



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 54

November 2008

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Crucks and Cruck-Framed Buildings

Saturday 14 March 2009

At the annual day school, to be held again this year at Leeds Metropolitan University Headingley Campus, we shall take a look at cruck-framed buildings. A booking form is enclosed with this Newsheet.

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

### Visit to Padside Hall

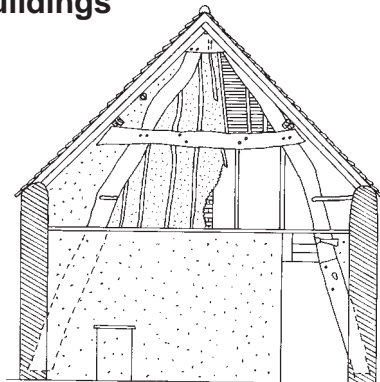
Sunday 15 March 2009

YVBSG member Ray Wilson has kindly agreed to welcome a party of members to his home, Padside Hall, Braithwaite, Harrogate. The current building is said to date from the late 16th or early 17th century with later alterations and evidence of a possible 14th century tower. The site has previously been owned by the Ingilbys of Ripley Castle and the Wigglesworths of Craven. The visit will start at 2pm, with optional lunch beforehand at the Stonehouse Inn, near Thuscross, at 12.30pm. Numbers are restricted – to reserve your place and obtain directions, please contact Malcolm Birdsall (contact details on back page) indicating whether you require lunch.

### East Keswick Study Day

Sunday 26 April 2009

A day which will probably include talks, walks and recording training sessions. Details in the next Newsheet.



### Annual Recording Conference

Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May 2009

In 2009 we return to the Yorkshire Dales for our annual conference, which will be based in Carlton-in-Coverdale. Full details in the new year.

### Visit to Roundabout Farm, Nidderdale

Spring/summer 2009

Kevin Illingworth is organising a visit to this small, late seventeenth century farmhouse near Pateley Bridge. Original features include bressumer beam and stone heck, which has an integrated stone settle with armrest. Peep-hole in the wall. Outside, the doorway has a battlemented doorhead and the owl hole is decorated. Garden (1988-2008) has large imported rocks and a secret pond. This could be a full-day event, with a visit to another building. More details later.

### Next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday 1 February 2009. If you'd like to raise any matter or suggest any events please contact David Crook.

*We wish a Merry Christmas and a very happy 2009 to all members!*

## Thank you!

Our thanks go to ..

- Malcolm Birdsall for organising a very enjoyable conference review day in Burnsall and Thorpe in September – see Adrian Bailey's notes on back page.
- Tish Lawson for arranging a successful recording day in Idle in October – recording teams are still puzzling over their respective buildings!
- David Cook for putting together an excellent afternoon at York House in Malton in October, where we had a tour of this intriguing building and heard about the application of new technologies in recording.

## Timber-Framing in the East Riding

Following the recent successful dendrochronology of the cruck frame at Glebe Farm, Octon, near Driffield, the need for a wider systematic and comprehensive survey of timber-framed buildings has been recognised. The cost of this type of survey is well beyond the finances of the YVBSG, but we have been informed that such a survey would be a very good type of project to attract lottery funding.

The committee has agreed that the YVBSG should lead a partnership with other agencies, including the Humber Archaeology Partnership, to apply for 'Your Heritage' funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The working project objective would be to complete the recording of all surviving timber-framed buildings within the area of the historic East Riding of Yorkshire and the City of Kingston upon Hull and undertake dendrochronology to determine dates where possible.

We invite anyone who is interested and feels capable of leading or making a significant contribution to the project to contact the YVBSG Chairman before Friday 12 December. Thank you,



David Cook

## 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!

### Super Structures

Until Saturday 17 January 2009

An exhibition celebrating architecture in the Oldham area, from terraced houses to timber-framed halls, from Roman forts to tower blocks. Includes scale models and objects such as datestones. At Gallery Oldham, Greaves Street, Oldham OL1 1AL, [www.galleryoldham.org.uk](http://www.galleryoldham.org.uk), telephone 0161 770 4653. Open Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm, free.

