



Newsletter

No 122– February 2026



Exploring the Dales

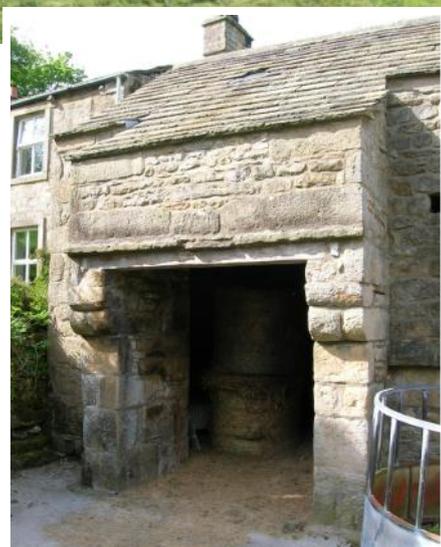
Welcome to our February Newsletter. We're looking forward this year to working in the Yorkshire Dales in association with the Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group, and our annual day school on 28 February (sold-out, with a waiting list) sets the scene for this project. Our regular *From the archive* feature on page 10 explores some of the Dales buildings already recorded by the YVBSG in the villages of Linton and Threshfield.

In March we'll be visiting the North York Moors for an interesting recording opportunity – see page 3. Other events are being planned for later in the year.

Also in this issue, David Cant takes a look at the history of the Group, and Tony Robinson encounters some farm buildings at Winton. We leave Yorkshire for a while with Mark Womersley who takes us on a short trip to Bolton in Greater Manchester, and with Kevin Illingworth who provides an update on an aisled barn in Worsthorpe, Lancashire, which was previously visited by the Group.

As always, we encourage members to get involved with the running of the YVBSG and its activities – please do get in touch if you can offer input or assistance in any way!

Photos: vernacular buildings in the Yorkshire Dales. From top: Feetham Holme in Swaledale; Barn adjacent to Hardcastle House in Thorpe; Blackburn Hall in Grinton; East End Cottage and attached outbuildings in Thornton Rust; Barn at Thorpe with owl hole constructed from notched stones from a corn drying kiln.



Future YVBSG events: dates for your diary

Annual General Meeting 2026

Thursday 16 April 2026

The Annual General Meeting will be held by Zoom at 7.30pm on Thursday 16 April 2026. 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 will be circulated by email and will also be available on the Members' Area of the website, together with the annual accounts and the minutes of last year's AGM.

Accompanying the AGM will be an online talk by David Cook on Carr House in Shelf, one of the buildings recorded during the 2025 conference.

Annual Recording Conference

Friday 15 to Sunday 17 May 2026

This year's conference will be held in Wharfedale, as part of our collaborative project with the Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group. Details will be published when arrangements are finalised.

Third Thursday Talks

These talks normally take place by Zoom at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month, although none are scheduled at present. 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. Recent additions are talks by Philip Sands on 'Woodsome Hall – a history of the building', and by David Cant on 'Reflections on Wibsey and Low Moor' which looks at some of the varied buildings of these suburbs of Bradford.

In the pipeline ...

Kevin Illingworth is arranging a visit to Baildon Hall in the West Riding, on a date to be confirmed. This will include a buffet meal at the Hall and a tour of this Grade II* listed building. Baildon Hall is a timber-framed and stone house, with surviving timber-framing in a cross-wing probably dating from the late fifteenth century although an earlier partition with three grouped doorways is from a pre-existing building. An earlier hall was replaced in the seventeenth century by the present block. Further information can be found in the listed building description and in the RCHME volume *Rural Houses of West Yorkshire 1400-1830*.

We will also have a walkabout, to include the seventeenth century Old Hall on Westgate, which has decorative label stops, lantern finials, and a doorhead dated 1715. We may be able to visit the wooden St James Church which was built in the 1890s, and was moved to Baildon from Great Warley in Essex in 1905, hauled by a traction engine. It was moved again in 2007/8 to be restored, but only a few yards.

The Group previously visited Baildon back in 2001 with a walk kindly led by members Tish and Michael Lawson, so another visit is definitely overdue! Further details and confirmation of date to follow.



Baildon Hall

Don't forget to renew your membership!

Membership fees for 2026 became due on 1 January 2026 and you should already have received an email asking you to fill in the form if you wish to renew. If your copy of the email has gone astray, please contact the Membership Secretary, Dr Pat Leggett, at membership-secretary@yvbsg.org.uk, to ask for the link to the online renewal form. You will still need to send your payment (£12 per person or £8 per student) by BACS or cheque.

