



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 64

May 2011

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### The Borough of Knaresborough and its Early Buildings (15th-17th centuries)

Sunday 19 June 2011

A walk with Barry Harrison around this small but complex town which boasts at least thirty timber-framed buildings, twenty of which were recorded by YVBSG in the late 1970s. Most of these houses are commercial premises geared to the tourist trade. They are likely to be very busy on a summer Sunday and internal visits cannot therefore be guaranteed. No doubt some quick 'pop-ins' can be negotiated on the day. The programme is as follows:

- 9.45-10.00 Assembly by Market Cross (pedestrian precinct) in Market Place
- 10.00-12.00 Perambulation of Market Place area (Market Place, Castlegate, Cheapside)
- 12.00-1.15 Lunch (plenty of pubs, cafes etc)
- 1.15-3.30 Perambulation of north end of town: High Street, Bond End (*photo right*), Waterside and Kirkgate
- 3.30-4.00 Short tea-break
- 4.00-5.15 Perambulation of south end of town: York Place, Gracious Street, Briggate

Please note that the second walk (north end) involves a steep climb from Waterside to the town centre.



Pay-parking available to south of Market Place (Chapel Street and Castlegate) and just off the A59 on the north side of York Place. Further parking on Waterside.

Applications by 10 June 2011. Please contact Barry Harrison at 17 Whitby Avenue, Guisborough, TS14 7AP, telephone 01287 633182, email gyseburn@yahoo.co.uk.

Numbers will be limited to 25.

### Visit to Bashall Hall and Browsholme Hall, Forest of Bowland, near Clitheroe

Saturday 16 July 2011

A full-day visit to two sites both in the historic West Riding of Yorkshire, organised by Kevin Illingworth.

In the morning we walk 250 yards from Bashall Barn Food Visitor Centre car park to Bashall Hall and farm buildings (a private site, courtesy of David Barnes).

We visit a long stone building, c1600, with jettied timber-framed upper storey and jettied timber gallery on south side, originally barracks/lodgings for private army. Stables below. Altered but listed grade II\*. Interior access. A rare and unusual building (*photo overleaf*).



Bashall Hall

Bashall Hall is early 17th century, stone built, partly Georgianised, listed grade II\* (*photo left*). Both facades have four gables. Three storeys with attics. External viewing of an uncommonly interesting house, rarely seen.

Also an early 18th century barn (grade II) and an early 18th century summer house (grade II\*).

Approximately 12 noon: lunch at Bashall Barn Food Visitor Centre. This is another barn (unlisted) with restaurant, farm shop, micro-brewery and antiques loft (courtesy of Simon Barnes). We hope most members will eat here, for obvious reasons!

continued over ...

# More YVBSG Events For Your Diary

## Bashall and Browsholme (continued ...)

In the afternoon we move on to Browsholme (pronounced Brewsum) Hall, three miles to the north-west, website [www.browsholme.co.uk](http://www.browsholme.co.uk). Grade I listed. Large early 17th century, H-plan house of three storeys. Red sandstone. We will have access to the rear, not normally seen by visitors. After the standard interior guided tour we will see the re-used Celtic head and gadroon decorative stones only known so far at Higher Halsteads, Slaidburn area. Visit includes a half-mile walk, past the lake, to South Lodge (1806) where more reset decorative stonework can be seen. Two more barns in the farmyard can be viewed, as well as a ha-ha.

Meet 10.30am at Bashall Barn Food Visitor Centre car park (two and a half miles west of Clitheroe). From Clitheroe take the B6243 road to Longridge then over the River Ribble, then turn right after Edisford Bridge Inn, following the brown signs for the visitor centre ([www.bashallbarn.co.uk](http://www.bashallbarn.co.uk)).

Group visit price for Browsholme Hall is £5.50. If you'd like to come, please telephone Kevin Illingworth on 01422 844941 leaving your name, telephone number (slowly), and state if you don't want lunch. 25 people will be sufficient. If we have time we can visit Little Mitton Hall Restaurant for end-of-day drinks. This is a 19th century house but with a large open timber-framed hall of c1500.



