



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 52

May 2008

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

A walk around Thornton-le-Dale

Sunday 22 June 2008

This walk around Thornton-le-Dale, on the edge of the North York Moors, led by Barry Harrison (telephone 01287 633182), is now fully booked. Those who have booked should meet at 10.30am by the village map in the public car park (pay and display) in the centre of the village. Finish around 4.30pm. Please make your own arrangements for lunch – bring a packed lunch, or there are several pubs and cafes.

Joint Training Day on Recording Buildings

Saturday 19 July 2008

As part of a series of free study days organised by the Greater York Community Archaeology Project, we intend to run an introductory/training day to be held in the York area. The programme for the day will be aimed at those who have little or no experience of recording buildings, with the objective of getting more people actively involved.

Arrangements are not yet finalised but if you would like details when available please contact David Cook or contact the York Community Archaeologist, Jon Kenny (see page 3 for Jon's contact details and for a list of other free study days in 2008/09).

Conference Review Day

Sunday 21 September 2008

A meeting to draw together and review the information gathered during this year's recording conference. The morning session will comprise a review of the buildings recorded on 17 May 2008, to be held in Burnsall Grammar School (dated 1602) starting at 10am. Whether or not you attended in May, you are invited to attend in this wonderful vernacular environment!

There was no time at the conference for some of the participants to see the array of seventeenth and eighteenth century buildings in the delightful nearby village of Thorpe. This is to be rectified at the Review Day when there will be the opportunity in the afternoon for a walk round the village to look at the many fascinating buildings there, starting at 2pm.

If you'd like to come, please contact Malcolm Birdsall (contact details on back page). Places are limited and there will be a nominal charge to cover the cost of the hire of the school. Further details on times and lunch arrangements to follow.

An Idle Recording Day

Saturday 4 October 2008

Following an enjoyable walk around the village of Idle, near Bradford, in July 2007, we hope to pay a return visit to record some of the buildings seen. The above date is provisional and further details will be confirmed in the next Newsheet.

Visit to Rotherham

We are still awaiting a date from Peter Thornborrow for the visit to the Rotherham area which has been mentioned in previous Newsheets. If you've contacted Malcolm Birdsall to make a provisional booking, you'll be notified when the visit is confirmed.

Dendrochronology Working Group

In the last Newsheet we reported that the timbers at Delves Cottage, Egton, had proved to be undateable by dendrochronology. Fortunately we were able to find an alternative building in the area – Cruck Cottage at Thornton-le-Dale – and the sampling, analysis and report on the results were duly commissioned by the YVBSG, with financial support from the North York Moors National Park Authority.

Tree-ring sampling was undertaken on five in-situ timbers contained in the one surviving cruck truss (there is evidence for the alignment of a further cruck frame to the northern end). Dates were successfully obtained from two of these timber core samples and the results indicated that the cruck blades were derived from a tree felled in 1512. This date will contribute greatly towards the understanding of cruck-framed buildings in north-east Yorkshire.

The house, complete with witch post, will be the subject of a full building survey to be undertaken shortly by the YVBSG under the auspices of Barry Harrison.

Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in August – please send any items (such as publications or events) that might be of interest to other members to the editor by 31 July 2008.



Next committee meeting

The next full committee meeting will be held on Sunday 9 November 2008, although a 'virtual' committee meeting is currently underway by email to consider future events. If you'd like to raise any matter or suggest any events please contact David Crook.

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!

Lancashire County Archaeology Service walks

Summer 2008

The programme, usually available in early June by phoning 01772 533404, lists walks in the administrative county, including the historic West Riding parts of Bowland and Pendle.

Land Farm Garden

Until end of August 2008

This six-acre garden, which featured in *Yorkshire Life* in April and was visited by the YVBSG last June, is open at weekends and bank holidays, 10am-5pm, admission £4. The house is of 1755, with 17th century remains (a three-light window with round heads) and 17th century imported additions (ogee doorheads, mullion and transom window) and early 19th century barn. Details at www.landfarmgardens.co.uk.

