



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

[www.yvbsg.org.uk](http://www.yvbsg.org.uk)

Newsheet No 48

May 2007

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Visit to the Colden Valley, above Hebden Bridge

Saturday 9 June 2007

At the time of writing, some places are still available for this day of walks to see traditional buildings in this green valley. Distances between buildings are not excessive, and minor roads are never far away. Meet at 10.15am (see directions below). The programme for the day has changed slightly since the last Newsheet but is likely to include:

- Highgate Farm shop. Morning coffee can be purchased (the award-winning May's shop).
- Broadstone Farm, laithe house (1811). See the unusual internal transverse stone arch supporting the roof of the barn, again a feature of this area.
- Colden Great House (sixteenth century).
- Old Edge. Access to the interior of an early seventeenth century stone farmhouse with late seventeenth century porch of two storeys. Substantial timber-framed remains inside. Porch lintel is inscribed 'Peace be within thy gate'.
- John Williams will give a guided tour at 11.30am of Land Farm garden which is Bodnant-inspired, north-facing, and covers five acres. A thousand feet above sea level, yet sheltered. Himalayan poppies and garden sculptures. House of 1755, yet still clinging on to the seventeenth century in style, has earlier remains, and some imported from Schofield Hall, Lancashire. Ground floor visit, a rare chance to see an unusual parpoint wall, between housebody and parlour, which splays out to double thickness before first floor. The reasons for these walls are unknown, so come along and suggest one!

Soup and roll available for a small charge at the end of the visit to Land Farm Garden. Other food and drink may be purchased at May's, so no need to bring any unless you wish. If you'd like to come, please telephone Kevin Illingworth on 01422 844941, leaving your own telephone number.

Directions: From Hebden Bridge take the A646 road, west towards Todmorden. After quarter of a mile use turning circle to double back towards Heptonstall. Bypass the village, follow the upland road to Burnley for about two and a half miles (don't fork right to Colne). After passing long row of thirty-six cottages, immediately fork right along Edge Lane. Carry on past Highgate Farm shop, park on grass verge behind blue Land Rover at 10.15am, where a panorama of the Colden valley will be laid out specially for YVBSG members.

### Yarm and Egglecliffe walkabout

Sunday 17 June 2007

A full-day visit led by Barry Harrison to look at brick buildings of an urban type in the ancient port of Yarm and of a rural type in nearby Egglecliffe. Meet at the Town Hall, in the centre of High Street, Yarm, at 10am. No need to book, just turn up. Please make your own arrangements for lunch – there are plenty of pubs and other eating places.

### An Idle walkabout

Sunday 15 July 2007

All are invited to come and look at buildings from the seventeenth century onwards in Idle (morning) and Thackley (afternoon) led by Dr Eileen White of Idle and Thackley Historical Society.

Meet 11am in the chapel car park on Westfield Lane, Idle; grid reference SE175 379. To avoid morning service visitors, please use top end of car park by the bungalows or use street parking. All cars can be moved into the chapel car park later.

Idle, famous for its sandstone quarries, is on a hill top off the A657 Leeds Road between Shipley and Greengates. In Thackley, near a sharp road bend over the railway line, turn up Town Lane to Idle. There are also other routes. Nearest rail station is Shipley. Bring sandwiches or have a pub lunch. Be prepared for steep inclines and a breezy hill! No need to book. Enquiries: Alison Armstrong, telephone 01535 633592.

**more YVBSG events on next page ...**

## New YVBSG Archivist

We are delighted to announce that the Group now has a new Archivist. Malcolm Birdsall has volunteered to take on the role and has already started to get to grips with accessioning new reports into the archive and producing the many copies for distribution. From now onwards, please send all completed reports to Malcolm at 3 Springfield Mount, Addingham, West Yorkshire LS29 0JB, telephone 01943 830460, email [malcolm@brhc.co.uk](mailto:malcolm@brhc.co.uk). If you would like to submit reports electronically, please consult Malcolm first about file formats.

