

Newsletter



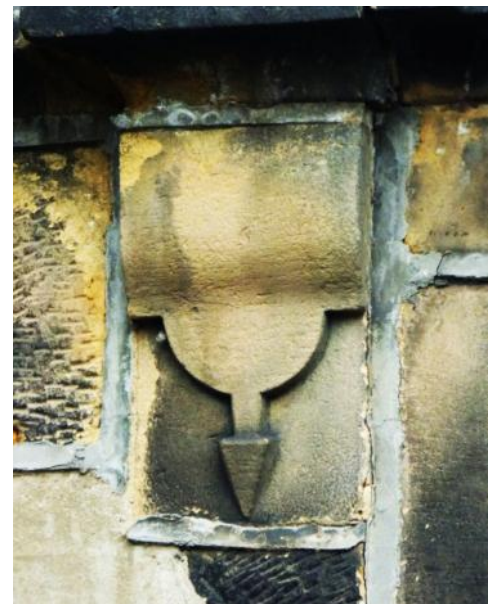
Looking forward to a new year

Welcome to our November Newsletter. We're already planning activities for 2026 which will be centred around a new project in Upper Wharfedale – more information can be found on page 3. Our final outdoor event for 2025 was the conference follow-up day in Wibsey, including a walk to view some of the local buildings. This issue includes a report by Pauline Ford, illustrated by Kevin Illingworth's drawings and photographs which also feature on this cover page.

At this time of year we normally invite you to renew your membership, but this time we'll be doing it slightly later to fit in better with our annual accounts; we'll be in touch in January with details. Something new will be a special membership fee of £8 for students, so do spread the word if you know anyone who might wish to take advantage of this offer.

As always, we would very much welcome more input and participation by members, as outlined by David Cant on page 2. In the meantime, we wish you all the best for the festive season, and we hope to see you at some of our events during 2026.

Photos of Wibsey by Kevin Illingworth. Clockwise from top: 7-10 Chapel Fold, 18-26 Wibsey Bank, 9 Chapel Fold, 52 Chapel Street.



Future YVBSG events: dates for your diary

Annual Day School 2026



Part of Home Farm, Starbotton, before restoration as a dwelling

Saturday 28 February 2026

Next year's day school will take place in Skipton and will focus on the varied vernacular architecture of the Dales. The area has attracted considerable attention over the years and we will hear about the variety of buildings as well as the landscape and other features.

Covering the pioneering work of Arthur Raistrick to recent studies by the Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group, who are co-hosts, we look forward to an enlightening and entertaining day – not to be missed! Details to follow.

Third Thursday Talks

After taking a break during the summer we have now resumed our online talks. These talks normally take place by Zoom at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month, although there will not be a talk in December this year.

We are always 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.

Our next online talk will be on Thursday 22 January 2026 when David Cant will give a presentation on the buildings of Low Moor. Note that this will be a Fourth Thursday Talk rather than the usual Third Thursday Talk! Details will be circulated by email in due course.

We'd love you to get more involved!

Welcome to the latest news from our Group. For next year we are hoping to record more buildings in the Dales, particularly with the Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group, and review some of the surveys done already. We'd also like to produce some more 'village profiles' to give a flavour of what can be found in particular localities, and perhaps collect together material from various sources. There are a number of different archives covering this area and an overview would be welcome.

To start things off we held an introductory day in mid-November and the planning for a day school in Skipton next February is well underway. We also hope to be able to train some more people in the basics of looking at and understanding buildings, and help those already experienced by expanding their skills and knowledge. We have now recorded nearly 2,000 buildings in the whole of Yorkshire, and there are still a few buildings to do.

One of our most productive ways of working has been making use of local contacts to identify buildings of potential interest. The recent recording activity around Low Moor, Wibsey and Shelf, with lots of local support, was a very good example. We hope to enable people to become experienced in understanding the buildings and their place in the locality – who lived there, how they were used, what changes have taken place – and why. For this to continue we need more members to become involved in hands-on recording or playing a part in other aspects of the Group's activities.

This has been brought home to me vividly over the last six months. As reported earlier in the year, our previous Chair,

Peter Thornborrow, suffered a stroke and is housebound at the moment, with very little mobility. More recently, others on the committee have had to reduce their involvement due to health issues. We wish them all the best and hope to hear good news in the not-too-distant future. But the ability of the Group to continue with its various activities depends not only on your support through the annual subscription, but also in taking part in some way or helping 'behind the scenes'.

