



Newsletter

No 118 – February 2025



Lots to look forward to!

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2025, which includes news of some exciting events for the early part of the year.

Our February tour of Calverley Old Hall quickly became fully booked but there will be another chance to visit the building during our annual recording conference in May. Other events during the next few weeks are outlined on pages 2 to 4 – some are already open for booking and the others will be advertised in due course. We hope you will support these and join us if you can!

For our regular features, Tony Robinson this time takes us to Youlton Hall, whilst Kevin Illingworth offers a sketch tour of five diverse buildings. 'From the archive' takes a look at Healaugh in Swaledale, perhaps with summer outings in the sun in mind.

David Shore responds to the item in the last Newsletter about the possible use of stone troughs for the retting of flax – you can find his summary of the process on page 7.

Recording work continues and three intrepid members, undeterred by the cold and rain, have just surveyed Balne Parish Room (between Selby and Doncaster), a little building which was formerly the village schoolroom with adjoining cottage. The report, together with those for other buildings recorded recently, will be added to the online archive when completed. Do join our mailing list if you'd like to hear about future recording opportunities – details on page 3.

We are expanding the YVBSG social media offerings with a new Bluesky account which will run alongside our current accounts on Facebook and X. You'll find us at @yvbsg.bsky.social, or follow the link from the YVBSG website. You can view Bluesky posts without having to sign in to an account.

Photos: Calverley Old Hall, photographed in 2018 before the recent restoration work.

Future YVBSG events: dates for your diary

A visit to Newlathes Manor House, Horsforth, and Kirkstall Abbey

Sunday 2 March 2025

A visit with Peter Thornborrow, postponed from 2024. Newlathes Manor House is a complicated building but in essence is an aisled hall with a rear aisle under a low sloping catslide roof heated by a large segmental-arched stone fireplace set next to the original rear Tudor-arched doorway – probably the kitchen originally.

It has a separate housebody with seventeenth century panelled walls, and original doors with metal catches. Its ceiling has a pair of hefty chamfered spine-beams with unusual timber sleeves that probably cover scarf-joints – evidence for a bressummer fireplace (now gone). The attached former two-storey parlour wing, now a small cottage, has the remains of timber-framing (wall-plate, corner posts and braces) and a large external chimney stack for fireplaces on both floors.

Of greatest interest is the four-bay aisle arcade visible at the first floor in a corridor the length of the building with board-and-muntin panelled walls set between jowled posts, with mortices for large braces, and principal rafters that have trenched purlins supported by an

aisle-tie with an angled strut. The end bay has stone walls and windows on two sides with an angled corner fireplace. Here the timber structure is covered by more plank wall panelling, the styles with reeded edges, incorporating nine panels of Tudor linenfold panelling, very fine and rare carved with a cross design suggesting ecclesiastical origin – perhaps from the Prior's lodging at nearby Kirkstall Abbey which we will visit in the afternoon.

We'll meet at 10.30am and will spend the first half hour looking at the outside. After our visit we will depart in convoy going direct to Kirkstall Abbey to eat in their own café, some tables outside in the grounds. It advertises that it 'serves a changing range of sandwiches from local award-winning artisan producers Proper Tasty (large range including vegetarian). Cakes and bakes, hot food and drinks'.

After lunch, we'll start our visit in the museum street, roughly at 1.30pm; Kirkstall Abbey closes at 4pm. Sue Wrathmell has agreed to act as our guide round the abbey remains. She is the author of the excellent book: *Leeds*



Newlathes Manor House

(*Pevsner Architectural Guides: City Guides*) which provides a detailed plan and description of the abbey. Entry to the abbey is £6.20 unless you are a Leeds resident when it is free (you need proof of residence – utility bill, driving licence etc). It has two museums, one in the former cloister features a re-created Victorian street, done by Peter Brears when he was director of Leeds City Museums, inspired by the one at the Castle Museum York where he was previously director.

To book a place, please ring Peter's mobile on 07304 048049, or send a text. Please also confirm by email: peterthornborrow@gmail.com. Numbers will be restricted to 20.