Once again we thank Don McLellan, the outgoing Archivist, for maintaining the archive over the last few years and for leaving it in such an orderly state.



## YVBSG Events For Your Diary (continued)

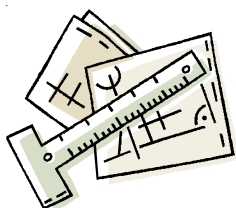
### Recording Day in the North York Moors

Saturday 11 August 2007

Here's an opportunity to record two interesting farmhouses/cottages in remote locations on the North York Moors. These are the unoccupied Harker Gates (SE 5271 9141) and the now-derelict Low Thwaites (SE 5434 9440), both near Hawnby, north of Helmsley, and both mentioned in the RCHME publication *Houses of the North York Moors*.

As a bonus, Arden Mill (SE 5212 9065), which is close to Harker Gates, will be opened to team members after recording is completed. The mill contains the only surviving intact workings of its type (circa 1730s).

Two teams are required, one for each property. Numbers are limited to four per team for the recording and visit. The plan is to record the buildings in the morning and early afternoon, followed by a hour-long visit to Arden Mill, starting at 3.30pm. Finish at about 4.30pm. Please contact David Cook if you are interested.



### Next committee meeting

The next full committee meeting will be held on Sunday 11 November 2007, although a 'virtual' committee meeting conducted by email is currently underway to consider events for next year. If you'd like to suggest any events please contact David Crook.

### Bricks, Tiles and Timber in Barton-on-Humber

Saturday 18 August 2007

Barton upon Humber lies on the south bank of the River Humber at the southern end of the Humber Bridge. Bricks and tiles have been produced along the river bank at Barton for many years but there are only two tileyards still working, both owned by William Blyth, a family business founded in 1840. A range of pantiles, plain tiles and ridge tiles are still made here using traditional techniques. We will be given a tour of the Hoe Hill works which should last for about an hour, starting at 10.30am. Come and find out how pantiles acquire their characteristic wiggle!

You will need to make your own arrangements for lunch – bring sandwiches or there is a choice of pubs and cafes in the town. You might also have time to visit the two churches, St Mary's and St Peter's. St Peter's Church has re-opened this year following major restoration work and features a remarkably complete Anglo-Saxon tower and baptistry, and a large medieval nave and chancel displaying a range of architectural styles. Open 10am-5pm, entry £4 (English Heritage).

After lunch Richard Clarke will lead a walk around the historic town. During the walk we will see 51 Fleetgate which includes a complete late Medieval box frame and crown post roof as well as later nineteenth century internal features.

If you'd like to come, please book using the enclosed slip or, if you prefer, email your name and address to Lorraine Moor (lsm1@york.ac.uk) by Friday 20 July. Full directions will be sent before the visit to those who have booked.

Note that the toll charge to cross the Humber Bridge is £2.70 each way (but parking in Barton is free!).

### Craftsmen and Vernacular Buildings: masons, carpenters and plasterers

Saturday 15 September 2007 (repeated on 20 October 2007)

A day school in Upper Wharfedale based at Kilnsey Village Hall with tours of Kilnsey Old Hall and houses in Conistone. Talks include 'Building craftsmen in the seventeenth century' by Malcolm Aird; 'Researching building craftsmen from Cumbrian documents' by Blake Tyson; and 'Decorative plasterwork in Wharfedale houses' by Sonia Wilkinson. Note that there are different speakers on the second date. A booking form was enclosed with the last Newsheet – further copies available from Lorraine Moor.

### Conference Review Day

Sunday 30 September 2007

A day in Slaidburn to review the findings of the May recording conference. Full details in the next Newsheet.

### Annual Day School 2008

Saturday 15 March 2008

Full details to follow in a later Newsheet.

### Annual Recording Conference 2008

Friday 16 to Sunday 18 May 2008

We plan to hold next year's recording weekend in the Thorpe/Burnsall area of Wharfedale.

