



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 41

June 2005

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

Richmond Recording Day

Saturday 25 June 2005

A recording day to survey five or so buildings in the historic centre of Richmond. Places are still available – if you'd like to come along, please contact David Crook as soon as possible (contact details on back page). Beginners and more experienced recorders are equally welcome. It is hoped that a review day can be arranged in 2006 to consider the buildings recorded and to interpret the findings.

Observation Day in York

Sunday 4 September 2005

A day intended for those new to the study of vernacular buildings as well as those who might wish to brush up their expertise. The event will offer an opportunity to learn and practise the skill of observation, by exploring the features of a selection of stone, brick and timber buildings in York. Talks during the morning will be followed by walks around the city in the afternoon. Booking form enclosed with this Newsheet.



Uppertong Conference Review Day

Sunday 2 October 2005

A day to review the findings of the conference held in May. Please note change of date from that previously published. More details to follow in the next Newsheet.

A useful weekend in Uppertong

The annual recording conference held last month was a great success. Thanks go to Peggy Secor for all her work – arranging and leading the walkabout, supplying historical and documentary evidence, notes, local liaison, arranging the houses to record, selecting and inviting the speakers, and making arrangements with the Huntsman Inn for accommodation and dinner. Thanks also to Malcolm Birdsall for providing maps and to Jacky Quarmby for paying the bills and keeping the accounts.

Annual conference report writers: please submit your completed reports to the archivist, Don McLellan, by 31 August 2005.

Appointment of Vice Presidents

The Group is delighted to announce the election of Kate Mason and Barry Harrison as Vice Presidents of the YVBSG at the AGM in March 2005. The committee felt that we should recognise members who have performed distinguished and dedicated service to the Group over a long period. The Group's constitution was changed at the AGM to incorporate the position of Vice President, and, following the receipt of two nominations, Barry and Kate were elected at the same AGM.

For future nominations, the rules and procedures are available on request from David Cook and will also be published soon on the Group's website.

Longley Old Hall

Sunday 20 November 2005

The Group has arranged a visit to Longley Old Hall, Longley, south of Huddersfield (grid reference SE 154150, website www.longleyoldhall.co.uk) between 3pm and 5pm.

Longley Old Hall, formerly part of the Ramsden family estate, is a stone-clad 'H' plan timber-framed house that has in recent years been recorded by the Group (YVBSG Report 1669, *Yorkshire Buildings* 29, 2001). The building is a very interesting property, with a history to match; it has attracted both local and national media interest.

The Old Hall is open to the public for specially arranged paid group visits. But as a measure of gratitude to the YVBSG, David Cant and the large team of recorders involved in the survey, we have kindly been offered a free visit with refreshments by the owners Christine and Robin Gallagher, and this has been arranged by Malcolm Birdsall.

As we are limited to 16 places, please book by contacting Malcolm Birdsall (3 Springfield Mount, Addingham, West Yorkshire LS29 0JB, telephone 01943 830460) before the end of July 2005. Priority will be given to those people on the recording team whose booking is received before the closing date. All other bookings will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis until the limit is reached. Malcolm will notify those who have made a successful booking.

Next committee meeting

The next full committee meeting will be held on Sunday 13 November 2005, although a 'virtual' meeting will take place during the summer to plan future events. If you'd like to raise any matter, or if you have any ideas for future events, please contact David Crook.

Snowdonia, Slate and Steam Trains – the VAG visits North Wales

Having sampled some of the delights of north and east Yorkshire in 2004, the Vernacular Architecture Group headed for the North Wales coast in April 2005 to hold their spring conference in Harlech. A VAG spring conference typically attracts almost a hundred participants (including those with amateur interests as well as others with a professional involvement with buildings), and consists of three full, intensive days of looking at buildings, with lectures in the evenings. About a dozen YVBSG members went along this year, to be transported by fleet of six minibuses around the Ardudwy coastal area near Harlech, to the vale of Ffestiniog in northern Ardudwy, and along the Conwy Valley to Conwy itself.