My thanks to those who have played a part in the past and those who continue to do so. If you could offer some time or have suggestions or ideas of what we could do please do get in touch. I look forward to hearing from you!

David Cant, YVBSG Chair, enquiries@yvbsg.org.uk



A day at the seaside – recording at Filey Museum in July 2025

Upper Wharfedale Building Recording Project

The YVBSG is planning a building recording project in Upper Wharfedale for 2026. This will be in collaboration with local heritage and building study groups, in particular the Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group.

Upper Wharfedale was the focus of many vernacular building recordings in the 1970s and 1980s, often led by well-known local experts on vernacular architecture in conjunction with local heritage groups, notably the Upper Wharfedale Field Society. These early building recordings are a significant part of the YVBSG archive. Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group, formed in 2005, were also involved in building survey projects in their early days, including surveys of field barns in Kettlewell parish.

Working with local groups, this new venture is an opportunity to refresh and develop local skills and add to our understanding of how the special landscape of barns, farms and villages in Upper Wharfedale has come to be. Upper Wharfedale, initially the villages north of Grassington, including Littondale and Langstrothdale, will be a focus for building recording for the YVBSG in 2026, including the Annual Conference in May.

The project kicked off with a full day familiarisation session on 15 November 2025 at Conistone with Kilnsey village hall. The morning session included presentations on the YVBSG archive and approaches to building recording. There was also an overview of the project scope and objectives. In the afternoon,

there was an opportunity to get some practical experience of building surveying as well as a detailed look at a vernacular cottage that has already been recorded.

Early in 2026, prior to the recording events, there will be more detailed training in building recording and drawing techniques for those interested in taking part in the project.

In addition to surveying buildings not previously recorded, there will be research into existing building reports, many done in the 1970s and 1980s, with a view to bringing some of them in line with current recording standards. Other research opportunities may involve archival research, analysing

documents such as tithe maps, valuation field books and historic OS maps.

To tie in with this collaboration project, the YVBSG will hold its annual Day School in Skipton Town Hall on 28 February 2026 with expert speakers giving talks on a variety of topics related to vernacular buildings of the Yorkshire Dales. This will be widely publicised in due course.

The Upper Wharfedale Building Recording Project is open to members of YVBSG. If you'd like to be involved, please email Jan Goode on treasurer@yvbbsg.org.uk to register your interest in the project.

Jan Goode, treasurer@yvbbsg.org.uk



The village of Starbotton, Upper Wharfedale

Membership renewal 2026

From 2026, membership subscriptions will still be due in January but the invitation to renew will be emailed to members in early January rather than November or December as in previous years. This slight change will allow a more timely link between membership renewal and the annual accounts, ensuring that payments appear in the accounts for the correct year. The annual fee will remain at £12 for 2026 but this year we will be introducing a new fee of £8 for students.

We hope you would like to renew your membership. Look out for the email early in the new year, containing the link to the online renewal form. If you have any queries, please contact Pat Leggett on membership-secretary@yvbbsg.org.uk.

Membership benefits include:

- A copy of the annual journal, *Yorkshire Buildings*.
- Four Newsletters per year.
- The opportunity to attend all YVBSG events, some of which may be open to members and guests only. A discount is sometimes available to members.
- The chance to hear about, and participate in if you wish, building recording opportunities.
- Online access to more than 1,900 building reports in the YVBSG archive.
- Online access to over 200 articles from back issues of *Yorkshire Buildings*.

Past YVBSG events

Wandering around Wibsey

This walk was part of the Conference Follow-up Day held on Saturday 18 October 2025. It was led by Mary Twentyman, who not only brought her extensive knowledge of the area, but also a heavy bag full of photos of Wibsey in past times. Our thanks go to Mary for giving us such an interesting walk. I have used *The Manor of Wibsey: the town & district* by Stella Carpenter (1992) to supplement what we heard from Mary.

Wibsey, the village

Built on a hill, which gives one the best prospects of the surrounding area, including Bradford, it was not a wealthy village; the farms were scattered, and the farmers who lived there were often involved in weaving as well. Mining was also an occupation and the miners' one-storey cottages were common in this area. William Cudworth, in *Round about Bradford* (1876), states that 'in the side streets ... there is apparent contempt of regularity observable, which speaks plainly of a former absence of building regulations'. This is the impression given by the village – that houses have been erected just where a bit of land was free. This means that, especially in the centre, you can never be certain what age or style of house you will see, which for me adds to the interest of the area.