### Christmas Lunches at Borwick Hall

Between 6 and 19 December 2008

Borwick Hall (7 miles north of Lancaster) is an outdoor educational centre mainly for young people, but also for adults. It is not normally open to the public, but the café sometimes opens in late summer. Christmas lunches/evening meals will be served on eight dates in December. Borwick Hall is a large gabled house of about 1590-5, incorporating a fourteenth century pele tower. There is also a gatehouse range and 'spinning gallery'. Externally all of these buildings can be seen, but interior access may be limited. Enquiries: 01524 732508.

### Longley Old Hall

27 to 30 December 2008

The hall will open for pre-booked guided tours on the above days. For evening visits the hall is lit by candlelight and open fires and will have Tudor style decorations. Cost £6. Please phone 01484 430852 to book. Web [www.longleyoldhall.co.uk](http://www.longleyoldhall.co.uk).

### The Building Of Harewood House

Saturday 10 January 2009

Talk by Mick Stanley to Harrogate Archaeological Society, 2pm in the Friends Meeting House, Queen Parade, Harrogate, £3 for visitors. Enquiries: Mr P Eaton, telephone 01423 886283, email [peter.eaton33@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.eaton33@btinternet.com).

### Local History Resources

Saturday 17 January 2009

Workshop at the Treasure House (Archives and Local Studies Service), Beverley. 10-11.30am, £3. A chance to look at books, directories, newspapers, journals, poll books and postcards. To book, telephone 01482 392790.

### Driving Pevsner around Manchester and the changes since 1967

Saturday 31 January 2009

Talk by Tom Wesley to Manchester Group of the Victorian Society at Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester, 1.45 to 4.30pm (includes AGM). Free. Enquiries: 0161 448 9205.

### Recent Work at Sheriff Hutton Castle

Wednesday 18 February 2009

Talk by Ed Dennison to joint meeting of Yorkshire Architectural and York Archaeological Society with Friends of York Archaeological Trust at Friends Meeting House, Friargate, York at 7.30pm. [www.yayas.free-online.co.uk](http://www.yayas.free-online.co.uk).

### Reading Old Houses

Thursday 19 February 2009

Talk by Don McLellan to Malhamdale Local History Group at Malham Village Hall, 8pm. Visitors £2. Contact Rosemary Bundy on 01756 748220.

### North Yorks Historic Environment Day

Saturday 21 February 2009

Annual event at Northallerton. Enquiries: Mr N Boldrini, Historic Environment Record Officer, County Hall, Northallerton, phone 01609 532331.

### Recent Survey and Research at Ayton Castle

Monday 23 February 2009

Talk by Ed Dennison to Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society at 7.30pm in the Concert Room, Central Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. Details from Chris Hall, 01723 354237, [www.scarborough-heritage.org](http://www.scarborough-heritage.org).

### Life in Medieval Aristocratic Residences

Saturday 28 February and Sunday 1 March 2009

A day school at Claremont, Leeds. Speakers include Steve Moorhouse – *Earthwork fortifications into designed landscapes*; Erik Matthews – *Hygiene in the medieval aristocratic household*; Peter Brears – *Medieval cooking*. Coach trip to Topcliffe and Cowton on Sunday. Cost £45. Enquiries: Miss J Senior, Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Claremont, Leeds, telephone 0113 245 7910.

### Wrestlers, Crucks and Mullions

Thursday 5 March 2009

Talk by Andrew Lowe (former Conservation Officer for the Lake District National Park) to Galgate History Group at Methodist Chapel Rooms, Chapel Lane, Galgate (four miles south of Lancaster), 7.30pm. Visitors £1.50. Enquiries: Winifred Dillon, telephone 01524 751956.



