



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

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Newsheet No 87

March 2017

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Annual Day School and AGM

Saturday 25 March 2017

At the time of writing, there's still time to book for the annual day school on the theme of 'House and Home', looking at how houses were used and furnished in the seventeenth century. As usual, the venue is the Headingley campus of Leeds Beckett University. Booking form was enclosed with the previous Newsheet and is also available on the website. The Group's AGM will follow the day school.

### A Barnsley Taster!

Saturday 8 April 2017

A walk and guided visit to Worsbrough Mill, Rockley Old Hall, and Houndhill led by Peter Thornborrow. Park in large carpark at Worsbrough Mill (£3) off west side of A61; go via Junction 36 of M1 and follow signs for Barnsley – at the bottom of the hill on bend. Come early for a coffee in the Mill café from 10.00am. Guided tour of the fine seventeenth century watermill by the curator at 10.30am, then a pleasant one-mile walk on level ground alongside the dam to the Old Hall – five gables and at least three phases. After a pub lunch visit the wonderful timber-framed Houndhill.

Maximum number 25. To book, email Peter on [chairman@yvbsg.org.uk](mailto:chairman@yvbsg.org.uk) or telephone 01226 384642.

### Annual Recording Conference: The Best of Barnsley

Friday 12 to Sunday 14 May 2017

Annual recording conference, to be held this year in South Yorkshire, an area as yet relatively unexplored by the YVBSG. We will record some of the Barnsley area's Grade I and II\* vernacular buildings: houses, summer houses, stables, barns and farm buildings. Full details and booking form are enclosed with this Newsheet.

### Walkabout in Bolton-by-Bowland, Forest of Bowland

Saturday 17 June 2017

A full-day visit to Bolton-by-Bowland in the Forest of Bowland, led by Kevin Illingworth, with similar starting and finishing times to the Gisburn Forest (Stephen Park) visit in 2016.

We start with a village walkabout (and perhaps a bit further) in the morning. After lunch in the village shop/tea-room there will be a longer walk, taking in Fooden Farmhouse, Fooden Hall, King Henry's Well, Bolton Peel Farmhouse, Broxup House, with more to come.

Full details will be available in the May Newsheet.

Right: 1716 doorhead at Keys Cottage,  
Bolton-by-Bowland



## Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 25 March 2017 at 5pm in the James Graham Building, Headingley Campus, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds.

All members of the group are formally invited to attend. If you are unable to attend the AGM and wish to raise any matter, you may do so in writing to the Secretary, Mary Cook. Please send any nominations for officers or members of the committee to Mary (contact details on back page).

The minutes of last year's AGM are available on the Members' Area of the website.

## Committee meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Sunday 8 October 2017. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any events for next year please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

## Completed reports

As mentioned in the last Newsheet, David Cook has taken on the role of Acting Archivist. If you have any completed but as yet un-numbered reports to submit, please send them to David.

## Next Newsheet

The next edition will be in May 2017 – please send any contributions (for example details of publications or events of interest) to the editor by 30 April 2017.

## Membership renewal

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2017! A renewal slip is enclosed for those who haven't yet done so.

# Vernacular Buildings of South Yorkshire

## Setting the Scene

The modern county of South Yorkshire correlates quite well with the original extent of the Deanery of Doncaster, and comprises the four Metropolitan Districts of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. The boundary of Sheffield roughly follows that of *Hallamshire*, a former Anglo-Saxon estate bordering the larger kingdom of Northumbria. These pre-Conquest divisions set South Yorkshire apart from its neighbouring counties Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Humberside, North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire, and permitted the creation of large landed estates in the past, some with attractive and largely unspoilt estate villages – such as Wentworth, Hickleton, High Melton, Hooton Pagnell,

and Cawthorne. However, the underlining geology of the county provides an astonishing contrast and variety in available building materials, thus avoiding any uniformity between these villages that is also reflected in the many fine medieval (and earlier) churches, castles and monastic ruins, and vernacular houses to be found in the countryside. These vary from small nucleated villages and scattered hamlets with cottages of the peasant class, and an odd farm set amid fields and woodland; to larger yeoman farmhouses often set within substantial farmsteads, some with large barns; to the manor houses of the lesser gentry (only occasionally seen in West Yorkshire) with home farms and

