



# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

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Newsheet No 99

March 2020

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary

### Extraordinary Yorkshire Buildings – Annual Day School and AGM

Saturday 14 March 2020

Have you booked yet? At the time of writing, there is just time to do so. The event features three special buildings in each of three regions of Yorkshire (north, south and west) with member speakers but with rare appearances of expert guest speakers to put the buildings in a regional context: Peter Ryder on fortified dwellings in the north, and David Bostwick, the expert on decorative seventeenth century plasterwork in Yorkshire. Phone David Cook on 01325 310114 or email [dcook0@talk21.com](mailto:dcook0@talk21.com) without delay to check availability of places for late bookers – just £20 without lunch, £34 with.

*Peter Thornborrow*

### Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 14 March 2020 at 4.30pm in the De Grey Lecture Theatre, York St John University, York.

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 agenda for the meeting is available on the Members' Area of the website, together with the minutes of last year's AGM.

### Doncaster District 2020: Taster Visit and Annual Recording Conference

This is our fourth taster visit to South Yorkshire, each area different from the other. We move from the gritstones and sandstones of the Pennines in the west, to the east where a narrow band of Magnesian Limestone is edged by Permian Rocks – where it meets the sands and gravels of the Hatfield Chase drained by the famous Dutch engineer Cornelius Vermuyden in the 1620s, for which he was granted the Manor of Hatfield by Charles I. This geology is best seen in the numerous and outstandingly interesting medieval and earlier Grade 1 churches that proliferate in the mostly brick villages of the northern part of the Doncaster district – more than anywhere else in South Yorkshire.

#### The Taster Visit

Saturday 4 April 2020

We begin our taster in Campsall village at the church that has the tallest Norman tower in Yorkshire (you can't miss it so a good place to meet!), and investigate the complex development of its unique interior with fine rood screen that even features Byzantine script! At 12.00 midday we move to the opposite side of the road for a privileged look at the medieval Rectory, one of the buildings we will record at the recording conference – adding to the existing record of this stunning rare fourteenth century T-shaped building with tracery windows and timber ogee-arched doorheads in the hall screen. After this we take a booked buffet lunch (£10 payable on the day) at The Owston public house just a mile or so away (vegetarian options), located at the five-lane-ends junction with the A19 from Selby. After, we travel a short distance to Burghwallis to take the opportunity of visiting the superb St Helen's Church (Saxon with herringbone masonry above Roman foundations) that preserves a rare mensa, the original stone altar. We then journey independently to Hooton Pagnell and reconvene in the churchyard of All Saints Church at 3.15-3.30pm where a view of the fourteenth century gatehouse can be had, before a tour of this attractive

estate village with great views from its ridge location. The owner of seventeenth century Home Farmhouse has agreed to let us record it (not been recorded before) – gable-on to the street with a three-room plan.



The Old Rectory, Campsall. Photo reproduced with permission from South Yorkshire Archaeology Service.

## YVBSG Events For Your Diary (continued)

To book for the Taster Visit ring Peter Thornborrow on 07565 149493 (giving any dietary preferences) or email chairman @yvbsg.org.uk. Absolute deadline is two weeks beforehand on Saturday 21 March 2020, or book at the day school in York the previous Saturday (24 maximum). Meet from 10.30am at Campsall Church of St Mary Magdalene – park on the road throughout the village downhill from the church.



Home Farmhouse, Hooton Pagnell



Manor House, Austerfield

### Annual recording conference in Doncaster

Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May 2020

We are based at the Holiday Inn Junction 36, Doncaster; easy to get to without going into the centre of Doncaster, just half a mile off the A1M – see booking form enclosed with this Newsheet. Last year we recorded buildings with two-cell plans with rear aisles or outshuts. This year we record L-shaped seventeenth century and earlier buildings including brick houses, one featuring Tudor diaperwork at Low Grange, Thurnscoe, just over the border in Barnsley MBC, and another at the Manor House, Austerfield (near Bawtry), where brick encases the timber-framed home of Pilgrim Father William Bradford born here in 1589. He famously sailed to America on the Mayflower in 1620, becoming Governor of Plymouth Colony in 1621; the house is now a feature of the Pilgrim Trail but has never been previously recorded.



One of Tickhill's more unusual buildings: St Leonard's Hospital dating from 1470 on the ground floor.

On the Sunday afternoon we visit Tickhill on the southern border of the Doncaster district (just 20 minutes' drive away) where members of the Tickhill Local History Society have agreed to lead us on a walkabout of this ancient market town, and an expert will guide us round the fine church interior pointing out the masons' marks.

