

Newsletter



A busy start to the year

Welcome to our June Newsletter. The Group has managed to fit in quite a lot so far this year, including visits to some spectacular houses and an abbey, a workshop on plasterwork, an annual day school and an annual recording conference. We look forward to our next event, a walk in the Upper Holme Valley in July, and details can be found on page 2.

We continue to record other buildings throughout the year – do email the Archivist if you'd like to hear about recording opportunities (see page 3). One such building was a house in Minskip and you can read about its unusual roof construction on page 7.

On page 6, member Ben Stables reports on a datestone from a house in Shelf. Although the building has been demolished, Ben has discovered much information about it and tells an interesting story about the history of the house and its inhabitants.

Tony Robinson has another 'Encounter' for us – a fascinating building called Little Langton Grange near Northallerton which was partly demolished in the 1990s although the rest of it still survives today as a farm building. And our regular 'From the archive' feature this time looks at the North Yorkshire town of Helmsley.

Photos: Woodsome Hall, Fenay Bridge. Top: the front elevation. Left: lead downpipe in the courtyard, and a door in the courtyard. Bottom: detail from plaster ceiling and frieze.



Future YVBSG events: dates for your diary

A Walk around the Vernacular Buildings of the Upper Holme Valley

Saturday 19 July 2025

A relaxing day will be spent looking at vernacular buildings around the village of Holmbridge on the edge of the Peak District National Park near Holmfirth. As this area contains some of the best preserved medieval field systems in West Yorkshire we will also consider the surrounding landscape and its influence on the development of buildings in this upland Pennine valley.



Austonley Hall, Holmbridge. A largely eighteenth century house with seventeenth century origins and outbuildings on a medieval foundation. This is one of the buildings we will visit on our tour.

The area has a long history of occupation from at least the Anglo-Saxon period. In the Middle Ages it was part of the huge Manor of Wakefield and many settlements on the higher ground date from this time. Some of the medieval open fields and their boundaries remain in the landscape. By the eighteenth century handloom weaving had become ever more important in this area and many of the surviving buildings show evidence of this industry. Domestic handloom weaving continued late into the nineteenth century here although more industrialised production was established by the late 1700s as small fulling mills were converted to weaving operations.

The early Holme Valley woollen industry did not produce the great wealth that was generated in other similar areas such as the Calder Valley near Halifax and therefore does not have the large gentry houses found there. Instead there can be seen a variety of

more modest vernacular buildings ranging from large farmhouses, handloom weavers' cottages, agricultural buildings and small scale industrial buildings.

This walking tour aims to showcase a representative selection of interesting buildings of the area, all of which are little known.

The area is hilly and the buildings we aim to study are widely spaced so some uphill walking will be necessary. We will make morning and afternoon circuits with a one-hour lunch break between. The morning tour will involve crossing fields and stiles which will probably contain grazing sheep.

There will be no formal refreshment breaks and lunch will be at participants' own preference. Packed lunches are encouraged but the pub (The Pickled Pheasant, Holmbridge) serves sandwiches to eat in or take away, light lunches or hot meals as well as coffee and cake.

We will start the day at 10.30am and finish about 4.30pm with a one-hour lunch break. Early arrivals can buy coffee or breakfast at the pub before we set off.

Places are limited to 20 people and if you would like to come along or make an enquiry please contact the organiser, Peter Burton by email, text or phone – peteraburton@outlook.com or 07778 683063. Confirmed details of the meeting place will be sent nearer the time to those who have booked.



Hinchliffe Mill is a Conservation Area because of its ensemble of vernacular buildings. We aim to visit in our afternoon walk.

Report from the latest committee meeting

In response to several requests, here's a brief summary of what the committee discussed at their latest meeting on 18 May 2025. The next one is planned for 8 November 2025. In between we have meetings of a sub-group which deals with specific aspects of our activities.

We spend quite a lot of time considering previous events and how they went. Recent ones include the Woodsome Hall and Almondbury visit, thanks to Philip Sands. We've also had our annual recording weekend on the southern edge of Bradford, which went well, apart from being unable to get into the drawing-up venue! Since then we've had fulsome apologies from the organisation.

Twenty members came and we gave support bursaries to three students and a trainee stonemason.

The conference follow-up day will be in October. We also have a walkabout looking at buildings in the Holme valley (near Huddersfield) in July and a visit to Pendle in the late summer or autumn. Many thanks to those organising these events.

Our Archivist has been busy expanding the availability of building reports – have you looked at the magnificent interactive map on the website? A few reports are still outstanding. If you were in the recording teams at Bramley Grange, Braithwaite, Rotherham; Carbrook Hall, Attercliffe; or Hatfield

House, Shire Green (both Sheffield) please contact the Chair on enquiries@yvbsg.org.uk.

