly for its well-preserved, unusually ornamented oak roof structure dated by dendrochronology to the early C18' and 'as a high status early C18 barn exhibiting high quality design and craftsmanship, being an early example of watershot masonry construction, the high quality of the shippon stalls in the barn also being



Two of the barn's five roof trusses



Upper king-post and decorated collar

especially notable.' The building is also listed for its historic interest, as 'carved motifs thought to be apotropaic marks provide an insight into early C18 beliefs and traditions' and 'the additional lean-tos provide physical evidence of the farming boom of the late C18 to early C19.'

The full listing description provides a lot of interesting detail and can be read online by going to historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1449248. When viewing the entry, clicking on the 'Comments and Photos' button will provide a link to the full dendrochronology report.

Lorraine Moor

Publications

Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society publications. The society has made available many of its old publications on the Internet Archive website. These include the 2003 *Guide to Historic Scarborough* and 1972 publication *Cruck-Framed Buildings in Ryedale & Eskdale* by R H Hayes and J G Rutter. Both are well worth reading; they can be viewed and downloaded for free at archive.org/details/sahs.

The Georgian Group leaflets. The Georgian Group publishes a useful series of advice leaflets on various architectural features, including brickwork, doors, windows, fireplaces, stairs, roofs and mouldings. These can be downloaded free of charge from georgiangroup.org.uk/advice-leaflets/.

Global Goods and the Country House Comparative Perspectives, 1650-1800, edited by Jon Stobart. Free download from www.uclpress.co.uk (type 'global goods' into search box). Global goods such as mahogany furniture, Chinese wallpapers and Indian textiles were central to the culture of eighteenth-century country houses; this volume offers new insights into their multi-directional flow.

Adopt a cruck!

For its 60th anniversary, the Ryedale Folk Museum is offering a number of objects for adoption, with prices starting at £25 for items such as a blancmange mould. For just a little more (£3000), you can adopt the cruck-framed Stang End cottage with its typical local features including salt box and witch post! Details at www.ryedalefolkmuseum.co.uk.

Language of Stone

The Language of Stone is a blog for anyone interested in architecture, geology and related topics. Recent posts have included the architecture and geology of Hooton Pagnell and Hickleton in South Yorkshire, where the YVBSG recorded some buildings last year. You can explore the blog at thelanguageofstone.blogspot.com.

Pointing the way ...

A guide post at No 31, Smithy Lane, Edge Hey Green, Colden, Heptonstall, has been re-painted white after going un-noticed for years. The owner of the cottage told me that he would paint the Grade 2 listed item when his new stone-built extension was finished. The guide post is now a minor attraction. Well done, Gordon!

Kevin Illingworth



Left: before painting



Right: after painting – pointing again!

Other events of possible interest ...

We recommend that you check for any updated information if you plan to attend an event, in case of late changes to schedules.

House History on tour

Various dates

Exhibition from North Yorkshire County Records Office on how to research a property, visiting libraries in Richmond, Catterick, Selby, Skipton and South Craven. A guide on house history is also available online. www.northyorks.gov.uk/leisure-tourism-and-culture/county-record-office.

Hull's Lost Historical Buildings

Sunday 3 March 2024

A talk by Dennis Chapman to East Yorkshire Family History Society, 2pm at Carnegie Heritage Centre, Anlaby Road, Hull. www.eyfhs.org.uk.

Local churches in the Anglo-Norman Landscape

Monday 4 March 2024

A talk by Aleksandra McClain to Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society, 7.30pm at Salvation Army Hall. £3. See www.sahs.org.uk.

The Farm that Moved

Wednesday 13 March 2024

A talk by David Cant on Hollin Hey, to Hebden Bridge Local History Society, 7.30pm at Hebden Bridge Methodist Church. www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk.

Quaker Heritage in Wensleydale

Friday 15 March 2024

A talk by Pip Pointon at Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes. 7.30-9pm. Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority free event, www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

Beverley's Timber-Framed Buildings

Saturday 16 March 2024

Talk by David Cook to East Yorkshire Local History Society, at approx 3.15pm (after AGM) at East Riding College, Beverley. www.eylhs.org.uk.

A Brief History of Settle

Monday 18 March 2024

A talk by David Johnson to Ingleborough Archaeology Group, 7.30pm at Ingleborough Community Centre, £3. www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.

