



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 38

November 2004

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Annual Day School and AGM

Saturday 19 March 2005

To be based on the theme of vernacular buildings in the landscape. Further details and a booking form will be circulated in December/January.

### Annual Recording Conference

Friday 13 to Sunday 15 May 2005

To be held in Uppertong (near Holmfirth) in West Yorkshire. A variety of buildings from different periods will be recorded during the conference. Details and booking form to follow.

### Observation Day in York

2005 – date to be arranged

An opportunity to learn and practise the skill of observation, by exploring the features of a selection of stone, brick and timber buildings in York.

### Richmond Recording Day

2005 – date to be arranged

A recording day to investigate five or six buildings in the historic centre of Richmond.



### Committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday 13 February 2005. If you'd like to raise any matter, or if you have any suggestions for future events, please contact David Crook.

### Yorkshire Buildings

Members will find enclosed with this Newsheet the 2004 edition of *Yorkshire Buildings* – apologies for its lateness! Additional copies are available from the editor for £4 + 75p P&P.

Please do think about writing something for the 2005 edition – all contributions very welcome. The deadline for articles is around the end of December.

### Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet – please do continue to send items of interest!

## Vernacular Buildings and the Church

The Vernacular Architecture Group's winter meeting will be held on 18-19 December 2004 at the Royal Holloway and New Bedford College, Egham, Surrey, and will explore the influence of the Church upon vernacular architecture. Subject to accommodation being available, the YVBSG (as a group affiliated to the VAG) is entitled to send two of its members (not being full members of the VAG) at the normal VAG members' fee of £78 residential or £58 non-residential. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact David Cook before Thursday 18 November.

## Harrison & Hutton still in demand

Still looking for a copy of Harrison and Hutton's elusive *Vernacular Houses in North Yorkshire and Cleveland*? The latest catalogue from Janette Ray Rare and Out of Print Books, 8 Bootham, York YO30 7BL, telephone 01904 623088, features a copy. Described as 'hard to find', it'll set you back £140!

Another copy is on sale for a mere £85 from bookseller John Blanchfield, 5 Stanmore Place, Leeds LS4 2RR, telephone 0113 2742406, email john@blanchfield.demon.co.uk.

Worth writing a letter to Father Christmas, perhaps?

## Welcome, Scots!

The Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group plans to hold its next annual conference not in Scotland as usual, but in Yorkshire! The event will take place in Whitby in April 2005; if anyone is able to offer help or advice, please contact Ronnie Robertson, Heritage Unit, Environmental Services, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AH.

## A reminder to report writers ...

As reported in the April Newsheet, in order to comply with the Data Protection Act, YVBSG reports do not include the name and full address of the owner of a building. Report writers are reminded to enclose these details on a separate sheet when submitting a completed report to archivist Don McLellan, so that Don can send a copy of the report to the owner. Addresses of any recorders who are not YVBSG members should also be included on the sheet so that they may receive copies.

Please also remember to acknowledge the sources of information used in the writing of reports, and to check the copyright of any maps you wish to include (again, see the April Newsheet for further details).

## 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!

### **Pevsner's Buildings of England and Architectural Guide to Leeds**

Thursday 18 November 2004

Talk by Susan Wrathmell, author of the forthcoming Pevsner city guide on Leeds. Organised by Olicana Historical Society as part of the Ilkley Arts Festival. 7.30pm at Church House, Church Street, Ilkley. Enquiries: Maureen Johnson, 01943 609206. Free admission.

### **The Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings**

Thursday 18 November 2004

Talk by Peter Thornborrow to Holme Valley Civic Society. 7.30pm at Holmfirth Civic Hall, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth HD9 3AS. Entrance £1 at the door. Enquiries: telephone 01484 686334 or email clifford.lord@virgin.net.

### **Archaeology in West Yorkshire**

Saturday 20 November 2004

West Yorkshire Archaeology Service annual day school at the Beckett Park Campus, Leeds Metropolitan University. Talks include Peter Thornborrow on *Cruck-framed buildings in West Yorkshire* and Doug Moir on *17th century gable end barns in West Yorkshire* (not to mention Shaun Richardson on the intriguingly-titled *Welcome to the Cheap Seats. Cinema, Sex and Landscape!*). Cost £10 with optional lunch £6.50. For further details phone Linda Birch on 0113 289 8280.

