



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 76

May 2014

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Visit to Barningham

Saturday 28 June 2014

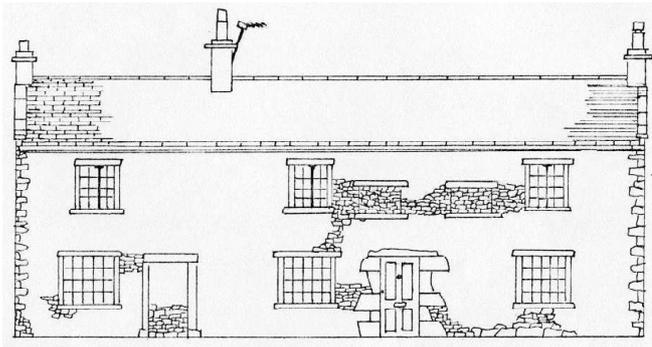
Barningham is a village between Richmond and Barnard Castle on the north-facing slopes of the Yorkshire Dales. From the late 1970s to the early 1990s the former Tees and Greta section of the Group led by J Merryne Watson surveyed fifteen houses in the parish, most of them in the village itself.

We will meet at 11am for two talks in the village hall, one on the history of the village and one on the buildings based on the findings in the Group's reports. Lunch will follow and be provided in the village hall.

In the afternoon there will be a guided walk around the village with access to some of the buildings. We plan to finish about 4pm.

We need to know numbers, so if you'd like to attend, please contact David Cook, telephone 01325 310114 or email [dcook0@talk21.com](mailto:dcook0@talk21.com), by 14 June 2014. Cost including lunch is £5.

This walkabout is arranged with members of the Barningham Local History Group which was featured as the Local History Group of the Month in the BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* magazine and in 2012 its newsletter *The Archive* was named Newsletter of the Year by the British Association for Local History. Merryne Watson was the author of *As Time Passed By: A History of Barningham* drawn from a series of articles from the parish magazine, and published in 1997.



Manor House Farm, Barningham

### Discussion Day for Conference Team Leaders

Saturday 26 July 2014

We're trying something new this year by introducing this additional meeting intended for survey team leaders from the recording conference, to help them complete their reports. This day will provide a chance for them to share information with other team leaders, discuss the buildings recorded and identify common features. If you were involved in the recording conference, please send your drawings/notes to your team leader before this date.

We thank all those involved in organising the conference, and especially Mike Kingsbury who took on most of the work. We recorded several interesting buildings and a good time was had by all, despite some wet weather!

### Osmotherley and Mount Grace Priory

Sunday 7 September 2014

A visit to Osmotherley and Mount Grace Priory led by Barry Harrison. Please assemble by the cross in Osmotherley village centre for 9.30am. Early start due to the difficulty of parking in the village at weekends. Tour of the village (a major centre of linen-weaving from the seventeenth to late nineteenth century) from 9.45am to 12.00 noon. Move to the Manor at nearby Mount Grace, dated 1654 (English Heritage and National Trust) for lunch (bring your own) in car park set in pleasant gardens. Internal tour of house, including the roof, from 1.15pm to 3.30pm. Proceed to Hutton Rudby, another large weaving village (about 6 miles away) for village tour lasting until about 5.30pm. No need to book in advance.

Location of Osmotherley: SE 455972. Approach from south by A19, turn off at junction with A684 and follow signs.

### Conference Review Day

Sunday 28 September 2014

An opportunity for all to hear about the buildings recorded during the Sedbergh conference held in May. To be held at the People's Hall in Sedbergh – full details to follow in the August Newsheet.

### Recording opportunities

We're likely to have the chance to record a house in Kirby Wiske near Thirsk in August. If you're interested in joining this recording team, please contact Tony Robinson ([editor@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:editor@yvbsg.org.uk)).

If you'd like to hear about any future recording opportunities, please email David Cant ([chairman@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:chairman@yvbsg.org.uk)) to be added to a mailing list.

## 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!

### Open Farm Sunday

Sunday 8 June 2014

A good opportunity to visit a few farm buildings! Full details of open farms at [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org).

### More Dream Than Reality? New Survey Work at the Octagon Mill, Arkengarthdale

Wednesday 11 June 2014

Talk by Shaun Richardson of Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd at Swaledale Museum in Reeth, 7.30pm. The Octagon Mill lead-smelting complex includes watercourses, building platforms, launders, terraced trackways, a peat/fuel store and the mill's complex flue, and these were the subject of a detailed measured earthwork survey in 2013 which has substantially increased our understanding of this important site. Enquiries: 01748 884118 or email [museum.swaledale@btinternet.com](mailto:museum.swaledale@btinternet.com), web [www.swaledalemuseum.org](http://www.swaledalemuseum.org).

