



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

www.yvbsg.org.uk

Newsheet No 74

November 2013

YVBSG Events For Your Diary

Beyond the Building – annual day school and AGM

Saturday 15 March 2014

The annual day school will be held again at Leeds Metropolitan University, on the theme of 'Beyond the Building'. Speakers will illustrate how further work beyond a survey can add to the understanding and interest of a building, for example by using documents, maps, works of art or comparative studies. Talks include *Sites and settings of Craven buildings* by Alison Armstrong; *House hunting – sources used to find Low Moor properties* by Barbara Reardon and Mary Twentyman; *Maps, plans and pictures – online and off* by Gill Cookson; *Home comforts: furnishing the West Riding house 1600-1850* by Alan Petford; and *The other Domesdale Book: an insight into the Lloyd George Survey 1910-15* by Ian Bailey. Price for members £26 with lunch or £17 without; non-members £30 with lunch or £20 without. Booking form enclosed with this Newsheet and also available on the YVBSG website. The day school will be followed at 5pm by the group's Annual General Meeting.



Members' Area

Do keep an eye on the Members' Area of the YVBSG website as we continue to add new items to it. The latest additions are a selection of photos taken during the visit to Causeway Farm, Houghton, in October 2013, and some notes from the workshop on drawing techniques held in May 2013.

The password to this area will change in January and you'll receive the new details with your membership card (or for a reminder send an email at any time to webmaster@yvbsg.org.uk).

*Wishing a Very Happy New Year
to all our members for 2014
- and happy building spotting!*

Annual Recording Conference

Friday 9 to Sunday 11 May 2014

To be held in Sedbergh, jointly with the newly-formed Cumbria Vernacular Buildings Group and Sedbergh Local History Society. Details to follow in the February Newsheet.

Next committee meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society on Saturday 1 February 2014. If you'd like to raise any matters or suggest any events please contact the Secretary, David Crook.

Whilst the committee are at the YAS, they will take the opportunity after their meeting to complete the task of checking the YVBSG records stored in the YAS archive, to ensure that the YVBSG and YAS archives are in accordance with each other. If you do use the YAS archive, please note that the online YAS list of our reports currently differs slightly from our own!

YVBSG secures English Heritage support

The YVBSG has successfully applied for funding, access to expertise and dendrochronology from English Heritage within its 'Early Fabric in Historic Towns' programme.

In October 2013, the YVBSG committee considered the opportunity, presented by Rebecca Lane of English Heritage, to bid for this. The committee agreed to proceed with an application based on a study of selected vernacular buildings in Beverley. Beverley was chosen for this opportunity because it will enable the Group to build on the work done for and during the Annual Recording Conference in 2010. It is hoped that this project will enable us to secure dendrochronological surveys on selected buildings and extend the number of YVBSG surveys of buildings in the town. The project will also deliver the publication of its findings and presentation at a conference it will organise in Beverley. We expect the project will start in summer 2014 and finish by the end of 2016.

We are looking for members to get involved in this exciting project. There will be many opportunities, for example by attending training and events, taking part in a buildings survey, or helping with the administration and organisation. Please contact David Cook 01325 310114 or dcook0@talk21.com if you are interested.

Tony Tolhurst

It is with great sadness that we have to report the recent death of Tony Tolhurst on 15 November after a short illness. Tony has been a stalwart of the YVBSG for over thirty years, for most of which time he has served with distinction as an officer of the group. He has also been one of our most active and talented recorders, still measuring and drawing within a few weeks of his death. He will be sorely missed. Our condolences go out to his wife Freda, herself a very active member, and to his whole family. A fuller tribute will be paid in a forthcoming issue of *Yorkshire Buildings*.

Barry Harrison

Recent YVBSG events

Visit to Causeway Farm, Hoghton, and the Brindle area, near Chorley

Twenty-nine members of two societies booked for this event held on Saturday 5 October. Fourteen were YVBSG members from as far away as Staffordshire, York, and Timble (north of Otley). Also welcomed were three Lancashire YVBSG members, from Silverdale (north of Lancaster), and Blackburn. As planned, twelve members of Chorley Historical Society joined us.

We were greeted at 11am by three ladies wearing Barclays Bank tee-shirts, serving four flavours of ice-cream. Next, close inspection of the cruck barn revealed that the tie-beam had been cut off. This barn, along with several other large cruck barns in Lancashire, is not included in the national Cruck Database (see www.vag.org.uk/databases.htm for this and other national databases) – well, not yet!

