



**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**

FEBRUARY 2014

**Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2014, and thank you to all those of you who have renewed your subscription promptly. If you have not already done so, we hope to entice you with the handful of interesting visits and excursions enclosed.**

**We look forward to seeing you all at lectures and events in the course of the year and wish you all a very happy 2014.**

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### **An important change**

As some members will be aware, Andrew Morrison has left the York Museums Trust to take up a post as Chief Executive of the Leeds Library.

Amidst the hurly - burly of last December YPS didn't have the opportunity to thank Andrew for the excellent support given to our Society. His combination of tremendous enthusiasm and curatorial skill raised the profile of the Yorkshire Museum to our benefit: he will be sorely missed. We are confident that in his new post as Chief Executive of the Leeds Library Andrew will make considerable further impact. We wish him well in his new role.

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### **YPS Tours 2014 availability**

An up-date on the events announced in our last newsletter (information correct as at 29<sup>th</sup> January)

- Visit to Wakefield - 21 February ..... Fully booked
- Visit to Fulford Barracks & Kohima Museum - 20 March Last few places available
- Tour to SE Eire – 18–23 May ..... 1 place left
- Wentworth Woodhouse & Wentworth Castle - 26 June ..... Last few places available
- Hadrian's Wall tour - 2–4 August ..... 2 rooms available for couples; no single rooms left.
- North Wales tour - 7–12 September ..... Places for couples & singles available

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

Single day excursions:-

- Visit to York University Physics Department
- "Bradford Communities" Visit
- Visit to Kiplin Hall & Himalayan Garden

Multi-day tour:-

- North Wales

And of course:-

- 2014 Membership Card (or a subscription reminder if you have not yet paid)

## YPS Easingwold Lecture: Preliminary Notice

Seeing and believing: antiquarian attitudes to medieval wall paintings

Dr Kate Giles, Department of Archaeology, University of York

Wednesday 30 April - 7.30 p.m.

Galtres Community Centre, Market Street, Easingwold

We like to have at least one "away fixture" a year at a Yorkshire venue. Traditionally we repeat a lecture that was exceptionally well received on home territory. That criterion is certainly well satisfied by our 2014 Easingwold lecturer Kate Giles with her excellent blend of history and archaeology (and a little bit of detective work).

Do get Thursday 8th May in your diary: we will be feeding you further information about the talk a couple of weeks before the event.

### Pharaoh's Challenge

As part of its mission to improve the public understanding of science, the Society is sponsoring a competition for groups of children in primary schools. Called the Pharaoh's Challenge, it is organised by the York Museums Trust, and involves using engineering skills to find a new way to build a pyramid. The final contest will be held at the 'Inspirations' event in June. We are hoping that some members may be interested in helping to judge this event, and also possibly in visiting schools as they work on the project. If you are interested, please contact Margaret Leonard, phone 658841, email MLeonardYork@gmail.com, or via the Lodge.

### Café Scientifique

Café Scientifique is continuing at City Screen Basement on the first Wednesday of each month, excepting August. The January presentation by Dr Gareth Evans on Neuroscience attracted 80 participants. Future plans include on 5<sup>th</sup> February a presentation by Prof David Raffaelli on ecosystems, 5<sup>th</sup> March Richard Ogden on linguistics and 2<sup>nd</sup> April Katrina Baaker on smart materials.

Please note doors open 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start.

The team planning the sessions (Dr Andrew Jones, Miss Catherine Brophy and Mr Terry Kirk) would be grateful for any comments about the venue and suggestions for future presentations. Contact: catherine@nybep.org.uk

### History of the Museum Gardens

The YPS Gardens Group has been working for some months to prepare the ground for a history of the Museum Gardens - one element of our plans to celebrate the YPS bicentenary. In preparation for the writing phase, Peter Hogarth is supervising the work of a postgraduate student, Catherine Francis, who is spending three months with us on a placement from the Institute for the Public Understanding of the Past (IPUP) in the University of York's Department of History. Catherine is scoping the sources that will underpin the book; she and Peter will be very pleased to hear of any pictorial and/or textual data that you may know of. Please be in touch with the YPS office if this is the case – and many thanks to those who contacted us after the last newsletter with useful information. We will of course acknowledge all of this help in the book.

Judith Glover, Convenor, Gardens Group

### Lodge Closures

The Lodge will be closed on the following dates, when Frances will be on holiday:

- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> & Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October inclusive

## YPS and the Festival of Ideas

An opportunity has arisen for YPS to tie in with the University of York's Festival of Ideas - we are discussing with the Festival team the possibility of hosting a suitable science-related event in the 2014 programme. This has the overall theme of 'Order and Chaos' and takes place June 12-22.

We've also suggested to the team that an event in the 2015 programme could focus on the bicentenary of the 1815 William Smith geology map. William Smith's work is seen by contemporary geologists as a key event in the history of geological research. A Festival of Ideas event, involving a range of partners such as the British Geological Survey, the Yorkshire Geological Society and the Geological Society of London, would be a timely event for YPS in its build-up to raising awareness (and funds!) for a geology map feature in the Gardens. As members will know, the Gardens Group is working with York Museums Trust to celebrate our own YPS bicentenary with a walk-on replica of the Yorkshire section of the William Smith map in the planned Garden of Yorkshire Flowers in the Museum Gardens.

We will be presenting these ideas at the coming YPS Council Meeting towards the end of February and any input/ideas would be welcome.

Judith Glover  
 Convenor of the Gardens Group

## Astrocampus

The Department of Physics at the University of York has a site known as 'The Astrocampus'. It includes two observatories with three excellent telescopes (one 14" and two 10"), three solar telescopes and two radio telescopes. The Department's Outreach Officer, Katherine Leech, is launching a campaign to upgrade the facilities not only to benefit the university's undergraduates, but also to open the site to the general public and school groups.

The plan is to open the site once a week in the winter months and once a month in the summer months for public observing sessions. These will be led by volunteers from the Department of Physics. The site will also be opened to school groups, who will be able to book in for space-themed workshops, as well as using all of the telescopes on the site. Youth groups such as Brownies, Guides, Cubs, and Scouts will also be able to do evening observing.

The fund-raising for this has been launched and details can be found at:

[www.york.ac.uk/astrocampus](http://www.york.ac.uk/astrocampus)

Any more information – contact Katharine Leech on [kl867@york.ac.uk](mailto:kl867@york.ac.uk)

## Membership Cards & Electronic Newsletters

If you have opted to receive newsletters by email, in the interests of saving postage we would be grateful if you could collect your membership card either at a lecture or from the Lodge (opening hours below). We appreciate that not everyone will be able to do this, so any cards which have not been collected at the end of February will be sent out by post. If you would like to receive yours sooner, please just let Frances know.

Please don't hesitate to contact Frances if you have any questions about your membership or subscription payments. Telephone number and email address are at the head of the Newsletter, and the office is open:

Monday & Wednesday	- 10 am to 4 pm (closed for lunch 1-2 pm)
Friday	- 10 am to 12 noon