



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk
www.facebook.com/yvbsg
twitter.com/YorksVernacular

Newsheet No 103

May 2021



Dear Member,

Welcome to our 103rd Newsheet. Since our last newsletter I am pleased to report that I have sold my house in Barnsley and moved back to the Upper Calder Valley into an industrial mill conversion on 28 April last, very different from the West Wing's elegant oak panelled rooms with fine marble fireplaces and sashed windows, to one with no fireplaces and exposed brick end walls but with attractive stone banding with curved corners to the double-glazed windows and large exposed pine beams bolted to sturdy cast-iron columns with moulded capitals. Open-plan living with a stunning thirty-nine foot long room open from one end to the other, north to south. There is some semblance of normality here as it accommodates much of my former furniture and my Steinway Model C grand piano. However, there remain many boxes of hundreds of books and thousands of 35mm colour slides yet to unpack, not to mention my large art collection (all still wrapped) and this will occupy me for many weeks if not months to come, so I'm afraid I won't be offering a Zoom talk any time soon. However, I do intend to offer the Doncaster walkabout trip that had to be cancelled last year shortly after our last day school due to lockdown, as the opportunity presents itself – hopefully in the next few months, so watch this space!

Peter Thornborrow, Chair

Third Thursday Talks

We are continuing to offer a series of monthly online talks which you can attend from the comfort of your home. These normally take place by Zoom at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month and there will be the opportunity for questions after each talk. The talks are open to all (including non-members) and are free of charge. Members who have agreed to receive email from the YVBSG will be notified when booking is open for each talk; a link from www.yvbsg.org.uk/events.html will take you to the Eventbrite booking page. The July presentation will be the final talk before we take a short break for the summer – we hope to resume the talks in the autumn. If you are interested in offering a talk, please contact Mary Cook on secretary@yvbsg.org.uk.

Bricks and mortar – rural industry and the supply of building materials 1700-1900

by George Sheeran, on Thursday 17 June 2021. Until the end of the nineteenth century many rural areas that had not experienced industrial and population growth continued to produce building materials in traditional ways. This talk deals with the supply of bricks and lime for building purposes before improvements in manufacture were adopted. It will be illustrated by sites and some buildings in the Yorkshire Wolds.

Mediaeval Buildings Myths – The Folklore and Archaeology of Historic Buildings

by James Wright, on Thursday 15 July 2021. Based on James's regular blog (triskeleheritage.triskelepublishing.com), this talk looks at some of the most common misconceptions surrounding historic buildings. Stories of secret passages, yarns that spiral stairs in castles turn one way to advantage right-handed swordsmen and arrow stones in churches. The legends are outlined, the origins of the myths are explained and the underlying truth behind each story is revealed. Hopefully the talk will help to give a broader and deeper understanding of mediaeval buildings that will bring us just that little bit closer to their former occupants. James Wright of Triskele Heritage is an award winning buildings archaeologist with two decades of professional experience.

Previous talks

Previous YVBSG online talks can now be watched by following the links on the website:

- *Ships timbers ahoy! Ways to convince it's not part of the Armada* by David Cant
- *A farmer-miner landscape: cowhouses and the practice of smallholdings in Castle Bolton (lower Wensleydale)* by Hannah Kingsbury
- *Revising Pevsner in the North Riding* by Jane Grenville
- *Three Carleton Buildings* by Sue Wrathmell
- *From Maypole to Daisy Bank: rebuilding a timber frame at the end of the nineteenth century* by David Cant

Interactive map of YVBSG reports now live

Our new interactive map showing the location of every building recorded by the YVBSG, or its predecessor the NYCVBBSG, is now live on the website. Members are able to view or download reports from the map, which can be found on the Building Reports page. However, if you don't want to or can't use the system, you can still contact the YVBSG Archivist for copies of reports, or lists of buildings recorded.

The interactive map provides members with the best link, though, to view and download these reports from the archive. By using the search box on the map page you can access a report if you know the name of the building or the report number. Alternatively, if you need to see which buildings in any locality or area have been recorded by the Group, then the map shows where they are and gives the building name, report number and a link to a pdf to view or download.

An eight-minute video showing how to do this is available on the YVBSG YouTube channel.