Peter Thornborrow

Vernacular Architecture of the South Pennines

Saturday 15 March 2025

This year's day school will be held at the Imperial Crown Hotel in Halifax, looking at how the landscape, social and economic aspects are reflected in the buildings of the area. The talks are:

The Vernacular Architecture Group and future directions in vernacular studies by Rebecca Lane; *The evolution of settlement in the Upper Calder Valley* by Nigel Smith; *Christopher F Stell: a pioneering study of the vernacular buildings of the Upper Calder Valley* by Peter Thornborrow; *Features of buildings in the Yorkshire and Lancashire Pennines* by Kevin Illingworth; *The 17th century decorative plasterwork extravaganza in the Yorkshire and Lancashire Pennines* by Mark Womersley; and *Some evidence for Civil War damage and rebuilding in Skipton* by Susan Wrathmell.

Fee: £30 for YVBSG members, £35 for non-members, including buffet lunch and other refreshments. The booking form contains full details; it has been emailed to members and is also available on the website. Booking deadline: 1 March 2025.



Bean Hole Head Farmhouse, Calderdale

Annual General Meeting 2025

In response to several requests, the AGM will be held on an alternative day, probably by Zoom, rather than immediately after the day school as in previous years. Details to follow.

Next committee meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Saturday 17 May 2025. If you'd like to raise any matters, or have ideas for future events, please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

Introduction to Traditional Lime Plastering

Sunday 16 March 2025

Fancy an extra half-day after the annual day school to learn more about how traditional early seventeenth-century plain and ornamental lime plastering was applied?

On the Sunday, we are offering a full introduction to lime plastering and a practical demonstration workshop with Mark Womersley, showing you how to recreate a section of mid-seventeenth-century ornate wall plaster. The workshop will use haired lime plaster gauged with Plaster of Paris onto a lathed background and demonstrate the application of hand-shaped stucco and the fixing of cast decorative elements.

The half-day, which includes pastries and hot drinks on arrival and a light lunch before you go, will be held in the Crossley Gallery at Dean Clough between 9am and 12.30pm and will cost only £45 per person. Free parking is available at the venue. Places are limited to 30 people.

If you would like to come, please email mark@mwomersleys.co.uk or text Mark on 07802 549634, and he will send you a prepayment invoice and book you on this half-day workshop. Mark has worked with lime plasters for the last thirty years and will provide a fascinating and entertaining session for those who wish to stay in Halifax for an additional morning.



Marsh Hall, near Halifax. Southeast parlour, c1631.

Visit to Woodsome Hall, Fenay Bridge

Saturday 12 April 2025

Spend a day exploring Woodsome Hall (www.woodsomes.co.uk), a Grade I building south-east of Huddersfield. The day will include a tour of the buildings and a short guided walk around the nearby village of Almondbury. There will also be the chance to see a small, surviving timber-framed building in the grounds. Booking form to follow.



Annual Recording Conference in the Bradford area

Friday 9 May to Sunday 11 May 2025

This year's recording conference will be based at Aldersgate Methodist Church, Low Moor, Bradford BD12 0TW and on Sunday at Calverley Old Hall, 10 Woodhall Road, Calverley, Pudsey LS28 5NL.

The conference will follow the usual format of a meal, lecture and introduction to the locality on the Friday; surveying buildings in the Wibsey, Low Moor and Horton areas of Bradford, followed by a lecture at Aldersgate and a meal nearby on Saturday; and concluding with drawing up at Calverley Old Hall Community Room on Sunday.

Participants will need to make their own arrangements for accommodation. It is worth noting that Bradford is City of Culture in 2025 and that accommodation may be in demand. Our Saturday evening meal will be at The Chapel House, Low Moor BD12 0HP – menu options will be circulated with the booking form in March. Accommodation is available at the nearby Best Western Guide Post Hotel on Common Road, Low Moor, and there are also other options not too far away.

