



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 46

November 2006

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

Vernacular Buildings on Yorkshire's Borders

Saturday 10 March 2007

At this day school, to be held again at Leeds Metropolitan University Headingley Campus, we shall venture beyond Yorkshire's boundaries to explore the vernacular buildings to be found in surrounding areas and to compare (and contrast) them with those of our county. A booking form is enclosed with this Newsheet.

The YVBSG will hold its AGM immediately after the day school as usual.

Annual Recording Conference 2007

Friday 18 to Sunday 20 May 2007

The weekend recording conference will take place in Slaidburn, where we shall be surveying some of the buildings seen during our visit in July. Further details early next year.

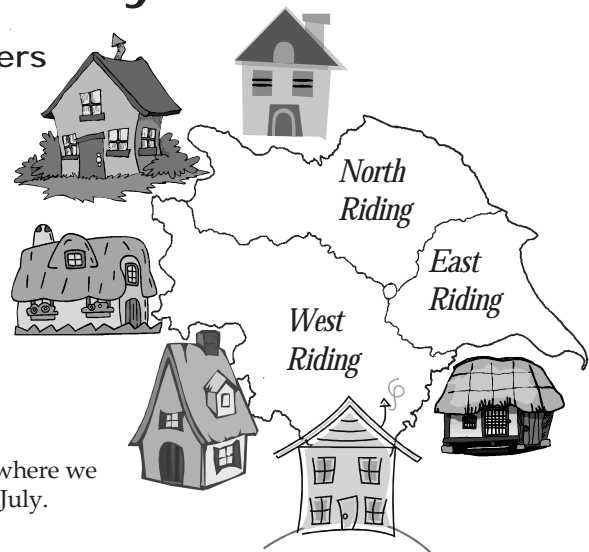
Craftsmen and Vernacular Buildings: Masons, Carpenters and Plasterers

Saturday 15 September 2007 (repeated on 20 October 2007)

A day school in Upper Wharfedale organised by Arnold Pacey and David Cant, with tours of Kilnsey Old Hall and houses in Conistone. Details in the new year.

In the pipeline ...

Other events for 2007 will be advertised in future Newsheets when finalised.



Membership renewal

Membership fees for 2007 become due on 1 January. We hope that you will renew your membership by returning the enclosed form to Jacky Quarmby at your earliest convenience, and we wish all members a very happy new year!

Thank you!

Our thanks go to ...

- Barry Harrison for leading a most enjoyable walk in the Danby area in September (and for managing not to lose anybody in the head-high bracken);
- Don McLellan for organising a very useful and interesting conference review day in Reeth in September;
- Tish Lawson for arranging an excellent visit to the West Yorkshire Archive Service in October.

A new YVBSG email list

The Group intends to set up an email list for such purposes as informing members of opportunities to get involved in recording buildings, or circulating details of relevant events between Newsheets. If you would like to join this list, please send an email message to David Crook (yvbsgenquiries@btinternet.com) with 'YVBSG email list' as the subject line. If you do not currently have access to email, your local library may offer free facilities.

Next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday 11 February 2007. If you'd like to raise any matter please contact David Crook.

Calling budding archivists

Sadly, our admirable Archivist for the past ten years, Don McLellan, is now considering retiring from this position because of other commitments. Are there any members who might be interested in taking over this role, or perhaps part of the role if it were to be split into two posts? If so, or if you'd like a chat about what the job involves, please contact David Cook. A significant perk is that you have easy access to all the Group's reports!

Yorkshire Buildings 2005, 2006 and 2007!

All those who were members in 2005 should now have received a copy of *Yorkshire Buildings* 2005. Extra copies are available for £4.75 (including postage) from Lorraine Moor – cheques payable to YVBSG. *Yorkshire Buildings* 2006 is now in production and will appear in the new year. The 2007 edition is still at the planning stage and contributions would be most welcome!

