

YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP



Website: <http://www.yvbsg.org.uk/>

Newsheet No 26

May 2001

YVBSG events for your diary

Baildon Walkabout

Sunday 24 June 2001

A walkabout in Baildon, near Shipley, West Yorkshire, led by Tish and Michael Lawson. Baildon has a rich collection of 17th and 18th century vernacular buildings. The meeting point is within Baildon Hall (grid reference SE 155 393), a former timber-framed manor house developed in the 17th century containing a wealth of fascinating vernacular details – not to be missed! Meet at 12 noon at Baildon Hall, where main meals and snacks are available. We depart from Baildon Hall at 1.45pm for the walk around the village, concluding at 4.00-4.30pm.

Please contact Tish Lawson, 22 Bank Walk, Baildon, near Shipley, West Yorkshire BD17 5HH (tel 01274 586644) if you wish to attend. Meals at Baildon Hall are optional. If you do require a meal, please let Tish know this when you contact her *before Friday 15 June* so that she can furnish you with a menu and take your order at least two days before the event. A location map or directions to Baildon Hall will be supplied.

NB. The Study Day at Lower Winskill Farm, Langcliffe, which was originally planned for this date, has been postponed due, sadly, to an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the locality.

Conference Review Day

Sunday 30 September 2001

To review the recording carried out at Flamborough in May. It is also hoped to organise an event in East Yorkshire on the previous day, Saturday 29 September.

Working in local recording groups

In some parts of the county, small groups of members get together on an informal basis to record buildings in their locality – sometimes occasionally, sometimes more regularly. If you would like to get involved in recording but don't know other members in your area, do contact the secretary, David Crook, who may be able to put you in touch with others nearby who are actively involved in recording.



Worldwide links



The Group's website (<http://www.yvbsg.org.uk/>) was launched in February and to date has attracted more than 450 visitors from around the world. Some of these visits, which are recorded by tracking software, are rather puzzling – someone in 'Russian Federation Time Zone 3' spent 71 minutes and 53 seconds browsing the site on 10 April! A homesick Yorkshire ex-pat, perhaps?

It was also gratifying to receive an email message from the Vernacular Architecture Society of South Africa, who had discovered our website and who have a link with Yorkshire: their society was founded in 1964 by James Walton, formerly of Yorkshire and author of *Homesteads of the Yorkshire Dales* (1947). Thys Hattingh of the society comments: "James Walton left quite a legacy in South Africa and in England it seems. I am glad that our Societies could exchange links."

If you have any suggestions as to how the website might usefully be developed, please contact the editor.

Feedback from the day school on buildings in towns

First of all, I would like to thank you, if you attended this year's day school, for supporting this event. Thanks also to the speakers and the people who helped in the organisation.

This year, for the first time, we asked you for your feedback on the event, and for any suggestions for the theme for next year's day school. 32 feedback forms were completed and returned, which represents 38% of delegates who attended.

The average scores out of 10 for each of the following aspects were returned:

Speakers	7.9
Content	8.0
Facilities	8.1
Refreshments	7.4
Admin	8.6

This feedback, together with people's comments on the day, indicates that the event was a great success and was enjoyed and appreciated by most people. These numerical scores, with perhaps the exception of the 'Refreshments', are consistently good, across the board. It is your additional comments (a summary of them follows), however, that will help us make improvements.

By far the most common comment was on the length of the afternoon session and the lack of a break. So for next year we will have a break or something else to break up the sequence of lectures. There were some comments on the comfort offered by the chairs, but with more breaks built into the programme this should be less of an issue!

Some people could not see the projection screen from the back, and one or two others commented on the lack of space and queuing at break times. I think we improved in this area on previous years, but for next year we will try to do better, perhaps by limiting numbers or finding a bigger space.

The food was not as good as previous day schools, and some of you commented on this, though again, most people who responded were happy with it. We will make arrangements for better food next time.

The speakers and content were generally regarded as good to excellent.

Suggestions for next time were ...

