



Yorkshire Philosophical Society, The Lodge, Museum Gardens, York, YO1 7DR
Tel/Fax: 01904 656713 Email: info@yorksphilsoc.org.uk www.yorksphilsoc.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 529709 An affiliated society of the British Science Association

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2012

When we started to prepare this Newsletter, April showers had turned into steady rain, relieved by occasional heavy hail, and the warm sunshine we had enjoyed in early spring seemed a distant memory. Hopefully by the time you read this the wet weather will be long past, but with no fewer than nine colourful flyers for events and activities over the next few months as well as our full-colour Annual Report with memories of what we did last year and lots of interesting reading, whatever the weather outside, we're sure you'll agree that our April Newsletter is bringing a little bit of summer with it!

Flowers, food ... and the AGM

As usual our April Newsletter is also accompanied by details of our Annual General Meeting, which will be held at 7 pm on 29th May in the Tempest Anderson Hall. We do hope you will take this opportunity to come along and hear about our achievements over the past year and plans for the future.

The AGM will be followed by our last lecture of the season *Tulipomania: Banking with Bulbs during the Golden Age of Dutch Culture* by Dr Eric T Haskell of Claremont University Centre in California, who will be speaking to us at the invitation of our colleagues in the Yorkshire Gardens Trust. No doubt those members who are participating in our tour to Holland and the Floriade Show earlier in May will gain some additional insight into the country they have recently visited, while the rest of us will find that both the joy of plants and the horror of investment crises are nothing new.

We shall end the evening – and celebrate a successful year and lecture series - by serving drinks and delicious light refreshments in the museum atrium after the lecture. There will be a charge of £5 per head which will be payable at the end of the lecture. If you would like to join us, please either return the reply slip at the bottom of the enclosed letter about the AGM, or ring or email Frances at the Lodge or Kate Cartwright on 01904 421744 or cfcartwright@btinternet.com. We hope to turn no-one away, even if they have not booked, but we do need an idea of numbers to make sure there is enough for everyone.

You should find the following with your Newsletter. If anything is missing, please contact Frances at The Lodge.

- Visit to Skipton – Fri 1st June
- Visit to Whitby – Fri 29th June
- Tour of “Views of York” Exhibition – Tues 10th July
- Moth Hunt – Wed 18th July
- “Wandering in Walmgate” – Thurs 2nd August
- Fossil Hunt – Sun 19th August
- Visit to Holgate Mill – Fri 7th September
- Behind the Scenes at the Yorkshire Museum Geology Collection – Mon 10th September
- Visit to Ampleforth Abbey – Wed 3rd October
- AGM papers
- And of course the Annual Report!

Dates for your diary (and more good food)

- ❖ **President's Evening** will be held this year on Wednesday 24th October when we shall be returning to the Churchill Hotel, Bootham, for another delicious dinner. Our guest speaker will be Darrell Buttery who will be able to draw on his long experience of York life as a leading member of York Civic Trust – and of the YPS, of course. Full details and a booking form will follow with the next Newsletter.
- ❖ **The York Archaeological Trust's Book Fair** takes place on Saturday 13th October in the Guildhall. Once again the YPS will have a stand, selling our publications and spreading the word about our activities to the public. Other local societies, as well as independent publishers, have stalls, so if you're in the area, do pop in and say Hello and have a look at what's on offer. And if you'd like to help by manning our stand for an hour or two, please let Frances know.
- ❖ **The Lodge** will be closed on Friday 8th and Monday 11th June, when Frances will be joining other members on Alan Owen's "Mercian Miscellany" tour.
- ❖ **Café Scientifique** talks continue throughout the year on the first Wednesday of every month at 7 pm in the Basement Bar of the City Screen Cinema. If this reaches you in time, our talk on 2nd May will be *Our plasma future* by Dr Kate Lancaster, York Plasma Institute, University of York.

On 6th June the subject will be *Developing a Human Immune System in a Test Tube: Stories from an on-going Scientific Adventure* by Dr Mark Coles, a Senior Lecturer at the University of York's Centre for Immunology and Infection.

These events are free of charge thanks to sponsorship by Wildwood Ventures and The Institute of Physics. As space is limited, tickets can be obtained in person from the Cityscreen Picturehouse on a first-come-first-served basis. If you would like regular up-dates, please send an email to cafescientifique@yorksphilsoc.org.uk asking to be put on the e-mailing list.

Frances needs you!

Frances' time is under pressure, and there are three really creative and interesting tasks which might be suitable for passing on to a volunteer. So if you can use the latest computer technology, have no fear of deadlines, and would like to try your hand at one of the following:

1. Creating and collating the YPS Newsletter
- or 2. Producing lecture posters
- or 3. Co-ordination of our speakers

... please give her a confidential, non-obligational call or talk to any Council member.

Reminder

There are still places available on our
Kennet and Avon Country Tour
 17 – 21 September 2012
 visiting places of interest in and around Oxford,
 Bath, Salisbury and Stonehenge.
 Cost £263 per person (single supplement £60)
 Pick up a full itinerary at a lecture or contact
 Frances at the Lodge.



Sound Quality Boost ...

Good news for those who have had problems hearing lectures. We have purchased a new microphone headset.

It was trialled at the "Taming the Banks" lecture and met with universal approval, judging by the complimentary remarks of people leaving the Tempest Anderson Hall.

So to all of you who were fed up with complaining ... our apologies, but do come back and try the new YPS Tempest Anderson sound!!