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## Lt Col John Wright MBE, 1920-2006

Although described as a Man of Kent, John was known amongst his friends in the Upper Wharfedale Field Society as a man who had taken the Yorkshire Dales to heart. His wife, Miriam, was a Swaledale girl. After retirement from the army, the Wrights settled in Grassington, and it was here that John developed his deep interest in vernacular buildings. He became a member of the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Vernacular Buildings Study Group (forerunner of the YVBSG), in 1993 he was President of the Upper Wharfedale Field Society, and he was for many years the recorder and leader of that Society's Vernacular Building Study Group. During this time, at least four reports of properties in Upper Wharfedale, and a few in Malhamdale, were submitted

annually to the YVBSG. John was not only a skilled draughtsman, but also an astute observer of many features associated with the history of the buildings being surveyed. This led him to publish his work under the title *Grassington and the Great Rebuilding*, which is an account of how historical events of national and local significance influenced the development of this village over a period spanning many centuries. He was also influential in organising a team of volunteers to restore a seventeenth century building known as Church House, in Grassington, where, behind a modern wall, a stone arched fireplace with its associated bread oven was revealed. He is greatly missed for his expertise, his leadership qualities, and his warm friendship.

Brontë Bedford-Payne

## Ryedale Village Building Studies

As mentioned in the last Newsheet, the Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group has decided that it should broaden its activities beyond geological study to include both other building materials and how they have been used in Ryedale, and compile information on what is vernacular and distinctive about the area. With this in mind, they have scheduled a couple of 'village survey' days to coincide with church study days in Brandsby and Hovingham, in order that members can split into smaller groups and look at what is of interest to them.

The idea of the village surveys is simply to map the building types, details and materials in individual settlements in order to compile a database of information. In the longer term, the group wishes to investigate ways of making this easily available to residents, planners and architects with the purpose of increasing people's understanding of their area so that distinctiveness is maintained.

The Brandsby village survey will take place on Saturday 7 July 2007 and the Hovingham village survey on Wednesday 3 October 2007. For details please contact the co-ordinator: Edward Freedman, RVBMRG, c/o North York Moors National Park Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley YO62 5BP, telephone 01439 770657, or see website [www.ryedale-buildings.org.uk](http://www.ryedale-buildings.org.uk).

## Fire destroys thatch

Members who visited 'The Old Thatch' in Long Marston in 1998 to watch York thatcher William Tegetmeier rethatching the building will be sorry to hear that the roof was destroyed by fire on 4 May this year. North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service said that the blaze had caused severe fire and smoke damage to the interior of the property. Firefighters had to remove the thatch from the roof to put out the blaze.

John Letts, historic thatch consultant, commented that the ancient bottom layers of thatch on this roof were likely to contain valuable evidence of the cereal crops grown in this area in the medieval period, and he hoped to obtain a sample for analysis.

## Websites worth watching

To follow up the Slaidburn weekend, here are a couple of sites which might be of interest:

### Slaidburn Village

[www.slaidburn.org.uk](http://www.slaidburn.org.uk)

Has a section on 'Slaidburn Past' – if you then click on 'Architecture' you'll see some old photographs of the village, including one showing a nice leaded light window at the rear of the Hark to Bounty Inn. The 'Genealogy' section contains Hearth Tax extracts.

### Brennands Endowed Primary School

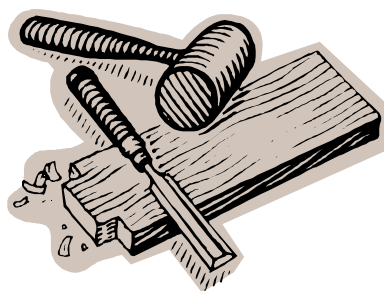
[www.brennands.lancsngfl.ac.uk](http://www.brennands.lancsngfl.ac.uk)

Website of the school founded in Slaidburn in 1717. Follow the 'Renovations 2003/2004' link for numerous photographs showing the restoration of the building. In particular, page 4 shows the roof timbers and carpenters' marks.

