



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

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Newsheet No 94

December 2018

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

Building our Knowledge – annual day school and AGM

Saturday 23 March 2019

This year's day school offers an update on a variety of projects involving historic and vernacular buildings in Yorkshire, either in progress or recently completed. In a change from recent years, the venue will be York St John University in York. The booking form is enclosed and is also available on the website. The Group's AGM will follow the day school.



Beverley: one of the day school topics

Annual Recording Conference in Sheffield

Friday 17 to Sunday 19 May 2019

The next annual recording conference will be held in the Sheffield area, as part of the Group's wider programme focusing on the buildings of South Yorkshire over four years. Full details and booking form to follow in the February Newsheet.

In the pipeline ...

We also hope to arrange a taster visit to the Sheffield area before the conference, as well as other walkabouts during the year. Further details will be published in the February and subsequent Newsheets. As always, suggestions from members for visits or walkabouts would be very welcome; please contact Mary Cook, secretary@yvbsg.org.uk.

Next Newsheet

The next edition will be in February 2019 – please send any contributions to the editor by 31 January 2019. Short articles on buildings or features would be welcome, as well as details of publications or events that might be of interest to other members.

*Wishing a Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year to all our
members - we hope to see you at
our events during the year!*



Conference Review Day in Sheffield

An enjoyable morning was had at the Showroom Cinema in Sheffield on Saturday 13 October 2018, hearing about the buildings recorded at the annual conference in May. After a buffet lunch in the timber-framed Old Queen's Head, we walked to the Butcher Works, a former cutlery and tool factory now converted into a craft gallery, café and shop. Some of us then headed over to the site of Sheffield Castle, where an archaeological dig had recently taken place, but sadly most of the site is now hidden behind hoardings. We thank Peter Thornborrow and David Cook for organising the event, and Eric Thompson for guiding us back to the railway station and for showing us some of the city's fascinating buildings on the way.

Committee news

We are sorry to report that Jacky Quarmby is stepping down from the committee; we thank her for all she has done for the Group over many years, both as Treasurer and Membership Secretary and then as a committee member. This means that we have a vacancy on the committee which we hope to fill by election at the AGM in March. If you are interested in joining the committee, or would like more information about what's involved, please contact Mary Cook.

The next meeting of the YVBSG committee will be held on Saturday 16 February 2019. If you'd like to raise any matters, or have ideas for (or even offer to organise!) future events please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

Subscriptions

Membership fees for the coming calendar year become due on 1 January 2019. The 2017 and 2018 AGMs approved an increase in the annual membership fee from £10 to £12 and this will take effect for 2019. We hope you will agree that the fee still offers good value for money and that you will keep up your membership by returning the enclosed form to Pat Leggett at your earliest convenience.

Please note that the password to the Members' Area of the website will change in January and you'll receive the new details when you renew your membership for 2019. The Members' Area provides access to some 250 building reports and around 130 articles from back issues of *Yorkshire Buildings* up to 2015.

Report on recent events

Southfield Methodist Chapel

Fourteen of the eighteen people who booked for the visit to Southfield Methodist Chapel on Saturday 22 September 2018, which included a meal in the chapel-in-the-barn, were YVBSG members. The cost of the two-course meal was £7.50 x 18 = £135.

But we raised the donation to £160, plus £10 for publications = £170, a sum that the small congregation would find most useful.



Southfield Fold Farmhouse

Of the four other vernacular buildings visited that day, the early seventeenth century Southfield Fold Farmhouse was the most interesting, having one of those peculiar end-passage plans (as at Jackson's Farm, Worsthorne, visited by the YVBSG in July 2012). Here, the end passage is seven feet wide, and has a fireplace! The bressumer, heck-post, and three-light fire-window survive; the cross-wing has an ogee headed window, a feature of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Pennines, one of twenty. Upturned hood-mould stops at the front, circular ones at the rear. The owners were not at home, but I had been invited inside during a 'recce'.

Kevin Illingworth

Next time you're passing through India ...