stables; to the mansions of the nobility. There are houses like Wentworth Castle (Barnsley), an early eighteenth century massive enlargement of Stainborough Hall, a substantial three-storey seven-bay house (under construction in 1672); and Wentworth Woodhouse (Rotherham) built as a partly brick Baroque mansion facing north, with a later classical Palladian palace built on to the back of it facing south. It rivals Wentworth Castle by being bigger, and is longer than any in the rest of England. They are both set within fine parkland decorated with numerous monuments and follies; also having large stable-blocks, estate farms, and villages close by, with watermills and windmills.

## Geology

While South Yorkshire has no single recognisable style as some other counties of England have, its chief characteristic is not its architectural uniformity but its remarkable variety of styles; these are closely tied in to the underlying geology that changes from the Pennine watershed in the west, beyond Penistone where the river Dove and the Cawthorne Dike run west to east feeding into the river Dearne. Similarly the river Don flows from the north-west and is joined by the river Sheaf and other fast flowing streams that carve out steep sided valleys all running across the changing geological bands that loosely run through the county north to south. In the west the band of Millstone Grit in the high Pennines gently slopes and dips to the east, its quarries capable of producing large blocks of gritstone ashlar, good for building. Within a few miles to the east this is overlain by Coal Measure Sandstone, capable of producing fine-grained blocks of stone, on which lie the towns of Barnsley, Sheffield, and Rotherham that also has a distinctive band of richly coloured sandstone called 'Rotherham Red' used in the building of Rotherham Minster,

one of the finest (and least known) Perpendicular churches in the country. In vernacular buildings it is usually mixed with lighter sandstones to form a distinctive characteristic 'heather mix' of walling stone.

The Coal Measures are in turn overlain by a narrow band of Magnesian Limestone only three to five miles wide which has a west facing escarpment forming a distinctive ridge in the landscape. Running down this band of stone lie Rotherham's 'Little Cotswolds' attractive villages amid a fertile agricultural landscape in the south of the district, each with its own quarry supplying good building stone for the local houses and fine medieval churches. Places like Hooton Roberts, Firbeck, Tickhill and Laughton-en-le-Morthen are worth exploring. Further east the Bunter Sandstone runs into the Marls where brick became the principal building material by the end of the seventeenth century. There can be few places in England of greater contrast travelling a mere thirty miles from the Pennine High Peak in the west to the lowland plains to the east around Hatfield.

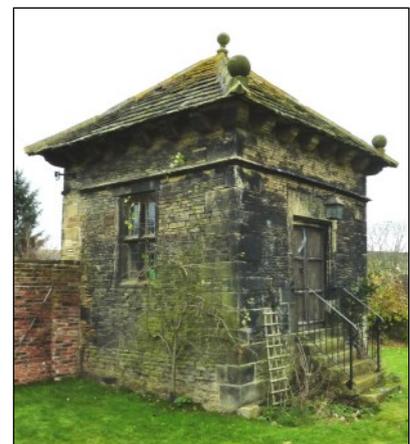
## Vernacular Style: Barnsley's Best Buildings

The dispersed settlement pattern of landholding in the west of the Barnsley district is much influenced by the character and quality of the available building stone. To the west of Penistone are many fine farmhouses built of gritstone or sandstone ashlar on the 'show face', but sometimes with more economical thin coursed rubble on the sides and rear. These date from the second quarter of the seventeenth century when timber-framed buildings appear to stop being constructed in South Yorkshire due to lack of woodland and suitable trees countered by a plentiful supply of good quality building stone available from local quarries. Of those chosen from the Listed Buildings Register with the higher grading of Grade II\* there are a mere four vernacular stone-built

seventeenth century yeoman farmhouses, but these are of outstanding quality and interest and include:

