



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 62

November 2010

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

Markings and Dateable Features on Vernacular Buildings

Saturday 26 March 2011

This year's annual day school will examine markings on buildings and dated features such as doorheads. These can help us understand buildings and the people associated with them, thereby expanding our knowledge of construction, culture and symbolism. The venue once again is the Headingley campus of Leeds Metropolitan University. The talks will be followed at 5pm by the Group's AGM. Booking form enclosed with this Newsheet and also available on the website. Please note that the date has changed from that advertised in the last Newsheet.



Annual Recording Conference

Friday 13 to Sunday 15 May 2011

To be held in Long Preston – details in the next Newsheet.

Wishing a very Happy New Year to all our members and hoping you continue to find many buildings to enjoy in 2011!

In the pipeline ...

More events are planned and will be advertised in future Newsheets, including ...

Visit to Browsholme Hall, near Clitheroe

July 2011

A full-day visit to Browsholme Hall, near Clitheroe, in the historic West Riding of Yorkshire, organised by Kevin Illingworth. On Open Days, visitors don't see the rear of the house, and neither do organised groups, but we will have access to this area, and more. Other buildings to be visited beforehand could include Little Mitton Hall (restaurant) and/or some barns near Bashall Hall (one is a shop and tea room). More details later.

Committee meeting

The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday 6 February 2011. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any future events please contact the Secretary, David Crook.

Recording volunteers

In the last Newsheet a request was made for anyone who would like to help in recording a building that becomes available through the requests we get to let Tony Tolhurst have their email address. Only a couple of members have yet come forward. If you are prepared to help either in your own area or elsewhere please let Tony (enquiries@yvbsg.org.uk) have your details. Joining this email list puts you under no obligation – it just means that you'll get to hear about recording opportunities as they arise!

Membership matters

Membership fees for the calendar year 2011 become due on 1 January. As we mentioned earlier in the year, the AGM approved an increase in membership fee to £10. This year has seen membership numbers reach an all-time high – 261 at the time of writing. Help us to beat this record in 2011 by returning the enclosed form to Jacky Quarmbly at your earliest convenience!

Help needed!

Would you like to prepare drawings for our journal *Yorkshire Buildings*? The successful conference at Burnsall produced a large crop of reports and we need some help in getting these ready for publication early next year. Contact David Cant for more details on 01422 883846 or davidjcant@hotmail.com

Members' area on web site

We are making available on the website a number of articles from previous editions of *Yorkshire Buildings*. These will be accessible on a Members' Area, using a password which will be published in the letter you receive when you renew your membership. We hope you find these useful.

Cruck barn restoration

Those who visited the cruck barn at New Hall Farm, Ardsley, near Barnsley in June will be interested to hear that restoration of the barn is on schedule to be completed by the end of the year. Helen Rhodes, the owner, hopes the YVBSG will make a return visit when it is finished.

Committee news

Joyce Williams, a founder member of the group, has decided to stand down from the committee. Joyce has served on the committee for many years now and we thank her for her substantial contribution to the work of the YVBSG. We'll miss her mischievous sense of humour at our committee meetings.

Recent YVBSG Events

Conference Review Day in Beverley

We thank David Cook and everybody else who was involved in organising the review day held in Beverley on Sunday 19 September. A series of presentations during the morning helped our understanding of the exciting buildings recorded during the conference in May. Summaries of these buildings will appear in a future edition of *Yorkshire Buildings*.

The afternoon offered a visit to either the Minster roof or the Guildhall. More information about the impressive Minster roof can be found in 'Carpenters of the nave roof' by Alison

Armstrong and David Cant, in *Who Built Beverley Minster* (2008) edited by P S Barnwell and Arnold Pacey. Guided tours of the roof and its treadmill are available to the public – telephone 01482 868540 for details.

Those who entered the Guildhall through the nineteenth century classical portico were surprised to find, within the 1762 courtroom, the remnants of a medieval timber-framed merchant's house that once stood on the site! The Guildhall is open on Fridays, 10am to 4pm – telephone 01482 392783.