The system has been successful to date with an average of 11 views a day and 3 downloads a day. The equates to 899 views and 238 downloads since we started in February.



David Cook, YVBSG Archivist, archivist@yvbbsg.org.uk

Isobel Jenkins

We are sad to report the death of Isobel Jenkins on 7 February 2021. Isobel was a longstanding YVBSG member who was instrumental in organising our annual recording conference in Carlton in Coverdale in 2009; her local knowledge of buildings and history proved invaluable. She wrote up the findings in *Yorkshire Buildings* 38 and sold many copies of the publication. She regularly attended our day schools and we'll miss her at future events.

Calverley Old Hall

A fundraising appeal has now been launched for the Landmark Trust project to restore this exceptional medieval manor house: for details of the work to be undertaken, see www.landmarktrust.org.uk/support-us/projects-and-appeals/appeal-launched-calverley-old-hall/.

This website also offers a virtual tour of the great hall, solar and chapel, as well as the derelict cottages at the site.

Committee news

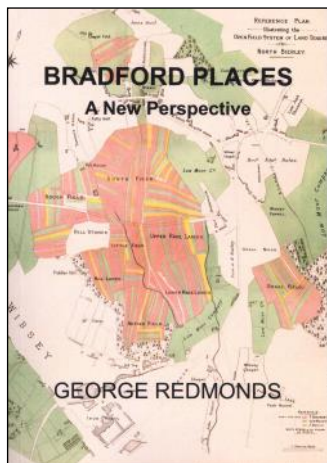
This year's AGM was held by Zoom on Saturday 27 March 2021; the minutes are now available on the Members' Area of the website. The committee for 2021 comprises:

- Honorary President: Barry Harrison
- Chair: Peter Thornborrow
- Secretary and Enquiries Secretary: Mary Cook
- Treasurer: Sue Southwell
- Membership Secretary: Pat Leggett
- Archivist: David Cook
- Newsletter, Web and Social Media: Lorraine Moor
- Yorkshire Buildings Liaison Officer: Tony Robinson
- Committee members: Kevin Illingworth, Nick Nelson, Gunhild Wilcock

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Saturday 17 July 2021; for the first time in about eighteen months we hope to meet in person rather than by Zoom! If you'd like to raise any matters, or have ideas for future events, please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

Publications

'Vernacular Buildings: A Source for Historical Study' by Colum Giles in *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 2021 (forthcoming). The historic county of Yorkshire has a wealth of vernacular buildings, studied for over a century. The focus of study and the means by which it has been carried out have changed over this period and the opportunity exists to review this history and indicate how the subject might develop in the next years, particularly in relation to the fuller exploitation of existing records and the way in which future research might be structured.



Bradford Places – A New Perspective. A book planned by the late George Redmonds, finished by David Shore, assisted by his wife Noeline. Photographs of some halls and manors by YVBSG members Kevin Illingworth (in colour) and by Jane Haydock. References to other old halls and buildings. 88 pages. Mail order only, from Anne-Marie Redmonds, 5 Knotty Lane, Lepton HD8 0ND, telephone 01484 603646, email a.redmonds@aol.com. Price £7.50 including postage.

A History of the County of York: East Riding, Vol X Part 2, edited by David Crouch, June 2021, £95. The second part of the Victoria County History study of Howdenshire, containing a history of Howden and its minster.

Next Newsheet

The next Newsheet will be in August 2021 – please send any contributions to the editor at newsheet@yvbbsg.org.uk by 31 July 2021. Short articles on buildings or features would be welcome, as well as details of events or publications which might be of interest to other members.

Historic graffiti at the Mill of the Black Monks, Monk Bretton

Some members may remember visiting the Mill of the Black Monks public house and restaurant at Monk Bretton in June 2010 during a day exploring buildings around Barnsley, led by Kevin Illingworth.