Almost twenty sites were visited in total, some embracing multiple buildings of various dates. Ty-Mawr, near Nantmor, was one of the earlier, and most rural, buildings in the programme. Surrounded by sheep pasture and described as a classic upland hall-house, stone-walled but with fine carpentry internally, the house dates from the 15th century and is now used as a bunk barn offering somewhat basic and draughty accommodation, judging from the glimpses of daylight seen through the slate walls. A huge slate fireplace appeared to have been inserted into the three-cell house close to the central arch-braced truss, but an absence of smoke blackening on the roof timbers raised the question of what had been there before its insertion – had there been a smokehood, or was it just the case that all traces of smoke blackening from an open hearth had been obliterated during a roofless period of exposure to the elements?

During the conference we soon became familiar with the 'Snowdonian house'. At first glance this typical building of the region can be mistaken for an 18th/19th century central-entry end-stack house, but as soon as you enter through the round-headed doorway into a former cross-passage you realise that you are in an altogether different, earlier, type of building, which began to emerge in the 16th century and is described by Smith and Suggett* as follows:

"The Snowdonian house essentially has a bipartite plan. Instead of the many tripartite plans of hall between inner and outer rooms, typical of the later Middle Ages, and its sixteenth- and seventeenth-century storeyed successors, it consists of hall and outer rooms only. There is no inner room, no

dais partition, and no 'high table'. The focal point is a large gable-end fireplace alongside which is frequently placed a winding stone stairway leading to the first floor. The cross-passage entered by opposed doorways is a standard feature, and beyond the passage are two small unheated rooms side by side entered from the passage by twin doorways, one doorway often larger and more ornate than the other, indicating perhaps that one was a parlour and the other a store. On the first floor are usually two chambers, that furthest from the stair with its own fireplace, that nearest, the 'through bedroom', unheated. These rooms were usually open to the roof which was sometimes ornately finished with cusped windbraces."

Brynyrodyn near Maentwrog, a Snowdonian house, still has its fully screened passage – a rare survival – and much debate took place amongst the Great and the Good of the VAG as to the position and form of the partitions in some of the other buildings visited.

The concept of the 'unit system', whereby additional living space was provided by an entire new house, rather than by enlarging an existing building, was illustrated by Llanfair-Isaf at Llanfair. In this case, a single-storey dwelling with raised crucks had been added to the Snowdonian house, with a 19th century parlour block added later.

Llwyn-Du at Llanaber was yet another Snowdonian house, albeit larger than usual, next to which stood what was described as a dower house – another common feature of the area, associated with the unit system mentioned above. Another debate arose! Many houses seen were not well provided for in terms of service rooms; were these so-called dower houses in fact service blocks, or perhaps a combination of both functions?

Plas y Dduallt, a unit system complex, comprised a 17th century house placed immediately in front of a late 16th century house, the two being linked by a 'bridge'. The building was restored in



Plas y Dduallt

the 1960s by a Colonel Campbell who constructed a private halt on the Ffestiniog Mountain Railway which passes a few yards away, and which was our splendid means of transport to and from the property. The invasion of the VAG had evidently caused some excitement in the area, for a television camera greeted us at the railway halt and a short feature duly appeared on the local news programme that evening!

The larger estates visited, such as Corsygedol, Parc and Gwydir, offered grander houses, interesting farm buildings and ancient landscapes to be explored. The conference ended on a high note with the early 16th-century hall at Gloddaeth. Apparently of end-passage type (without an outer room beyond the passage), the hall has a hammer-beam roof and spectacular painted canopy over the fireplace.

The surviving buildings of the area are predominantly of stone, with slate being used wherever possible. Some of the sandstone fireplaces were not unlike examples found in Yorkshire, but the slate ones had a much more Welsh feel to them. Interior timberwork was substantial: heavy beams and roof timbers, and a variety of post-and-panel partitions.

Churches, water wheels, painted chapel ceilings and several ghosts were also on offer to anyone who wished to seek them out, and the 1960s accommodation block at Coleg Harlech, where most of us stayed, was a curiosity in itself!