### **Three Villages**

Wednesday 24 November 2004

Calderdale Council walk. Meet Iain Cameron at 10.30am in the new car park at Luddenden Village for a four-and-a-half mile walk focusing on local history. Contact: 01422 393273.

### **Early Farms and Farming in Craven**

Thursday 2 December 2004

Meeting of Skipton and Craven Historical Society, at the Swadford Centre, Swadford Street, Skipton, at 7.30pm. Enquiries: 01756 791067.

### **Aspects of the Vernacular: Dialects and Buildings**

Wednesday 8 December 2004

Local History afternoon seminar at Lancaster University's Centre for North-West Regional Studies. Sessions on 'Dialects in Britain' by Dr Malcolm Petyt and 'Building on Tradition: Lake District vernacular buildings' by Andrew Lowe (Lake District National Park Authority). 2.15pm, fee £2.75. For details, telephone 01524 593770 or see the website [www.lancs.ac.uk/users/cnwr](http://www.lancs.ac.uk/users/cnwr).

### **Life in the Tudor and Stuart Household**

Friday 17 December 2004

Talk by Muriel Tucker to Pontefract and District Archaeological Society. Meet 7.15pm in Pontefract Museum, 5 Salter Row, Pontefract. Guests £1. Enquiries: 01977 619356.

### **Limestone and Limestone Kilns – Their Importance in the Life of Craven and its Landscape**

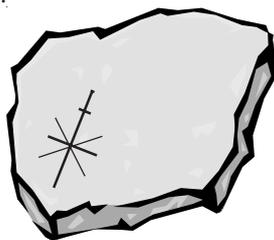
Thursday 3 February 2005

Talk by David Johnson to Skipton and Craven Historical Society. Meet 7.30pm at the Swadford Centre, Swadford Street, Skipton. Enquiries: 01756 791067.

### **History of Stonemasons' Marks**

Thursday 10 February 2005

Talk by Mr W Edmondson to Whalley & District History and Archaeology Society at 8pm in Whalley Abbey, Whalley, Lancashire. Fee £1. For further details email wadhas87@aol.com or contact Chris Ward by phone on 01254 53866.



### **A Plague on that House: Recording one small house in Farnhill, 2000-2004**

Monday 28 February 2005

Talk by Don McLellan to Upper Wharfedale Field Society in Grassington Town Hall, 7.30pm. Enquiries: Hanneke Dye, email a7dye@dye.fsnet.co.uk.

### **Pevsner and Updating "Buildings of the East Riding"**

Friday 18 March 2005

Talk by Dr David Neave to Helmsley Archaeological and Historical Society. 7.30pm at North York Moors National Park Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley. Enquiries: Susan Hall, email busybee@onetel.net.uk, telephone 01439 771874.

### **Northern Houses in History**

Saturday 16 April 2005

A conference at Teesside University, organised jointly by Cleveland and Teesside Local History Society and the Centre for Local Historical Research at the University of Teesside. We hope to bring you further details in a future Newsheet, or, in the meantime, please contact Jacky Quarmby.

### **English Building Craftsmen**

Following on from a very successful day school on 'Craftsmen in timber and stone' held at Kershaw House in Luddenden on 2 October 2004 are two further meetings which are being separately organised, but which pursue a similar overall theme. The aim of the meetings is to encourage an interest in building design at the level of the 'anonymous' craftsman, and the speakers will explore several ways of approaching the subject:

### **Before the Age of the Architect: craftsmen and building design in the sixteenth century**

Saturday 23 April 2005

A day school organised by the Olicana Historical Society in association with the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, to be held in Bolton Abbey Village Hall. Speakers include Richard Morris on Church-building and Church-going in the Sixteenth Century, Maurice Taylor on the Ripon School of Carvers, with additional contributions by Alison Armstrong, Cathy Groves and Arnold Pacey. Includes visits to the tithe barn of Bolton Priory and St Peter's Church, Addingham, followed by an optional walk to see buildings of vernacular character. Fee £15. Booking form and further details from Maureen Johnson, 54 Kings Road, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 9AT, telephone 01943 609206. Early booking recommended!