Single-storey cottages at 10, 12 and 14 Upper George Street

Wibsey, the walk



116, 118 and 120 High Street

The walk started from the site of the Wesleyan Reform Chapel which now has the Salvation Army building, where we had a warm room for the talks, and our lunch.

Just across the car park we could see the original Methodist manse, with a rather strange link to the next house via a different level of floors, and a very small dormer window.

We passed in front of the plain long building which had been the Methodist Sunday School, and out on to the High Street and up to the White Swan public house. Behind and below this are the facades of three cottages, the remains of several others in this enclosure. One of them has what could be a lant spout for urine.

Across the road from the inn is what might be the oldest house in the village, 116 High Street, having at least one mullioned window, and a datestone of 1626 and the initials E.W. standing for Edmund Widdop, clothier. There is also a shield and cross with C 1 R inscribed on it – Charles 1st? There is a large lintel and the roof slopes away steeply at the back. This important house stands in some unmade ground with what appears to be another very old house behind it.

Very near the oldest house and just off Acre Lane is Chapel Street. This is an unmade road with a row of cottages, 48-56 Chapel Street, with dates and initials on the elaborate lintels. I could read 1684 and 1753 on the datestones. The initials were more difficult, but there might be 'B' which could stand for the Booth family, who had other houses round here. There were large quoins and one kneeler on the house at the end.

We moved away up North Road and passed a school, which had 'Babies' over one doorway, which none of us had ever seen before, and 'Laundry and Cookery' over another building – clearly for the girls.



48-56 Chapel Street

We took a short cut to what Stella Carpenter called 'the intriguing complex of Chapel Fold'. This is a cluster of older buildings, of which the chief is a hall with a very fine mullioned window of ten lights, two of which have been blocked up, at the front. A decorative drip mould extended over the window. Entry was through the east gable. At the back there was an aisle, which we could see by going down the footpath at the east side of the house. There was a two-storey building almost adjoining the house on the east side, which was probably built as a kitchen. There were two gables on the west side.

Both the architecture and the history of the building provoked discussion. As far as the history is concerned, Stella Carpenter



A glimpse of the mullion and transom window at 9 Chapel Fold



7 and 8 Chapel Fold

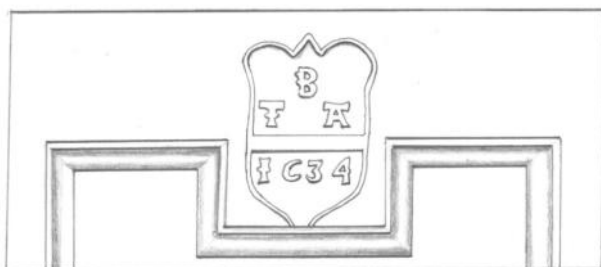
states that 'it is certain that it was used by the Moravian Brethren from 1760 until 1837 when the building of their chapel in Little Horton Lane was completed'. The builder is not known. At one point it was owned by the Low Moor Company and divided into three cottages. In 1894 the buildings were bought by the choirmaster of the Wesleyan Reform Chapel. This was the highlight of the walk.

We had by no means visited all the interesting houses in Wibsey, but we had only the afternoon for the walk, so could not see everything!

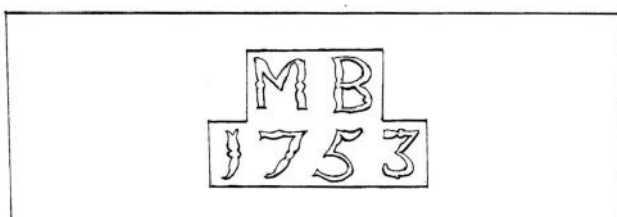
Pauline Ford, with photos by Kevin Illingworth

Datestones of Wibsey

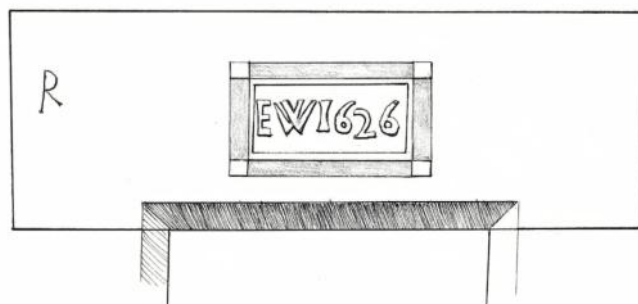
Kevin Illingworth has produced these drawings of Wibsey datestones, which can be tricky to photograph (as demonstrated by 116 High Street with its enthusiastic display of pipework!). Kevin notes that the plain doorhead of 56 Chapel Street has a wonderful style of lettering, whilst the doorhead at 52 Chapel Street is a battlemented type, more often seen in north Craven or north Lancashire.