Image of a windmill on wooden panelling at the Mill of the Black Monks

More recently, the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership Archaeology and Geology Project organised a graffiti recording exercise and training session at the building, to record historic graffiti carved into the stonework. The project team reports that recording was undertaken using pro-forma sheets and digital photography. The Mill of the Black Monks is a former watermill, originally associated with Monk Bretton Priory. The building appears to date to the seventeenth century, when it was probably rebuilt with stone reused from Monk Bretton House, itself constructed from material reclaimed from the former monastery. A total of twenty-two inscriptions were recorded within the building and eighteen on the exterior. Further graffiti was noted but could not be investigated due to time constraints. The graffiti largely comprises carved names and initials,



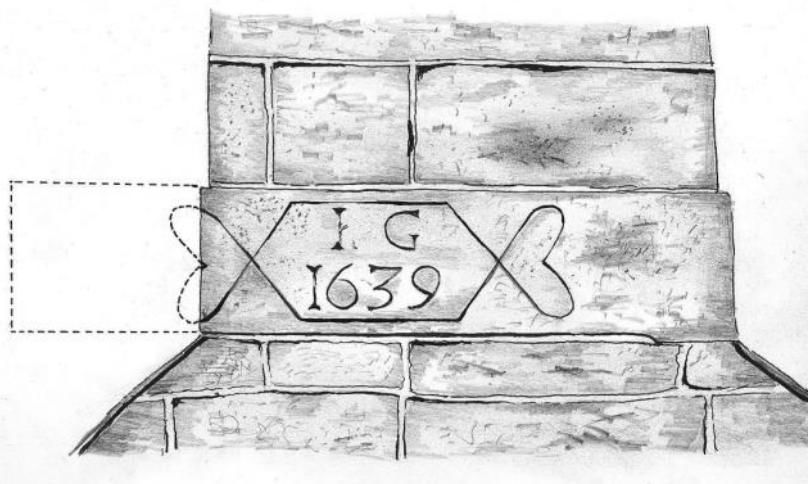
Carving on stone at the Mill of the Black Monks: C. Coward an° 1897

the earliest dated being that of one of the millers, Ralph Taylor, in 1709. The latest dates to 1897. A faint 'butterfly' apotropaic mark on a reused window jamb may have been carved prior to the installation of the window in the mill. The full report can be downloaded from the Archaeology Data Service website at <https://doi.org/10.5284/1076845>.

Lorraine Moor

A recently discovered datestone at the Cross Inn, Heptonstall

During the lockdown I visited Heptonstall many times, as it is only two miles from home. In 1967 (or earlier) Pevsner described the village as 'A very handsome hill village of dark stone houses with all kinds of minor architectural surprises'. During one walkabout I noticed a datestone high up on the right-hand chimney stack of the Cross Inn, seen from Northgate. This street is so narrow that the datestone can only be photographed by zooming in at a steep angle, foreshortening the datestone. It is not mentioned in some of the Heptonstall village trails, including that of 2005. One or two locals know it's there, but are not sure of the date and initials. The village is often visited by historical and architectural groups.



The datestone on the Cross Inn chimney stack

There is a three-storey house opposite the dated chimney stack, the tenant encouraging me to take photographs from an open window on the second floor. The datestone, inscribed 'IG 1639' within a hexagon shaped tressure, has a fishtail at the right end, and the remains of another at the left. More than a quarter of this re-set datestone has been cut off on the left side. As the Cross

Inn was refronted in the early nineteenth century, the datestone could have been a doorhead over the front doorway. (The I or J has eroded a little.)



The date panel on New House, 5 and 7 Northgate

Other lintels with elongated hexagons include Everill Shaw, Heptonstall, where an undated fireplace lintel has triangular fishtails. Wood Top, Hebden Royd, has a door lintel dated 1637, using two hexagons with triangular fishtails. This was seen on one of Peter Thornborrow's walks in 1999. Chantry House, Heptonstall, has a fireplace lintel dated 1635, again using the hexagon (Christmas cracker shape). This was imported from Stocks Springs.

By contrast, another date panel, on New House, 5 and 7 Northgate (now part of the Cross Inn) is easily seen. This decorative panel is dated H E F 1736 (Henry and Elizabeth Foster). Here, the date and initials are raised.

Kevin Illingworth, j.k.illingworth@btinternet.com

An early timber-framed building in Holmfirth

Upper Stubbin, above the village of Hinchliffe Mill near Holmfirth, West Yorkshire, is a grade 2 listed building with its origins, according to the listing report, in the seventeenth century. The lintel above the former main door has the inscription 'RC 1678'.