We've just over 200 members, but always on the lookout for more! We're planning some training on the use of electronic surveying and drawing. The next issue of our journal, *Yorkshire Buildings*, will be out soon with a new look, and we're starting to plan events for 2026.

All this requires a lot of background work by committee members. We try to make the effort worthwhile and enjoyable. As my singing teacher used to say, 'you have to work hard at having fun'!

David Cant, Chair

Future YVBSG events

As mentioned above, further events are being planned for the rest of the year and will be publicised to members when finalised; they include walkabouts as well as a possible visit to Markenfield Hall near Ripon (markenfieldhall.com).

In the pipeline is another visit led by Kevin Illingworth to the Pendle area of Lancashire. Starting in Barrowford, the day will take in Newchurch-in-Pendle, Barley (for lunch) and Sabden. We also hope to visit a barn/house in the Fence area, which has interesting features. Date to be confirmed; details to follow.

Pictured right is Laund Farmhouse and Cottage, near Barrowford, one of the listed buildings in that area; it can be seen from a public footpath. With its round-headed mullion windows, it probably dates from c1600.



Third Thursday Talks

We hope to continue our online talks during 2025 although none are confirmed at present. These talks normally take place by Zoom at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of the month. 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.

Recording opportunities

If you haven't already done so this year, don't forget to email David Cook on archivist@yvbsg.org.uk if you would like to be notified of recording opportunities received by the YVBSG. Last year's list is being replaced by a new one, so if you have asked for your name to be added in the past, please do this again for opportunities in 2025. If you are a beginner or would like to be a team leader, please also let David know.

From the AGM

At the AGM on 24 April 2025, officers and committee members were elected as follows:

- Chair: David Cant
- Honorary Secretary: Mary Cook
- Treasurer: Jan Goode
- Membership Secretary: Pat Leggett
- Archivist: David Cook
- Yorkshire Buildings Editorial Team Liaison: Tony Robinson
- Newsletter/website/social media: Lorraine Moor
- Committee Members: Kevin Illingworth, Sue Southwell, Peter Thornborrow, Gunhild Wilcock, Mark Womersley

The minutes of the AGM and the latest accounts are now on the Members' Area of the website.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Saturday 8 November 2025. If you'd like to raise any matters, please contact the Secretary, Mary Cook.

Past YVBSG events

Our events this year started on 13 February 2025 with a tour of Calverley Old Hall led by Caroline Stanford, historian with the Landmark Trust. It was good to see the marvellous transformation of the building, which was recently joint winner of the annual Museums and Heritage Award for Restoration or Conservation Project of the Year. The restoration allows close views of the Hall's impressive features, including the much-publicised wall paintings, the decorative roof timbers, and detail such as tiny carvings on a tiebeam high up above ground floor level. We thank David Cant for arranging the visit; if you missed it, watch out for future open days at www.landmarktrust.org.uk/properties/calverley-old-hall.



Carving of flower on tiebeam
at Calverley Old Hall



Linenfold panelling at
Newlaithes Manor House

On 2 March 2025 we visited another West Riding house, Newlaithes Manor House in Horsforth. This complicated Grade II listed house, an aisled hall with later additions and alterations, had us all puzzled by its non-standard plan form. Again, many features of interest were evident, including the huge segmental-arched stone fireplace located in the aisle and the fine linenfold panelling. At the time of writing the house is up for sale, and details and photographs can be viewed on estate agent Adair Paxton's website. We thank Peter Thornborrow and Mark Womersley for showing us round the building.

From Newlaithes we went on to Kirkstall Abbey where a lintel with unusual joggled voussoirs caught our attention. Our thanks go to Sue Wrathmell for her guided tour of the impressive ruins.

15 March 2025 saw our annual day school, this year held in Halifax on the theme of *Vernacular Architecture of the South Pennines*. The talks were all excellent and the day was a success, despite having to find an alternative venue at short notice when the original venue closed down suddenly! We thank David Cant, Peter Thornborrow and the speakers for their efforts.

On the following day, Mark Womersley offered an introduction to traditional lime plastering, with hands-on activity. Those who attended enjoyed the event very much and we are grateful to Mark for running it.



Lintel at Kirkstall Abbey

Our most recent event was the annual recording conference on 9 to 11 May 2025, based in the Low Moor area to the south of Bradford. We recorded eight buildings: Carr House Farm, 159 Low Moor House, Moorside Farm, 8 Lightowler Street, 21 Bollard Buildings, 3 Sal Royd Road, 33 Brow Lane, and Sleepy Hollow. Summaries of these will be published in *Yorkshire Buildings* in due course. The Group was very pleased to be able to award four bursaries for the conference, three of which went to students from the University of York and one to a National Trust stonemason. We enjoyed their company and participation, and hope they found the experience useful! We thank David Cant, Gunhild Wilcock, Mary Twentyman and everybody else who contributed towards making this a successful weekend.