### Inside a Lake District Farmhouse

Monday 9 March 2009

Talk by Andrew Lowe to Kirkby Lonsdale and District Civic Society at The Institute, New Road, Kirkby Lonsdale at 7.30pm. Admission charge, includes tea and biscuits. Contact Dilys McLoughlin, telephone 015242 71164.

### Recent Research on Hornby and Whorlton Castles

Tuesday 10 March 2009

Talk by Erik Matthews to Northallerton and District Local History Society, 7pm at Sacred Heart Catholic Church Hall, Thirsk Road, Northallerton. Enquiries: Mike Sanders, telephone 01609 774662.

### Map Workshop

Saturday 14 March 2009

Workshop at the Treasure House (Archives and Local Studies Service), Beverley. 10-11.30am. Primarily looking at Ordnance Survey and other published maps with hands-on session. £3. To book, telephone 01482 392790.

### Recording Old Buildings

Monday 16 March 2009

Talk by Dan Elsworth to Ingleborough Archaeology Group, covering recent local surveys at the Castle Hotel, Hornby, and farm buildings at Lupton and Biggins Hall. 7.30pm in Ingleton Community Centre. Web [www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk](http://www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk).

### The Buildings of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Wednesday 18 March 2009

Talk by Don McLellan to Sedbergh and District Local History Society, 7.30pm at Settlebeck High School. Visitors £2. Enquiries: Elspeth Griffiths, telephone 015396 20677.

### Seventeenth Century Decorative Plasterwork in Wharfedale

Monday 23 March 2009

Talk by Sonia Wilkinson to Upper Wharfedale Field Society in the Town Hall, Grassington at 7.30pm. Visitors £2. Enquiries: Hanneke Dye, Secretary, UWFS, The Town Hall, Grassington, email [a7dye@h10dye.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:a7dye@h10dye.fsnet.co.uk).

### Francis Johnson: Architect

Monday 23 March 2009

Talk by Diana Tasker to Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society at 7.30pm in the Concert Room, Central Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. Details from Chris Hall, 01723 354237, [www.scarborough-heritage.org](http://www.scarborough-heritage.org).

# Weather walls, wrestler slates and stone jettied porches

## Weather walls

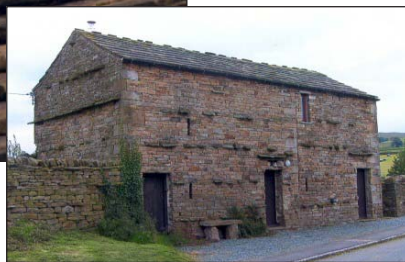
Since the last Newsheet I have discovered two more 'west gable weather walls', at Lawkland, near Settle, and one in Hawes itself. Both houses are unlisted. There are now reports of another one at Hardraw, near Hawes. So far I have not received any information from YVBSG members!

## Wrestler slates

The lectures in Slaidburn and Burnsall drew attention to these, with wrestler ridges on barns in Horton-in-Ribblesdale and Newby Cote. Wrestler slates were used in areas where stone is too hard or otherwise unsuitable for the inverted 'V' shape for ridges. Slates or flags were notched to lock together at the ridge. In England they were used in Lancashire, Westmorland, Durham, and north-western areas of Yorkshire. In the central Lake District, only around thirteen of these 'wrestler ridges' survive. In recent months I have seen further examples at Dent, Newbiggin (they are still there!), Yockenthwaite, and seven examples near Hawes, all in Yorkshire. In addition, an archaeological dig at Dilston Castle, Corbridge, Northumberland, has unearthed more wrestlers. Photographs of these can be seen on the website of Darwen Local History Society, Lancashire ([www.dlhs.co.uk/archaeology-c53.html](http://www.dlhs.co.uk/archaeology-c53.html)). Members of that society were involved in the dig.