*Bashall Hall barracks/lodgings*

## Recording Day in Coverdale

Saturday 20 August 2011

Following the successful annual conference held in Coverdale in North Yorkshire in 2009, a further recording day is to be held in this attractive Dale when up to three houses could be recorded depending on the numbers attending. Carlton-in-Coverdale village hall has been booked for our use and we'll meet there at 10.30am. As the village pub is now closed it is advisable to bring lunch. Isobel Jenkins will kindly provide tea/coffee. If you'd like to come please let Tony Tolhurst ([mrtontol@aol.com](mailto:mrtontol@aol.com)) or Isobel Jenkins ([I.Jenkins@education.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:I.Jenkins@education.leeds.ac.uk)) know by 31 July 2011.

## Conference Review Day

Sunday 25 September 2011

A day to review the buildings recorded at the annual conference in Long Preston in May. Details to follow in the next Newsheet.

## Next committee meeting

The next full committee meeting will be held on Sunday 2 October 2011, although a 'virtual' meeting to consider future events will be held by email during the summer. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any future events please contact the Secretary, David Crook.

## YVBSG Officers and Committee

There were no nominations for the post of Chairman at the AGM in March, so David Cook has agreed to continue until a new Chairman comes forward and is duly elected. The Committee may agree to a new Acting Chairman between now and the 2012 AGM.

Malcolm Birdsall had expressed his wish before the AGM to resign from the position of Archivist due to his relocation to Derbyshire and other commitments. No nominations were received from the floor; a volunteer will thus be sought over the coming months for election at the 2012 AGM. The role involves maintaining the archive of reports, issuing copies of reports and dealing with enquiries about reports. A major benefit to the postholder is having the vast repository of knowledge contained in all the Group's reports to hand! If anyone is interested in taking on the role, please contact David Cook. In the meantime, Malcolm has kindly agreed to continue until a new Archivist is identified or comes forward.

All other officers and committee members were re-elected *en bloc* for 2011. The AGM minutes can be found on the Members' Area of the YVBSG website.

## Next Newsheet

Many thanks to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in August – please send any items that might interest other members (events, new publications, news on buildings etc) to the editor by 31 July 2011.

## Yorkshire Buildings

If you were a member in 2009 (whether or not you are still a member!), you will find your copy of *Yorkshire Buildings 37* enclosed with this Newsheet. We hope you enjoy it.

## 40th anniversary

Next year is the fortieth anniversary of the YVBSG, which was founded in 1972. We'd like to do something special to mark this, so if you have any ideas for an event, or something else, please contact David Cook.

## Thank you!

We thank David Cook and David Cant for organising an excellent annual day-school in March. The stimulating talks on markings and dateable features set us all thinking about the meaning and significance of such objects.

David Cant, Alison Armstrong and David Cook are thanked for arranging a most enjoyable annual recording weekend in Long Preston in May. We look forward to hearing about the buildings recorded at the review day later in the year.



## 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!

### **Challenge and Change: 350 years in the life of a house and its region**

Until 30 October 2011

Exhibition at The Folly, Victoria Street, Settle, organised by North Craven Building Preservation Trust. Explores the history of The Folly over the past 350 years against the backdrop of local events. For opening hours see [www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly](http://www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly) or telephone 015242 51388.

### **Summertime at Hutton-le-Hole**

Sunday 5 June 2011

A gentle morning stroll looking at some of the intriguing buildings and glimpsing into their history. Free. To book, telephone North York Moors National Park on 01439 772738.

### **Lost Villages**

Sunday 12 June 2011

Little remains of three industrial villages between Todmorden and Hebden Bridge. We'll discover the remains of these former communities set in really fine scenery. Meet Linda Croft at 2.15pm at Lobb Mill picnic site on A646, 1 mile east of Todmorden. £3, no need to book. Full details of this and other walks at [www.CalderdaleHeritageWalks.org.uk](http://www.CalderdaleHeritageWalks.org.uk).

### **Open Farm Sunday**

Sunday 12 June 2011

Open Farm Sunday is an annual event that gives everyone the chance to meet the farmers who grow their food and care for the countryside, and possibly to visit some interesting farm buildings too. A full list of open farms is available at [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org).

### **The Geology of Local Building Stone**

Tuesday 14 June 2011

Talk by Alison Tymon of West Yorkshire Geology Trust for Halifax Scientific Society, 7.15pm at Halifax Central Library. Enquiries: 01422 833646.