A hotpot lunch followed by a dessert and ample cakes was served in the farmhouse. Prior to this, every room was open for us to inspect features such as timber-framed walls, ovolo-moulded beams, and hidden-away brick-mullioned windows (some now inside). Lunch fees, a raffle, and a whip-round made £200, which was doubled by Barclays Bank, where the occupier of the farmhouse works. So we were delighted that our visit resulted in a donation of £400 to St Catherine's Hospice, near Leyland.

Some photos of the farmhouse and barn, together with a couple of other buildings visited on the day, are available in the Photo Gallery in the Members' Area of the YVBSG website. For more good photographs, visit the Chorley Historical & Archaeological Society website at www.chorleyhistorysociety.co.uk, and follow the 'News and Views' link.

Kevin Illingworth

We thank Kevin very much indeed for organising this enjoyable excursion to our neighbouring county of Lancashire.

Conference Review Day and walkabout in the Spenn Valley

A successful day was held on Sunday 6 October to hear presentations on the five buildings recorded during the annual conference in May. These were Duxbury Hall, Haigh Hall and Headlands Hall (all in Liversedge), Peel House (Gomersal) and The Black Bull (Birstall). Summaries of the reports will be published in *Yorkshire Buildings* in due course.



Causeway Farmhouse: a part-blocked brick mullioned window, rendered over, can be seen on the first floor.



Causeway Farmhouse: ground floor beam with ovolo moulding and stops.



Causeway Farmhouse: cross incised above a central nick in wooden door lintel.

New YAS opening hours

Opening hours of the YAS at Claremont, Leeds, have changed as follows: Monday closed to public; Tuesday 10am-5.30pm; Wednesday 10am-5.30pm; Thursday 10am-5.30pm; Friday closed to public; Saturday 9.30am-5pm.

Vernacular Architecture Group

Enclosed with this Newsheet is a new publicity leaflet produced by the VAG. One benefit of membership is the eligibility to attend the spring conference which offers three full days of visiting buildings in a different part of the country each year, and the winter conference which is a lecture-based meeting normally held in Leicester. The programme for the next winter conference in January, entitled *Attention to Detail*, is available at www.vag.org.uk/conferences.htm.

As an affiliated group, the YVBSG receives VAG Newsletters and the annual journal, *Vernacular Architecture*. If you are interested in borrowing these, please contact Jacky Quarmby.

Open to the public

On 7 September 2013 the large house in Slaidburn, Forest of Bowland, known as Townhead (c1732), had an open day after four years of restoration by the new owners. During the YVBSG Annual Conference in Slaidburn in 2007, the Slaidburn Estate opened the house specially for us for our Sunday afternoon walkabout. It had not been properly occupied within living memory. There are visible seventeenth century remains at cellar level and among the outbuildings. In and around the large walled garden there were large troughs, slate tanks, water pumps, and reset datestones. All of these are illustrated in the nineteen-page colourful booklet, handed out to all visitors.

Two weeks later there was a coffee morning at Mock Beggar Hall, Appletreewick, Craven. Features inside include decorative plasterwork, a fireplace of 1696, and a fifteenth century doorway. The information regarding both events came at very short notice, for example from the Craven Herald newspaper and village notice boards.

Kevin Illingworth

Other events of possible interest ...

Some of these events are publicised a long time in advance, so it's worth checking that they are still running before you go!

Going Dutch: Hull and the Low Countries

Until Sunday 5 January 2014

Exhibition at Ferens Art Gallery, Hull. Throughout Hull and surrounding landscape, Dutch influence can be seen. Trading links go back as far as the thirteenth century. From art and architecture to the greenhouses in Cottingham, this exhibition explores ties with our friends across the North Sea. Enquiries: 01482 300 300.

A WC by any other name

Monday 2 December 2013

A humorous look at the development of the water closet with Edward Padgett for Clitheroe Civic Society. 7.30pm at Ribble Valley Borough Council Chamber in Church Street, visitors £3. <http://clitheroecivicsociety.webs.com>.

Twilight Evening at Burton Agnes

Thursday 5 December 2013

An evening of carols, mulled wine and mince pies in the courtyard of Burton Agnes Hall. See the Hall and its spectacular Christmas decorations lit at night. 5pm-9pm, normal admission applies. Enquiries: 01262 490324, www.burtonagnes.com.

Gentry and Peasant Housing in the North Riding and County Durham 1300 to 1750

Saturday 7 December 2013

A talk by Barry Harrison, 10.30am at The Dorman Museum, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough. Elgee Memorial Lecture jointly organised by Cleveland and Teesside Local History Society and Dorman Museum. www.ctlhs.org.uk.

