

Yorkshire Philosophical Society, The Lodge, Museum Gardens, York, YO1 7DR
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Registered Charity No: 529709 An affiliated society of the British Science Association

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

Welcome to our October Newsletter. By the time you read this our lecture programme will be well underway and the glorious late-September weather which heralded our first lecture of the series will probably be a fading memory.

Members with longer memories who attended the AGM in May will recall that the decision to appoint the Independent Examiner for 2012 was deferred while further consideration took place. We therefore begin with an announcement of a Special General Meeting and hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend and will come along early before that evening's lecture.

You should find the following with your Newsletter. If anything is missing, please contact Frances at The Lodge (open on Mondays and Wednesdays all day and on Fridays in the morning only).

- Invitation to Winter Social
- York Bibliographical Society programme
- Subscription renewal reminder (for members who do not pay by Standing Order)

Announcement

A Special General Meeting

of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society

will take place at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 15th November 2011 (before the lecture)

in the Tempest Anderson Hall of the Yorkshire Museum, York

for the purpose of approving the Independent Examiner for 2012

All members are invited to attend

Subscription Renewals

This is also the time of year when we have to ask for a renewal of your subscription, due on January 1st. Members who pay by cheque or in cash will find a renewal form enclosed with this newsletter. We would be very grateful if you could return this as soon as possible so that your membership cards can be included in the January/February mailing.

If there is no renewal form in your envelope, this means that you either pay by Standing Order or have already paid up to the end of 2012. You need do nothing, and your membership card will come to you automatically with the next Newsletter. Please don't hesitate to contact Frances at The Lodge if you wish to alter the amount of your Standing Order (to change to a different category of membership, for example) or if you have any questions about your membership or subscription payments.

Events News

Christmas Social

Start your celebrations of the Festive Season with the YPS Christmas Social, on December 2nd in St Olave's Hall. The application form is enclosed - please make sure you return it in good time, as places are limited.

2012 Social Calendar

We are planning an exciting program of short visits, day trips, and three of Alan Owen's popular multi-day holidays. An outline is given below, and details will be made available in forthcoming newsletters and on our website.

	YPS 2012 Social program - outline
Feb	YU Electronics Department
March	Manchester Museums – day trip by coach
April	Hull – Joint trip with YAYAS
May	* Midlands - multi-day trip
June 1 st	Skipton – Canal and Castle. Day trip by own transport
June	Whitby - day trip by coach
Mid-June	* Floriade, Netherlands - multi-day trip
July	Moth Hunt
August	Wandering in Walmgate
Sept	Behind the scenes YM geology – ½ day
Sept	Holgate Mill – ½ day
Sept	* Swindon - multi-day trip
Oct	President's Evening
Oct	Ampleforth – day trip by car
Nov	Nottingham?
Dec	Social

* Alan Owen's trips - further information from Alan below:

- May: The Midlands
- June: The Floriade Festival in Holland A new venture for YPS and a once-in-a-decade opportunity. Floriade, described by the organisers as a “theatre of nature,” is a huge international horticultural exposition which also features music, dancing, and literature, together with regional cuisine from different countries of the world. It takes place every 10 years at Venlo in the Netherlands. Other places of interest in Belgium and the Netherlands will be visited during the same holiday.
- Sept: The mid-west, Oxford to Bath

Exact dates have not yet been finalised and will be publicised in a forthcoming newsletter.

If you are interested in learning the dates of the tours for diary planning purposes as soon as they are known and before any newsletter notification, please leave your name, address, phone number, and importantly any email address with Frances at The Lodge.

Suffolk – a correction

Our last newsletter incorrectly announced the availability of a “CD of photographs” of the trip to Suffolk in May this year. What Ted Keen had produced was of course the latest in his series of DVD film records of YPS tours which have provided much enjoyment for members in recent years. This and the previous DVDs are available to borrow from the Lodge, so if you were on the trip or just have an interest in the area, please call in and see Frances.

YPS supports Café Scientifique

Café Scientifique has met in York once a month for the past 10 years with an average attendance of 50 persons and has played a useful role in bringing science to the public through a series of science lectures and discussions – in much the way that YPS does, but in a less formal atmosphere in the Basement of the City Screen cinema.

It has been run for the past 10 years by Science City York on the back of a £2500 grant from the development agency Yorkshire Forward. Up to September this year the Events Manager of Science City York has undertaken the administration of the Café, and the £2500 grant from Yorkshire Forward has covered the hall hire, equipment needed, and lecturers' expenses. The Yorkshire Forward funding has now come to an end and the position of Events Manager at Science City York has been made redundant. As a result Café Scientifique York will close down in the new year if alternative funding cannot be found.

Its demise was not widely publicised, and we at the Yorkshire Philosophical Society were not aware of it until August this year. We think that it will be a loss to the community and to science if it is allowed to disappear.

Two members of YPS are privately standing guarantor for a further two meetings of the Café in order to keep the audience and support alive. The costs involved are, however, probably too great for them or for the YPS to take on beyond the end of this year without outside sponsorship. We are currently looking for that sponsorship, and if any of our members feel that they would like to help, please contact our Chair, Stephen Lusty.

