



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

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

Newsheet No 80

May 2015

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Six Days Only!

Sunday 14 June 2015

A visit to Royds Hall Farm in the hamlet of 'Six Days Only' (Heaton Royds), two-and-a-half miles north-west of Bradford City Centre, organised by Kevin Illingworth. To include:

- Walkabout in the village of Wilsden. Items of interest include vertical flagstone walls or 'fences' at Club Row cottages. These are widespread in Lancashire, but not in Yorkshire.
- Lunch at Chellow Grange Farm (West Bradford Golf Club House), listed Grade 2, an interesting seventeenth/eighteenth century vernacular complex. Extensive, inexpensive menu.
- Royds Hall Farm (2pm) Listed Grade 2\*. A hall-and-cross wings house, probably mid seventeenth century and earlier. Nine semicircular arched lights to housebody. Wall paintings inside. Opposite is a seventeenth/early eighteenth century aisled barn at Heaton Royds Farm. The Heaton Royds area is a green 'oasis' surrounded by busy built-up areas.



Royds Hall Farm

Refreshments will be provided in the front garden (or kitchen) of Royds Hall Farm at around 4.30/5pm. Donations will be for The Leprosy Mission.

Meet at Wilsden Village Hall car park at 10.30am. Wilsden is five miles north-west of Bradford on, and just north of, the B6144 road. Easily-seen signpost for village hall in centre of village.

If you want to come, please telephone Kevin Illingworth on 01422 844941, clearly leaving your name and telephone number. Numbers will be more limited than on previous visits.

### Team Leaders Day

Saturday 27 June 2015

Beverley conference team leaders are reminded to attend a meeting in York to share findings and results from their surveys. This year we are opening the invitation to all who were members of recording teams at the Beverley conference on 16 May 2015. You are very welcome to come along to hear the team leaders present and discuss their initial findings, and also contribute any insights you might have.

The venue is York Priory Street Centre, which is just off Micklegate, 11am to 1pm. Please contact David Cook if you wish to attend: [dcook0@talk21.com](mailto:dcook0@talk21.com), 07810 668975.

### Netherwood House

The group has received an invitation for a small group to visit Netherwood House, a 1770s mansion outside Ilkley reputedly built on older foundations which are exposed at the moment. The visit will probably be in late June or July – if you're interested in coming along please contact David Cant (contact details on back page) by 15 June 2015.

### Conference Review Day

Sunday 27 September 2015

An opportunity for all to hear about the buildings recorded during the annual conference held in May. At the Beverley Arms Hotel, Beverley – full details to follow in the August Newsheet.

### Committee meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on 18 October 2015. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any events please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

### Committee news

We are delighted to report that the AGM in March elected Barry Harrison as the group's new President; we welcome Barry to his new role. Maggy Simms stood down from the committee and we thank her for her contribution to the work of the group. Pat Leggett is welcomed as a new member of the committee.

## Report on recent events

### Early Town Buildings and their Constructional Materials

Our thanks go to David Cook for organising a superb annual day school on Saturday 14 March 2015, and to speakers Jayne Rimmer, Rebecca Lane, Martin Roberts, Nigel Baker and Dave Evans for an interesting set of talks which gave us a tour of early urban buildings around the country, taking in Beverley, York, Ely, Durham, south-west England and the Hull valley.

### An Introduction to Recording Urban Buildings

We thank Allan Adams and Rebecca Lane of Historic England for leading this workshop in York on Sunday 26 April 2015. During the day, Allan and Rebecca offered practical hints and tips on recording, and reminded us that recording should always be carried out with context in mind; ideally the team should discuss the building to identify key points before even starting to measure. Some specific features to look for in urban buildings include:

- Fossilized rights of way through plots, now possibly built over. There may be gardens or space for animals, especially on bigger plots – butchers' shops in particular are sometimes preserved. Burgage plots may vary in size and date.
- Speculative building, which has been going on for a long time.
- Plan forms vary and may change through time – for example cross-passages may be turned round. Courtyard complexes may occur.
- Buildings referred to as 'shops' may be workshops as well as retail shops, and could be located away from the main market place.
- Hoists and taking-in doors offer evidence for warehousing, which might also be found within a house.
- Buildings can be multi-functional, for example containing a guildhall, chapel and caretaker's accommodation.
- Ownership of town buildings can be complex and involve flying-freeholds.