We hope to see you at the conference – everybody welcome, whether you are new to recording or more experienced. The booking form will be sent out soon.

Building recorders and team leaders — action required!

We are refreshing our list of Building Recorders and Team Leaders for the new season. If you would like to be notified of recording opportunities received by the YVBSG please email archivist@yvbsg.org.uk. The new list will replace the old one, so if you have asked for your name to be added in the past, please do this again for opportunities in 2025.

It would help if you could also indicate whether you are willing to lead a YVBSG recording team.

On the other hand if you are interested but either haven't tried it before or are a beginner, please also let me know on archivist@yvbsg.org.uk.

David Cook, YVBSG Archivist, archivist@yvbsg.org.uk



Third Thursday Talks

We are continuing our online talks during 2025 and the next talk is outlined below. These talks normally take place by Zoom at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month; they are free of charge and are open to all (including non-members). We are still looking for volunteers to give future talks and if you are interested in doing so, please contact Mary Cook on secretary@yvbsg.org.uk. Recordings of previous talks can be watched online by going to our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@yvbsg.

The Vernacular Buildings of Ethiopia: How post-mediaeval high-status, northern Ethiopian vernacular houses evolved with the traditional round church design

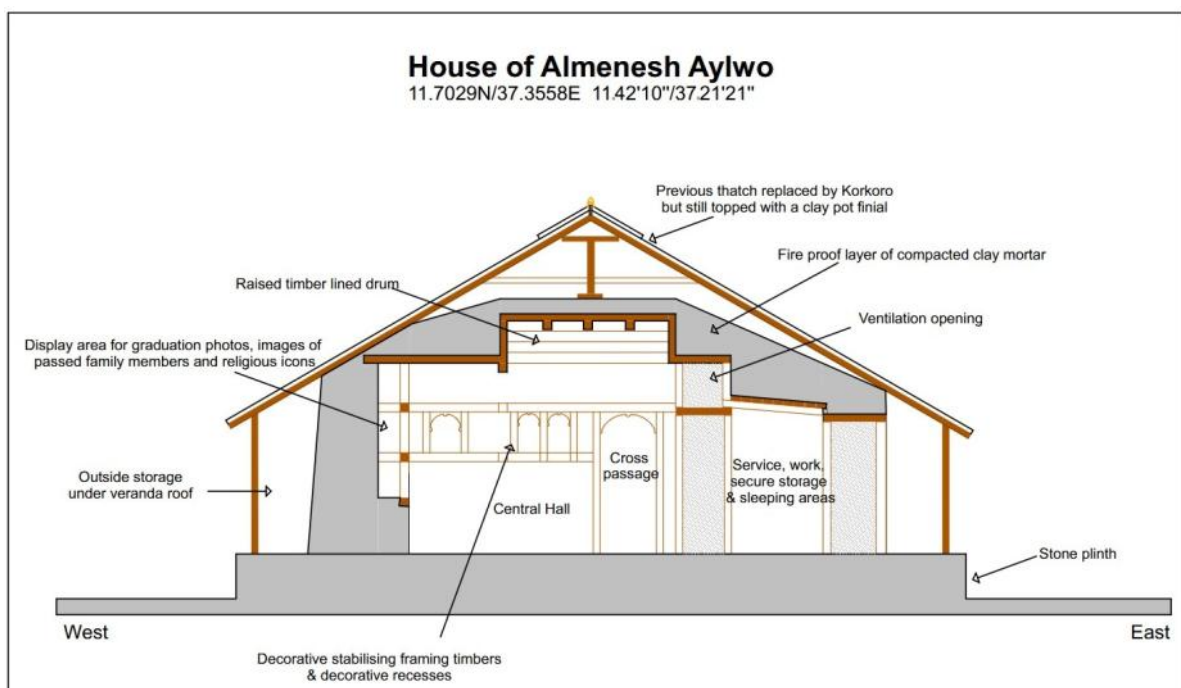
Thursday 20 March 2025

A talk by Mark Womersley. The African and world views of Ethiopian architecture have failed to appreciate or recognise some of northern Ethiopia's earliest and most sophisticated vernacular architecture. Unlike in Western Europe and America, Ethiopia's vernacular buildings are not recorded or protected. This talk will illustrate the sophistication of the design of the most advanced vernacular houses, which need to be thoroughly studied. These homes have been hiding in plain sight, often behind plain facades and corrugated iron roofs.