The evening lectures covered topics relating to the buildings, archaeology and landscape of North Wales, and included a talk on the vernacular revival buildings of Harlech by Ron Brunskill, who has a holiday flat in the town.

Some of the buildings visited during the conference are open to the public, should you be in the area. The 15th century Aberconwy House in Conwy, with a fine array of jetty brackets along its street elevation, is owned by the National Trust. Plas-Mawr, also in Conwy and owned by CADW, is a spectacular Elizabethan town house with elaborate plaster ceilings and roof trusses containing excessive numbers of pegs forming decorative patterns. If you wish to stay in the area, both Plas Y Dduallt (www.snowdoniamanor.co.uk) and Llwyn-du (www.llwyndu-farmhouse.co.uk) offer accommodation.

All in all, a very enjoyable conference with the added bonus of some stunning scenery enhanced by snow!

Lorraine Moor

* Peter Smith and Richard Suggett, 'Themes and Variations in Merioneth: an Essay on Vernacular Houses for Ron Brunskill' in *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society* 46, 2002. Also recommended is Peter Smith, *Houses of the Welsh Countryside* (2nd ed, 1988).

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!

Castles in the North West

Saturday 11 June 2005

A study day at Lancaster University Centre for North-West Regional Studies, looking at the motte and bailey design of castles, followed by detailed study of examples at Lancaster, Skipton and Sizergh. Fee £16. Enquiries: 01524 594841, www.lancs.ac.uk/users/cnwr.

Wharfedale Villages Guided Walk

Sunday 12 June 2005

An 11km walk visiting three historic villages with remains of leadmining. 11am to 3pm. Enquiries: Grassington National Park Centre, 01756 752774, website www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

Exploring Hunmanby

Saturday 18 June 2005

Exploring the market village of Hunmanby with Kenneth Clegg. Meet 2pm outside the parish church. Meeting of Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society. Enquiries: email rushton.history@virgin.net or telephone 01723 370513.

Buildings of Marshall Street, Leeds

Sunday 26 June 2005

A guided walk led by Janet Douglas to see the historic buildings of Marshall Street. 2.30pm. Enquiries: John Lydon, Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, telephone 0113 3433036.

Gayle Mill

Monday 4 July 2005

Talk by Jane Hatcher on the building featured in BBC's 2004 *Restoration* series. 8pm at Fremington Sunday School. £2.50 - all proceeds to the upkeep of St Andrew's Church, Grinton. For details, telephone Jeremy Hutchinson on 01748 886644, website www.swaleview.me.uk.

Pateley Bridge Heritage Trail

Saturday 9 July 2005

Join local historian Clive Hall for a gentle stroll around this new trail. 11am-noon, 1 mile, free. To book, telephone Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Beauty office on 01423 712950.

Gouthwaite Farm – A Dales Farm Walk

Monday 11 July 2005

An evening with John Rayner looking at old barns, a Victorian rabbit warren and a sheep washing fold. 6.30pm, £5. A Nidderdale Festival event. Other events on offer during the Festival from 8 to 17 July include visits to Coldstones Quarry, tours of Beverley Hall, and a walk taking in lunch at Brimham Lodge – for details telephone the Festival Office on 01423 712580.

Medieval Life at Wharram Percy

From Friday 15 July 2005

Special exhibition at Malton Museum, telephone 01653 692610.



National Archaeology Week 2005

Saturday 16 to Sunday 24 July 2005

Due to the success of National Archaeology Days last year, this two-day event has been turned into a full National Archaeology Week. For details see website www.britarch.ac.uk/naw or contact Jan Cox, Council for British Archaeology, telephone 01904 671417.

Discover Levisham

Sunday 17 July 2005

Two events organised by North York Moors National Park Authority:

- Discover the history of this beautiful moorland village. Includes a stroll around the village with local historians and a glimpse into the past through a unique collection of documents, maps and photographs held in the village hall.

- Or join National Park Archaeologist Graham Lee for an 8-mile walk taking in landmarks and archaeological sites including Levisham Old Church, Skelton Tower, and an ancient monastic sheep farm.