Thank you to those members who have already renewed; at the time of writing, around 76% of last year's members have now done so and we currently have

about 220 paid-up members. We are delighted to welcome 25 new members so far this year and look forward to meeting them at our events. We're also pleased to see that students are starting to take advantage of the reduced membership fee which we introduced this year – do spread the word if you know anyone who might be interested!

Note that the password to the Members' Area of the website and the online archive of reports changed in January and you will receive the new login details when you renew your membership for 2026. The Members'

Area provides access to over 1900 building reports and more than 200 articles from back issues of *Yorkshire Buildings* up to 2021, as well as information sheets and other handouts. We gently remind you that in line with our Privacy Statement which came into effect with the introduction of GDPR in 2018, membership may be terminated if you do not renew within three months from 1 January 2026 and you would then receive no further correspondence from us, so please do renew soon – we don't want to lose you! But don't worry – we would send you notification before taking you off our membership list.

A YVBSG recording 'special' in Bilsdale, North York Moors



On the eastern flank of Bilsdale at an elevation of 200 metres lies High Ellermire, a farmstead of mainly stone buildings with pantile roofs, typical of those illustrated in the Royal Commission's *Houses of the North York Moors*. Since the publication of that survey in 1987, many of the farmsteads they recorded have been modernised and farm buildings converted into domestic accommodation.

At High Ellermire, we have a rare opportunity to record an unmodernised farmhouse and eighteenth/nineteenth century farm buildings largely left as they were at the end of farming here.

The size of the farmstead can be quite a surprise, given its remote location, and there appears to be plenty of evidence that it was well-developed before access to larger markets beyond those in the dale. In the nineteenth century production of a local pig breed, the Bilsdale Blue, peaked. Many of the High Ellermire buildings are depicted on the 1781-2 Bilsdale Survey map along with others labelled 'Ellermire', a small settlement which includes the now vanished 'old house' and another house later named Brecken

Hall, and the present buildings of Low Ellermire. High Ellermire farmhouse might well be of seventeenth century date.

The house has an intriguing construction history. Originally it was perhaps a hearth passage plan extended with rear dairy wing, a three-storey add-on for hens with a granary above, and a series of piggeries added to that at the north end of the range. The granary was later used as a men's room and there are contemporary graffiti on the plaster walls. At the south end are two former turf houses. The detached farm buildings include barns, cow houses, and wagon shed. There is also a brick barn.

The son of the owners is writing a history of Ellermire so has already accumulated documentary evidence. Some archaeology of one of the vanished house sites is planned. The YVBSG is offering a challenging but rewarding recording event over the weekend of 28 and 29 March to produce a report on the standing buildings of High Ellermire.

Contact David Cook, dcook0@talk21.com, for more details.

David Cook, Archivist



Who does what on the committee, and will you join us?

Happy New Year to members old and new. Thank you for your support for our Group and its activities. In 2026 we hope to provide a varied programme and publications exploring the variety of traditional buildings in Yorkshire. Here's a short introduction to roles so you know who to contact or where to seek out what you want to know.

You will already have been in touch with Pat Leggett, who handles anything to do with membership. The role is particularly busy at this time of year and we try to make joining or renewing as easy as possible.

New faces would be welcome, as would your input, in whatever form!

Indirectly you will also be in touch with Jan Goode, our treasurer, who has worked wonders recently with our bank, whose administration sometimes appears somewhat eccentric. Jan is the lead person in our liaison with the Upper Wharfedale Heritage Group – we're planning several joint activities later in the year. Hope to see you there!

While reading this, spare a thought for our newsletter editor and internet co-ordinator. Lorraine Moor plays a vital role in developing our communications and keeping up with the fast-changing world electronic. She is always pleased to receive news of local events and short contributions to this quarterly Newsletter.



An Upper Wharfedale building: Wayside Cottage, Starbotton, dating from c1700. Corbelled chimney stack on gable.

Our flagship annual journal, *Yorkshire Buildings*, has been in the safe hands of Tony Robinson and a small team for many years. His role is being taken over by Mark Womersley, who is working with Tony at the moment to produce the next edition.

Further behind the scenes(!) we have our archivist, David Cook, who does a magnificent job keeping track of requests for recording or information on buildings. He is our link with archives where our reports are deposited and responds to enquiries; see his

interactive map on our website. He also keeps a record of those who would like to be involved as part of a recording team – mostly ad-hoc groups with an experienced leader. If you would like to be involved, do let him know.

Our secretary, Mary Cook, deals with correspondence, taking minutes and generally keeping the committee in order. Sometimes quite a challenge – especially as she has a full-time job and is married to the archivist. It's an indispensable role in any group like ours and we're very grateful for her time and effort.

