



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 56

May 2009

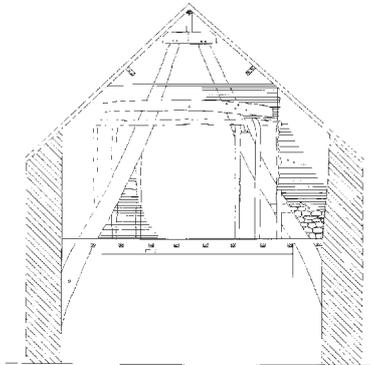
## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Observing Crucks in North-East Yorkshire

Sunday 21 June 2009

Following the day school on crucks in May, we will spend a day observing some crucks in situ, led by Barry Harrison. The programme is expected to be as follows:

- Assemble in car park at Hutton-le-Hole at 10am.
- Visit to cruck buildings at Ryedale Folk Museum, 10.20-11.30am.
- Reassemble at Thornton Dale car park at 12.00 followed by lunch break (cafes, pubs etc).
- Visit cruck houses in Maltongate, Thornton Dale, 1.15-2.15pm.
- Reassemble at Cropton (parking on street) followed by visits to cruck houses in the main street, 2.40-3.45pm.
- Reassemble at Pockley (parking on street) at 4.15pm for short walkabout viewing cruck-built longhouses (exteriors), 4.45-5.15pm.



Note there are charges for car parks at Hutton-le-Hole and Thornton Dale and for entrance to Ryedale Museum.

Booking essential: please contact Barry Harrison, 17 Whitby Avenue, Guisborough, Cleveland, TS14 7AP, telephone 01287 633182, email barryguisbro@hotmail.co.uk, **by Friday 12 June** (apologies for the extremely short deadline but a bout of flu prevented this Newsheet from appearing on time).

### Vernacular Buildings in the Barnsley district

Saturday 11 July 2009

This visit to see timber-framed, cruck-framed and other interesting buildings in South Yorkshire, which is being arranged by Dr David Mercer of Sheffield, is now fully booked. Those who have reserved places should have already received confirmation, together with details of the meeting time and place.

If you would like your name to be added to a waiting list, please contact Malcolm Birdsall. Malcolm's current contact details can be found on the back of this Newsheet, but please note that he will soon be moving house and expects to leave that address by the end of June. If you wish to contact him after that time you are asked to use the following address: Malcolm Birdsall, 99 New Road, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire ST14 7DQ, telephone 01889 560296. His email address will remain the same – malcolm@brhc.co.uk.

### Visit to Low Hall, Dacre, and Roundabout Farm, Thornthwaite-with-Padside

Saturday 27 June 2009

A visit to two buildings in Nidderdale, organised by Kevin Illingworth. Meet at Low Hall at 11am. Low Hall is situated four miles south-east of Pateley Bridge, just (east) off the B6451, between Dacre and Dacre Banks. Watch out for the Low Hall sign at the entrance to their private road, also with Dacre Aberdeen Angus on it. And there's a small clump of Scots Pine trees as a landmark. Drive down this lane (don't go to Aberdeen!).

Low Hall has a fine three-gabled south front with a very attractive garden. Dated 1635, it was much altered internally in the 1920s and later twentieth century. Ogee-headed garden gateway. Mrs Halliday will not be around during our visit, but has kindly arranged for us to see some ground floor rooms, including one where a stone roller, once pulled by horses, is now erected vertically, supporting a ceiling. Surveyed by NYCVBSG in 1978. Cost £2 per head, all for charity, perhaps a little more if a cup of tea is provided.

At lunchtime, snacks and meals are available at the nearby Royal Oak, Dacre Banks. Dated 1752, it also has a large corbelled fireplace uncovered in 1999.

In the afternoon at 2pm we will visit Roundabout Farm (courtesy of Dr Bahaa Seedhom), which is located three miles to the south-west, just north of the Stone House Inn. Features are as in Newsheet 54 (November 2008). Also plank and muntin partition. The bressumer beam is low, so if you are tall perhaps you should bring a first-aid kit, or 'leave thi yed at wom'! Dr Seedhom will provide some refreshments. A drystone wall encloses Bahaa's garden, so you won't see a ha-ha, but you might see some Sedum among the rocks ...