The early northern Ethiopian vernacular house design has a series of concentric spaces, with the most significant place at the centre, and this talk shows how they are directly related to the layout of the spaces found within the Ethiopian round church. The churches and vernacular houses have a clear and consistent orientation about the east-west axis, which the speaker surveyed in detail over three years of fieldwork at the islands and peninsulas of Lake Tana.

Booking will open late February/early March.

House of Almenesh Aylwo, Zege, Ethiopia. Surveyed and drawn by Mark Womersley.



Don't forget to renew your membership!

Membership fees for this calendar year became due on 1 January 2025 and members should already have received an email inviting you to fill in the online renewal form and to send your payment (£12 per person) by cheque or BACS. A reminder will be sent in due course to those who haven't yet renewed, containing a link to the form again. We very much hope that you wish to remain a member – if you have any queries, please contact the Membership Secretary, Pat Leggett, membership-secretary@yvbsg.org.uk.

Do note that the password to the Members' Area of the website and the online archive of reports changed in January and you'll receive the new login details when you renew your

membership for 2025. The login details provide access to over 1900 building reports and more than 200 articles from back issues of *Yorkshire Buildings* up to 2020, 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 by 1 April 2025 and you would then receive no further correspondence from us, so please do renew soon – we don't want to lose you! But don't worry – we would send you a final notification before taking you off our membership list.

From the archive: Healaugh, Swaledale

Healaugh lies close to the point where Barney Beck joins the River Swale, and is an Anglian settlement which follows a nucleated pattern. The North Riding Pevsner volume mentions that 'Above, on the road to Thirns is a barn with a thatched roof restored in the 1980s, a reminder of the pre-C18 appearance of farm buildings in the dale'. The Group has not recorded that particular barn but has surveyed eight other buildings in the village, together with several outlying farms. Healaugh's entry in Baines' Directory for 1823 lists one gentleman, five farmers, two mining agents, a blacksmith, a victualler and a butcher & grazier. The village buildings are outlined below; the full reports can be found in the YVBSG online archive.

Lorraine Moor



West View (YVBSG 1217). Comprises two dwellings of 18th century date, the right-hand one being the earliest. Good plank and panelled doors and hinges inside. Formerly the home and commercial base of William Bell 1840-1900, Healaugh shopkeeper, provender merchant and carrier to Richmond. His name in pencil remains on a beam in the stable.



The Rookery (YVBSG 1218). Faces south away from the road towards farm buildings, now demolished. Probably originated in the 17th century, smartened up c1730-50 with new doors, panelling, kneelers, gable copings and other features. Further work in the 19th century included creation of a dairy in 1898.



Lea House, left (YVBSG 1305) and Raisbeck House, right (YVBSG 1304). Two adjoining houses probably built around the same time with Lea House being slightly earlier, perhaps for labourers or miners rather than farmers. Almost mirror-image, sharing a central chimney stack. Raisbeck has a datestone 'SL IL 1723', maybe a later insertion. Possible re-used cruck in Lea House. Both re-fronted with 19th century watershot masonry.



Shaw Ghyll (YVBSG 1219). Typical house plan of the area with two units (perhaps direct entry), two storeys, with an outshut containing dairy and staircase. Probably mid 18th century: external flat faced mullioned window with internal splayed jambs and chamfered mullions dateable to c1750. Extended and much altered in 1978.



Lock Heather (YVBSG 1234). A complex of a two-cell house, cottage, barn, slaughter house, pigsties and other outbuildings, all appearing to date from c1800 and early 19th century. Partly a pub and shop at one time. Pantry lined with stone shelves for cheeses which were a major product of Swaledale throughout the 19th century.