**Bullhouse Hall** (Penistone) and its Summer House (listed separately II\*). This unusually, for South Yorkshire, features a three-room F-plan under three wide gables of differing pitch with a small projecting porch-like oriel bay-window, the main door being set next the projecting east wing. In the brick-walled orchard is the listed **Summer House**, square-on-plan with a pyramidal roof with over-sailing eaves carried on bold brackets, featuring ball finials. It is almost certainly a seventeenth century Banqueting House dated 1686 that retains both its original fenestration with cross-mullioned windows in the sides and its double-

doors approached up a flight of six stone steps; inside fixed bench seating is around the outer edge of the single room with flat-baluster supports. Built



Bullhouse Summer House

against the slope of the garden it has a side entrance to a lower basement. An adjacent barn has an unusual datestone inscribed on the lintel of a doorway 'June Ye 10. 1695'. Bullhouse Chapel built by the owner Sylvanus Rich, a Puritan gentleman, has a similar datestone inscribed '18 April 1692': an unusual detail rarely observed elsewhere.

**Cat Hill Hall** (Penistone) dated 1634 is more typical of South Yorkshire in having a two-cell plan, being built of finely punch dressed ashlar with crisp carved detailing to the copings of its front facing gables, and finely carved drip-moulds with varied decorative terminations featuring geometric and heart-shaped stops to the mullioned windows. Its central full-height gabled porch leads directly into the hall against the fire-stack, through which the parlour is separately accessed.

**Knabbe's Hall** (Silkstone) is reputedly where King Charles I hid during the Civil War for two days. He made his escape and the frustrated Cromwellian troops set fire to the house. It wasn't rebuilt until after the Restoration, as the dated rainwater hopper heads bear testament, being variously dated 1662 and 1666 with the initials 'WW' for the owner William Wood, Iron Master of Wortley Forge. The house is built in finely dressed ashlar on its display front with fine detailing, but thinner coursed stone on its sides and rear, and features three gables and a fine porch with a cast iron fire-back with the royal coat-of-arms dated 1674 proudly set above the door.

**Wool Greaves Farmhouse** (Cawthorne) is a two-cell L-shaped house with a gabled projecting wing. Dated 1672 its main door enters against an oak-panelled screen that separates it from the carved and moulded oak bressummer fireplace set against the gable-end, giving it a baffle-entry plan, typical of many such other houses in South Yorkshire. It has unusual carved stone finials on its kneelers of a unique design in the shape of an icosahedron. The king-post roof continues in the long former granary range, but alternates with queen-strut trusses, an unusual feature; this forms a link to the fine half-aisled barn of post-and-truss construction, the whole forming a single residence of outstanding simplicity. South Yorkshire is the meeting point between the Highland and Lowland zones of vernacular building and is the point where the cruck frame and the king-post truss forms of timber construction coincide and are sometimes found within the same building. The county is also the frontier between the two major roof types, the principal rafter truss and common rafter types, and hybrid roofs exist with



Knabbe's Hall

king-posts but lacking a ridge-beam having collared rafters.

**Ingfield Farm Barn** (Ingbirchworth) is a magnificent cruck-framed barn with Type A apex pieces where the cruck-blades cradle a diamond-set ridge piece. Having four bays and three pairs of crucks, it is a sensitive barn conversion where it is possible to get up close to the huge curving wind-braces and see the pegging and chamfer-stops usually inaccessible!

The superb **Gunthwaite Hall Barn** (Grade I) is of outstanding interest and is comparable to **The Long Barn at Whiston** (Rotherham). Its chevron timber-framing on a stone lower wall – the South Yorkshire way – is also seen at **Houndhill** where decorative framing of two registers with a mid-rail only starts at first-floor level. Also at Gunthwaite is an extremely fine late-seventeenth century stone **Stable Block** (listed II\*) that is comparable to that at **Birthwaite Hall** (Grade II) visited by the Group in the past on one of Kevin Illingworth's trips when he brought them to visit my home. **The Golden Cross**, Cawthorne, is another Grade II part timber-framed house of great interest where the owners have kindly agreed to let us record it. Similarly **Rockley Old Hall** is an interesting example of alternative rebuild of an earlier timber-structure where its five gabled ranges have straight joints showing it was built in at least three stages. There is much more to say and to see, but that will have to wait for another occasion!