If you'd like to come, please telephone Kevin Illingworth on 01422 844941, leaving your name and telephone number, and indicating whether you will be bringing a car or car-sharing. Numbers may be limited. Please let Kevin know if you wish to eat in the Royal Oak.

If you are unable to come along on this date, the garden at Low Hall is open to the public on Sunday 12 July (11am to 5pm) together with York House garden. Admission £5. Details in *The Yellow Book*.

more events over the page ...

## More YVBSG Events

### Conference Review Day

Sunday 27 September 2009

A meeting to draw together and review the information gathered during this year's recording conference in Carlton-in-Coverdale. Details in the next Newsheet.

### Guisborough Study Day

Sunday 18 October 2009

Following extensive research on documents, much knowledge has been acquired about the building processes in Guisborough from the mid eighteenth to the mid nineteenth centuries. Barry Harrison, Jacky Quarmby and Joyce Williams will share their knowledge with us on this day. Details in the next Newsheet.

## New Publications Group formed

Following the appeal in the last Newsheet for assistance with producing *Yorkshire Buildings*, several members offered help and have formed a publication team.

The group has met three times and arranged for the production of *Yorkshire Buildings No 35* in autumn 2009 (No 34 is in progress). Deadline for articles, comment, illustrations or queries about anything related to vernacular buildings in Yorkshire is 31 July 2009. The following edition should be available in Spring 2010 so if you're planning to write something and July is too soon, you can burst upon the literary scene then.

Many thanks to those members who are already involved or have offered assistance. Further information from David Cant, email davidjcant@hotmail.com.

### Next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday 4 October 2009, although a 'virtual' meeting by email is currently underway to consider future events. If you'd like to suggest any events please contact David Crook.

### Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in August – please send any items that might be of interest to other members to the editor by 31 July 2009.

## East Keswick Day

An enjoyable day introducing the local history group at East Keswick to the study of vernacular buildings was held on 26 April 2009. In the morning there was an introductory lecture from Alison Armstrong, followed by a brief history of the village and its buildings from Margaret Moseley from East Keswick, and a short presentation by Steve Basset on his renovation of a small building in the village. During lunch at the village hall the forty-five participants could inspect the excellent displays produced by the local group, our own travelling display, and admire Bob Greaves' models of timber trusses and joints. In the afternoon there was a guided walk, detailed building observation and practical methods of recording, the last two using an L-shaped barn organised by the East Keswick group. We hope to follow this up with further recording. Many thanks to everyone involved in this successful collaboration.

For more information about the East Keswick group contact Liz Parr (email localhistorygroup@eastkeswick.org.uk) or see the village website at [www.eastkeswick.org.uk](http://www.eastkeswick.org.uk). The YVBSG display is also available to support local events – contact David Cook for details.



David Cook points out stonework details to some of the East Keswick residents

## Websites worth watching

### Heritage Gateway

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

A very useful gateway to a growing number of databases relating to England's local and national historic environment records. Type in a place name and the site will find relevant entries in the following datasets:

- *Listed Buildings Online* – the list of buildings of architectural or historic interest online
- *Images of England* – contemporary colour photographs of England's Listed Buildings
- *PastScape* – information about England's archaeological and architectural heritage
- *ViewFinder* – historic photographs of England
- *NMR Excavation Index* – a guide to the archaeological excavations and interventions carried out in England.

### The Buildings of Huddersfield

[www.huddersfieldhistory.wordpress.com](http://www.huddersfieldhistory.wordpress.com)

The notes from *The Buildings of Huddersfield* by Keith Gibson and Albert Booth (reprint The History Press, 2009) have been published as a pdf document on the Huddersfield Local History website. A very useful source for all buildings in Huddersfield.

## Books and articles

There is a seven-page feature on Land Farm in the recent April issue of the magazine *The English Garden*. This is the house and garden that YVBSG members visited in June 2007 during a walk in the Colden Valley. Land Farm also featured in *Yorkshire Life* in April 2008.