We also have some 'ordinary' committee members – Kevin Illingworth, Sue Southwell, Peter Thornborrow and Gunhild Wilcock – and would be delighted to welcome some new faces to our number (only three meetings a year). We'd particularly welcome new and young members to join us. Do get in touch for more details.

Contact details are on the back page and your input, in whatever form, would be welcome. Writing a short book review for *Yorkshire Buildings* or a brief article on an interesting building in your area are but two examples – there are many more.

Having filled my allotted space it just remains to say I look forward to meeting members at one of our events. We hope you enjoy being a member.

David Cant, YVBSG Chair, davidjcant@hotmail.com

Next committee meeting

The next meeting of the full committee will be held on Saturday 6 June 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) meets between full committee meetings and will next meet on Tuesday 31 March 2026. This sub-group continues to discuss a number of topics including: future events; suggestions for capital expenditure; streamlining membership renewal and other processes; updating our recording guidance and report templates; and the future development of our journal, *Yorkshire Buildings*.

We need you!

Would you like to have a say in running the YVBSG? Have you any thoughts on what the Group should or shouldn't be doing? Do you have suggestions for improvements? Are you able to assist with particular tasks or areas of responsibility?

If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes', we'd like to hear from you! Would you like to join the committee, or perhaps help in some other way? With the AGM coming up in April, now is an ideal time to think about it. We would very much appreciate new input, either for specific tasks or more generally; we could co-opt volunteers to the committee if needed. If you're interested, or would like to know more, please contact David Cant on davidjcant@hotmail.com.

How it all began ...

Our Group has been around for over fifty years, first in its guise as the North Yorkshire and Cleveland Vernacular Buildings Study Group. Later this title was shortened to the current version. For the first twenty years or so we were lucky to have the support of Leeds University extra-mural department, particularly Barry Harrison and his staff in Middlesbrough. Our other founder, Barbara Hutton, was very involved with classes for the WEA (Workers Education Association) and much of the early building recording stemmed from those two sources – for both buildings and people.

The reports from that time and the Group's communications reflect the limited technical possibilities then. Who remembers inky fingers from the Banda machines, or the three-layered copies from Roneos? However, we do still use relatively primitive tools for the actual measuring. Even in 2026 we are still treading cautiously into the digital age in that respect.

Photography too has been revolutionised and digital imagery is almost universal. The excellent images in our archive and included in reports would have cost a small fortune thirty years ago. Indeed, any copies of pre-digital images of buildings we recorded are few and far between. If you have any please send them to our archivist with some details if possible, rather than just binning them.

If you look at early reports, you will be struck by how the writers were able to produce so much about the building from relatively limited or difficult-to-access resources. 'The Book', as its authors referred to it (*Vernacular Houses in North Yorkshire and Cleveland* by Barry Harrison and Barbara Hutton) was based on the first 800 or so reports. Some of the conclusions have been modified but many have stood the test of time. Expanding our area of coverage to the whole of Yorkshire and the resulting 1100 further reports has not (yet) produced another volume. However, our annual journal (*Yorkshire Buildings*) and the quarterly Newsletters do cover much of the work done since. Of particular note, however, is the work resulting from the



YVBSG members visiting Upper Oldfield during the 1996 annual conference, tape measure at the ready!

Beverley project (*Beverley's Timber-framed Buildings*, 2022) compiled by our present Archivist, David Cook.

Looking back, Barbara Hutton's move from the area in 1987 and the withdrawal of support from extra-mural providers in the early 1990s led to significant changes. An organising committee was formed and several devoted members took on the roles required. We also took on the rest of Yorkshire. By then, significant progress had been made in understanding the development of vernacular buildings. Improved recording standards, fostered by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments and put into practice in collaboration with local authority organisations, had resulted in several regional building studies and detailed volumes on the City of York.

Our Group's activities settled to an annual routine of day school, residential recording conference and one-off walks, visits and building recording projects. Many of the latter were in response to specific requests from householders. We have welcomed new recorders and others interested in vernacular buildings. The Group embraced the brave new digital world and the membership has risen from under 100 in the 1980s to over 200 today. Our website attracts many visitors and includes the excellent searchable digital map of building reports.