## Understanding joints ...

A member has suggested that the Group should acquire some portable examples of timber joints, for teaching purposes and to attract attention at exhibitions and bookfairs. People could pick up and examine these samples to help their understanding of how timbers fit together.

If any member with carpentry skills is willing to consider making some simple joints, please contact David Cook.



## Thank you!

Many thanks go to Kevin Illingworth for putting together an excellent weekend of good food, interesting lectures and fascinating buildings to visit and record around Slaidburn.

We often neglect to thank our Chair, David Cook, for all his hard work in organising events and in generally maintaining the good work and reputation of the Group, so we're taking the opportunity to do so now. In particular, we congratulate him on another successful day school in March and, together with Kevin, on an enjoyable recording conference.

## Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in August – please send any items of interest to other members (events, books or journals, courses, news of particular buildings) to the editor by 31 July 2007.

## Dendrochronology Project

The Group's project to instigate and promote the dendrochronological dating of buildings in Yorkshire is gradually making progress. As reported in the last Newsheet, three cruck-framed buildings in North and East Yorkshire have been identified as possible candidates for dendro-dating, and the Sheffield University dendrochronologists will shortly be visiting these buildings to assess their respective suitability for the process.

## Getting into a habit?

A new holiday cottage has recently been opened by English Heritage – Prior's Lodge, at Mount Grace Priory, near Osmotherley. The stone cottage stands against the site's original manor house and enjoys views of the medieval fish pond, the church and the cloisters. Guests staying there can enjoy the tranquillity of the priory grounds after the day visitors have left. Prior's Lodge sleeps four with prices starting at £305 for a three-night weekend break.

The other English Heritage holiday cottage in Yorkshire is Abbey Cottage, Rievaulx. Built in the early twentieth century for the custodian of the Abbey, but using reclaimed abbey stone, this cottage is a reminder of the original medieval masons who built the Abbey. Their marks can still be seen on many of the blocks used in its construction. Again, the cottage sleeps four.

Enquiries: 0870 333 1187 during office hours or see the English Heritage website at [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk).

## 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!

### Walkpast 2007

June to September 2007

Lancashire County Archaeology Service organises a programme of walks and visits from late June to early September. Parts of the former West Riding, now in a Lancashire administration, are often included. Programmes are usually available in early June – telephone 01772 533404.

### Austwick and The Hall

Wednesday 6 June 2007

A 'Know your area' walk organised by the North Craven Heritage Trust, led by Sylvia Harrop. Meet 7pm at Austwick Hall, SD 769 688. For details telephone 015242 51257.

### Markenfield Hall Open Days

17 to 30 June 2007

Markenfield Hall is a spectacular mediaeval house, built mainly in 1310, and completely surrounded by its moat. Open on only a few days each year, the Hall can be visited from 2pm to 5pm on the above dates in June. Fee £4 adult, £3 children/concessions. Telephone 01765 692 303, web [www.markenfield.com](http://www.markenfield.com).

### Hebden Heritage Walk

Monday 18 June 2007

Heather Beaumont, author of *The Historical Landscape of Hebden, Upper Wharfedale*, will lead this three-mile easy walk at 2pm offering insights into the fascinating history of the field patterns and the heritage of this traditional Dales village. Part of the Grassington Festival. Please telephone the box office on 01756 752691 to reserve a place. Fee £2.

### Bath houses in Yorkshire

Thursday 21 June 2007

A talk by Susan Kellerman to Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society. 7.30pm. In the Leeds Library, 18 Commercial Street. Enquiries: Dr John Lydon, telephone 0113 3433036 or 0113 2785596.

### Masons and Molecatchers: Working Life on the Brodsworth Estate

Tuesday 26 and Saturday 30 June 2007

A talk and tour to coincide with the 'Work and Play' exhibition about life on the Brodsworth country estate near Doncaster. Choose from 10am-noon on Tuesday or 2pm-4pm Saturday. Fee £6.60, English Heritage members free. Pre-booking essential on 01302 722598.

