



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 70

November 2012

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

Understanding Local Buildings – 1700 to the Present

Thursday 10 January to Thursday 21 March 2013

A ten-week course run by the YVBSG at The Red House, Gomersal, 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Tutors Alan Petford and David Cant. Come and join us to investigate the rich legacy of historic buildings in the area. We will be looking at houses great and small, churches, chapels, farm buildings and institutional structures. Using a range of illustrations the course will examine changes in architectural fashion in both high status and humble buildings. A variety of documentary sources will be used to shed light on building methods, structural techniques, the organisation of the building trades and the people involved. Fee £60 (or £55 for YVBSG members), half-price for those on benefits. Booking form available on the YVBSG website.



Owt Fresh? Annual Day School & AGM

Saturday 16 March 2013

The annual day school will once again be held in conjunction with the Yorkshire Archaeological Society at the Headingley Campus of Leeds Metropolitan University. The theme this year will be 'Owt Fresh?' *Advances in our understanding of Yorkshire's vernacular buildings*. The talks will focus on the changes in our knowledge and understanding of Yorkshire's vernacular buildings that have taken place since the YVBSG was founded forty years ago. Booking form enclosed with this Newsheet and also available on the YVBSG website.

Annual Recording Conference

Friday 17 to Sunday 19 May 2013

To be held in the Gomersal and Birstall area of the Spen Valley. Full details to be circulated with the next Newsheet.

Visit to Austwick

Sunday 23 June 2013

In the pipeline... a visit to Austwick Hall and village organised by Kevin Illingworth. Full details in the next Newsheet.

Next Newsheet

Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in February 2013 – please send any items of interest to members (events, newbooks, queries, comments, observations) to the editor by 31 January 2013.

Book auction

As advertised in the August Newsheet, we are holding an auction for a collection of books left by Richard Clegg Watson of Nateby and Pilling who died in October 2010. A number of books are still available and the deadline for bids has now been extended to 31 December 2012.

The full list of books is available on the Members' Area of the website (email webmaster@yvbsg.org.uk if you need a reminder of the password), or if you do not have internet access you can request a printed list by sending an SAE to David Cant. Books which have already been sold are marked on the list. The books are currently being stored by Tony Robinson – if you'd like to view a book before bidding please contact Tony (68 Thirsk Road, Northallerton DL61PL, telephone 01609 771673) to agree a date and time.

Please send your bids by email or post by 31 December 2012 to David Cant (details on back page). Please note that your bid will need to be of a sufficient amount to include postage of £2.50-£3.

Any books not sold will be donated to the Yorkshire Archaeological Society.

*Wishing a very Happy New Year
to all our members for 2013
- and happy building recording!*

Committee meeting and committee vacancy

The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday 3 February 2013. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any future events please contact the Secretary, David Crook.

We currently have a vacancy on the committee and would warmly welcome anyone who would be willing to join us. The role is not too onerous (two meetings a year) and you get to have a say in the running of the Group, its events and other activities. If you're interested, please contact David Crook.

Membership renewal

Membership fees for the calendar year 2013 become due on 1 January; the price remains at £10. We hope you will keep up your membership by returning the enclosed form to Jacky Quarmby at your earliest convenience!

Round-up of recent YVBSG events

YVBSG 40th Anniversary Celebration

Members old and new gathered on Saturday 1 September 2012 in the splendid surroundings of Bedern Hall, York, to celebrate the Group's anniversary. A selection of talks looked back over the past forty years and included some amusing reminiscences, as well as a more serious appraisal of the Group's considerable achievements which have resulted in a repository of knowledge which will set us in good stead for further work in coming years. We heard about the history of Bedern Hall itself, and enjoyed music from the Northumbrian pipes. Thanks go to David Cook for organising this most enjoyable event.



Left and above: afternoon tea in Bedern Hall garden. Above right: inside Bedern Hall.



