



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 50

November 2007

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

New light on some Yorkshire buildings – recent reports and dendro dating

Saturday 26 January 2008

The Tithe Barn at Nether Poppleton, near York, will be the venue for our first event of the new year. We hope you will come along and hear about some of the more significant or unique buildings recorded lately by the Group. In the morning we shall be given a guided tour of the village by members of the Poppleton History Society. The programme of presentations for the afternoon has not yet been finalised but will be published on the YVBSG website as speakers are confirmed. A booking form is enclosed with this Newsheet.

Timber Framed Vernacular Buildings in Yorkshire

Saturday 8 March 2008

At the annual day school, to be held again this year at Leeds Metropolitan University Headingley Campus, we shall take a long overdue look at the historical, constructional and other aspects of Yorkshire's timber-framed vernacular buildings. A booking form is enclosed with this Newsheet.

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

Visit to Midgley and Luddenden

Sunday 13 April 2008

A whole day event led by David Cant, looking at buildings in and around the Calderdale villages of Luddenden and Midgley. Full details to follow.

Annual Recording Conference 2008

Friday 16 to Sunday 18 May 2008

The recording conference next May is being organised by Malcolm Birdsall and will be based in Burnsall in the Yorkshire Dales. Details to follow.

A walk around Thornton-le-Dale

Sunday 22 June 2008

A walk around Thornton-le-Dale, on the edge of the North York Moors, led by Barry Harrison. Details to follow.

Visit to Rotherham and district

No date is yet available for this visit to the Rotherham area, led by Peter Thornborrow, which was publicised in the last Newsheet. Provisional places have all been taken but if you'd like to be added to the waiting list, please contact Malcolm Birdsall, telephone 01943830460, email malcolm@brhc.co.uk.

Our thanks go to ...

- Arnold Pacey and David Cant for organising the two excellent study days on *Craftsmen in a Northern Landscape: Masons, Carpenters and Plasterers* in September and October. Arnold's research resulted in a fascinating illustrated publication, *A Historical Directory of Some Building Craftsmen in Upper Wharfedale*, which covers the period 1550 to 1800 and identifies craftsmen who worked on specific buildings or villages, and includes drawings of masons' marks. To obtain a copy, please send a cheque for £2 (payable to *Arnold Pacey*) to Arnold Pacey, 8 North Street, Addingham, Ilkley, West Yorkshire LS29 0QY.
- Kevin Illingworth and David Cook for arranging a useful and enjoyable conference review day in Slaidburn in September which helped us to understand much more about the buildings recorded in May.



Next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday 3 February 2008. If you'd like to raise any matter or suggest any events please contact David Crook.

We wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all members!

Dendrochronology Project Update

On 5 November 2007, Ian Tyers of Sheffield University visited Glebe Farm, Octon, and Delves Cottage, Egton, to take some core samples for dendrochronological dating. At Glebe Farm Ian got some good cores from both the cruck trusses, helped by the presence of plenty of sapwood. The timber was confirmed to be oak and it is likely that a date will be obtained.

The cores taken from Delves Cottage were more problematic and present a 50:50 chance of being dateable.

We keep our fingers crossed for a successful result for both cruck-framed buildings!

Malton and Ryedale Stone Conservation and Repair Day

One of the joys of being a member of the YVBSG is not only meeting similar-minded individuals, but also the newsletter. One of the events it mentioned was the *Malton and Ryedale Stone Conservation and Repair Day*. This took place mid-week in late September. It brought together various organisations, including Craven College who offered a wide range of schemes and provided full-time training courses, with qualifications in various trades.

One of the speakers, Nigel Copsey, will be familiar to many of us for his forthright views and principles, rooted in the SPAB tradition. He has worked and still is working on various properties belonging to the Fitzwilliam Estate, who were the lunchtime hosts for the event. Nigel spoke for most of the morning sessions, illustrating his talk with methods and buildings from around Europe, ending with a discussion on various treatments for surfaces.