Prior to the conference, we visited Woodsome Hall near Huddersfield on 12 April 2025, carefully avoiding the golf balls flying across the golf course surrounding the building. The Hall is a splendid multi-period, grade I listed building, as can be seen from the photographs on page 1 which show some of the detail. It originated as a fortified settlement with moat and gatehouse, later built over. The current main timber-framed hall was probably built in around 1450-70, although no dendrochronology

has been carried out. Further extensions and alterations continued until the eighteenth century. In the grounds, the buildings pictured left provoked much discussion. The lower building on the left was a smithy, but the purpose of the timber-framed building is unknown. Was it a dovecote? A smoking or drying house? Few clues were visible inside, but the possibility of a more detailed recording in the future might throw some light on its function. We are grateful to Philip Sands for arranging and leading the visit.



Smithy and attached timber-framed building at Woodsome Hall

Wormald's Hall, Almondbury

As part of the Woodsome Hall visit, we also had an interesting walk around nearby Almondbury led by David Cant. We split into groups but only one group had access to Wormald's Hall on the day so Mark Womersley has kindly supplied these photographs for those who haven't seen the building (which incidentally is called Wormall's Hall in the listed building description).



Get well soon, Peter!

We're sorry to hear that our previous Chair, Peter Thornborrow, had a stroke in April and is currently in hospital. Despite a current partial paralysis, he remains optimistic for the future. We wish him all the very best for a speedy recovery and hope he is soon back on his feet again, exploring and enthusing about vernacular buildings in Yorkshire and elsewhere.

Datestone from a house in Shelf Woods, Halifax, West Yorkshire

At a local history event I got talking to a lovely gentleman about his links with Wyke and Norwood Green near Shelf. Imagine my surprise when he told me of an old datestone in his garden, and then his surprise when I asked if the date on it was 1688?

The datestone came from a house in Shelf Woods (known as Kester Hole or 'Robbers Cave') and was mentioned in a book written by local historian James Parker which recorded the inscription as 'E. B. 1688.' The houses burnt down in 1902 and some remains are still there today, but photographs show that the houses were Victorian rather than seventeenth century.

In my book *The Early History of Shelf* (2018), I suggested that the datestone would have come from the nearby house



Ox Heys which belonged to the Brooksbank family, although the initials 'E. B.' do not correspond to any known member of the family. Ox Heys seems to have been demolished in the Victorian period, around the time the houses in the woods were built. Maps show that the old house was likely a hall flanked by two wings. The Hearth Tax records that it had five hearths in 1665, and another one added by 1672. Other documents show that it was later divided into a farmhouse and three cottages with a large barn before it was demolished.

The datestone, when unearthed from its flowerbed, actually had the initials 'J. B.' This corresponds to a known member of the family, Jeremiah Brooksbank, who is known to have lived at Ox Heys and who appears as a 'baddie' in nonconformist minister Oliver Heywood's Diaries.

In 1678, Jeremiah made 'boasts and threatenings' that he would sue all that came to hear Heywood and an anonymous letter ensued which 'druve him into a bitter passion, and he vowed he would be avenged on them, whoever they were.' Jeremiah's brother James Brooksbank of Lower Ox Heys was one of Heywood's supporters. Heywood also records that Jeremiah Brooksbank was buried at Halifax on 10th May 1700 aged 55 years. The entry in the Halifax Parish Registers is smudged but confirms that Jeremiah was living in Shelf.

Sadly, Ox Heys (not to be confused with Middle or Lower Ox Heys) has long since been demolished but I think its datestone, removed from the house over a hundred years ago, has preserved a part of the history of this lost house.

Ben Stables

Looking for a restoration project?

An important medieval house in Horbury, Wakefield, has gone up for sale by auction. Horbury Hall is Grade I listed and has been dendro-dated to 1478; the listed building description states that it represents a very complete survival of a fifteenth century gentry house. Floorplans and photographs of the partially restored property (currently on Historic England's Buildings at Risk Register) can be found on the estate agent's

website at www.richardkendall.co.uk/properties-for-sale/property/3888-church-street-horbury-wakefield.

For more on the house, see DJH Michelmores and J Sugden, 'Horbury Hall, West Yorkshire' in Report of the Summer Meeting of the Royal Archaeological Institute at Wentworth in 1980, *Archaeological Journal* 137, p403-6, or C Giles, *Rural Houses of West Yorkshire 1400-1830* (1986) RCHME.