The YPS Council will be considering the issue at its meeting in early November.

Photos please for the YPS Annual Report

Did you go on any of these trips and do you have some photographs?

- *Spring Social*
- *Sheffield*
- *Constable country, Ipswich and Cambridge*
- *Neuroimaging Dept, University of York*
- *St Mary's Abbey Ruins and the Museum Gardens*
- *Killhope Mine*
- *Hungate Dig*
- *Crummack Dale – Geological excursion*
- *Kingdom of Fife*

Did you take any photos at 'An evening with Joyce Grenfell'?

Please send them as email attachments to khutsonyps@btinternet.com



Lecture News

Since the publication of our programme card we have received confirmation from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust of the speaker for our joint lecture on 7th February 2012. This will be Michael Allen, the current Chairman for the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts (although he will have stepped down by February). In a slight change to the title previously given, as 2012 is the RSWT's centenary year, Michael Allen will speak on '**100 years of nature conservation**'. He will feature Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Askham Bog in this as part of RSWT's history so those of you who are looking forward to hearing about them will not be disappointed.

Dr Richard Hall

We were very sorry to learn of the death of Dr Richard Hall in September. Richard had been a member of the YPS since 1984 and for many years arranged and chaired our annual joint lectures with York Archaeological Trust, enabling us to hear from some of the country's leading archaeologists. He will be very sadly missed by all those in the Society who knew him. A full obituary will appear in the *Annual Report*.

Email Updates

We are regularly approached by like-minded societies, local schools and university departments requesting us to share with members news of their forthcoming events. Although we are often able to publicise these in newsletters or at lectures, sometimes the timing makes this impossible. It would also be useful to have a means of communicating with members at short notice about changes to lectures or vacancies at events.

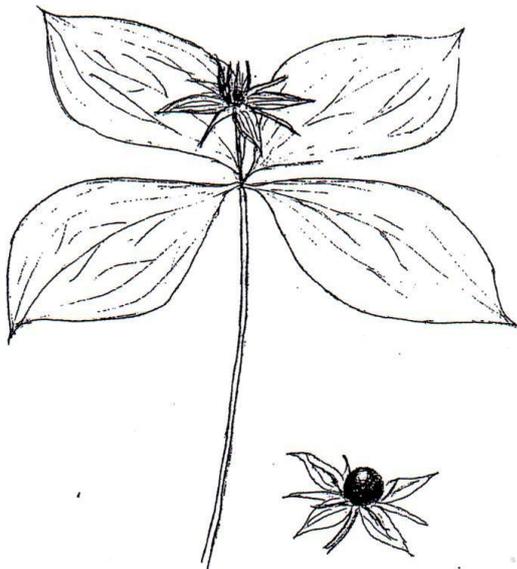
Many members have indicated that they would be happy to receive such information from us by email, so we now propose to set up an emailing list for the circulation of news about YPS events and others which we feel will be of genuine interest to members.

If you would like to receive such news in this way, please send an email to info@yorksphilsoc.org.uk, stating Email List in the title. We would be grateful if you could do this, even if you ticked the box to receive email communication on your membership application form, as this will ensure we have accurate email addresses for everybody. Please also let us know if you change your address in the future.

For those who prefer more traditional means of communication – don't worry! We will be continuing to send out our "paper" newsletters and get in touch with you in all the usual ways.

Ancient Woodland in the Vale of York

The Woodland History Group, a sub-group of the YPS, was set up in 1982 to establish whether there were any remnants of ancient woodland in the Vale of York. Numerous field visits and research into historical records over the following 23 years resulted in a substantial body of information about woodland in the Vale of York and surrounding area. Now that its task is completed the group is no longer active, but a report on its findings has been written by Barbara Hickman and copies are available from the Lodge, priced £2.50.



Herb Paris

Clerk's Holidays

The Lodge will be closed for a week beginning 24th October to allow Frances to recover from two newsletters in three months! We will re-open on Monday 31st October.

Christmas Closure

The Lodge will close at midday on Friday 23rd December and re-open on Wednesday 4th January.

As this will be our last Newsletter of the year ...

Season's Greetings & Best Wishes

War Comes to York Summer 1914

Price £3.00

&

War Comes to York July-October 1939

Price £5.00

by David Rubinstein

Available from The Lodge or at lectures

Do not be shy in coming forward ...

If you have a couple of hours a week to spare and have a skill that YPS could use, please contact Frances at The Lodge on 01904 656713 or at info@yorksphilsoc.org.uk or Stephen Lusty on 07963 791937 or at stephenlusty@btinternet.com We need:

- someone (or a couple) to serve wine after some of the lectures
- someone to constantly update our website
- someone to write up occasional lectures
- an enthusiastic photographer to capture pictures for our Annual Report and possibly for future newsletters
- someone to find new outlets for putting lecture posters on display
- a marketing person to help raise our profile locally
- someone to take a turn in producing posters

Most of these jobs can be fun and require contact with people, so don't be shy in coming forward.

