



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

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Newsheet No 98

December 2019

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

Annual Day School and AGM

Saturday 14 March 2020

We are pleased to enclose the flyer for our day school on 'Extraordinary Yorkshire Buildings'. This will look at three buildings in South, West and North Yorkshire of exceptional interest. These are accompanied by talks from experts to put the buildings into a regional context. We are delighted to welcome back Peter Ryder to



Ingleby Manor, a double courtyard plan house –
the subject of one of the day school talks

speak about the border lands of Northumbria where only fortified dwellings survived Scottish raids in the medieval period and later. We will learn about bastle houses both as individual buildings, and whole bastle villages. I am delighted that David Bostwick has agreed to speak about seventeenth century plasterwork, the subject of his doctoral thesis in 1993. He writes 'In this period, most ornamental plasterwork was cast from reverse wooden moulds. The appearance of the same ornaments cast from the same moulds at different properties – sometimes separated by many years – gives insight into how building trends and fashion were intimately related to family and professional relationships': fascinating! Our other expert is Allan Adams, number one on our membership list. Allan has a remarkable skill at draughtsmanship in reconstruction and cutaway drawings that will simply amaze! The booking form is also available on the website. The Group's AGM will follow the day school.

Peter Thornborrow

Annual Recording Conference

Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May 2020

To be held in the Doncaster area. As with recent conferences, we intend to arrange a taster visit beforehand. Full details in the next Newsheet.

In the pipeline

We hope to arrange a recording weekend in Wensleydale in the summer. Further information about this and other events will appear in future Newsheets.

Thoughts about day school venues

You'll see from the enclosed booking form that the venue for this year's day school will be York again. This will be reviewed for future day schools and bearing in mind the geographical distribution of our members, we'd be interested to hear any suggestions for other possible venues in the county. We'd be looking for a lecture theatre seating about 100 people or more, together with space for lunch and other refreshments and for a small number of stands. Feedback from last year indicates that members feel that social interaction at lunchtime is important and that we should continue to offer a lunch option as part of the package. Please send any thoughts to David Cook, dcook0@talk21.com.

Membership renewal

Membership fees for the coming calendar year become due on 1 January 2020. Renewal payment (£12) can be by cheque payable to YVBSG, or by using direct bank transfer (BACS). Whichever method you use, please also post your completed renewal slip to the Membership Secretary, Pat Leggett, at the address shown.

For BACS transfer these are the details you require:

Sort code: 09-01-56

Account number: 52840000

Please use your surname for reference.

Do 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 2020. The Members' Area provides access to almost 300 building reports and around 140 articles from back issues of *Yorkshire Buildings* up to 2016, as well as information sheets and other handouts.

We gently remind you that in line with our Privacy Statement which came into effect with the introduction of GDPR in 2018, membership may be terminated if you do not renew within three months from 1 January each year.

List of Members

Because of the introduction of GDPR, the YVBSG has not produced a printed List of Members since summer 2017. We now intend to start producing this list again (comprising names and postal addresses only) and to circulate it to members to facilitate communication.

If you are happy for your name and address to be included on the printed list, please tick the appropriate box on the enclosed membership renewal slip.

Reports on recent events

Members of the YVBSG and the Bedale Archaeology and History Society joined forces on Saturday 28 September 2019 for a walk around Bedale, led by Tony Robinson. Tony designed his route round the town to loosely follow in the footsteps of Robert Hird, a local diarist and shoemaker who lived from 1768 to 1841. Between 1808 and 1812 Robert Hird wrote an extraordinary account in rhyming verse about life in and around Bedale, describing both people and buildings, accompanied by notes. His original notebooks were published by North Yorkshire County Record Office in 1975 as *Hird's Annals of Bedale: the papers of Robert Hird 1768-1841* (edited by Lesley Lewis). The diaries offer fascinating insights on buildings:

*Neath a low beam you had to go,
Which held the chimney up.
A narrow shelf was fix'd thereto,
With candlesticks at top.*

*When by the fire you sit round,
You well might see the sky.
To the chimney top, all open found,
Hail or rain, down did fly.*

*Such chimneys once had ev'ry cot,
The timber to the top,
With mud and straw all plaister'd up,
And two slates set for cope.*

(Sadly this verse went on to relate how, 'at old Sarah's house, the cope slates fell down and broke old Sarah's limb.')