An afternoon walkabout gave us the chance to view some urban buildings in York, including the Wealden house in North Street shown above. This enjoyable day finished with an round-up of other recording techniques such as rectified photography, laser scanning, photogrammetry and use of Total Station Theodolites.

### Annual Recording Conference in Beverley



This year's conference was held in Beverley on Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May 2015. A number of properties were recorded (see back page), including 15 Flemingate (shown left) which contains a crown-post roof and impressive open truss over a possible open hall. Special thanks go to David Cook for organising the weekend, and to Susan Neave and Shaun Richardson for their informative talks. Some of the reports produced by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd that were mentioned by Shaun in his talk (including 15 Flemingate and 32-36 North Bar Within in Beverley, and Haltemprice Priory Farmhouse) are available online via the Archaeology Data Service at <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk> – select 'Archives' then 'Grey Literature'. You can then search or browse contractors for 'Ed Dennison'.

### Octagon Mill, Arkengarthdale – seeking info on roof timbers

After his evening lecture at the recent YVBSG weekend study and recording conference in Beverley, Shaun Richardson of Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) made an appeal for information on the re-use of the roof timbers from the Octagon (lead smelting) Mill, Arkengarthdale, North Yorkshire. EDAS are completing the final stages of an extensive programme of detailed measured survey, documentary research and building recording on the landscapes of both the Octagon Mill and the adjacent New or C.B. Mill, and Shaun is currently writing up the work for publication.

The Octagon Mill commenced smelting early in 1804, but probably ceased working in the early 1820s. Although the extensive complex of associated structures was soon demolished or dismantled, the mill itself remained standing until 1941, when part of the

roof collapsed. The roof trusses may have been left in place until 1944, but had been completely removed by 1946. Through local oral history research, Shaun has been able to discover what happened to some of the building's walling stone, stone roofing slates and flagstone flooring, but little information has come to light as to the fate of the very substantial roof timbers. On his beautiful 1949 reconstruction drawings of the Octagon Mill in *The Lead Smelting Mills of the Yorkshire Dales and Northern Pennines*, Robert Clough marked four main roof trusses, but the few surviving interior photographs of the mill when roofed suggest that there may have been six; each of the outer trusses had five half-trusses radiating out from the centre to support the hipped ends of the roof. The main trusses were of queen-post form, almost certainly of softwood, and of bolted and strapped construction; they had a span of 70 feet, and rose 23

feet above the level of the tie-beams. The latter are stated to have measured 18 inches in height by 12 inches in width, with the tie-beams of the half trusses being 12 inches square.

Clough himself stated only that the timber had been sold to a local contractor, whilst local information suggests that some of it was burnt. Shaun would be interested to know if in the course of their research any group members have come across timbers within buildings in Arkengarthdale, Swaledale or indeed the wider Yorkshire Dales area that might have been re-used from the mill, quite likely in a reduced form. All information received will of course be fully acknowledged in any resulting publications. If you have any relevant information or thoughts, or require further information, Shaun can be contacted through his workplace at [shaunedas@aol.com](mailto:shaunedas@aol.com).



## 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!

### Strange Structures

Until Monday 7 September 2015

A small exhibition (five display panels) at Skidby Mill Museum, covering follies, memorials, towers, military structures, and miscellaneous buildings in the East Riding. Open daily from 10am to 5pm, [www.museums.eastriding.gov.uk/skidby-mill](http://www.museums.eastriding.gov.uk/skidby-mill). Nicely-illustrated displays from past exhibitions are also available in pdf format from the same website, including *East Riding Mills* and *Vernacular Architecture*.

### Taking a look at Rylstone

Thursday 4 June 2015

Alison Armstrong will lead this afternoon walk around Rylstone for the Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group, looking at the historic landscape of this old township, including evidence for seventeenth century rebuilding of houses and barns. Meet at the lay-by on the Cracoe side of Rylstone, NGR SD 96935876. Website [www.uwhg.org.uk](http://www.uwhg.org.uk).

### Open Farm Sunday

Sunday 7 June 2015

Hundreds of events nationwide, ranging from farm walks through to full open days – a good opportunity to explore farm buildings! Programme available at [www.farmsunday.org](http://www.farmsunday.org).

### Markenfield Hall Open Days

13 to 28 June 2015

This moated medieval manor house near Ripon opens its doors to the public for a limited time each year. Open 2pm to 5pm on the above days. Behind-the-scenes tours available by pre-booking. Full details at [www.markenfield.com](http://www.markenfield.com) or telephone 01765 692303.