### **Medieval Architectural Design: interpreting craftsmen's drawings**

Saturday 17 September 2005

A one-day conference organised by the Department of Archaeology, University of York, focusing on examples of inscribed and painted drawings by master masons which survive in cathedrals, churches and domestic medieval buildings. Papers will consider the function of these drawings in architectural design, the production of templates, the management of construction and the process of recording and interpreting these drawings. There will be an opportunity to examine the drawings on the tracing floor of York Minster, including those of the Minster Lady Chapel and the church of St Michael-le-Belfrey, York. Speakers include Jenny Alexander, Stuart Harrison, Christopher Norton, Arnold Pacey and Kirsty Rodwell. Cost: around £18. For further details and a booking form, please contact Dr Kate Giles, Department of Archaeology, University of York, King's Manor, York YO1 7EP or email kfg103@york.ac.uk.

## Learning about ...

### Stone and the Industrial Development of North-West England

Tutors: Fred Broadhurst and John Smith. An outline of sandstones and limestones in the North West, quarrying and mining techniques, and the role of limestone in the industrial development of the North West and of stone in general in the housing of people. Saturday 27 November 2004 from 10am to 4pm at the University of Manchester. Contact Veena Seth, Centre for Continuing Education, 0161 275 3285. Fee £23.

### The Story of English Domestic Vernacular Architecture

Tutor: Warwick Burton. Topics include Roman and Anglo-Saxon dwellings, medieval peasant houses, Tudor and Stuart 'Great Rebuilding', effect of the Industrial Revolution, Victorian middle class villas and working class housing.

10 Thursdays from 6 January 2005, 10.15-12.15, at Deepdale Community Centre, Deepdale Lane, Boston Spa. Enquiries: Enid Wilson, telephone 0113 267 1274.

Or, 10 Mondays from 10 January 2005, 1.45-3.45pm, at Easingwold Parish Church Rooms, Tanpit Lane, Easingwold. Enquiries: Elisabeth Dunnett, telephone 01347 821149.

### Historic Documents

Tutor: Dr Mary Higham. These stand-alone courses will introduce different ways of looking at historic documents in local/family history research, and in landscape work.

- *Tithe Apportionments Documents*. Friday 4 February 2005, 10am-4pm, £24.
- *Not only Births, Deaths & Marriages – Another look at Parish Registers*. Friday 4 March 2005, 10am-4pm, £24.
- *Early Taxation Documents – More interesting than you might think*. Friday 22 April 2005, 10am-4pm, £24.

Contact: Alston Hall, Alston Lane, Longridge, Preston PR3 3BP, telephone 01772 784661, website [www.alstonhall.com](http://www.alstonhall.com).

### Elizabethan and Jacobean Houses

Tutor: Dianne Barre. The course will focus on Chastleton House, Oxfordshire, looking at the architects, patrons, styles and European influences in the period, including detail such as plasterwork, panelling, wallpaintings, furnishings. Includes a visit to Chastleton House. Friday 6 to Sunday 8 May 2005. Price: non-residential £125, residential £160-£175. For a brochure, contact Farncombe Estate Adult Learning Centre, Broadway, Worcestershire WR12 7LJ, telephone 0845 230 8590, website [www.farncombeestate.co.uk](http://www.farncombeestate.co.uk).

### Houses and Homesteads of North Yorkshire

A holiday exploring the vast treasure houses of the gentry and nobility and the humble thatched cottages of the poor and yeoman freeman. Includes a Whitby Town Trail, visits to some places off the tourist track, and a look at country houses in Sleights, Aislaby across the valley, and the better known Shandy Hall (not October), and Duncombe Park and Hall. Tuesday 10 May 2005 for 4 nights (£349) or Friday 7 October 2005 for 3 nights (£249). Accommodation at Larpool Hall, near Whitby. Enquiries: HF Holidays, telephone 020 8905 9556, or see website [www.hfholidays.co.uk](http://www.hfholidays.co.uk).