We started our walk at the Georgian Bedale Hall, dating from 1730-45, with later alterations of 1782-1801. We explored the parkland, identifying the site of the garden and the ha-ha, and the ancillary buildings behind the hall which included a fives court, a store and a coach house. A summer house had later been converted into a dwelling.

Further along, passing the Grammar School of 1888 which overlooks Wycar Green, we stopped to look at a small brick and stone building nearby which retains its roof of Harmby Slate.



Building with roof of Harmby Slate

Crossing to the other side of the Market Place, we explored the lanes and alleyways running north-eastwards, bordered by attractive cottage rows such as Albert Row.



Albert Row, early nineteenth century

In nearby Emgate can be found a blue plaque commemorating Robert Hird. He lived in and described this street:

*Let Bedale flourish, she might say,
It then began to spring.
Emgate first did shew the way,
There stands the first building,*

*Which Richard Bowcock built on lease,
George Storrow does there dwell,
At nineteen shillings rent, what ease.
Bowcock he might do well.*

*For he had land to keep a cow,
Likewise he could keep sheep.
Three rooms in length, and passage
through,
Beside, the house was steep.*

*It chambers had, and garrets high,
It cover'd was with thatch.
Upon the eaves, as boys pass'd by,
The sparrows they did watch.*

*The kitchen it had a hearth fire,
The first I'd ever seen.
The garden hedge did high aspire,
Hawthorn, in summer green.*

Hird adds some informative notes about George Storrow's house mentioned in the verses above, even providing a date when improvements were carried out:

In the year 1707. And after it had stood 120 years, the present George Storrow took off its old covering of thatch and covered it with tiles. He also remodeled the low rooms and the windows, which were leaded. He replaced them with new ones of sash; the walls he dashed, which quite modernized it. He likewise built the out houses and put down the pump. Before the improvement took place, its appearance ranked with the oldest houses in the town.

Back on Market Place, 23-29 North End which now houses Jake's Plaice fish and chip shop is one of the few remaining buildings in Bedale containing timber framing, with a boxed-in smokehood. A few doors along, 7-9 North End (Panetti's restaurant) has a dated hopper of 1716 but contains cruck framing in the roof.

Just inside the entrance to the church yard stands the single-storey stone Grammar School of 1674 (pictured in the last Newsheet). Behind the church, St Gregory House displays Artisan Mannerist features and is described by Hird as follows:

John Hardcastle Esqr. lived in the brick built house beyond the Church, and its mode of architecture is the most fanciful of any house in Bedale ... and about the year 1700 Pemberton built the said house for his Mother or some other of his family. The bricks were made on the site of the Union house, and the field ever since has had the name of brick garth. The house has the pre-eminence of being the first brick built house in Bedale.



St Gregory House

Something that particularly intrigued us during the walk was Hird's references to 'cones' which crop up in his text on a couple of occasions:

*Th' chamber windows stood in a cone,
As many then did do,
But such from Bedale now are gone,
Excepting only two.*

and also

The old house fronted the road, and until the year 1801 it had two cones, but the wind at that time took the slates off the Northmost, and the house was repaired without it.

Were the cones some sort of dormer, perhaps? Or a turret? Any thoughts welcome!

Our thanks go to Tony for arranging and leading this enjoyable and unusual tour of Bedale.

Lorraine Moor

VAG Conferences coming up soon

There are a couple of conferences being arranged by the national Vernacular Architecture Group next year which may be of interest to YVBSG members. Conferences are normally open to VAG members and guests only; for details of how to join (£20 per annum), see www.vag.org.uk.

