

# YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP



Newsheet No 18

September 1998

## YVBSG events for your diary

### YVBSG Conference Follow-up Day

Sunday 20 September 1998

Upper Wharfedale Conference follow-up and reporting day at Hebden Village Hall from 11am to 4pm. Householders and the local WEA group will be keen to hear the results of the surveys. The Hebden group are providing a soup and sandwich lunch, and tea/coffee will be available. Cost approximately £1 to cover room hire etc. All welcome! Please let David Cook (01740 620098) know before 13 September if you are coming, and please help your team leaders by sending them any work still outstanding from the May conference as soon as possible.

### Snape Revisited

Monday 12 October 1998

Talk by Barry Harrison to the Snape Local History Society, based on findings so far from recording in the village. Contact Barry for details. Team leaders from the last recording day are asked to copy their reports to Barry by the end of September, please. Again, please help your team leaders by sending them any work still outstanding as soon as possible.

Sunday 8 November 1998

Another recording day in Snape, to build on the work carried out in June. Meet at Snape Village Institute at 10.30am. Everybody welcome, but please let David Cook know by 25 October if you intend to come.

### YVBSG Committee Meeting

Sunday 8 November 1998

The next Committee Meeting will be held in Snape Village Institute at 4pm, immediately after the recording session. If you have any items you would like to add to the agenda, please contact David Cook.

### Traditional Buildings of Yorkshire

Saturday 6 March 1999

Day school in York: a review of the styles found in different parts of the county. Details to be announced.

### More Buildings in Snape

Late April 1999

Further recording in Snape. Details to be announced.

### Annual Recording Conference and AGM

Friday 14 - Sunday 16 May 1999

To be held again in Holderness to continue the work started in 1997. Details to be announced.

### Exploratory Day in South Yorkshire

Saturday 19 June 1999

A reconnoitre of an area not yet investigated by the group. Details to be announced.

### Forging useful links ...

Several successful collaborative events with local history groups were arranged earlier this year by members. These relationships are of benefit to both sides, and our thanks go to:



- Sue Wrathmell for organising the walkabout with Earby and District Local History Society in April - lecture still to come.
- Arnold Pacey for organising the Haworth Historical Society walkabout in June - the Society are keen on further work in their area.
- Barry Harrison for organising the recording day in Snape in June - the work continues.
- All those involved in organising the annual conference in Upper Wharfedale in May - follow-up day arranged for September.

## Other events which may be of interest

### Tree Ring Dating and Timber-framed Buildings Day

Saturday 12 September 1998

Conference at Cressing Temple Barns, Essex, organised by Essex County Council Planning Division and Essex Historic Buildings Group. Cost £17.50. Contact Sue Brown (01362 688362) for details.

### Heritage Open Days 1998

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September 1998

Free entry to thousands of buildings countrywide, walks and other events. Details from Tourist Information Centres or The Civic Trust (0171 930 0914).

### Norton Conyers Hall

Sunday 4 October 1998

Day school at Norton Conyers, near Ripon: an introduction to the hall, its contents and grounds. Includes a talk by Alison Armstrong of the YVBSG. Cost £25. Details from Bradford University Centre for Continuing Education (01274 235363).

### Town and Country: Contemporary Issues at the Rural/Urban Interface

Saturday 10 - Sunday 11 October 1998

One-day conference in York (Saturday) and excursion (Sunday), organised by PLACE - see opposite page. Keynote speaker: Marion Shoard. Details from Margaret Atherden (01904 616753).

### Recording Small Buildings in a Changing World

Friday 16 - Sunday 18 October 1998

Weekend school in Oxford aimed at both amateurs and professionals, organised by University of Oxford in association with the VAG. Details from Oxford University Department for Continuing Education (01865 270368). Cost varies from £47 to £132.25 according to accommodation requirements.

### Enjoying Vernacular Architecture

Saturday 17 October 1998

A WEA day school on universal and local themes in vernacular architecture (including lectures with worldwide examples, and fieldwork on Ilkley Manor House and surrounding buildings). Tutors: Alison Armstrong and Arnold Pacey, both of the YVBSG. Venue: Church House, Ilkley. Cost £17. Booking form available from Mrs Kate Mason, Reynard Ing, Addingham Moorside, Ilkley LS29 0QG (01943 830396). Closing date for bookings is 30 September.

### Inns and Hostelrys

Saturday 24 October 1998

Day school organised by the Yorkshire Archaeological Society Local History Section, to be held at the Black Bull in Birstall. Cost £2 (sampling extra!). Bookings to Mrs Longbottom, 75 Chatsworth Road, Pudsey LS28 8JX by 26 September.

### Palaeography Day School

Saturday 14 November 1998

Practical workshop in Wakefield on reading the handwriting of old documents, organised by West Yorkshire Archive Service. Details from Sherrie Hancock (0113 2898 248).

### Talk on Vernacular Buildings

Tuesday 17 November 1998

Talk by Sue Wrathmell of the YVBSG to Earby Local History Society: 7.30 at Earby Community Centre, New Road, Earby.

### Towns and their Buildings

Saturday 19 - Sunday 20 December 1998

VAG Winter Conference in London. Details available in October from David Cant.



### Landscape History Day School

Saturday 12 June 1999

A WEA day school in the Memorial Hall, Addingham. Speakers: Dr Oliver Rackham of Cambridge University and Dr Angus Winchester of Lancaster University. Field outings will include vernacular buildings, and Dr Rackham has been asked to include discussion of vernacular buildings in relation to landscape. Details later.

