



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

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Newsheet No 106

March 2022

Dear Member,

Welcome to our 106th edition, and hopefully a better year than last year. However, like most things it wasn't all bad. If we focus on the positives, although we couldn't meet until the autumn for our first walk of the year, your committee met by Zoom to plan, and see delivered, eleven Third Thursday Talks by Zoom held during 2021 in lieu of the annual day school. I hope you managed to see one of them? If not, you can still catch some of these as they were (mostly) recorded for you to view after the event – do check out our website, which is a worthwhile thing to do in any event and see where it takes you.

I prepared a comprehensive Chair's Report for the AGM on 19 March 2022 that you should have received by email, that summarises our activities this last year. Therefore I don't need to report about that here, so please check my report carefully as we have moved the date of our planned recording weekend in the Doncaster area and of my taster visit; please ignore the dates given in the last Newsheet.

I am looking forward to this year, our 50th year since we were founded, so we hope you agree that our Golden Anniversary is something to celebrate. I am currently in discussion with the committee about possible venues for a

day event this summer, and we think that York is the place – easy to get to on the train from most of the county. We are checking out some possible historic building venues for a celebratory meal, maybe with a talk and a walk, so watch this space!

I know that Kevin Illingworth is planning another walk around the Todmorden countryside. That is something I hope to attend and meet friends old and new – maybe see you there?



Higher Eastwood, near Todmorden.  
Under the ivy, the datestone reads  
JOHN: EASTWOOD: 1630: IG.

I hope that a large number of you will support us in attending our recording weekend on Friday 23 to Sunday 25 September based just outside Doncaster at Junction 26 Holiday Inn which incorporates an attached fine Queen Anne mansion – Warmsworth Hall. We have booked the minimum of 25 places (but hopefully it will be more)

and paid a deposit, so please help us to break even at the very least, rather than suffer a financial loss. Such matters are a worry for your committee, and your Chair! I will be venturing again into the realms of South Yorkshire before too long to find more buildings to record and to visit the owners who had previously agreed to let us record their fascinating old houses – so looking forward to that. If you're a 'new' member, or an existing one and have never been involved with recording a building, don't think it's only for experts – it's not! An experienced team leader organises and explains the ropes – only in this case I should say tapes – you can always hold one end of it. Why not give it a try; you're obviously interested if you've already joined the Group!

*Peter Thornborrow*

## The Beverley Book

Further to my note in the last Newsheet, I can report that the book has now been proof-read and we expect it to be published in the near future. Details of availability will follow.

*David Cook*

## Next Newsheet

The next Newsheet will be in May 2022 – please send any contributions to the editor at [newsheet@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:newsheet@yvbsg.org.uk) by 30 April 2022. You might like to think about writing a short article on a building or features in your locality, and do let us know details of publications or events which might be of interest to other members.

## Map updated

The interactive map showing buildings recorded by the Group has recently been updated to include reports completed up to 2021. In addition, some of the locations of buildings which were previously uncertain have now been identified. Visit the YVBSG website to view the updated map.



Crown post roof at 15 Flemingate,  
Beverley (YVBSG Report 1847)

## Future YVBSG events: dates for your diary

### Third Thursday Talks

Our online talks normally take place by Zoom at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month, or every other month, and there will be the opportunity for questions after each talk. The talks are open to all (including non-members) and are free of charge. Members will be notified by email when booking is open for each talk, or you can keep an eye on the 'Events' page of our website. We thank all the members who have given talks so far; we are still looking for volunteers to give future talks and if you are interested in doing so, please contact Mary Cook on [secretary@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@yvbsg.org.uk). Recordings of many of the previous talks can be watched online by following the links on the website. Details of the next talk are given below.

### The South Yorkshire Buildings Survey: an introduction

By Peter Thornborrow on Thursday 19 May 2022 at 7.30pm. The presentation will feature the wonderful collection of buildings in the first two districts where we ran recording weekends as part of our South Yorkshire project – Barnsley and Rotherham. The buildings recorded were: Houndhill, Worsbrough; Birthwaite Hall farm buildings; Ingfield Barn, Ingbirchworth; Swaithe Hall; Swaithe Hall cruck barn; Bullhouse Hall barn; Bullhouse Hall summer house; The Old Hall, Gulthwaite Hill; The Poplars, Upper Whiston; Bramley Grange, Bramley; 126 Scholes Lane, Scholes; and Kirkstead Abbey Grange, Thorpe Hesley.