Conference Review Day

We thank Barry Harrison and the Kirby, Great Broughton and Ingleby Greenhow Local History Group for an interesting day on Sunday 30 September 2012 which began with presentations on the buildings recorded earlier in the year. These summaries provided an opportunity to identify differences and common themes in construction and detail. We then walked around Stokesley to view more local buildings in their town landscape, noting features such as interlocking quoins on adjacent buildings and the two-storey bow windows which are something of a feature in the town. Grander houses and industrial buildings were also explored.

Left: The gently-bowed sash windows of Stokesley

Workshop on Drawing Techniques

On a chilly foggy morning on Saturday 24 November 2012 around twenty brave souls ventured out into the Micklegate area of York to practise their sketching techniques under the expert guidance of Allan Adams and Tony Berry, picking up advice on things like how to accurately measure a splayed window or draw mouldings (tip: try closing your eyes and feeling the moulding first rather than trying to draw it immediately!). We then retreated indoors for a presentation and discussion on good practice and how to introduce control into your measurements and drawings. Some exemplary illustrations by Allan and Tony can be found in the English Heritage publication *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (follow the link from www.yvbsg.org.uk/guidelines.html). The YVBSG *Notes on the Recording of Vernacular Buildings* can also be found on the above web page. We thank Allan and Tony very much indeed for leading this very helpful training session.

Right: Sketching window detail at Holy Trinity Church, Micklegate

Members' Area

Do keep an eye on the Members' Area of the YVBSG website as we continue to add new items to it. A recent addition is a photo gallery featuring a selection of images taken during recent events, including the Stokesley walkabout mentioned above.

The password will change in January and you'll receive the new details with your membership card (or send an email to webmaster@yvbsg.org.uk at any time for a reminder).

Recording volunteers

We encourage anyone who might like to be involved in the occasional recording of buildings to get in touch. We're keen to see more members of all abilities taking part in recording so if you are prepared to help please let Tony Tolhurst (enquiries@yvbsg.org.uk) have your email address. Joining this email list puts you under no obligation – it just means that you'll get to hear about recording opportunities as they arise! Beginners are very welcome.



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!

The History of Your House

Wednesday 5 December 2012

Talk by Katy Iliffe on researching the history of a house, to Sedbergh and District History Society, 7.30pm in Settlebeck High School, £2. Enquiries: Dilys Evans, telephone 015396 22505, www.sedberghhistory.org.

Medieval Houses in the North of England

Monday 10 December 2012

Talk by Dr Jane Grenville of the University of York to Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society, 7.30pm in the Concert Room, Central Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough, £2. www.scarborough-heritage.org.

Yuletide Event at The Folly, Settle

Tuesday 11 December 2012

Drop in for mulled wine and mince pies and a last chance to see the 2012 exhibitions. Free admission, with refreshments £3.50. 10am to 12 noon.

Medieval Christmas at Barley Hall

Friday 14 December 2012

Medieval entertainment duo Trouvere present music for Christmas, mixed in with seasonal tales and traditions in this medieval York townhouse dressed for December festivities! Pre-booking essential on 01904 615505. 7.30pm, £8. Includes mulled wine and a mince pie. www.barleyhall.org.uk.

Deck the Halls at Oakwell Hall

Saturday 15 to Sunday 23 December 2012

Enjoy Oakwell Hall's period rooms decorated on the theme of traditional Christmas carols. Enquiries: Oakwell Hall, Nutter Lane, Birstall WF17 9LG, telephone 01924 326240, www.friendsofoakwellhall.org.uk.

The Medieval Peasant House Revisited

Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 January 2013

Annual winter conference of the Vernacular Architecture Group, to be held in Leicester. Includes a talk by Barry Harrison on *The Medieval Peasant House in North Yorkshire*. Further details at www.vag.org.uk.

Weaver's Cottages: Picking up the Threads

Saturday 19 January 2013

Talk by Kathy Fishwick to Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, 11am in Room 5, Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester. www.landcas.org.uk.