Crowtrees (YVBSG 1233). Faces south away from the road and probably dates from the latter half of the 17th century. Now two storeys but originally one-and-a-half with a steep thatched roof later replaced by stone. Inside it has two cells and single storey outshuts containing the stairs and pantry/cheese room. Divided into two cottages in the early 19th century but later reverted to one property with the original central direct entry.



Laithe to the north of Shaw Ghyll (YVBSG 1220). The laithe is typical of the area with a division between the mewstead and the byres, with separate entrance to each. Built on a slope as a bank barn, where hay is fed into the mewstead from the higher ground level. Boskins formed from upright sandstones. Probably 18th century.

Encounters with old buildings

Youlton Hall, Youlton

In the far off days of the 1990s, Hambleton District Council (abolished in 2023) was able to offer modest grants towards the repair of historic buildings. 'Historic buildings' included not just listed buildings, but anything that the Conservation Officer considered to be worthy of support.

One such building was Youlton Hall, in the southern end of the District, close to Aldwark and the River Ouse. According to the listed building description (1987) this was 'Originally a much larger house, now L-shaped: timber frame of c.1500 encased in brick in the late 17C and early 18C. The hall was truncated in 1963 ... it stands on a moated enclosure (now infilled) of the late 16C'.

In July 1993, the grant-aided repair of the west gable was underway, and I met up with the builder, David Moorey of Helperby, on site. This rear gable had retained its shaped Flemish gable, unlike the front gable which had been rebuilt in the early 1960s in an irregular profile, with the addition of new bow windows to each floor, a regrettable but characteristic feature of 1960s 'historic' renovation.

The rear gable under repair retained two brick drip moulds (noted in the list description) over four-pane sash windows. But not noted in the list description and only visible from the scaffold were the fragmentary remains of ornamental plaster swags and scrolls between the drip moulds and window heads.



Remains of ornamental plasterwork under the drip moulds



Rear gable as it appears today, photographed in 2025. The remains of scrolls are still visible down the sides of the sash windows.

These were unusual features on a brick building; but had it once been rendered? There was no clear evidence for this.

A quick look in the roof revealed a principal rafter truss with a sawn collar and a raking strut, probably added when the ends of both the tie beam and truss blade were cut away to allow the insertion of a doorway.

Also visible was the massive brick central stack or smokehood, with studwork between the collar and tie beam. Was this a possible former smoke bay? There was no evidence of smoke blackening, however.

Sometimes, the planning files can shed light on alterations, and show previous building layouts. But in this case, I drew a blank, as it is possible that the 1963

alterations did not need planning permission or listed building consent, as the modern consent regime only began in 1968, while surprisingly, Youlton Hall was only on the provisional Grade III list until the listed building resurvey of the 1980s.

Tony Robinson, editor@yvb.org.uk



Principal rafter roof truss with sawn collar and raking strut



Central brick stack/smokehood with studwork in front

Youlton – last but by no means least!

On reading Tony Robinson's article on Youlton Hall, I realised that Youlton was a place that had completely passed me by even though it is only a few miles from my home in York, so I went to have a nosey around. Youlton is a new addition to the 2023 edition of the North Riding Pevsner and forms the final entry in the volume, where it is described as 'a tiny, very attractive, hamlet of three houses, all of minor interest'. None of these has been recorded by the YVBSG but all are Grade II listed.

A short walk down a public bridleway gives a distant view of the rear of Youlton Hall as shown below – the shape of the gable can be seen but a zoom lens or a pair of binoculars is needed to focus clearly on any detail.

Chapel Farmhouse dates from the early eighteenth century and according to the listed building description is built of red-brown brick in English bond. The entry in Pevsner notes that its history is obscure but that it certainly resembles a converted chapel.

Maiden's Folly is described as late seventeenth to early eighteenth century, of orange brick in English garden wall bond. The listing description and Pevsner seem to be slightly at odds in that one refers to a lobby entry plan and the other a through-passage – readers can judge for themselves which might be correct!