Right: an unusual doorway at Birthwaite Hall Farm, probably relocated from elsewhere.



### Vernacular Buildings of the Todmorden Countryside part two – Eastwood and then Mankinholes

Saturday 25 June 2022

Last September, Kevin Illingworth led a walk to look at some of the scattered farmhouses on the hillsides around Todmorden. There wasn't time to fit everything in on that day, so Kevin is arranging another walk to view the buildings we didn't see last year, and also to venture across to the opposite side of the Calder valley. Full details to follow in the next Newsheet.

### Doncaster Taster Visit

Saturday 13 August 2022

Originally planned to take place in March 2022, this event will now be held later in the year. Details to follow.

### Annual Recording Conference

Friday 23 to Sunday 25 September 2022

After several postponements, we hope to go ahead later this year with the annual recording weekend to be held in the Doncaster area. Details to follow.

## Committee news

At the AGM on 19 March 2022, the officers and committee members were re-elected as follows:

- Chair: Peter Thornborrow
- Honorary Secretary: Mary Cook
- Treasurer: Sue Southwell
- Membership Secretary: Pat Leggett
- Yorkshire Buildings Editorial Team Liaison: Tony Robinson
- Archivist: David Cook
- Newsheet/website/social media: Lorraine Moor
- Committee Members: Kevin Illingworth, Nick Nelson, Gunhild Wilcock

However, Sue Southwell would still like to stand down from the role of Treasurer – no volunteers came forward in response to the appeal in the last Newsheet! If you think you might be able to help, please do get in touch.

The minutes of the AGM are now available on the Members' Area of the website (you'll need the username and password which were included in your membership renewal letter).

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Saturday 7 May 2022. If you'd like to raise any matters, or have ideas for future events, please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

## Membership renewal 2022 – a reminder

Membership fees for 2022 became due on 1 January and renewal notices were sent out in December 2021. If a reminder is enclosed with this Newsheet, this means that you have not yet renewed your membership for 2022. We gently remind you that in line with our Privacy Statement which came into effect with GDPR in 2018, membership may be terminated if you do not renew within three months from 1 January each year and you would then receive no further correspondence from us, so please do renew soon – we don't want to lose you! But don't worry – we would send you a final reminder before taking you off our membership list.

Renewal payment (£12) can be by cheque payable to YVBSG, or by using direct bank transfer (BACS). Whichever method you use, please also post or email your completed renewal slip (making sure that you've ticked all the boxes to show your preferences) to the Membership Secretary, Pat Leggett, at the address shown on the slip.

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 now provides access to around 1,900 digitised building reports and around 170 articles from back issues of *Yorkshire Buildings* up to 2018.

# YVBSG Research Strategy: priorities and adding value

As you may have read in previous Newsheets, an article by Colum Giles entitled 'Vernacular buildings: a source for historical study' was published in the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 93 (2021). The article was highly relevant to the YVBSG's work and the Group was invited to respond to it; a reply was duly sent which welcomed and commended the paper, and which set out some questions as to how the Group might identify priorities for future work and derive greater value from its activities, given the limits on our resources. Further to this response, members of the YVBSG committee met online on 29 January 2022 with Colum and with Gill Cookson (Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society); discussions centred on the options for building capacity to sustain the Group and to facilitate further research. The following initial actions were agreed, and some are already underway.

- **South Yorkshire project.** Much work has already been undertaken in the Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield areas and local building patterns have started to emerge. Doncaster is still to be explored but Covid has interrupted the flow of recording in South Yorkshire; we hope to resume work this year. A small South Yorkshire Working Party has now been established to assess progress so far, and to consider the direction of future work and determine how a study of patterns might provide a framework for further recording and analysis.
- **Archive and photographs.** The Archive is now fully digitised and contains over 1,900 reports, offering a valuable resource to researchers. We also have a standalone Google Photos album of over 400 photos of

buildings recorded by the Group which is accessible from the Members' Area of the website, but it doesn't allow searching or sorting. We'll explore whether these and perhaps other photographs might be incorporated in or linked more closely to the Archive.

