



NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2026

Welcome message

Hello everyone, and a very warm welcome to the 2026 edition of the Yorkshire Branch newsletter. Is it just me, or does the time seem to go little faster each year? It is such a pleasure to reflect on what the branch has managed to achieve this year and to thank you, our members for all you bring to the community. So thank you if you supported a meeting, attended a site visit, hosted an event or contributed in any way. Without you our branch simply cannot function. Please keep posting and engaging with our social media or just generally supported us.

In this newsletter we review the 2025 AGM in Bradford, report on solar panels in York and review a recent lime seminar.

The AGM 2026 details are in this newsletter please try to attend if you can. Bring along suggestion for activities for next year so we can really continue to bring members together and learn from each other. It is our key strength. We do encourage members to get involved in running – so please feel free to join in with running the society – we can offer non-portfolio roles if you want to get involved but want to test the waters first.

Liz Laycock
Editor, IHBC Yorkshire Branch Newsletter

Upcoming branch events

YORKSHIRE BRANCH AGM – SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER

We would very much like you to join us for the **IHBC Yorkshire Branch AGM and training day** that will take place on **Saturday 10th October 2026 in Goole**.

Goole is celebrating its bicentenary, having started its life as the Company Town and Port of Goole. Goole, as a settlement, dates back to the c.17th century, following the draining of Hatfield Chase by Dutch Engineer Cornelius Vermuyden. In 1826 the Aire and Calder Navigation opened a new 'Company' Town and Docks at the terminus of the Knottingley-Goole Canal. The Company Town featured grand Georgian Terraces, but following nationalization and post-war regeneration only fragments of the historic town remain. The former Company Town does however retain one of England's oldest purpose-built hotels, Georgian shop joinery, a Georgian Lock-Up and former early Victorian public rooms.

IHBC Yorkshire Branch Newsletter Autumn 2026



The day will include a talk on the history of the town and a walking tour of former Company Town and Docks.

We will also be offering a talk in the morning by Sian Anthony of York Archaeology entitled: *'From scruffy jumpers to PPE. The evolution of professional archaeology and how it can benefit other disciplines.'*

AGM – The AGM is an essential part of the day as we will review the past year and vote in committee members for the next year. If you are interested in taking part, please do get in contact. The AGM is a small part of the day and still allows plenty of time for the training opportunities.

Tickets are free for IHBC members and otherwise £25.

To secure tickets and find out more, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ihbc-yorkshire-agm-tickets>

This is a great opportunity to meet the committee and other attendees – we hope to see you there.

IHBC CPD LISTINGS AND NOTIFICATIONS

If members opt in, you will be sent notifications by central IHBC on events – Listings for CPD and events can be found on the IHBC website: [Upcoming Events \(ihbc.org.uk\)](https://www.ihbc.org.uk/upcoming-events)

Therefore, please do notify IHBC central office of any changes to your email address so that all notifications are received.

Past branch events

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YORKSHIRE BRANCH AGM – SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2025: BRADFORD

Our AGM last year was held in Bradford, with event being held in the De Lacy Centre within the grounds of Bradford Cathedral. After the AGM, Dave Chetwyn, Managing Director of Urban Vision Enterprise and IHBC Secretary and Communications Chair gave us an interesting talk on design and placemaking in historic areas, including elements such as design policy & codes, legislation, policy and guidance, understanding context, housing growth and high streets.

After lunch we headed out, led by the entertaining Nigel Grizzard, who is a Heritage Guide for Little Germany and Bradford Centre. Little Germany is an area of the city linked to the migration of Jewish-German merchants in the 19th century, drawn by the trade resulting from Bradford's manufacturing of worsteds, mixed fabrics and silks. This resulted in an area full of warehouse buildings of largely neoclassical style with rich architectural detailing. The area is a conservation area and 55 of the 85 buildings within are listed.

A selection of building types and details:



IHBC Yorkshire Branch Newsletter Autumn 2026



Taking a rest at the Grandad's Clock and Chair sculpture, located on the corner of Chapel Street and Peckover Street – created in 1992 by Timonthy Shutter as an interpretation of a mill owner's office.

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Article

Lime Finishes - notes from 'What's the Point 2: Lime finishes in a changing climate symposium (led by the Lime Finishes Group, 14th April 2026)

By Emma Gibbens

On a sunny day in April, myself and other colleagues from North York Council attended the Building Lime Finishes Group annual conference in York. This was focused on the evidence that many historic buildings were originally rendered but that over time they have lost their lime finishes, changing their appearance and technical qualities.