52 Chapel Street



56 Chapel Street



Above and below: 116 High Street



Can you help?

Can you identify these buildings or people?

The two black and white photographs are in the YVBSG archive and probably date from the late 1970s or 1980s. They appear to show the late Tony Tolhurst and others recording buildings – in one of the photos under observation by an interested pony.

Does anyone recognise the places or the people with Tony? If so, please contact the Archivist, David Cook, on archivist@yvbsg.org.uk.



An update from Peter Thornborrow

Following his stroke in April our former Chair, Peter Thornborrow, is making progress but continues to be housebound at his home in Hebden Bridge. He would very much appreciate visitors, or a phone call, or interesting photos of buildings sent to his email address. He can be contacted on peterthornborrow@gmail.com, mobile number 07304 048049.

Peter reports that since his stroke he has successfully completed his book, *Halifax in 50 Buildings*, and sent it off to Amberley Publishing. It is scheduled for publication in March 2026.

Next committee meeting

The next meeting of the full committee will be held on Saturday 24 January 2026. If you'd like to raise any matters, or have ideas for future events, please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

The Strategy Group (David Cant, David Cook, Jan Goode, Lorraine Moor and Tony Robinson) will next meet on Tuesday 25 November 2025. This sub-group of the committee is currently discussing a number of topics including: future events; a possible questionnaire to members; updating our recording guidance and report templates; and working with other groups and organisations.

Next Newsletter

The next Newsletter will be in February 2026 – please send any contributions to the editor at newsheet@yvbsg.org.uk by 31 January 2026. 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 or feature which puzzles you? Do tell us about it!

Look up!

In the last Newsletter we mentioned that East Riding Museums and Galleries were holding an exhibition at Beverley Guildhall on the town's architectural details, including windows, ironwork, chimneys and mouldings. The exhibition has now finished but the rather nice exhibition displays are now available online in pdf format at www.eastridingmuseums.co.uk/museums-online/past-exhibitions/ (search for 'look up'). Several buildings featured in the displays have been recorded by the YVBSG.

Other past exhibitions relating to the history of Beverley and the East Riding can be found on the same website and might be of interest to members. They include *Bygone Buildings*; *Conservation 50* (Beverley's Conservation Areas); *East Riding Mills*; *Gone But Not Forgotten* (lost East Riding houses); *Keldgate*; and *East Riding Vernacular Architecture*.

Encounters with old buildings

Paper Mill House, Sutton-under-Whitestonecliffe

I visited this house back in 1994 to discuss some alterations at the rear with the owner. It had been recorded by YVBSG back in 1971 (Report 75), when it was named Mount Pleasant Farm, and was visited by Barbara Hutton and Messrs McDowall and Williams of the RCHME, York.

By 1994, it was named Paper Mill Cottage, and now (2025) is called Paper Mill House. My visit was confined to the rear, and the interior of the stair turret which contains a seventeenth century staircase with turned 'mirror' balusters and a handgrip handrail. Report 75 notes that the stair tower was originally framed in timber and part of one post remains. The rear wall of the stair tower has a long vertical joint suggestive of a post position and a much altered or extended gable.

Report 75 states that the house is late medieval, probably fifteenth century and originally single storey with a rear lean-to or single aisle. In the late sixteenth century, the upper floor and staircase were inserted along with the back-to-back brick chimney stack. Some blackened timbers to roof rafters were noted.

The report notes that the house was 'in need of considerable renovation' at that time, but since then has undergone restoration around 1980 and later alterations and additions, including the exposure of the timber framing in the front elevation.

The building was listed Grade II in 1970 and the details updated in 1990. The list description notes that the presence of sooted rafters probably indicates an open hall. The list description also refers to a chamfered bressumer beam in the central room, and a further bressumer beam with a broached stop in the left hand room, which also has a recreated aisle wall (not noted in Report 75).



