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NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2013

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter - and summer really is here at last! - but in the Lodge our thoughts are already turning to lectures for autumn and winter and even visits and tours for next summer. Read on to see what we're planning ...

A new YPS President

Having presumed on Dr Peter Addyman's better nature and retained him as President for more than a second term, we have reluctantly had to let him go this year.

Peter has been a great and enthusiastic YPS supporter and champion during his time in office, and we are very indebted to him for his long service. He has represented us at high level on numerous occasions, and has been very supportive on the odd occasion when his diplomacy has helped the society in difficult situations.

Peter has taken on the role of Chair at the Civic Trust, and we wish him well with this new responsibility.

The YPS Council has elected him as an Honorary Vice-President of the Society, and a formal presentation will be made to him at the President's Dinner on October 30th at The Churchill Hotel

At the same time we welcome Professor Jim Matthew as our new President. A member since 1968 and having chaired the Society for five years from 2005-2010, he is no newcomer and continues to play an active role in the operations of the society, particularly on the lecture front. We look forward to Jim's presidency.

Stephen Lusty
Chairman

Suggestions welcome

We are also very happy to announce that Dr Judith Glover has taken over from Jim as Lecture Secretary for the 2014-15 season. Judith would be happy to receive suggestions of topics and speakers, so if you have heard a good lecture which wasn't one of ours, do let us know.

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

- Fossil Hunt at Robin Hood's Bay, 22nd September 2013
- President's Evening, 30th October 2013
- "150 Years of Roman Yorkshire" YAS Day Conference, 9th November 2013
- A lecture from our colleagues at the Art Fund, York branch, 14th November 2013
- And of course our Programme Card for 2013-14

Dr Andrew Jones would also welcome suggestions, and particularly recommendations, for our monthly Café Scientifique sessions. This is an ideal opportunity for young speakers, doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers in particular to present their work.

Lecture Programme 2013-14

As you will see from the programme card enclosed with your newsletter our 2013-2014 lecture series will start with a bang on September 24th with a special YPS event in collaboration with the York Food Festival - *The Science of Puddings*.

Whether you enjoy desserts, avoid them or are simply interested in their ingredients, you will leave this event with plenty of ammunition to support your point of view. Professor Paul Walton is a brilliant presenter whose research throws a surprising new light on everyday ingredients, about which we are normally blissfully ignorant.

After this tasty start we are looking forward to an interesting and varied series of lectures over the coming year. Following our investigation of the effects of volcanic eruptions on air travel earlier this month with Professor Stephen Mobbs, we will be looking further at natural phenomena in the autumn with lectures on Hurricane Sandy and climate change, while spring will bring the opportunity to see what the latest science is contributing to the field of medicine. The historians and archaeologists among us will enjoy topics ranging from the origins of York to recent immigration into Yorkshire, with visits to the Roman and Medieval periods in between. We have a mini-series of three lectures on the theme of Justice; the first of these on November 12th will be given in honour of the late Bill Smith, our Honorary Secretary from 2000 to 2011. We look forward to seeing you at this, as at all of our lectures this season.

(At time of writing we have been unable to finalise details of our Christmas Family Lecture and outreach lecture in Easingwold, but we are working on these events and will announce the details in our next Newsletter.)

Social Programme

At the time of writing, a further eight visits and activities are planned for the remainder of this year, ranging from the STEMNET pre-lecture reception, to multi-day trips to Scotland and Italy. Details of all of these are available on the 'What's on' page of our website - www.ypsYork.org - and you will also find flyers for a number of them in this newsletter.

The team are now turning their attention to next year's program, which promises to be equally varied and interesting. See the Dates for your Diary section below for advance information.

We still need a volunteer for the position of Social Secretary, to coordinate the work of the very creative folk who plan and organise the individual visits. If you are interested in helping in this way, please do let us know.

