



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

Website: <http://www.yvbsg.org.uk/>

Newsheet No 34

September 2003

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Conference Review Day

Sunday 28 September 2003

A review of the buildings recorded in Scarborough during the annual conference in May will be held in the upper room of the Harbour Bar, Sandside, Scarborough. Start 1.30pm, finish about 4pm. An overall appraisal of the buildings, together with documentary evidence unearthed so far, will be given. Already patterns of building are emerging, and documents are proving most interesting. A resume of the extant timber frame buildings of Scarborough will also be presented. It is hoped that we will be able to visit the Richard III house after the meeting to analyse the building in the light of recent recording by members of the YVBSG.

Even if you could not attend the conference, you are most welcome to come along and hear the reports on the buildings and their social usage and context. Coffee/tea will be served during the afternoon. If you'd like to join other members for lunch, meet at noon at the Golden Grid restaurant, next door to the Harbour Bar.

It would be appreciated if members could send drawings still outstanding from the conference to team leaders as soon as possible so that reports can be completed.

### Annual Day School

Saturday 20 March 2004

On the theme of vernacular buildings and estate villages. Details to follow in the December Newsheet.

### Annual Recording Conference

Friday 14 to Sunday 16 May 2004

To be based in and around Malton, North Yorkshire. Details to follow.

### Next Committee Meeting

Sunday 9 November 2003

If you'd like to bring any matter to the attention of the Committee, please contact the Secretary, David Crook.

### Thank you!

Our thanks go to Marie Louise Rathmell and Arnold Pacey for organising an interesting and enjoyable day's recording in Starbotton in July.

Many thanks also to Don McLellan for running an excellent training day in August on using digital technology in recording work.

### Yorkshire Buildings

Could I encourage all members (or even non-members) to start thinking about possible articles for next year's annual journal, *Yorkshire Buildings*? The deadline is 31 December 2003 – all contributions welcome, long or short!

### Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. Please send items for the December newsheet (such as requests for information, events, courses or publications of interest to other members) to the editor by the end of November 2003.

### Use of whalebone in Yorkshire buildings

Just recently the spectre of the use of whalebone in Yorkshire buildings came to note when giving a talk to the Thorne Local History Group. Thorne, an inland port on the tidal river Don, had a boat-building history and evidently used whalebone (jaws and possibly ribs) in the local rope-walk. I have no doubt this would also have been the case in Whitby.

There is a fascinating photograph (published in *The Naturalist* (1930) 55: 285-286) of a whale-jaw building near 'Mortimer's Lodgings' by the Gasworks, Whitby. It shows a series of 'crook-frames' made from pairs of baleen whale jawbones. Evidently the roofing material was canvas (probably recycled sail canvas).

I wonder if any members are aware of any examples of where whalebone has been used as a local building material of the 18th and 19th century?

*Colin Howes, Keeper of Environmental Records, Museum and Art Gallery, Chequer Road, Doncaster DN1 2AE.*

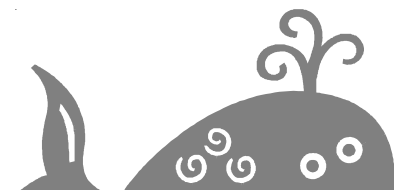
Two further points on this topic:

A copy of what is perhaps the same photograph of the whalebone building (taken by Frank Sutcliffe in 1930) appears in *The Buildings of Georgian Whitby* (1995) by Andrew White – *Editor*

And propped against a wall in the yard of the Beck Isle Museum in Pickering is a pair of whalebones with the caption "Whalebones used as gateposts. Brought to Pickering by Nicholas Piper. A Whaling Capton who lived in Pickering and sailed from Whitby." – *Editor*

### Still growing ...

We are pleased to report that membership has reached its highest level ever, with a grand total of 210 members. New members are always 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!

### **Best of British Archaeology 2003: North West England**

Friday 26 to Sunday 28 September 2003  
Weekend event at Merseyside Maritime Museum, Liverpool. Some talks relate to buildings and optional visits include Speke Hall. Contact Mike Heyworth, Council for British Archaeology, tel 01904 671417, website <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/cba/weekend>. Fee £45.