Farming Life and Farmsteads in the Forest of Bowland

Until 30 October 2008

An exhibition at the Museum of North Craven Life at The Folly, Settle. Designed by the Heritage Trust for the North West, the display features the work of Slaidburn Village Archive and the YVBSG who have visited and recorded the history of a number of farm buildings in the vicinity of the Hodder Valley. The exhibition also contains fascinating illustrations of old farm implements and of some historic farmsteads further afield, around Settle and Bentham. Normally open 10.30am to 4.30pm on Tuesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. Enquiries: 015242 51388 or 01729 822361 or see www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/exhibitions/exhibitions_2008/.

Open Farm Sunday

Sunday 1 June 2008

Described as a fantastic opportunity for everyone to enjoy the living, vibrant countryside. Pick the right farm and you might also visit some interesting farm buildings! Enquiries: 02476 413911, web www.farmsunday.org.

Bowland Festival 2008

Sunday 1 to Sunday 8 June 2008

The festival celebrates the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are visits to farms, brickworks, the Bowland Brewery, and heritage walks. A brochure is available from tourist information centres around Bowland (eg Clitheroe telephone 01200 442226). The Festival website can be found at www.bowlandfestival.co.uk.

Gothic Landscapes: Eighteenth-Century Yorkshire Estates and the Idea of the Gothic

Saturday 14 June 2008

University of Bradford Saturday School led by George Sheeran and Patrick Eyres, examining a number of large Yorkshire estates including Wentworth Castle, Studley Royal, Duncombe Park, and Kirkleatham. Fee £17.50. Enquiries: University of Bradford, web www.brad.ac.uk/events/dayschools/, telephone 01274 233217 or 233213.

Townhead House, Slaidburn

20-23 June, 25-28 July, 22-25 August, 13-14 September 2008

If you missed the YVBSG visit last year, this unfurnished, Grade II* listed building at Slaidburn will be open to the public between 2pm and 5pm on the above dates. Entry £1.

Ryedale Building Conservation and Heritage Fair

Saturday 28 June 2008

10am-5pm at The Milton Rooms and York House, Malton. Admission free. Demonstrations of traditional building skills and methods, including work in wood, stone, brick, lime mortar, earth mortar, lead and iron. Information and talks on: stone conservation and repair; timber repair; lime and earth plasters; decorative plasterwork; building conservation theory and practice; garden and landscape heritage. Exhibitions by suppliers of services and materials, conservation professionals, national and regional amenity societies. Guided tours of York House (rear view pictured below) and Castle Gardens, town wall and riverside walks. Architectural I-Spy, free entry to Malton Museum. The YVBSG will also have a display at the fair! Further details from emma.woodland@ryedale.gov.uk or nigelcopsey@hotmail.com.



National Archaeology Week

Saturday 12 to Sunday 20 July 2008

A nine-day event during which you can take part in a variety of activities. Enquiries: Council for British Archaeology, telephone 01904 671417, www.nationalarchaeologyweek.org.uk.

Architects and Architecture of Weaponness, Scarborough

Monday 28 July 2008

A walk around the new Weaponness Conservation Area led by Chris Hall. Meet at Filey Road Sports Centre car park at 7.30pm. Part of Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society's Heritage Walks series – these walks are open to the general public at no charge but a voluntary donation would be appreciated. For more information telephone Chris Hall on 01723 354237 or see www.scarborough-heritage.org.

Walking with History

Sunday 3 August 2008

Join North York Moors National Park Ranger Jim Hall on this 4.5 mile walk taking in the villages of Appleton-le-Moors and Spaunton. Discover a medieval planned village and its environment; history archive in the village hall; 15-minute presentation. 12 noon to 3pm. To book, telephone 01439 772738 or call in at the National Park Centres at Danby or Sutton Bank.