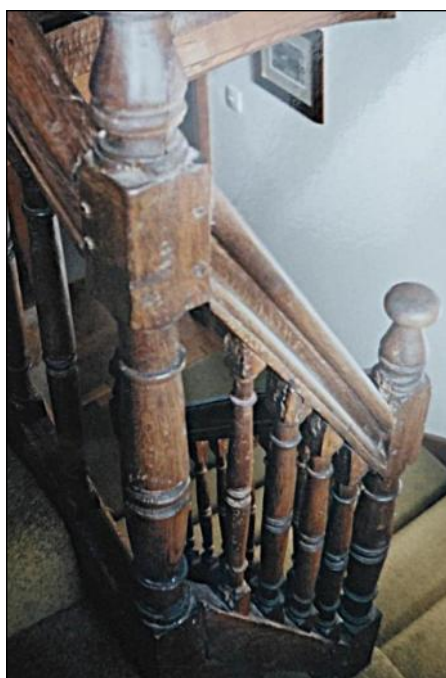
Timber framed front exterior, May 2025



Rear elevation showing stair turret, May 1994



Close-up of stair turret showing long straight joint (site of post?) and altered gable, May 1994



Seventeenth century staircase, May 1994

The list description notes that some of the panelling and the wattle and daub partition (both on the first floor and both noted in Report 75) have been removed. However, while the list description mentions the interior in some detail, there is no reference to the seventeenth century stair.

It is clear that in the half century since Report 75 was written that there have been many alterations to this building, and should the opportunity arise, a resurvey would be worthwhile.

*Tony Robinson,
editor@yvbsg.org.uk*

'Many strokes, though with a little axe, hew down and fell the hardest-timber'd oak'

The national Vernacular Architecture Group's spring conference is held in a different part of the country each year and comprises three full days of visits; delegates are guaranteed to see some fabulous buildings! Here are a couple of the little gems visited during previous conferences (details taken from the conference handbooks).

The oldest known crown post in England

This year's conference took place in Wiltshire and was based in Salisbury. At The Medieval Hall (the Old Deanery) in Salisbury's Cathedral Close we learnt that we were looking at the earliest known crown post roof in England. The roof has been tree-ring dated to 1249-50.

The hall has been altered and substantially restored over the years. There are two crown post principal trusses (one original, one dated 1963) supported on stone corbels. The rafters were found to be smoke-blackened over red paint, and framework exists for an original smoke louver. The crown posts are chamfered and braced.

Some photos of the building, which is now used for weddings and other events, can be viewed at salisburymedievalhall.com.



The roof at The Medieval Hall, Salisbury

Crown posts are much in evidence in York and also occur in other towns such as Scarborough, Beverley, Knaresborough and Ripon. Rural examples in Yorkshire are less common but there are one or two examples, such as Lake View Farmhouse at Ferrensby. For more information, see Don McLellan's articles on 'The Crown Post Roof' and 'Lake View Farmhouse' in *Yorkshire Buildings* (then called *Newsletter*) 20, 1992; both articles are available in the Members' Area of the website. The RCHME York volume 5 also includes useful detail on York crown posts.

The oldest known cruck

The earliest standing cruck building so far identified can be found at The Royal George, Cottingham, Northamptonshire, visited during the VAG 2012 spring conference in Leicestershire, Rutland and south Derbyshire. Inside a later stone shell lies a three-bay cruck open hall of 1262, much earlier than other crucks in the area which date from the fifteenth and sixteenth century. The



Apex of cruck at The Royal George, Cottingham

two open cruck trusses disappear into the walls at the present first-floor level. The building uses some sophisticated thirteenth century carpentry joints similar to those in nearby contemporary high-status buildings. The walls have been rebuilt but must have been of stone or mud originally.

The photo shows the heavily sooted apex saddle with its Gothic arch shape. If you fancy getting up close to this ancient cruck, you can stay in the room containing part of it – see the inn's website at theroyalgeorgecottingham.co.uk.

For further reading on crucks, try *Cruck Building: A Survey*, edited by Nat Alcock, P S Barnwell and Martin Cherry (2019). This publication has a chapter on crucks in the North East and Yorkshire which features some YVBSG recording work.

Lorraine Moor

The title of this article is from King Henry VI, part III, act 2 by William Shakespeare.

