



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

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Newsheet No 110

March 2023

Dear Member,

Welcome to our 110th Newsheet and here's wishing you all the best for this year which is already well underway! Your committee met on 21 January 2023 in York for the first time since Covid and lockdowns made us think outside the box and start meeting by Zoom and offering talks by Zoom too (which I dubbed "Third Thursday Talks"); we decided to make these freely available to non-members as well and through this decision we have increased our membership from outside the county during difficult times.

Our talk on Calverley Old Hall by Caroline Stanford on Thursday 16 February quickly became fully booked. Caroline is Landmark Trust's in-house historian and member of the project team currently tasked with its restoration. I have a particular interest in Calverley Old Hall having been the



Calverley Old Hall

Listing Inspector who surveyed it and wrote the [listing description](#) back in 1986. Calverley always had a special place in my heart having been where I married my first wife Gilly in 1967 while young students (aged 19 and 21!) just before our second year at Music and Art college in Manchester. It is perhaps the most exciting building of the 5000 listed buildings I ever surveyed. I hope you enjoyed the talk – if you missed it, you can watch the recording on our YouTube channel.

We promise you a full year of trips and lectures when we attempt to get back to normal with live events which we will fill you in about nearer the time. You can look forward to a day school in York in the autumn and a building recording weekend planned for 9-11 June in South Yorkshire again to record some outstanding buildings, based in the same hotel we enjoyed staying in last year. We are also planning some day trips to visit buildings as widely spaced as in Bridlington's Old Town and the Lancashire/Yorkshire borderlands. In July, Kevin Illingworth will again lead a walk in the Upper Calder Valley to see more fine vernacular houses on the hillsides close to Todmorden. In addition, Kevin and myself are planning to lead a car trip to the area to the north and east of Burnley – into Pendle



The flamboyant porch at Winewall Farmhouse, Winewall, north-east of Burnley, Lancashire

country to see some very fine vernacular mullion-windowed houses with impressive porches as shown in the photo above, possibly over a weekend with a stay in a local hostelry planned for Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 October. More details will be provided in future Newsheets nearer the time of the event.

Peter Thornborrow

Future YVBSG events: dates for your diary

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 18 March 2023

The AGM will again be held by Zoom and will include a talk. Details will be circulated to members shortly.

Annual Recording Conference

Friday 9 to Sunday 11 June 2023

We are planning to hold the recording conference in South Yorkshire again. This will include a review of the buildings recorded during the 2022 conference held in the Doncaster area. Full details and booking form will follow soon.

Vernacular Buildings of the Todmorden Countryside part three

Saturday 8 July 2023

Another walk led by Kevin Illingworth to see more of the fascinating buildings in this part of the county.

Annual Day School

Autumn 2023

We hope to resume our live day schools with an event later in the year.

Third Thursday Talks

We are continuing our online talks during 2023. These normally take place by Zoom at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the 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 are still looking for volunteers to give future talks and if you are interested in doing so, please contact Mary Cook on secretary@yvb.org.uk.

The Vernacular Buildings of the Doncaster Area

By Peter Thornborrow, on Thursday 20 April 2023. This is an opportunity to see not only the buildings that we recorded last year at our Annual Recording Conference, but many more that three or four of us visited on our reces to many different villages amid contrasting landscapes, some of which we hope to record this year.



Timber mullion window seen in a barn in Hooton Pagnell

There are two important estate villages. At Hickleton, James Paine designed an impressive Palladian mansion built in the 1750s. Its village of attractive mullion-windowed sandstone cottages fronting the busy main Doncaster Road are deliberately constructed in seventeenth century style but are a century later, built after the mansion house for its many estate workers. The attractive estate village of Hooton Pagnell sits on top of a high limestone ridge, its main street lined with seventeenth and eighteenth century limestone farmhouses, barns and cottages, mostly built gable-on to the street. These contrast with Fishlake, a village of brick houses in the east of the county where its outstanding church sits close to the River Don on a raised bank just above the flood plain; this small lowland village was once an inland port with its own Customs House (which we have recorded). In 1626 the Dutch engineer Cornelius Vermuden was commissioned by Charles I (and later knighted) to drain the Hatfield Chase on the Isle of Axholme, eventually bringing prosperity to the area, especially to the larger town of Thorne, but his techniques caused the peatlands to shrink and the land levels dropped dramatically – as much as twelve feet – causing extensive flooding that is still a problem today.