Wrestler slates at Turpit Barn,  
near Hawes Youth Hostel



## Stone jettied porches

Finally, in Newsheet 45 (August 2006) I asked if there were any more stone porches with jettied or oversailing upper floors, outside Lancashire and Yorkshire, where there are at least eighty examples. At that time, I had just seen one in Shropshire, this being Wilderhope Manor (National Trust and YHA). I now know of one in north-west Derbyshire (but near Stockport), and others in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. Pevsner didn't mention the stone jettied porches in his Lancashire and West Riding books. Equally, on both sides of the Pennines, they were not mentioned, or seen, by several well-known architectural historians in their books about Lancashire and Yorkshire. (No information about jettied porches from YVBSG members, so far!)

Wrestler ridges and weather walls are not easy to see, even by the more experienced observers, but surely the shadows thrown from an oversailing upper floor are not so difficult to notice!

Let us see what happens when the new updated Pevsner volumes on North Lancashire, and the West Riding, are available. Jettied porches were meant to be seen, then and now.

Kevin Illingworth

## Some new and forthcoming publications

*A History of the County of York: East Riding. Vol VIII: East Buckrose: Sledmere and the Northern Wolds* by David and Susan Neave. October 2008, hardback, ISBN 9781904356134. This volume covers parishes and ancient settlements on the eastern dip-slope of the Yorkshire Wolds, describing the history, archaeology, landscape and topography of the area and analysing the impact of the Sledmere estate on local villages, churches and farmsteads. The villages covered are Cowlam, Duggleby, Fimber, Fridaythorpe, Helperthorpe, Kirby Grindalythe, East and West Lutton, Sledmere, Weaverthorpe and Wetwang. Printers Boydell & Brewer are offering YVBSG members a special 25% discount, making the price £71.25 instead of £95. Postage is £3. To order, phone 01394 610600 or see [www.boydell.co.uk/souk.htm](http://www.boydell.co.uk/souk.htm). The offer code 08389 must be quoted, and if ordering via the website should be written in the box for special instructions. Offer closing date: 31 January 2009.

- Don't forget that eight earlier volumes of the VCH for Yorkshire are now available online at [www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk) (follow the links for North then Victoria County History: Yorkshire).

*Trods of the North York Moors: A Gazetteer of Flagged Paths* by Chris Evans. £10, ISBN 9780902416093. Published by Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society. Anyone who has walked on the North York Moors has come across flagged paths, or trods. Chris Evans explores the dates, from medieval times through the seventeenth century, of the trods' construction, and their relationship to other features of the North York Moors landscape.

*Addingham: A View From the Moorside. Studies of local history initiated by Kate Mason and carried on by Alison Armstrong, Malcolm Birdsall and Arnold Pacey*, edited by Arnold Pacey. Addingham Civic Society, 2008, £10. Available from Margaret Widderson, 3 Lime Close, Addingham, Ilkley LS29 0TP, telephone 01943 839826. Many members knew Kate and this book is an excellent way to remember her by. The second chapter will appeal to anybody with an interest in plans of farmhouses and contains a more detailed history of Kate's own farmhouse than one usually sees.

- The YVBSG has been sent a review copy of this book – if anyone would like it in exchange for a review for *Yorkshire Buildings*, please contact Lorraine Moor.

## Dendrochronology Project

As reported in previous Newsheets, cruck timbers from two buildings have been dated successfully: Cruck Cottage at Thornton-le-Dale to 1512, and Glebe Farm at Octon to 1670. Samples were subsequently taken from two additional cruck-framed buildings, Delves Cottage at Egton Bridge and Thornhill Farm at Goathland, but both proved to be undateable. Dendrochronologist Ian Tyers kindly agreed to try to date another building in place of these and thus took core samples recently from the large cruck truss in Roxby Farm Cottage, a building currently being recorded by members of the group which is just down the road from Cruck Cottage in Thornton-le-Dale and which will provide a useful comparison if the dating is successful.