### **Be a House Detective**

Saturday 27 September 2003  
National Trust Children's Activity at Nunnington Hall. From 10.30am. £6 (accompanying adult £2). Booking essential on 01439 748283.

### **Curious Carvings around the Calder Valley**

Friday 3 October 2003  
University of Bradford Friday Morning Lecture by John Billingsley. 10.30am to noon in the John Stanley Bell Lecture Theatre, Richmond Building, £3 payable on the door. Details from 01274 233213.

### **Peak District Landscape: Masterclass in the Study of Past Landscapes**

Thursday 9 to Sunday 12 October 2003  
Residential course run by Windgather Press, based at Hartington Youth Hostel, Derbyshire. Discover nucleated villages and medieval field systems, and post-medieval industrial landscapes of lead-mining. Course directors: David Austin and Andrew Fleming. £230. Details from Windgather Press, tel 01625 574684, website <http://www.windgather.co.uk>.

### **Nidderdale Heritage Weekend**

17-20 October 2003 or 19-22 March 2004  
Read the landscape of Nidderdale with a behind-the-scenes visit to Fountains Abbey, visit to the deserted medieval village and monastic grange complex at High Cayton, and exploration of remains of lead mining at Greenhow. Leaders: Kevin Cale and Martin Roe. Fee £160. Accommodation extra. Details from Beverley Park Centre, Pateley Bridge, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 5JB, tel 01423 711287/711509, email [staff@beverleypark.outdoored.co.uk](mailto:staff@beverleypark.outdoored.co.uk).

### **The Pennine Weaver**

Saturday 18 October 2003  
University of Bradford Day School with tutors George Sheeran and Colum Giles. This day school will concentrate on the domestic production of textiles in the region in the 18th and 19th centuries. Fee £15. Contact University of Bradford, tel 01274 233216, website <http://www.brad.ac.uk/admin/conted/cfa/dayschools.html>.

### **Beverley Local History Book Fair**

Saturday 25 October 2003  
10am to 4pm at the Memorial Hall, Lairgate, Beverley. Admission free. The YVBSG will have a stand at this fair.

### **Alms Houses**

Saturday 25 October 2003  
WEA Saturday School, tutor: Linda Crust. From medieval hospitals and leper houses to modern bungalows, charitable housing has been active for nine centuries in Lincolnshire. 3pm to 6pm at Nettleton Methodist Schoolroom, Nettleton, Lincolnshire. Fee £5. Enquiries: Eileen Mumby, 2 Orb Cottages, Cooks Lane, Nettleton LN7 6NL, tel 01472 852544.



### **Beverley Local History Event 2003**

Monday 27 to Friday 31 October 2003  
A series of three lectures: 'Chapters in the History of Yorkshire Farming' by Bernard Jennings on 27 October; 'Yorkshire's Magnificent Dales' by John Whittle on 30 October, and 'Twentieth Century East Riding' by David Neave on 31 October, all at 7.30pm in Beverley Library. Also two guided tours: 'Medieval and Tudor Beverley' with David Palliser, meet outside Beverley Library at 2pm on 28 October; 'Saturday Market' with Pat Elliott, meet at Market Cross at 2pm on 29 October. Booking essential in Beverley Reference Library, or tel 01482 392755. £2.50 per event or £10 all events.

### **York Archaeological and Historical Book Fair**

Saturday 8 November 2003  
10am to 4pm at the Archaeological Resource Centre, St Saviourgate, York. Admission free. The YVBSG will have a stand at this fair.

### **Documenting the Historic Environment**

Tuesday 11 November 2003  
Day school at Manchester Town Hall organised by Liverpool University Centre for Archive Studies. Speakers include Anna Eavis of the National Monuments Record, architectural historian Joseph Sharples, Michael Moss Professor of Archives at Glasgow University, architect Andrew Wright,

and editor of the Local Historian, Dr Alan Crosby. Fee £95. Details from Adrian Allan, Sydney Jones Library, University of Liverpool, P0 Box 123, Liverpool L69 3DA, tel 0151 794 2093, or see website <http://www.liv.ac.uk/lucas/index.htm>.

### **South Yorkshire Archaeology Day**

Saturday 15 November 2003  
Annual event in Sheffield. Speakers will present the results of their work from throughout the county. Talks will be aimed at the interested lay person, rather than professional archaeologists. Details from Institute for Lifelong Learning, University of Sheffield, tel 0114 2227000, email [til@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:til@sheffield.ac.uk).