*Northern Vernacular Buildings*, Vol 4, Issue 1, Winter 2008. Published by Hudson History, Procter House, Kirkgate, Settle BD24 9DZ, telephone 01729 825773. £6.50 for one year's subscription. Articles in this issue include *17th Century Decorative Plasterwork in Upper Wharfedale* by Sonia Wilkinson, *Surviving Doorways of Demolished Houses* by Kevin Illingworth, *Bee Boles in the Yorkshire Dales* by Phil Hudson, and *A Short Paper on Dendrochronology – Tree-ring Dating: Pushing Back the Dates on Agricultural Buildings* by Alison Armstrong.

## 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!

### Hebden Bridge Houses

Sunday 14 June 2009

A closer look at some of the houses which give Hebden Bridge its distinctive character. Some steep streets. A Calderdale Heritage Walk, 2 to 2¼ hours. Meet Ed Westbrook at 2.15pm by the packhorse bridge in Bridge Gate, Hebden Bridge. £3, no need to book. [www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk](http://www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk).

### Buildings of Heptonstall

Wednesday 17 June 2009

Guided walk with Alan Petford and David Cant, organised by Hebden Bridge Local History Society. 7pm. 25 places maximum, fee £5. Booking essential – please contact Barbara Attack on 01422 842105.

### Buildings of Hebden Bridge

Wednesday 1 July 2009

Guided walk with Alan Petford and David Cant, organised by Hebden Bridge Local History Society. 7pm. 25 places maximum, fee £5. Booking essential – please contact Barbara Attack on 01422 842105.

### Pennine Testimonies: Probate Documents from the Early Modern Period

Saturday 4 July 2009

Study day organised by Hebden Bridge, Malhamdale and Saddleworth Local History Societies, 9.45am to 4.30pm at Ermysted's Grammar School, Skipton. Cost £18 including lunch. Talks include: *'In the Name of God Amen': The Process of Probate in Yorkshire* by Alan Petford; *Craven Wills during the Tudor Reformations* by Victoria Spence; *Probate Documents and Vernacular Buildings* by David Cant; *Wills and Gossips* by Dr George Redmonds. Plus a choice of workshops: *Family History and Wills*; *Household & Husbandry Gear in North Craven Inventories*; *Trade and Industry in Probate Documents of the Early Modern Period*; *Researching Probate Documents in the Archives*. For full details see [www.kirkbymalham.info/conference.html](http://www.kirkbymalham.info/conference.html) or telephone 01729 830445.

### A closer look at the Harewood Estate

Sunday 5 July 2009

An East Keswick Local History Group visit to look at Harewood's 18th century landscape, including the estate buildings, with Tim Tatlioglu. Cost about £10. Bring picnic lunch. If you are interested, please contact Liz Parr, telephone 572867 or email [liz@eastmount.demon.co.uk](mailto:liz@eastmount.demon.co.uk).

### Nobbut Norland

Wednesday 8 July 2009

An attractive mix of village, moor, woods and views with the early textile trade and magnificent old houses. Stout footwear needed. A Calderdale Heritage Walk, 2 to 2¼ hours. Meet Anne Kirker at 7.15pm by the War Memorial opposite Norland Parish Church. £3, no need to book. [www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk](http://www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk).

### Discover Brompton

Saturday 11 July 2009

A guided walk around Brompton by Sawdon led by Chris Evans for Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society, starting at 2pm. Please ring Vanessa Milner (01723 865134) to book. [www.scarborough-heritage.org](http://www.scarborough-heritage.org).

### Tour of Shibden Hall, Halifax

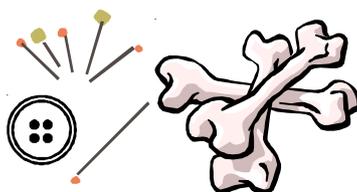
Sunday 12 July 2009

Led by Tony Sharp and other museum guides. 12 noon at museum. £2.50.