Farfield Quaker Meeting House, Addingham

This small meeting house, dated 1689 and listed Grade II*, was last year (December 2024) acquired by the Friends of Friendless Churches from the Historic Chapels Trust (the HCT is closing its operations). Located two miles north of Addingham near the B6160 Bolton Road, it is open daily. For drivers, there is parking for two cars, but the Dales Way path alongside the River Wharfe is nearby. For bus users, the DalesBus 74 and 74A will stop at the entrance to Farfield Hall or Bolton Bridge.

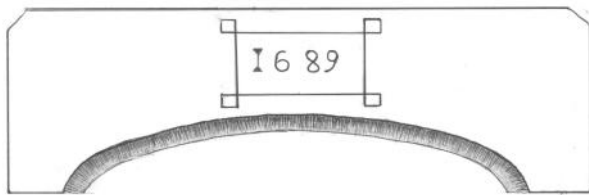
Listed as being 'domestic looking', it resembles a small seventeenth century cottage, but it stands in a corner of the small walled burial ground of 1666. Regular meetings ceased c1840, then it was sold for £150 by the Quakers in 1954, becoming an artist's studio. In 1994 it was given to the Historic Chapels Trust. As of July 2025, there are seventy-one redundant churches or chapels in England and Wales that are cared for by the FoFC (friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk).

The surrounding walls and gateway are also listed (Grade II). The five attached chest tombs are listed Grade II*.

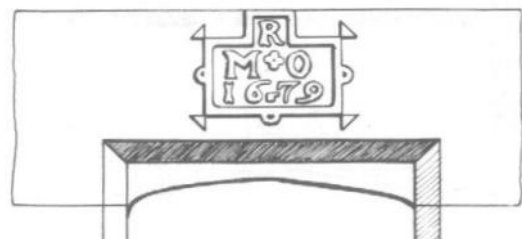
There is much more information inside, and on the rear outside wall of the meeting house, and in various websites. One feature that could be of interest to vernacular architecture students is the segmental arched doorhead of 1689. The date is surrounded by a rectangular tressure that has a square shape carved on the exterior of each corner. As of now, I know just two buildings with this decoration. These are Throstle Nest Farmhouse, Darley (Hartwith), nine miles north-west of Harrogate, where the scalloped doorhead is dated RW 1701, and a farm building nearby has similar decoration on a lintel dated RW 1696.



Fairfield Quaker Meeting House



Doorhead at Fairfield Quaker Meeting House



Doorhead at Dowgill Farmhouse, Hartwith

In Calderdale there are many doorheads with triangles outside the corners of rectangular tressures. A good example of a tressure with triangular corners is at Dowgill Farmhouse, Hartwith, off the B 6165 Road. See page 13 in the YVBSG book *Doorways in the Dales*.

Information is from the Craven Herald newspaper and my own visits in August 2025. See quakersinyorkshire.org.uk for more information.

Kevin Illingworth

The time we used high tech surveying at Farfield Quaker Meeting House



Back in 2003 a small group of members attended a training session at the Farfield Meeting House, run by former YVBSG archivist Don McLellan. The event focused on using a laser level to measure buildings that aren't regular – those that have more than four corners, those in which the angles at the corners are all different and in which the sides are neither parallel nor straight.

It was interesting to learn the technique, which we later used to measure the wonky cruck-framed house at Glebe Farm, Octon. However the YVBSG hasn't adopted it for regular use. Goggles were recommended when using the laser level, as fetchingly modelled here by David Cant, our Chair.

Lorraine Moor

From the archive: At the posh end of the scale!

Many of the buildings recorded by the YVBSG are relatively small and modest. However, from time to time we take on something more challenging! Here are just a few of the grander, and arguably less vernacular, buildings for which we have reports in the archive.

Lorraine Moor



Fairfax Hall, Menston (YVBSG 1283). Originally a fairly small structure built early in the 17th century to serve a very specific purpose, possibly a banqueting house, as part of the more extensive Menston Hall.



Lawkland Hall, Lawkland (YVBSG 1032). Built by the Yorke family at an unknown date. A stair turret and wing were probably rebuilt in c1572, with the hall range reconstructed in 1679.



Left: Knedlington Old Hall, Knedlington, Howden (YVBSG 1725). One of the finest small gentry houses of the East Riding, perhaps dating from the middle of the 17th century. Built of brick with Magnesian Limestone dressings, it has two elaborately shaped 'Dutch' gables. Square in plan, with ranges of farm buildings at rear.



Hammerton Hall, Slaidburn (YVBSG 1728). An E-shaped gentry house of the late 16th and early 17th century, with probable earlier tower house or hunting lodge subsumed into the building.