The Dutch House, Bawtry

Further to the south, on the boundary with Nottinghamshire, Bawtry is an attractive market town where Vermuden had drained the land and redirected and channelled the river, but these waterworks were seriously damaged during the Civil War requiring a second generation of Dutchmen to come and repair the drainage system. Most of the land surrounding the river is a flood plain and the River Idle, stocked today with eels to sustain otters recently introduced, has a long history of flooding the agricultural land and the towns and villages adjacent to it. An inland port had been established at Bawtry from Roman times for exporting lead from Derbyshire, brought by pack-horses from c1300 and throughout the Middle Ages, but direct to London in 1596. Close to the church the brick 'Dutch House' of c1690 was the home of a Dutch engineer who designed it with its typical shaped gable.

The area is full of history; close by in the small hamlet of Austerfield once lived William Bradford in the Elizabethan Manor House, an L-shaped timber-framed building. One of the first Pilgrim Fathers, he sailed to New England on the Mayflower becoming Governor of Plymouth Colony. In the church of Adwick-le-Street is a marble tomb chest bearing the familiar coat-of-arms of the Washington family decorated with the stars and stripes of the American flag.

In this talk we will visit all of these buildings, villages and many more, including the medieval town of Tickhill; this is your opportunity to gain a taste of this unfamiliar part of South Yorkshire. Booking will open at the beginning of April.



Decorative hoodmould stops, unusual for this part of South Yorkshire, at the derelict Stockbridge Farm, Arksey.

Oval windows 1650s-1730s:

their vernacular context with variants including circular and vesica, mostly located in parts of Lancashire and West Yorkshire

By Malcolm Birdsall on Thursday 15 June 2023. Malcolm has had a long-time interest in oval windows as vernacular features and he feels that he can now pass on that information via this Zoom talk. Full details to follow in the next Newsheet.

Recordings of previous talks

Recordings of previous talks can be watched online by going to our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@yvb.org.

Annual General Meeting 2023

The Annual General Meeting will be held by Zoom at 3pm on Saturday 18 March 2023. 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 and the Zoom link for the meeting 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.

Prior to commencement of the formal agenda, David Cant will repeat his entertaining talk marking fifty years of the YVBSG, highlighting some notable characters and events over the years, which he first gave at the Group's 50th anniversary celebration last year.

After eight years acting as the Group's treasurer, Sue Southwell has expressed a wish to stand down from the role in the near future. Despite earlier appeals, no-one has yet come forward to express an interest in taking on this role! Please consider whether you might be able to help – if so, we (and especially Sue) would love to hear from you and will provide information on what the role entails. Please get in touch with Sue on treasurer@yvbbsg.org.uk, or contact any other member of the committee.

Membership renewal – a reminder

Membership fees for 2023 became due on 1 January 2023. Thank you to all those people who have already renewed their membership for this year. I hope you found the new short online renewal form easier than returning an email attachment as in previous years, although you still need to send your payment by cheque or BACS. Details of the YVBSG bank account can be found on the Members' Area of the website if you need a reminder at any time. Please do contact me on membership-secretary@yvbbsg.org.uk 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 2023.

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 150 articles from back issues of Yorkshire Buildings up to 2018, 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 2023 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!

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

Next Newsheet

The next Newsheet will be in May 2023 – please send any contributions to the editor at newsheet@yvbbsg.org.uk by 30 April 2023. Short articles on buildings or features would be appreciated, as well as details of publications or events of interest to other members.

Committee meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Saturday 29 April 2023. If you'd like to raise any matters, or have ideas for future events, please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

Yorkshire Buildings 49

The latest edition of *Yorkshire Buildings*, No 49 (2021), has now been posted out to members. If anyone has not received their copy, please contact the Editor, Tony Robinson, either by email on editor@yvbbsg.org.uk or by phone on 01609 771673. We hope you enjoy reading it and we encourage members to think about contributing articles for future editions.

Additional copies of this edition, as well as back issues, can be purchased at £4 – please see the website for details.

Joyce Bishop

We are sad to report that Joyce Bishop, who was a YVBSG member for many years, died on 5 January 2023. Joyce lately lived in Essex but often said that she loved coming back to Yorkshire for holidays and to visit family who still lived here. She was passionate about vernacular architecture and many a time told us that we should be recording such-and-such a building or farmstead – usually quite rightly, although it wasn't always practical to do so. She had a keen interest and healthy curiosity regarding the history, development and use of buildings, and often questioned why things were like they were. Those who knew her will also remember her mischievous sense of fun and humour!