Lorraine Moor



Rear view of Youlton Hall



Chapel Farmhouse



Maiden's Folly

The growing and retting of flax – a short overview

The uses of a trough as shown by Malcolm Birdsall in the last Newsletter is an interesting suggestion. The growing of flax and hemp was given an impetus in 1533 by a statute of Henry VIII which said that for every 60 acres under the plough, one quarter of an acre of flax and hemp must be sown [1532 (24 Hen.8)c.4 *An Act concerning sowing of flax and hemp*]. This was further strengthened in 1563 by a statute of Elizabeth, with a fine of £5 for non-compliance. The reason for these measures seems to be that the government was worried about a loss of bullion to pay for imports of flax and hemp, principally from the Baltic. Balance of Payments was not well understood at that time.

In order to maximise the 'line', ie the length of the fibres within the stem, seeds were planted very close together, and the plants were 'pulled' up by the roots, not cut, again to maximise the length of line. Flax grown commercially grew to four feet.

Angus Winchester has noted 'hemp garths' in several farms in Cumbria, usually adjacent to the farm.

Retting (rotting) usually took place in a man-made pond, where the whole plant was immersed for ten to fourteen days. Retting ponds are also known as steeping dubs or lint-holes. Retting in running water was outlawed in the sixteenth century after deaths of livestock downstream, as the liquid is highly toxic. Large bundles of flax were tied together with a rope attached, then thrown into the pond. Very smelly work. Whether a trough was large enough for retting is a moot but interesting point, that we haven't previously come across.

Short stems produced shorter fibres known as 'tow'. This could be used to produce a poor quality cloth, known as poor man's cloth, hence 'tow-rag' is a derogatory term [cf towel].

A short illustrated article showing the twenty processes turning raw flax into linen can be found on the Cartmel Peninsula Local History Society website at <https://cplhs.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/from-flax-to-linen-2018.pdf>. It also gives the derivation of 'Pop goes the weasel'.

David Shore



Probable retting pond above High Newton, Cumbria, the hill behind known as Tow Top.

From Hammerton to Hob Lane: houses large and small

Another selection of splendid drawings by Kevin Illingworth, illustrating a variety of houses of varying shapes and sizes. Hammerton Hall was recorded by the YVBSG in 2007, report 1728. Although the house at Brackenbottom Farm has not been recorded, some of the farm buildings were surveyed in 1995, reports 1492 and 1493. Hob Lane Cottage was the former home of Christopher Stell, who produced the pioneering MA thesis on *Vernacular Architecture in a Pennine Community* in 1960 and 'Pennine Houses: An Introduction' in *Folk Life* 1965. Higher Langfield Cottages were seen during a YVBSG walk in 2023 and feature in the short video *Vernacular Buildings of the Todmorden Countryside part three* available on our YouTube channel. Shay Bend is very close to Kevin's own home.



Brackenbottom Farm, Horton in Ribblesdale. Drawn 1995.



Hob Lane Cottage, Brearley, near Halifax. Drawn 2007.



Shay Bend and Higher Murgatshaw Farm, Blackshaw, near Hebden Bridge. Heptonstall church in distance. Drawn 2010.



Higher Langfield Cottages, Todmorden. Drawn 2023.



Hammerton Hall, Easington, near Slaidburn. Drawn 2007.

VAG Aisled Buildings Database

A new online database of aisled buildings has been produced by the Vernacular Architecture Group. The initial version of the database includes 2540 aisled buildings (392 halls and 2127 barns, with a few other types of buildings). It also includes 110 buildings with aisled closed or end trusses and 173 buildings identified as having spere trusses. It contains information on the name, location, function and condition of the buildings and bibliographic references, with further details on structure and date.

The database is hosted by the Archaeology Data Service and can be found at <https://doi.org/10.5284/1106888>. Alternatively follow the link from the VAG website at www.vag.org.uk/databases.htm; this web page also provides links to the other VAG databases on cruck buildings, tree-ring dates and Wealden houses, as well as a bibliography. A helpful interactive map shows the location of the buildings included in these databases and can be filtered according to type of building. Two of the Yorkshire examples in the aisled building database, both recorded by the YVBSG, are shown below.