Some recent publications

Houses and the Hearth Tax: the later Stuart house and society edited by Paul Barnwell and Malcolm Airs. CBA Research Report 150, 2006, ISBN 1902771656, 180pp, £17.50 (but available at the bargain price of £12.32 with free delivery from www.bookdepository.co.uk/). The Hearth Tax (1662-89) was a property tax, assumed to approximate to the householders' wealth, measured by the number of their fireplaces. This book is the first systematically to use the Hearth Tax data to develop a better understanding of vernacular building in the 17th century at a county level – looking at how the buildings of various social classes differed, as well as the regional variation in new building, and differences between town and country. The authors trace developments in fireplace design, introduction of new building materials, correlation between the number of hearths and social status,

as well as arrangements for cooking and levels of heating. This book relates physical and documentary evidence to provide the most complete picture yet of Stuart housing and society in England. A case study of the East Riding is provided by Susan and David Neave, and of the West Riding by Colum Giles.



Historic Farmsteads. Preliminary Character Statement: Yorkshire and the Humber Region. Published August 2006 by the University of Gloucestershire in association with English Heritage and the Countryside Agency. One of a series of documents providing information on the characteristics of traditional farm buildings in various regions, which can be viewed and downloaded at www.helm.org.uk/ruraldevelopment (follow the 'Historic Farmsteads' link). Contains useful facts on building materials, agricultural history, farmstead types and building types, with regional examples explained in the national context.

Villages of Vision

At the YVBSG day school on estate villages held in 2004, Gillian Darley, author of *Villages of Vision*, the pioneering publication on planned communities (Architectural Press 1975, ISBN 0851397050), mentioned that a revised version of the book with an updated gazetteer would be published by Five Leaves during 2007.

Gillian is looking for good examples of complete estate or other villages that may have been omitted from the first edition of the gazetteer (but not garden suburbs or clusters of estate cottages unless, perhaps, they are of great architectural interest).

The first edition of the gazetteer included the following entries for Yorkshire:

- **East Riding:**
Brantingham; Sledmere; Thixendale; Wansford; West Ella; Howsham; Hull Garden Suburb; Langton; Settrington; Sunk Island.
- **North Riding:**
Baldersby St James and Baldersby; Brandsby; Bulmer; Coneysthorpe; Dormanstown; Hackness; Kirby Misperton; Newby Wiske; North Ormesby; Ravenscar; Rosedale; East Rounton; Thirkleby; East Witton; New Earswick.
- **West Riding:**
Abbeydale Hamlet, Sheffield; Akroyden, Halifax; Bolton-by-Bowland; Carlton-in-Balne; Copley; Fulneck; Harewood; Cubley Garden Village, Penistone; Ripley; Saltaire; Shaftesbury Square, Rotherham; West Hill Park, Halifax; Wincobank Estate, Sheffield; Whitwood; Woodlands, Doncaster.

Please send suggestions for additions by email to gmdarley@hotmail.com with 'Villages of Vision' as the subject line, with a brief description of the village. If you don't have access to email please send your suggestions by post to Lorraine Moor, who will forward them to Gillian.

Gillian apologises for being unable to write up her talk at the day school for *Yorkshire Buildings* due to other pressing commitments.

Some thoughts ...

A primary purpose of this letter is to commend to all members of YVBSG Maurice Barley's book, *The English Farmhouse And Cottage* (Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1972), the most scholarly, encyclopaedic and detailed account of vernacular stone buildings of a certain class and time which – *pace* your good selves – has never been improved upon or added to. It is required reading for all vernacular archaeologists north of the Trent, but there may be a limit to the amount of recording and cataloguing of building elements of a certain period without repetition.

Secondly, and this need not be so important to some vernacular archaeologists in the stone belt, as far as stone buildings are concerned of any aesthetic pretension, many of the halls in Lancashire (it is now becoming clear) are a good deal older than much of the stone cladding which we routinely see. You could say, 'Inside every stone building there is a timber-framed building trying to get out', suggesting that many halls are a good deal older than they look and of more importance perhaps.