Explore Thornton-le-Dale

Wednesday 3 September 2008

If you miss Barry Harrison's walk in June, instead join North York Moors National Park Voluntary Ranger Peter Turton on a stroll around Thornton-le-Dale. 10.30 to 12 noon. A separate 3-mile walk from 1.30 to 4pm explores the surrounding countryside and reveals an industrial past and a hidden gem of a church. Booking details as above.

Agriculture and History in the Pennine Landscape

Saturday 11 October 2008

Day school in the Methodist Hall, Market Street, Hebden Bridge, 10.30am to 4.30pm. Cost: £18 including lunch and refreshments. Talks: *Agricultural Improvement and Landscape Change in the Pennines c1760-c1860* by Professor Ian Whyte (Professor of Historical Geography, Lancaster University); *Settlement and Society in Medieval and Early Modern Saddleworth* by Mike Buckley (Chairman of the Saddleworth Historical Society); *Quarrying: fieldwork evidence from the parish of Halifax* by George Bowers MBE; *Farming in Luddenden Dean* by Clive Lloyd (President of Halifax Antiquarian Society). Lunchtime workshops: *Probate records* led by Alan Petford; *Township records* by David Cant; *National Farm Survey* by Ian Bailey; *Wakefield Court Rolls* by Nigel Smith. For details telephone Nigel Smith on 01422 842847.

Some recent publications

Medieval Architectural Drawing by Arnold Pacey. The History Press Limited, February 2008. £25. This fascinating book by YVBSG member Arnold presents new clues based on builders' drawings and offers a long view of craftsmen's drawing techniques over five centuries. Several of the discovered drawings are on plaster tracing floors or on walls, but drawings on parchment and paper are considered too. Arnold also investigates the drawing techniques of carpenters and wood-carvers and shows that medieval techniques continued in use after the end of the Middle Ages. Highly recommended!

Who built Beverley Minster? edited by PS Barnwell and Arnold Pacey. Spire Books Ltd, April 2008, 164pp, £14.95. Who were the craftsmen and women who built Beverley Minster and how did they do it? This book (also highly recommended!) explains what has been discovered so far. It provides a new interpretation of the building of the 14th century nave and explains how the Minster was rescued from collapse in the 18th century. Includes major contributions from YVBSG members, with a chapter on 'Carpenters on the nave roof' by Alison Armstrong and David Cant. The Group has been sent a review copy of the book; if anyone would like it, in exchange for writing a review for *Yorkshire Buildings*, please contact Lorraine Moor.

Power in the Landscape is a 40 page booklet, with 40 photographs and illustrations on water-powered mills in the Upper Calder Valley, concentrating on the Colden Valley. Land Mill, near Land Farm, is included, as are Oats Royd and Holme House Mill, seen on the Midgley/Luddenden walk in April. Can be purchased from Hebden Bridge Visitor Centre (telephone 01422 843831) and elsewhere in Calderdale. Price £5 plus p&p. Published 2007.

Vernacular Architecture, 38, 2007. As an affiliated member of the Vernacular Architecture Group, the YVBSG receives a copy of the journal, *Vernacular Architecture*. The latest edition is now available and a full list of contents can be found on the VAG website at www.vag.org.uk. If you'd like to borrow the group's copy, please contact Jacky Quarmby.

Northern Vernacular Buildings, Winter 2007-8. Published by Hudson History, Settle (telephone 01729 825773). Contents include 'The Enigma of Scaw Ghyll – Tracing the History of a Water Mill' by Philip Sugden; 'Conversations with the Old Dye House, Waterside, Knaresborough' by A R Marsh; 'North Craven – Survivals of Relict Houses'; 'Worden Old Hall' by Kevin Illingworth.