David Cant, YVBSG Chair, davidjcant@hotmail.com

Fairfax or Menston Hall: an update on the history of the building



In the last Newsletter, our regular *From the archives* feature included Fairfax Hall at Menston. We thank Dr Alastair Laurence for subsequently providing an update on this building. Since the YVBSG report was written in 1989, Alastair published a book, *A History of Menston and Hawksworth* (1991). He clarifies that the structure shown in our photograph is only one surviving wing of a considerably larger building, Menston Hall. Its matching wing, running parallel with it (and of the same size and dimensions as the surviving wing) was demolished in 1767. The foundations of the 'lost' twin wing were exposed some thirty-five years ago.

A conjectural reconstruction by Phillipa Swanton of the original appearance of Menston Hall is shown in Alastair's book. The two wings ran parallel with each other in order that they both fitted into the limited space available for expanding the earlier manor house of the Breareys. This was carried out during the time of Charles Fairfax's occupancy, from the mid seventeenth century.

Hall i' th' Wood Museum – a timber-framed gem in Bolton



The Hall i' th' Wood in Lancashire today and in 1881, as drawn by J S Dodd and lithographed by Michael and Nicholas Hanhart. Originally published for *The Baronial Halls and Picturesque Edifices of England*, c1881.

At a time when Hall i' th' Wood is closed, and surveys are underway to guide its conservation, it is worth reminding ourselves of this gem on our doorstep. It was the site of a much smaller-scale, early sixteenth-century hall with a screens passage, likely located within the current extended great hall, with a northern stone service wing attached. The property's north wing was then extended west in 1591, and perhaps the western porch was built at this time.

The house was substantially enlarged in 1648. A stone south wing was built, and perhaps the east timber frame range was enlarged and partly reclad in decorative framing. It is to this period that at least two of the three plastered ceiling panels in the north-eastern Crompton Room and the fine staircase entered from the two-storey porch belong. The whole building was restored c1900 by Jonathan Simpson and Grayson and Ould for Lord Leverhulme, and it is at this time that two fine fibrous-plaster panelled ceilings were introduced into the Norris Dining and Withdrawing Rooms.

Phases of building



Early C16th timber frame encased in altered mid-17th century framing

1591



Early 16th century

1648



Some internal highlights

The seventeenth-century staircase. Accessed from the double-height porch of 1648, it includes fielded decorated panels, with a carved dragon, turned balusters, heavy newels, and is adorned with acorn finials and pendants.



If you're in Bolton ...

Hall i' th' Wood may be temporarily closed, but if you're in the Bolton area you could visit the rather wonderful Smithills Hall instead. Further info on both Halls at www.boltonlams.co.uk/historic-halls.

Hall i' th' Wood – some internal highlights (continued)



Left and above: The 1591 Brownlow extension. Its design conveys security and robustness, and the top-floor timber framing is still partly filled with wattle and daub.

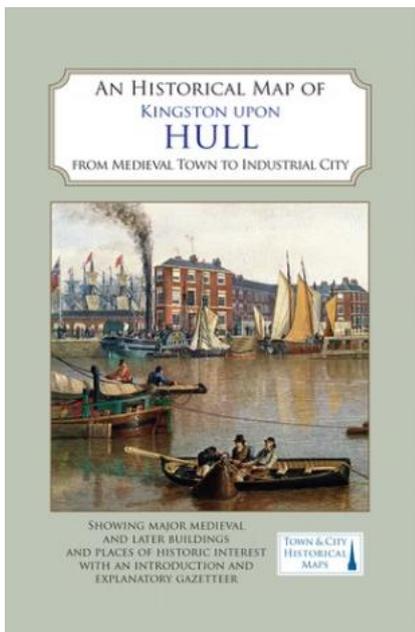
Right: The Crompton Room (first floor).

The third of the Crompton Room in the northeast corner of this wider space, within the lengthened timber-framed eastern range, contains the oldest decorative plaster original to the building. The original areas of ceiling plaster are still attached to a clay daub undercoat above. At least two of the panels appear to date from 1648; they avoid armorial motifs but are decorated with pomegranates, vine scrolls and pious hooded figure heads, which may reference the plaster company or the plasterer who did the work. They are framed by run-in situ panel mouldings that create geometric patterns.



Mark Womersley

Historical maps of towns and cities



The Historic Towns Trust publishes a series of historical maps of towns, as outlined in a talk at the recent VAG Winter Conference on urban buildings. The printed maps are at a scale of 1:2500 (about 25 inches to the mile) and include a gazetteer providing a brief history of the main features shown on the map.

Historical maps of Yorkshire towns and cities already published include Hull, Beverley, Ripon and Bradford. Maps of Scarborough, Leeds and Whitby are in the pipeline. A recent publication is the reprint of *An Historical Map of York: From Medieval Times to 1850*, £11.99. For more information, visit historictownstrust.uk – maps can be purchased via this website or in bookshops.