Well Hall, Well (YVBSG 1083). A three-storey stone building of T-shaped plan. Includes an older range with vaulted undercroft of splendid workmanship and tracery windows which show that this was a house of exceptionally high quality with upper floor hall, dating from c1250 and built for the Neville family.



Kilnsey Old Hall, Conistone with Kilnsey (YVBSG 0823). Fountains Abbey had a grange at Kilnsey and the Hall was rebuilt in 1648 using stone from the monastic site. Buildings also include a gatehouse and barn which was perhaps the former chapel.



Ingleby Manor, Ingleby Greenhow (YVBSG 1860). A large double-courtyard house, probably of the mid 16th century. A mammoth recording task, undertaken over about eight years! See David Cook's article in *Yorkshire Buildings* No 46.



Austwick Hall (YVBSG 1740). Largely 16th century comprising hall and cross-wing, with linear service end rebuilt in the 17th century. Probably built on the site of an earlier manor house.



Markington Hall, Markington (YVBSG 0377). A stone hall and cross-wing house with features dating from the 16th century. One wing has a roof of raised cruck trusses.



Fulford Hall, Fulford, York (YVBSG 0830). The brick manor house of Water Fulford dating from the 16th century with later additions and alterations, perhaps replacing a medieval house on the same site. Some roof timbers are re-used from timber wall-framing.

National Farm Survey digitisation project

The National Farm Survey of England and Wales was conducted in 1941–1943 and involved surveying over 300,000 farms to assess the state of British agriculture. These farms were then drawn onto nearly 30,000 Ordnance Survey maps. By collecting data on land use, acreage, livestock, and conditions, the survey set out to find where agricultural improvements could be made during a time of wartime food shortage.

Each farm was expected to complete four forms covering topics such as crops, animals, labour, infrastructure, rent, occupancy and motive power. The survey records are held at The National Archives in Kew and are mostly still on paper, but the Archives are currently in the process of cataloguing and digitising the collection to provide online access for all.



Goathland House Farm, Goathland, North York Moors (YVBSG report 0745).



Hollins Farm, Glaisdale, North York Moors (YVBSG report 1840)

At a recent conference of the Historic Farm Buildings Group, Miles Johnson, Head of Historic Environment for the North York Moors National Park Authority, outlined a joint pilot project with the University of York and The National Archives to look at some 300 holdings in an area on the southern edge of the National Park. Although there are gaps in the data, the findings reveal various features including: a wide range of crops on many farms; over 500 horses, mostly working animals; poultry and pigs almost universal; and a significant number of small/dual occupation farms.

It is hoped that the North York Moors pilot study can be included in a wider project at some point, funding permitting. The national digitised records are likely to be released in batches over the next two or three years.

Lorraine Moor

New Archaeology Data Service Catalogue

The Archaeology Data Service has announced the launch of the ADS Data Catalogue – a new search experience which brings data together to provide open access to hundreds of thousands of archaeological resources, including 5,000 ADS Archives and more than 100,000 reports from the ADS Library. As a national heritage resource, users can now simultaneously search collections from leading heritage organisations. To find out more take a look at archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/news-events/introducing-the-ads-data-catalogue.

Publications

Boynton Hall Simply Told by Adrian Green, 2025, The Richard Marriott Trust. Available at £15 from Old Town Books, 44 High Street, Bridlington, oldtownbooks@mail.com. (The building in which the book shop is located, 44 High Street, was recorded by the YVBSG in 2024, report 1936.)

Scoria Bricks in the Back Alleys of York by Susan Major. An online article at www.balh.org.uk/blog-scoria-bricks-in-the-back-alleys-of-york-2025-09-09. Scoria bricks are made from the molten waste of Cleveland's nineteenth-century blast furnaces. Distinctive for their silvery blue sheen and unusual shapes, these bricks were used to pave many urban back lanes in York and tell a story of recycling, ingenuity, and urban change.

Baltic timber marks

Lee Prosser and Tansy Collins, both of the Vernacular Architecture Group, have been studying Baltic shipping marks on timber for some time. If you'd like to learn more about these fascinating marks, a recording of Lee's talk to the ICOMOS-UK Wood Forum in 2022 can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/@icomos-ukwoodforumonline7537>.



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.