The Earl of Derby's Courthouse at Burton-in-Lonsdale by CTJ Dodson. Published by Hudson History, Settle (telephone 01729 825773), 2003 and 2007. 88 pages, £6. A new enlarged edition of a book describing the history of a most interesting building visited by the YVBSG some years ago. Proceeds go to North Craven Historical Research Group. For a summary see <http://northcravenhistoricalresearch.co.uk/Outreach/Courthse.doc>.

Cowside appeal

We mentioned previously an appeal by the Landmark Trust to save Cowside, a derelict 17th century farmhouse in Upper Wharfedale. The Trust is now looking for 'Guardians' to donate £6000 in exchange for closer involvement in the building's future. Whether or not you wish to donate, a very informative document, complete with photos and floor plan, can be downloaded from www.landmarktrust.org.uk/news/documents/GuardiansofCowside3.pdf.

Correction

In the last Newsheet we publicised two North Craven Heritage Trust events. At that time it was not made clear to us that although lectures are open to non-members of the NCHT for a fee of £2, their walks are restricted to NCHT members only, for insurance purposes. We apologise for any confusion caused. NCHT membership costs £8 – see www.northcravenheritage.org.uk or contact Mrs E M Slater, telephone 01729 823205.

Learning more ...

Buildings of the North West

Spend a week looking at some of the North West's most interesting buildings, including Lancaster Castle, Thurnham Hall, farmhouses in the Troutbeck area, Lytham and Leighton Halls, spinning mills, weaving sheds, handloom weavers' cottages, and Art Deco buildings. Tutors: Jim Houghton, Andrew Lowe, John Champness, Colin Dickinson and Peter Wade. Monday 4 to Friday 8 August 2008. Enquiries: Lancaster University, <http://summerprogramme.lancs.ac.uk/listings.html>, telephone 01524 592623/4. Fee £159.

Agriculture and History in the Pennine Landscape

A research course sponsored by the Hebden Bridge Local History Society involving a three year project to explore neglected aspects of local history in the ancient parish of Halifax from the 17th to 20th centuries. Consists of two stages: *Gathering the Material* (September 2008 to December 2009); *Analysis, Interpretation and Writing* (January to December 2010). The first stage will include surveying farm buildings; transcription of parish registers and census material; collation of photographic records; returns from National Farm Survey 1943; Parliamentary Enclosure in selected townships; probate documents for selected townships; reminiscences from those who have spent their lives on the farm. The first ten week term runs on Mondays from 29 September to 8 December 2008, 7.30-9.30pm at Hope Baptist Chapel, Hebden Bridge. Cost £50. Contact Nigel Smith on 01422 842847 for further information.

Free study days 2008-9

The Greater York Community Archaeology Project is running a series of free study days in the York area each lasting from 10.30am until 3.30pm. To find out where they are taking place and to book places, please contact Jon Kenny, Community Archaeologist, York Archaeological Trust, 47 Aldwark, York YO1 7BX, telephone 01904 663020, email jkenny@yorkarchaeology.co.uk. Jon will then send you details of each study day a few weeks beforehand.

- Saturday 28 June 2008 – *Recording Landscape Features* with Al Oswald, English Heritage
- Saturday 19 July 2008 – *Recording Vernacular Buildings* with the YVBSG
- Saturday 23 August 2008 – *Gardens Archaeology* with the Parks and Gardens UK Data Project
- Saturday 27 September 2008 – *Domestic Victorian Architecture* with Alison Sinclair
- Saturday 25 October 2008 – *Geophysical Survey* with Ben Gourley, University of York
- Saturday 22 November 2008 – *Fieldwalking in Archaeology* with Ian Milsted, York Archaeological Trust
- Saturday 13 December 2008 – *Making the Most of Ceramic Building Materials* with Sandra Garside-Neville
- Saturday 24 January 2009 – *The Role of the Yorkshire Museum* with Andrew Morrison and others
- Saturday 21 February 2009 – *Technology of Medieval and Post Medieval Ceramics* with John Hudson

YVBSG visit to Midgley and Luddenden

This was an excellent day's exploration of the village of Luddenden and township of Midgley, led in a most relaxed but informative manner by David Cant on 13 April 2008. Most of the buildings we saw were a direct result of the evolving nature of the local textile trade and dual economy during the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries, almost without exception being built in the local flagstone and millstone grit. Many were associated with the big textile families of the area: Eastwoods, Murgatroyds, Farrers and Rileys.