Date	Trip	Organiser
2 nd August	Visit to York Cemetery	P Hogarth
15 th August	Medieval Magic! (visit to Durham)	A Owen
9-13 September	Glimpses of Galloway (SW Scotland)	A Owen
22 September	Fossil hunting at Robin Hood's Bay	G Williamson
1 October	STEMNET Pre-Lecture Reception	M Leonard
7th October	Visit to Ampleforth Abbey, Orchard & Cider Mill	C Biglin
21-28 October	Tempest Anderson Memorial Tour to the Bay of Naples Now fully booked	Jim Spriggs and Bone Jones
30 October	President's Evening	K Cartwright

Visit to Ampleforth Abbey – Monday 7th October 2013

There are still a few places available on this visit. If you would like to visit the Abbey, Orchard and Cider Mill at a cost of £21.50 per person which will include a soup, sandwiches, apple cake and tea or coffee lunch, please contact Christine Biglin 01904 738456 as soon as possible.

STEMNET Pre-lecture Poster Reception

All members are invited to this reception, with a complimentary glass of wine, before the lecture on October 1st. This follows the success of the similar event in 2012, and will be hosted by STEMNET, an organisation which creates opportunities to inspire young people in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

The event will provide an opportunity for a group of Yorkshire sixth formers to display the posters they have made describing the research they undertook on summer Nuffield placements, after which they will be presented with awards recognising their achievements.

Do come along, read the posters, and encourage the scientists of the future.

New Dates for your Diary



Saturday 3 May 2014

Trip to Bradford including Bradford Faith Trail (Organiser: John Bibby - details to follow in a future newsletter)



Sunday 18 – Friday 23 May 2014

6-Day Coach Trip to Southeast Ireland

Please mark your 2014 diary with the above dates for an unforgettable study tour, exploring Irish History, Religion, Culture, Rebellion, Famine and Gardens.

The tentative plan is to base ourselves in Carlow Town for all 5 nights, and to have day trips to a wide range of major local attractions (including those in Dublin City) as well as having short stops to see ancient standing stones, dolmen, high crosses, churches, viewpoints etc. Alan Owen is giving me some advice on the planning, so you can guess the overall approach.

I hope to keep the cost to about £450 per person sharing (subject to the detailed itinerary and exchange rates), with a supplement of £65 for singles. If you think you may be interested, I would be happy to let you have more details as the plans develop - just contact me by email or phone (without commitment).

Rod Leonard

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Mountains, minerals, ... and lots more!

A YPS 6 day, 5 night tour in North Wales, starting Sunday 7 September 2014.

It is many years since the YPS last went to this lovely area. The itinerary will have some overlap with our previous tour, but there will be many new places in the 2014 itinerary. Our base will be at the modest but refurbished Royal Victoria Hotel superbly situated in 30 acres of grounds in Llanberis and with breath-taking views of the magnificent surrounding Snowdonia mountains. Rooms have en-suite facilities and tea/coffee making. No swimming pool but you could get hot running around the grounds and then jump into one of the two nearby lakes!

Budget price £415 for dinner, bed and breakfast and including some lunches and site admission charges other than for National Trust and CADW sites. A full itinerary will be sent out with an Autumn newsletter but Singles please note, I have been restricted by the hotel to a maximum of 9 single places and with the Single Supplement being only £25 single rooms may get booked up quickly. Make a note in your diaries for 7 – 12 September 2014.

Alan Owen

And for the book lovers among you ...

On Saturday 19 October 2013 the annual York Archaeological Trust Archaeology and History Fair will take place at the Guild Hall, and we will once again have a stand. Frances encourages you to come along to say Hello, look at the other stands and see what's going on in the world of archaeology. The YAT puts on a programme of interesting talks throughout the day, and there are book bargains to be had.

Newsletter and flyers by e-mail

We do not want you to feel obliged to take your newsletter by e-mail. Many of us still prefer to have a paper copy in our hand. However, if you are one who is gradually befriending electronic documents, please consider taking the newsletter by e-mail. It does save on costs.

If you would like to try this, just drop Frances an e-mail at info@ypsyork.org and she will add you to the list of those who receive the newsletter - and the booking forms for events - as an attachment.

Please don't forget to let Frances know if you change your e-mail address.

... And if you change your mind and prefer to go back to a paper copy again, just tell Frances.

William Kaye Sessions

We were very sad to learn of the death of William Sessions in April at the age of 97. Well known in York as head of the printing firm which bore his name, Mr Sessions contributed to the life of the City in many ways, and was a member of the YPS for 43 years. Mrs Barbara Weatherley attended his funeral on behalf of the Society.

