



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 42

September 2005

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Upperthong Conference Review Day

Sunday 2 October 2005

The YVBSG Annual Recording Conference Review Day will be held at the Huntsman Inn, Greenfield Road, near Upperthong, Holmfirth on Sunday 2 October from 2pm to 4.30pm.

There will be presentations from the recording teams on the buildings that were recorded at the conference in May 2005.

*In my view this event is one of the most important in our calendar.* It is a great opportunity to learn more about the buildings, and to meet up again with your team members, and householders who will also be invited to the event. There will be a social Sunday lunch (meet at 12 o'clock, midday) at the Huntsman Inn for those who wish to take it.

All are invited to come along. *Please would team leaders encourage your team members to attend?* No advance notice is required, but if you would like Sunday lunch, please contact me in advance, so that I can pass numbers on to the Huntsman Inn. My details are at the foot of the last page of the Newsheet.

*David Cook*

### Longley Old Hall

Sunday 20 November 2005

As announced in the previous Newsheet, the Group has arranged a visit to Longley Old Hall, a fascinating building at Longley, south of Huddersfield (further details at website [www.longleyoldhall.co.uk](http://www.longleyoldhall.co.uk)) between 3pm and 5pm. Numbers are limited but some places are still available – if you would like to come along, please contact Malcolm Birdsall (3 Springfield Mount, Addingham, West Yorkshire LS29 0JB, telephone 01943 830460) as soon as possible.



*Recording in Upperthong*

### Annual Recording Conference

Provisionally Friday 12 to Sunday 14 May 2006, in the Yorkshire Dales. Details to follow.

### In the pipeline ...

Other events are planned for 2006 and will be publicised in future Newsheets. If anyone is interested in organising a walkabout or a recording day in their locality at any time, please contact David Crook.

### Annual Day School

Saturday 18 March 2006

Our 2006 day school will be held on Saturday 18 March in Leeds. Please make a note of this in your diaries! We are planning to hold the day school jointly with the Yorkshire Archaeological Society.

The YVBSG will hold its AGM after the day school as usual. More details to follow in the next Newsheet.

### Next committee meeting

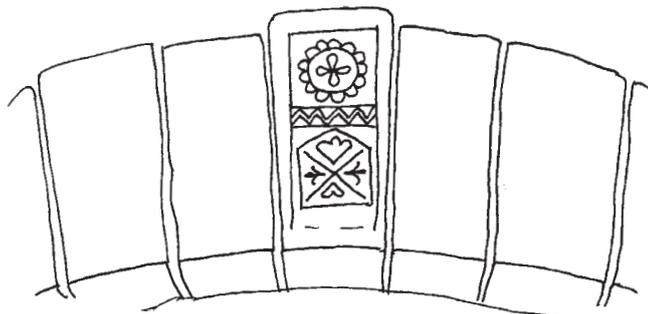
The next committee meeting will be held on Sunday 13 November 2005. If you'd like to raise any matter please contact David Crook.

### Next Newsheet

Many thanks indeed to everybody who contributed to this newsheet. Please send items for the December newsheet to the editor by 30 November.

## The meaning of carvings and symbols

We've received an enquiry from someone who would like to know more about the significance of the engravings on a fireplace in a house in Langstrothdale, which may date back to the latter part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. If anyone is able to offer any knowledge of these particular symbols (sketched below), please contact the editor who will pass on the information. Both the heart symbol and the 'flower', with varying number of petals, are found elsewhere in Yorkshire (see *Doorways in the Dales* for examples of the use of similar motifs).



## Learning about ...

### Landscape History in the Parishes of Sutton and Wawne

Tutor: Mary Carrick. Aimed at anyone with an interest in how the landscape of the parishes of Sutton and Wawne developed from the Middle Ages to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. No prior knowledge required. The course includes looking at and analysing original documents, photographs and maps. Field visits possible to view existing remnants of the old landscape.

10 Mondays from 26 September 2005, 7-9pm, at St James C of E School, Dorchester Road, Hull. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Hull, telephone 01482 465666, website [www.hull.ac.uk/ccl](http://www.hull.ac.uk/ccl).

### Whitby: Heritage and Homes

Tutor: Jane Biott. This course will look at Whitby and its built environment and is designed for beginners who wish to learn how to research local history. Includes study of the structure and history of local landmarks and less well known buildings.

6 Tuesdays from 27 September 2005, 9.30am-12.30pm, at Whitby Museum, Pannett Park, Whitby, and a 2-hour field trip. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Hull, telephone 01482 465666, website [www.hull.ac.uk/ccl](http://www.hull.ac.uk/ccl).

### Seeing with New Eyes: a Look at Local Buildings

Tutor: Peter Gould. An opportunity to find out what the buildings we see every day can show us about ourselves and our culture. We consider the history and styles of local buildings and some architectural forms from across the world.

