NEWSLETTER

Yorkshire Philosophical Society
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Message from the outgoing Chair

It has been a real privilege to have been Chair of the YPS during the past 5 years – sometimes even a pleasure! I have made many new friends and, even at my age, learnt a lot about people as well as a lesson or two about how not to upset them. Nothing warms the heart more than a full-to-bursting YPS Council Meeting full of energy, proposals and ideas.

It is good to leave the YPS in reasonable health, to know the activity level of the Council and its members is at a high point, and that the Society is not afraid of taking on board some quite challenging projects. The planned publication of the History of the Museum Gardens and the imminent opening of the Geological Map are projects which are involving more and more members. There are also many nascent peripheral projects to the Map which we will be hearing about over the coming months.

Now that Café Scientifique is programming its lectures well in advance the Society is able to offer a wider scope of lecture topics and, thanks to our innovative lecture secretaries, we can look forward to a great new season starting in September. And, of course, the excursions team continues to offer stimulating study outings and holidays. It is good for the Society to have a change of Officers occasionally, and Catherine Brophy, who will follow me as Chair, will bring a wealth of experience from her years with NYBEP (North Yorkshire Business and Enterprise Partnership) to the role. She has been running Café Scientifique for the past two years and will naturally bring a welcome fresh approach to the way the Society runs itself. The Society still has areas which pose real challenges, but I know that she will receive the same level of support from Council and YPS members that I have enjoyed. So all the best for you Catherine, and exciting times ahead!

Stephen Lusty, retiring Chair

With this Newsletter

• Your invitation to the President's Evening, Wednesday 21 October (RSVP 1 October)

Places still available:
• Day trip to the North East coast, 3 September
• 6-day Tour of Kent, 13-18 September

Further information and booking forms for both of these events are on the website or contact Frances at The Lodge

At the AGM, John Hampshire led the membership in applauding Stephen Lusty’s valuable contribution to the Society, remarking that he had used his five years as Chairman successfully, to bring the Society into the 21st Century. Catherine Brophy will take on the role of the Chair, and three new Council Members have been appointed: Felicity Hurst, Rod Leonard and Robert Pauer.
Lecture Programme 2015-16

Members should have already received details of Part 1 of the 2015-16 lecture programme (September to December 2015) but if yours is mislaid please do contact Frances Chambers at the Lodge. Part 2, January to end of May 2016, is being finalised and we plan to let you have details with the next newsletter. We have the usual wide range of lectures, from biomedical engineering for an ageing population to climate change and the attendant risk of conflict; atmospheric chemistry to the history of the Northern Lit and Phil Societies (joined by colleagues from the Newcastle Lit and Phil). We also have a mini-theme of three lectures relating to educational research at the University of York – psychological, sociological and philosophical angles on education making a difference. And to take us up to the end of May we have several joint lectures with affiliated local societies, closely followed by the 2016 Festival of Ideas when we hope to work again in partnership with the University of York to host a lecture as exciting as this year’s with speaker Anthony Grayling. I hope there will be ‘something for everyone’. As always, feedback is welcome, especially as next year (2016-17) will be my last as Lecture Secretary. I take the view that three years is the ideal length for any job – the first to learn the ropes, the second to implement what you have learned and the third year to pass on that knowledge to someone else. Speaking of which, if you are interested in shadowing the role with a view to taking it on, please do be in contact to find out what is involved.

Judith Glover, Lecture Secretary and Vice-Chair

John Phillips - York Cemetery

YPS is commissioning a recognition stone in York Cemetery for John Phillips (1800–1874), first Secretary & Keeper of the Yorkshire Museum, as a fitting tribute to mark the bicentenary of the start of his geological career, when he was apprenticed to his uncle, William Smith. The stone will be installed vertically at the head of the John and Anne Phillips grave - the original horizontal gravestone has become worn and difficult to read, and does not do justice to Phillips’ contributions to geology, to the YPS and to the scientific reputation of York. The stone will read:

JOHN PHILLIPS FRS 1800-1874
FIRST KEEPER OF THE YORKSHIRE MUSEUM 1825–1840
PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY AT KINGS COLLEGE LONDON, DUBLIN AND OXFORD
PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY RECOGNISED THE MAJOR GEOLOGICAL ERAS WITH GRATITUDE FROM THE YORKSHIRE PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY 2015

There will be an unveiling for YPS members in early October. The York Cemetery Trust have generously waived their fees and will feature the grave in their many public tours of the cemetery. Read more about John Phillips on the YPS website under the 'Resources' tab - Yorkshire Scientists and Innovators.