Sam Baxter is a freelance stonemason and in his quiet way illustrated the problems he had to tackle in stone replacement, not all of them physical – some involved architects' egos! A stimulating question and answer session brought together various tradespeople and owners of older properties. One had ample opportunity to question the experts. An outside BBQ allowed one to see yet another of

Malton's hidden, and lost, former gardens, in a sad state of disrepair.

The afternoon brought forth a wide range of practical demonstrations including brick repair, stone replacement and, yes, everyone's favourite, limewash. The whole event was backed up with a pack of very extensive notes and follow-up references, and at £50 was very good value for money.

Adrian Bailey

More of Malton's secrets revealed

More of Malton's hidden past was revealed during a visit organised by the Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group on Saturday 10 November. After a morning exploring the quarries at Hildenley, which seem to have supplied high quality building stone from Roman times until the nineteenth century, we were given a fascinating guided tour by the above-mentioned Nigel Copsey around York House in Yorkersgate, a multiperiod building currently under restoration by the Fitzwilliam Estate. The little gems on view included a floor of flagstones laid in a decorative pattern dating from 1630; the use of mud mortar; seventeenth century panelling; ongoing thermoluminescence dating of bricks by Durham University; roof timbers dating back to 1377-1520; and a splendid staircase and kitchen fireplace which may have been relocated from Malton Priory in 1684. The group was then led down into the medieval vaulted undercrofts which lie below the Talbot Hotel. These are currently being studied by the University of York Archaeology Department, who have dated them to the fifteenth century and earlier. Sadly, one of the most impressive of these undercrofts, with a vaulted ceiling springing at one side from a fireplace and supported by a central pillar, now suffers the indignity of serving as the boiler house for the hotel.

Lorraine Moor

Vernacular Buildings and Vernacular Crafts

Another event advertised in the last Newsheet was a study day on *Vernacular Building Materials* on Sunday 21 October, organised by the York Community Archaeologist, Jon Kenny. This free event took place in the apposite surroundings of the sixteenth-century timber-framed Poppleton Tith Barn near York. On booking, it was found that the title of the day had changed to *Vernacular Buildings and Vernacular Crafts*, and it was traditional building skills which formed the focus of the day, rather than the original building materials themselves.

Dr Peter Goldsborough of the University of York Archaeology Department kicked off the proceedings with a guide to what is and what isn't a vernacular building, even attempting to explain Brunskill's theories on the vernacular threshold (Brunskill RW, *Illustrated Handbook of Vernacular Architecture*).

Martin Stancliffe, Chairman of the York Consortium for Conservation and Craftsmanship, then gave an overview of that organisation which comprises an association of people involved in the conservation of the cultural, historic and artistic heritage of the area (www.conservationyork.org.uk).

The rest of the day was filled by talks and demonstrations from five companies, all members of the Consortium, who offer specialist skills and craftsmanship.

Roger Silk, of Houghtons of York (Joiners and Woodcarvers), demonstrated the functionality and sustainability of the traditional vertical sash window, using a portable version perched precariously on a table top. He went on to describe one of the company's more challenging commissions – making a fine wooden handrail to fit an elliptical staircase.

Outside the barn, four demonstrations were underway. Blacksmiths from Don Barker Ltd, Architectural and Ecclesiastical Blacksmiths, were busy shaping ironwork at a portable forge, whilst brickmakers from the York Handmade Brick Company hurled lumps of clay into moulds to show how specialist bricks are made. Stonemason Matthias Garn displayed some of his carvings and talked about the problem of sourcing appropriate local stone for the repair of buildings and sculpture.

Last but not least, YVBSG member Stephen Pickering, Traditional Building Services, demonstrated (with his young family acting as apprentices) his skills with lime. He showed how to make lime putty and apply lime mortar to a stone wall, and explained how other materials such as shells or brickdust can be added to vary texture and colour.