## News from Surrey

The latest issue of Surrey (Domestic Buildings Research Group) News is now available - please contact David Cook if you'd like to borrow it. The contents include:

- Visit to Brook House, Crookham, Hants, 21 Feb 1998
- AGM and Old Boodles, West Clandon, 25 Apr 1998
- The building that was stretched - Lavender Cottage, Holmbury
- Carpenters' Marks
- Tree ring dating of early buildings
- Visit to Whapshott Farm, Horsell 16 May 1998



## Two new books ...

*English Farmsteads 1750-1914*

PS Barnwell and Colum Giles (RCHME). Price £15. Detailed drawings and photographs of historic farm buildings in Cornwall, Berkshire, Lincolnshire, Cheshire, and Northumberland.

*The Archaeology of Bellframes - Recording and Preservation*

Edited by Christopher J Brooke, based on papers presented at an Institute of Field Archaeologists Buildings Special Interest Group symposium in 1994. Copies from Dr David Thackray, Boxwell Cottage, Mill Bottom, Nailsworth, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL6 0LA. Price £6.50 + £1 p&p (cheques payable to The Institute of Field Archaeologists Buildings Special Interest Group).

## ... and an old one!

For some time now I've wanted a copy of Barry Harrison and Barbara Hutton's *Vernacular Houses in North Yorkshire and Cleveland*, but the book is getting very difficult to obtain. In fact, one member requested an out-of-print book search last year and was told that she would have to pay £150 for a copy! I was delighted, therefore, when a search over the internet tracked down a copy for sale in a bookshop in San Francisco. The book cost me £24.68 in total - slightly less than the £25 it would have cost new in 1984. So, if you ever spot a copy going for 50p in a car boot sale, snap it up quickly - there are other members who would like copies!

But how on earth had my copy got to San Francisco?

## Back to school?

A wide variety of courses on subjects related to vernacular architecture are offered by the Worker's Education Association (WEA), local universities, colleges and museums. Occasional day/weekend courses are available as well.

Although the university courses are reasonably well publicised, other local courses, lectures and events may not be. Please send details of ones in your locality which might be of interest to other members to the Newsheet editor.

Courses starting this autumn in Yorkshire include:

WEA courses (contact local WEA organisers for further information):

- *English Domestic Architecture* (held in Boston Spa, Harrogate, and Wigginton), tutor Warwick Burton
- *Medieval Buildings of York* (in York), tutor Alison Sinclair
- *Vernacular Houses of Calderdale* (in Halifax and Sowerby Bridge), tutor Peter Thornborrow
- *Stone, Brick, Timber and Textiles* (in Holmfirth), tutor W John Smith. This course is also being run in Burnley (Lancashire – but some members probably live near enough to travel!) – tel Mr Collinge on 01282 412815 for details.

University of York course (01904 434620):

- *More about Buildings in the North York Moors*, tutor Ian Pattison

University of Leeds Middlesbrough Centre course (01642 814987) – to be held in Richmond:

- *Richmondshire Architecture*, tutor Jane Hatcher

If the idea of a trip out of Yorkshire appeals, you might like to try one of the Field Studies Council courses which are held at various centres throughout Britain (tel 01743 850674 for a brochure). This year's courses included *Suffolk's Medieval Houses*, *A Weekend on Watermills and Windmills*, and *Historic Townscapes*. I tried a five-day course on *Suffolk and Essex Villages* and found it a good introduction to a region I didn't know very well.

## YVBSG joins PLACE

The YVBSG recently became a Partner Organisation of PLACE – a regional centre for research on *People, Landscape And Cultural Environment*, based at the College of York and Ripon St John, in York. PLACE's mission is "to promote and coordinate research on the People, Landscape and Cultural Environment of northern Yorkshire." Its aims are:

- to provide a focal point within northern Yorkshire for research on the region
- to raise the profile of existing research work on northern Yorkshire's changing landscape, culture and people
- to attract funding for research, scholarship and consultancy work
- to extend contacts and connections with both academic institutions and the wider community within the region
- to form partnerships with appropriate organisations, such as countryside agencies and archaeological/historical groups

Other Partner Organisations, of which there are about twenty, include English Heritage, the North York Moors and Dales National Parks, the RCHME, Ryedale Folk Museum and York Archaeological Trust.

We will be contributing to the PLACE annual conference in October (see opposite page) by mounting a poster display on our work. We also intend to take part in the excursion and will focus on how village vernacular buildings near York are being affected by urban encroachment.

PLACE's Millennium Project is to produce a Historical Atlas of North Yorkshire. Their editorial group is looking for suggestions for topics for inclusion in the atlas and for volunteers to produce text/maps on these topics. The YVBSG has expressed an interest in making a contribution. If you have any ideas for topics or would like to be involved, please contact David Cant as soon as possible.

## Input needed ...

Thank you for sending me your contributions to the *Newsheet* – they have produced a bumper issue this time! The next *Newsheet* will be published in December 1998. Please send any items for inclusion to the editor by the end of November.



The next issue of the annual journal, *Yorkshire Buildings*, will be published in April 1999. All contributions welcome, no matter how small, by the end of December.

Members sometimes tell me that they feel they 'don't know enough yet' to write articles. Could I encourage those members to put pen to paper? You probably know a lot more about your own area than you think, and other members would be interested to hear it! Or if something's puzzling you, why not pose a question as a Letter to the Editor?

## The Grassington house detectives!

During the summer, a BBC2 TV crew filmed Alison Armstrong and members of the Upper Wharfedale Field Society recording Town Head Farm, Grassington, for a programme by Adam Hart Davies on History. It's not yet known when the programme will be transmitted, but it will be shown at lunchtime. Watch out for these new stars of the small screen.

## Erratum

The cover illustration of *Yorkshire Buildings* 1998 was drawn by Sue Southwell (based on measurements taken by the recording team) and not as stated in the publication; apologies for any embarrassment caused. Incidentally, do remember that it's good practice to sign all your drawings – it does at least allow us to accredit them correctly!

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