Joyce died just four months short of her 100th birthday. Her birthday fell in May close to that of another late YVBSG member, Joyce Williams, which often led to a birthday celebration for 'the Joyces' during our annual recording conferences.

Joyce was an enthusiastic supporter of the national Vernacular Architecture Group and continued to attend their spring conferences (which require a certain degree of stamina!) until 2019, when she had almost reached the age of 96. This photo of Joyce studying her conference handbook during a coffee break was taken at Hay Castle during the VAG spring conference in South Wales in 2013.

Lorraine Moor



The hole at the foot of a cruck blade

In *Yorkshire Buildings* No 28, Alison Armstrong and Arnold Pacey published their research findings regarding the examination of cruck remnants found in various buildings in the Central Pennines region.

As a self confessed cruck aficionado and builder of same, I note in figure 4 of the article (reproduced below) that they recorded the presence of holes near the foot of two cruck blades now reused in separate buildings.

The method of moving, lifting and raising cruck frames and other large medieval building cross frames is to a large extent conjectural and hence the reason for the presence or otherwise of holes near the foot of cruck blades and/or posts is not yet fully understood. Crucks can be raised to stand on pads/stylobats (Bunker, 1972, p8) or alternatively on timber sills and so this might provide a clue as how to explain the presence or otherwise of cruck blade foot holes.

In our case (the Oxfordshire Woodland Group) we raised the cruck frames on sills into coggled housings and recognised that the cruck frames must not be allowed to slide as lifting progressed. Restraining the movement of cruck feet on sills is relatively simple using straps, pull lifts and pegs (Charles and Charles, 1984, p30). As the frame is raised the restraining straps need to be lengthened to maintain the cruck feet in their correct relative final position ready to eventually drop into a coggled housing or mortice.



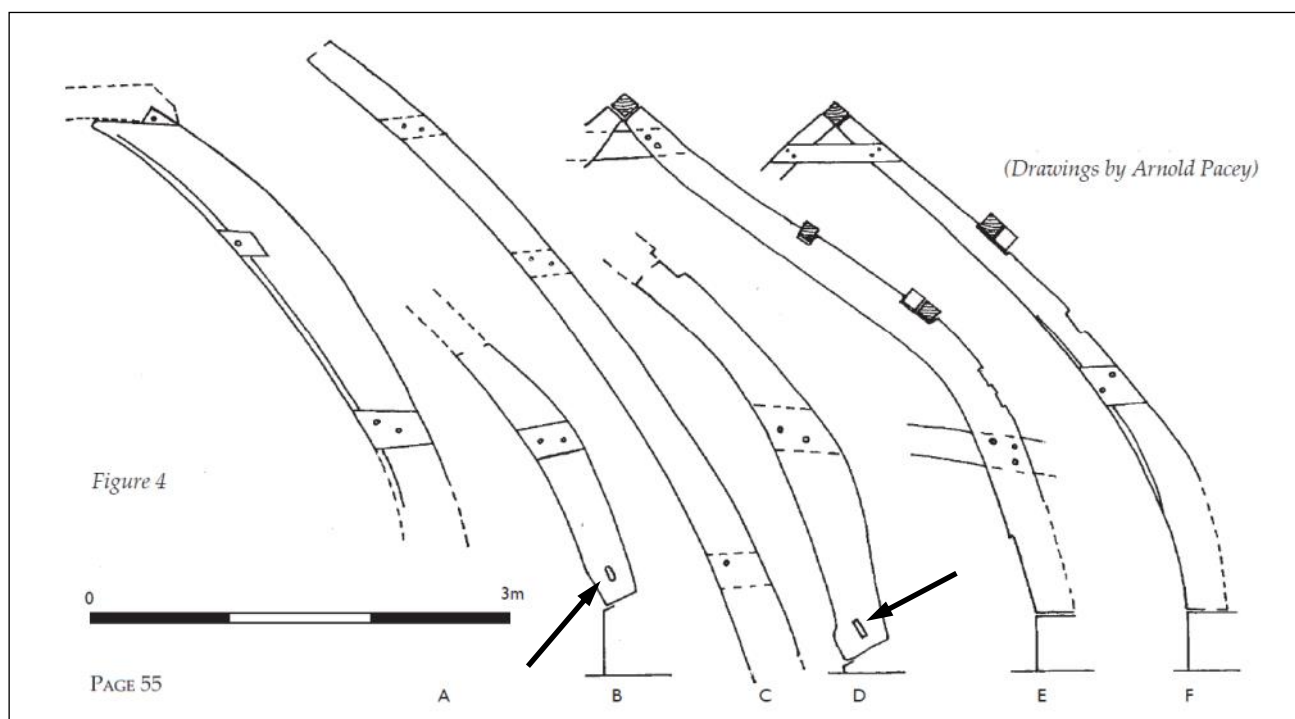
In northern locations such as in Derbyshire, Yorkshire or Lancashire where significant stone is available to create foundations and walls, ie not on timber sills, it is less obvious how cruck frames are restrained during raising.