VAG Winter Conference – Marks on Buildings

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 January 2020 at College Court Conference Centre, Leicester. The conference will examine the wide range of marks to be found on vernacular buildings, and the vernacular practices and beliefs from which they spring. Talks will cover such topics as graffiti, ritual protection marks and symbols, burn marks, stonemasons' marks, carpenters' marks, and Baltic timber marks.

VAG Spring Conference – Greater Manchester

Tuesday 21 to Saturday 25 April 2020, based at Bredbury Hall Hotel, near Stockport; a cruck barn on the site is now a nightclub. YVBSG member Kevin Illingworth has been involved in arranging visits to buildings, and the programme (subject to change) may include:

- Optional Stockport town tour.
- Warburton village, including Old St Werburgh's timber-framed church, Onion Farm, Bent Farmhouse.
- Glazebury: Hurst Hall Farm Barn (former fourteenth century open hall).
- Thelwall village: The seventeenth century timber-framed Pickering Arms Inn, seventeenth and eighteenth century houses in village.
- Bolton and Rivington: Hall i' th' Wood, Firwood Fold hamlet, Watermillock public house, Smithills Hall, Rivington Hall cruck barn, Rivington Terraced Gardens (buildings): Rivington village.
- Salford: Ordsall Hall.
- Droylsden: Fairfield Moravian Settlement.
- East Manchester: Clayton Hall and St Cross Church.
- South Manchester: Baguley Hall, Wythenshawe Hall.
- Stockport: Bramall Hall.

Speakers will include Michael Nevell on vernacular industrial buildings and Kevin Illingworth on architectural features of the wider Manchester area (south-east Lancashire and north-east Cheshire).



John B Woods

We are saddened to report the death of John Woods in September 2019. John was born in May 1928 and was a longstanding member of the YVBSG who attended most of our events. He was an active team member at annual recording conferences until the last few years, and his stories and reflections during those weekends were much enjoyed by other members. He often brought his camper van to conferences; whilst in Reeth he parked it on the green and invited participants in for a drink of tea during breaks in proceedings. His breadth of knowledge covered many topics and his skills even included teaching members about different wines during a particular conference in Scarborough!

John had a lovely sense of humour and the warmth of his friendship was extended to many – he always had time to listen. He was immensely proud of his family and loved to talk about them. He lived life to the full and never lost interest in the world around him – right to the end.

Malcolm Birdsall and Sue Southwell

Publications

Time Please! 'Lost' Inns, Pubs and Alehouses of the Yorkshire Dales by David S Johnson. £9.99, published by North Craven Heritage Trust. An illustrated chronicle of some 160 hostelries which are no more.

Strategic Stone Study Database

Have you used the Strategic Stone Study database? This is a free, online database of England's building stones, their sources and representative structures. You can interrogate the GIS system and download data spreadsheets and guides for each county. To access the database, see:

- www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsUK/buildingStones/StrategicStoneStudy/EH_project.html

Working with the British Geological Survey, Historic England's Strategic Stone Study project to collect all data for all English counties will finish in March 2020. Historic England would really appreciate your feedback about your experience of using it. You can do this by completing a short online survey available at:

- www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6GBX67N

List of online resources

The Vernacular Architecture Group has put together a web page of useful online information resources for building recording. These include glossaries, reading lists, maps, and guidance on researching and recording places and buildings. Visit www.vag.org.uk/online-resources.htm for details.

Dated to the Day

Further to the articles in Newsheets 90 and 91, Kevin Illingworth has discovered another building dated to the day. This is The Nookin, Oulton, near Rothwell, Leeds, which is now used as offices. With rendered stone at ground floor and timber-framed above and internally, the listing description gives a probable sixteenth century date for the origins of this T-plan building.

If anyone knows of any more such dated-to-the-day buildings, Kevin would be delighted to hear about them: please contact him on j.k.illingworth@btinternet.com.



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!

