

# Strolling around Selside

On Sunday 2 July, as part of the 1995 Annual Conference, we were given a guided tour of Selside, a small hamlet two miles north of Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Our guide was Hilary Fenten, who lives in Selside.

After a day during which we had been largely confined to recording the exteriors of houses, it was quite a treat to be shown inside two enigmatic houses.

**Top Farm**, set low into the hillside at the north end of the hamlet, is a long four-room house, with a fine display of four-light mullioned windows on the front elevation, and a doorhead inscribed IH 1726. The rear elevation was liberally scattered with mullioned windows displaying various types of splay and section, indicative of reuse or different phases of development. The house end featured an especially fine carved stone fire surround with a two-metre long lintel and a heavy cornice.

On to a field barn at **Selside Farm**, with a large king-post truss roof and projecting cart entrance bay. The sawn and bolted roof structure suggested a 19th century date, and inscribed graffiti on the door dated 1831 and 1836 seemed to confirm this. At the rear there was a later extension for a covered muck midden, dated CGR 1894, and at each gable end of the main building there were sets of booses and boskins similar in design to those seen previously by some of the group at Brackenbottom.

Our final call was at **Shaws Farm**, or The Shaws, the home of Hilary and Wilf Fenten. This house reputedly dated from 1680 (the central part) with a 19th century extension at one end, and a further extension to the other end, believed to have been used as a milking parlour.

The front door was graced by an added 18th century porch, lettered JJ 1738, and clearly reused from elsewhere. The stone pedimented and pilastered porch sat uneasily on this vernacular Dales farmhouse, as did the carved two-panel 17th century door also brought from elsewhere. The staircase too, with its fat turned balusters of apparent 17th century date, was believed to come from another building.

The biggest surprise lay in the roof, where reversed and cut down cruck posts had been refashioned and reused. Clearly, this was a house worthy of more detailed inspection in the future, and our thanks must go to Hilary and Wilf for their enthusiastic help in the exploration of their home and hamlet.

Tony Robinson

*Not correct in many details!*

The Shaws