What roof timbers are really for ...

Ever wondered why some buildings have such a wealth of timbers? Our friends at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall in York suggest the following explanation:

"Did you know that in the Tudor period the Great Hall roof was used to dry clothes? The roof space was so large it provided enough room for everyone in York to use it and it was free! Ladders were provided for the highest levels which were reserved for pants."

You can find their post on the Merchant Adventurers' Hall Bluesky social media account. The date of the post was 1 April ...

More seriously, if you're ever in York and in need of refreshment, try a coffee and scone in the gardens of the Hall whilst admiring the exterior, or in winter sit inside the café and peruse the timbers of the undercroft.



Photo by Merchant Adventurers' Hall

An unusual roof structure for an eighteenth century house

A YVBSG team is recording Denby House in Minskip, near Boroughbridge. From the outside, the house has the appearance and features of a typical mid eighteenth century brick house with three cells, two storeys and a string course, although the central stack above the lobby entry and the raised brick copings at each gable were removed during alterations in 1978.

On entering the attic, our initial impression was that the roof timbers were older than the rest of the house. The attic space comprises a single room divided by light partitions. The roof structure is formed of three principal rafter trusses with collars and tiebeams, and with curved braces between principal rafters and collars. The trusses support double through-purlins to each roof pitch, carrying common rafters which are hidden behind plaster ceilings.

There are straight raking struts between the tiebeams and the principal rafters. These struts are probably later additions, with nailed or bolted lap joints. An unusual feature of the roof trusses is that the principal rafters are not morticed and tenoned into the tiebeams, but are offset and connected by separate timber 'knee' or 'elbow' pieces, bolted through into tiebeam and principal rafter.

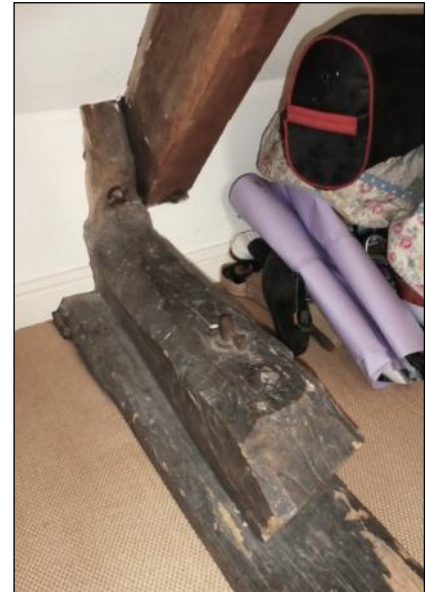
Somewhat surprisingly, recent dendrochronology has revealed that samples from the truss blades, braces

and collars suggest a felling date of 1743-1764 for these timbers. This archaic looking truss structure is therefore an eighteenth century construction, using oak timbers in a traditional manner. Was there a reluctance by local carpenters to use imported pine, which must have been available at this time, imported into Boroughbridge, and to retain traditional carpentry techniques?

How to explain the offset tiebeams and principal rafters? The use of timber 'elbows' bolted to tiebeams and principals suggests that the upper structure of mid-eighteenth date was added to an earlier structure, of which only the tiebeams remained. Frustratingly, the tiebeams could not be dated by dendrochronology.

Was an earlier timber-framed building encased by later brickwork, and an earlier roof structure then replaced by the archaic form of the present roof? While a reused timber was noted as a post, no evidence was found for an earlier timber-framed structure. However, a ground floor ceiling beam was found to have been felled between 1470 and 1475.

A comment on the photo from social media suggested that lowering the tiebeam would have increased