Peter H Thornborough

## Publications

*History in the South Pennines: the legacy of Alan Petford.* Edited by Nigel Smith. To be published spring 2017, £20 plus £3.85 p&p from [www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk](http://www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk). Produced by the South Pennine History Group in memory of the late Alan Petford, a gifted local history lecturer. Topics include settlement expansion, township boundaries, building history, construction agreements and inns and alehouses.

## Courses

**Archives in 3D workshops.** Learn how to create your own digital reconstructions of Tudor and Elizabethan East Riding architecture directly from plans and illustrations held in the archives. Saturday 1 April 2017, 10am to 3.30pm at Beverley Treasure House, £15. Booking essential on 01482 392699, [www.eastriding.gov.uk/events](http://www.eastriding.gov.uk/events).

**MA in English Building History.** The University of York is offering a new three-year part-time MA via distance learning from September 2017. Covers Anglo-Saxon period to present day, from vernacular dwellings to country houses. Further details at [www.york.ac.uk/lifelonglearning/english-building-history/](http://www.york.ac.uk/lifelonglearning/english-building-history/).

## Early Fabric of Beverley – Project Update

The project team is still waiting for the final version of the scientific dating reports and continues to hope that some more dates will be forthcoming when all the samples and sequences are compared. For example, we have not yet had any dates from any building sampled in Beverley (excluding the Minster) from more than one phase of timber construction. Of course, the dates we have are of great value, but it would be the icing on the cake if, in the final analysis, dates from different phases of construction from any building could be obtained.

Some reports are still being completed, and distribution of copies of reports on buildings which were sampled is being held until the final scientific dating reports are issued.

The team plans to produce a report on the project by the end of May 2017 for publication by the end of 2017 or early 2018. For further updates please watch this space in the Newsheet or see our Twitter feed which can be found at <https://twitter.com/YorksVernacular>.

David Cook, Project Manager, [beverleyproject@yvb.org.uk](mailto:beverleyproject@yvb.org.uk)

## 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!

### **Nunnington Hall Behind the Scenes**

Monthly dates until October 2017

Join the house and collection team for a tour beyond the locked doors. £2 plus normal admission fee, 12 noon to 1pm. Details at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/nunnington-hall](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/nunnington-hall) or telephone 01439 748283 for dates.

### **Traditional farmhouses and buildings of Lancashire and Pennine areas**

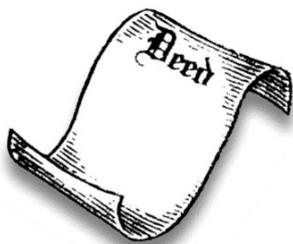
Tuesday 14 March 2017

A talk by Kevin Illingworth to the Pendle Forest Association of the National Trust. 7.30pm at the Unitarian Chapel, Church Street, Padiham, near Burnley, BB12 8JH. Guests welcome £2. Enquiries: 01282 613602 or 703080.

### **Reading Old Writing – Deeds**

Wednesday 15 March 2017

Discover the basics of the different types of deeds which you're likely to find in local record offices. One in a series of four palaeography workshops at Hull History Centre, 10am to 12 noon, £10 each. Further details at [www.hullhistorycentre.org.uk](http://www.hullhistorycentre.org.uk), or telephone 01482 317500.



### **Vernacular Interiors**

Saturday 18 March 2017

Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group study day at Swarthmoor Hall, near Ulverston. 10am to 4pm, £15 including lunch. See [www.cvbg.co.uk](http://www.cvbg.co.uk).

### **Gone but not forgotten: medieval buildings in the outer precincts of Kirkstall Abbey**

Monday 20 March 2017

An illustrated talk by Stuart Wrathmell to the Thoresby Society, 7.15pm at the Friends' Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds. See [www.thoresby.org.uk](http://www.thoresby.org.uk) for further details.