However, encased in the west gable, concealed within a small lean-to outbuilding and presumably hidden from the listing inspector, are sections of timber framing suggesting a much earlier origin.

The lean-to shown in fig 2 hides from external view a cruck blade on a padstone to the right hand side and an upright of a timber box-frame to the left (fig 2A). The box-frame upright is particularly intriguing as it occupies the position where the

corresponding cruck blade would be expected. This upright, also on its own padstone, retains an original timber brace at 45 degrees at the top of the post. There are also a number of empty mortises on the three visible sides at head height. The form of these mortises, their position and angle of cut suggest two further braces and a horizontal mid-rail running at right angles to the gable (see fig 3). This arrangement of cruck and box framing in conjunction is unusual. Any suggestions of how this framing worked or parallel examples would be gratefully received.



Fig 1. Upper Stubbin from the south with later range to the left. The main doorway has been blocked and a window inserted.



Fig 2. West gable with added lean-to store. The earlier timber framing is behind this structure.



Fig 2A. Sketch of Fig 2 showing position of timber framing.

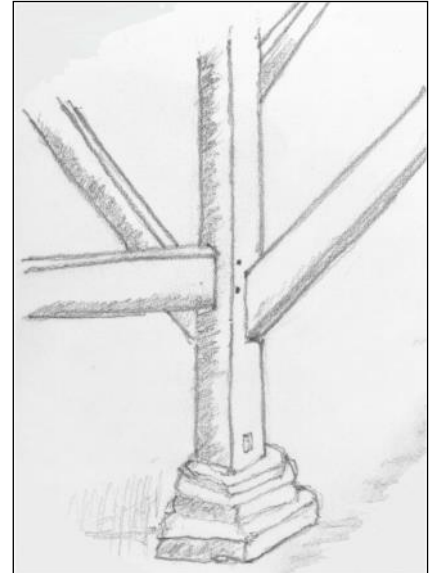


Fig 3. Suggested position of braces and mid-rail based on mortise holes.

Upper Stubbin is on the end of a tongue of land which falls away steeply on three sides some way above but overlooking the valley floor. This type of location is typical of early settlement in these Pennine valleys. The township of Austonley in which Upper Stubbin is located is mentioned in Domesday so the area has a long history of occupation.

The present stone structure, although much altered, appears to be of two main phases. The first stone phase seems to have been of linear form built on the footprint of an earlier timber building and incorporating the timbers in the western gable mentioned above. The main south-facing entrance has the dated lintel of 1678. A second range was added later that century or early in the eighteenth to the south-west creating an L-shaped house over two storeys.



Fig 4. Datestone over south doorway. RC is probably Richard Crossland whose descendants continued to own this land until the mid nineteenth century.

There are a number of other clues, other than the timber framing in the west gable, that may indicate an earlier, perhaps late medieval origin for the building. The south doorway of the main range aligns exactly with the doorway on the north side. This arrangement of doorways and their location approximately one third along the length of the house would be typical of a medieval cross-passage.



Fig 5. Cruck blade on padstone encased in west gable wall.

It is possible that other early timbers are incorporated inside the present structure that may also help with dating.

Cruck-framed houses were concentrated in this area of south-west Yorkshire with box-framing being less frequently encountered and usually reserved for higher status dwellings. Although reused timbers are sometimes found in later stone buildings in this area, the survival of timber framing in-situ is very rare and unusual.

Only a full building survey will help unravel some of this history. Although Upper Stubbin is uninhabited and has planning permission for development into holiday cottages the writer has had no success in trying to obtain permission for such a survey.



Fig 6. Box frame upright sitting on a padstone. Large mortises at head-height are on three of the accessible sides and a wooden brace is still in situ at the top.

Peter Burton, peteraburton@talktalk.net

Some events of possible interest ...

Vernacular Buildings of Craven and Forest of Bowland

Thursday 17 June 2021

A talk by Kevin Illingworth for Malhamdale Local History Group. It is hoped that this will take place with social distancing in Kirkby Malham Village (or Parish) Hall at 7.30pm. Non-members wishing to attend should email mlhgenquiries@gmail.com. Fee £3. Details at www.kirkbymalham.info.