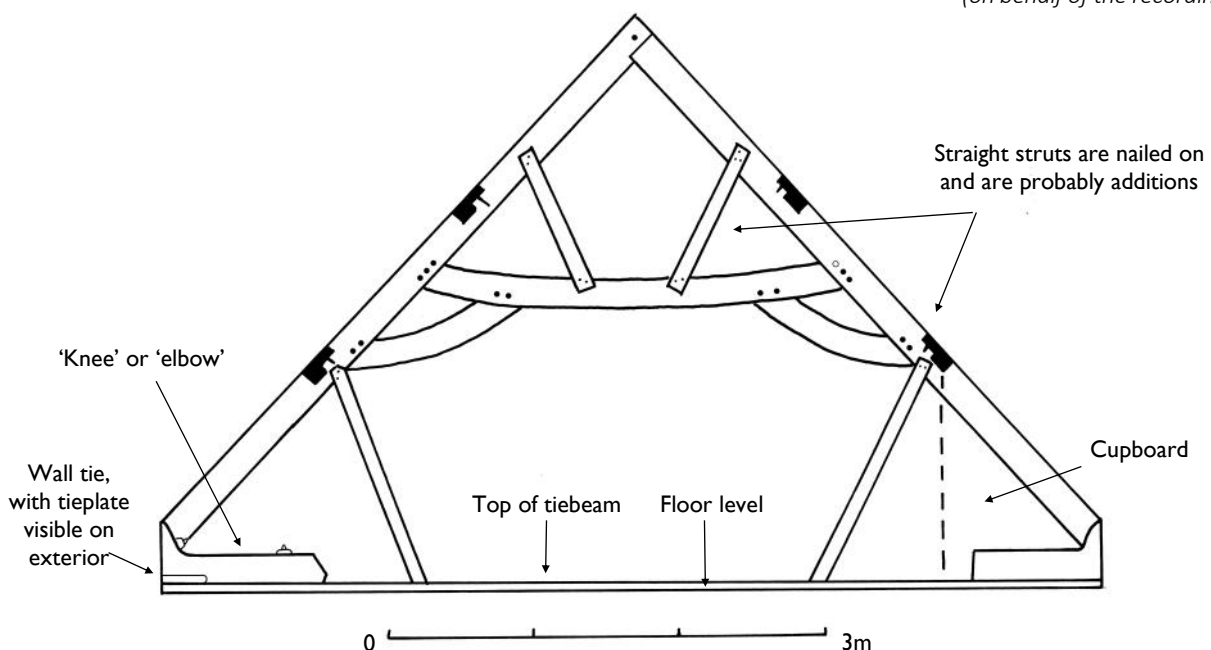


The 'elbow' sitting on the tiebeam, with principal rafter alongside it.

headroom, and also that it looks like part of a ship (but we're not proposing that these are ships' timbers!). Thoughts on the roof structure would be welcome.

A fascinating photograph dated 6 June 1935 showing a woman working at a loom in the Denby House attic can be found online at www.mediastorehouse.co.uk/memory-lane-prints/mirror/1000to1099-01042/scene-minskip-near-boroughbridge-21775150.html.

Tony Robinson, editor@yvbsg.org.uk
Lorraine Moor, newsheet@yvbsg.org.uk
(on behalf of the recording team)



Encounters with old buildings

Little Langton Grange

It was the run up to Christmas 1993 and I was looking forward to a quiet day in the office. Then the phone rang: 'They are pulling down Little Langton Grange, taking out great pieces of timber'.

Little Langton Grange lay a few miles west of Northallerton, close to the River Swale. It was not a listed building or scheduled monument, and was not in a conservation area, so while no formal consent for demolition was needed, a rapid site visit was required.

Demolition had been paused after the rear outshot had been pulled down, along with the eastern gable end of the former farmhouse. The brick south elevation remained largely intact, and at the west end embedded in the brickwork was a stone buttress and part of a stone gable. This was obviously the remains of a much older building than the partly demolished eighteenth century farmhouse, and the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England (based in York and not then part of English Heritage) was asked to investigate.



South elevation of part-demolished house



Remains of buttress at SW corner

Meanwhile, attempts were made to have what remained of the buildings 'spot listed' as a building of special architectural or historic interest. While this process was underway, demolition work was halted.

Adam Menuge and RCHME colleagues carried out a rapid survey and produced a report and floor plans (plans available online at historicengland.org.uk/images-books/photos/item/ME002181 and historicengland.org.uk/images-books/photos/item/ME002344). The report showed that the earliest phase was a fourteenth century stone building, possibly associated with Jervaux Abbey, which held land at Little Langton.

The west gable survived substantially intact, encased between an attached barn and a substantial internal kitchen fire. The gable incorporated a central trefoil-headed lancet window with arrised reveals, the height of the window probably indicating that the building was originally single storey and open to the roof.

In the early seventeenth century, the west gable was raised in stone and a timber-framed first floor was added, with a timber-framed east gable, the building functioning as a house at least from this time. The frame consisted of four full bays with a short bay against the west gable. The trusses were numbered I-V from the west and consisted of a tie beam, principal rafters and a collar, carrying two pairs of trencled purlins. At the time of survey,

trusses I-III remained in situ, while the numbered tie beam of truss IIII was found discarded some thirty metres east of the building, and the end truss V was found fallen against the east gable.

On the ground floor, the early seventeenth century house appears to have consisted of a central housebody (possibly with a smoke hood against a stone wall on the west side), a kitchen to the west with a large brick stack on the gable blocking the



Demolished rear outshot showing timber framing



17th century mullioned window and stonework in demolished rear outshot

medieval window, and with an unheated parlour at the eastern end. There was some evidence for a former two-storey structure, timber-framed in part, projecting north of the east end.