Dating Ancient Buildings

Wednesday 25 November 2025

Buildings archaeologist James Wright resumes his online talks with this event, 7pm to 8.30pm. Booking by donation at www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dating-ancient-buildings-tickets-1833411776979.

Calverley Old Hall Festive Craft Fair and Open Days

Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 November 2025

Free entry, 10am to 4pm. Booking not essential but preferred, at www.landmarktrust.org.uk/news-and-events/opensdays/calverley-old-hall-festive-open-days-november-2025.

Cobwebs and Cream Teas

25 November to 19 December 2025

Behind the scenes tours of Burton Constable Hall including cellars, rooftops and attics. Book at burtonconstable.com.

Investigation into Gauber Cow Pasture

Monday 15 December 2025

A talk on a potential medieval farmstead site by Dr David Johnson for Ingleborough Archaeology Group, 7.30pm at Ingleborough Community Centre. £3. More information at www.ingleborougharchaeologygroup.org.

Vernacular Buildings in Urban Contexts

10-11 January 2026

Annual VAG winter conference to be held at University of Nottingham. www.vag.org.uk. Open to VAG members and guests only, but subject to

accommodation being available, the YVBSG (as a group affiliated to the VAG) may send two members at the normal conference fee. Programme available at www.vag.org.uk.

The Story of the Heritage Trust for the North West

Wednesday 14 January 2026

An online talk by Michael Guy to Lancaster Civic Society, 7.15pm. www.lancastercivicsociety.uk.

Ritual Protection Marks and their Meanings

Wednesday 14 January 2026

An online talk at 7pm by Dr Matt Beresford on marks found in historic buildings such as daisy wheels, taper burns, merels and double-V markings. £8.83, book at www.eventbrite.com/e/ritual-protection-marks-and-their-meanings-tickets-1967686166292.

A Quaker Cottage Through Time

Thursday 22 January 2026

Talk by Dr Chris Skidmore to Skipton and Craven History Society, 7.30pm at the Swadford Street Centre, Skipton. skiptoncravenhistorysociety.com.

From Westerman to Website: a story of Pennine Horizons Digital Archive

Wednesday 28 January 2026

A talk by Ann Kilbey to Hebden Bridge Local History Society, 7.30pm at the Methodist Church, Market Street, Hebden Bridge. Visitors £4. www.hebdenbridgehistory.org.uk.

"I've got a little list" – taking stock of historic buildings

Wednesday 5 February 2026

A talk by Richard Taylor, to Ripon Civic Society, 7.30pm at Allhallowgate Methodist Church, Victoria Grove, Ripon, £5. riponcivicsociety.org.uk.

Wentworth Woodhouse

Thursday 19 February 2026

A talk by Dave Winpenny to Olicana History Society, 7.30pm at Clarke Foley Community Centre, Cunliffe Rd, Ilkley. ilkley.org/clubs-and-orgs/local-history-olicana-historical-society.html.

'New House' in Skipton, the Devonshire past and present.

Thursday 26 February 2026

Talk by Sue Wrathmell to Skipton and Craven History Society, 7.30pm at the Swadford Street Centre, Skipton. skiptoncravenhistorysociety.com

Round the Rookes and across to t' Wheel Oile

Wednesday 4 March 2026

A talk by Mary Twentyman to Lightcliffe & District Local History Society, 7.30pm at Lightcliffe CE Primary School. Visitors £3. www.lightcliffehistory.org.uk.

Community Archives in the Yorkshire Dales

Thursday 12 March 2026

Talk by John Cuthbert/Sarah Lister/David Mander to Skipton and Craven History Society, 7.30pm at Swadford Street Centre, Skipton. Details at skiptoncravenhistorysociety.com.

A holiday in Swaledale?

The Keld Countryside and Heritage Centre in Swaledale tells the story of the village including hill farming, local people, lead mining, vernacular architecture, wildlife conservation and the history of the chapel buildings.

If you're already thinking about a holiday for next year, you can support the Centre by staying at Keld Manse Holiday Cottage, all profits from which are re-invested in the Centre's projects. For details of the Manse, and also of forthcoming events at the Centre, see keld.org.uk.

Heritage at Risk Register

Historic England has recently published its Heritage at Risk Register for 2025. Five buildings in Yorkshire have been added to the list, including a Grade II* listed eighteenth century house recorded by the YVBSG in 1983, Kirkhill in Staithes (YVBSG 0925).

Twelve buildings have been removed from the list.

Further details are available at historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/news/heritage-at-risk-2025/.

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