Geological Map ahead of schedule

The good news is we expect the Walk-on Map to be installed by the first week of September, eight weeks earlier than the original schedule. The paved area and temporary flower borders around the map are all complete and the map prefabrication is 80% complete. Rock specimens are being procured and will be installed starting in September. An extended project team is developing explanatory leaflets in time for the opening, to be supplemented with more substantive material on the YPS website - drafts will also appear on the website for review and comment by YPS members, so please keep an eye out for this! Several celebration events are planned: A VIP reception and press conference on 23 September, to recognise the contributions of major donors, both to the map Project and towards the conservation of William Smith’s 1815 paper map. The Public Launch is 29 September, starting at 6 pm.

President's Evening

Wednesday 21 October, 7.30pm, Middletons Hotel

The President’s Evening is the Society’s Annual Dinner. This year it will be a formal event consisting of good food, good company, a reflection on YPS and an entertaining address from our special guest, ecologist Sir John Lawton, FRS, Vice President of RSPB and Chair of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

The Conservatory Restaurant at Middletons Hotel has been chosen for its central location, comfort, ambience, quality of food and service, parking facilities and value. Your invitation, enclosed with this newsletter, sets out details of the evening, dress code, venue and menu choices, together with a booking form. The restaurant holds 60 people and tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis - so please book early to avoid disappointment. If you need further information please contact Sharon Lusty, President’s Evening Organiser

E: sharon.lusty@btinternet.com T:01904 630275

President’s Evening Survey findings

A very big thank you to members who completed questionnaires for the survey, which was conducted for two reasons. Firstly, Kate Cartwright, who organised the event so successfully for the past 7 years, decided to retire after giving us sterling service. Secondly, the Churchill Hotel where the President’s Evening has been held for a number of years can no longer host us. The social committee is working hard on your behalf to make the President’s Evening as welcoming and enjoyable as possible. YPS offers a wide variety of events and our members choose to attend those events that interest them. Last year around 60 members attended the President’s Evening from a membership of approximately 700. The YPS Social Committee is reviewing the findings and an overview of the main points is on the YPS website: www.ypsyrk.org/groups/social-group - you will need to log in as a member to view the President’s Evening section.

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when YPS will formally handover the walk-on map to YMT, and everyone will have an opportunity to view the pebble mosaic and meet the artist and project team. There will be updated displays on the project and the original William Smith paper map, and a public lecture at 7.30pm, with speaker Andy Howard, on ‘Back to the Future of William Smith’s Map: meeting modern needs for geological knowledge’.

In the course of the project we have made many valuable links with external organisations, raising the profile of the YPS within Yorkshire and further afield. We have been invited to submit articles on the Geological Map Project to Rockwatch (an excellent children’s magazine published by the Geological Association), to Oxford University Library’s William Smith blog, and to the newsletter of the History of Geology Group. Following the reopening of the Art Gallery the YMT will spearhead further general articles in the local and regional press so that the project gets even more publicity.