### Lindum Heritage

Lindum Heritage, the Lincoln-based company offering weekend courses with an historical or archaeological focus, have published their course programme for 2005. Bookings are now being taken for weekend breaks, which include The Hidden Churches and Chapels of Lincolnshire on 15-17 April, The Archaeology and History of Lincoln on 17-19 June, Deserted Medieval Villages on 16-18 September, and The Wonderful Windmills of Lincolnshire on 21-23 October. Further details from website [www.lindumheritage.co.uk](http://www.lindumheritage.co.uk) or telephone 01522 851388.

## Watch out for mobile homes!

From time to time, we've published warnings about the potential traps into which those who record vernacular buildings may fall. The Sunday Times on 25 July 2004 reported another of these pitfalls – the thriving business of, literally, moving homes!

The reasons for wanting to physically move a building are various. Some people move their home out of necessity, such as the decommissioned Belle Tout lighthouse near Beachy Head (now a home) which was moved fifty-six feet with the aid of hydraulic rams and greased tracks when it was in danger of falling into the sea. Other buildings were dismantled and rebuilt several miles away when the Channel Tunnel Rail Link was due to cut through their original site in Kent.

More controversially perhaps, the Sunday Times highlights a growing sector of housebuyers who, dissatisfied with what is on offer, find a building they love, buy it and then move it to a new plot. One such buyer dismantled a 16th century Suffolk barn and re-erected



it some 120 miles away in Surrey as his family home; his home now comprises eight buildings from all over the home counties. He subsequently set up a business selling timber frames ([www.antiquebuildings.com](http://www.antiquebuildings.com)), whose current stock includes a 17th century Hereford barn and an 18th century Hampshire granary.

This practice undoubtedly results in the loss of integrity of buildings, but it can be argued that it has been going on to some extent for hundreds of years – the Easington Tithe Barn in Holderness, for instance, recorded by the YVBSG in 1997, is thought to have been constructed from two completely different timber frames from unknown locations!

## Other groups

Groups which have recently published appeals for new members include:

### Historic Farm Buildings Group

The HFBG was founded in 1985 for those concerned with the past, present and future of historic farm buildings. It recognises their importance as evidence for past farming systems and more generally for the life and work of our ancestors. Membership costs £15 per year – contact Jill Betts, Museum of English Rural Life, Rural History Centre, University of Reading, Whiteknights, PO Box 229, Reading, Berkshire RG6 2AG, email [jillbetts@btinternet.com](mailto:jillbetts@btinternet.com).

### Ancient Monuments Society

The AMS was founded in 1924 for the study and conservation of ancient monuments, historic buildings and fine old craftsmanship. Membership costs £18 per year and entitles you to regular newsletters and an annual *Transactions*. Details from Ancient Monuments Society, St Ann's Vestry Hall, 2 Church Entry, London EC4V 5HB, or see [www.ancientmonumentsociety.org.uk](http://www.ancientmonumentsociety.org.uk).

## Some recent (or forthcoming) publications

*The Vernacular Workshop: From Craft to Industry, 1400-1900* (CBA Research Report 140) edited by P S Barnwell, Marilyn Palmer and Malcolm Airs. Hardcover 170 pages, due to be published by Council for British Archaeology in October 2004, ISBN 1902771451, £17.50. This research report will examine the material evidence for the historical development, architectural characteristics and diverse uses of vernacular workshops. Up to the mid-19th century a large proportion of industrial output was not produced in the large, impressive buildings associated with the famous industrialists – but in small buildings built in local architectural styles that blended into the environment. The chapters of this volume look at the vernacular workshop as both a building type and as a workplace. They also analyse the significance of workshops for the industrial economy and processes of the 18th and 19th centuries, and present the findings of recording programmes carried out to document and evaluate the physical remains. Further details from the Council for British Archaeology, St Mary's House, 66 Bootham, York YO30 7BZ, telephone 01904 671417.