### Kiplin Hall – Bringing an Historic House Back to Life

Monday 20 August 2007

A talk by Dawn Webster, one in a series of illustrated talks in aid of church funds for St Andrews Parish Church, Grinton. Starts at 8pm at Fremington Sunday School. Fee £3. For further details contact Jeremy Hutchinson on (01748) 886644 or see website [www.swaleview.me.uk](http://www.swaleview.me.uk).

### The Future for Upland Farmsteads

Friday 14 to Sunday 16 September 2007

The annual conference of the Historic Farm Buildings Group is being held this year in the Yorkshire Dales, based at the Craiglunds Hotel, Ilkley. Talks on Friday evening and before mid-morning coffee breaks on Saturday and Sunday complement tours in Upper Wharfedale. Saturday's tour of the National Trust estate in Langstrothdale includes Yockenthwaite, a former hamlet with a Yorkshire example of a bastle house, Beckermonds, Cray Farm at Buckden, and some twenty field barns. Sunday's tour of the Bolton Abbey estate includes a visit to the Great Barn and Drebley hamlet. Talks on Sunday morning on the analysis of the farm buildings and their fixtures and fittings may hold the greatest appeal to YVBSG members. Conference fees (for both single and double rooms) are £225 each for members, and £240 for non-members, and non-residential but including an evening meal on Friday and Saturday £110. Latest date for booking is 1 August, details available at [www.hfbg.org.uk](http://www.hfbg.org.uk) or contact the organiser, Margaret Fenn, Penrhyn House, Goodwick, nr Fishguard, Pembrokeshire SA64 0BT.



### West Yorkshire Archaeology Day

Saturday 29 September 2007

Annual day school of the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service, this year at the Royal Armouries in Leeds. To register for further details as soon as they become available please contact Helen Andrews on 0113 3836 433 or email [handrews@wyjs.org.uk](mailto:handrews@wyjs.org.uk).

### Aspects of Village Life

Saturday 6 October 2007

Halifax Antiquarian Society day school to be held in Ripponden. Includes talks on village life through the ages, an exhibition, and a guided village walk. Tickets £18 (including lunch) available by post from Mrs C McDonald, 13 Grandsmere Place, Halifax HX3 0DP. Please make cheques payable to Halifax Antiquarian Society and enclose an SAE.

### Great Estates of Yorkshire

Saturday 13 October 2007

Conference organised by PLACE, to be held at York St John University. Much of the present-day rural landscape of Yorkshire owes its layout and appearance to the founding of major estates, ranging from the monastic houses of the medieval period to the country houses and farming estates of more recent centuries. This conference will explore the surviving evidence of these grand schemes and their place in the modern landscape. The programme will include contributions on: designed landscapes at Cusworth Hall, Doncaster; Lotherton Hall, Leeds; Harewood House; the old East Riding; and Yorkshire's monastic houses. An optional programme of field visits is being planned for Sunday 14 October, centred around Harewood. Cost: £22.50 (optional lunch £7.50). Details and booking form from Dr Margaret Atherden, PLACE Office, York St John University, Lord Mayor's Walk, York YO31 7EX, telephone 01904 876753, or see [www.place.uk.com](http://www.place.uk.com).

### Small Towns in North Yorkshire

Saturday 13 October 2007

A day school organised by CBA Yorkshire in association with the Northallerton and District Local History Society and the Medieval Section of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society. To be held at Hambleton Forum, Northallerton. This day school will examine recent work on the origin and early development of towns in North Yorkshire, examining what a medieval 'town' is, the influences which affected their creation and development, and their many influences on the hinterland, such as communications. The afternoon session will examine case studies. Fee £12.50 (not including lunch). For details please telephone Stephen Moorhouse on 01924 475618 or Mike Edwards on 01924 475618.

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