### **The Mills of the Luddenden Valley**

Tuesday 18 November 2003  
Talk by Mr E Webster to Halifax Antiquarian Society. 7.30pm in Calderdale Central Library, Halifax. Details from Mrs C D McDonald, 24 Heath View, Halifax HX1 2JU.

### **Medieval Hospitals**

Saturday 29 November 2003  
University of Bradford Day School with tutor Barry Harrison. At this day school we shall explore the fluctuating patterns of hospital foundation, organisation and the provision of care; the impact of changing concepts and priorities in the treatment of the poor and sick during the middle ages, and above all the evidence of the surviving buildings themselves. Particular attention will be given to hospitals in Yorkshire and other parts of northern England. Fee £15. Contact University of Bradford, tel 01274 233216, website <http://www.brad.ac.uk/admin/conted/cfa/dayschools.html>.

### **Lost Houses of Yorkshire**

Wednesday 10 December 2003  
Talk by Edward Waterson to Poppleton History Society. 7.30pm Methodist Hall, Upper Poppleton. Contact the Secretary: Julian Crabb, Russett House, The Green, Upper Poppleton, tel 01904 798868.

### **West Yorkshire Local and Family History Day**

Saturday 13 December 2003  
Organised by West Yorkshire Archive Service. 10.30am to 4.30pm at North Bridge Leisure Centre in Halifax. Local and family history societies from the North of England will put on displays about their activities and share their experiences with beginners. Details from Carol Hallett on 0113 3836407 or email [challett@wyjs.org.uk](mailto:challett@wyjs.org.uk).

## More events of possible interest ...

### Northallerton and District Local History Society Events

As a contribution to the Yorkshire and Humberside Libraries Services Local History Month, the Northallerton and District Local History Society invites you to a series of events in October as listed below. The conferences will be held at the Golden Lion Hotel, Northallerton. They will run between 10am and 4.30pm and each is priced at £15 per head which is inclusive of a buffet lunch and refreshments. Further details and a booking form can be obtained from John Sheehan on 01609 771878.

#### North Yorkshire Local History Conference

Saturday 11 October 2003

Arranged in conjunction with the Centre for Local Historical Research of the University of Teesside, this event was successfully inaugurated last year. The day will feature speakers on recent research into the history of the county; topics range through the 16th, 18th and 20th centuries and include religion, politics and conservation themes.

#### North Yorkshire Family History Conference

Saturday 18 October 2003

Introduced for the first time this year in conjunction with Cleveland, North Yorkshire and South Durham Family History Society, the day has been designed to appeal to novices and enthusiasts alike. It will illustrate the fascination of the subject with anecdotal and humorous insights and be backed by an introduction to the use of archival and internet resources.

#### North Yorkshire Archaeology Conference

Saturday 25 October 2003

Launched by the Council for British Archaeology Yorkshire and Humberside Group and the Yorkshire Archaeological Society, it is intended that this will become an annual event. This year the day will review excavations and research at Roman Catterick from 1958 to date by the principal archaeologists involved and assess future developments.

## Some recent books and articles

*The King's Mills, Leeds. The History and Archaeology of the Manorial Water-powered Corn Mills* by John Goodchild and Stuart Wrathmell. 60pp, 2002. Available from Norman Madill, Assistant Secretary, Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society, 38 Dennistead Crescent, Headingley, Leeds LS6 3PU, £7 including p&p (cheques payable to Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society). Outlines the archaeology and history of the later manorial corn mill of Leeds from medieval times to the 19th century. Water channels and wheelpits of the 18th/19th centuries, and medieval timbers, were found in excavation.

*Craven History* is a new publication launched in March 2003, looking at the history and architecture of the Craven area. The first issue includes articles on West Marton, Addingham, Silsden, Ingthorpe, Skipton, Arncliffe and Keighley. Copies available at £5 + £1 p&p from Craven History, c/o 4 Bright Street, Gargrave Road, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 1QH, tel 01756 792788.

*Medieval South Yorkshire* by David Hey. ISBN 1843060809, £19.95, hardback, Landmark Publishing 2003. This is an extensive re-write of the author's book *The Making of South Yorkshire*, published in 1979. This book uses the evidence on the ground – buildings, earthworks, fields, woods, market places and roads – to reveal the long and interesting history of South Yorkshire.