### Gouthwaite Farm Heritage Walk

Wednesday 22 June 2015

A 4½ mile evening walk through the history of Gouthwaite Lodge Farm (rebuilt 1900 in seventeenth century style), from prehistory to the nineteenth century. Cost £7.50 including supper. Booking essential on 01423 712950 or see [www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk](http://www.nidderdaleaonb.org.uk).

### Sheffield Manor Lodge and Bishops' House

Tuesday 30 June 2015

The site of Sheffield Manor Lodge contains three listed buildings; Bishops' House is a well preserved fifteenth century timber-framed house. Visit organised by the Halifax Antiquarian Society, cost £24.50 including coach and lunch. <https://sites.google.com/site/halifaxukhistory>.

### The Prehistoric Round House in Swaledale

Wednesday 24 June 2015

Talk by Tim Laurie for Friends of Swaledale Museum, 7.30pm in Swaledale Museum, Reeth. Visitors £4. Booking is recommended: 01748 884118, [www.swaledalemuseum.org](http://www.swaledalemuseum.org), [museum.swaledale@btinternet.com](mailto:museum.swaledale@btinternet.com).

### Three lost properties: Gang Hall, Eskeleth Hall, and the Old Church at Arkle Town

Wednesday 8 July 2015

Talk by Keith Sweetmore for Friends of Swaledale Museum, 7.30pm in Swaledale Museum, Reeth. Booking details as above.

### Street Detective

Thursday 9 July 2015

Talk by Mike Spick to Hallamshire Historic Buildings Society, 7.30pm in Quaker Meeting House, 10 St James Street, Sheffield. Tales of some notable (and not so notable) buildings and the role they have played in the life of Sheffield. Visitors £3. Enquiries: 0114 255 0172, [www.hhbs.org.uk](http://www.hhbs.org.uk).



### Festival of Archaeology 2015

Saturday 11 to Sunday 26 July 2015

A celebration of British archaeology, with hundreds of events nationwide organised by museums, heritage organisations, local societies, community archaeologists and others. Just a couple of events on offer are:

- Octon Medieval Fayre at the cruck-framed Glebe Farm, Octon. Sunday 12 July, 11am to 4pm.
- Stank Hall Barn Revealed – see inside this medieval barn in Leeds and learn about its history. Saturday 25 July, 12 noon to 4pm.

### Calderdale Heritage Walks special visits

Details of the regular programme of Sunday afternoon and Bank Holiday walks can be found at [www.CalderdaleHeritageWalks.org.uk](http://www.CalderdaleHeritageWalks.org.uk). Special visits include:

- Kirklees Estate – Saturday 27 or Sunday 28 June 2015. Includes a good variety of fifteenth to eighteenth century traditional farm buildings, half timber-framed gatehouse, Robin Hood's Victorian grave. Well worth a visit, normally not accessible to public. Cost £5 per person.
- Dobroyd Castle, Todmorden – Sunday 2 August 2015. Victorian pile of 1869 for John Fielden. Cost £4 per person. Booking opens 28 June 2015.

Both visits have to be booked beforehand via Tourist Information Centre, Hebden Bridge, HX7 8AF in person, by phone (01422 843831) or post with an SAE (cheques to Calderdale MBC). For Kirklees visit please state preference for date and am/pm.

Full schedule of events available at [www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk](http://www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk) or telephone 01904 671417.

### Delph Walk

Sunday 12 July 2015

A guided afternoon tour of the historic settlement of Delph, with Chris Toole, exploring eighteenth and nineteenth century industrial architecture from the village's heyday. Organised by the Halifax Antiquarian Society. <https://sites.google.com/site/halifaxukhistory>.

### Barley Hall Servants

Wednesdays 22 and 29 July 2015

Volunteers at Barley Hall in York are offering an extra treat for visitors, with living history showcasing the life of servants from the late medieval period. 11am to 3pm each day, normal admission prices. Enquiries: 01904 615505, <http://barleyhall.co.uk>.

### Explore a Twelfth Century Village

Sunday 2 August 2015

A one-mile morning stroll around the village of Appleton le Moors, looking at its development from the twelfth century to Victorian times. Free, but reservations essential – call The Moors National Park Centre on 01439 772738, [www.northyorkmoors.org.uk](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk).