150 Years of Roman Yorkshire

We are happy to enclose with this newsletter details of a day conference organised by our colleagues from the Yorkshire Archaeological Trust Roman Antiquities Section. Until the refurbishment of the Yorkshire Museum made it unavailable for full days, RAS day schools were held in the Tempest Anderson Hall, as joint events with ourselves, and we know many members continue to support them in their new venue at York St John University. If you would like to attend the November conference, please note that bookings should be sent direct to YAS at the address on the flyer, and not to the Lodge.

Wine glasses

We have a number of surplus wine glasses (small size) to give away free. - any quantity (while stocks last) but must be collected.

If you can give them a home or know of another organisation which could make use of them, please get in touch with Frances at the Lodge. First come, first served!

Changes to YPS membership for students and children

In order to utilize resources effectively we have taken a decision to withdraw our special £5 membership rate for students and children.

Over the years only a small number of young people have taken advantage of this membership category, and the cost of administering it is now far higher than the subscription income.

We feel that the best and most efficient way of encouraging the young to participate in our activities is to offer free entry to lectures to all children, and to students on production of a student card, without expecting them to join as members.

Anyone in these categories wishing to enjoy the full benefits of membership is of course welcome to join the Society at the concessionary rate.

This change will not affect current student or child memberships which will continue until the end of 2013.

Grants for Gardens

Our friends at the Yorkshire Gardens Trust are running their Small Grants Scheme again this year. Applications are invited from projects concerning important parks and gardens in Yorkshire before the closing date of 30th September 2013. Full details and an application form are available on the Trust's website: www.yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk or from Frances at The Lodge.

YPS Gardens Group

Almost two hundred years ago YPS developed the Museum Gardens in York as botanical gardens that would provide an appropriate setting for the Museum. Entrance to the Gardens was available to members of the Society (men only!) and to the public (including women!) on payment of an entrance fee.

Today the Gardens form a key urban green space that celebrates archaeology, botany and horticulture and which is very popular with both residents and visitors. In the coming years, it will expand considerably in size by incorporating three new spaces – the two redundant bowling greens and the planned Artists' Garden behind the renovated Art Gallery.

The Gardens were taken over by York Corporation in 1961, with subsequent control passing to Yorkshire County Council in 1974, and to York Museums Trust in 2003. Nevertheless, YPS retains a keen interest through its Gardens Group. Currently the group is working on two main projects, both relating to the build-up to the YPS bicentenary. We are planning the production of a book that will trace the development of the Gardens up to the present day. Also discussions are being held with the York Museums Trust about the possibility of a fitting commemoration in the Gardens of the Society's first two hundred years.

Judith Glover
Coordinator, YPS Gardens Group

Friargate Community Archaeology Project

As some members may know, a dig is presently underway in the garden of the Quaker Meeting House on Friargate in advance of a planned extension to the building. The land once formed part of York Castle and prior to the Norman Conquest (1066) was part of 'Jorvik' the internationally important Viking Age trading settlement. In more recent times, the area could have been part of the extensive grounds of Castlegate House, designed by John Carr and built in 1762-3.

Human skeletal remains discovered when the Meeting House was last improved in the early 1980s will also be carefully excavated and studied with modern techniques, now available, before being reburied. These may be the remains of medieval Yorkshire folk buried when the site was part of a Franciscan Friary, in 13th-16th century.

There will be an Open Afternoon on Bank Holiday Monday, 26th August, from 2 to 4 pm when the general public will be able to visit the project, and see finds, photographs and artwork. It is hoped that refreshments will be available.

All donations/proceeds from this event will go towards the Meeting House Building Fund.

If you would like to be more involved, volunteers are welcome to participate in the dig, which takes place on Monday afternoons, or to help with special events. For more information, please contact the Friends' Meeting House on 01904 624065.

PLACE Autumn Conference

The theme of this year's autumn day conference is *The Future of the Uplands*. There will be eight speakers, looking at the impact of change on Yorkshire's upland landscapes and people, as well as displays, posters and bookstands, and opportunities for discussion.

Saturday 12th October (9.30 am to 4.45 pm) in York St John University. Cost: £20.00 (£15.00 for unwaged/retired people) including coffee, tea and a buffet lunch. For full details see the website: www.PLACE.uk.com