Stone is an indicator, par excellence, of the Industrial Revolution in Lancashire – now a passing phenomenon – and thus an architectural marker of the most significant era of British history.

Denton Local History Society embraces an inspired officer who has reconstructed as a scale model the whole building history of Denton Hall in Lancashire, Tameside, or Greater Manchester County before 1974, as a timber-framed building, instructive for all students of vernacular architecture and timber-framed buildings.

However beautiful Lancashire's halls may be – as a connoisseur, they are – none are symmetrical and all are agglutinative: beyond the mere cataloguing and recording of design elements they may afford less stress and more history if they are viewed as individually architectural status symbols – or whims.

We still know next to nothing of building contractors in the North of England in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (an anachronism, I confess), but more time spent in Wakefield or Preston Record Offices will make our stone legacy infinitely more important and more significant.

Charles Walker

Learning more ...

A selection of courses on offer during the spring and summer terms:

Delving into Archives

Tutor: Marion Moverley. For those interested in family or local history or investigating the history of a building. Learn where to find documentary sources and how to interpret them.

Three Thursdays from 11 January 2007, 7-9pm at the Memorial Hall, Middleton Tyas, Richmond. Enquiries: Daphne Carter (WEA), 8 Kneeton Park, Middleton Tyas, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 6SB, telephone 01325 377786.

Discovering Timber-framed Buildings

Tutor: Graham Beaumont. Everything that you want to know about timber-framed buildings, including great houses, inns, cottages and barns from Kent to North Yorkshire.

Ten Thursdays from 11 January 2007, 10am to noon at Grimsby Education Centre, Anage Road, Grimsby. Enquiries: Josephine Mary Hall (WEA), 35 Marshall Avenue, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN34 4AG, telephone 01472 345565.

The Old Inns and Taverns of Preston

Tutor: Stephen Sartin. It used to be said in Victorian times that there was 'no bad beer in Preston, only degrees of goodness!'. This one-day course will trace the history of the old inns and beer-houses of Preston, some of which still exist.

Monday 22 January 2007 at Alston Hall, Alston Lane, Longridge, Preston PR3 3BP, telephone 01772 784661, web www.alstonhall.com.

Earth as a Building Material

The aim is to cover some of the traditions in the British Isles and other countries; options for repair and conservation will be presented; with hands-on practical work.

Monday 29 to Wednesday 31 January 2007. Fee £285. Details from Pam Ward, Department of Archaeology, University of York, The King's Manor, York YO1 7EP, telephone 01904 433963, web www.york.ac.uk/depts/arch/Professional.htm.

Brick, Terracotta and Tiles

Aims to present the varied historic use of burnt clay in building cultures; to explore decay mechanisms and conservation and repair; and to investigate the use of ceramic building materials in York.

Monday 5 to Wednesday 7 February 2007. Fee £285. Details from Pam Ward, University of York, as above.

Building Materials of the North York Moors

Tutor: Richard Myerscough. This course explores the many building stones of the North York Moors. Includes identification of building stones and the geology of the North York Moors.

Four Thursdays from 1 March 2007, 2-4pm at University of Hull's Scarborough Campus, plus two field trips. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Hull, 49 Salmon Grove, Hull HU6 7SX, telephone 01482 466100, email cll@hull.ac.uk/cll.

Follies and Curiosities of Town and Country – Northwest

Tutor: David Brandon. White Nancy near Macclesfield, a Moorish laundry at Knutsford, a mock castle at Abergele, the Ashton Memorial at Lancaster, Sister's Folly at Ormskirk, Liverpool Castle at Rivington. The towns and the countryside of North-West England and North Wales are rich in quirky buildings and other curiosities, but just what is a folly? The tutor, a member of the Folly Fellowship, will bring together local history, architecture, social history and topography in a lively and informative way.

Friday 2 to Sunday 4 March 2007 at Burton Manor, The Village, Burton, Neston, Cheshire, CH64 5SJ, telephone 0151 336 5172, web www.burtonmanor.com. Fee: residential ensuite £174, residential standard £164, non-residential £120.