Allerton Hall, Bradford: The building and its inhabitants from the C18th to the C20th

Tuesday 19 March 2024

A talk by Janet Senior to Halifax Antiquarian Society, 7pm (after AGM) at Calderdale Industrial Museum, Halifax. www.halifaxhistory.org.uk.

History of Ilkley Manor House

Thursday 21 March 2024

A talk by Dr Edward Impey to Olicana Historical Society, 7.30pm at Clarke Foley Centre, Ilkley. £3. ilkley.org/clubs-and-orgs/olicana-historical-society.html.

The Old Castle

Friday 22 March 2024

A talk on the history of Ilkley Manor House by Alex Cockshott, 10.15am in the Manor House. £3, book at www.ilkleymanorhouse.org.

Believe it or not?

23 March to 17 November 2024

An exhibition at the Ryedale Folk Museum in Hutton-le-Hole, telling the story of magic and beliefs from the North York Moors and beyond, including magical house protection and witch posts. For more information see www.ryedalefolkmuseum.co.uk.

Pickering Murals

Wednesday 27 March 2024

A talk by Kate Giles to Sheriff Hutton History Group, 7.30pm in village hall. www.sheriffhutton.co.uk/history-group1.

Exploring House History: The History of 192 Brick Lane and its Inhabitants

Thursday 4 April 2024

An online talk by Linda Hammond on a London property. £10, book via Society of Genealogists, www.sog.org.uk.

Crayke Open Gardens and Village

Sunday 7 April 2024

An opportunity to enjoy the topography of the village and its architecture and history. Also on show will be a local history exhibition and a route map of significant architecturally important properties. See craykepc.org.uk.

Preservation of York's Parish Churches

Wednesday 10 April 2024

A talk by Jonathan French to York Architectural & York Archaeological Society, 7.30pm at Friends' Meeting House, York. www.yayas.org.uk.

History of Farming in the Industrial Pennines

Friday 12 April 2024

A talk by Stephen Caunce to Mytholmroyd Historical Society, 7.30pm at St Michael's Church, Mytholmroyd. £5. www.mytholmroydhistory.org.uk.

Sheffield's Ancient Suburbs Part 2

Monday 15 April 2024

A talk by David Templeman for Sheffield & District Family History Society, 2pm at Aizlewood Business Centre, Sheffield. www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk.

Arthur Raistrick, a true Dalesman

Monday 22 April 2024

A talk by Hanneke Dye to Upper Wharfedale Field Society, 7.30pm (after AGM) at Octagon Theatre, Devonshire Institute, Grassington. uwfs.org.uk.

Line and Wash

Thursday 25 April 2024

A course led by John Harrison at Broadrake Bunkbarn, Chapel-le-Dale. 10am-4pm, £70. broadrake.co.uk.

Ripon in Stone

Thursday 2 May 2024

A talk by Mick Stanley for Ripon Civic Society, 7.30pm at Ripon Workhouse Museum. £3. riponcivicsociety.org.uk.

Barns, Walls and Bridges

Tuesday 7 May 2024

A Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority guided walk from Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes. 1.30-4pm, 4 miles, £6. www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

Building Stone in Yorkshire

Friday 17 May 2024

A talk by Shirley Everett to North Craven Heritage Trust at Long Preston Village Hall, at 2.30pm. Non-members £5. www.northcravenheritage.org.

The Aisled Hall Tradition: our oldest timber-framed buildings

Saturday 29 June 2024

Essex Historic Buildings Group day school at Maldon Town Hall, Essex. Talks include *English aisled halls and their affinities, 950-1150* by John Blair; *The aisled buildings database* by Nat Alcock; *Aisled halls of Essex and Suffolk* by John Walker; *Essex small aisled halls* by David Andrews; *The development of aisled halls and chamber blocks in the 12th and early 13th century* by Nick Hill; *What's the point of passing-braces? And other difficult questions about medieval aisled barns in Suffolk built between 1250 and 1400* by Philip Aitkens; and *Yorkshire's late-medieval aisled houses: what, when, where, who and why?* by Colum Giles. £35. For full details and to book, see www.ehbg.co.uk.