Luddenden itself benefited from its position as an important crossing point on one of the old routes between Halifax and Lancashire; a good flow of water (over which there was a dispute in the 1590s); and being the site of both the manorial corn mill (for Warley township) and a chapel of ease. Here we saw a variety of early to mid nineteenth century buildings. Many of the cottages have a narrow, double lintel above the doors and windows, possibly as a kind of damp proofing; and some were built as 'up and overs': both distinctive features common in this area. Leaving the village proper, we climbed up to the village of Midgley via a succession of well cobbled paths, past the sites of demolished or converted mills, and the houses of those who founded them: white-painted Mill House, with traces of possibly a mill dam in the field behind; and Oats Royd, built by the Murgatroyds in 1645 (and whose descendants founded Oats Royd Mill).

Mill House, located on the hillside between Luddenden and Midgley



Lunch was taken in the Midgley Community Room, housed in the upper floor of an early eighteenth century barn, the queen post trusses of which are supported on stone pillars: an unusual local feature.

The afternoon was spent in making our way down to the site of the manor house and manorial corn mill for Midgley, on the banks of the River Calder at Brearley. Before leaving the village itself, we looked at Lacey Hey and Cliffe Hill, both mid seventeenth century, but expanded to accommodate the needs of the dual economy in the nineteenth. Then to Stoney Royd (built in 1715 by the Farrers), with a fine taking-in door and stair window at the rear, and a surprising front: a symmetrical façade, with sundial over the central door, and pedimented gable. This is an example of a new style house incorporating the needs of seventeenth century textile manufacture. From here we looked down to the large nineteenth century estate and house of Ewood. This was built on the site of a much older house by the Riley family after they acquired the estate from the Farrers

in 1850, and incorporates many 'vernacular' features.

Passing Old Brearley Hall, probably a sixteenth century timber-framed hall, but now much altered (the front was remodelled in the nineteenth century), we crossed the River Calder and the site of the manorial corn mill, of which nothing remains to be seen. We made our way back to Luddendenfoot along the Rochdale Canal, the building of which in the 1790s led to a great expansion in the local textile trade. Discussions arose on various topics: the date of a bridge; the length and mechanisms of the locks; the rear view and purpose of Stoney Spring.

Nobody's spirits were dampened by the short but drenching downpour which accompanied the walk back to the cars, and the success of the day was summed up in the words of one of our group: 'That was the best £5 I've spent in a long time!' Before heading home, some of us did decide to investigate the provenance of the 'Lord Nelson' more closely: was it really 1634?!

Anne Kirker



Luddenden

Yorkshire's historic pub interiors

Further to the request for information on historic pub interiors published in the last Newsheet, we hear that Victorian tiles, marble flooring and art deco features have been uncovered during refurbishment of the Hole in the Wall pub, in Hebden Bridge. The pub is dated 1899, and replaced an earlier building on the same site. At the time of writing (22 April 2008) the pub is almost ready to re-open. These features will not be covered over again.

Award for farm shop

Kevin Illingworth reports that Highgate Farm Shop (May's Shop), Colden Valley, where we had morning coffee during our walk in June 2007, recently became 'Best Rural Retailer' in the Yorkshire/Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire region, organised by the Countryside Alliance. May Stocks, the owner (whom we did not see on the day), went to the House of Lords for the national finals in February. In June 2006 she met the Queen at a Buckingham Palace garden party, in recognition for 'Services in the Community'.