Come and join us in Doncaster and help us record an outstanding collection of buildings – beginners are welcome, as are non-recording partners who might enjoy the hotel's facilities: swimming pool, gym and spa (so you might wish to arrive early and bring your swimming costume!).

*Peter Thornborrow*

### Wensleydale Recording Weekend

Friday 3 to Sunday 5 July 2020

We plan to record a number of buildings in the dale on Saturday 4 July. This will be preceded by an introductory talk from David Cook on the evening of Friday 3 July in the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes. A building visit may be organised for the Sunday. If you have, or know of, a building in the dale that the YVBSG should record, or a suggestion for the Sunday visit, please contact David Cook (contact details on back page). The list of buildings already recorded by the Group is on the website at [www.yvbsg.org.uk/reports.html](http://www.yvbsg.org.uk/reports.html). More details in the next Newsheet. Please note that those who wish to attend will need to arrange their own accommodation.

### Conference Review Day

Saturday 19 September 2020

An opportunity for all to hear about the buildings recorded during the annual conference held in the Doncaster district in May. Details to follow.

### Committee meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Saturday 10 October 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 May 2020 – please send any contributions to the editor by 30 April 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.

## Dorothy Pattison

We are sad to report that longstanding YVBSG member Dorothy Pattison died on 20 December 2019. Dorothy was a regular attender of our annual day schools. She and husband Ian compiled the Bibliography of the national Vernacular Architecture Group for many years and in 2004 she helped with the organisation of the VAG annual spring conference which that year was held in Yorkshire, based in Scarborough with a full day of visits to buildings in York. Dorothy's interests were wide-ranging and included food history; she liked to think about the practicalities of how people lived and cooked in vernacular buildings. She'll be much missed, particularly by groups, friends and family in and around York.

## Calverley Old Hall volunteers

The Landmark Trust is seeking people who would like to participate in volunteering events at Calverley Old Hall, from furniture making, garden making, light building work, painting and decorating, to community arts and crafts. Volunteers will need to organise their own accommodation (if needed) and travel, but all other costs (lunches, equipment and materials and training) will be covered. You will work alongside Landmark Trust staff and experts. Please email [volunteers@landmarktrust.org.uk](mailto:volunteers@landmarktrust.org.uk) to register an interest and they will send you further information. The building is Grade I listed and includes a fourteenth century solar block, a fifteenth century great hall and chapel, and a sixteenth century parlour block. See [www.landmarktrust.org.uk](http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk).

## Publications

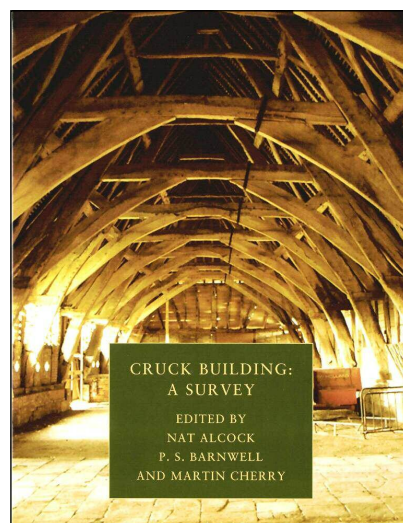
The 'Stories in Stone' project based in the Yorkshire Dales has produced a number of publications. Amongst these are *Southerscales: a deserted settlement* (£15.50), *Thorns: an abandoned settlement* (£14.50) and *Tree-ring Dating Programme* (£9), the latter being a report on the dating of timbers in traditional farm buildings around Ingleborough, written by Alison C Armstrong and David S Johnson with Alison Arnold and Robert Howard (it also includes dating information for reused oak timbers of 1489-1514 in The Shaws, Selside, visited by the YVBSG in June 2019). Prices include delivery. All available from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust website at [www.ydmt.org](http://www.ydmt.org).

*The Village of Elsecar, South Yorkshire: Historic Area Assessment* by Jayne Rimmer, David Went and Lucy A Jessop. Elsecar, the industrial village near Wentworth Woodhouse in South Yorkshire, was developed in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries under the patronage of the Earls Fitzwilliam to take advantage of the abundant reserves of coal and ironstone beneath the estate, and the arrival of the Dearne and Dove Canal and the South Yorkshire Railway. Elsecar's industries, in particular its collieries, contributed to the Fitzwilliams' extraordinary wealth and supported the village's planned expansion. The significance of this heritage was recognised in 2017 by the creation of a 'Heritage Action Zone': a three-year partnership between Historic England and Barnsley Council. This *Historic Area Assessment* forms part of that project, and is free to download from [historicengland.org.uk/research/research-results/research-reports/](http://historicengland.org.uk/research/research-results/research-reports/) (search for 'Elsecar' or Report no 6/2019). Includes descriptions and photos of houses, as well as industrial and other buildings.