*Housing for Masters and Workers: Two case studies of nineteenth-century Keighley*. Produced by students on the Pennine and Yorkshire Studies course, this paper examines the houses built by the Brigg and the Clough families, worsted manufacturers of Keighley. Working class terraces and improved housing are contrasted with villas built for the manufacturers. £5.75 from George Sheeran/Paul Jennings, School of Lifelong Education and Development, University of Bradford, West Yorkshire BD7 1DP, tel 01274 233210, email learning@bradford.ac.uk. Cheques payable to 'University of Bradford'.

*Domestic Interiors: The British Tradition 1500-1850* by James Ayres. ISBN 0300084455, £45, hardback, Yale University Press 2003. In this study, James Ayres traces the development – in words and pictures – of vernacular British interiors from the 16th to the mid-19th century. The work is a greatly expanded and revised version of Ayres' earlier work *The Book of the Home*, and deals with a wide range of subjects, including heating and lighting, the use of colour and paint, details of doors, doorways and staircases, and much more.

*The Mortice and Tenon*. Since January 1995, Paul Price of Carpenter, Oak and Woodland has compiled and edited this publication, with assistance from Eilis McDonnell and Henry Russell. The newsletter is published usually twice a year (spring and autumn), and covers topics on traditional building and frame repair in England. Subscription details from Paul on 01249 716425 or by email mandt@prpem.globalnet.co.uk.

## Websites worth watching

#### VAG Cruck Database

[http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/specColl/vag\\_cruck/index.cfm](http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/specColl/vag_cruck/index.cfm)

The Vernacular Architecture Group's cruck database is now online, containing information on location, function and condition of cruck buildings with further details on the crucks themselves.

#### Structural Images of the North East

<http://sine.ncl.ac.uk/>

University of Newcastle database of images of various structures from Northumberland, Tyne & Wear, Durham and Teesside.



#### Church Plans Online

<http://www.churchplansonline.org/>

Nice website providing online access to digitised images of the 13,000 church plans in the Incorporated Church Building Society's archive.

#### West Yorkshire Archaeology Service newsletter

<http://www.arch.wyjs.org.uk/AdvSrv/Newsletter.htm>

The WYAS newsletter is now available online, and the latest issue contains an overview of timber-framed buildings in West Yorkshire by Peter Thornborrow.

#### Digital Library of Historical Directories

<http://www.historicaldirectories.org/>

University of Leicester project to create a digital library of 18th, 19th and early 20th century local and trade directories in England and Wales.

## Learning about ...

It's the start of a new academic year, and listed below are just a few of the courses on offer this term in the region.

### Historic Landscapes of Saddleworth

Tutor: Alan Petford. Come and discover what the fields and hedges, roads and homesteads have to tell us about the way Saddleworth has evolved through a thousand years.

WEA course. Mondays from 15 September 2003, 7.15–9.15pm at Saddleworth School, Uppermill. Enquiries: D Latimer, tel 0161 633 3205.

### Life and Labour in Rural East Yorkshire

Tutor: Stephen Harrison. This course examines rural life and labour during the 19th and 20th centuries. Topics will include: the village in the landscape; the cottage economy; housing; the 'big house'; and the village and the wider world.

WEA course. Tuesdays from 23 September 2003, 10am–noon at Methodist Chapel Schoolroom, Church Street, South Cave. Enquiries: Molly Cutts, tel 01430 422344.

### Lower Class Housing 1780-1949

Tutor: George Sheeran. Learn about the 19th-century working class/lower middle class urban housing conditions and the different agencies concerned with housing reform.

University of Bradford course. Wednesdays from 24 September 2003, 6pm to 9pm. Enquiries: School of Lifelong Education and Development, University of Bradford, tel 01274 233210, website <http://www.bradford.ac.uk/sled/>.

### Historic Landscapes of the West Riding

Tutor: Alan Petford. This course studies the evolution of many historic West Riding landscapes, both rural and urban, by means of selected case studies. We range from pre-history to post-war municipal endeavour, fully illustrated with slides.