Any insight into how this conundrum can be explained by providing suggestions or answers would be much appreciated.

Ken Hume B.Sc. M.Sc. P.Eng. C. Eng. M.I.Mech.E, Oxfordshire Woodland Group.
Email kfhume@gmail.com

References

- Armstrong, A and Pacey, A, 2000. Cruck Buildings in the Central Pennines. *Yorkshire Buildings*, No 28, 50-59.
- Bunker, B, c1972. *Cruck Buildings*. Holmesfield: Self published.
- Charles, FWB and Charles, M, 1984. *Conservation of Timber Buildings*. London: Donhead.



From the archive: chalk buildings

Chalk buildings in Yorkshire are found on the Wolds and on the east coast, where the stone is of a harder nature than usually occurs elsewhere. They include houses and farm buildings, as well as one or two more unusual structures such as the Chalk Tower (also known as the Old Lighthouse) and the castle (fortified manor house) in Flamborough. Chalk buildings sometimes have brick dressings or might be faced in brick. Pictured below are some of the buildings recorded by the Group which contain chalk; the reports are all available online in our archive.

Lorraine Moor



Mill Farm House, Hunmanby (YVBSG 976). A late C18 house of Georgian-style plan. Servants' room at rear accessible only by ladder from kitchen. Rounded corners allow carts to reach farm buildings behind the house.



17-19 Northgate, Hunmanby (YVBSG 969). Datestone of 1694 above the door. Former three-cell through-passage plan with tall upper cruck truss above housebody. Thatch replaced by pantile c1750.



Miss Fawcett's Cottage, Wintringham (YVBSG 1001). A simple two-cell cottage of chalk and brick, probably built late C18. Yorkshire sliding sash windows on first floor.



Grove Farm, Flamborough (YVBSG 1615). Chalk/brick farm buildings – barn, loose boxes/cart shed, calf house, piggery and stable – built between 1766 and 1854. Largely now demolished or converted to housing.



Glebe Farm, Oulton (YVBSG 1727). Cruck-framed farmhouse, a rare survival in the East Riding, dendro-dated to 1671-2. Earlier walls of less permanent material later replaced by chalk and brick. Described in full in David Cook's article in *Yorkshire Buildings* 35, 2007.



Castle House Farm, Hunmanby (YVBSG 973). Probably began as a longhouse with domestic end rebuilt c1700 – this survives in chalk in the centre of the block. Chalk farm buildings at rear, one of which is pictured below.



West House Farm, Muston (YVBSG 603). Datestone of 1752. One of at least six dated houses in Muston, with the same plan as three of these. Large inglenook fireplace in housebody, with hooded-type chimney built in brick, old-fashioned for its date.



Low Hall (or Old Manor House), Hunmanby (YVBSG 602). T-shaped house said to date from before 1629, with the wing later in the C17. Arched doorway to main entrance and huge exterior stack.



Beulah Cottage, Hunmanby (YVBSG 974). Formerly a type of longhouse with hearth-passage giving access to a cow house. Of an unusual plan in that the hearth-passage is not located behind the stack as would normally be expected. Probably C18.

The farm that moved

Just south of Mytholmroyd, on the hillside above the Turvin Brook, there is a farmstead with an unusual history. The name, Hollin Hey, suggests an old site, but it isn't shown here on the first edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map of 1892. Although today there are several large steel sheds, typical for the latter part of the twentieth century, there are also older stone buildings. The largest of these is a combined dwelling, barn and cowshed all of one build, called (by buildings historians!) a 'laithe house'. 'Laithe' is a dialect word for a building where the area for storage and processing of crops is combined with the mistal, another dialect term for a cattle shed.