Publications

Halifax in 50 Buildings by Peter Thornborrow and Paul Gwilliam. This publication explores the history of the West Yorkshire minster town through a selection of its greatest architectural treasures which include the magnificent Piece Hall. Author and historian (and of course previous YVBSG Chair!) Peter Thornborrow and photographer Paul Gwilliam celebrate Halifax's architectural heritage as they guide the reader around the town's historic and modern buildings. Available from 15 March 2026 from Amberley Books, www.amberley-books.com, £14.39.

Micklegate: the great street of York by Clements Hall Local History Group, 2025, £15. A social history of the buildings of the street including houses, shops, public houses and churches.

Encounters with old buildings

Farm buildings at Winton

I must have driven past these buildings many times without stopping for a look, so one day in 1991 I decided to stop and take some photographs. Winton is on the A684, about four miles east of Northallerton.

The buildings form a substantial group, arranged in three courtyards, with the farmhouse, Winton House (listed grade II), butted up to the south side of the westernmost yard. While farm buildings arranged around open yards are frequently found in the Vale of Mowbray, the group at Winton is unusual in being arranged in three yards.



The western group of brick cattle shelters or cart sheds (not sure which) now converted to two bed bungalow, 'The Byre'.

The western range of buildings comprises a group of cartsheds or cattle shelters, with stables in the roadside wing. These buildings are brick-built on the yard side, with blocked and altered openings, and with dressed stone outer walls. At the entrance to this yard is a two-storey cart shed or trap house with a hayloft or granary over, with external stone steps and hit-and-miss shutters to the first floor. The ground floor east end gable has massive squared quoins and dressed stonework with later brickwork over.



The central group two-storey stone and cobble building

The central courtyard is closed on its western side by a long two-storey building built of coursed cobble to the ground floor with dressed stonework above and full height quoins. The north gable end, facing the road, is of rougher cobble construction, with dressed stone blocks into the gable. The long western wall with its central doorway has neatly detailed ventilation slots, framed by single brick headers with a stretcher above.



Detail photo of coursed cobble with stonework over and brick edged vent slots

At the eastern end of this group of buildings, the building at the north-east end of coursed rubble with modern brick upper parts curves round to join the northernmost range fronting the road.

The easternmost group of buildings is brick-built, with a single-storey half-hipped range facing eastwards and then north towards the road. At the time of my brief visit, there was an inserted tall brick chimney stack, added at some point possibly for a fixed steam engine powering a root crusher or other machinery.

This was an interesting group of buildings which would have been worthy of further study; most of the buildings have now been converted to residential use or holiday lets. While this has ensured the retention of the overall form of these buildings, internal alteration and remodelling has

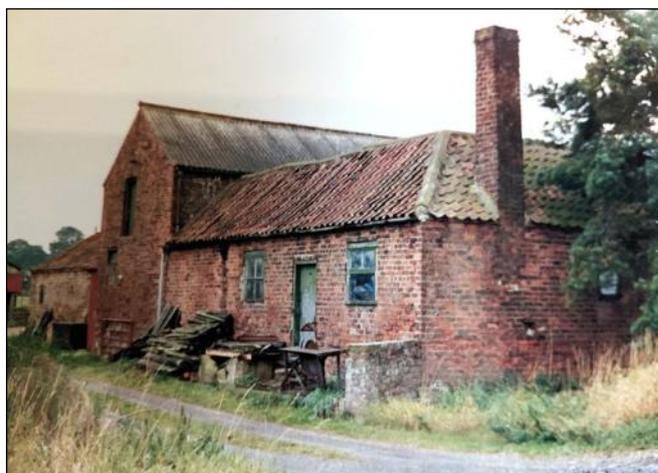
inevitably led to the loss of historic detail and information, including the removal of the tall brick chimney which was a prominent feature. The westernmost range with partially restored openings is currently up for sale, and is described by the agents as a 'two bed bungalow' and named 'The Byre'.

Late nineteenth century OS 25-inch maps of the area show these courtyard farmsteads in their most developed form, as from the 1870s until the 1930s the long agricultural depression saw little new building until after World War II, when such traditional buildings were often replaced by large span sheds.

An additional feature of interest to the south of the buildings are the earthwork remains of the medieval settlement of Winton, comprising a north-south row of house platforms and toft plots, with the remains of fishponds to the west. This area was scheduled in 2001.

Photos taken 8 October 1991.