- More on theory, how buildings were used, and symbolism
- Trade and industry in vernacular buildings
- Industrial buildings, extensive area surveys of buildings, and computers and the internet
- East Riding, or the Flamborough/fishing vernacular
- Brick buildings and regional variations

One delegate pointed out that I omitted to introduce myself at the start of the proceedings. I'm reminded now for next time! Finally, I give the last word in this piece to the non-member who wrote on the back of the form...

"A brilliant day. I've never been to your meetings before but this was superb. I must join."

Thank you.

David Cook

Publications

The Life and Works of John Carr of York by Brian Wragg (ed Giles Worsley). 2000, £45 hardback or £25 paperback (incl p&p) from Oblong, The Annexe, Wharfebank Business Centre, Ilkley Road, Otley LS21 3JP, tel 01943 465473. Outlines the story of the 18th century architect and includes a full, well-illustrated catalogue of his works.

Agriculture and the Rural Landscape edited by Margaret Atherden. Papers from a PLACE day school held in York in May 1999. Includes 'Laithe, field barns and hennery-piggeries in the Pennine Dales' by Alison Armstrong. Price £1.50 (incl p&p) available from Mrs Sheridan Stead, PLACE, College of Ripon & York St John, Lord Mayor's Walk, York YO31 7EX, tel 01904 716753, email PLACE@ucrysj.ac.uk.

Timber Framed Buildings in Cheshire by Laurie McKenna. 1994, 74pp, A4 paperback. Previously priced at £6.50, now a bargain at £2.50 + 80p p&p! Available from Alan S Thornley, County Planning Officer, Cheshire County Council, Backford Hall, Chester CH1 6PZ, tel 01244 603102.



Mentioned in a previous newsheet, but very relevant to the recent YVBSG day school on town buildings:

Medieval Yorkshire Towns by George Sheeran. Edinburgh University Press 1998 £19.95. How architecture and the use of space reflected the evolving urban culture of the period. The creation of a separate and distinctly urban architectural development was an expression of authority and conflict. Well-illustrated with photos and diagrams, this book extends some of the ideas put forward at the day school in March. If you're lucky you may find a copy at a bargain price (Ken Spelman in York currently has some copies on offer at £9.95)!

Landscape Detective: Discovering a Countryside by Richard Muir. 160pp, paperback, April 2001, Windgather Press. Available from Central Books, 99 Wallis Road, London E9 5LN, tel 020 8986 5488, or via website <http://www.windgather.co.uk/>. Price £16.99 + £1.25 p&p. This book takes the reader through the process of landscape detection, by way of a journey through the landscape around the Yorkshire village of Ripley.

Vernacular Buildings in a Changing World: Understanding, Recording and Conservation, CBA Report 126, March 2001, edited by Sarah Pearson and Bob Meeson, 150pp. This book focuses on the theories and practices of for analysing and recording Britain's vast range of small historic buildings. It examines what has been done and what still needs to be achieved to preserve and understand our architectural heritage. £17.50 (incl p&p) from Council for British Archaeology, Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York YO1 9WA, tel 01904 671417, website <http://www.britarch.ac.uk>.

Other events of possible interest

Some of these events are publicised a long time in advance, so it's worth checking before you go!

The Castle Carr Estate

Tuesday 5 June 2001

Talk by Mr C Lloyd and Mr D Cant to Halifax Antiquarian Society, Halifax Central Library at 7.30pm.

Archaeology in West Yorkshire Day School

Saturday 9 June 2001

Speakers on Pontefract Castle, the A1-M1 Link Road, Roman Roads and Industrial Archaeology, with displays and bookstalls from local archaeological societies. Venue: Beckett Park Campus, Leeds Metropolitan University, Churchwood Avenue, Leeds. Cost £10 (excluding lunch). Booking to West Yorkshire Joint Services, PO Box 5, 5 Nepshaw Lane, Morley, LS27 0QP. Enquiries to Linda Birch on 0113 289 8248.

Rebuilding the Past: Buildings and History

Saturday 16 June 2001

Study day at the Centre for North-West Regional Studies, Fylde College, Lancaster University, Lancaster. Cost £13 (excluding lunch). Talks on *Documents in House Detection* (Emmeline Garnett), *Upstairs and Downstairs and in my Lady's Chamber: how houses were used in the past* (Andrew White), *Lake District Buildings as Social Documents* (Susan Denyer), and *What Future for What Past?: some ideas on the conservation of our 'architectural heritage'* (John Champness). Details from Christine Wilkinson, tel 01524 593770, email christine.wilkinson@lancaster.ac.uk, or see CNWRS web site at <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/users/cnwrs/>.