- **Inventory of members' research and interests.** We recently circulated a questionnaire by email; the results should help us to identify the most effective ways in which we could help members and other researchers, including provision of access to the Archive and extraction of data from the reports.
- **Contact with universities.** We'll establish liaison with relevant contacts at universities or colleges to encourage student participation in the Group's work.
- **Social media.** The Group already advertises its activities on Twitter and Facebook; we'll explore possibilities for further exploitation of social media to promote the work of the Group.

These initial actions should help us to take forward the South Yorkshire project and to start raising awareness of the potential of the Archive and other research facilities offered by the YVBSG. The Group's normal activities, including events and one-off recordings, will continue as usual. We thank Colum and Gill for their valuable input to this first strategic look at how we might add value to what we do and what we offer. If you have any thoughts or enquiries relating to our future strategy, do contact our Chair, Peter Thornborrow.

Lorraine Moor

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## The first ever YVBSG report!

In the year of our 50th Anniversary, we take a look back at the very first report accessioned into our archive – NYCVBVG Report 1. When recorded in 1970, this building in the hamlet of Holme Green, near Appleton Roebuck, was derelict and was described as 'a timber and brick house roofed with tile facing west onto a green and small stream. Now used to house cows.'

The report includes a plan but no elevations or photographs. The description states that *'the timber house is of excellent workmanship and generous scantlings, close studded and grooved for some kind of infil. The present infil is of very much worn thin bricks or thick tiles covered with plaster.'*

*'The southernmost truss, against the wall of an adjoining farm building, is almost complete to the eaves, with sill, most of the studs below and above the rail, and braces to a tie beam now missing with everything above it, leaving this end of the house open to the sky.'*

*'In the middle of the house is a large open hearth with a curved, chamfered bressummer above it and a timber chimney; the fire-back is of limestone. The timber chimney stack is clearly original to the house and of the same quality of workmanship as the frame. It is constructed of timbers about the same size as the rafters, ie approximately 6 x 4 inches, filled in with wide split oak laths and plastered on the outside.'*

*'The original roof of the house was of the utmost simplicity, consisting of pairs of common rafters about 6 x 4 inches, laid flat, with collars halved into them and pegged with one peg.'*

The report goes on to say that the house had originally been at least three-and-a-half bays long. Dating was thought by the recording team to be difficult but scantlings, close-studding, workmanship and the primitive roof structure suggested a date perhaps of 1500 or even earlier.

Since the report was written, the building has been extensively restored and is now called Brickyard Farm; the photo below shows the west elevation as it is today. Peering through the dense hedge surrounding the house, you can just see that it sits on a stone plinth.

The Village Design Statement for Appleton Roebuck states that: 'Another building of interest is the restored timber framed Brickyard Farm. Holme Green is an attractive low density settlement retaining a quiet rural atmosphere. Buildings are vernacular in style using local brick and tile with the timber framed Brickyard Farm as an outstanding example of its kind.'

Lorraine Moor



## Other events of possible interest ...

### Spout House

Easter to 31 October 2022

This remarkably well-preserved 16th century, thatched cruck-framed house was the local inn until 1914. Now cared for by the North York Moors National Park and open 11am to 4pm daily. See [www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/visiting/see-and-do/attractions/spout-house](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/visiting/see-and-do/attractions/spout-house).

### Cobwebs and Cream Teas

Various dates

An exclusive 'Behind the Scenes' tour of Burton Constable Hall led by expert guides to discover the cellars, attics, rooftops and everything else in between! Cost £37.50 including afternoon tea. Details and booking at [www.burtonconstable.com](http://www.burtonconstable.com).

### Calderdale Heritage Walks

April to October 2022

The summer programme of history walks is now available online at [calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk](http://calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk). Walks normally last 2-2¼ hours and cost £4.

### Markenfield Hall Tiny Tours

April to October 2022

'Tiny Tours' in small groups are available for booking on certain dates. £18 per person including tea and cake. See [markenfieldhall.com/tiny-tours/](http://markenfieldhall.com/tiny-tours/).

### Elmswell Old Hall Open Day

Friday 1 April 2022

Rare opportunity to visit the ruins of an East Yorkshire manor house of 1635. Open 10.30am to 3.30pm. Built by owner Henry Best, the old hall was thought to be one of the first brick buildings in East Yorkshire. Situated off the A166 near Driffild; road signs will give directions. Parking available.