WEA/University of Leeds course. Thursdays from 25 September 2003, 10.30–12.45 at Swarthmore Centre, Leeds. Enquiries: Mavis Tee, tel 0113 257 7009, email [mtee@wea.org.uk](mailto:mtee@wea.org.uk)

### The Stately Homes of Yorkshire

Tutor: Sam Wood. Follows the architectural and social history of stately homes in Yorkshire, from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century, with special reference to John Carr.

WEA course. Thursdays from 25 September 2003, 1.30–3.30pm at Methodist Church Schoolrooms, Driffield. Enquiries: Nicole Headley, tel 01482 610833, email [nheadley@wea.org.uk](mailto:nheadley@wea.org.uk).

### Architecture of the West Riding

Tutor: Alan Petford. Our aim is to explore the style, planning and design of the West Riding's diversity of architecture, from Medieval churches to non-conformist chapels, from textile mills to workers' housing.

WEA/University of Leeds course. Thursdays from 25 September, 6.30–8.30pm at Halifax Central Library. Enquiries: Margaret Francis, tel 01422 368247.

### Investigating the Evolution of Historic Landscapes

Tutor: Steve Moorhouse. Students will investigate a specific area of historic or archaeological landscape mainly through practical fieldwork. Different sources of evidence relating to multi-period landscapes will be introduced.

WEA course. Mondays from 29 September 2003, 2–4pm at Grassington Town Hall. Enquiries: Joan Knott, tel 01943 609487.

### The Vitality of the English Country House

Tutor: Anthony Powell. This course will look at how and why English country houses evolved – who were the owners; the builders and who were the dependent community. We shall visit some Yorkshire examples to make comparisons.

WEA course. Tuesdays from 30 September 2003, 2–4pm at Roundhay Friends Meeting House, Leeds. Enquiries: Mavis Tee, tel 0113 257 7009, email [mtee@wea.org.uk](mailto:mtee@wea.org.uk).

### Yorkshire Homes: Traditional Cottages and Farmhouses

Tutor: Ian Pattison. This course seeks to de-mystify crucks, crown-post trusses, fire windows, hearth tax, hecks and inventories. We shall examine sources available and see how buildings can themselves be treated as historical documents.

University of York course. Tuesdays from 30 September 2003, 7–9pm at King's Manor, York. Enquiries: Centre for Continuing Education, University of York, tel 01904 434620, website <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/cce/>.

### Traditional Lake District Buildings

Tutor: Andrew Lowe. What makes Lake District buildings distinctive? We explore the historical evolution of vernacular styles for houses, farms and industrial buildings, with the emphasis on understanding construction methods.

Lancaster University course. 7 Wednesdays from 1 October 2003, 7–9pm at Yealand Village Hall, field visits on Saturday 18 and 25 October, 1–4pm. Enquiries: Department of Continuing Education, Lancaster University, tel 01524 592624.

### The Art and Architecture of the Medieval Home

Tutor: Allan Barton. The course will start by examining the construction of medieval housing, the regional characteristics and arrangement, before going on to look at the decoration, furnishings and contents of the medieval home.

University of York course. Thursdays from 2 October 2003, 7–9pm at King's Manor, York. Enquiries: University of York as above.

### Drawing and Painting Buildings

Tutor: Jane Beech. We will start by looking at how to select a subject and create an interesting composition. We look at how to draw a building in scale and the use of perspective, and how to create textures to represent brickwork and roofs.

Two day course on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November at Burton Manor College, Burton, Neston, Cheshire CH64 5SJ, tel 0151 336 5172, email [enquiry@burtonmanor.com](mailto:enquiry@burtonmanor.com). Fee £78.

### University of York Centre for Conservation courses

Courses open to the public include: Lime Week (29 September – 2 October 2003); The Study and Conservation of Stone (3–6 November 2003); The Study and Conservation of Timber (17–20 November 2003); The Study and Conservation of Earth and Plasterwork (24–27 November 2003); The Study and Conservation of Historic Interiors (19–22 January 2004); Brick, Terracotta and Tiles (26–29 January 2004); The Study and Conservation of Metals and Glass in Architecture (23–26 February 2004).

Fee: £250 per course. Details from the Dept of Archaeology, University of York, tel 01904 433963, website <http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/arch/gsp/openshort/menu.htm>.