### Burton Agnes Behind the Scenes

17 August and 8 October 2015

Tour with head guide Pauline Waslin visiting parts that are not usually open to the public, including the room where the resident ghost's skull is believed to be hidden! Tour times: 11am and 2pm. £15, must be booked in advance by calling the Estate Office on 01262 490324, [www.burtonagnes.com](http://www.burtonagnes.com).

### Visit to Drybeck Hall, near Appleby

Wednesday 19 August 2015

Evening visit led by Mike Lea for the Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group, 7pm to 8.30pm. Cost £4. Enquiries: June Hall at [infocvbg@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:infocvbg@mypostoffice.co.uk), [www.cvbgbg.co.uk](http://www.cvbgbg.co.uk).

## Galleting – the need for research

Further to the article in YVBSG Newsheet 66 (Nov 2011), we can report that our research into galleting continues with great success. It has led to offers to visit sites where conservation work involving the replacement of gallets is taking place. This is a wonderful opportunity to inspect areas not usually accessible to the public at Windsor Castle and Strangers Hall in Norwich. These days there is some awareness of the historical importance of the traditional craft of galleting. This was not always the case and poor repair is a common problem.

Windsor Castle, a building of exceptional historical importance, has much galleted masonry, very little of which is original. One panel which was probably constructed at the time of Henry VIII is illustrated here. The original galleting has been executed with care but not so the repair that can be seen on the right in fig 1.



Fig 1. Early galleting – sixteenth century original?



Fig 2. Nineteenth century restoration

During the first half of the nineteenth century George IV's architect Jeffry Wyattville undertook extensive restoration work at the castle (fig 2). Much of the galleting was replaced using black flints in black mortar creating a finish much derided by Sir Owen Morshead in his book about the castle (1957). Certainly it lacks the finesse of the original and, as it is unlikely to be a reasonable replica, the historical record is lost forever. Mortar joints, including those with gallets, significantly affect the overall appearance of a wall and therefore retaining the original style matters.

There is a perception that gallets may be principally decorative but evidence suggests that they probably make a significant contribution to the durability of masonry. Their omission during repair work may come at a price by shortening the life of a wall.

We are becoming very aware of the importance of correct conservation. This applies to every element of a building, the materials used and the methods of application. There is still much to be learnt about some of the traditional skills, and that is why it is important to discover as much as we can so that we do not go blindly into conservation work but act with understanding. More examples of galleted mortar joints can be viewed on my website at [www.galleting.com](http://www.galleting.com).

The research team can be contacted by email at [colin.arnott@student.anglia.ac.uk](mailto:colin.arnott@student.anglia.ac.uk) or write to me:

*Colin Arnott, The Moorings, Gillingham, Beccles NR34 0PA, telephone 01502 711651*

## Go adventuring ...

The Merchant Adventurers' Hall in York is seeking friendly and enthusiastic volunteers to work in their Admissions team. For details, please ring 01904 654818 or email [enquiries@theyorkcompany.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@theyorkcompany.co.uk).

## Vernacular wall paintings

For a good number of years now I have been researching the medieval church wall paintings of northern Yorkshire. Recently I was asked to look at a mural within a domestic setting. To my shame I know very little about the vernacular murals of the region; indeed I was very much of the opinion they were exceedingly rare, but I was clearly mistaken.

My research is going well upon a small surviving mural at Preston-under-Scar; it is wider context that I am really struggling with. I have a very short list of other vernacular murals from northern Yorkshire so would very much like to hear from anybody who has undertaken any research in this field, or knows of other murals. Thank you.

*Mike Rooney, [mycrp.mr@gmail.com](mailto:mycrp.mr@gmail.com)*

## Early Fabric of Beverley project

The Beverley project has made significant progress since the last update in this newsletter. The dendrochronology sampling is continuing and some interim reports have been received. So far 107 samples have been taken from six buildings, of which 89 have been suitable for analysis, and 16 of these have returned sequence dates. It is hoped that more samples will give dates when the programme of sampling is completed, after which full reports will be issued by the dendrochronologists. The documentary research is also continuing. Six buildings have been recorded in April and May, five of them at the annual recording conference. These are Ardens Vaults, 7-9 North Bar Within, 54 Keldgate, 15 Flemingate, the Dominican Friary building, and 49-51 North Bar Within. Work on the reports is progressing. Looking forward, we hope to arrange more sampling and more recording.

*David Cook, [dcook0@talk21.com](mailto:dcook0@talk21.com)*

## Next Newsheet

Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in August 2015 – please send any material to the editor by 31 July 2015.