### Sixteenth and seventeenth maps and plans of the ancient parish of Halifax

Tuesday 5 April 2022

A talk by David Cant to Halifax Antiquarian Society. 7.30pm at Calderdale Industrial Museum, Halifax. [www.halifaxhistory.org.uk](http://www.halifaxhistory.org.uk).

### York's Preservation Tradition

Wednesday 13 April 2022

A talk by Jonathan French for Yorkshire Architectural and York Archaeological Society in the Friends' Meeting House, York at 7.30pm. Exploring the history of preserving York's historic built environment. Further details at [www.yayas.org.uk](http://www.yayas.org.uk).

### The South Yorkshire Vernacular Building Survey

Tuesday 3 May 2022

A talk by Peter Thornborrow to the Hunter Archaeological Society, on the YVBSG South Yorkshire survey in Hallamshire and The Dark Peak, featuring Carbrook Hall. 7.30pm in Showroom 5, in the Showroom Workstation at 15 Paternoster Row, Sheffield. Non-members welcome. Details available at [sites.google.com/site/hunterarchaeologicalsociety/](http://sites.google.com/site/hunterarchaeologicalsociety/).

### Malton's Georgian Boom Time

Wednesday 11 May 2022

A guided walk describing the layout of the earlier medieval town before telling the story of the Georgian market town. £8, 7pm. A Malton Museum event – [www.maltonmuseum.co.uk](http://www.maltonmuseum.co.uk).

### Watton Abbey and Beswick Hall

Saturday 14 May 2022

Visits to the 14th/15th century prior's lodgings and barn at Watton, and exterior view of 17th century Beswick Hall which has diaper brickwork. Organised by the Georgian Society for East Yorkshire. [www.gsey.org.uk](http://www.gsey.org.uk).

### Lawkland Hall Wood at Bluebell Time

Sunday 15 May 2022

A North Craven Heritage Trust event, 2.15 for 2.30pm. Booking essential via Sue Cariss on 01729 840302. See [www.northcravenheritage.org.uk](http://www.northcravenheritage.org.uk).

### Barns, Walls, and Bridges

Tuesday 17 May 2022

Yorkshire Dales National Park event. A walk from Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes. £5. Other walks include 'Every Barn Tells a Story' on Saturday 14 May 2022. See [www.yorkshiredales.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk).

### High Bentham Village Tour

Monday 23 May 2022

A walk at 7pm led by John Wilson, local resident and secretary of the Ewecross Historical Society. Organised by Ingleborough Archaeology Group, [www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk](http://www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk). Meet at Lairgill Car Park at the foot of Butts Lane, High Bentham.

### Chalk as a Building Material Research Day

Wednesday 22 June 2022

A day at Flamborough planned by the Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group, Bridlington U3A Geoarchaeology Group, and Friends of the Chalk Tower. Details to be confirmed. [www.ryedalebuildings.org.uk](http://www.ryedalebuildings.org.uk).

## Surprises in our Archive

If you missed David Cook's talk given immediately before the YVBSG AGM on 19 March 2022, a recording can now be watched online. Have a look and see some of the more unusual buildings to feature in our Archive! Just follow the link to our YouTube channel from [www.yvbsg.org.uk](http://www.yvbsg.org.uk).

## Zooming over to Cumbria

Our neighbouring society, the Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group, is offering a programme of Zoom talks on Monday evenings at 7.30pm. The programme is shown below. For details, please see the Group's website at [www.cvbg.co.uk](http://www.cvbg.co.uk).