Tracing the History of Houses

Tutor: Robert David. How to start investigating the history of houses and the people who lived there.

Two Saturdays from 19 May 2007, 10am-3pm at Reeth Primary School, Silver Street, Reeth. Enquiries: Janet Bishop (WEA), Hill Top Farm, Arkengarthdale, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 6RR, telephone 01748 884854, email jbilltop@hotmail.com.

Geology of Yorkshire Wold Churches

Tutor: Richard Myerscough. Study the building stones of Wolds churches and their source quarries. Provides the opportunity to study the building stones in situ and handle specimens, and to research the history of the churches.

Four Wednesdays from 6 June 2007, 2-4pm at University of Hull's Scarborough Campus, plus two field trips. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Hull, as above.

Dendrochronology project update

The Dendrochronology Working Group continues its investigations and is currently considering funding dendrochronological surveys of two buildings to get the project started, before proceeding to a more strategic programme of dendro-dating. If anyone knows a building that might be a suitable candidate for this programme (around 60 tree rings are needed to date a sample), please contact David Crook.

Dendro-dating does not come cheap, and if the project is to go ahead we shall need to identify possible sources of external funding. If anyone has experience of fund-raising and is willing to help, please contact David Crook.

Dendrochronology can be carried out manually to a certain degree, and Alison Armstrong would be pleased to hear from anyone who has managed to secure a section of timber containing 60 or more rings from any building!

Drawing the line

Still looking for that perfect drawing pen? The Pilot G-TEC C4 rollerball pen has been recommended to us by a professional architect. It has a 0.4mm nib which gives a drawing line of 0.2mm, and comes in various colours, which makes it useful for annotating field sketches. Cost: around £2.50.

And the winner is ...

As reported in Newsheet No 43, Barry Harrison gave to the Group a pristine copy of his and Barbara Hutton's book on *Vernacular Buildings in North Yorkshire and Cleveland*, and we thank him for this kind donation. The committee decided to auction the book to raise funds for purchasing equipment or producing publications, and an invitation for bids was duly published at the end of last year. Initially no bids were received, but a reminder was subsequently circulated in April 2006 and two bids were received, the higher being from Cath Small. The book is therefore awarded to Cath and we wish her many happy hours of browsing!

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!

Looking at Halifax

Until 28 January 2007

Art exhibition at Halifax Visitor Centre and Art Gallery, Piece Hall. Maps, paintings and photographs chart Halifax's progress from medieval market town to the place it is today. Open 10am-5pm Tuesday-Saturday and 11am-5pm Sunday. Enquiries: 01422 358300.

The Sykes Family of Sledmere and their buildings on the Yorkshire Wolds

Wednesday 13 December 2006

Talk by Dr David Neave to Bishop Wilton Local History Group at 7.30pm in the village hall, Bishop Wilton. Enquiries: query@bishopwilton.com.

Christmas at Shibden Hall, Halifax

Sunday 17 December 2006

See Shibden Hall decked with holly and ivy, listen to live Christmas music and storytelling, or try your hand at making traditional decorations. 12noon to 4pm. Enquiries: 01422 352246.

Longley Old Hall Open Days

Wednesday 27 to Saturday 30 December 2006

The hall, complete with Tudor-style Christmas decorations, is open for guided tours on these days. To make reservations telephone 01484 430852. Website www.longleyoldhall.co.uk.

Restoration of Gayle Mill, Hawes

Saturday 6 January 2007

Talk by John Cumberland to the Yorkshire Archaeological Society's Industrial History Section at 11am at YAS, Claremont, Clarendon Road, Leeds, telephone 0113 245 7910.

Helmsley, Rievaulx and Duncombe Park: an estate through 1000 years

Monday 8 January 2007

Talk by Chris Dunn to Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society at 7.30pm in the Concert Room, Central Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. Enquiries: 01723 354237 or see www.scarborough-heritage.org.