### **Vernacular Buildings Excursion to Lancashire**

Saturday 18 June 2011

Kevin Illingworth is organising a vernacular buildings outing into Lancashire for the Calder Valley Historic Buildings Group. Details available mid June – telephone Kevin on 01422 844941.

### **51 Fleetgate Open Day**

Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 June 2011

Crown post roof building in Barton on Humber, visited by the YVBSG a few years ago. Open on the above and other dates from 10am to 4pm – details at [www.bartoncivicsociety.co.uk](http://www.bartoncivicsociety.co.uk).

### **Markenfield Hall**

Sunday 19 June to Saturday 2 July 2011

Markenfield Hall is a spectacular moated medieval house near Ripon. The hall will be open on the dates above from 2pm to 5pm. Charge: £4. Enquiries: 01765 692303, [www.markenfield.com](http://www.markenfield.com).

### **Festival of British Archaeology**

Saturday 16 to Sunday 31 July 2011

Annual event presenting hundreds of special events ranging from excavation open days to guided walks and talks. Includes 'Medieval Harewood' with a chance to visit the recently excavated medieval manor Gawthorpe Hall, and 'The Heritage of Scriven and its Park' with a short guided walk of the village and park. Full list of events at <http://festival.britarch.ac.uk>.

### **Vernacular Architecture, Winewall**

Wednesday 27 July 2011

A walk led by Kevin Illingworth for North Craven Heritage Trust. Meet Winewall Bridge (near Colne), grid ref SD 908400, at 6pm. Visitors £2, please telephone Kevin in advance (01422 844941) to confirm attendance. Website [www.northcravenheritage.org.uk](http://www.northcravenheritage.org.uk).

### **A 12th Century Planned Village and its Landscape**

Sunday 7 August 2011

A five mile walk looking at Appleton le Moors and its surroundings. Includes a short illustrated talk and viewing of the History Group archive. 1pm to 4pm. Free. To book, telephone North York Moors National Park on 01439 772738.

### **Traditional Farmhouses in and around the Forest of Bowland**

Thursday 25 August 2011

A talk by Kevin Illingworth for Whalley and District Historical and Archaeological Society. 7.30pm at Whalley Abbey. Enquiries: Jean Kay, 01254 826827.

### **South Pennine Landscapes in Transition 1700-1914**

Saturday 24 September 2011

Annual day school of South Pennine History Group to be held at Mytholmroyd Methodist Church. Cost £18 including lunch. The conference will explore the complex motives behind enclosure and the dramatic effect it had on the landscape. Talks will include: *Enclosure in the South Pennines* (David Hey); *Moorland resources in pre-enclosure communities* (Alan Petford); *Parliamentary Enclosure in the Calder Valley* (Sheila Graham); *After Enclosure – Shipley* (Richard Comber); *The Notebook of William Longbottom of Sutton-in-Craven* (Paul Longbottom); and *The Buildings of Enclosure* (David Cant). To reserve a place, please send a cheque, payable to Hebden Bridge Local History Society, together with your name, address, telephone number and email address (if available) to Rachel Smith, Bramble Dene, Moss Lane, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 7DS. Please visit website [www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk](http://www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk) for further information and directions.

## Recording team hard at work!

Ever wondered what recording's all about? The photo right shows members of a team hard at work surveying a farmstead in Farndale during April ...

Actually, the team did a hard day's work and the photo captures them taking a well-deserved lunch break on a sunny day with a fantastic view across the valley.

As always, if you'd like to hear about opportunities to join in with some recording work, please email Tony Tolhurst ([enquiries@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@yvbsg.org.uk)) to be added to the email list. Joining the list puts you under no obligation, and no prior experience is needed if you do want to give it a try – you can start off gently by holding the end of a measuring tape if you wish!



Photo: Tony Tolhurst

## Nidderdale AONB farm buildings recording project

A new project is being initiated by the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A number of traditional farm buildings have already been recorded through individual survey projects, by local history groups, and other organisations. The project aims to fill the gaps and document the entire collection of traditional farm buildings in the Nidderdale AONB in the next two years. Historic building consultant Jen Deadman will lead volunteers, providing support and training on identifying historic farm buildings. It is hoped that the information gained will be of interest to landowners, tenants and local communities now and in the future.

Whether you are a potential volunteer, an owner of a farm building or just generally interested, please email [sally.childes@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:sally.childes@harrogate.gov.uk) or call the AONB office on 01423 712950 for more information. The AONB website can be found at [www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk](http://www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk).