Mike and Roz Morris report that the DakshinaChitra open air museum, which contains vernacular buildings from various parts of southern India, is well worth a visit. But if you're not planning a trip to India, you could always instead visit the museum website (which is in English) at www.dakshinachitra.net. Mike also recommends a Google search for 'Chettinad houses' to explore the spectacular architecture of a region famous for its prosperous banking and business community.

A caption competition!

Pictured right is David Cant at Broadbottom (see article on facing page), apparently conversing with a chicken. Captions are invited: please email your entries to the Newsheet editor at newsheet@yvbsg.org.uk by 19 January 2019. The writer of the best caption (judged by David Cant and Colum Giles) will receive a copy of the new publication *Wakefield in 50 Buildings*, kindly donated and signed by the author, Peter Thornborrow.

Publications

Fifty Years On – Securing North Craven's Heritage. Booklet celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Settle & District Civic Society (now the North Craven Heritage Trust). Articles include the Foreword by Alan Bennett; 'Six Historic Farmhouses in North Craven' by Kevin Illingworth; 'The Folly' by Anne Reid. An attractive booklet, on sale for £2 at The Folly, Settle. Fifty six pages with colour photographs.

Harrogate in 50 Buildings by Malcolm Neesam. Local author Malcolm Neesam has selected fifty of Harrogate's most significant architectural and historical buildings and describes their provenance, design, materials and use. October 2018, £14.99 or less.

The Streets of York: Four Centuries of Change by Darrell Buttery, Ron Cooke, Stephen Lewis and Chris Shepherd. £30. A journey through the history of some of the city's streets using a unique collection of 300 paintings, sketches and photographs, matched with contemporary photographs.

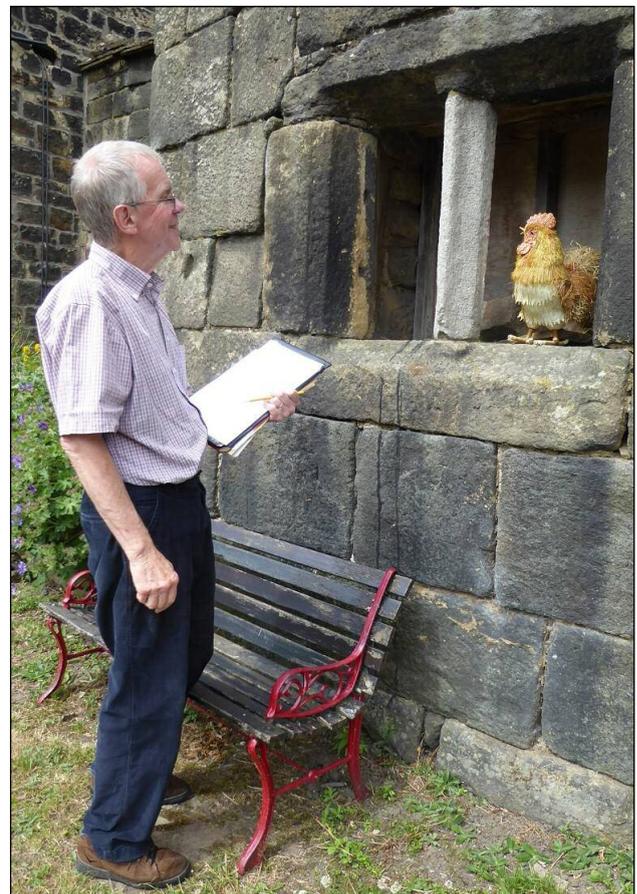


Photo: Colum Giles

A new survey of Broadbottom, a Pennine aisled house

In the late 1950s, Christopher Stell made a record of Broadbottom, in the township of Wadsworth in the Calder valley a few miles west of Halifax. What he found were the substantial remains of a late-medieval aisled house, and he included a description and beautiful drawings in his MA thesis for the University of Liverpool's School of Architecture, submitted in 1960. The building also featured prominently in Chris' article on Pennine houses published in *Folk Life* in 1965. Since then, Broadbottom has been placed in the broader context of the significant group of late-medieval aisled houses of the Halifax area, first treated by Atkinson and McDowell in an article in *Antiquity* in 1967.

