

Vernacular Architecture of the Yorkshire Dales

Skipton, Saturday 28th February 2026

Speakers

Adam Menuge is the Course Director for the MSt in Building History at the University of Cambridge and a past president of the Vernacular Architecture Group. He previously worked for the National Trust, the Yorkshire Dales National Park, and RCHME before joining English Heritage. He is the author or co-author of books on Liverpool, Berwick-upon-Tweed and several widely used professional guidance documents.

Susan Wrathmell is an independent architectural historian and active local historian with involvement in several projects in and around Skipton with local societies. She is an active member of Skipton Civic Trust and author of the pioneering Pevsner city guide on Leeds. In 2025 she was a leading figure in the TRACES celebration of Skipton's heritage.

Kevin Illingworth is a skilled artist and photographer as well as having practical experience in landscaping with stone. He is a regular speaker to local groups and societies and has organised many walks and visits, particularly in the upland areas of Yorkshire and Lancashire. As an enthusiastic member of the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group he promotes their activities and publications wherever he goes.

David Johnson is a geographer and landscape archaeologist, based in the Yorkshire Dales. He has spent a lifetime trying to make sense of rural landscapes looking at the links between the physical landscape and the ways in which people have interacted with their environment. He has led several landscape research projects locally and his publications cover quarrying, mining, the limestone industries and medieval settlements in the Yorkshire Dales.

Mark Womersley has extensive experience working in the historic building restoration industry. He is skilled in surveying, restoration and building conservation. He runs a successful business supplying materials, supporting other professionals involved with historic building conservation, and consultancy work. He has recently been awarded a PhD and is engaged in projects in the Middle East and the Caribbean.

Kate Holt is an Accredited Conservation Architect and was recently appointed Senior Project Surveyor for the Landmark Trust in the north of England. Her work covers the wide range of buildings run by the Trust and includes the ongoing preservation work at Cowside, including impressive internal wall paintings in the main living space.