10 Wednesdays from 28 September 2005, 7-9pm, at University of Hull. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Hull, telephone 01482 465666, website [www.hull.ac.uk/ccl](http://www.hull.ac.uk/ccl).

### British Architecture: Form and Function

Tutor: Chris Edwardes. Explores the developments in building methods and structure; use and presentation, from great churches to buildings of industry; from country houses to 'aspiring' cottages. Includes styles and status and the visual language of architecture.

10 Mondays from 26 September 2005, 1-3pm at The Coliseum, Victoria Place, Whitby, or 10 Thursdays from 12 January 2006, 10am to 12 noon at St James's Art Centre, Seamer Road, Scarborough. Enquiries: Centre for Lifelong Learning, University of Hull, telephone 01482 465666, website [www.hull.ac.uk/ccl](http://www.hull.ac.uk/ccl).

### York Brick and Tile: Archaeology and History

Tutor: Sandra Garside-Neville. From roof furniture to wall bricks, from glazed floor tiles to field drains, brick and tile has great variety. This course is a chance to explore the uses of brick and tile in York and the surrounding area from the Roman period to the present day. Using varying sources, the manufacture, uses and types of brick and tile will be examined.

6 Tuesdays from 10 January 2006, 7-9pm, at University of York. Enquiries: University of York, Centre for Lifelong Learning, 5 Main Street, Heslington, York YO10 5DD, telephone 01904 434620, website [www.york.ac.uk/inst/cce](http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/cce).

### Monasteries and the Yorkshire Landscape

Tutor: Robert Wright. An introduction to the history of the abbeys and priories of medieval Yorkshire, focusing on their economic life and their impact on the surrounding landscape.

6 Fridays from 27 January 2006, 7-9pm, at York St John College, York. Optional field visit to Rievaulx Abbey. Enquiries: Dr Margaret Atherden, PLACE Office, telephone 01904 716753, email [place@yorksja.ac.uk](mailto:place@yorksja.ac.uk).

## Some recent publications

*Leeds* by Sue Wrathmell. Pevsner City Guide, June 2005, ISBN 0300107366, paperback, 320 pages, £9.99. The richly diverse architectural heritage of Leeds, from the mighty Town Hall to its daring 1960s university campus, is fully explored in this essential guide. A series of walks reveal each period of development, from medieval wool town to vibrant twenty-first century city, covering buildings as diverse as the Jacobean church of St John, the relics of 19<sup>th</sup> century industry and opulent Victorian shopping arcades. Excursions into the suburbs and beyond take the reader to Kirkstall Abbey, Temple Newsam and the Norman church at Adel.

*Heptonstall Trail* by Pennine Heritage & Hebden Bridge Local History Society, £1.95. Now available again (from Hebden Bridge Tourist Information Office) in a new edition, a walk around Heptonstall with information on historical points of interest, with map and photos old and new.

*The Big House* by Christopher Simon Sykes. Harper Perennial, paperback edition 2005, ISBN 0-00-710710-2, £8.99. The entertaining story of the Sykes family of Sledmere, an East Riding (non-vernacular!) country house.



*Haworth: a History* by Steven Wood, 2005, £7.99. Haworth is mainly known for its association with the Brontes, but this book looks at other aspects of its history, its former farming, textile and quarrying industries, its houses, shops, inns, churches, reservoirs and gasworks, 19<sup>th</sup>-century popular beliefs, and some less well-known aspects of the Bronte connection. If you attended the YVBSG recording conference in Haworth in 2000, you may remember Steven's extensive local knowledge!

## Saddleworth Historical Society

The Saddleworth Historical Society has a good collection of photographs of vernacular buildings, being scanned at the moment. They are available to researchers, and might be of interest to YVBSG members. Further information from the archivist, Wilf Theakstone, website [www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk](http://www.saddleworth-historical-society.org.uk).

The society published W John Smith's book on *Saddleworth Buildings* in 1987 (now out of print), and more recently published *Saddleworth Villages* in 2003, which looks at local village architecture and the people and events that have helped shape the villages of Delph, Denshaw, Diggle, Dobcross, Grasscroft, Greenfield, Lydgate, Roughtown, Springhead and Uppermill. Copies are available for £14.95 (+ £4 p&p) from Graham Griffiths, 6 Slackcote, Delph, Saddleworth OL3 5AA, telephone 01457 870159, cheques payable to Saddleworth Historical Society.

## 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!

### **A View of the Hall: Discovering the Country Houses of the East Riding of Yorkshire**

Until 31 October 2005

Over the past months, alongside tutor John McKay, the photography students from Cottingham Adult Education Centre have travelled throughout the East Riding, capturing rich and varied views of country houses: a selection of their work will be on display at Burton Constable Hall.