Yorkshire Scientists & Innovators – Calling all authors

We have been delighted in the interest shown in the writing of articles for the YPS on Yorkshire Scientists. After receiving the 20th article we decided to go for a “second round” – so if the spirit moves you to take up your pen on a well known, or even lesser known Yorkshire Scientist with a good story behind him or her, please do so, and add to the five which we have already received in the second tranche. The YPS will be publishing these mid-year in a form as yet to be finalised. **Below is a list of scientists on whom articles would be welcomed.**

We are looking for around 800 words with an emphasis on any connection with Yorkshire, particularly the YPS, and any unusual aspects of the person or their work, ideally with illustrations and a brief bibliography.

If you want to check on suitability or have an idea for a scientist not on the following list, please contact Dr Avijit Datta akd21@hotmail.com or through the office (info@yorksphilsoc.org.uk).

Charles Darwin - Biologist
John Harrison - horologist and mathematician.
Amy Johnson - aviator
Augustus Pitt Rivers - British Army officer, ethnologist, anthropologist & archaeologist
Nicholas Saunderson - Lucasian Professor of Mathematics
Percy Shaw - Cat's Eyes inventor
John Smeaton - civil engineer & designer of bridges, canals, harbours and lighthouses
Fred Hoyle FRS - astronomer
Nevil Shute - aircraft engineer and novelist
James Henry Atkinson - mousetrap inventor
Edward Victor Appleton FRS - Nobel Prize in Physics 1947, ionosphere, foundation for radar
Donald Bailey - Bailey Bridge inventor
William Bateson - geneticist; first to use term genetics
George Birkbeck - doctor, philanthropist, founder of Birkbeck College
Joseph Bramah - hydraulic press; one of two founders of hydraulic engineering
Harry Brearley - Sheffield inventor of stainless steel
Henry Briggs - mathematician, perfected system of logarithms used today by astronomers, navigators etc
Capt. James Cook- oceanic explorer
Rick Dickinson - Industrial designer responsible for the ZX80, ZX81, ZX Spectrum and Sinclair QL keyboards and cases
Henry Baines - author of the 'Flora of Yorkshire'
Walter E Collinge - Keeper of the YM from 1921 - 41, who wrote books on a number of subjects, including 'the food of some British wild birds'
Silvanus Thompson FRS - Electrical Engineering, Roentgologist

Mystery lecture

Together with York University Senior Common Room, King's Manor, we still hope to present the prestigious lecture hinted at in the February Newsletter. This is now likely to take place in September and will be announced in the next Newsletter. In the meantime we hope you enjoyed the lecture on Ove Arup which filled our slot on April 17th.

York Museums Trust

Copies of the papers for meetings of the trustees of YMT are now being deposited at the Lodge. If any member wishes to consult them, please contact Frances.



YPS Website

We are working on a brand new YPS website which we hope will become a regular friend to all members. The site will cover all YPS and Café Scientifique events (as well as other appropriate events going on in the region), and will be easy to use.

As time goes on we will be adding a host of other interesting features, including the articles on Yorkshire scientists now being written and edited. Later on, as a member you will have access to a special members' section where you can enter your profile, if you wish, and share it (ie your details) with other members of the Society.

Our partners in producing the site are Castlegate IT and Bivouac, and the in-house team is being led by Avijit Datta and Patrick Mason, backed by the Marketing Group consisting of Ken Hutson, James Karran, Sarah Masefield, Dr Yvette Hancock and Margaret Leonard.

The site will be finished during the early summer - in time for the Grand Tour (see below).

The Grand Tour

For centuries people from York have made huge contributions across all areas of science and innovation from astronomy and the science of flight to geology and, more recently, biology and information technology. These achievements will be celebrated this summer from June to August with an outdoor "exhibition" of images displayed in various locations around the city.

For those who have smartphones (and have found out how to use them) each image will have a QR code which acts like a barcode for mobile devices, so that you will be able to scan the code and find out more about the image, the story and the great people responsible for it, and there will also be a mobile App available to download.

The less technologically minded can also enjoy the display using a printed guide.

Amongst the 50 to 60 other scientific images, you can expect to see a contribution from the YPS. Our image is stunning and features the discovery - by Dr George Cayley, one of the founding members of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society - of the relationship between "drag and lift" in aircraft flight.

The Queen's Visit to the Yorkshire Museum

Her Majesty signed our YPS Visitors Book - for the fourth time - during her visit to the Yorkshire Museum on April 5th.

Her visit, which coincided with the distribution of Maundy Money in the Minster, was to open the new exhibition in the Museum celebrating the 800th anniversary of York's Charter. YPS was represented at the opening by our Chair, and in the evening many YPS members attended a further reception hosted by Kirsten England, CEO of York City Council and Janet Barnes, CEO of the Yorkshire Museum.

A highlight of the afternoon was the appearance of the original York Charter of 1155 with Henry II's seal. The exhibition is well worth a visit if you have even the slightest interest in York's history.

Our Visitor's Book tells a fascinating story of its own, and we hope to set about interpreting it over the coming year with the help of anyone interested in such a project.

Farewell to Sjaak

Sjaak Kastelijn, who has done so much to resuscitate and beautify Museum Gardens over the past three years, has left York Museums Trust in order to concentrate on his own Garden project in Crayke.

Dutch House is an ambitious project combining the creation of a Wildlife Garden with a varied Arts Centre and Workshops in former farm buildings.

Entry into the Gardens is free and Sjaak's good lady does some wonderful homemade Dutch cakes in the atmospheric and arty Café on site.

Sjaak would welcome visitors from YPS. The Dutch House address is: Mill Green Farm, Brandsby Road, Crayke, YO61 4TT.

Tel: 01347 889431.

Website: www.dutchhouseyorkshire.com

Sjaak has also volunteered to give us a Tempest Anderson Hall (or smaller group) lecture on "How to encourage wildlife into your garden". If such a lecture interests you, please let us know.