Guided tour of Todmorden Unitarian Church

Saturday 30 June 2001

Organised by the Historic Chapels Trust, 29 Thurloe Street, London, SW7 2LQ, tel 01706 813498. Venue: Honey Hole Road, Todmorden, West Yorkshire.

Researching the Yorkshire Country House – themes and objectives

Saturday 30 June 2001

Day conference at King's Manor, York. Details from Ruth Larsen, Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies, King's Manor, York YO1 2EP, tel 01904 433910, email yorkshire-country-house@mail.com. Topics include *Women in the Yorkshire Country House* and *Castle Howard and the Estate*.

Pevsner's The Buildings of England: 50th anniversary conference

Friday 13 to Saturday 14 July 2001

Organised by the Victoria and Albert Museum, this conference marks the 50th anniversary of the publication of the first volumes of Pevsner's architectural guides and will explore his contribution to British culture and achievements in both publishing and the conservation of historic buildings. Contact Box Office, Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London SW7 2RL, tel 020 7942 2209.



Guided Walk of Thornhill

Saturday 21 July 2001

A two-hour walk led by Dave Weldrake of the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service, looking at the history and archaeology (including 17th century buildings) of Thornhill, West Yorkshire. Walks at 10am and 2pm, free of charge but places are limited and booking is essential – contact Dave Weldrake, West Yorkshire Archaeology Service, Registry of Deeds, Newstead Road, Wakefield, tel 01924 306809.

Cottage Pie

Sunday 26 to Mon 27 August 2001

500 years of country life: explore the past, how we have cooked, eaten, slept, dressed, worked and played. At the Ryedale Folk Museum, Hutton le Hole. Further information on 01751 417367.

Historic Farm Buildings Group Conference

Friday 7 to Sunday 9 September 2001

Based at University College, Chichester, West Sussex. Contact Roy Brigden, Rural History Centre, University of Reading, Box 229, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AG, tel 0118 931 8663.

Heritage Open Weekend

Friday 7 to Monday 10 September 2001

Access to interesting properties not normally open to the public. Co-ordinated by Civic Trust – look out for local details or see website <http://www.civictrust.org.uk>. Note this is a weekend earlier than last year and has been extended to four days.

Ritual protection of buildings in the post-medieval period

Wednesday 12 September 2001

Talk by Virginia Lloyd of English Heritage, 7.30pm at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Clarendon, 23 Clarendon Road, Leeds, tel 0113 2456362.

Medieval Scarborough – the place, its context and significance

Saturday 29 September 2001

Conference organised by University of Hull, YAS, and Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society. 10.30am-4.00pm at Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough, fee £4. Details from Paul Barnwell, tel 01904 601913, email paul.barnwell@lineone.net.

Local and Family History Day

Saturday 27 October 2001

At the Methodist Mission, Lord Street, Huddersfield, 10.30am-4.30pm, £1.50. Details from Linda Birch, tel 0113 289 8248 or email lbirch@wyjs.org.uk.

Yorkshire Buildings

The 2001 edition of our annual journal, *Yorkshire Buildings*, is being distributed to members with this newsheet – I hope you enjoy reading it. Further copies are available from the editor at £4 + 75p p&p. As always, all members are encouraged to start thinking about contributions to the next edition – the deadline is the end of the year!

Next Newsheet

Many thanks to all who sent contributions for this newsheet. Please keep it up – any items for the August newsheet (such as requests for information, details of events or new publications, or items of general interest) should be with the editor by the end of July 2001. If the timing of an event means that it cannot be mentioned in the newsheet, it may still be possible to place some publicity on our website if appropriate.