In the early eighteenth century the south elevation was rebuilt in brick, and around 1800 a two-storey rear outshot containing service rooms and a stair was built. This had been largely demolished at the time of survey, although the early twentieth century single-storey extension at the east end survived.

The attempt to get the building listed did not succeed, although we were told that it had been taken to 'the very highest level'. However, somewhat surprisingly, the building still survives, patched up and used as a farm building.

Tony Robinson, editor@yvbsg.org.uk

A mason in a window

Whilst walking around Calverley village during the recent recording conference, David Cant spotted this Victorian window at St Wilfrid's Church showing a stonemason at work.



Publications

Drystone: a gathering of terminology and technique by Nick Aitken. Rymour Books, April 2025, around £35 hardback. A detailed study of dry stone walling around the world.

VAG Bibliography

The online version of the Bibliography of the Vernacular Architecture Group has recently been updated. The Bibliography contains over 12,500 references from four main sources: papers in journals, papers in edited volumes such as conference proceedings, books, and online resources. It may be browsed by subject area or searched. To access the Bibliography and all the other VAG databases, see the VAG website at www.vag.org.uk/databases.htm.

Local Heritage Hub

Historic England has just launched its new Local Heritage Hub, which invites you to explore hidden histories for every county, district, city and major town across England, each of which has a dedicated digital page that uncovers aspects of its history. A search for a particular location might give you a timeline, aerial photographs, listed buildings, historic photographs, stories related to the heritage of the area, and more. Have a browse at historicengland.org.uk/local.

North Yorkshire tithe maps online

A wonderful new website, *North Yorkshire Tithe Maps*, has been launched by North Yorkshire Archives (the new name of the North Yorkshire County Record Office). Tithe maps, and their accompanying apportionments, are a valuable resource for researching building history. On this website, you will find high-resolution images of the tithe maps held by North Yorkshire Archives overlaid on modern maps alongside fully searchable, and downloadable, copies of the accompanying data from the tithe apportionments. To date, 300 of the 370+ tithe apportionments held at the Record Office have been transcribed with the help of a volunteer group established in April 2020. Visit the site at northyorkstithes.com.

A lamentable loss

In Newsheet 107, June 2022, we reported that a small timber-framed building in Stainforth near Doncaster (historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1314797), which we had spotted during a previous South Yorkshire recce and which was being used as a vehicle workshop, had been damaged by a fire and that its future was uncertain. The building was a rare survival in that area and although we made enquiries at the time, we did not manage to record it. Very sadly it has now recently been reported in the press that the building was demolished by Doncaster Council late last year, allegedly without any kind of listed building consent or process. It appears that Historic England was not notified or consulted, and no archaeological survey was ordered. The building has already been replaced by a breeze block workshop.



Funding secured for restoration of Settle buildings

The Folly in Settle has received almost £798,500 from Arts Council England. This was announced in February 2025. There was also an article in the Craven Herald newspaper. It means that trustees will be able to complete decades-long repairs of the Grade I listed building, which is home to the Museum of North Craven Life and the award-winning café (thefolly.org.uk). The Folly has been owned by the North Craven Building Preservation Trust since 1996. In 2010 the north range was acquired by the Trust.

Work will include all outstanding structural repairs such as re-roofing, the pointing of outside walls and insulating roof spaces. Lime plaster will be reinstated and redecorated using traditional materials and once finished, the museum's collections will be fully protected. The Folly will close in 2026, but the café will stay open. The museum will reopen in 2027 for its 50th anniversary.



Dr Buck's House, Settle



YVBSG members visiting The Folly, Settle, in 2011

Another house acquired by the Trust in August 2023 is the former NatWest Bank building in Settle Market Place, which closed in 2017. Known as Dr Buck's House, this former Georgian merchant house of c1787 has been empty for several years. Dr Charles W Buck (1851-1932) was a local GP and lifelong friend of the composer Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934). Around £350,000 is needed for a complete restoration of the listed Grade 2 building, which will include three new apartments on the upper floors.

In 2018, the trustees of Zion Chapel gifted the former Zion Independent Congregational Chapel and Sunday School Hall in Upper Settle to the NCBPT. Planning permission for change to residential use was not given, meaning that a buyer could not be found. The chapel, dated 1816, is listed Grade 2. More information about all three NCBPT buildings can be found on the website of The Folly.

At the YVBSG Conference Review Day on 25 September 2011 we had a guided tour of The Folly. Admission is presently free for everyone.