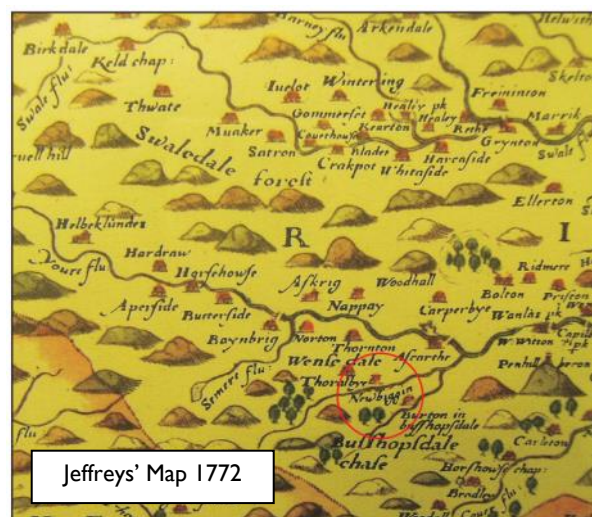
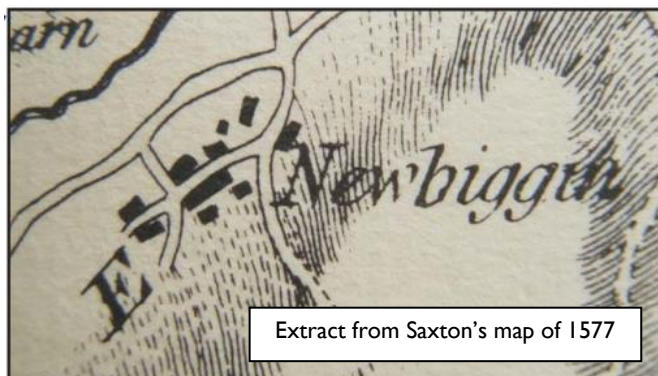
- Monday 4 April 2022 – *Clay Dabbins, old and new* by Peter Messenger.
- Monday 9 May 2022 – *Vernacular Buildings of Ulster Folk Museum* by John McDowell.
- Monday 13 June 2022 – *House at Underbarrow, near Kendal* by Dan Elsworth.
- Monday 4 July 2022 – *Living Upstairs: Bastles and bastle derivatives* by Richard Wilson.
- Monday 1 August 2022 – *Harby Brow Tower, near Wigton* by Paul Lewis.
- Monday 5 September 2022 – *Ona Ash, a cruck built, thatched house of 1695 near Kirkoswald* by Andrew Carter.
- Monday 3 October 2022 – *Ships' Timbers Ahoy! – how to recognise re-used timbers* by David Cant.
- Monday 7 November 2022 – *Update on Westmorland Dales Projects, including the Field Barns Survey* by Hannah Kingsbury.
- Monday 5 December 2022 – *Around Cumbria: a Celebration of Vernacular Buildings* by June Hill.



A clay dabb in

## From the archives: Newbiggin in Bishopdale

The village of Newbiggin lies on the south side of Bishopdale, fifteen kilometres west of Leyburn in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. YVBSG Report 177 presents a study of the buildings in the area. Further information can also be found in 'Buildings of Bishopdale' in *Yorkshire Buildings* 29 (2001).

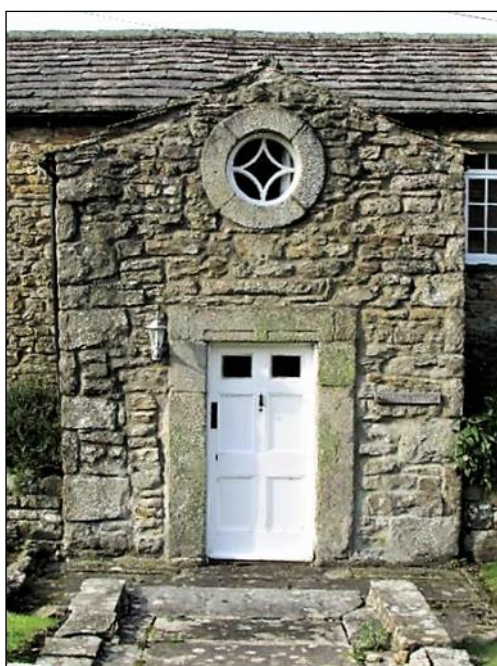


Most of the buildings in Newbiggin are adjacent to the street and face south. Although smaller in size than the neighbouring settlements of Thoraby and West Burton, there is a high proportion of listed properties. Most were built from the mid-seventeenth to the early nineteenth century. There are several examples of dated doorways. The earliest, 1636, now adorns the early twentieth century Newbiggin House. 'The Cottage' of 1717 and 'Brown's House' of 1670 have the ornate carvings on the rear elevation facing the road.

Mary Cook



**Brown's House** (left and below). The carving on the 1670 doorhead looks similar to a saltire cross. However, the listing describes this as crossed knives, suggesting a butcher may have resided here.



**Brook House Farm** (above). This porch butts up against the remains of an earlier building. The circular window is the only one of its type in the village.