Nunwick House Farm barn, Nunwick (YVBSG 0045). Aisle on north side. Timberwork perhaps late sixteenth or early seventeenth century, with later walling.



Manor Farm, South Stainley (YVBSG 0068). The older part of the house dates from the sixteenth century and has an aisle at the back.

Publications

'Yorkshire Barns' by Kenneth Bonham, in *Briefing* (the magazine of the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society) issue 15, December 2024. Available online at www.yas.org.uk/The-Society/Briefing-YAHS-magazine. Includes summaries of: New Hall Farm cruck barn, Barnsley; Unthank Hall cruck barn, Unthank; cruck barn at Nether End Farm, Denby Dale; Nether Poppleton tithe barn, York; Whiston Manorial Barn, Rotherham; Gunthwaite Hall barn, Upper Denby; East Riddlesden Hall barns, Keighley; Shibden Hall barn, Halifax; and Stank Hall barn, Beeston.

LIBRAL (*The Library of Rural and Agricultural Literature*) is a free-of-charge, public, open-access resource provided by the British Agricultural History Society. You can sign up for a free account at <https://bahs.org.uk/LIBRAL/index.html>. Recent additions include J F C Atkinson's classic *Forty years in a moorland parish: reminiscences and researches in Danby in Cleveland* (1891) and JS Fletcher's *Recollections of a Yorkshire parish* (1910). Atkinson includes interesting descriptions of cottages, longhouses and 'forks' on page 19 onwards, including his views on the decency (or otherwise!) of the sleeping arrangements.

Mills Transformed by Neil Horsley. £25. A publication resulting from a project documenting mill buildings in the north of England which have been renovated and repurposed (see the website at mills-transformed.com).

Dry Stone Walls of the Upper Hodder Valley by Helen Wallbank. £12 plus £2.50 post and packaging – all proceeds are being donated to the Slaidburn Archive. Send a cheque to Slaidburn Archive, 25 Church Street, Slaidburn, Clitheroe BB7 3ER, or for BACS details, email the archive at enquiries@slaidburnarchive.org.

A History of Farming in the Upper Calder Valley by Paul Knights. Not a publication but a website, at <https://landscapestory.co.uk/2025/01/28/a-history-of-farming-in-the-upper-calder-valley/>. It features some rather nice photographs and ties in nicely with our forthcoming day school on Pennine vernacular architecture.

New reports on building stones

For those interested in building stones, reports on the building materials of Helmsley Castle, Wressle Castle, Burton Agnes Manor House, Brough Roman Settlement and Kirkham Priory have recently been added to the 'Reports' section of the Ryedale Vernacular Building Materials Research Group website at <https://sites.google.com/site/ryedalebuildings/>. This website also includes details about the RVBMRG.

Historic England Archive

When investigating a building it's always worth exploring the Historic England collections at historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/. Last year we discovered that the 'England's Places' section contained some old photos of Boynton which were useful for our research on the village. However, note that there might be a reproduction fee if you wish to include a photo in a publication.

Other events of possible interest ...

We recommend that you check for any updated information if you plan to attend an event, in case of late changes to schedules.

Historic Towns Trust: Mapping Bradford's History

Thursday 20 February 2025

A talk by Martin Wills, Wakefield Town Hall at 7.30pm. Booking details at wakefieldcivicsociety.org.uk/events/.

Model Villages and The Rise of The Philanthropic Movement

Thursday 20 February 2025

A talk by Eric Jackson to the Olicana Historical Society. 7.30pm at Clarke-Foley Centre, Ilkley. Info at olicanahistorical.wixsite.com/olicana-historical-s.

Ghostly Tales from the Treasurer's House

Wednesday 26 February 2025

A talk by Glennis Whyte of the National Trust to Strensall Local History Group, 7pm in Strensall Village Hall. slhg.weebly.com.