More Early Vernacular Buildings in the Thirsk Area

Around twenty members and guests met on Sunday 24 October to visit more buildings in settlements around Thirsk, guided by Barry Harrison. In temperatures somewhat chillier than our first excursion in July, we headed off to Borrowby, an attractive village sited on a ridge just west of the A19.

Ivy House was probably built around 1620-1640 with a slightly unusual plan incorporating a wide end-passage at the right-hand end. Fenestration on the front elevation has been altered, but the rear retains a large number of mullion windows. Barry pointed out that all the fireplaces in the house seemed to be designed for heating rather than cooking: where was the cooking done? In the roofspace, scarf joints were held together by small metal pegs as well as a central wooden peg; these were also observed elsewhere during the day. Outside in the yard, a cruck-framed barn was under



Ivy House, Borrowby



Sundial House, Knayton

renovation and we are grateful to Jen Deadman, who is currently recording the building, for showing us round and explaining its re-used timbers and other features. Sadly we didn't encounter the resident large white pig for whom the cruck barn is being sturdily rebuilt – wattle and daub partitions not being strong enough to contain this powerful animal!

Moving on to the village of Knayton, we all poured into Sundial House and tried to work out the sequence of building and rebuilding. Interesting assembly marks on the roof timbers didn't seem to help much, but matching oval windows high in each gable of the right-hand half of the building would suggest that this end was built, or raised, before the other half. A sundial above the door has an inscribed date of 1699. The square mullion-less windows are double-recessed and may be an early use of this type, perhaps late seventeenth century in date. No conclusion was reached on the origins of the low end of the building as lunch was beckoning...

Suitably refreshed, it was on to Helperby to view the exteriors of three timber-framed buildings, all with close studding, aisles, and upward-bracing. One of these, Oak Cottage, was an archetypal Vale of York type house with rear and end aisles, dating from the early or mid seventeenth century. The timbering of the centre bays is visible on the photo below. Also characteristic of this date and area is the curved purlin strut roof with no ridge and no principal rafters. The fireplace is fully framed-in (a late feature) rather than inserted.

Still in Helperby, Dunroyal House was a possible former longhouse (referred to in Barry Harrison's article on 'Longhouses in the Vale of York 1570-1699' in *Vernacular Architecture* 22, 1991). The timber firehood in the hall has a broach stop (usually dating from 1580 to 1630) and another beam has highly decorative mouldings, perhaps of the early seventeenth century. The common rafter roof has collars at intervals, supporting a pair of purlins.

Our thanks go to Barry for arranging this enjoyable and enlightening outing.



Oak House, Helperby

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!

Barnsley's Historic Landscapes

Monday 29 November 2010

Talk by Dinah Saich to South Yorkshire Industrial History Society. 7pm in the Lecture Room, Central Library, Barnsley. Non-members £2.

Windows into the Past – Yorkshire Parish Churches

Monday 29 November 2010

Talk by Anthony Masinton, architectural historian and archaeologist, to Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society at 7.30pm in the Central Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. Fee £2. Enquiries: Chris Hall, telephone 01723 354237, www.scarborough-heritage.org.

Old Inns of the Yorkshire Dales

Thursday 9 December 2010

Talk by David Johnson to Skipton and Craven History Society, 7.30pm at the Swadford Centre, Swadford Street, Skipton. Visitors £2. Website www.simplesite.com/Skipton-History-Society.

Church Building Stones

Monday 13 December 2010

Talk by Richard Myerscough to Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society at 7.30pm in the Concert Room, Central Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. Fee £2. Enquiries: Chris Hall, telephone 01723 354237, www.scarborough-heritage.org.

Longley Old Hall Open Days

Monday 27 to Thursday 30 December 2010

Longley Old Hall, near Huddersfield, will open for pre-booked guided tours on the above days: please telephone 01484 430852. £6 per person. This is the last chance to visit the hall for a while as it will not be open during 2011. Web www.longleyoldhall.co.uk.

Open to the Public: Lesser-known Traditional Houses in and around Lancashire

Thursday 6 January 2011

A talk (featuring some Yorkshire buildings) by Kevin Illingworth to Galgate History Group, 7.30pm in the Galgate Methodist Chapel Rooms, Chapel Lane, Galgate (four miles south of Lancaster). Enquiries: Winifred Dillon, telephone 01524 751956.