### **Heritage Open Days 2005**

Thursday 8 to Sunday 11 September 2005

This weekend celebrates England's architecture and culture by allowing visitors free access to interesting properties that are either not usually open, or would normally charge an entrance fee. For details look out for local publicity, telephone 0870 240 5251 or 020 7539 7918, or browse through the online events directory at website [www.heritageopendays.net](http://www.heritageopendays.net). Some highlights in Yorkshire include:

- Tour of Vernacular Buildings in Grassington by the Upper Wharfedale Field Society. Meet at Town Hall, Main Street at 2pm on Saturday. Enquiries: 01756 752039.
- Whitby 'Yards' Event, Clarks Yard, off Church Street. Whitby 'yards' are rows of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century cottages, tucked behind main streets. Visit Clarks Yard, Borough Place, Blackburn's Yard. You can also view 2 Blackburn's Yard, a 17<sup>th</sup> century cottage with stone mullion windows, 17<sup>th</sup> century panelling, Georgian fireplace, upper cruck frame. Saturday and Sunday, 2pm to 4pm.
- Hoylandswaine Nail Forge, Barnsley Road, Hoylandswaine. Row of nailmakers' forges, one with hearth and bellows, preserved as relic of village industry (see *Yorkshire Buildings* 31, 2003). Opening for first time after conservation work. Sunday 11am to 4pm.
- Manorial Barn, Chaff Lane, Whiston. A building of considerable historic and architectural interest (see *Yorkshire Buildings* 30, 2002). Sunday 2pm to 4pm.

### **History in Loo: the Prehistory of the Lavatory**

Friday 16 September 2005

Talk by Eric Houlder to Barton-upon-Humber Civic Society at the Assembly Rooms, Barton, 7.30pm. Further details from 01652 633363.

### **Guided Walks Of Hull's Old Town**

Until 31 October 2005

Guided tours of the old town set off from the Tourist Information Centre, City Hall, Hull, Mondays to Saturdays at 2pm and Sundays at 11am, £3. Enquiries: Paul Schofield, 01482 878535, website [www.tourhull.com](http://www.tourhull.com).



### **Marie Hartley – 100 years, A Celebration**

29 September to 17 November 2005

An exhibition at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes, of the life and work of the museum's founder, Marie Hartley (who celebrates her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this month) and her associates Ella Pontefract and Joan Ingilby, showcasing their books, paintings, wood engravings and drawings of life in the Dales and across Yorkshire.

### **Yorkshire Names and Dialects**

Saturday 1 October 2005

Conference on place-names, family names and Yorkshire dialects, organised by PLACE, 9.30am to 7.30pm at York St John College, York. Speakers include: Gillian Fellows-Jensen: *The Vikings in Yorkshire: the place-name evidence*; Margaret Gelling: *The landscape of place-names*; George Redmonds: *Family names and the landscape*; Paul Cavill: *The last word? After the Yorkshire place-name survey*; and others. Also a performance of the dialect play, *The Second Shepherd's Play*. Details from Dr Margaret Atherden, telephone 01904 716753, website [www.place.uk.com](http://www.place.uk.com).

### **West Yorkshire Archive Service Open Day**

Saturday 1 October 2005

Look round the Registry of Deeds and the Archives in Newstead Road, Wakefield. For details or to book a place contact Helen Andrews on 0113 3836 433 or email [handrews@wyjs.org.uk](mailto:handrews@wyjs.org.uk).

### **Yarm Town Walk**

Sunday 2 October 2005

A walk around Yarm at 1.30pm with archaeologist Robin Daniels. Organised for North East Vernacular Architecture Group members. Membership costs £3 per annum – contact John Backhouse, Hon Treasurer, NEVAG, Wesley Garth, Ireshopeburn, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham DL13 1HD.

### **York Archaeological Trust Annual Book Fair**

Saturday 22 October 2005

At St William's College, York, 10am to 4pm. There will be plenty of good archaeology, history and architecture book bargains, with stands by local community and archaeology societies.

### **House and Home in the North West**

Saturday 22 October 2005

Details of this one-day conference should be available soon from Susan Bailey, Administrator, Institute of Local and Family History, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, Lancashire PR1 2HE, telephone 01772 893053, website [www.uclan.ac.uk/facs/class/humanities/family/famintro.htm](http://www.uclan.ac.uk/facs/class/humanities/family/famintro.htm).

### **Pearls of the Past**

Saturday 12 November 2005

A conference to celebrate the important heritage of North Yorkshire and changing view of archaeology over the last thirty years. Talks will include: The History of North Yorkshire's Archaeology Service; Aerial Photography; The role of the National Parks; Community Archaeology; and Historic Landscape Characterisation. 10am to 4pm at Hambleton Forum, Bullamoor Road, Northallerton. Further details from Heritage Section, Planning and Countryside Unit, Environmental Services, County Hall, Northallerton, email [archaeology@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology@northyorks.gov.uk), telephone 01609 532331.