You may be aware of the recent case of the Church of St Oswalds in Askrigg, Yorkshire Dales National Park. Here, a decision was taken to render the church tower due to on-going damp issues.

On the face of it, this seemed like a massive departure from the local character of the both the building itself and the village, but looking closer (and with knowledge from the course), it is clear that the intervention was not altogether as 'out there' as it seemed on initial viewing. It certainly will become an interesting case study.



Above: Photo of Church of St Oswalds in Askrigg with rendered tower. © Peter Schofield 26.04.2025, accessible at <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1301613>

Where's the evidence? Evidence presented shows that many stone buildings were coated in render and/or limewash. This includes both high status buildings such as castles and churches and the buildings that make

IHBC Yorkshire Branch Newsletter Autumn 2026

up our local vernacular. Evidence of this can be seen on the masonry in many cases. Evidence can be found across the country and also the world. Consideration is also required of timber framed buildings.

Evidence for the existence of exterior lime finishes may be found through:

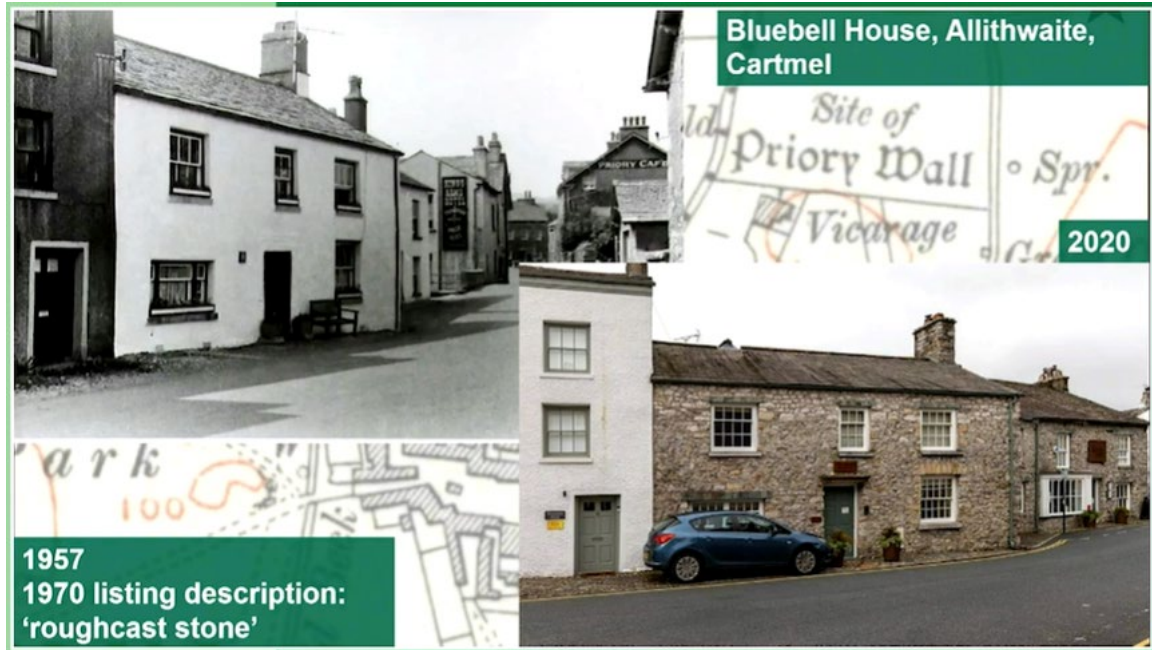
- Physical evidence (patch remnant of finishes on stones or in the joints where the tops of the stone have been exposed through weathering). If not found on external elevations, it may be found hidden behind later additions.
- Old photos and artwork.
- Documentary evidence (such as inventories of works carried out).
- Contextual knowledge.



Left: Example of what the evidence of an historic lime finish may look like on inspection. Image taken from the presentation slides of the talk by Maria-Elena Calderon of Historic England.

Archival evidence also assists – several examples of records of historic accounts mention the application of lime finishes to specific buildings. Another example is the Red Box archive – resulting from the national buildings record formed in 1941 as a response to WWII bombing and including the Royal Commission recordings of the 20th century. This was closed to new material in 1991 and is now digitised.