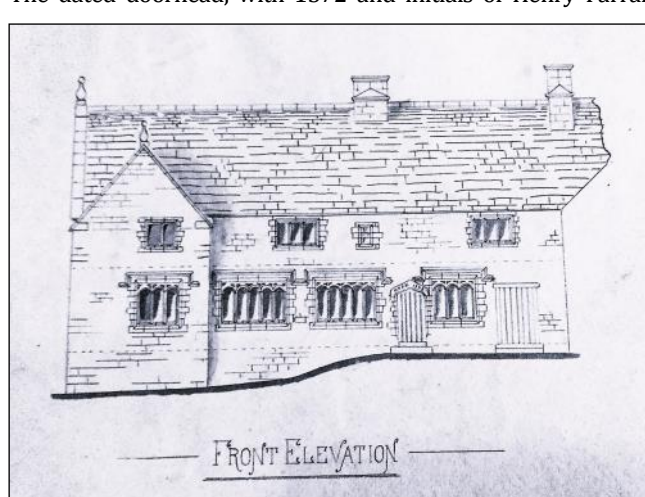
These building types were common in the rural south Pennines for at least two hundred years, and many good examples can still be seen. With the changes in farming practices the 'little hill farms' (to quote the title of an

excellent book by W B Crump of Halifax) became less viable. The ones on the higher ground, often the most recent additions to the landscape during the expansion of private and parliamentary enclosure (1750–1850) were abandoned first. Many sites are now just piles of stone. On the lower ground the laithe end may well have been converted for human habitation.

At Hollin Hey, however, though no cows have been milked here since 2011, conversion to a sheep breeding and shearing shed mean animals are still catered for in the laithe. Closer inspection of the dwelling reveals features typical for around 1600. Large, squared blocks of gritstone laid in regular courses contain double-recessed mullioned windows, with round, arched heads. There are tall, circular finials on the gable apexes; the roof coping stones end in skew-backs, rather than kneelers, which are more common in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. However, the overall impression is of a Victorian villa in terms of size and layout.

Dig a little deeper into the writings of local historians, maps, plans, and archived documents reveal an unusual story. A couple of field lengths on the uphill side is Little Hollin Hey. In this area the repetition of names is not particularly surprising. Hathershelf, where I live, has a Lower, Middle and Upper – all once separate farms. It should come as no great surprise to learn that there was once a Great Hollin Hey – but it was located right next to the present Little Hollin Hey, where there are only three or four cottages now. Little Hollin Hey itself is a converted laithe – in this case a freestanding one.

So it appears that the older farmhouses themselves have disappeared. Well, not quite. In 1895 one Edward Helliwell purchased both farms from John Sutcliffe of Hoo Hole. In 1896 he commissioned local architects Wrigley and Walsh to produce plans for new farm buildings to be erected on a new site. Although there is no written confirmation, it is clear the intention was to re-use as much material as possible. Fortunately, the architects also produced 'as existing' drawings of the house at Great Hollin Hey.



Drawing in the possession of the owners of the farm.



This photo from the *Pennine Horizons Digital Archive* also appears in a *Halifax Antiquarian Transactions* article for 1920 which describes the early history of the site.

The dated doorhead, with 1572 and initials of Henry Farrar, was transferred to the new site. The round-headed mullion windows were adjusted to incorporate a high transom. The large gritstone blocks were transported downhill and the new farmstead created.

The early nineteenth-century Sowerby township plans clarify the situation, and the accompanying valuation shows how the fields were shared between Great and Little Hollin Hey. Those belonging to the former were predominantly north and north-west of the site. Little Hollin Hey only had about twelve acres, all to the south-west, but to the south-east was a large wooded area, still identifiable today. The move to the new site may have coincided with the creation of one farm using all the land.

This research is a 'work in progress' at the moment. I'm receiving a lot of help from the family who live at Hollin Hey, descendants of Edward Helliwell who was responsible for the changes.