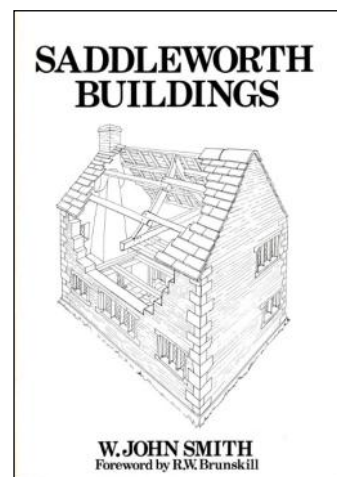
Kevin Illingworth

The W John Smith Archive at Saddleworth Museum

Members might be familiar with the work of W John Smith, a former YVBSG member and author of *Saddleworth Buildings* (1987), who also gave a Manchester University extra mural course in Saddleworth in the 1970s. John died in March 2016 at the age of 87, and Saddleworth Museum tell us that a collection of his work comprising notes, his own photographs and documents was given by his estate to the Museum and was accessioned in June 2024. It includes files on individual properties.

The Museum is keen that its archives are known and used. The full contents of the W John Smith archive have not yet been published on the Museum's website (which can be found at www.saddleworthmuseum.co.uk) but we have made available a copy of the archive listing on the Members' Area of the YVBSG website for a while.

Please contact the Museum on curator@saddleworthmuseum.co.uk if you have any queries about the archive.



From the archive: Helmsley

Helmsley is a busy market town located near the southern edge of the North York Moors at the confluence of the River Rye and the Borough Beck. It has a long history and its story includes the adaptation and improvement of many seventeenth century longhouses. The YVBSG has recorded some ten buildings in the town and the reports can be found in our online archive.

Helmsley has also been studied by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England: see *Houses of the North York Moors* (1987), RCHME. If you can find a copy, a leaflet *Helmsley – the story of a town* by Paul Barnwell, Paul Everson and Ian Goodall, with graphics by Allan Adams, was published by English Heritage in 2004 but annoyingly seems to be no longer available.

Lorraine Moor



Rectory Manor House (YVBSG 0028). Hall and cross wing plan, separately framed. Service wing replaced by a Georgian house. Herringbone framing probably 16th century, style not local to this area.



Canons' Garth (YVBSG 0024). An important multi-phase building dating back to 1283, incorporating an open hall, base cruck trusses, passing braces and crown posts.



Thorpe's Cottage, 5 Market Place (YVBSG 0026). Built as a timber-framed house, probably of two storeys and three bays with central passage. The building is comparable with 1 Bridge Street.



1 & 2 Buckingham Place (YVBSG 0025). Two adjoining and unequal houses, with an original core of a two-roomed house with later additions. Long range at rear.



38 Bondgate (YVBSG 0121). A cross passage house with three internal well-made crucks. Central chimney stack now missing. Former bakehouse with large ovens built against outside of wall.



1 Bridge Street (YVBSG 0023). Central passage with main living room to left and smaller unheated room, the shop, to right. The building is similar to Thorpe's Cottage but it is not clear whether it has a timber frame.



Ryedale House, 41 Bridge Street (YVBSG 0088). Three-storey house with cellars, said to have been the New Inn since 1814. Previously the site was occupied by the Olde Inn. Building to left was formerly a beerhouse, and perhaps a coach house. At the back, a square tower of unknown purpose.



22 Ryegate (YVBSG 0109). Originally a single-storey cruck-framed hearth passage house. On the ground floor there are two parlours back and front, a housebody, the cross-passage and beyond it a dairy and scullery, perhaps formerly a cow-house or stable.



22 High Street (YVBSG 0100). Seems to have been designed as a traditional single-storey cruck farmhouse with cross passage. Later raised, rebuilt to left and extended at rear.



Old Manor House (YVBSG 0027). A timber-framed range, probably 17th century, presenting twin gables to the street, with a stone range to the left which has been used as farm buildings but was originally domestic.

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.

Calderdale Heritage Walks

Several walks might be of interest, including Northowram Central Village Walk on 22 June, Outlaws and Nuns on 28 and 29 June, and Dobroyd Castle on 13 July 2025. Full details at calderdaleheritagewalks.org.uk.

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

As always, the YDNPA is offering a range of walks and other activities, including a Hawes and Gayle town trail on 17 June 2025, a guided geology walk from Hawes on 15 July 2025, a Hawes Town Trail on 22 July 2025, a Hawes Rural Heritage Walk on 5 August 2025, and more. For details, see www.yorkshiredales.org.uk.

Medieval Masons Marks Tour

Saturday 7 June 2025

Fishergate Postern Tower in York is unusual in having so many Medieval masons' marks – 81 of them to date. Hear current expert opinion and view them with torches on a guided tour, then watch a stonemason cut a mark. Book via yorkfestivalofideas.com/2025.