**Town Head Farm** (above). The original 1690 doorhead has been moved when the porch was added to the building.

## Mystery structure – the answer!

In the December Newsheet we published a couple of photos of a mystery structure (pictured right) spotted near Ilkley by Gunhild Wilcock and David Cant. Nobody has hazarded a guess as to what this could have been, so we'd better enlighten you! The contraption is for veterinary use when treating feet of cattle. A rather similar structure was seen by those who attended a Historic Farm Buildings Group visit to The Lot region in France in 2019: an ox-shoeing frame at the Quercy-style farm at the Ecomusée de Cuzals (pictured below).



## Books looking for a home

The YVBSG has received an offer of a donation of a library of secondhand books on vernacular architecture. Many of the 'classics' are in the list which totals about 130 volumes. If anyone is interested, they should contact David Cook in the first instance ([archivist@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:archivist@yvbsg.org.uk)). David has a list of titles and authors. Please note that the collection is only to be disposed of in its entirety, by request of the owner.

## A talk on Calder Valley buildings

The national Vernacular Architecture Group held a free online winter conference in February on the theme *Upstairs/Downstairs – on room use in buildings*. Yorkshire was ably represented by David Cant in his talk on *Changes in room use in Calder Valley buildings*, which is now available for watching on the VAG YouTube channel. A link to the recording can be found at [www.vag.org.uk](http://www.vag.org.uk).

## Publications

*An Historical Map of Beverley: Medieval, Georgian and Victorian Town Map*. January 2022, £9.99. Commissioned by the Historic Towns Trust and based on a digitised Ordnance Survey map of 1908, this new full colour map charts Beverley's history across the centuries. The location of major buildings and other features (many long gone) are identified, showing how the streetscape has changed over time.

## Vernacular Architecture Group news

The national Vernacular Architecture Group already maintains databases of crucks, tree-ring dated buildings and Wealden buildings, as well as an online bibliography. An initiative is now underway to create additional new databases of crown post roofs and aisled halls and barns. Further information will be published on the VAG website at [www.vag.org.uk](http://www.vag.org.uk) as the projects develop.

Another useful new development is an online building glossary which identifies terms used for vernacular buildings, in particular the components of timber-framed structures. It is based on the Practical Handbook *Recording Timber-Framed Buildings: an Illustrated Glossary* by Nat Alcock, Maurice Barley, Philip Dixon and Bob Meeson, published by the Council for British Archaeology. The new glossary will be going live very soon and a link will be available from [www.vag.org.uk](http://www.vag.org.uk).

Finally, have you ever struggled to name or describe a chamfer stop? A new VAG project is looking to clarify and standardise the nomenclature of chamfer stops, as current names and descriptions can be confusing and inconsistent. We look forward to seeing the outcome of this project.



Some Yorkshire chamfer stops. Left: The Mill of the Black Monks, Barnsley; Right: Calverley Old Hall, Calverley.

## Happy barning, Malcolm!

Malcolm Birdsall, a longstanding YVBSG member, celebrated his 80th birthday in February. Over the years we've become aware that Malcolm is partial to a barn and this is his cake, complete with a splendid example sitting on top. It was rumoured that the barn contained crucks, but perhaps they've been consumed (or re-used) by now. Belated Happy Birthday, Malcolm!



## My current favourite bit of vernacular wall ...

Whilst driving over the Wolds one day last year I came across a barn wall alongside the road, displaying a wonderful array of building materials and styles (pictured right).

The barn belongs to Bartindale Farm near Hunmanby in the old East Riding, and the farmhouse was recorded in 1984 (YVBSG Report 982), but not the farm buildings. The report states that 'The big barn to the north of the house is particularly interesting and probably very old – a particular point of note is the triangular vents in the west wall framed in chalk. This barn previously contained machinery driven by a horse engine in the yard to the east, and it warrants further investigation'. Triangular vents are not common in the East Riding, although I've come across them in South Yorkshire and also in County Durham (pictured below).

The farm is described in 'A Yorkshire Wold Farm' by Joan White, in *History from the Farm*, edited by W G Hoskins (1970). Mrs White writes that 'The barn ... looks very old. Some of the roof timbers look like old ships' masts. (I think this occurs in many old farm buildings near the coast)'. There was nobody around when I passed by so I didn't get the chance to ask to have a look at these so-called ships' timbers!