David Cant

The Black Swan at 6-8 Silver Street, Wakefield

On Monday 6 February 2023 I was an invited guest at a presentation in Wakefield, attended by a large audience, celebrating the progress of the Wakefield Westgate Heritage Action Zone. A speaker from Historic England, Eric Branse-Instone, put the initiative into a national context, and the Wakefield Metropolitan District Council's Action Zone project officer Paul Gwilliam showed the project buildings and told of the joint research in collaboration with the Wakefield Historical Society producing small booklets on each of the project buildings. One of these was the Black Swan Inn, long recognised as being one of the few timber-framed jettied buildings to survive in Wakefield, its façade covered by white-painted render (see photo right), as featured in the introduction of my book *Wakefield in 50 buildings*. As one of the chief project buildings, the building was recently covered in scaffolding to give the workmen access to remove the plaster render, revealing the historic timber-framing underneath, and then repair it. As the work progressed Paul took a photograph from each rise of the scaffold of every small panel as a record, but then came up with the idea of making a composite photogrammetric record of the complete exposed timbers. He then created a digital photo of the upper floors of the building. As he explains: 'The image is made up of a hundred individual pictures to make a 3d model then exported as an orthographic projection to get rid of the scaffolding'. Amazing! A copy of this has been placed on the hoarding covering the front of the building so the public can see what's behind it during the current repair works.

The photogrammetric image starts from the first floor – in the photo on the right you can see there are brackets supporting the jettied upper storeys. Paul reports that 'The brackets supporting the jetties are the tops of jowelled posts and have decorative floral carvings similar to the ones that were on the Golden Cock (demolished in the 1960s) and are now on display in the museum' in Wakefield One. The diagonal framing of the infilling struts is typical of buildings that once graced Wakefield's streets – like the Six Chimneys, sadly demolished – a style that ranged from the mid-sixteenth century to the early seventeenth century. The provisional results of dendro-dating suggest a date in the second half of the sixteenth century, perhaps in the 1580s or 90s. The large gabled dormer is differently framed with vertical infilling struts parallel to the king-post of the roof truss (what I coined an 'I-framed king-post truss') suggesting to me that this is a later addition, probably added around 1630. The rear of the building has a similar gabled attic dormer, revealed when the



Photo by Paul Gwilliam

render fell off after the framing cracked in the 1990s. The building was then occupied by a jeweller who bought a new large safe, but the delivery men couldn't get it in past a large oak post in the middle of the building – so they just cut through it! A few weeks later the building started to creak and groan with explosive sounds as the timber started to crack as its rear gradually subsided. Being the Senior Historic Buildings Officer at the West Yorkshire Advisory Service (created to advise the local authorities of West Yorkshire on archaeology and historic and industrial buildings), I was called in to inspect the damage on behalf of WMDC and advise on its immediate repair. A good example of why listed building consent is required – which it didn't have!

Peter Thornborrow



Photogrammetrical image by Paul Gwilliam

Diamonds are forever ... more East Riding brickwork

Last year I joined an interesting visit to Watton Priory and the village of Beswick in the East Riding, organised by the Georgian Society for East Yorkshire.

The Prior's Lodging, now a private house known as Watton Abbey, is the only remaining part of the Gilbertine Watton Priory (a Google search provides photos and plans). The earliest part of the house is a three-storey ashlar range dating from the late fourteenth century, to which has been added a three-storey brick range, displaying the remains of brick diaperwork, in the mid to late fifteenth century.

Nearby, diaperwork can also be seen at the brick Beswick Hall (visible from the main village street), built by Sir Ingleby Daniel in around 1600-1610 but much altered over the years. Beswick is a small estate village with a number of nineteenth and twentieth century houses, but some of the older houses are pictured below. They are relatively modest buildings, one-and-a-half storeys, and of brick; No 39 has a tumbled gable. Dr David Neave kindly supplied some informative notes on the village for the visit.



Chimney stack at Watton Abbey



Above: Diaperwork at Beswick Hall



Right: Front elevation of Beswick Hall



39 Main Street, Beswick. Probably late C18.



Old Post House, 20 Main Street, Beswick. Probably early C18.



Pear Tree Cottage, 55 Main Street, Beswick. Probably late C18.



Low Grange, Thurnscoe

But going back to diaperwork ... further Yorkshire examples are found at Arram Hall near Atwick (early seventeenth century); in a gable at Beverley Friary (sixteenth century); at Burton Constable Hall (late sixteenth century onwards); at Boynton Hall (late sixteenth century with an earlier core); at King's Manor in York (in a range of c1560); in a dovecote at Cablesforth Hall near Selby (sixteenth century); and at Old Hall in Yafforth (1614). We also found a good example in South Yorkshire, at Low Grange, Thurnscoe, which we hope to record at this year's annual recording conference.