Open Farm Sunday

Sunday 8 June 2025

Annual event when farms are open to the public. The cruck barn at New Hall Farm, Ardsley, South Yorkshire, will be open, as are two seventeenth century farms in the Lune Valley and Wood End Farm in Dunsop Bridge. farmsunday.org.

Tickhill Castle Annual Open Day

Sunday 8 June 2025

The castle is open only on one day a year. 2pm to 4pm, £5. Details at www.visitdoncaster.com/whats-on/heritage/tickhill-castle-annual-open-day.

Queen Anne up front, Mary Ann behind – the buildings of Malton, Norton and Old Malton

Thursday 19 June 2025

A talk by architectural historian Simon Green, 7pm at the Assembly Room, Malton. £10, book via Malton Museum, www.maltonmuseum.co.uk.

Burn Marks in Historic Buildings: Accident or Ritual?

Wednesday 2 July 2025

A talk by James Wright by Zoom for the Folklore Centre in Todmorden. Have you ever noticed tear-shaped scorch marks on timbers in historic buildings? This talk suggests that such marks are intended to bring good luck and avert evil. 7pm, £5.13. Book via www.folkloremythmagic.com.

Open Gardens

Often a good way to look at buildings! 37 villages in Yorkshire will have an Open Gardens event in June and July, especially in Addingham, Austwick, Gargrave, Luddenden, Shelley, Shipley, and Upper Hopton near Mirfield. www.opengardens.co.uk.

Scarecrow Festivals

Another way to get close to buildings! Opportunities are Trawden Scarecrow and Garden Festival on 5-6 July 2025, Kettlewell Scarecrow Festival on 9-17 August 2025, Higham Scarecrow Festival (Pendle) on 23-25 August 2025, or Norland Scarecrow Festival on 5-7 September 2025.

Traditional Buildings in and around North-East Lancashire

Wednesday 16 July 2025

A talk by Kevin Illingworth to Pendle Forest History Group, 7.30pm at Barley Village Hall (Pendle). Enquiries: see their Facebook page or telephone Wendy Stansfield on 01282 696646.

Festival of Archaeology

19 July to 3 August 2025

This year's festival is on the theme *Archaeology and Wellbeing*. Details at www.archaeologyuk.org/festival.html.

Swaledale Barn Walk

Sunday 20 July 2025

Learn about Upper Swaledale's iconic field barns and their part in the history of agriculture in the Dale. 10am to 2.30pm, £7.50. Book via keld.org.uk.

Sinnington Village

Sunday 20 July 2025

A guided afternoon walk around this interesting village organised by the North York Moors National Park. For details of this and other walks, visit www.northyorkmoors.org.uk.

Buildings in the Landscape in Pen & Wash

Tuesday 22 or Wednesday 23 July 2025

A workshop with artist John Harrison at Hare Hill Barn, Cartmel Fell, Cumbria. £75. See drawninyorkshire.com.

Lesser-known Vernacular Buildings open to the public

Tuesday 9 September 2025

A talk by Kevin Illingworth to Ryburn Valley History Society, 7.30pm at The Ripponden Club, 212 Halifax Road, Ripponden HX6 4BG. www.facebook.com/groups/879719096808975/.

History of Yorkshire Conference

Saturday 1 November 2025

The Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society's second History Conference will be held in York – programme available later. Any historians of Yorkshire who would like to speak are invited to get in touch with the conference organiser, Richard Hoyle, at r.w.hoyle@reading.ac.uk. Of especial interest would be papers on the eighteenth and nineteenth century Yorkshire town, its townscape, industries, politics and civic institutions.

Next Newsletter

The next Newsheet will be in August 2025 – please send any contributions to the editor at newsheet@yvbsg.org.uk by 31 July 2025. 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!

Chair: David Cant, 3 Middle Hathershelf, Luddendenfoot, Halifax HX2 6JQ, enquiries@yvbsg.org.uk

Secretary: Mary Cook, 34 Porter Close, Durham DH1 5ZL, secretary@yvbsg.org.uk or enquiries@yvbsg.org.uk

Membership Secretary: Pat Leggett, 11 Lonsdale Meadows, Boston Spa, West Yorks LS23 6DQ, membership-secretary@yvbsg.org.uk

Treasurer: Jan Goode, treasurer@yvbsg.org.uk

Archivist: David Cook, 34 Porter Close, Durham DH1 5ZL, archivist@yvbsg.org.uk

Yorkshire Buildings Editorial Team: Tony Berry, Tony Robinson, Beth Shurter, editor@yvbsg.org.uk

Newsletter, Web and Social Media: Lorraine Moor, 102 Queen Victoria Street, South Bank, York YO23 1HN, newsheet@yvbsg.org.uk