Farmhouses through Time

Monday 28 January 2012

Especially for our YVBSG members in Derbyshire ... a talk by Keith Blood to Melbourne Civic Society, Derbyshire, tracing the history of the farmhouse from the Celtic longhouse. 7.30pm in the Leisure Centre, Melbourne, £2. Enquiries: Pam Adams on 01332 865760, www.melbournecivicsociety.org.uk.

Austwick Hall

Thursday 7 February 2013

Talk by Michael Pearson to Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group, 7.30pm in the Soroptomists Rooms, 28 Otley Street, Skipton, £3. www.uwhg.org.uk.

Lincolnshire Castles and Towers

Saturday 9 February 2013

Day conference organised by Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, to include brick towers, Tattershall Castle, Lincoln Castle and other castles. 9.30am to 3.30pm at Horncastle College, Mareham Road, Horncastle, £25. www.lincolnshirepast.org.uk.



Bradford Brickmaking

Wednesday 13 February 2013

Talk by Derek Barker to Bradford Historical and Antiquarian Society. 10:30am at The Bradford Club, Piece Hall Yard, Bradford BD1 1PJ. www.bradfordhistorical.org.uk.

Calderdale Heritage Walks

An independent organisation offering walks led by guides who are passionate about local heritage and who undertake considerable research for the walks they lead. Walks normally cost £3 and last 2 to 2¼ hours with no need to book, but do check www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk for details:

What's afoot? Sunday 16 December 2012. Meet David Cant outside the Civic Centre on Station Road, Luddendenfoot at 2pm.

Halifax Markets. Friday 28 December 2012. Meet David Nortcliffe by the Piece Hall North Gate (Woolshops side) at 2pm.

Four Squared in Halifax. Sunday 13 January 2013. Meet Anne Kirker at the corner of Woolshops and 'Square', near M&S corner entrance, at 2pm.

Halifax's Dark Side. Sunday 27 January 2013. Meet John Billingsley at the Piece Hall West Gate (top gate) at 2pm.

Luddenden. Sunday 24 February 2013. Meet David Cant by the New Road carpark at the Luddenden Foot end of the village at 2pm.

'Trousers Town'. Saturday 9 March 2013. Meet Justine Wyatt by Hebden Bridge Visitor & Canal Centre at 2pm.

Bank Barns, Boskins, and Bee Boles

Monday 18 February 2013

A talk by Andrew Lowe to Ingleborough Archaeology Group, 7.30pm at Ingleton Community Centre. www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk.

Challenge and Change: Building Styles in Skipton and North Craven

Thursday 28 February 2013

A talk by Sue Wrathmell to Skipton and Craven History Society. 7.30pm at the Swadford Centre, Swadford Street, Skipton, £2. www.simplesite.com/Skipton-History-Society.

Water-powered Mills of Kirkby Lonsdale and District

Monday 11 March 2013

A talk by Mike Kingsway to Kirkby Lonsdale Civic Society, 7.30pm at The Institute, New Street, Kirkby Lonsdale. www.communigate.co.uk/lakes/kirkbylonsdalecivicsociety.

Traditional Buildings - the Craftsmen and their Clients

Wednesday 13 March 2013

Talk by David Cant to Saddleworth Historical Society, 7.30pm at Saddleworth Museum. www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk.

Traditional Houses in Context, 1550 - 1850

Saturday 20 April 2013

Bradford University day school led by George Sheeran at South Square Centre, Thornton. Details will appear at www.bradford.ac.uk/study/public-programmes in due course, or telephone 01274 233547.

New publications

The Liverpool Cowkeepers by Patsy Mellor. Available from Patsy J Mellor, 8 Rowan Lane, Hellifield, North Yorkshire BD23 4JG, at £5 + £1.65 p&p. Early in the nineteenth century Dales people were experiencing hard times and some were tempted to take up cow-keeping in Liverpool where milk was in demand. The Liverpool cow house was usually established at a street end, being a retail dairy or shop with a hay loft overhead. An average of 20 beasts was contained in stalls, with each stall having space for two cows. The business went into decline after the first world war.