Richmond Castle community dig

July and August 2021

Solstice Archaeology are running a three-week community dig at Richmond Castle during the summer led by Jim Brightman, open to all, no experience necessary. Volunteers should sign up on the Eventbrite page, where more information is available: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/richmond-950-community-archaeology-dig-tickets-151627595219.

The Golden ^{canary Yellow} Lion

In April 2020, the owners of the Grade 2 listed Golden Lion public house, Fielden Square, Todmorden, painted the north gable wall canary yellow, allegedly without permission. It was reported that complaints were made to Calderdale Council, who advised the owners to repaint the wall white again, or face a £20,000 fine or three months' jail. One year later (April 2021), the gable wall has been painted white again. Readers who are viewing this in colour can decide for themselves which they prefer!

This popular mid-eighteenth century pub, next to the Rochdale canal, has often been flooded.

Kevin Illingworth



From the archive: Old Malton

The village of Old Malton lies to the east of Malton on the road to Pickering. The River Derwent flowing from the north on the east side of the village takes a double bend adjacent to the main road, Town Street. South of the bend stood the priory of Gilbertine canons founded here in the twelfth century. Further information about the historical development of the settlement can be found at www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/yorks/north/vol1/pp537-541.

Using the digital map and archive, I have compiled the following list of buildings, recorded by the YVBSG, to tempt you to visit. All the reports are available for members to view or download from the YVBSG website at www.yvbsg.org.uk/reports.html.

Mary Cook



YVBSG 1671: Lantern Cottage, 22 Westgate, Old Malton. Evidence suggests that this was a hearth- or cross-passage plan house.



NYCVBSG 0599: 14 Town Street, Old Malton. There is evidence to suggest this is a cruck cottage dating from the seventeenth century. 'By the west jamb of the backdoor is a padstone that supports a large cruck.'



YVBSG 1668: Little Thatch, 20 Westgate, Old Malton. As the name suggests, the building is constructed of stone with thatch and a single stack.



YVBSG 1175: 34 Town Street, Old Malton. A house that has been remodelled over time to resemble a 'country cottage.'



YVBSG 1174: The Gannock House, Old Malton. There is a Latin inscription above the front door. The house faces away from the street, but the front is visible from the Priory churchyard.



YVBSG 1180: Abbey House, Old Malton. 'Built about 1700 ... The house was a remarkable compromise between the old and the new.' The combination of an H-plan, consistent with a manor house, and an L-shaped new structure. The building is now a residential home and photos are available online; this view can be seen from the Priory churchyard.



YVBSG 1176: Barr Farm, Old Malton (left). 'In overall appearance this is a typical symmetrical, single pile, Georgian house with central doorway and chimney on each gable.'



YVBSG 1173: 18 Town Street, Old Malton. This is thought to be the original building of Archbishop Holgate's School.



Applebye House, Town Street, has not been recorded by the YVBSG but member Kevin Illingworth sketched it during a previous recording weekend. This late eighteenth century house stands out for being of red brick, whilst most nearby buildings are of the local oolitic limestone or calcareous grit.

Firewalls to the fore?

In a recent talk I mentioned in passing the stone walls that appear to have been inserted between timber buildings in Halifax. Although most of the timber buildings were swept away from the centre of the town in the nineteenth century, one survived even the major

rebuilding in the 1970s. This has a stone wall to one side, actually dated 1670. It was pointed out that this was soon after the destructive great fire of London. The only other such wall in the town is shown in an 1860s photograph. Since the talk Malcolm

Birdsall has sent some images of similar walls in France, but I've scanned old images of Halifax to no avail. I was wondering if there are other examples?

David Cant, davidjcant@hotmail.com



Above: the surviving timber-framed building in Halifax, with stone wall dated 1670 to the right.

Left: White Swan, Halifax, shortly before demolition in 1860s. Corbelled fire wall to the right.