A talk discussing whether diaperwork patterns were simply for decoration or had an apotropaic function was given by Marc Robben at the *Making Your Mark* conference in November 2022; it can be viewed at youtu.be/kWx3dykPKVQ.

Lorraine Moor

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.

Traditional Food in Calderdale

Wednesday 8 March 2023

A talk by Peter Brears to Hebden Bridge Local History Society. A look at food, its preparation and its place in the lives of Calder Valley people. 7.30pm at the Methodist Church, Hebden Bridge. www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk.

Houses for the Working Classes

Wednesday 8 March 2023

A talk by Janet Senior for Bradford Historical and Antiquarian Society on the first council housing in Bradford. 10.30am at the Bradford Club, Bradford. £5. www.bradfordhistorical.org.uk.

Scow Hall Farm Walk

Saturday 11 March 2023

Scow Hall Farm is one of Yorkshire Water's nine farms which are let to young farmers for them to work in a sustainable way. 9.30am, 6 miles. Cost £15, with lunch. Organised by Washburn Heritage Centre, more information at www.washburnvalley.org.

Visit to Third White Cloth Hall, Leeds

Friday 17 March 2023

Opened in 1777, Third White Cloth Hall has had a colourful past as Assembly Rooms, Cloth Hall, a night club and now a Buddhist Meditation Centre. Join Leeds Civic Trust and Peter Brears to learn how the building has been restored and was utilised in the past. 2pm to 4pm, £7. Book at leedscivictrust.org.uk.

Gillingwood Hall and Garden, Richmond

Monday 20 March 2023

A talk to Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society on recent research into a forgotten seventeenth-century garden and house by Tim Gates and Trevor Pearson. 7.30pm at Scarborough Library, visitors £3. www.sahs.org.uk.

Demolished Sheffield

Monday 20 March 2023

A talk by Mike Higginbottom to Sheffield and District Family History Society. 2pm at Aizlewood Business Centre, Nursery Street, Sheffield. www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk.

Lime Kilns: the Where, When and What for

Thursday 23 March 2023

A talk by Dr David Johnson for Skipton & Craven Historical Society, 7.30pm at the Swadford Street Centre, Skipton. £3. skiptoncravenhistorysociety.com.

Clapham Book Fair

Sunday 2 April 2023

Secondhand book sale at Clapham village hall, 10am to 4pm. A Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority event, details at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/whats-on/clapham-book-fair.

Hidden Robin Hood's Bay

Wednesday 5 April 2023

A North York Moors National Park event, 11am to 12.30pm or 1.30pm to 3pm. A walk which includes seeing the smallest listed structure in Britain. Suggested fee £3. To book, visit www.northyorkmoors.org.uk.

The Lost Towns of East Yorkshire

Wednesday 5 April 2023

A talk by Phil Mathison for Howden Civic Society. 7.30pm at the Masonic Hall, Selby Road, Howden, visitors £2. www.howdencivicsociety.co.uk.

Almshouses, focussing on Bradford

Thursday 6 April 2023

A talk by Janet Senior to Bradford Family History Society. 10.30am at Bradford Mechanics Institute, Kirkgate, Bradford. £2.50. www.bradfordfhs.org.uk.

Spout House, Bilsdale

Easter to 31 October

This well-preserved sixteenth century thatched cruck-framed house was the local inn until 1914. Now in the care of North York Moors National Park Authority, the building opens daily 11am to 4pm. www.northyorkmoors.org.uk.

Hidden Charms 4

Saturday 15 April 2023

A conference on magical house protection at the National Centre for Early Music in York, £45. For details see www.apotropaios.co.uk.

Yorkshire Landscape Buildings in Context

Monday 17 April 2023

A talk by Ray Blyth for Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society. 7.30pm at Scarborough Library, visitors £3. www.sahs.org.uk.

Medieval Leeds

Tuesday 18 April 2023

A walk around Leeds city centre with Leeds Civic Trust, 6pm to 8.30pm, returning to the Trust offices by 7.30pm for buffet supper. £15. Book via leedscivictrust.org.uk.

Hawes Town Trail walk

Tuesday 25 April 2023

A 2.5 mile guided walk exploring the history of Hawes and Gayle. Starts 2pm at the Dales Countryside Museum, £3. Book via Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

CBA Yorkshire Symposium

Saturday 29 April 2023

A programme of talks on archaeological projects and new discoveries. 10am to 4pm at King's Manor, York. Details to follow at www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk.