### Carleton – The Outer Limits

Thursday 12 June 2014

A full day of walking around Carleton-in-Craven with Sue Wrathmell for Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group, tracing the historical growth of a complex section of the landscape. Meet 9.45am at Carleton Lane Head, SD9597 4907, cost £2. [www.uwhg.org.uk](http://www.uwhg.org.uk).

### At Home with Tatham History Society

Saturday 21 June 2014

A full day event in this rural parish adjacent to Clapham, including some content on the local vernacular. See [www.tathamhistory.org.uk](http://www.tathamhistory.org.uk) for details.

### Langcliffe Hall and Garden

Thursday 26 June 2014

North Craven Heritage Trust visit to the hall (dated 1602 with later alterations) starting at 2pm. Visitors £2. [www.northcravenheritage.org.uk](http://www.northcravenheritage.org.uk).

### Visit to Troutbeck

Tuesday 1 July 2014

Evening visit with Ewecross Historical Society led by Andrew Lowe. 7-9pm, cost £3. Visitors need to telephone Edward Huddleston on 015242 61553.

### Tithe Barns visit

Saturday 5 July 2014

Visit to Crosby Garrett and Musgrave tithe barns with Mike Lea for the Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group. Website [www.cvbg.co.uk](http://www.cvbg.co.uk) or contact June Hall or Mike Kingsbury as below.

### Further visit to Alston

Monday 21 July 2014

Visit to Alston with the Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group. An earlier visit could not fit in the whole town so a second visit, followed by a discussion, has been arranged. Open to all CVBG members; please email Mike Kingsbury ([m.kingsbury455@btinternet.com](mailto:m.kingsbury455@btinternet.com)) or June Hall ([junelennahall@hotmail.com](mailto:junelennahall@hotmail.com)) before 30 June if you'd like to attend.

### The Barley Hall Servants – Living History at the Hall

Wednesday 23 and 30 July 2014

Volunteers will be demonstrating living history showcasing the life of servants from the late medieval period. 11am, normal admission prices. Telephone 01904 615505. <http://barleyhall.co.uk>.

### Old Houses of Baildon

Thursday 14 August 2014

Talk by Mike and Tish Lawson to Bingley Local History Society. 7pm at Baildon Hall, visitors £2. Web [www.bingleyhistory.co.uk](http://www.bingleyhistory.co.uk).

### Land Farm Garden

Saturday 16 August 2014

Visit to Land Farm Garden for Calder Valley Historic Buildings Group, organised by Kevin Illingworth. Garden visit costs £4. Land Farm (1755 with earlier remains) north-west of Hebden Bridge, has minor features inside but has one of those most unusual parapoint/saddleback walls. We will have access to this. Also taking in Everhillshaw (early seventeenth century) and perhaps Greenwood Lee (early eighteenth century?). More to come. CVHGB members have priority but there will be room for YVBSG members. All details not available yet, but if you want to come telephone Kevin Illingworth on 01422 844941 leaving your number (email [j.k.illingworth@btinternet.com](mailto:j.k.illingworth@btinternet.com)) Meeting place and time can be emailed to you.

### Royds Hall Farm

Wednesday 20 August 2014

Talk by C and G Wright to Cottingley Village History Society. 7.30pm at Cottingley Town Hall, £2. <http://history.cottingleyconnect.org.uk>.

### Historic Farm Buildings Group Conference

Friday 19 to Sunday 21 September 2014

This year's HFBG annual conference will be held in Lancashire, based in the pastoral Ribblesdale valley around the market town of Clitheroe, with an excursion to the coastal plain. The programme will combine lectures and visits, showing how Lancashire farmers seized the opportunities presented by the increasing urbanisation of the historic county from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. The supply of fresh milk, vegetables and potatoes became the mainstay of the region. The county is noted for high quality stone buildings, and brick is well represented in the lowlands. Timber framing was formerly widespread and we shall visit both cruck and aisled barns. For more details and a booking form please email [b1rd80@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:b1rd80@hotmail.co.uk). Website [www.hfbg.org.uk](http://www.hfbg.org.uk).



### Beverley Minster: sculptures, screens and masons

Saturday 27 September 2014

Study day organised by East Yorkshire Local History Society. The speaker and guide is John Phillips, and the event will include two talks in the morning, and a guided tour in the afternoon. The cost is £21, including lunch. Web [www.eylhs.org.uk](http://www.eylhs.org.uk). Please note that the date given in the last Newsheet was incorrect – the correct date is above.