The Medieval Wall Paintings of Pickering Church

Tuesday 4 March 2025

A talk by Kate Giles to Hunter Archaeological Society, following AGM at 7pm at Showroom Cinema, Sheffield. Details at sites.google.com/site/hunterarchaeologicalsociety.

Secret Shibden

Various dates from Friday 7 March 2025

A tour of historic Shibden Hall to see parts that visitors rarely get to see, including ornate wall paintings hidden behind wood panelling. £20, museums.calderdale.gov.uk/whats-on.

One Man Conference: Discovering Ancient Houses

Saturday 8 March 2025

For the third year running this one-day event will see buildings archaeologist Dr James Wright deliver six consecutive online talks on mediaeval architecture in one (in his own words somewhat foolhardy) 12-hour session. Fee: by donation. www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/one-man-conference-discovering-ancient-houses-tickets-1226082478699.

The Snickelways of York – 40 years on

Tuesday 11 March 2025

A talk by William Thackray to Northallerton & District Local History Society, 7pm in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Hall, Northallerton. www.northyorkshistory.co.uk.

Exploring Yorkshire's Vernacular Architecture: From Riccall to the Pennines

Thursday 13 March 2025

A talk by Kevin Illingworth and Lorraine Moor to Riccall Local History Group, 2pm at St Mary's Church, Riccall.

Bishops' House, 500 years of a Derbyshire farmhouse

Monday 17 March 2025

A talk by Ken Dash to Sheffield & District Family History Society at Aizlewood Business Centre, Sheffield after AGM at 2pm. www.sheffieldfhs.org.uk.

Wentworth – the village and the mansion

Monday 17 March 2025

A talk by Pat McLaughlin to Aston-cum-Aughton History Group, 7pm in William Layne Reading Room, Aston. astonhistorygroup.co.uk.

The History of the Folly, Settle

Monday 17 March 2025

A talk by Heather Lane to Ingleborough Archaeology Group. 7.30pm at Ingleborough Community Centre. www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.

Hidden in Plain Sight – Milestones of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Monday 14 April 2025

A talk by Hilary Jones of the Milestone Society to Ingleborough Archaeology Group. 7.30pm at Ingleborough Community Centre. Details as above.

Renovating a Grade 2* listed building

Tuesday 15 April 2025

A talk by John Asher to North Craven Heritage Trust, 7.30pm at the Quaker Meeting House, Settle. www.northcravenheritage.org.

Vernacular Buildings of the Forest of Bowland

Tuesday 15 April 2025

A talk by Kevin Illingworth to Chipping Local History Society, 7.45pm at St Mary's Community Centre, Chipping. www.chippinghistory.co.uk.

VAG Spring Conference

19 April to 3 May 2025

This year's Vernacular Architecture Group conference will be based in Salisbury and will explore Wiltshire. www.vag.org.uk.

York Churches Preserved

Wednesday 7 May 2025

A talk by Jonathan French to The City of York & District Family History Society, 7.30pm at the Quaker Friends Meeting House, New Earswick. www.yorkfamilyhistory.org.uk.

Vernacular Buildings of the Lancashire & Yorkshire Pennines

Thursday 15 May 2025

A talk by Kevin Illingworth to Ramsbottom Heritage Society, 7.30pm at Christ Church Neighbourhood Centre, Ramsbottom. ramsbottomheritage.org.uk.

Line and wash workshop

Friday 16 May 2025

A line and wash workshop at Beetham Nurseries, Cumbria, by John Harrison, whose favoured subject matter features built structures in the wider landscape, exploring the contrast between the man-made and the natural. 10am to 4pm, £85. drawninyorkshire.com/.

Next Newsletter

The next Newsheet will be in May 2025 – please send any contributions to the editor at newsheet@yvbsg.org.uk by 30 April 2025. Short articles on buildings or features would be appreciated, as well as details of publications or events of interest to other members. Is there a particular building which puzzles you? Do tell us about it!

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