### **Vernacular buildings in and around Craven and the Forest of Bowland**

Monday 27 March 2017

A talk (the Harland Memorial Lecture) by Kevin Illingworth to Upper Wharfedale Field Society, at Octagon Theatre of the Devonshire Institute (Grassington Town Hall), 7.30pm. Enquiries: 01756 752196, web [www.upperwharfedalefieldsociety.co.uk](http://www.upperwharfedalefieldsociety.co.uk).

### **Weavers Cottages of North East Lancashire**

Thursday 6 April 2017

A talk by Kathy Fishwick to Burnley Historical Society, 7.15pm at New Church, Briercliffe Road, Burnley. Visitors £2. Enquiries: 01254 201162, [www.burnleyhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.burnleyhistoricalsociety.com).

### **Hidden in Plain Sight**

Saturday 8 April 2017

A new book, *Hidden in Plain Sight: history and architecture of the Airton Meeting House* by Laurel Phillipson and Alison Armstrong, will be launched at the Airton Friends Meeting House, 11am to 5pm. There will be food, music, and tours of the Meeting House. <https://airtonbarn.org.uk/news/>.

### **Dales Archaeology Day 2017**

Saturday 8 April 2017

Day school at Barbon Village Hall with talks which include 'Every barn tells a story' by Karen Griffiths. £15. Details and booking available from <https://retail.yorkshiredales.org.uk/products/archaeology-day-school-2017>.

### **Liverpool Cowkeepers – How Dales farmers became city cowkeepers**

Tuesday 18 April 2017

A talk by David Joy to Earby and District History Society, 7.30pm at New Road Community Centre, New Road, Earby. Visitors £1.50. Further details from [www.earbyhistory.co.uk](http://www.earbyhistory.co.uk).

### **Skipton history in 54 buildings**

Wednesday 3 May 2017

Talk by Susan Wrathmell to Skipton Civic Society (following the society's AGM). 7.30pm at the Soroptomists' Room, Otley Street, Skipton. [www.skiptoncivicsociety.org](http://www.skiptoncivicsociety.org).

### **Vernacular Buildings of North Lancashire, including Bowland and Westmorland**

Monday 8 May 2017

An illustrated talk by Kevin Illingworth. 7.30pm at Barton Road Community Centre, south Lancaster LA1 4ER (bear right just north of Scotforth crossroads if travelling from the south). Cost £5 including light refreshments. Enquiries: 01524 68250 or 65622.

### **The Company of Merchant Adventurers and their Hall**

Tuesday 9 May 2017

Talk by Lauren Marshall, Manager of the Merchant Adventurers Hall in York, about the history of the building. 6.15pm at York City Library, £6. To book, go to <http://feelinginspired.co.uk>.

### **Your Local History Archives**

Wednesday 10 May 2017

Talk by archivist Anthony Hughes from North Yorkshire County Record Office, 2pm to 3pm, £6. Enquiries: Harrogate Museums on 01423 556188, [museums@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:museums@harrogate.gov.uk).

### **Plaster, stone and wood: the panelling and carvings at Burton Agnes Hall**

Thursday 11 May 2017

Talk by head guide Pauline Waslin at 2pm in the Dining Room. No booking necessary; normal Hall admission applies. Other history talks and tours are offered during the summer: see [www.burtonagnes.com](http://www.burtonagnes.com).

### **The Murgatroyds of East Riddlesden Hall**

Thursday 11 May 2017

Talk by Patricia Atkinson to Bingley and District Local History Society, 7.30pm at Church House, Old Main Street, Bingley. £2. [www.bingleyhistory.co.uk](http://www.bingleyhistory.co.uk).

### **The Pevsner project and the buildings of Huddersfield**

Monday 22 May 2017

Talk by Joseph Sharples to Huddersfield Local History Society, 7.30pm in the Bronte Lecture Theatre, University of Huddersfield, fee for visitors £2.

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