The medieval part of Broadbottom – essentially two bays comprising a double-aisled housebody open to the roof and a passage – has been used only for storage for many decades, and its condition has been deteriorating progressively. It has been on Historic England's Buildings at Risk Register for some years, but in 2017 it was identified as a priority for action to arrest its deterioration and establish a sustainable use. To inform any future intervention in the building's fabric, a report outlining the building's original form, later development and significance was commissioned from David Cant and Colum Giles, together with a new graphic survey undertaken by Historic England's Geospatial Imaging Team and dendrochronological testing by Historic England's Scientific Dating Team. Fieldwork took place in early 2018, and the report was submitted to Historic England in June.



The investigation confirmed the broad lines of Chris Stell's interpretation but served to highlight some of the house's important features, such as the evidence for a dais canopy, the typical heavy scantling of the structural timbers, and the early stone casing retaining both front and rear aisles. Some peculiarities of the plan were linked to the subdivision of the house in the late sixteenth century, known from documentary sources, which also revealed the long association of the house with families heavily involved on a large scale in woollen cloth manufacturing. What remains unknown, due to loss of evidence, is the precise form of both upper and lower ends of the house and quite how the original arrangement for heating functioned. There was certainly a firehood backing on to a through passage, but how the firehood was supported is unclear. One of the major findings of the project included a firm date of c.1474 for the construction of the aisled house, a number of timbers indicating this date for the felling of trees. This is the first secure dating for an aisled house in the Calder valley.

The report, particularly its assessment of the building's significance, will be used in the development of plans for ensuring that this building, listed Grade 2*, will have a sustainable future use. The full report will ultimately be available online at <https://historicengland.org.uk/research/research-results/research-reports/>.

Colum Giles

A visit to Calverley Old Hall

A few YVBSG members joined a SPAB Yorkshire visit to Calverley Old Hall in October. As reported in the last Newsheet, The Landmark Trust intends to launch a campaign next year to save this fascinating medieval building. Interesting features abound here, including a false hammerbeam roof and spere truss in the hall (which dates from c.1485), a chapel of the same date with carved gallery balustrade, and richly-moulded beams and joists in the sixteenth and seventeenth century extensions. The timbers in the solar wing of c.1400 display a series of rather nice circular carpenters' marks (pictured).



An added bonus whilst visiting The Thornhill Arms in Calverley for lunch afterwards was the discovery of a good doorhead of 1673, decorated with daisy wheels, now located inside the building which the listing description refers to as a public house of c.1800 but which clearly has earlier origins.

Lorraine Moor

Other events of possible interest ...

Some of these events are publicised a long time in advance, so you may wish to check details before you go!

Life and Tradition in the Yorkshire Dales

Until 22 December 2018

Exhibition at The Folly, Settle, celebrating fifty years since the original publication of this important work by Marie Hartley and Joan Ingilby who founded the Dales Countryside Museum in 1979. Original notes, photographs, sketches and artefacts give a glimpse into the everyday lives of Dales people. On loan from the Dales Countryside Museum. See www.thefolly.org.uk.

Historic Heptonstall

Sunday 16 December 2018

Before Halifax took over, Heptonstall was the local centre for the cloth trade with a long history and fascinating buildings. Meet Margaret Nortcliffe at 1.30pm by the Bowling Club car park at Heptonstall HX7 7LT. Details at www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk.

Some Stories of Settle Quakers

Sunday 16 December 2018

Annual mince pie event, with talks by Jean Asher and Alison Tyas to the North Craven Heritage Trust, 2pm at Friends Meeting House, 21 Kirkgate, Settle BD24 9DX. Visitors £2. See www.northcravenheritage.org.uk.

Decorative Plasterwork and Carved Woodwork in Bishops House

Wednesday 9 January 2019

A talk by David Boswick on the plasterwork and woodwork in Bishops House and how it relates to that in other houses in Sheffield and north-east Derbyshire during the seventeenth century. 7.30pm at Bishops House, www.bishopshouse.org.uk.