A Visit to Knedlington Old Hall

Saturday 13 May 2023

A rare chance to visit the remarkable seventeenth-century brick Artisan-mannerist manor house with elaborate shaped gables and original features (YVBSG report 1725). £8, Georgian Society for East Yorkshire, gsey.org.uk.

Barns, Walls and Bridges

Tuesday 16 May 2023

A 4-mile walk to discover Wensleydale, its local industry and agriculture. Starts 1.30pm at the Dales Countryside Museum, £5. A Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority event – booking via www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

From Horse-power to Tractor

Sunday 21 May 2023

Local farmer Chris Calvert talks about the history and development of horse power in traditional Dales farming. 2pm at Keld Resource Centre, £7. Book via Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

The Fattorini Family and Skipton Castle

Monday 22 May 2023

A talk by Noel Moroney to Batley History Group, 7.30pm in Batley Town Hall, £4. batleyhistorygroup.co.uk.

Ancient Buildings and Views in Lower Wensleydale

Sunday 28 May 2023

A 7-mile circular walk across easy terrain. Starts 10am, £10. Part of Swaledale Festival, www.swalefest.org.

Local History, Traditional Farming and Lead Mining

Friday 9 June 2023

A 5.5-mile walk taking in Low Row and Gunnerside. 10am to 3pm, £10. Part of Swaledale Festival, www.swalefest.org.

A curious inscription – can you help?

We've received an email enquiry from someone who came across this stone on a wall at Lower Hirst Farm in Longwood, near Huddersfield. The foot in the bottom left of the photo gives an indication of scale.

The enquirer is interested in finding out more about the inscription on the stone, and she tells us that there used to be a much older, possible medieval, house on the site of present-day Lower Hirst, as well as a surviving barn described in the listing description as nineteenth century but which she thinks could perhaps be older.

If anyone can throw any light on the inscription or on Lower Hirst Farm in general, please contact newsheet@yvbbsg.org.uk in the first instance. The enquirer would also be interested to receive information on any nearby buildings on Lamb Hall Road, Longwood.



Courses

Photographing Old Buildings Online Workshop

An online four-part workshop on 2 May to 12 July 2023 offering professional guidance on techniques. Run by SPAB, £105. Details at www.spab.org.uk/whats-on/courses/photographing-old-buildings-online-workshop-4.

Line and Wash Watercolours

Brush up your Line and Wash skills with artist John Harrison, who draws inspiration from Yorkshire's landscape, towns and villages. At Broadrake Farm, Chapel-le-Dale, on Sunday 18 June 2023. £70, details at www.broadrake.co.uk.

Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group reports

A number of building and dendrochronology reports and other articles of interest are now available on the Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group's website at www.uwhg.org.uk/project-reports. These are largely the result of work carried out in the area by Alison Armstrong and others; further information about the projects can also be found on the website.

Some new heritage-related publications

Yorkshire Post newsletter. The Yorkshire Post now offers a weekly 'Yorkshire Heritage' email newsletter, highlighting heritage-related items which have appeared in the newspaper. Sign up at www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/newsletter, but note that you need a subscription to the online paper to read some of the articles.

History and Heritage Yorkshire. *History and Heritage Yorkshire* is a new online magazine. The subscription is through a service called Patreon, and it provides access to podcasts as well as the magazine. The cost is £4 per month – see www.patreon.com/user?u=82532794.

Pontefract building to be rescued from dereliction



The Counting House Pub, Pontefract, in 2006.
Photo by Bill Henderson (geograph.org.uk).

It was reported in the press this week that a new lease of life could be in store for one of the older buildings in Pontefract. The timber-framed and stone building was a pub, The Counting House, from the 1980s but has been vacant since 2012 and had fallen into a sorry condition. However, the current owner is seeking a new tenant and has started a programme of repairs including lime rendering and re-roofing, and he also hopes to get the timbers dated.

Said to have been a merchant's property, the long range was later subdivided into dwellings. It appears in the listed building register as 'cottages in Swales Yard', probably sixteenth or seventeenth century of four builds. It was recorded by the Pontefract and District Archaeological Society in 1990 and their publication, *Historic Buildings in Pontefract at 7-9 CornMarket and Swales Yard*, is available at £7.50 from www.pontarc.org.uk/books.htm.

Lorraine Moor

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