## Festival of Archaeology 2014

Saturday 12 to Sunday 27 July 2014

Annual CBA festival with over a thousand special events organised and hosted by museums, heritage organisations, national and countryside parks, local societies, and community archaeologists across the UK. Yorkshire highlights include:

- *Medieval fayre at Octon*. Sunday 13 July. Organised by York Archaeological Trust to celebrate the recent restoration of a cruck farmhouse (recorded by the YVBSG in 2007) at Glebe Farm, Octon, near Thwing in the Yorkshire Wolds. Medieval fun, games and activities, plus talks, tours and a chance to get hands-on with archaeological finds from the medieval period. 11am to 4pm.

Full details of all events on offer during the festival can be found at [www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk](http://www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk), telephone 01904 671417.

## King-post roofs

The purpose of this brief article is to outline a research project of regional and national importance that would be eminently suitable for the YVBRG to undertake. It concerns the roof types of northern England, of which king-post roofs are not only the most important historically but also one about which relatively little is known.

The principal problem that the king-post type presents needs to be seen in a national context. Following the Norman conquest the new ruling class introduced everywhere in the great churches and manor houses that established its position the coupled-rafter roof type. Although very few of the early simple forms survive, the many derivative forms, notably scissors-truss and crown-post roofs, remain; a striking example of the former is the aisled hall built c.1288 at the Foulbridge (Snainton) preceptory of the Knights Templars and other scattered examples have been recorded in northern England. Now in the commonly accepted view of how architectural ideas spread it is assumed that techniques first developed in the buildings of the ruling class are disseminated downwards through the social scale, yet in Yorkshire and adjoining counties that is not the case; coupled-rafter derivatives give way to either king-post roofs or simple triangular trusses into which purlins are trencled.

Nor is the conventional wisdom true in western and midland England, where a scattering of aisled halls and some

early church roofs attest the universality of coupled-rafter derivatives at a high social level in the thirteenth century; yet, in the early fourteenth century, when the great cathedral monastery of Worcester rebuilt its guest hall, the visually spectacular roof was structurally simple, comprising principal rafters with collar-beams and trencled purlins. Subsequently the guest hall of Malvern Priory built a timber-framed guest house with a similar roof and the example was followed at Tamworth castle in the fifteenth century. So we have a situation where northern England and the whole of the West Midlands see a type of roof that had been introduced at the highest social levels fall out of use in favour of other types that do not perform any better than the derivative forms of coupled-rafter roof – Westminster Hall and Ely cathedral demonstrate that – whereas in south-east England, in Kent, for example, coupled-rafter derivatives are used throughout the social scale. That seems to apply to the Home Counties and East Anglia.

Archaeological evidence, slight though it is, provides a longer view of this situation. In the West Midlands and in Yorkshire excavated buildings reveal possible ancestors of the respective late-medieval roof types, suggesting that in both regions what may be called an indigenous type was superseded at a high social level by coupled-rafter derivatives after the Conquest; but in those regions, unlike in the south-east, the imported type was replaced by derivative forms of the indigenous types

which apparently survived and were improved at a lower social level until the early fourteenth century (or later, in the north). Why? And what socio-economic considerations underlay these changes? – questions absolutely fundamental to understanding why different structural forms differ in their respective distributions.

Those last words introduce my suggestion: that the YVBSG take the lead in listing and mapping the varieties of king-post roof in the way that has been done with such thought-provoking results with crucks. The requisite computer skills are certainly present; the extensive fieldwork done by the Group and other published work provides ample material; my guess is that a well-drafted application would elicit support from a trust; and if the interest of members is aroused, the project would emulate the success with crucks. It would be of great interest to know (among several topics) the outer limits of the distribution, how it relates to other roof types, and when and where king-post roofs appear in the houses of the nobility and gentry. In proposing this I have, very obviously, simplified the history of roof construction in order to focus on the matter most likely to advance our understanding of the subject in present circumstances.

J T Smith, [jtsmith@waitrose.com](mailto:jtsmith@waitrose.com)

*Editor's note: a YVBSG sub-group will be considering this suggestion as part of their assessment of options for future research.*

## Courses

### Researching Your House History

Every home – whatever its age or size – has stories to tell about individuals, everyday domestic life, and the local history of your area.

Whether you are a homeowner or a tenant, discovering the history of your house can be a fascinating and rewarding experience.

This four-session course with Dr Jayne Rimmer will introduce you to the research techniques that are used to investigate when a house was constructed, who it was built by, and its owners and occupants over time. It will guide you through the architectural history of domestic building, the analysis of original features and domestic floor plans, and the interpretation of any later modifications or additions.

Thursday 3, 10, 17, and 24 July 2014 from 7pm-9pm at Barley Hall in York. Fee £35. See <http://barleyhall.co.uk/events/> or telephone 01904 615505 for details. Pre-booking is essential. Please be advised that you will need to attend for all four two-hour sessions.