Opportunities for further study

The University of York Centre for Conservation is again running a series of short courses which are open to the public:

- Lime Week: 22-25 October 2001, £240.
- The Study and Conservation of Stone: 5-7 November 2001, £150.
- Historic Plasterwork: 10-11 January 2002, £120.
- The Study and Conservation of Historic Interiors: 14-16 January 2002, £150.
- Brick, Terracotta and Tiles: 21-23 January 2002, £150.
- The Study and Conservation of Metals in Architecture: 4-6 February 2002, £150.
- The Study and Conservation of Timber: 11-13 February 2002, £150.
- The Study and Conservation of Earthen Structures: 18-20 February 2002, £150.
- Concrete, Steel, Plastics: particular challenges in conserving the modern: 25-27 February 2002, £150.
- Finance and Economics of Conservation: 4-6 March 2002, £150.



Course programmes and booking forms are available from the Graduate Secretary, Department of Archaeology, University of York, The King's Manor, York YO1 7EP, tel 01904 433963, website <http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/arch/gsp/openshort/menu.htm>, email pab11@york.ac.uk.

From weavers to wallpaper: learning about architecture

Earlier this year, Claire Milsom and I decided to broaden our horizons by enrolling on one of the courses in the above series at the University of York: a three-day Architectural History/History of Interiors course.

The first day was spent in a King's Manor lecture theatre, and Peter Burman, Director of the Centre for Conservation, kicked off the proceedings with an enlightening introduction to the study of architectural history, using Holkham Hall in Norfolk as an example of a current research project. Not everybody gets the opportunity to carry out a detailed study of Holkham Hall (a house and park designed in measurements of 'royal cubits' rather than feet and inches), but we learned that we can nevertheless heighten our appreciation and understanding of architecture by observing, by taking photographs and making drawings, by collecting old photographs, and by reading good books – not least the Pevsner volumes! An overview of the main architectural styles followed, illustrated by examples ranging from pre-Conquest churches to innovative twentieth century work in Prague and Bilbao.

The two talks in the afternoon, both by members of English Heritage's Architectural Survey, highlighted the links between buildings, landscape and industry, and clearly demonstrated that buildings should not be studied in isolation. Paul Barnwell spoke about farm buildings as historical evidence, comparing examples from Northumberland (well-designed, highly-improved farmsteads which took advantage of the technological breakthroughs of the nineteenth century such as conversion to steam power) and Cheshire (mostly slowly-evolving dairy farming, where buildings were adapted to intensify production but in general agriculture failed to participate in the Industrial Revolution). The second talk, covering the textile industry, buildings and landscape, was by Colum Giles and was particularly pertinent to a Yorkshire vernacular buildings enthusiast as it brought out the interrelationships (which I had not fully appreciated before) between many different types of building – yeoman clothiers'

houses and farms, weavers' cottages, mills, workers' housing and other buildings associated with the textile industry – and their dramatic effect on the landscape of Pennine West Yorkshire.

On the second day, we were privileged to be the sole visitors (apart, that is, from a party of small chattering schoolchildren inspecting the pottery collections) at Temple Newsam, Leeds, and were lucky to be able to benefit from the immense knowledge of curators James Lomax and Anthony Wells-Cole. After an explanation by James Lomax of the restoration of the Long Gallery, we were given (oh joy!) the run of the entire house for half an hour or so, followed by a slide lecture on the intriguing history of lighting in country houses. Our visit concluded with a fascinating talk, illustrated by samples from the Temple Newsam collection, on historic paper hangings, from which we learnt that wallpaper was originally sold as small single sheets printed in black stationers' ink, to be 'coloured in' by the buyer if so desired. In the eighteenth century wallpaper attracted Exise Duty, with a duty stamp appearing on each individual sheet of paper!

On the final morning we braved sub-zero temperatures for an entertaining walk around York led by Jane Grenville of the University of York, who amazingly managed to compress a summary of the city's architectural history from Norman times to the early nineteenth century into a mere three hours, then it was back to the lecture theatre for the final two lectures of the course from Peter Burman. A useful profile of Robert Adam and his work, including Yorkshire examples such as Newby Hall and Nostell Priory, was followed by a whistle-stop tour around the architects and other craftsmen of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

The course was enjoyable and informative, consolidating and extending the fragmentary knowledge of architecture I already possessed and placing vernacular buildings into a wider context.

Lorraine Moor