Tony Robinson, editor@yvbsg.org.uk



The eastern group of buildings with the tall chimney

YVBSG map updated

Our interactive map has recently been updated by Archivist David Cook to include the buildings recorded during last year's recording conference in Bradford.

Explore the map at www.yvbsg.org.uk/reports.html. To read the building reports, you'll just need this year's password for the Members' Area which you will have received in your membership renewal letter.

Craft and Conservation bursaries

Applications are now open for the York Foundation for Craft and Conservation's 2026 Bursary Awards. Since 2000, this bursary programme has supported over 350 talented craftspeople and conservators, helping them take next steps in developing skills, confidence, and professional networks.

Annual Bursaries offer up to £2,000 for individual craftspeople and conservators, and up to £3,000 for organisations supporting staff training. *Craft Trainee Bursaries* offer up to £15,000 over two or three years for sustained training in traditional building crafts.

Full details can be found at www.conservatoryork.org.uk/bursaries; apply by Monday 16 March 2026. Applications are especially welcomed from those connected with Yorkshire, the north of England, and Scotland.

Demolition of aisled barn at Butchers Farm, Worsthorpe

Sad news from former YVBSG member Jean Witt is that the aisled barn opposite Butchers Farm in Worsthorpe, near Burnley, was demolished in October 2025. On 21 July 2012 during an excursion into Lancashire, our group of twenty-seven members had a full tour of Jackson's Farm, her farmhouse. After the tour, Jean joined us inside Butchers Farm Barn, and stayed with the last seven of us for the rest of the day until 7pm.

Butchers Farm Barn was not listed, but was one of twenty-five Locally Listed Buildings in Worsthorpe village. Twenty-eight houses will be built on the site, including on 1.3 hectares of farmland.

Kevin Illingworth



From the archive: Linton and Threshfield

In anticipation of further recording work in the Dales this year, we feature this time some of the buildings already recorded in the villages of Linton and Threshfield, not far from Grassington. Reports on all these buildings can be found in the YVBSG online archive. Linton has twenty-three listed structures including two listed bridges crossing the village beck, as well as the impressive Fountaine's Hospital, a Palladian building of 1721 comprising almshouses and chapel. Threshfield has eighteen listed buildings and a report on some of the village buildings can be found by scrolling down to 2022 on the Upper Wharfedale Field Society's website at uwfs.org.uk/special-interest-groups/local-history-vernacular-buildings/local-history-vernacular-buildings-archive/.

Lorraine Moor



Troutbeck and Beckside, Linton (YVBSG 1328). Now two dwellings but originally a 17th century lobby-entry house, later extended at one end. The main, central, doorway is dated 'AP 1642' for Anthony Proctor, a member of an old Dales family. Divided into four single-bay cottages by the late 18th century.



White Abbey, Linton (YVBSG 1016). Built in the 17th century as a three-bay central lobby-entry house. The central chimney replaced an earlier timber hood. A handsome parlour fireplace appears to have been constructed from the finely-carved panels of an old dower chest, perhaps in c1900.



Manor House Farm, Linton (YVBSG 1337). A four-cell house which is part of a complex of buildings, including converted barns. Possibly originated as an early/mid 17th century single-cell cottage, extended late 17th or early 18th century.



Threshfield School, Threshfield (YVBSG 0991). Built in 1674 and still in use as a school. Inside the ground floor consists of a single room now open to the roof, but formerly ceiled with the master's lodging above. No sign of a stair, but the remains of a fireplace can be seen upstairs on the gable wall.



The Grange, Linton (YVBSG 1254). A double-fronted, double-pile farmhouse, dating mostly from c1760 but with slight evidence of an earlier build. Roof raised and front altered in 19th century. Three beebholes in garden wall.



Lady Well Cottage, Threshfield (YVBSG 1286). An early 17th century single-pile, single-cell dwelling with a later stone lean-to extension. Thought to have been built at the same time as the nearby bridge over the Wharfe in 1603. There is a suggestion that it was previously a lower building of cruck construction with a thatched roof.



Park Grange Farm, Threshfield (YVBSG 0838). A three-cell, central lobby-entry house with a date of 1680 inscribed above front door. Stone winder stair probably formerly occupied a stair turret. Extended to the rear in the 19th century. Roof truss almost ogee-shaped with a king post extending upwards beyond the apex. Masons' marks found on all parts of the original house.



Toft House Farm, Threshfield (YVBSG 0781). Perhaps built early 17th century as a two-room gable-entry house. Reconstructed with addition of porch and more rooms at rear during first half of 18th century and reroofed. Large stone arched fireplace with joggled voussoirs in living room.