Rod & Margaret Leonard for GMP team

While high level research still thrives at the Stazione Zooligica, the aquarium is in a poor state - the cast iron supports for the tanks are badly corroded, and a secondary glass wall has had to be built in case of a catastrophic failure of the existing tanks. Following our visit, the YPS Council agreed to support a donation to SZN and many individuals who went on the tour contributed generously. Sandra Hochscheid, Coordinator of the Aquarium and Sea Turtle Rescue Center, has sent this account of how the donation has been put to good use:

“I have been following personally the developments in the Aquarium and I preferred to write to you directly and express my gratefulness for your interest and contribution. We have not yet renovated the aquarium - the administrative process is long, but it’s underway - however, last year we made some important changes which improved greatly the experience of the visit. In particular we have now used the big tank area, which had been closed for 2 years, as an exhibition area for activities of our institute and also for a diorama on nesting marine turtles. We have also installed exhibition boards all along the main corridors with additional information on marine life and the research at the institute as well as a big TV screen at the entrance that displays videos for the public. We’ve had a constant rise in visitor numbers since last June and your donation has made it possible to realise all these little, but effective changes. Let me thank you again for your support and I hope that we can welcome you again in the future when we have concluded the restoration work to show you the Aquarium in all its splendour.”

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Join us to explore the South East ...

Kent, our destination for this September’s tour, organised by Alan Owen, has recently been named Europe’s top family holiday spot by Lonely Planet. This is the county of Pepys and Dickens as well as successive waves of invaders, some more successful than others. We shall be exploring a wide variety of its attractions, including major Roman sites, Medieval castles, stately homes, a historic dockyard and an apple farm, and will venture into London for a day. A 6-day tour starting 13 September - places are still available if you’d like to join us, but please get in touch quickly, as our hotel’s deadline is imminent.

... and the North East

Places are also available on our day excursion to the North East Coast on 3 September. We shall be visiting Heugh Battery, called on to defend Hartlepool in both World Wars, and Hartlepool’s Maritime Experience, the home of HMS Trincomalee, the oldest British warship still afloat. Our final call is the Cleveland Ironstone Mining Museum where we have the opportunity to enter a mine.

Further information and booking forms for both of these events can be obtained from the website or from Frances at The Lodge.

RURAL SETTLEMENT IN ROMAN YORKSHIRE
Saturday 24 October
Joint conference sponsored by the Roman Antiquities Section (YAS) and the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies (The Roman Society)
The Milton Rooms, Market Square, Malton YO17 7LX
Further information from Pete Wilson
E: pandjwilson@btopenworld.com

YOUR COMMUNITY AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR
AHRC-sponsored road show, visiting Leeds
9 September - sessions are free but booking is required
www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/first-world-war-engagement-centres-8226847914

Gardens Grants on offer

Yorkshire Gardens Trust has allocated a grant fund for 2016 to help projects concerning important parks and gardens in the County, both large and small. Application deadline is 30 September. For further information and application form see YGT website: yorkshiregardenstrust.org.uk/conservation

WHAT’S ON

Wednesday 2 September
Café Sci "Dreams vs Reality - the gap between what people want renewables to deliver and what they can deliver" James Spencer

Thursday 3 September
Wood and Iron: day visit to the North East Coast (see panel to left)
13-18 September
Tour of Kent (see panel to left)

Tuesday 15 September
YPS Lecture "A Sense of Place - the graphic artist in York 1610-1860" Peter Brown, former Director, York Civic Trust

Tuesday 29 September
6pm, Yorkshire Museum Public Launch of Walk-on Geological Map 7.30pm, YPS Lecture "Back to the Future of William Smith’s Map: meeting modern needs for geological knowledge" Dr Andy Howard, Science Director, British Geological Survey

Thursday 1 October
YPS Outreach lecture "The Waggoners’ Memorial: A sense of place" Galtres Centre, Easingwold

Wednesday 7 October
Café Sci Dr Richard Baker, Pest Risk Analyst, DEFRA, title tbc

Wednesday 21 October
President’s Evening, Middleton’s Hotel (invitation enclosed, RSVP by 1 October)

Thursday 12 November
A Voyage of Discovery: Leeds Museum reserve collections (information on website)

Café Scientifique
All are welcome to join us on the first Wednesday of each month at City Screen Basement. Presentations begin at 7.30pm and doors and a pay bar open at 7pm. Tickets are free from City Screen, or on the door on the evening, but places are limited to 70

YPS Lectures
Lectures are held in the Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens, starting at 7.30pm. Following the talks, members and friends are invited to The Lodge for drinks