## Local expertise needed

I am currently co-authoring a book entitled *In the Footsteps of the Six Wives of Henry VIII*, which will be a guide book to the top ten locations associated with each of Henry VIII's wives. We are including the following Yorkshire locations: Snape Castle (Katherine Parr), Pontefract Castle, Cawood and the King's Manor at York (all associated with Catherine Howard). I would like to make contact with local experts/historians who have a specific interest in these locations. We are interested in content such as a brief history of the building; how the building appeared at the time of the visit; descriptions of the chambers used and how they were laid out; and events that took place during the stay. We source our research from a wide variety of locations but we have found local expertise to be invaluable!

Sarah Morris, [morris\\_sarah@btconnect.com](mailto:morris_sarah@btconnect.com)

## Websites worth watching

[www.english-heritage.org.uk/your-home/your-homes-history/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/your-home/your-homes-history/)

An informative section on the English Heritage website offering advice on how to research your home's history.

## Historic Graffiti

We are all probably familiar with graffiti on historic buildings ranging from modern spray painting through to historic examples of incised dates and initials. Examples of graffiti can be found cut into and written/painted on to many different surfaces using a variety of mediums. Some of the earliest examples recorded date from classical times and can be seen to represent the mark of the ordinary person. Most often this 'common touch' reflects the desire of the person to simply record their presence at that particular location at that moment in time. However, this is not always so and in many cases a variety of other topics have been recorded. These can range from political commentary/cartoons through to declarations of love. A significant number of graffiti can be found to include some form of iconography such as animals, ships, vehicles and buildings. Although historic graffiti is often widespread it is under threat from a number of different sources. This can be the simple, time-related decay of the surface/substrate that they are on; their deliberate removal; vandalism; the theft of the substrate or even simply being covered over.

In the past most examples of historic graffiti have only been noted in passing and currently the only major project looking at graffiti is concentrating on medieval churches ([www.medieval-graffiti.co.uk](http://www.medieval-graffiti.co.uk)). In order to start to redress the balance I am currently working on an English Heritage funded project which aims to develop a methodology and a set of guidelines for the recording of historic graffiti which will be disseminated through English Heritage. As a spin off from this project I am currently undertaking my own research into the occurrence of graffiti of all periods which shows images of ships, particularly in the (North-ish) Yorkshire area. Therefore

I am very keen to hear from anyone who knows of examples of graffiti of ships or maritime related images (I have already recorded a probable representation of an early lighthouse and dolphins as well as the more common sailing ships and steamers). If you do have or know of any examples then I would be very grateful if you would let me know. If you have images, know where there are examples or have references to examples that have been recorded I would love to hear from you. I can be contacted by email or post at [johnbuglass@yahoo.com](mailto:johnbuglass@yahoo.com) or Rosebank, Newby Wiske, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 9EX.

*John Buglass*



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## Committee News

There have been some changes to our committee recently.

Our Hon Sec, Dave Crook, has decided to stand down – we'd like to thank him for the time he has spent supporting the Group over the years. We're pleased to say Mary Cook has taken on the role; contact details are Mary Cook, 12 Annand Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4ZD, email [secretary@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@yvbsg.org.uk). We're also delighted to welcome long-standing member Sue Southwell to the committee. Thank you both for your commitment.

In February, several members met to finish the archive check at the Yorkshire Archaeology Society in Leeds, who kindly look after our 'publicly accessible' archive of reports. Once the results are collated we can be certain that our records tally and all 'open' reports are available. Thanks to all who took part – we managed to cover everything we were aiming to do.

We have two sub-groups of the committee at the moment. One is looking at the wealth of information contained in our reports and

considering whether we can draw further conclusions on vernacular buildings; the other is investigating effective use of digital technology – cameras, computers, scanners etc in recording and reporting on buildings.

The next committee meeting is in Beverley on 11 October 2014, but before then we have a 'virtual' meeting to chew over ideas for future events. Members' views are welcome – please send to the Hon Sec. The virtual meeting ends on 1 July 2014.

*David Cant, Chair*

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## Online information for members

We continue to add new items to the Members' Area of the YVBSG website. We've recently added more articles from previous editions of *Yorkshire Buildings* up to 2010, as well as a number of handouts from various walkabouts held over the years. One addition may particularly interest those who attended the recent recording weekend in Sedbergh and Dent: an A3 information sheet produced by Arnold Pacey for a walk around Dentedale in 1996 which includes illustrations of the former galleries attached to Dent dwellings.

Also now available are the minutes of the latest AGM held in March 2014 and the approved accounts for 2013.

The password to this area changes every January and those of you who have renewed your membership for 2014 will find the new details in your membership letter (or send an email at any time to [webmaster@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@yvbsg.org.uk) for a reminder). If you haven't yet renewed, you'll find a renewal slip enclosed with this Newsheet!

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## Next Newsheet

Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in August 2014 – please send any contributions to the editor by 31 July 2014.

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