Place Names, Surnames and First Names

Wednesday 10 January 2007

Talk by George Redmonds to Hebden Bridge Local History Society (£2 non-members) at 7.30pm at Methodist Hall, Market Street, Hebden Bridge. Enquiries: Brian Hoyle, 7 Godley Close, Rishworth, Sowerby Bridge, or see www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk.

Tours of the Turkish Baths, Harrogate

Wednesdays 24 January, 21 February, 21 March, 25 April, 16 May 2007

Harrogate Museums and Arts offer free tours of the Turkish Baths in Harrogate (perhaps not at all vernacular, but still an splendid Yorkshire building!). The Baths re-opened in 2004 following extensive restoration work. Tours at 10am and 11am. To book, telephone Harrogate Museums and Arts on 01423 556188.

Nikolaus Pevsner – The buildings of Leeds

Thursday 1 February 2007

Talk by Sue Wrathmell to Skipton and Craven Historical Society. 7.30pm at the Swadford Centre, Swadford Street, Skipton. Non-members £2. Enquiries: 01756 792067.

Tree Rings – from absolute dating to mythology

Friday 2 February 2007

Talk by Mike Baillie to Huddersfield and District Archaeological Society. 7.45pm at Town Hall, Ramsden Street, Huddersfield. Non-members £2.50. Enquiries: 01484 511400, web www.huddarch.org.uk.

Tour of the Hotel de Ville, Ripley

Wednesday 14 February 2007

Discover the history of the building in the context of the village and the Ingilby family as well as the history of the Ripley Mechanics and Literary Institute and the usage of the Hotel de Ville over the last 150 years. View slides showing the recent refurbishment before seeing the work first-hand. Tours at 2pm and 3.30pm, £2.50. To book, telephone Harrogate Museums and Arts on 01423 556188. Web www.harrogate.gov.uk/immediacy-2588.

Medieval Wakefield, 1100-1600

Friday 16 February 2007

Talk by John Goodchild to Pontefract and District Archaeological Society. Meet at 7.15pm in Pontefract Museum, 5 Salter Row, Pontefract. Guests £1. Enquiries: 01977 618327.

Quarrying – evidence of medieval (and earlier?) stone extraction

Saturday 24 February 2007

Yorkshire Archaeological Society day school led by Steve Moorhouse, with an introductory session at Claremont and an afternoon field visit. Enquiries: 0113 245 7910.

The impact of the extractive industries on the Yorkshire landscape

Saturday 3 March 2007

Conference at University of Bradford organised by PLACE. Offers of papers/posters would be welcome – please contact George Sheeran, email G.Sheeran3@bradford.ac.uk, telephone 01274 233224.

Half-timbered houses in the North-West

Thursday 15 March 2007

Talk by Derek de Maine to Skipton and Craven Historical Society. 7.30pm at the Swadford Centre, Swadford Street, Skipton. Non-members £2. Enquiries: 01756 792067.



Craftsmen of Beverley Minster – A Continuing Tradition

Saturday 17 March 2007

A day school organised on behalf of the Friends of Beverley Minster by Paul Barnwell, Arnold Pacey and David Cant, to be held in the Parish Room, Minster Yard North, Beverley, 10am-4.30pm. Talks include 'Medieval masons' by Jenny Alexander, 'Eighteenth-century craftsmen' by Paul Barnwell, 'Sculptors in the Minster' by Nicholas Dawton, and 'The present-day craftsmen' by Ian Stewart. Tours will examine the roof carpentry and treadwheel hoist, the sculpture at the east end and in the nave, and masons' marks. Fee £12 (including refreshments but not lunch). To obtain a booking form please send an A5 SAE to David Cant, 3 Middle Hathershelf, Luddendenfoot, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX2 6JQ or email David on davidjcant@hotmail.com. This day school is one of a series looking at building craftsmen in Yorkshire which will include the YVBSG day in Upper Wharfedale in September 2007.

Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. Please send items for the February newsheet to the editor by 31 January 2007.