### **West Yorkshire Archaeology Day**

Saturday 19 November 2005

At the Beckett Park Campus, Leeds Metropolitan University. Speakers will include Sonia O'Connor on *Recovery and Conservation of the Chariot Burial Found in Fryston Park*; Ed Dennison on *Recent Work at Harewood Castle*; Malcolm Barnes on *Recent Work at Boston Spa*; Ian Roberts on *The Ferrybridge Project: Final Results*. The keynote address will be given by Carenza Lewis of Time Team. £10, lunch £6.50. Details from Linda Birch on 0113 2898280 or see website [www.arch.wyjs.org.uk/AdvSrv/Dayschool2005.htm](http://www.arch.wyjs.org.uk/AdvSrv/Dayschool2005.htm).

### **The Medieval Parish Church in Yorkshire: some regional contrasts**

Saturday 3 December 2005

Tutor: Barry Harrison. University of Bradford Saturday School. £17.50 Enquiries: Short Course Unit, telephone 01274 233216 or 233213, website [www.brad.ac.uk/sled](http://www.brad.ac.uk/sled).

## The Great Barn of Bolton Priory – notes on results of dendro-dating

The Great Barn at Bolton Abbey in Wharfedale is a very large aisled barn with a king-post roof which was built by the nearby Augustinian priory (not an abbey). It was the subject of a talk and a site visit at a meeting organised by the Olicana Historical Society (of Ilkley) on 23 April 2005. Since that meeting, plans for determining the date of the barn by dendrochronology have come to fruition, with surprising results.

A preliminary survey in 2004 led to the identification of important differences between northern and southern parts of the Great Barn. Carpenters' numbers run from north to south, with the six northern post-and-truss frames numbered from I to VI, but then with frames made of heavier timber towards the south end of the barn starting again with I, and numbered to VIII. Several different tools were used for marking the numbers on timbers in the northern end of the barn, including a knife, chisel and gouge, but at the south end of the barn, numbers were all marked with the point of a knife.

Scarf joints in the ridge and purlins show that the two parts of the barn with different carpenters' marks were built independently and then joined, and it was concluded that the two parts of the structure were built at different dates. However, sampling of the timber by Robert Howard of Nottingham University, analysed in collaboration with Cathy Groves of Sheffield, has shown that this conclusion was wrong.

Timber was felled for building the whole of the barn during the years 1517 and 1518. Some timber at the south end may have come from trees felled a little earlier than the rest, but the difference is a matter of months, not years.

Hence the differences in detail between the two parts of the barn are *not* due to carpenters resuming work after an interruption, as we first supposed. Rather, the differences arose because two independent teams of carpenters built the barn, perhaps working simultaneously but separately at the north and south ends, or possibly with one group beginning the job and then being diverted to other work and

another group taking over. It may be significant that the new west tower of the Priory Church, dated 1520, was being planned at this time. It is likely that the nave roof was also renewed (although its precise date is not known). Hence it is probable that extra carpenters had been recruited to work on the roof and to provide scaffolding and centering for the construction of the tower. That could explain why two teams of carpenters were available in 1518. It is possible that the carpenters who began the barn were diverted to work on the church while others finished the barn.

*Arnold Pacey*



*Photograph by David Cook*

## Markenfield Hall

It was reported in the press during the summer that the great hall at Markenfield Hall, near Ripon (visited by the YVBSG in July 2002), has been transformed from a grain store into a magnificently-crafted library holding 5,000 books in 12ft 6in high oak bookstacks designed by Erik Karlson.

Work on the hall, built in 1280, started three years ago. The library reflects the worldwide interest in history of owner Mr Ian Curteis. Among its books, it will also house the official Markenfield Hall archives.

Markenfield was rarely open to the public until four years ago, but now normally opens to the public in spring and summer. Details of opening hours are available by telephoning 01765 692303 or 01765 603411, or see website [www.redrice.com/markenfield](http://www.redrice.com/markenfield).

## Websites worth watching

### Out of Oblivion

[www.outofoblivion.org.uk](http://www.outofoblivion.org.uk)

A new website produced by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority offering a window into the archaeology and history of this area and its place in the landscape, including a section on domestic architecture by Don McLellan.

### North Craven Historical Research Group

<http://northcravenhistoricalresearch.co.uk/>

A group formed to encourage, promote and facilitate research into the history, archaeology and vernacular architecture of the area of North Craven which is centred on Settle. As part of the group's charitable funding, they provide via their website some outreach and education resources related to the work of their members.

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