One issue highlighted by several of the craftsmen involved the complications and restrictions arising from modern health and safety legislation, which frequently make it difficult to obtain suitable materials or which make the manufacturing processes more expensive.

Another point made was the immense value of the apprentice system. With formal college training in specialised craftsmanship not always available, often the only way to pass on traditional skills is through apprenticeships.

Notwithstanding these various problems, with craftsmen such as those mentioned above around, it seems that the future of at least some of our local vernacular buildings is in good hands.

Lorraine Moor

Courses

Publicity is now beginning to appear for courses to be held in the new year. Here are just a few on offer:

Restoration – Reusing a Listed Building

Tutor: Ian Wolseley. The history and restoration of three historic buildings in Barton will be examined, including North Lincolnshire's oldest house, Hall's Barton Ropery and Queen Street Infant and National School. The histories of this house, factory and school are of local interest but have national and even international relevance. Site visits possible.

WEA course. Ten Mondays from 14 January 2008, 7.30-9.30pm, at Barrow-on-Humber Methodist Schoolroom. Enquiries: WEA Yorkshire and Humber Region, 6 Woodhouse Square, Leeds LS3 1AD, telephone 0113 245 3304, web www.yh.wea.org.uk.

Understanding Pennine Buildings

Tutors: Alan Petford and David Cant. A course bringing together buildings and documentary evidence.

Twelve weeks on Monday evenings from 21 January 2008 with breaks for half-term and Easter, in Hebden Bridge. Cost not yet decided but around WEA (rather than university!) prices. Further information from David Cant by email (davidcant@hotmail.com) or post (3 Middle Hathershelf, Luddendenfoot, Halifax, West Yorks HX2 6JQ) enclosing an SAE.

Model Villages in the West Riding

Tutor: Alan Petford. This course will examine West Riding model villages such as Saltaire, Akroyden and Copley within the context of local industry.

WEA course. Five Mondays from 28 January 2008, 2pm-4pm, at Red House Museum, 281 Oxford Road, Gomersal, Cleckheaton BD19 4JP, plus a full-day field trip on Saturday 1 March. Advance booking strongly advised.

The Art and Architecture of the Medieval House

Tutor: Marie Prior. This course will examine the medieval house and the living environment of medieval people. We will investigate the materials and methods of construction of medieval housing, focusing on some regional characteristics, before moving on to look at the contents, decoration and furnishings of the medieval home.

Eleven Tuesdays from 15 April 2008, 7pm-9pm, at University of York. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of York, telephone 01904 434620, web www.york.ac.uk/inst/cce/.

Geology of Wold Churches

Tutor: Richard Myerscough. This course studies and records the fabric of Wold churches and ecclesiastical sites along the A64. No prior knowledge necessary. A level of fitness and mobility is required.

Four Tuesdays from 15 April 2008, 2pm-4pm at University of Hull's Scarborough Campus (two afternoon sessions will be short field trips) plus two full day field trips in addition. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Hull, telephone 01482 465666, email cll@hull.ac.uk.

Building Stones 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 Tuesdays from 6 May 2008, 2pm-4pm at University of Hull's Scarborough Campus (two afternoon sessions will be short field trips) plus two full day field trips in addition. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Hull, telephone 01482 465666, email cll@hull.ac.uk.

A missed opportunity?

Sadly, by the time you read this, you will probably have missed the chance to embark on a rather daunting challenge. Haltemprice Priory Farmhouse, standing between Cottingham and Willerby in the East Riding, was to be offered for auction on Wednesday 28 November (guide price £40,000). According to the Grade II* listing description, the house dates largely from the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries but incorporates re-used medieval and sixteenth century fabric, probably from Haltemprice Priory. Last occupied in the early 1970s, the farmhouse is now in a sorry state of dereliction. To see a photograph search for 'Haltemprice' on the Images of England website (www.imagesofengland.org.uk), or search the English Heritage Buildings at Risk Register (www.english-heritage.org.uk/bar).