Leeds Archive of Vernacular Culture

A new Dialect and Heritage Project is commencing at Leeds University (library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1607/projects/181/dialect_and_heritage). This hasn't yet been launched in its definitive form, but it is expected to incorporate the Leeds Archive of Vernacular Culture, which is an existing website of the University Library's Special Collections Department. The main emphasis is on dialect and folk life but there are some photos of vernacular buildings in the collection, which has now been fully digitised although the process of obtaining permission to make the photos in it available on the website is still in progress. A link to the Leeds Archive of Vernacular Culture can be found on the website mentioned above; you can then search just within that collection. We thank Simon Green for sending details of this new project.

Dating door jambs

The latest Vernacular Architecture Group newsletter (No 80) includes an article on 'Door jambs (and other items) as dating aids' by YVBSG member Richard Hunt, focusing on Yorkshire Dales buildings.

As an affiliated group, the YVBSG receives copies of VAG newsletters and the journal, *Vernacular Architecture*. Please contact Sue Southwell on treasurer@yvbsg.org.uk if you are interested in borrowing these.

A Bolsterton farm

Images (with full report to follow) from a historic building recording by Wessex Archaeology at Yew Tree Farm, Bolsterton, South Yorkshire (seventeenth century and later), can now be viewed on the Archaeology Data Service website at <https://doi.org/10.5284/1084974>.

Many more building reports are available by browsing or searching archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/library.

The smallest window in England?

In the previous Newsheet, Kevin Illingworth highlighted some small windows in Yorkshire, one being a tiny mullion window and others being an attempt to avoid window tax.

However, what is claimed to be the smallest window in England can be found in Yorkshire, next to a carriage entrance at the eighteenth century George Hotel in The Land of Green Ginger, in Hull. This narrow vertical glazed gap between two blocks of ashlar measures about ten inches high by one inch wide, and is said to have been for checking out visitors before admitting them to the courtyard of the older main building of the George Hotel (which no longer exists).

A Google search for something along the lines of 'hull smallest window' will provide some online photographs of this curiosity.

Lorraine Moor

Spot the odd one out!

Whilst sorting out some of my photos I noted the similarities (at least at a superficial level) between these houses in North Yorkshire with exposed timber framing, even taking into account the fact that they have been restored and altered over time. Although the bracing varies in shape (straight, curved, ogee), most of the houses have upward braces from post to wallplate. However, the example south of York – Swallow House in Stillingfleet – has downward bracing from post to rail, which is perhaps more commonly associated with jettied buildings in towns and cities such as York, Scarborough or Whitby. Reports for all these houses can be viewed or downloaded from our digital archive.

Lorraine Moor

- Top: Oak Cottage, Helperby (YVBSG 0034)
 Tudor House and Cottage, Uppleby, Easingwold (YVBSG 0012)
 Brickyard Farm, Holme Green, Appleton Roebuck (YVBSG 0001, recorded as a derelict cottage)
- Middle: Black Bull Cottage, Husthwaite (YVBSG 0092)
 Manor Cottage, Aldborough (YVBSG 1325)
 St John's House, Knaresborough (YVBSG 0039)
- Bottom: Swallow House, Stillingfleet (YVBSG 0505)
 Tudor House, Sowerby (YVBSG 0069)
 Thatched Cottage, Carlton Husthwaite (YVBSG 1885)



Chair: Peter Thornborrow, 3 Mayroyd Mill, Mayroyd Lane, Hebden Bridge HX7 8NY, chairman@yvbbsg.org.uk
Secretary: Mary Cook, 12 Annand Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4ZD, 01325 310114, secretary@yvbbsg.org.uk or enquiries@yvbbsg.org.uk
Membership Secretary: Pat Leggett, 11 Lonsdale Meadows, Boston Spa, W Yorks, LS23 6DQ, membership-secretary@yvbbsg.org.uk
Treasurer: Sue Southwell, 2 Water End, Brompton, Northallerton DL6 2RL, 01609 776863, treasurer@yvbbsg.org.uk
Archivist: David Cook, 12 Annand Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 4ZD, 01325 310114, archivist@yvbbsg.org.uk
Yorkshire Buildings Editorial Team: Tony Berry, Tony Robinson, Beth Shurter, editor@yvbbsg.org.uk
Newsheet, Web and Social Media: Lorraine Moor, 102 Queen Victoria Street, South Bank, York YO23 1HN, newsheet@yvbbsg.org.uk