From the archive: buildings with thatched roofs

Here is a selection of buildings recorded by the Group which have thatched roofs. Many of them can be found on or around the North York Moors but there are some examples from other parts of the county too. As usual, the reports are available in our online archive. Photographs by Kevin Illingworth and Lorraine Moor.



9 Water Bag Bank, Knaresborough (YVBSG 0227). Timber-framed, possibly 16th century with 17th century alterations. Hipped roof with gables.



Old Thatch, Long Marston (YVBSG 0294). A double-aisled timber-framed house, perhaps constructed c1500 from re-used timbers.



High Laithe, Grimwith (YVBSG 0278). An isolated field barn containing a raised cruck truss. 16th century but partially rebuilt 1982. Thatched with heather.



Rose Cottage, Beadlam (YVBSG 0304). Cruck-framed building, 17th century with earlier origins, acquiring a new layer of thatch from thatcher William Tegetmeier in 2005.



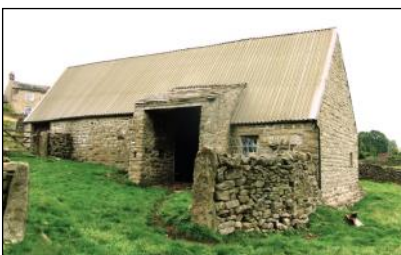
Delves Cottage, Egton (YVBSG 0309). Probably a former longhouse with byre now missing. Bressumer supported by a witch-post with St Andrew's cross and raised notched bands. Datestone on chimney 1713, presumably when smokehood removed.



Old Manor House, Harome (YVBSG 0316). Three full cruck trusses. Dendro-dated to 1530-57. Relocated in 1971 to Ryedale Folk Museum where it is open to the public.



Tithe Barn, Easington (YVBSG 1544). Apparently a late 18th century structure built from two earlier timber frames which have two distinct orders of carpenters' marks, one to either side of the threshing floor. Horse engine house added after 1855.



Corn barn at Drebley (YVBSG 0597). A cruck-framed barn roofed with ling thatch covered with corrugated iron. Intended for grain storage and threshing, and housing cattle at one end.



Spout House, Bilsdale (YVBSG 0132). A 16th century cruck-framed building, for many years the Sun Inn. Built-in beds upstairs. Re-thatched in 2021 by local thatcher Jonathan Botterell.



Thatched Cottage, Carlton Husthwaite (YVBSG 9 and 1885). Originally a cross-passage plan, 3½ bays with aisles at one side and one end. Perhaps 16th century.



Cross View, Egton (YVBSG 0741). Cruck-framed house, now with end hearth passage plan although the adjacent property may have replaced the byre end of a former longhouse, leaving only the passage.



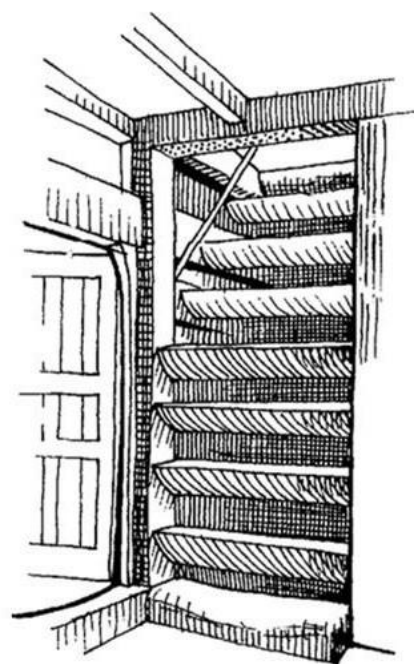
Thatched Cottage, Tockwith (YVBSG 1011). Thought to have been built originally as a 'Vale of York' type of timber-framed house with one aisle and three bays of more or less equal length.

Early staircases: a Yorkshire example

Malcolm Birdsall brings to our attention early staircases, and in particular the one shown in the drawing below. This staircase formerly existed at Manor Farm (also known as Hawksworth House), Upper Midhope, in the older, cruck-framed, part of the house which has been dendro-dated to the 1540s. The building was recorded by the YVBSG in 2019 (report 1893) but sadly the staircase had already been removed in the 1920s.