Threshfield (YVBSG 1648). A barn dated 1661 with later additions, severely damaged by fire in the 1980s and the roof rebuilt. Now converted to a dwelling. It was gable-entry and had opposed cart entries but no evidence of a threshing floor. For this and other reasons, it is not a typical Dales barn.

The Hare and Hounds Inn, Old Town, near Hebden Bridge



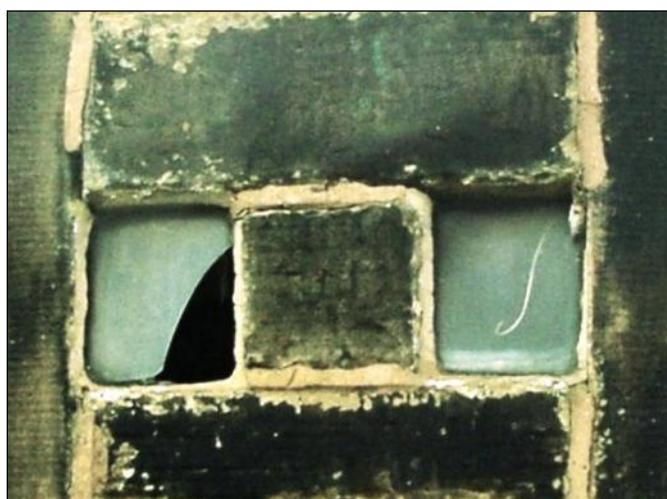
The Hare and Hounds

The Hare and Hounds, the only pub in Old Town, was put up for sale by Timothy Taylors brewery in summer 2025. The agent assured Wadsworth Area Community Assets (WACA) that the pub would likely be sold as a going concern, but the new owners, who bought it at a low price, are property developers who want to convert the pub into housing. The pub is not listed, but has four small false 'windows' that measure 6 x 6 inches at first floor level. They were inserted between windows so that four windows became two, for window tax purposes. Window tax was first imposed in 1696, later repealed in 1851. Three farmhouses in the Todmorden countryside have these small 'windows', but these are listed.

The late W John Smith, YVBSG member, who ran many courses in Lancashire and Yorkshire until the year 2000, was the only architectural historian to name all four houses in Calderdale (and elsewhere) that have this feature. The WACA are hoping to register the pub as a Valued Community Asset (ACV) and to challenge the Change of Use.

Whether the WACA or the developers know the original purpose of these 'windows' is not known, but the little pair of 'windows' above the letter 'L' on the Timothy Taylor sign is now covered by ivy (14 February 2026). Let us hope that the glass in these 'windows' can be saved, or even restored. One of the four 'windows' is already filled with cement. For more information on this subject, see Newsheet No 102 (March 2021) page 4.

Kevin Illingworth



Two of the tiny false windows at the Hare and Hounds

Unleash your artistic bent!

Why not try a course on painting and drawing buildings? Possibilities include:

Capturing Cumbria in Pen and Wash (Churches, cottages and more)

A workshop with Lyn Evans at Quirky Workshops, Greystoke, Penrith, 10am to 4pm on Sunday 26 April 2026. £85. www.quirkyworkshops.co.uk.

Buildings in the Landscape

A workshop with John Harrison on using line and wash. 10am to 4pm on Thursday 9 July or Friday 21 August 2026 at Quirky Workshops, Greystoke, Penrith. £90. www.quirkyworkshops.co.uk.

John Harrison will be running other line and wash workshops during the year at various venues in Yorkshire and Cumbria. Full details at drawninyorkshire.com.

Stephen Croad Prize 2026

Do you have a new discovery on historic buildings of the United Kingdom?

In memory of Stephen Croad (an author, researcher and archivist of architectural history), *Historic Buildings & Places* now run an annual competition, with a prize award of £600, to encourage new architectural research and writing.

Contributions should be factually verifiable, documenting new discoveries on historic buildings in the United Kingdom. Essays on building conservation and heritage crafts will also be considered.

The deadline for submission is 31 May 2026. There is no age limit for contributors, and all contributions are welcomed. For full information visit hbap.org.uk/2026-stephen-croad-prize.

Next Newsletter

The next Newsletter will be in May 2026 – please send any contributions to the editor at newsheet@yvbsg.org.uk by 30 April 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 or intrigues you? Do tell us about it!

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.

Merchant Adventurers Hall

Wednesday 11 March 2026

A talk by Bob Hale to Yorkshire Architectural & York Archaeological Society, 7.30pm at Friends Meeting House, Friargate, York. www.yayas.org.uk.