A Town Through Time

Until 20 April 2020

A new exhibition at Smith Art Gallery capturing a century of Brighouse on canvas and camera. Features paintings and photographs from Calderdale Museums' collections, alongside new photographs by Halifax Photographic Society who have recreated scenes from historic artworks of Brighouse. Details at museums.calderdale.gov.uk/visit/smith-art-gallery.

Merchant Taylors Hall Open Day

Tuesday 10 December 2019

Built in 1415, the Merchant Taylors' Hall is one of the most significant medieval buildings in York. Company Members will be on hand to lead informal tours around the building and tell visitors about the history of the Taylors of York. 11am to 3pm, free entry. www.merchant-taylors-york.org.

House Histories: How to begin

Wednesday 11 December 2019

Talk by Barbara Atack, Hilary Fellows and Robert Stevens to Hebden Bridge Local History Society. The evening will start with an examination of the resources available for researching the history of a house, followed by talks by two people who have explored the histories of their houses. 7.30pm at Methodist Church, Market Street, Hebden Bridge. £3 for visitors. www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.

Shandy Hall by Candlelight

14, 15, 21 and 22 December 2019

Experience Shandy Hall by firelight and candlelight, and find out more of the history of the house, and the families who have lived there over nearly 600 years. Tour includes parts of the Hall rarely seen by the public. Tours at 4pm, £16. Early booking recommended – see details at laurencesternetrust.org.uk.

Timber-framed Buildings of Wakefield

Wednesday 8 January 2020

Talk by Peter Brears to Wakefield Historical Society. 7.30pm at Old Restaurant, Town Hall, Wakefield, £2. See www.wakefieldhistoricalsoc.org.uk.

Lost towns of the Yorkshire Coast

Tuesday 14 January 2020

Talk by Phil Mathison on lost towns with particular emphasis on Ravenser. Part of Lunchtime Club talks, 12.30-1.30pm at Hull History Centre. www.hullhistorycentre.org.uk.

Northowram Village

Sunday 19 January 2020

A walk round the northern part of the village discovering the history of the buildings and interesting stories associated with people living there in past times. Meet Mike Beecham in front of Northowram Methodist Church. £3, no need to book. For details see www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk.

Five years of archaeology at Hanging Grimston deserted medieval village

Monday 20 January 2020

Talk by Marcus Jecock to Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society, 7.30pm in Central Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough, £3. Details at www.sahs.org.uk.



Your Kirklees Pinta? Changes in local dairy farming, 1850-2020

Monday 24 February 2020

Talk by Jo Stanley to Huddersfield Local History Society, 7.30pm at University of Huddersfield. Further information at www.huddersfieldhistory.org.uk.

Dry stone walls and landscape history

Thursday 27 February 2020

Talk by Angus Winchester to Skipton and Craven History Society, exploring why the walls were built and how they can be dated. 7.30pm at the Swadford Centre, Skipton, Visitors £3. See skiptoncravenhistorysociety.com.

Burton Constable before Brown: the development of an East Yorkshire country house landscape up to c.1750

Wednesday 18 March 2020

Talk by Shaun Richardson to East Riding Archaeological Society, 7.30pm in Wilberforce Building, University of Hull, £2. See www.eras.org.uk/events.

Barn conversions in the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Monday 23 March 2020

Talk by Nancy Stedman to Upper Wharfedale Field Society. 7.30pm at Octagon Theatre, Grassington. Details at uwfs.org.uk.

Workshops

Cannon Hall archaeology workshops

A set of free workshops at Cannon Hall in Barnsley running until April 2020 and organised by community archaeologist, Dr Jon Kenny. For more details see www.cannon-hall.com/free-archaeology-events-at-cannon-hall-museum. Remaining sessions include:

- Medieval Landscape and the Agricultural Revolution – Sunday 9 February 2020
- Archaeological Building Recording – Sunday 8 March 2020
- What we have learned about Cannon Hall – Sunday 5 April 2020

Committee meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Saturday 8 February 2020. If you'd like to raise any matters, or have ideas for future events please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

Next Newsheet

The next Newsheet will be in February 2020 – please send any contributions to the editor by 31 January 2020. 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.

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