Price: free. Enquiries 01439 772738.

Scarborough's Old Shops

Monday 1 August 2005

Heritage walk led by John Rushton and organised by Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society. Meet at Merchant's Row at 7.30pm. No charge but donation appreciated. Enquiries: 01723 370513.

Beverley Industrial Heritage Trail

Saturday 6 August 2005

Follow part of the trail with leadmining archaeologist Martin Roe (a speaker at the YVBSG dayschool in March). 2pm-5pm, 4 miles, £2. To book, contact Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Beauty office on 01423 712950.

Masons Marks and Masons Drawings

Saturday 20 August 2005

A study day at Lincoln Cathedral with Dr Jenny Alexander, Nottingham University. For details contact the Communications Office, Lincoln Cathedral, telephone 01522 544544, website www.lincolncathedral.com.

Heritage Open Days

Thursday 8 - Sunday 11 September 2005

Online directory available from July at www.heritageopendays.org.uk, or look out for local publicity. Events include:

Hey Jude! Explore the origins of the 17th century yeoman houses in Hartwith and their family ties to St Judes Church. Saturday 10 September, 10am-1pm. To book, telephone Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Beauty office on 01423 712950.

Medieval Architectural Design: interpreting craftsmen's drawings

Saturday 17 September 2005

Full details for this one-day conference in York, first mentioned in Newsheet No 38, are now available from Dr Kate Giles, Department of Archaeology, University of York, King's Manor, York YO1 7EP or email kfg103@york.ac.uk.

Story in Stones

Sunday 2 October 2005

A two-hour walk around the historic hamlet of Wycoller, looking at bridges, buildings, walls and other details. Meet 2pm at Pepper Hill Barn Study Centre, Wycoller Country Park, telephone 01282 870253. Organised by Lancashire Countryside Service.

William Morris and Company: The Arts and Crafts Movement in North Yorkshire

Saturday 8 October 2005

Day conference organised by Northallerton and District Local History Society. Topics will include William Morris, Philip Webb, Burne-Jones, the patronage of the Bell family, Kiplin Hall, and wider architectural influences. On Sunday 9 October there will be a coach tour of related sites in the area, including Mount Grace Priory, Ingleby Cross, Ingleby Arncliffe, East and West Rounton, Great Smeaton, Eryholme, Kiplin Hall, Bolton-on-Swale and Scorton. Tickets at a special advance rate of £12.50 each day for early booking can be purchased from John Sheehan, Secretary, Northallerton and District Local History Society, 4 Arden Mews, Friarage Gardens, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL6 1EN. Cheques payable to the Society. Enquiries to John Sheehan on 01609 771878.

Beverley Local History Bookfair

Saturday 12 November 2005

To be held in Beverley Minster from 10am to 4pm. Organised by East Riding of Yorkshire Council Library and Information Services.

Some recent publications

Water from the Moors: The Life and Works of Joseph Foord. 188pp, ISBN 1 904522 05 4. Published by the National Park Authority, 2005, available from shops and online at www.moors.uk.net, £17.95 plus £4 p&p. Explores the eighteenth century water races that transformed the landscape of the North York Moors and the lives of the people living there. Seventy miles of gravity-fed water races cross the moors and have provided running water to farms and villages for over 200 years. Long since abandoned, they remain a striking feature. A biography of Joseph Foord (who engineered the races) provides an insight into the Kirkbymoorside community and the power of the Duncombe Park estate in Helmsley.

Northumbrian Building Studies number 5, 2005. Contains studies of three Northumbrian buildings: Lansdown House, 90 Newgate Street, Morpeth; Black Heddon House, Blackheddon; and The Cottage, Newton Underwood. Available at £4 including p&p from Mrs V Bolter, 20 Osborne Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1JQ, cheques payable to Traditional Architecture Group.

An Architectural History of Towneley Hall, Burnley by W John and Kit Smith. Published 2004 by the Heritage Trust for the North West (telephone 01282 661737) in the 'Historic Houses in Lancashire' series. £20.