News from other Societies

York Mystery Plays, York Museum Gardens, 2nd – 27th August 2012

An Olivier Award winning writer, internationally known actors and 1000 volunteers will create a new interpretation of the famous York Mystery Plays for summer 2012. Set against the evocative backdrop of the ruins of St Mary's Abbey, the plays will be the biggest and most elaborate outdoor theatre production ever to have taken place in the city. Mike Kenny, who won the Olivier Award for York Theatre Royal's and the National Railway Museum's *The Railway Children*, will reinterpret the plays.

The medieval cycle of York Mystery Plays has been told by the people of York for hundreds of years and is deeply embedded in the City's cultural heritage. They will spectacularly tell the story of the eternal battle between good and evil – from Creation to the Last Judgement. Produced by York Theatre Royal, Riding Lights Theatre Company and York Museums Trust and supported by City of York Council, it is the first time the plays have been performed in the Museum Gardens since 1988.

The plays will take place in York Museum Gardens from 2nd to 27th August 2012, with covered seating for 1400 people being especially built around the ancient walls of St Mary's Abbey. More than 1000 local people will join forces with a large professional team to help create this spectacular production.

To find out more about the plays, volunteering opportunities or to book tickets, please visit:
<http://www.yorkmysteryplays2012.com>

Yorkshire Gardens Trust Small Grant Scheme

The YGT extends its annual invitation for applications for its Small Grants Scheme, which is able to make grants to help important parks and gardens in the county. Eligible projects include restoration or conservation work on gardens, garden ornaments or archive records, surveys or management plans, or even the creation of a new garden. The site must lie within Yorkshire and should fulfil the YGT's criteria for historic, artistic, horticultural or scenic importance. This year extra funds have been allocated for the scheme, making up to £6000 available in total (maximum single grant £1000).

The closing date for applications for the 2011-12 Small Grant Scheme is 30th November 2011. Full details and an application form are available from The Lodge.

York Bibliographical Society

As usual at this time of year we are happy to distribute the programme of our friends at York Bibliographical Society in return for their promotion of our lecture programme. We hope you will find it of interest.

York Archaeology Seminars

The York Seminars are an annual series of seminars based at the University of York's Department of Archaeology. This academic year there will be twelve seminars over the autumn and spring terms, all of which will be on Wednesdays at 5 pm in the main lecture theatre (K/133) at King's Manor.

The seminar takes the form of a forty-five minute lecture, followed by approximately fifteen minutes of questions from the audience. This is followed by the opportunity for everyone to participate in further discussion of issues raised during the seminar in a local hostelry over food and drinks with the speaker. This will probably be at the Lamb & Lion, High Petergate, for this year.

Forthcoming seminars are:

- 26th October – *The archaeology of racial segregation in New South Wales* by Denis Byrne, Manager of Research Section, Country, Culture and Heritage Division, New South Wales, Australia
- 2nd November – *Humans, animals and societal violence: the archaeology of late Roman hunting* by Simon Esmonde Cleary, Head of Archaeology, University of Birmingham
- 16th November – *Bayesian Chronologies in British Archaeology: Today's Radiocarbon Revolution* by Alex Bayliss, Scientific Dating Co-ordinator, English Heritage

The full programme and further details are available on http://www.york.ac.uk/archaeology/news-and-events/events/external/york_seminars/

York & District Branch of the Geographical Association Lectures

Wednesday 23rd November, 7.15 pm

No development without security and no security without development by Dr Adrian Leftwich, Department of Politics, York University

Tuesday 24th January, 7.15 pm

Earthquakes in mountain areas, experiences from Taiwan, Pakistan and China by Professor David Petley, Director of the Institute of Hazard, Risk and Resilience, University of Durham

Thursday 9th February 2012, 7.15 pm

Waking the Giant: looking at how climate change and geological hazards are linked by Professor Bill McGuire, Director of the Benfield Hazard Research at UCL

All lectures are held at Bootham School, York; cost for non-members £3.

STOP PRESS

The French Air Force in York 1944-45

For those who receive this in time, just a reminder that this lecture takes place on an unusual day, Wednesday October 19th at the unusual time of 6.30pm. This is in deference to the few "veteran" pilots who will be attending, and who have to cope with a rather hectic and energy-draining schedule over that period.

A date for your diary (details and booking form to follow in the next Newsletter)

April 21st 2012: *Proposed YPS and YAYAS joint architectural and historical day-trip to Hull.*

Cost likely to be £10 or less.

We hope to have David and/or Susan Neave to guide us - they write on Hull and Beverley widely and well e.g. the recent excellent 'Pevsner' (ISBN 978-0-300-14172-6). Bring your copy along and get it signed by the authors! Copies now available for under £10 including postage - see tinyurl.com/HullPevsner

Details to be finalised: we propose meeting in Hull's Royal (Station) Hotel at 11am so we can car-share or use our bus passes (dep. York Station 8:48). Some level walking (under 2 miles spread over 5-6 hours): mobility scooters available at Hull Station. Details: John Bibby, jb43@york.ac.uk