### Bones, Buttons, Pins and Peel – Archaeology under the Hearth Rug

Monday 20 July 2009

Join National Trust archaeologist Mark Newman at Nunnington Hall for an expedition into domestic relics found tucked away at the house. £14.50 including lunch. Booking essential – telephone 01439 748283.



### Walking with History

Sunday 2 August 2009

A North York Moors National Park Authority walk. Join Assistant Ranger Jim Hall on this five mile walk taking in the villages of Appleton-le-Moors and Spaunton. Discover a medieval planned village and its environment. There will be a historic archive in the village hall. Noon to 3pm. Free. To book, telephone 01439 772738.

### Festival of British Archaeology

Saturday 18 July – Sunday 2 August 2009

The Festival of British Archaeology (formerly National Archaeology Week) is a chance to take part in excavation open days, hands-on activities, family fun days, guided tours, exhibitions, lectures, ancient art and craft workshops and much, much more. For further information contact Sophie Cringle, Marketing & Events Officer, Council for British Archaeology, telephone 01904 671417, or see the full online list of events at <http://festival.britarch.ac.uk/>.

### Bolton Percy Village and Gatehouse

Saturday 15 August 2009

Guided exploration of this secluded village, its splendid church and timber-framed gatehouse. An introduction to its history will be followed by a walk about looking at village buildings. Cost £12 including coach from York and tea. A Yorkshire Architectural and York Archaeological Society (YAYAS) excursion for members and guests only. Annual membership costs £12 – see website [www.yayas.free-online.co.uk](http://www.yayas.free-online.co.uk) or contact the membership secretary, Marjorie Harrison, 8 Northfield Way, Appleton Roebuck, York YO23 7EA.

### Explore Thornton-le-Dale

Wednesday 2 September 2009

A North York Moors National Park Authority walk. Enjoy an easy stroll with Voluntary Ranger Peter Turton around the village. 10.30am to noon. To book, telephone 01439 772738.

### Halls, Houses and Hamlets

Sunday 20 September 2009

An extended walk covering settlements south-east of Coley using old routes to see some very interesting houses. Boots/strong shoes needed. A Calderdale Heritage Walk, 2½ to 3 hours. Meet John Brooke at 2.15pm by Coley Church, a mile north of Hipperholme crossroads. £3, no need to book. Website [www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk](http://www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk).

### West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service Annual Day School

Saturday 14 November 2009

To be held at the Royal Armouries, Leeds. The morning sessions will bring you up to date with the wide range of archaeological work, including historic building surveys, that has taken place in West Yorkshire over the last year. The afternoon session has a medieval theme. Fifteenth and sixteenth-century timber buildings, including examples in the Leeds and Wakefield areas, will also be highlighted. Cost £12. If you wish to attend, please contact Nicola Wharton on 0113 2898267 or email [nwharton@wyjs.org.uk](mailto:nwharton@wyjs.org.uk), or reserve a place online at the website [www.archaeology.wyjs.org.uk](http://www.archaeology.wyjs.org.uk).

## Where is ... the largest flagstone in northern England?

*We're talking surface area, and Derbyshire can be included.*

Is it the pavement in front of a Hall,  
or the roof of a Calderdale coal-hole?

Waterhouse was around, and in the same street,  
or does water flow under it, beneath your feet?

Is it a vertically-set flagstone, as seen in, eg, Water,  
a Rossendale village; and Northowram, near Halifax?  
This could be a fence or a village pound,  
but how much of this will be below ground?

Will it be a Yellow Flag (Iris Pseudocorus)?  
If you measure this you'll be wasting your Thyme,  
because they only grow to around three feet nine.

Is it a blue flag? Eg, Horton Flags.  
Or more than one? Blue Flax (Linum Anglicum)  
Flax are lovers of lime, flags can be laid on lime.\*

Is it the National Flag of England?  
No, because flags flutter, flagstones don't, but can be rippled.  
But just one of these flags looks down at what might be the contender(s),  
and there's a clue in the emblem as to the name of the building.

*\*One word in this sentence is the name of a street where an enormous flag(s) is bedded down.*

I would be grateful to receive information on very large flags. Some answers will appear in a future Newsheet, including revealing how one town has claimed the largest flagstone for at least thirty years, yet thirty seconds with a tape measure was enough to dispel this claim!