## Special offer on three recent publications

Special offers for members of the YVBSG (and other groups affiliated to the Vernacular Architecture Group) for three books recently published by Shaun Tyas. Order direct from Shaun Tyas, 1 High Street, Donington, Lincolnshire PE11 4TA (01775 821542). All prices include free UK postage; orders and payment by Paypal to [shaun@shauntyas.myzen.co.uk](mailto:shaun@shauntyas.myzen.co.uk); phone for credit card orders, or cheques by post.

- *Cruck Building: A Survey*, edited by Nat Alcock, Paul Barnwell and Martin Cherry (2019, 416pp; £50). Members' offer price £35. Based on a 2017 Oxford symposium, the fifteen chapters cover both general themes, including structural aspects, archaeology, base crucks, and the origins and dating of crucks, and regional studies ranging from Devon and Leicestershire to Cumbria and Northumberland, Wales and Scotland. Launched at the January 2020 VAG conference in Leicester. Includes a chapter on crucks in the North East and Yorkshire by Martin Roberts and Nat Alcock, with drawings by YVBSG members of buildings recorded by the Group.



- *Working-Class Housing: Improvement and Technology*, edited by Paul Barnwell and Marilyn Palmer (2019; 208pp; £40). Members' offer price £30. Eleven essays explore how design and technology brought about improvements in housing for the working classes between the industrial revolution and the end of the Second World War, covering both back-to-back housing in industrial cities and rural housing on country estates and in farming communities.
- *The Buildings of Tudor and Stuart Wakefield* by Peter Brears (2019; 128pp; £19.95). Members' offer price £18. The chapters cover the secular buildings (mostly shops and inns), the churches, public buildings, and gentry halls around Wakefield; it provides detailed reconstructions of buildings from the Tudor and Stuart period, when Wakefield was a major town near the Great North Road.

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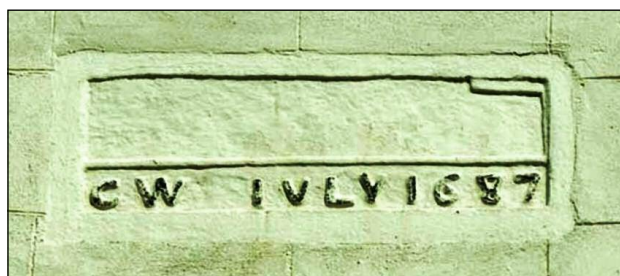
## Reading historical handwriting

Struggling to read a will or inventory? The Borthwick Institute for Archives has updated its guide on *Reading the Past: Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century English Handwriting* in 2020 and has made it freely available online in pdf format at [www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/publications/palaeography-guides/](http://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/publications/palaeography-guides/). It contains useful information on common letter forms and abbreviations, as well as real-life examples of documents and transcripts.

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## Dated to the Day

Kevin Illingworth has spotted another 'dated to the day' datestone, on a building to the left and west of the Angel Inn in Alston, Cumbria. Do keep sending further examples to [j.k.illingworth@btinternet](mailto:j.k.illingworth@btinternet) if you find more!



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## Medieval Buildings of Hull

A recent short blog from Hull Museums focuses on medieval buildings and refers to some of the timbers on display in the Hull & East Riding Museum (the blog is available at [museumshull.blogspot.com/2020/01/medieval-buildings-into-woods.html](http://museumshull.blogspot.com/2020/01/medieval-buildings-into-woods.html)).

The museum is also offering a gallery talk exploring the world of the medieval timber economy, looking in depth at some of the structural timbers on display in the museum's Medieval Gallery and discovering more about how buildings were made from wood and Hull's medieval past. 12.30-13.00 on Friday 1 May 2020 at Hull & East Riding Museum, 36 High Street, Hull. Free, just drop in, no need to book. Details at Hull Culture & Leisure, [www.hcandl.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.hcandl.co.uk/whats-on).

## 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!

### More Halifax Hostelries

Sunday 15 March 2020

Following the success of last year's Halifax Hostelries walk, here's a new collection of those fascinating heritage locations. The walk ends at the Ring o'Bells. Meet Anne Kirker at 1.30pm outside old Post Office building, opposite Lloyds Bank, Commercial Street, Halifax. £3, no need to book. [www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk](http://www.calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk).

### Spout House and Bilsdale

Wednesday 25 March 2020

North York Moors National Park walk. Join David Worth and enjoy views of Easterside Hill from the slopes above Bilsdale. This walk also visits sixteenth century Spout House, a cruck cottage that served as an inn, preserved as it was when it served its last ale 100 years ago, and finishes with tea and biscuits in the new Sun Inn (cost £3). 2pm to 5pm, 3.4 miles, suggested donation £2. Booking essential on 01439 772738 or at [northyorkmoors.eventbrite.com](http://northyorkmoors.eventbrite.com). See [www.northyorkmoors.org.uk](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk).