'Archaeological Recording at Village Farm Barn' by Ed Dennison and Shaun Richardson, in *The Ryedale Historian*, No.22, 2004-2005, published by Helmsley Archaeological and Historical Society (editor Mrs Carol Colbourne, telephone 01347 868253).

*English Village Architecture* by RJ Brown. 320 pages, July 2004, Robert Hale Ltd, ISBN 0709064470, £25. Illustrated with pen-and-ink drawings by the author, this publication looks at the social, geological and architectural history behind the structure of English villages, and examines how industries, urbanization, transport and changing traditions have influenced how we have been using and designing our buildings over the centuries. The book covers all manner of buildings, from churches, inns and shops, to maltings, watermills and lock-ups, as well as lesser structures such as wells, pumps and stocks, all of which provide valuable information on what life was like in centuries gone by.

*You've Been Timber-Framed* by Paula Sunshine. Aimed at existing and potential owners, the book covers the purchase, care and repair of timber-framed buildings. £12.99 including p&p from Barry Harber Public Relations, Hill's Farm, Bury Road, Lawshall, Suffolk IP29 4PJ, telephone 01284 830492 (cheques payable to House Mouse).

## Friendly visits!

The Friends of the Historic Houses Association organise regular visits to historic houses in the locality and elsewhere, including those not normally open to the public. Forthcoming visits include:

Monday 6 December 2004: Hall I' Th' Wood near Bolton (late 15th century) and Hall O' Th' Hill, Chorley, Lancashire (17th/18th century). Includes Christmas lunch.

Thursday 9 December 2004: Christmas lunch at Winnington Hall, Winnington, Northwich, Cheshire (partly timber-framed).

Tuesday 12 April 2005: Low Fold Hall in Liversedge (a 1629 yeoman's house) and Longley Old Hall in Huddersfield.

For details of becoming a Friend, contact the Membership Department on 01462 896688 or see website [www.hha.org.uk](http://www.hha.org.uk). Single membership costs £32 per year, double membership £50. Non-Friends can also join a visit by being the guest of a Friend, if you happen to know one!

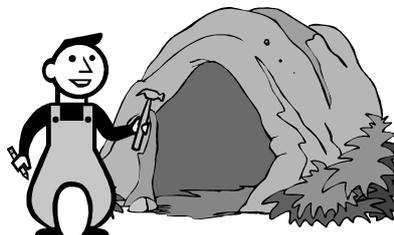
## Digging around in the archives

If you'd like to do more to help protect historic sites in West Yorkshire, would like to find out more about local history and archaeology, and can spend a day a week in Wakefield, the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service Advisory Service has a limited number of places available for volunteers to help improve record holdings on the archaeological sites of the county. The Sites and Monuments Record holds huge amounts of information, but it all needs to be ordered and referenced to be accessible and useful, and a large amount of information still has to be assimilated into the systems. If you are interested in helping (guidance and training will be provided), please ring Ian Sanderson on 01924 306801 to find out more.

## Alternative housing construction

As a third-year student studying Interior Architecture and Design at Nottingham Trent University, I am currently researching my dissertation about alternative forms of housing construction in my local area, Otley in Wharfedale.

There are new 'run of the mill' developments being proposed and built across the local valley. As a design alternative, I would be grateful to hear any ideas or reservations that YVBSG members may have regarding the possibilities of Earth Shelter Design and its impact on local vernacular architecture.



Arthur Quarmby's well documented Earth Shelter, 'Underhill', in Huddersfield was realised in the mid seventies and is almost entirely subterranean. Are you aware of the existence of this project and any of the vernacular issues surrounding it?

In terms of new builds for the future where many modern buildings offer little regional variation, do you feel that this form of home could be a way of integrating buildings with their local surroundings?

What is your opinion of building underground or using soil as a constructional element?

Many thanks for your time. Any comments from YVBSG members gratefully received.

Mark Brear, 138 St Davids Road, Otley, West Yorkshire LS21 2RQ, email [moorky2000@yahoo.com](mailto:moorky2000@yahoo.com)

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