Yo ho ho ...

If you've visited or read about the Three Mariners in Scarborough (YVBSG Report 1645, *Yorkshire Buildings* 32, 2004), you may be interested to hear that this former pub is for sale and was recently featured in The Telegraph's property supplement. As you might expect, the estate agents had a field day with this one, waxing lyrical over a smugglers' tunnel leading from the cellar to a cave beneath the castle, a headless ghost, and a ship's figurehead known as Elvira. Did all these features get a mention in the YVBSG report? Probably not! Asking price £395,000 (Carter Jonas).

Beeb seeks local knowledge ...

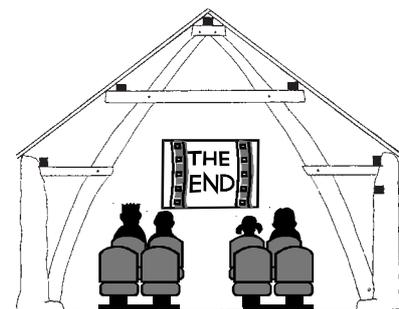
A BBC researcher has asked the Group for help in preparing the second series of *Castle in the Country* – a daytime series on BBC2 to be filmed from Castle Howard. The programmes will look at the history and stories in the locality, with a mix of antiques, arts, gardening, lifestyle and cookery.

In particular, the researcher is looking for interesting properties which are being renovated or converted in North Yorkshire – buildings which have some history or background, but are being changed to become someone's home. It could be an old mill or watermill, a school house, chapel or railway station – any property which has a story behind it and has someone who is passionate about it: taking it on as a project to develop and renovate. The last series looked at castle conversions and the people who had made them into homes. This time they want to look at a whole range of buildings from Yorkshire, and would like advice on the types of buildings they should be looking for, and which types are specific to the county.

If anyone is interested in offering help, or can suggest any appropriate buildings, please contact David Cook in the first instance.

Cruck-framed cinema?

Work is expected to begin soon on a £500,000 development at the Ryedale Folk Museum, Hutton-le-Hole, which has seventeen buildings to explore. A gallery, Victorian schoolroom and other facilities will be created thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund. In addition, the cruck-framed manor house (originally sited in the village of Harome) will have heating installed so that it can be used to stage plays and as a cinema. The museum is open from 10am to dusk daily. The new developments will enable the museum to open all year and not close in winter as previously.



Learning about ...

Free training workshops!

A Community Archaeologist, Eliza Gore, has been appointed to assist people across Greater York to explore their local heritage. Eliza will be running a series of free workshops which include:

- Starting a local project. 2pm on Saturday 18 June 2005.
- Reading old documents (wills and inventories). 2pm on Saturday 23 July 2005.
- Using archives and reading old maps. 6.30–8.30pm on Tuesday 26 July 2005.
- Interpreting landscapes using maps and aerial photographs. All day on Saturday 20 August 2005.
- Understanding historic buildings (tour of a local village). All day on Saturday 10 December 2005.
- Methods of dissemination (websites, publications and exhibitions). Saturday 25 February 2006.

For details, please contact Eliza Gore, York Archaeological Trust, Cromwell House, 13 Ogleforth, York, YO1 7FG, telephone 01904 663020, website www.yorkarchaeology.co.uk.

Castles and Bastles – Defensive Architecture in Northumberland

Tutor: John Sadler. A narrative history of defensible building in Northumberland from the Iron Age to the Cold War but concentrating on the Medieval and Tudor periods. It will provide an insight into life in the Medieval castle and tower house. Monday 4 to Friday 8 July 2005 at Queen's Hall, Hexham. Fee £49.50. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning, Newcastle upon Tyne, telephone 0191 515 2800.

Open for viewing

Part of the unfurnished, Grade II* listed, Townhead House (18th century with earlier origins) at Slaidburn, is open to the public from 2 to 5pm on 24–27 June, 29 July - 1 August, 26–29 August, and 17–18 September 2005. Entry: £1.

Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. Please send items for the September newsheet to the editor by 31 August.

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