Sidney Oldall Addy published a photograph of the staircase in his pioneering work *The Evolution of the English House* (second edition, 1905), describing it as follows.

"In one corner of the buttery is the wooden box or case which contains the stair leading into the two upper rooms, the stair being supported by a massive inclining beam. Opening the staircase door we see an almost perpendicular series of steps, arranged like the rungs of a ladder. The lowest step is of stone: the rest are thick triangular blocks of oak, not fastened together in any way, but with open spaces between them. The first five steps are perpendicular, and the remaining steps incline slightly towards the top. A round oak hand-rail, as old as the stair itself, is fastened to the wooden wall, and by its help we can get into the two bedrooms above. The stair leads straight to the bedroom floor, there being no lobby or outer passage. On one side the opening in the floor is protected by the framework which divides the house, and on the other side it is protected by an immense "ark", or meal chest. Otherwise the landing or stair head is unprotected, and there is nothing which would prevent a somnambulist sleeping in the outer bedroom from falling down to the bottom. In East Yorkshire the opening in the floor was protected by a trap door known as a "trap hetch", or "throp hetch". In some old cottages the bedroom is still approached by a "stee" or ladder fastened by hooks to a hole in the chamber floor. This stair at Midhope is of no little interest, for it shows us the intermediate stage between the ladder and our modern stair with its "case". In Yorkshire the staircase is often called the "stair hole". In a house at Treeton in South Yorkshire the upper chamber was reached by a ladder which was set in a round well or hole cut in the thickness of the wall."



The staircase described by S O Addy



Manor Farm, Upper Midhope

Malcolm suggests that we might bear in mind this type of stair, which fits neatly into a tight space, when we speculate about possible forms of earlier staircases which have now been lost without trace. For example, such a staircase would have fitted the bill at Neddy House, Grinton (report 1752), where no traces remain of an original stair.

It seems that the residents of Midhope had a liking for steep staircases. Just along the street from Manor Farm is Wellbank Farm, visited by the YVBSG during a Sheffield Taster, but not recorded; this cruck-framed house has an incredibly steep staircase tucked in beside the stack, although this one is of stone and spiral in form. Both of these Midhope buildings have a wealth of other features of interest to the vernacular architecture enthusiast.

Ancient Monuments go digital!

The Ancient Monuments Society (now known as Historic Buildings & Places) has made its *Transactions* publicly available as a digital archive at hbap.org.uk/resources/transactions/ to promote the study of architectural history and conservation. Volumes 1 (1953) to 62 (2018) are available for free in pdf format, and contain many articles of interest on such topics as historic carpentry, dovecotes, malt kilns and roofs. Volume 13 includes 'A Systematic Procedure for Recording English Vernacular Architecture' by R W Brunskill which led to the publication in 1971 of his *Illustrated Handbook of Vernacular Architecture*. Also available is 'Recording the Buildings of the Farmstead' by R W Brunskill in Volume 21.

YCCC bursaries

The York Consortium for Craft and Conservation's Bursary Programme is now accepting applications for 2024. In particular applicants connected with Yorkshire, the northern region and Scotland are welcomed. The deadline for applications is 31 March 2024; see www.conservationyork.org.uk/bursaries for further details.

Chair: Peter Thornborrow, 3 Mayroyd Mill, Mayroyd Lane, Hebden Bridge HX7 8NY, chairman@yvbbsg.org.uk

Secretary: Mary Cook, 34 Porter Close, Durham DH1 5ZL, secretary@yvbbsg.org.uk or enquiries@yvbbsg.org.uk

Membership Secretary: Pat Leggett, 11 Lonsdale Meadows, Boston Spa, W Yorks, LS23 6DQ, membership-secretary@yvbbsg.org.uk

Treasurer: Sue Southwell, 2 Water End, Brompton, Northallerton DL6 2RL, 01609 776863, treasurer@yvbbsg.org.uk

Archivist: David Cook, 34 Porter Close, Durham DH1 5ZL, archivist@yvbbsg.org.uk

Yorkshire Buildings Editorial Team: Tony Berry, Tony Robinson, Beth Shurter, editor@yvbbsg.org.uk

Newsheet, Web and Social Media: Lorraine Moor, 102 Queen Victoria Street, South Bank, York YO23 1HN, newsheet@yvbbsg.org.uk