## Grimwith High Laithe, Appletreewick

This heather-thatched barn at Grimwith Reservoir has recently had its roof repaired and restored by the Yorkshire thatcher, William Tegetmeier. This was featured on the front page of the *Yorkshire Post* on 6 September. There are several different descriptions of the barn, and as to when it was built, and when it was moved:

- *Yorkshire Post* article, September: Eighteenth century barn, moved, stone by stone, one hundred yards so that the reservoir could expand in the late 1970s.
- *Out of Oblivion* website: Probably seventeenth century, moved and rebuilt when Grimwith Reservoir was built (this was 1864).
- *Images of England* website: Sixteenth century. Partly rebuilt 1982. One cruck truss.
- *Northern Life* magazine article, October/November: Most confusingly, this tells that the barn is eighteenth century, but built in the late 1800s!

Only a handful of ling-thatched roofs survive in Yorkshire, although there are several more in Durham and Northumberland.

William has been involved in several YVBSG events, including giving a talk at the Middlesbrough dayschool in 1998, and at Reeth in 2006 during the *Traditional Buildings of Swaledale* annual recording conference, when his talk was *Thatching with Ling*.

Kevin Illingworth



## Some thoughts on the Review Day

How blessed we all were by perfect weather on Sunday 21 September! This provided a crisp back-drop to the morning's venue, the delightful Grammar School at Burnsall in mid-Wharfedale. Here members who were unable to attend the recording weekend in May could catch up with a series of presentations. As ever, Malcolm Birdsall's excellent organisational skills gave time for a convivial lunch at the Red Lion. From there we travelled a few miles to the hamlet of Thorpe. Although close to the 'honeypots' of Bolton Abbey and Grassington, in an almost Hardy-esque way time has passed Thorpe by. And we could visit a fascinating group of farm buildings and houses, from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, with virtually no new build.

The landscape historian Stephen Moorhouse always says 'Look at the bigger picture'. Thorpe is clustered around a well-managed stream, its flow

controlled by sluices to provide large numbers of livestock with water, or for sheep dipping. Whether the volume was strong enough for a mill is doubtful, but a barn in the village centre looked as if someone had had the idea then never proceeded – large windows, but why?

High on the surrounding fellsides numerous trackways and green lanes led down to the spine of the village, past the site of a major platform area of the former Rookeries, a long disappeared eighteenth century house, built as many were on the site of an earlier structure. A valued site, high up from the village, facing south, now home to a late Arts and Crafts villa of 1917. So often we wonder and ponder how and why somebody in the distant past did what they did, but one of our party could complete the story. She was the grand-daughter of the original owner. He was a wool merchant from Bradford who was able to commute by

train from Grassington, so settled the family in Thorpe by acquiring the site and other properties in 1917. The house was finished in 1920, complete with open verandas and its own electricity supply. The grounds provided space for a tennis court and motor house, quite a radical change in housing style. The architects were Hudson and Mawson from Bradford, reflecting capital input of some magnitude.

There is always something appealing to be able to push or shove open a barn door, to peer into the gloom of a passing age. No longer home to six beasts in the long winter hours awaiting milking before dawn's breaking. Musty hay lofts and damp underfoot are like the last pages of a concluding chapter: one knows when the new one is written. The things we were lucky enough to see will be long gone, as new people arrive with new ideas.

Adrian Bailey

## Quote of the month

Joyce Williams spotted this useful advice in the *Evening Gazette* on how to achieve an atmospheric 'library' look in your home:

"Use books as decorative objects. You can find some good-looking hardbacks in charity shops or car boot sales to fill your shelves with!"

So if the bright green dustjacket of your old copy of Harrison and Hutton clashes dreadfully with your decor, perhaps you ought to replace it with something to match your colour scheme!

## Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in February – please send any items that might be of interest to other members to the editor by 31 January 2009.

## Membership renewal

Membership fees for the calendar year 2009 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.

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