*Kevin Illingworth, 5 High Street, Colden, Blackshawhead, Hebden Bridge HX7 7HY*



## Free study days

These free Greater York Community Archaeology Project study days usually take place in or near York from 10.30am until 3.30pm. To book places, please contact Jon Kenny, Community Archaeologist, on 01904 663020 or [jkenny@yorkarchaeology.co.uk](mailto:jkenny@yorkarchaeology.co.uk). Full details will be sent before the event.

- Saturday 27 June 2009 – *Industrial Archaeology.*
- Saturday 25 July 2009 – *Medieval Houses.*
- Saturday 22 August 2009 – *Late Medieval Castles.*
- Saturday 26 September 2009 – *Urban Landscapes.*
- Saturday 24 October 2009 – *Analysing and Writing up Data from Surveys and Excavations.*
- Saturday 21 November 2009 – *Identifying finds and the role of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.*
- Saturday 12 December 2009 – *Researching Finds, what do they tell us?*
- Saturday 23 January 2010 – *Researching Textiles.*
- Saturday 20 February 2010 – *Archiving Documents, Photographs and Finds.*

## New tours of York buildings

### Bedern Glaziers' Studio

Bedern Glaziers' Studio in York, built in the thirteenth century as the chapel of the College of Vicars Choral, opened in 2009 as a public showcase for the conservation of stained glass, and particularly the glass of the Minster's Great East Window. Members of the public can go behind the scenes to watch the work of York Glaziers' Trust conservators. Tours of Bedern Glaziers' Studio take place at 2pm on Wednesdays and Fridays leaving from the Group Desk in the Minster. Tours last for approximately 1 hour and cost £5 per person.

### 'Hidden Minster' and Stoneyard Tours

The Minster also intends to introduce some new tours designed to reveal areas of the cathedral which have been off-limits previously.

Specialist guides are being trained to lead three 'Hidden Minster' trips, which will take in the Chapter House roof and Mason's Loft, the West End and Bell Towers, and the Crypt passages and Five Sisters Walkway.

Tours of the Minster Stoneyard and East Front scaffolding will also be offered. These two-hour tours take place in the stoneyard itself, with ventures into the masons' and carvers' workshops, before heading up the hoist into the scaffolding on the East Front to see the conservation work up close.

Details are still to be confirmed but watch out for local publicity, or see the Minster website at [www.yorkminster.org](http://www.yorkminster.org), telephone 01904 557200.

## Historic Houses Association

Membership of the Friends of the HHA gives free access to almost 300 historic houses. Single membership costs £37. In addition, there are 13 regional 'Friends' groups. Their representatives organise tours to properties, some of which are not normally open to the public. There is a charge for these tours. If you know a Friend, you can join these tours as a guest. Among the houses of all periods being visited this year, the following might appeal to those interested in vernacular buildings.

### HHA Yorkshire Friends

- Cawood Castle and the Manor House, Heslington (mid-late 18th century) – Sunday 14 June 2009
- Bishopthorpe Palace (13th to 18th century) – Monday 15 June 2009
- Riverside Farm, Sinnington (early 19th century) – Tuesday 23 June 2009
- York Handmade Brick Company – Wednesday 15 July 2009
- Beverley Minster (including roof) and Beverley Guildhall – Wednesday 23 September 2009

### HHA North West Friends

- Combermere Abbey, near Whitchurch, Cheshire (timber-framed section of c.1500) – Wednesday 17 June 2009
- Toad Hall, near Holmes Chapel, Cheshire (timber-framed, mid 16th century) and Medicine House, which was moved 17 miles and re-erected next to Toad Hall (timber-framed, early 16th century) – Wednesday 8 July 2009
- Hellifield Peel, near Skipton (c.1440) – Sunday 26 July 2009

**Chair:** David Cook, 23 North End, Sedgfield, County Durham TS21 2AZ. Tel: 01740 620098, Email: [dcook0@talk21.com](mailto:dcook0@talk21.com)

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