### Open Day at Elmswell Old Hall

Wednesday 1 April 2020

Elmswell Old Hall, Grade II\* listed and now ruinous, is in an open area and can be walked round on the outside. Henry Best built the house in c1635 using bricks specially made for him in Beverley. A model of what the Old Hall used to look like will be available to see. This is the only opportunity for the public to visit each year. Location: There is a turn off to the south onto a very minor tarmac road which is where cars need to leave the A166 from Driffield to Wetwang. Take that turn and then quickly enter the farm gates on the left and continue along to where parking is available. Stout footwear recommended. 10.30am to 3.30pm.

### Beverley Houses 1330-1730

Thursday 9 April 2020

An illustrated talk by Dr Susan Neave for Beverley Civic Society on some of the best-recorded houses in Beverley from the high middle ages to the first years of the Georgian age. 7.30pm in St Mary's Parish Hall, Beverley, visitors £5. [www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk](http://www.beverleycivicsociety.co.uk).

### Hidden York Minster Tours

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays

Explore a hidden part of York Minster with a tour of the Chapter House roof and old Mason's Loft. View the centuries-old design drawings still visible on the tracing floor. Tickets £10 (plus general admission fee) from [yorkminster.org/visit/plan-your-visit/hidden-minster-tours/](http://yorkminster.org/visit/plan-your-visit/hidden-minster-tours/) or phone 01904 557200.

### Dent Town Trail

Friday 10 April 2020

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority event. The walk will include the history of the township, a look at some of its historic buildings along with the tales of the Dent Vampire and the Terrible Knitters. Booking advisable. 1½ miles, 2pm to 4.30pm, £6. See [www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/event/dent-town-trail/](http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/event/dent-town-trail/).

### Spout House Open to Visit

Easter to 31 October 2020

This remarkably well-preserved sixteenth century, thatched cruck-framed house was the local inn until 1914 and very much the centre of Bilsdale life. The North York Moors National Park Authority now cares for the building, which is open from Easter to 31 October daily 11am to 4pm. An illustrated leaflet is available on site. Located eight miles north of Helmsley on the B1257. For more details see [www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/visiting/see-and-do/attractions/spout-house](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/visiting/see-and-do/attractions/spout-house).

### Medieval Bridges

Thursday 16 April 2020

Talk by civil engineer Chris Hudson for Friends of Pendle Heritage, 7.30pm at Pendle Heritage Centre, Barrowford. [www.foph.co.uk](http://www.foph.co.uk).

### A Pub Crawl with no Beer? Some 'Lost' Inns of Bentham and Burton

Saturday 9 May 2020

A walk with Dr David Johnson for North Craven Heritage Trust. Meet at Bentham car park at 2pm. Pre-booking essential – contact Carole Beattie on 01729 823497. For more details see [www.northcravenheritage.org.uk](http://www.northcravenheritage.org.uk).

### Watton Abbey and Beswick Hall

Saturday 16 May 2020

An afternoon event organised by the Georgian Society for East Yorkshire. A rare opportunity to see inside the fourteenth/fifteenth century Prior's lodgings at Watton Abbey, the only surviving part of an important Gilbertine Priory. Also a visit to the sixteenth-century brick parish church and the recently restored 'barn', which may or may not be part of the medieval priory buildings. Then a short drive to view the exterior of Beswick Hall, dating from around 1590 with later alterations, with diaper brickwork and stone dressings. Coach £10, admission and refreshments £7. Details at [www.gsey.org.uk](http://www.gsey.org.uk).

### An Amble Around Austwick

Monday 18 May 2020

A walk led by Dr David Johnson for Ingleborough Archaeology Group, 6.30pm. Optional meal beforehand. Booking required – details at [www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk](http://www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.uk).



### Traditional Buildings in Lancashire: the North-East

Wednesday 20 May 2020

A talk to Pendle Forest History Group by Kevin Illingworth. 7.30pm at Barley Village Hall, Cross Lane, Barley, near Burnley BB12 9JU. Visitors £3. Contact 01282 699580, [www.roughlee.org.uk/pendle-forest-history-group](http://www.roughlee.org.uk/pendle-forest-history-group).

### Yorkshire's Architectural Heritage

Saturday 24 October 2020

Advance notice of an autumn conference to be organised by PLACE at York St John University. Details still to be announced – check the website [place.uk.com](http://place.uk.com).

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