The Medieval Peasant House in Midland England by Nat Alcock and Dan Miles. An in-depth study of the medieval peasant houses still standing in Midland villages, dating from the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries. It examines in particular the use of cruck construction, as found in many of the earliest buildings in the region. A combination of detailed architectural study, tree-ring and radiocarbon-dating and documentary research is used to illuminate the nature, status and historical context of these houses. To be published shortly. Full price £45, special offer £34 from Oxbow Books, telephone 01865 241249, www.oxbowbooks.com.

Open to the public

Kevin Illingworth reminds us that it's worth looking out for small notices in the *Craven Herald* and other local newspapers advertising events held in interesting buildings.

On just one Saturday in November, for example, you could have joined coffee mornings at High Hall, Appletreewick (sixteenth/seventeenth century, listed grade II*), Fold Farm, Kettlewell (fifteenth/seventeenth century, listed grade II*) and Church House, Grassington (1694). But beware of caffeine overdose!

Some forthcoming courses

Landscapes and Buildings of Tudor England

Tutor: Graham Winton. 8 to 10 February 2013. Residential £190, non-residential £128. Enquiries: Higham Hall College, Bassenthwaite Lake, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9SH, telephone 017687 76276, www.highamhall.com.

Nikolaus Pevsner and the Buildings of England

Tutor: Roger Mitchell. 5 March 2013, 11am to 4pm, £44. Enquiries: Alston Hall, Alston Lane, Longridge, Preston PR3 3BP, telephone 01772 784661, www.alstonhall.com.

Friends of HHA

As a Friend of the HHA you can visit nearly 300 houses free of charge and be on the mailing list for tours as below. Details from Friends Membership Department, Heritage House, PO Box 21, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 5SH, 01462 896688, www.hha.org.uk.

- 28 March and 28 August 2013 – Ampleforth and Gilling Castle (£29)
- 21 April and 15 September 2013 – Austwick and Hellifield Peel (£59)
- 30 May 2013 – Weston Hall and Farfield Hall (£39)
- 7 June 2013 – Burton Constable and Mausoleum (£59)

Other Yorkshire organisations

As institutional members of the Yorkshire Group of the Council for British Archaeology, and the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, YVBSG members can keep up-to-date through their websites (www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk and www.yas.org.uk) and attend events such as the Annual CBA Yorkshire Symposium in York on 2 February 2013.

Joyce Williams 1926-2012

Joyce Williams, who died on 24 October after a short illness, was one of our founder members and a member of the committee until 2010.



She was a prominent local historian, regularly writing articles for local publications as well as making a major contribution to the definitive history of Guisborough published in 1983. She was also a founder-member of Guisborough Museum, for which she continued acting as steward until last year. Joyce was a most active buildings-recorder, both in Cleveland and at our residential weekends – to which she always brought a bottle of whisky to entertain those of us with sufficient stamina into the early hours. This was nominally to celebrate her birthday which usually coincided (more or less) with the recording weekend. Although 'retired' and clearly not in the best of health, she joined us for dinner at the Great Broughton weekend in May of this year and even came back for the following day's proceedings, giving us a welcome opportunity to honour

her contribution to the Group over so many years. Her funeral on 31 October was held in her beloved parish church, for long a focus of her historical as well as her spiritual interests, before a large congregation which included nine YVBSG members.

Barry Harrison

As some of you will know, Joyce liked to pen a little ditty now and again, and indeed she even wrote a couple of verses to be read at her funeral. With the kind permission of her family, we print one of these verses.

*The friend of man, the friend of truth
The friend of age, the friend of youth
Few hearts like hers with virtue warmed
Few hearts with knowledge so informed
If there's another world she'll live in bliss
If there is not ... she made the most of this!*

Joyce Williams

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