The Buildings of Hebden Bridge

Wednesday 12 January 2011

Talk by Alan Petford to Hebden Bridge Local History Society at the Methodist Hall, Market Street, Hebden Bridge, at 7.30pm. Enquiries: Diana Monahan, telephone 01422 845982, website hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk.

Cob Houses of the Solway Firth

Wednesday 12 January 2011

Talk by Chris Wild of Oxford Archaeology North to Lancaster Civic Society, 7.30pm at Lancaster Town Hall. Enquiries: Winnie Clark on 01524 33411 or John Braithwaite on 01524 771718.

Tumbled Brick Gables of East Yorkshire: an aspect of vernacular buildings

Monday 17 January 2011

Talk by Dr Joan Kemp at the Treasure House, Beverley, 6.30pm, fee £5. Booking essential at the Archives and Local Studies Service, telephone 01482 392790, web www.eastriding.gov.uk/cs/culture-and-information/archives/events/.

West Yorkshire Place Names in Context

Wednesday 26 January 2011

Talk by George Redmonds to Hebden Bridge Local History Society at Hebden Bridge Methodist Hall, Market Street, at 7.30pm. Enquiries: Diana Monahan, telephone 01422 845982, web hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk.

Open to the Public: Lesser-known Vernacular Houses and Buildings in and around Lancashire

Wednesday 26 January 2011

Illustrated talk (featuring some Yorkshire buildings) by Kevin Illingworth for Mourholme Local History Society at Yealand Village Hall (approximately eight miles north of Lancaster), 7.30pm. Enquiries: Sheila Jones on 01524 732305.

Cruck Buildings in South Yorkshire

Friday 4 February 2011

Talk by Peter Ryder to the Hunter Archaeological Society. 7.30pm in the Traditional Heritage Museum, Ecclesall Road, Sheffield. Enquiries: Dr Ruth Morgan, telephone 0114 288 2640, email r.a.morgan@shu.ac.uk, web www.shef.ac.uk/archaeology/hunter/.

Open to the Public: Lesser known Vernacular Houses in East Lancs and the Pennine Borders

Saturday 5 February 2011

A talk (to include some Yorkshire buildings) by Kevin Illingworth to Bacup Natural History Society, 7pm at 24 Yorkshire Street, Bacup, telephone 01706 873042, www.bacuptimes.co.uk.

Tour of Ripon Workhouse Museum

Thursday 10 February 2011

Talk and tour with Richard Taylor, Chair of Ripon Museum Trust. Richard will guide you around the site including the newly renovated and re-interpreted museum housed in the original gatehouse and the working 1890s kitchen garden, which was rescued from dereliction just two years ago. Starts 2pm, £5. To book, please contact Harrogate Museums and Arts, telephone 01423 556188.

La Fenetre Guillotine – Intriguing History of the Sash Window

Saturday 12 February 2011

Talk by Malte Klockner to Harrogate Archaeological Society, 2.30pm at the Friends Meeting House, Queens Parade. Visitors £3. Enquiries: 01423 886283, peter.eaton33@btinternet.com.

Halifax Hostelrys

Sunday 13 February 2011

Halifax hotels and inns have been renowned for centuries for a variety of reasons – good and bad! Find out more about some of them on this Calderdale Heritage Walk. Meet Anne Kirker at 2pm outside Bull Green House, top of Bull Green, Halifax. £3, no need to book. www.CalderdaleHeritageWalks.org.uk.

A couple of courses

The Archaeology of the Manor House in North West England

Tutor: Mike Nevell. Ten meetings from Wednesday 12 January 2011, 1.30pm-3.30pm at South Trafford Archaeological Group HQ, rear of Timperly Old Hall Hotel, Stockport Road, Timberley, Cheshire. Fee £60. Altrincham WEA branch. Enquiries: Roger Hensman on 0161 980 5158 or David Marden on 0161 928 6638.