Yorkshire History Prize 2008

This competition for essays on the history of Yorkshire is held annually. The Beresford Award is for longer essays of up to 10,000 words and there are two prizes, of £300 and £150. For shorter essays, with a limit of 5,000 words, there is one prize, the Bramley Award, of £150. Entries should be original and based on research, and should neither have been published nor offered for publication. Illustrations may be included. Any subject drawn from the history of places and people in traditional Yorkshire is usually acceptable.

Those considering entry may like to know that in previous years essays, including prize-winning ones, have sometimes come from people without a history qualification. Successful essays have often been published subsequently in learned journals.

Further details can be obtained from the Chairman of the Judges, Professor Barrie Dobson, 15 St Olave's Rd, York YO30 7AL, telephone 01904 613500, who will advise on eligibility of subject. Notice of intention to enter, together with the suggested title, must be given to him before 1 March 2008. The final date for entries is 1 May 2008.

A recent publication

How to Research Your House: Every Home Tells a Story... by Pamela Brooks. Published by How To Books Ltd (www.howtobooks.co.uk), March 2007, £10.99. Pamela Brooks will take you step by step along the trail of discovery, starting with the building itself and progressing to who lived there. Topics covered include external and internal architectural features; maps, photographs and sketches; deeds and taxation records; and personal records.



Membership renewal

Membership fees for 2008 become due on 1 January. We hope that you will renew your membership by returning the enclosed form to Jacky Quarmbly at your earliest convenience.

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!

Tree Ring Dating and its applications

Friday 7 December 2007

Talk by Robert Howard to Huddersfield and District Archaeological Society in the Reception Room of Huddersfield Town Hall at 7.45pm. Entry fee £2.50. Enquiries: 01484 511400, web www.huddarch.org.uk.

Where has the room gone? A trade in architectural salvage

Saturday 8 December 2007

Talk by John Harris to York Georgian Society (after their AGM) at 2.30pm at Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens, York. Guests £5. Enquiries: Mrs H Kirk, The King's Manor, Exhibition Square, York YO1 7EW.

Gayle Mill Restoration

Thursday 13 December 2007

Talk by John Cumberland to Skipton and Craven Historical Society, at the Swadford Centre, Swadford Street, Skipton at 7.30pm. Non-members £2. Enquiries: 01756 794534.

Longley Old Hall

Thursday 27 to Sunday 30 December 2007

The hall will open for pre-booked guided tours on the above days. For evening visits in winter the hall is lit by candlelight and open fires and will have Tudor style Christmas decorations. Cost £6. Please telephone 01484 430852 for available times and to book. Web www.longleyoldhall.co.uk.

In the Making: Crafts and Craftsmen

Friday 8 to Sunday 10 February 2008

Weekend school with various speakers on: *Mason's Marks* (Dr Jenny Alexander); *Medieval Chests* (Gavin Simpson); *Early Glass* (Penny Hebgin-Barnes) and *Floor Tiles* (Jane Young) plus other topics yet to be finalised. Venue: Horncastle College, Lincolnshire. Enquiries: Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, telephone 01522 521337, www.lincolnshirepast.org.uk.

Quarry Stones for Buildings

Monday 11 February 2008

Talk by Mark Stephenson to Upper Wharfedale Field Society, in the Town Hall, Grassington at 7.30pm, entry £2. Enquiries: Phillida Oates, Speaker Secretary, The Town Hall, Grassington.

North Yorks Historic Environment Day

Saturday 16 February 2008

To be held at Hambleton Forum, Northallerton, from 10.30am to 4.30pm. A chance to find out about recent work and research. Talks include *Sheriff Hutton Castle and Park*; *The History of lead mining at Greenhow Hill, Nidderdale*; *Historic Parks and Gardens of Nidderdale*. Cost £6. For details telephone 0845 8727374, www.northyorks.gov.uk/archaeology.