An example was given in the talk about the Red Box archive by Abigail Lloyd, University of Nottingham. This example clearly shows the archive evidence of a lime finish, with survey carried out in 2020 as a comparison. It appears that the eaves were raised, which no doubt was intended to be concealed by the render.



Above: Extract from the talk – ‘What can the Red Boxes tell us? A survey of historical finishes in Cumbria’ by Abigail Lloyd. Accessible via the link at the end of the article.

Why have the lime finishes been lost? The external finishes have been lost over time due to:

- Unintentional deterioration due to lack of renewal.
- Intentional removal due to changing fashions – this is particularly thought to have been led by Ruskin and Pugin in the 19th century due to their views on render wrongly hiding the beauty of the material behind (leading to the ‘scraping off’ of finishes). This coincides with the fascination in the beauty of the ruin. This fashion in itself may have driven the increase in the lack of renewal.

How were lime finishes applied? Evidence suggests the lime render was thinly applied, often in one and sometimes two coats, with limewash over. Renders were lime rich, for example, maybe just lime and hair, but it is also common for harling to have been used. This challenges the established 3 coat system commonly used today where a smooth surface is usually seen as desirable.

Whilst on more modest buildings, the finish was simply applied all over, in some cases, stone door/window surrounds may be left exposed; in higher status buildings, fine stone dressings may have been left exposed as part of the intentional design. In some cases, the application of a lime finish was used to highlight the status of a building, for example a castle keep. However, some buildings have never been rendered, for example, those designed intentionally with exposed architectural patterns or detailing and those from the Victorian age onwards.

What about timber framed buildings?

Timber framed buildings also show evidence of having been lime finished. Whilst the exposed timbers of such buildings are seen as the norm and characterises their appearance now, this was not always necessarily the case. The Tudor Revival of the earlier 20th century no doubt assisted in this fashion. Whilst some higher status buildings may have decorative framing that was intended to be seen, other buildings were covered with a lime finish for weather protection. This was often in the form of a lime finish over laths. Evidence can be found in the form of lath nails or holes on timbers, bands of mortar remaining in sheltered locations and chop marks on timbers to form a key for the render. It is important to remember

than when a timber framed building was remodelled, render was then applied as a unifying finish to hide the underlying changes and therefore this forms part of the history of the building. Lime finishes on timber framed buildings is a little understood area compared to stone.

There are some cases where brick buildings were also covered in a lime finish but much less so than stone.

What does this all mean?

- The established character of places with buildings of exposed stone is not necessarily historically authentic. An example is the Lake District where the prevalence of exposed stone is becoming seen as the defining character of the area, but where in fact buildings were traditionally rendered.
- The loss of lime finishes has increased the need for repointing of joints, which then results in a different appearance.
- Practitioners need to be aware of the possibility of a building's past appearance when considering changes to the external walling – for example, proposals for removing a cement render (which is seen as inappropriate) to reveal the masonry behind may not be the correct approach as the reinstatement of a lime finish may be more authentic.
- Buildings archaeologists should look for evidence of lime finishes as standard (something not necessarily taking place as standard currently).
- The condition of buildings with removed lime finishes can be affected as the lime coating provided protection from weathering and formed part of the overall system for water management in the structure. This is often seen in church towers where the finish has been removed and damp conditions then prevail – reinstating the finish may be the best way to resolve the issues (i.e. the Askrigg example).
- In the current climate emergency era, the increase in rainfall and extreme weather events makes the need for buildings to perform more important –reinstatement of lime finishes can assist with this. Further, the provision of lime finishes is a sustainable way of improving building performance.
- The reinstatement of a lime finish where a building has been exposed masonry for some time will very likely challenge the established character of a place and therefore may be met with reluctance, both from professionals and local residents. Therefore, more work is needed to educate.
- Because this is a relatively unknown issue, it makes sourcing funding difficult.

The view of SPAB (who presented on the day) in decision making on whether to replace an external lime finish is a useful summary of the factors that need to be considered:

- The presence of physical evidence of past finishes (their presence and also the technical make-up of the past finish).
- A thorough understanding of why the intervention is required (for example, fabric deterioration/dampness).
- Consideration of whether the building in its 'naked' form has acquired significance.
- Contextual judgement.