A Good Humoured Christmas: Shandy Hall by Candlelight

7, 8, 14 or 15 December 2013

Experience what Christmas was like in an eighteenth century parsonage, with candlelit rooms, log fires and traditional decorations. The curator will give a lively tour at 4pm, sharing the history of the hall and its many inhabitants. Enquiries: 01347 868465, www.laurencesternetrust.org.uk.

Yuletide at The Folly

Tuesday 10 December 2013

Drop in at this striking seventeenth century house in Settle for mulled wine and mince pies and a last chance for this year to visit the Museum of North Craven Life. 10am to 12 noon, free admission, refreshments £3.50. Enquiries: 015242 51388 or www.ncbpt.org.uk/folly/.

Eshton Hall: A history of a Yorkshire mansion

Thursday 12 December 2013

A talk by Peter Robinson to Skipton and Craven Historical Society. 7.30pm at the Swadford Centre, Swadford Street, Skipton. Visitors £2. Enquiries: 01756 792067.

Medieval Christmas at Barley Hall, York

Friday 20 December 2013

Join medieval entertainment duo Trouvere as they present music for Christmas from medieval times, mixed in with seasonal tales and traditions from the era in an impressive medieval townhouse, dressed for the December festivities! 7.30-9.30pm, £8 including mulled wine and mince pie. Book tickets on 01904 615505, www.barleyhall.co.uk

Some Thoughts on Historic Buildings and Their Repair

Wednesday 8 January 2014

A talk by Alan Gardner to Hebden Bridge Local History Society. Alan will use case studies to illustrate the repair of historic buildings and tell some of the stories that these buildings can impart if we continue to look after them and know how to 'read them'. 7.30pm at Hebden Bridge Methodist Hall, Market Street. www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk.



Calder Valley Buildings of the Seventeenth Century: the Craftsmen and their Patrons

Wednesday 22 January 2014

A talk by David Cant to Hebden Bridge Local History Society. The fine buildings of the Calder Valley were produced by groups of craftsmen working for some of the local gentry and yeoman clothiers. The talk will combine documentary and structural evidence to show how this was achieved. 7.30pm at Hebden Bridge Methodist Hall, Market Street. www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk.

Historic Building Conservation

Thursday 30 January 2014

Talk by Alan Gardner to Middleton Archaeological Society at 7.30pm in the timber-framed Olde Boar's Head public house, Long Street, Middleton, Manchester. www.middletonas.org.

Farms and Farm Buildings in East Lancashire

Tuesday 4 February 2014

Talk by Les Hardy to Hyndburn Family History Society. 7.30pm at Accrington Library, St James Street, Accrington. www.lfhs.org.

Lakeland Architecture Through the Centuries

Wednesday 5 February 2014

Talk by Andrew Lowe to Sedbergh and District History Society at 7.30pm in Main Hall at Settlebeck High School, Sedbergh. Visitors £2. www.sedberghhistory.org.

Aspects of North-West Architecture

Saturday 8 February 2014

A study day at Lancaster University in honour of the late John Champness, buildings historian and former Lancashire Conservation Officer. Talks include *Country Life and the English Country House: the Story of an Unusual Relationship* by Dr John Goodall; *Music in a Lancashire country house: Ruffold Old Hall in the 1730s* by Dr Alan Crosby; *Lancaster Castle: past and future* by Peter de Figueiredo; and *Forgebank Co-housing - 21st century living* by Chris Coates. Fee £25. Enquiries: Centre for North-West Regional Studies, 01524 593770, www.lancaster.ac.uk/users/cnwrsl/.

Quarrying in Calderdale

Wednesday 12 February 2014

Talk by George Bowers to Hebden Bridge Local History Society. A look at the history of quarrying in the Elland flagstone and millstone grit areas with stories and images of the delvers and the problems and dangers they faced. 7.30pm at Hebden Bridge Methodist Hall, Market Street. www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk.

Vernacular Buildings in the North West

Saturday 22 February 2014

Day school organised by the Lancashire Local History Federation at Haslingden Cricket Club. Talks will include *Vernacular buildings in and around Lancashire: architectural features and building materials* by Kevin Illingworth; *Weavers' cottages* by Kathy Fishwick; *Halls, farmhouses and cottages in Lancashire south of the Ribble* by Mike Nevell; and *Bank barns, boskins and bee boles* by Andy Lowe. Cost £12 including lunch, £8 without. Booking details are not yet available but keep an eye on the Federation's website at www.lancashirehistory.org.

A volunteer heritage army!

English Heritage has announced that it is to launch the first crowd-sourcing project to tackle heritage at risk. Working with other bodies in the heritage sector and local authorities, it will invite members of the public to volunteer to carry out surveys of England's 345,000 Grade II buildings as a first step to continued involvement in saving local heritage.