Seventeenth Century Building Craftsmen from Yorkshire

Thursday 21 February 2008

Talk by David Cant to the Olicana Historical Society at All Saints' Church House, Church Street, Ilkley, 7.30pm, £2. Enquiries to David (see previous page for contact details) or to Mrs M Johnson, 54 King's Road, Ilkley LS29 9AT.

David has recently been sent a 1619 building contract for additions to Myddleton Lodge, just north of Ilkley. The Middleton family were Catholics – perhaps they were incorporating a priest hole in the structure at that time! David would welcome any information on Edward Barber, carpenter, of Clint, near Ripley, who appears to have been the principal contractor. No other details have been found about him – but the connection seems to be through Catholic families. The house is now the base for a building firm which specialises in historic structures – website www.myddeltonconstruction.co.uk which includes a virtual visit!

Yorkshire Dovecotes

Monday 3 March 2008

Talk by Alan Whitworth to Upper Wharfedale Field Society, in the Town Hall, Grassington at 7.30pm, entry £2. Enquiries: Phillida Oates, Speaker Secretary, The Town Hall, Grassington.

Bradleys Both

Thursday 6 March 2008

Talk by Alison Armstrong to Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group, looking at the landscape, history and buildings of the two settlements of Bradley. 7.30pm in the Soroptimist Rooms, 28 Otley Street, Skipton, £2.50. As a follow up to this talk, Alison will lead a walk around Bradley on Thursday 3 July 2008. Enquiries: www.uwhg.org.uk.

Research on Mediaeval Churches and Villages

Friday 7 March 2008

Talk by Professor Mick Aston to Huddersfield and District Archaeological Society at University of Huddersfield, 7.45pm, £2.50. Enquiries: 01484 511400, www.huddarch.org.uk.

An Array of Almshouses

Saturday 12 April 2008

Talk by Helen Caffrey to the Yorkshire Archaeological Society's Family History Section, 2pm at Claremont, 23 Clarendon Road, Leeds LS2 9NZ. Enquiries: Mrs. M Tones, Lectures Secretary, c/o Claremont, or email lectures@yorkshireroots.org.uk.



Buildings on the Sledmere Estate

Saturday 12 April 2008

Talk by David Neave to York Georgian Society, 2.30pm at Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens, York. Enquiries: Mrs H Kirk, The King's Manor, Exhibition Square, York YO1 7EW.

Seventeenth Century Building Craftsmen from Yorkshire

Tuesday 6 May 2008

Talk by David Cant, similar to the one above in February but with a Halifax flavour, to the Halifax Antiquarians at 7.30pm at Halifax Central Library.

James Murgatroyd's Halifax houses

Wednesday 14 May 2008

Talk by Diana Priestley to Bradford Historical and Antiquarian Society, on the early houses of the builder of East Riddlesden Hall. 7.15pm in Room 1, 2nd floor, Bradford Central Library. Fee £1.50. Enquiries: Mrs A C Holmes, 9 Keighley Road, Cullingworth BD13 5JA, telephone 01535 273265, web www.bradfordhistorical.org.uk.

Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in February – please send any items that may be of interest to other members to the editor by 31 January 2008.

Chair: David Cook, 23 North End, Sedgfield, County Durham TS21 2AZ. Tel: 01740 620098, Email: dcook0@talk21.com

Secretary: David Crook, 18 Sycamore Terrace, Bootham, York YO30 7DN. Tel: 01904 652387, Email: yvbsgenquiries@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary: Jacky Quarmby, 16 Mount Pleasant, Guisborough TS14 6RA. Tel: 01287 636834, Email: jacky.quarmby@btinternet.com

Journal/Newsheet Editor: Lorraine Moor, 102 Queen Victoria Street, South Bank, York YO23 1HN. Tel: 01904 632124, Email: lsm1@york.ac.uk