History of Almshouses

Thursday 12 March 2026

A talk by Eric Jackson to Doncaster Civic Trust, 7.30pm at St Peter's Church Hall, Chequer Road, Doncaster. www.doncastercivictrust.org.uk.

Sheffield's Ancient Suburbs – Part 4

Monday 16 March 2026

A talk by David Templeman to Sheffield & District Family History Society, 2pm at Aizlewood's Mill, Nursery Street, Sheffield. sheffieldfhs.org.uk.

Concealed Objects and Written Charms: Protection in the Medieval Period

Thursday 19 March 2026

A talk by Elaine Perkins to Tickhill & District Local History Society, 7.30pm in the Methodist Schoolroom, Northgate, Tickhill. www.tickhillhistorysociety.org.uk.

Inside a Lakeland Farmhouse

Thursday 19 March 2026

A talk by Andrew Lowe to Staveley & District Local History Society, 7.30pm at St Anne's Church, Ings, Cumbria. www.sdhs.org.uk.

Dales Archaeology Day 2026

Saturday 21 March 2026

Annual event with talks relating to the historic environment of the Yorkshire Dales, at the Key Centre in Middleham. www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

Yorkshire Heritage Summit

Wednesday 25 March 2026

At Barnsley Civic, 10am to 4pm. See theyorkshiresociety.org/event/yorkshire-heritage-summit-2026.

Shaping the Hall: The Architectural Evolution of Burton Constable

Wednesday 25 March 2026

An afternoon talk by Penny Farey at

Burton Constable Hall. Book at www.burtonconstable.com.

45 & 46 Upper Oldfield: The Rise and Fall of a Holme Valley Yeoman House

Monday 30 March 2026

A talk by Amy Whitehead to Huddersfield Local History Society, 7.30pm at University of Huddersfield, £2. www.huddersfieldhistory.org.uk.

Discovering Lake District Villages

Monday 30 March 2026

A talk by Andrew Lowe to Ewecross Local History Society, 7.30pm at the Methodist Church, High Bentham. ewecrosshistoricalsociety.wordpress.com.

Elmswell Old Hall Open Day

Wednesday 1 April 2026

This important ruinous brick house of 1634 near Driffild is open to the public on one day a year. Free, 10.30am to 3.30pm. www.gartononthewolds-pc.gov.uk/our-community/elmswell-hall.

Keeping the Manor House warm

Saturday 11 April 2026

A talk by Alex Cockshott, 10.15am to 12 noon in Ilkley Manor House. Fee £5. www.ilkleymanorhouse.org.

What's the Point Two: Lime Finishes in a Changing Climate

Tuesday 14 April 2026

A collaborative symposium with Historic England and the Lime Finishes Group at the Hospitium, York, in person and live streamed. www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/101041.

Workers' Housing

Wednesday 15 April 2026

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

Apotropaic Marks in Speke Hall

Thursday 16 April 2026

A talk by Ashleigh Griffin to Merseyside Archaeological Society at the Quaker Meeting House, 22 School Lane,

Liverpool. 7pm for 7.30. Fee £5. www.merseysidearchsoc.com.

Barns, Walls and Bridges

Tuesday 21 April 2026

A 4-mile walk starting from Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes. 11am-3pm. Cost £6. A YDNPA event, www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

Dalehead & Stocks in Bowland

Tuesday 28 April 2026

A talk by Philip Larkin to Ribchester History Society at 8pm in Ribchester Village Hall, Riverside, £3. e-voice.org.uk/ribchesterhistory.

Local History around the Yorkshire Dales

Saturday 2 May 2026

A one-day conference at Grassington Devonshire Institute, £10. Includes a talk by David Cant on *Traditional Buildings of the Dales*. www.balh.org.uk/yorkshire26.

Hooton Pagnell Hall Open Garden

Thursday 14 May 2026

National Garden Scheme event from 10am-4pm. Adults £7. ngs.org.uk.

Calverley Old Hall Open Days

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 May 2026

Restored medieval hall house open 10am-4pm. www.landmarktrust.org.uk/properties/calverley-old-hall.

Hiding in plain sight – the story of the humble milestone

Tuesday 26 May 2026

A talk by Hilary Jones to Earby & District Local History Society at New Road Community Centre, Earby, 7.30pm, £1.50. www.earbyhistory.co.uk.

The Vernacular Architecture of Eastern England

Saturday 27 June 2026

Annual day school organised by Essex Historic Buildings Group, at Anglian Ruskin University, Chelmsford. Talks on Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincolnshire and Leicester/Rutland/Northamptonshire. £66 with lunch, £50 without. www.ehbg.co.uk.

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