The deserted medieval village of Bartindale lies in the fields immediately to the east of the farm and there are other earthworks nearby. The report suggests that the oldest part of the farmhouse was probably a single-cell house built of chalk, which now forms a wing to the present house.

Regarding the variety of building stones to be seen in the wall, YVBSG member and geologist Richard Myerscough tells us that Bartindale is the site of a delta associated with the Hunmanby Lake spillway, and that the erratics from the delta were used locally and most notably in Burton Fleming church.



Barn wall at Bartindale Farm, East Riding



Closer view of triangular vents at Bartindale



Left: Barn next to Falcon House, Hooton Pagnell, South Yorkshire



Plane Tree Farm, Barnburgh, South Yorkshire

*Lorraine Moor*



Right: Norton Priory Farm, Norton, South Yorkshire



Middridge Grange, Shildon, County Durham

## British Listed Buildings – new photos added

8,640 photographs were uploaded to the *British Listed Buildings* website in ninety days from 6 December 2021 until 5 March 2022. That means an average of nine or ten photos were added to the site every day. One building might have thirty photos added, such as Langley Old Hall in Burnhope, County Durham, but that's an exceptional number. There are 216 batches or groups, each group consisting of forty photos or icons.



The tithe barn at Nether Poppleton – one of the buildings which recently had its photo added to the site

In the last ninety days more photos were taken in the wider Huddersfield area (Kirklees) than in any other district of Yorkshire, added by photographer Ian Ramage. Many photos were also taken in the Sheffield area by Scott Engering. A few photos were added from Richmond, Lockton, Howsham, Settle, and Bingley areas, but in smaller numbers.

For our Lancashire members, photographer Graham from Orford was busy in the Liverpool and Warrington areas of South-west Lancashire, and Runcorn in Cheshire. Elsewhere in Lancashire, some large mills were added.

For our Cumbria members, photographers Pam and Dave added many photos from Carlisle and the nearby villages of Burgh-by-Sands and Beaumont. They were also busy in Cockermouth, Maryport, Penrith, Whitehaven and elsewhere.

*Kevin Illingworth*

## SPAB in Yorkshire

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings ([www.spab.org.uk](http://www.spab.org.uk)) has a number of Regional Groups which run visits and events for SPAB members. They are a great opportunity to meet likeminded people and explore the heritage of your local area.

The Yorkshire Regional Group has been dormant in recent years but SPAB is now looking for volunteers to help revitalise it. If you are interested in helping, please get in touch with Lucy Newport on [spabyorkshire@gmail.com](mailto:spabyorkshire@gmail.com).

## Volunteering at Bishops' House

Interested in local history? Volunteers are needed at this wonderful house in Meersbrook Park, Sheffield, dendro-dated to 1554. Bishops' House is entirely volunteer run, relying on people with a passion for history or those who just wish to give their time to this community asset, to keep the house open to the public on weekends.



Volunteering slots are three hours long and you can volunteer as often or as little as you like. See [bishopshouse.org.uk](http://bishopshouse.org.uk) to find out more about volunteering and the building itself. You will receive support and information to get you started and learn about the history of the house and area.

## South Pennine Archaeology Group

The South Pennine Archaeology Group is a relatively new group who are recording Waggoner Tunstead in Bacup, Lancashire, a listed Grade II\* farmhouse of 1632. This will involve photographing, drawing, measuring, searching for apotropaic marks, researching online and in reference rooms and possibly metal detecting and an archaeological dig. For further information, see the website at [digspag.org.uk](http://digspag.org.uk).

## Richmondshire Buildings

The Richmondshire Building Preservation Trust based in North Yorkshire has expressed an interest in working more closely with the YVBSG for mutual benefit. The Trust is a heritage building restoration charity formed in 2003; the website at [www.richmondshirebpt.co.uk](http://www.richmondshirebpt.co.uk) provides more background information around its purpose and activities.

One specific request is that the Trust would like to bolster its Board with another member who has a background in historic buildings, such as architect or surveyor. If any YVBSG member who lives not too far from Richmond would be interested in joining the Board of Trustees, the Trust would be pleased to meet you and discuss the role in more detail. Contact details can be found on the Trust's website.



**Chair:** Peter Thornborrow, 3 Mayroyd Mill, Mayroyd Lane, Hebden Bridge HX7 8NY, [chairman@yvbbsg.org.uk](mailto:chairman@yvbbsg.org.uk)

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