During nineteen pilot surveys last year, with training from English Heritage and with professionals checking the results, volunteers surveyed a total of around 5,000 Grade II buildings all over the country. English Heritage will analyse the results and come up with the best model for conducting surveys and an app for recording data whilst onsite.

For individuals who want to volunteer, it is hoped to have the first surveys ready to recruit next autumn so if you'd like to register your interest contact English Heritage Customer Services (www.english-heritage.org.uk/about/contact-us).

Websites worth watching

Lune Valley Vernacular Architecture Survey (of 1978)

<http://onerearch.lancs.ac.uk>

Around 1000 photographs of vernacular buildings in the Lune Valley, parts of Westmorland, and northwards to Sedburgh, can now be viewed (including some interiors) by typing-in 'Lune Valley Vernacular Architectural Survey'.

English Heritage reports

<http://research.english-heritage.org.uk/>

Access to various reports – for example, try searching on the keyword 'dendrochronology'.

An Intimate History of Your Home

<http://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/an-intimate-history-of-your-home/>

A podcast by Lucy Worsley, television presenter and Chief Curator at Historic Royal Palaces.

Some new (and not-so-new) publications

Who built Beverley Minster? edited by P S Barnwell and A Pacey (2008). According to a publicity leaflet Spire Books have a limited number of this publication at a special offer price of £5 (normal price £14.95). Telephone 0118 947 1525 for enquiries or credit card orders. Includes chapters on 'Carpenters of the nave roof' by Alison Armstrong and David Cant; 'The social background and organisation of the late medieval craftsman' by Arnold Pacey; and 'Masons' marks and the working practices of medieval stone masons' by Jennifer Alexander.

The Aesthetics of Utopia: Saltaire, Akroydon and Bedford Park by Sheila Binns. Two of these model Victorian urban communities are in Yorkshire, the third in west London. Italianate Saltaire was for mill-workers, Gothic Akroydon was an attempt at social engineering, and Bedford Park was for the aspiring middle-class with artistic sensibilities. This book explores how ideals were translated into reality and reveals the hidden significance of the aesthetic details. Due for publication November 2013 – pre-publication offer £11.95, normally £15.95. Enquiries: Spire Books on 0118 947 1525.

The Arts and Crafts Movement in Yorkshire: A Handbook (£25) and *The Arts and Crafts Movement in the North East of England: A Handbook* (£21). Both by Barrie and Wendy Armstrong. Each volume has an introductory essay followed by an illustrated gazetteer describing places where visitors can see examples of the architecture and other decorative arts inspired by the Arts and Crafts Movement. Also includes practical information for visiting the sites. Published October 2013 by Oblong Creative Ltd, 416b Thorp Arch Estate, Wetherby LS23 7FG, telephone 01937 849646, or see www.artsandcraftshandbook.co.uk. Special offer: £42 for both volumes ordered together.

Next Newsheet

Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsheet. The next edition will be in February 2014 – please send any items of interest to members (events, new books, queries, comments) to the editor by 31 January 2014.

Membership renewal

Membership fees for the calendar year 2014 become due on 1 January; the price remains at £10. We hope you will keep up your membership by returning the enclosed form to Jacky Quarmby at your earliest convenience!

Courses

Twentieth Century Housing after the Slum Clearances

Did the twentieth century housing provision that followed slum clearance always result in a better quality of life for people? We look at workers' and social housing in Yorkshire and beyond. There will be a full day visit to New Earswick, on 31 March. Venue: Abbeyfield, Grove House, 12 Riddings Road, Ilkley. Tutor: John Brooke. Four Mondays 1.30pm to 3.30pm from 17 March 2014. Enquiries: WEA Yorkshire and Humber Region, telephone 0113 245 3304, <http://yh.wea.org.uk>.

Spot the location ...

If you're watching TV at Christmas, try spotting the Yorkshire buildings used as film locations in the BBC production of *Death Comes to Pemberley*, a novel by P D James which is a sequel to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Stang End Cottage, a cruck-framed building at the Ryedale Folk Museum in Hutton-le-Hole, was given a lick of paint and refurnished as a Regency period cottage rather than with its usual sixteenth/seventeenth century appearance. Filming also took place in York and at Beverley Guildhall, as well as at various stately homes in the region.

Buildings not at risk!

A number of buildings in the county have recently been removed from the Buildings at Risk Register, including the cruck building at Glebe Farm, Octon, dated 1670 and recorded by the YVBSG in 2007. The building has now been conserved with Natural England funding and the repairs recently picked up a York Guild of Building Craftsmanship Award. The Tithe Barn in Easington, East Riding, is another building recorded by the YVBSG which has been removed from the register.



Glebe Farm, Octon

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