Manor Farm, Rainhill

A two-day course on Tuesday 1 and 15 March 2011 on the history of Manor Farm, Rainhill, near St Helens, organised by Rainhill Civic Society and led by Alan Crosby. To be held at Manor Farm (which is now a public house), a listed grade 2* building comprising main range and crosswing, with a decorated doorhead of 1662 and a two-and-a-half story porch. Enquiries: Anne Slater on 0151 426 4455 or Joy Lowe on 0151 426 2583. Website www.rainhill-civic-society.org.uk.

A mystery object in the upper Calder Valley

We ask readers for help in identifying a mystery object in a wall next to Raw Farm, Wadsworth. The photographs (right and below) show an interesting piece of timber with odd bits of cast iron, located where the retaining wall in front of the house makes a right-angled turn (marked by an arrow on the photo right). One of the bolts through the timber is fully leaded into the stonework of the wall providing a substantial fixing. One suggestion is that this might be the site of a 'stretcher gate' where a textile worker could reel out their warp and apply sizing.

If anyone has any thoughts about this object, please contact David Cant (davidjcant@hotmail.com.)



Long staircase windows

I would like to put an enquiry to members of the YVBSG about long staircase windows on the back wall, similar to that shown on page 21 of *Yorkshire Buildings* No 36. I have found several in South Derbyshire and a couple in North Leicestershire, which is where I work; I do not know if they are found in North Derbyshire. I should like to know how many others members have come across, their location, and most important, their date. I have found it quite difficult to date mine, that is, they seem to cover quite a long period, but there are so few that I should like to know what happens in Yorkshire.

I send my best wishes to all members and may the Group continue to flourish!

Barbara Hutton, 50 Daventry Close, Mickleover, Derby DE3 0QT.

Stuck for a Christmas present?

The West Yorkshire Archive Service has launched its new Research Service Gift Voucher. Experienced staff can discover a wide range of information about your family, home and local area in the West Riding. Special offer: £20 for the first hour of research (normal price £24) for vouchers purchased before 20 December 2010. Available from The Research Service, West Yorkshire Archive Service, telephone 01924 305980, web www.archives.wyjs.org.uk.

Some recent books

Hull: City Guide (Pevsner Architectural Guides) by David and Susan Neave, September 2010, £12.50. A splendid guide to the town of Hull with its medieval churches, 17th and 18th-century merchants' houses and Victorian and Edwardian commercial and public buildings. Detailed walks explore the waterfront area with its exciting recent developments and the Georgian and later suburbs. Excursions include Beverley.

Cumbria (Pevsner Architectural Guides) by Matthew Hyde and Nikolaus Pevsner, October 2010, £35. Fully revised volume covering Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness.

Local History Internet Sites: a directory, published by the British Association for Local History. An up-to-date guide to 353 websites. Available for £2 plus £1 p&p from Gill Draper, email development.balh@btinternet.com, telephone 01732 452575.

Urban Cowboys by Duncan Scott. DWS Publications, 48 pages, £6.99. A book about a Dales family from Sedbergh (and other farmers) who kept dairy cows in cities such as Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool. Available soon from The Book Case, Hebden Bridge, telephone 01422 845353.

Tracing the History of Your House by Nick Barrett. A bargain buy at £2 (was £15.99) from www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/bookshop.

Easington Tithe Barn

Easington Tithe Barn in Holderness faces an uncertain future after failing to sell at an auction in Leeds in September. The grade 2* listed thatched timber-framed aisled barn, together with other outbuildings at Rectory Farm, was offered with a guide price of £125,000. It was used as the somewhat draughty venue for lectures ("we got winnowed", somebody remarked) during the 1997 annual conference. A YVBSG team recorded it and noted two distinct orders of carpenters' marks. Evidence suggests that the barn was constructed in the late eighteenth century perhaps using two incomplete earlier frames, synthesised into one.

The auctioneers report that English Heritage would not allow the barn to be developed as a residential building, and that they expect to talk to an individual in the next few weeks.

Next Newsheet

Many thanks to everybody who contributed to this newsheet, especially Kevin Illingworth, Simon Green and David Cant. The next edition will be in February – please send any items that might interest other members to the editor by 31 January 2011.

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