Note:

The above is an interpretation / summary of the main points that the author took away from attending the event – to see the full content of the presentations given, please view them here:

[What's the Point? 2: Lime finishes in a changing climate symposium | Historic England](#)

Other news

YORK MINSTER PV PANELS

Back in our Autumn 2023 newsletter we reported on the granting of planning permission of a Photovoltaic panel array to be installed on the south side of the quire roof (ref. 22/02392/FUL). The panels have now been installed and scaffolding removed – if you haven't seen them, we thought it would be useful to include a photo of one of the most visible views of the installation.

As reported in the York Press on 24th August this year, the Government's Climate Transition Minister Katie White visited the installation of 184 PV panels in the preceding week, showing support for the increasing use of solar power across the region – the article reports that 'around 9,700 solar panels, enough to power 16,300 homes, were installed across Yorkshire and the Humber in the first half of 2026 compared to 9,300 the year before.'



*Left: Viewing looking north east along Stonegate towards York Minster.
Image by Emma Gibbens*

IHBC'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

The IHBC will be celebrating it's 30th anniversary next year!

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IHBC Yorkshire Branch Newsletter Autumn 2026

You may have seen the recent email, but if not, you may wish to comment on the IHBC's 'Corporate Plan 2026-30' ('CP30') – this summarises the future plans and strategy. The deadline is 30th October 2026.

The consultation copy of CP30 can be found via this link: [GROWING CHARTER COMPLIANCE](#)
And responses can be made via this link: [CONSULTATION ON IHBC CORPORATE PLAN 2026-2030](#)

IHBC PETITION FOR CHARTER – UPDATE

The current issue of the branch committee bulletin provides an update:

'Final approval for the IHBC to submit a Petition for Charter came from the Privy Council Office (PCO) just 12 months ago... Of course any decision on an application for Charter remains subject to agreement on the principle and texts by our voting members at a future General Meeting, hopefully in 2027, following full consultation with members on the draft and detailed consideration of any material issues arising in that process.'

Since that formal approval, head office have been very busy on the Charter texts, the suite of documents that will serve as our new constitutional control, standards and guide, replacing our current Articles. The key document, the Charter document itself, alongside the underpinning Byelaws, will be, primarily, a re-organisation of our existing Articles (which will need tidying-up). Charter documentation will also include a set of 'Regulations', to frame more detailed processes of governance. The work continues.

Information can be found here: [IHBC Petition for Charter](#)

Membership and committee matters

SUMMARY OF CURRENT ELECTED MEMBERS

Chair	Liz Laycock Professor of Stone Conservation, Sheffield Hallam University
Secretary	Emma Gibbens IHBC Heritage Consultant, Wolds Heritage Consultancy
Treasurer	Eric Carter IHBC Chartered Building Surveyor at NPS Leeds
Branch Representative	David Houlby Associate Director, CBP Architects
Membership Secretary	Eric Carter IHBC Chartered Building Surveyor at NPS Leeds
North Yorkshire Representative	Stephen Gandolfi Director, Borgo Heritage
East Yorkshire Representative	Stephen Walker Principal Conservation Officer, Hull City Council
South Yorkshire Representative	Ruth Masood Principal Development Officer, City Regeneration and Major Projects, Sheffield City Council
West Yorkshire Representative	Victoria Flintoff Building Conservation Manager, English Heritage

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IHBC Yorkshire Branch Newsletter Autumn 2026

Events Secretaries	Tom Bromet Accredited Conservation Architect, Donald Insall Associates Alison Montgomery Heritage Consultant, Donald Insall Associates
Newsletter Editor	Liz Laycock Professor of Stone Conservation, Sheffield Hallam University
Branch Media Officers	Illan Santos Senior Designer and Conservationist, Heritage & Conservation Architecture, Arup
Non-portfolio	Clare Chapman Closed Churches Case Officer - North East Region, Church Commissioners for England

For a summary of the roles and responsibilities of the committee members, or if you are interested in joining the branch committee, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the branch secretary yorkshiresecretary@ihb.org.uk

Future Newsletters

Can you help? We are looking for articles and contributions for the next edition of the newsletter. If you have any ideas for future articles or discussion topics you would like to share with members in future newsletters, please get in touch via yorkshiresecretary@ihbc.org.uk

IHBC Yorkshire Branch Newsletter Autumn 2026