Lost Houses of the South Pennines: using the archives with artistic licence

Wednesday 9 January 2019

Talk by Kate Lycett to Hebden Bridge Local History Society. Kate's fantastic pictures of the lost houses of the South Pennines first exhibited in 2015 were inspired by research in the local archives. In this talk she shares stories she learned. 7.30pm at Methodist Church, Market Street, Hebden Bridge, £3. www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk.

History of Headley Hall

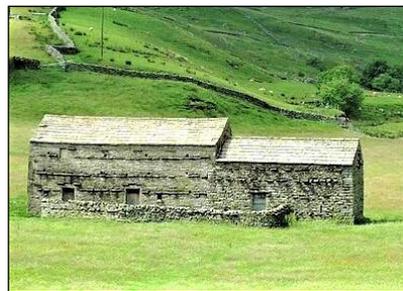
Wednesday 9 January 2019

A talk by Kevin Keasey to Barwick-in-Elmet Historical Society, 7.30pm in the John Rylie Centre, Barwick-in-Elmet. www.barwickinelmethistoricalsociety.com.

The Vernacular Architecture of the Yorkshire Dales

Monday 14 January 2019

A talk by James Innerdale, conservation architect, to Kirkby Lonsdale and District Civic Society, 7.30pm at Lunesdale Hall, New Road, Kirkby Lonsdale. LA6 2BG. £2.50. See www.kirkbylonsdalecivicsociety.org.



New Hall to the Counting House and Beyond: adventures recording demolished Pontefract

Friday 18 January 2019

A talk by Eric Houlder to Pontefract and District Archaeological Society, 7.15pm at Central Methodist Church, Newgate, Pontefract WF8 1NB. Non-members £3. www.pontarc.org.uk.

Matters of Convenience

Saturday 19 January 2019

Study day with Dr Alan Crosby on sanitation, public health and working class housing in the Victorian and Edwardian North West. Fee £28. Enquiries: Regional Heritage Centre, Lancaster University, telephone 01524 593770, www.lancaster.ac.uk/rhc.

South Yorkshire's Great Houses

Tuesday 29 January 2019

Talk by Pat McLaughlin to Grenoside Local History Group, 10am at the Community Centre Lower Hall, Main Street, Grenoside, near Sheffield. www.grenosidelocalhistory.co.uk.

History of Farming in the Industrial Pennines

Wednesday 13 February 2019

Talk by Dr Stephen Counce to Hebden Bridge Local History Society, 7.30pm at Methodist Church, Market Street, Hebden Bridge, £3. More details at www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk.

Traditional Farmhouses in and around the Lancashire and Yorkshire Pennines

Wednesday 13 February 2019

An illustrated talk by Kevin Illingworth to Saddleworth Historical Society, 7.30pm at Saddleworth Museum, High Street, Uppermill OL3 6HS. Enquiries: 01457 820015 or 07913 174270.

Municipal Dreams

Thursday 14 February 2019

Talk by Dr John Boughton to Beverley Civic Society on the history of council housing in Beverley and beyond. 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Beverley. See www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk.

A Kingdom of Alms

Friday 15 February 2019

Talk by Eric Jackson on Pontefract's almshouses to Pontefract and District Archaeological Society, 7.15pm at Central Methodist Church, Newgate, Pontefract WF8 1NB. Non-members £3. www.pontarc.org.uk.

Courses

Traditional Lake District Buildings

Tutor: Andy Lowe. A series of seven talks at Barbon Village Hall, 7.30pm to 9.30pm on Tuesdays from 29 January 2019, with field trips on Saturdays 9 and 16 March. This course looks in detail at the development of houses, farm buildings and industrial buildings. Special attention will be on recognising the use of local building materials, and the way that buildings show clear evidence of how people lived and worked in the past. Organised by Kirkby Lonsdale and District Civic Society, fee £50. Enquiries to Margaret Bunch, Berryby Cottage, Barbon, Kirkby Lonsdale LA6 2LR, telephone 015242 76494, email mjabunch@aol.com.

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