## A vernacular architect's prayer

Thank you to Joyce Williams for sending these apposite lines, which she found in a book of Celtic prayer:

### Beannachadh Taighe (Bless this House)

God bless the house – from site to stay,  
From beam to wall – from end to end,  
From ridge to basement  
From balk to roof-tree,  
From found to summit ...  
Found and summit.

Amen.



## Some recent books

*Austwick – A historical walk round the village* by Sylvia Harrop. Well illustrated with photographs and drawings of buildings. £3.99, 24 pages, available from Cross Leigh Village Stores, telephone 015242 51415.

*The Medieval Great House* edited by Malcolm Airs and PS Barnwell. *Rewley House Studies in the Historic Environment* 1 (Donington: Shaun Tyas, 2011), ISBN 987-1-907730-07-8, £40. The papers in this volume represent the essence of a weekend conference held at Rewley House, Oxford, in January 2008. Includes papers on 'Medieval Manorial Complexes in Yorkshire: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach' by Stephen Moorhouse; 'The Administrative Role of Gatehouses in Fourteenth-Century North-Country Houses' by Peter Brears; and 'Markenfield Hall, Yorkshire' by Andor Gomme.

## Thatching news

Two more buildings expected to be thatched with heather by Yorkshire thatcher William Tegetmeier this year are a barn at Levy Pool Farmhouse, Bowes, and a building on the A66 south of Bowes (in the historic county of North Riding). William's name has appeared in several YVBSG Newsheets over the years.

In Lancashire, Barry Milne, the Southport thatcher, retires in late 2012. The timing of this Newsheet means that you'll probably miss the opportunity to see his photo albums and talk to him at his stand at Chipping Steam Fair (west of Clitheroe) on the late May bank holiday weekend, but for details of other shows/fairs in the north-west where he has a stand, telephone Barry on 01704 231510. There are six thatchers working in the south Lancashire/north Cheshire area.

Kevin Illingworth

## Hazel Voakes

We are sorry to report that former YVBSG member Hazel Voakes died on 9 March 2011, aged 79 years. Hazel was trained as a nurse but had to leave the profession due to health problems. She returned to her parents' home, Crag Hill Farm, Killinghall, where she took an active part in running the farm. Hazel was responsible for managing a sizeable flock of sheep – literally as a shepherdess – where her nursing skills in gynaecology proved a great asset. She also joined the Nidderdale History Research Group that had been established by Bernard Jennings following the publication of *A History of Nidderdale* in 1967. One of the research themes in which that group were interested was the vernacular architecture of the area and I was invited to meet them in late 1973. A number of the members, led by Hazel and Mary Barley, agreed to join our Group (then the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Vernacular Buildings Study Group) as one of the local sections that we had in

those days. With all Hazel's farming contacts we had ready access to farmhouses all over the Dale and beyond. Most early meetings were for extensive surveys by the Brunskill method, but detailed recording got underway in 1975, the year in which Hazel was elected Treasurer of NYC VBSG, a post she held for the next ten years. Between 1976 and 1979 over one hundred buildings were recorded in Nidderdale and the Washburn Valley. During much of this period Hazel, Mary Barley and myself met for all-day recording sessions once a fortnight, summer and winter, far outpacing any other local section. Most of the plans were made by Hazel who had a special aptitude for drawing. She was also elected to the national Vernacular Architecture Group and regularly attended their Winter and Spring meetings. Over the next three years various circumstances prevented the three of us from meeting on a regular basis, but Hazel and Mary forged ahead

with documentary research and with writing a new chapter on Housing for the second edition of the *History of Nidderdale*. Following the death of her father, Hazel and her mother moved to Boroughbridge. Hazel resigned as Treasurer in 1985 but remained a member of our Group for many years. As a full-time carer, she could not carry on as an active recorder and devoted her energies to her other great enthusiasm – silk weaving – at which she was highly skilled.

With her bubbling personality, raw Yorkshire humour and understanding of farming and the farming community she charmed her way into many a house. After our President, Barbara Hutton, she was the greatest and most prolific recorder in the early years of the Group. Her contribution was immense and did much to establish our reputation as a leading authority in the field of vernacular architecture.

Barry Harrison

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