



NEWSLETTER

Yorkshire Philosophical Society

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Funds raised for Geological Map!

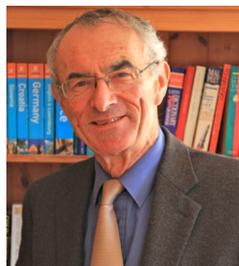
YPS's target of £30,000 towards the creation of a 'walk-on' geological map for Museum Gardens has been achieved, thanks to the tremendous support of our members. Crucial, too, were donations from a number of local Trusts and Societies ...

(Continued on p2, with 'Map Progress report')

What Council members do: YPS Chair, Stephen Lusty, talks about his role...

The other day somebody asked me "Yes, but what do YPS Council members actually do?" This took me by surprise but on further thought seemed a legitimate question. So to answer that question we will run a series of interviews with Council office holders. In this edition we are asking "What does the Chair do?"

(Continued on back page)



Notice of AGM

Members are encouraged to attend the Society's AGM on Tuesday 2nd June at 6.45pm. This will be followed by the lecture "Waterloo: an iconic battle?" given by Professor Alan Forrest. After the lecture we will be holding an informal reception, where we will serve wine, soft drinks and nibbles.

There is no need to book in advance; the small charge of £3 for the reception will be collected as you leave the lecture. Do take this opportunity to catch up with old friends and welcome new members.

With this Newsletter

- Details of the Society's AGM
 - YPS Annual Report 2014
 - Lecture programme for September-December 2015
- plus details of:**
- A Day in South Yorkshire
 - Kirkstall Abbey, Gatehouse Museum, and Thwaite Mills
 - Wood and Iron: visit the North East coast
 - 6-Day Tour of Kent
 - A Voyage of Discovery: Leeds Museum reserve collections

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If anything is missing please contact Frances at the Lodge.

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If you receive the newsletter by email your Annual Report will be posted to you. Alternatively, please let Frances know if you are able to collect it at a lecture or from the Lodge.

LODGE CLOSURE

The Lodge will be closed from Monday 8th to Friday 12th June, for the Clerk's holiday

Funds raised for Geological Map

(Continued from p1)

including York Civic Trust, the Feoffees of St Michael's Spurriergate, the Sylvia and Colin Shepherd Charitable Trust, the Noel Terry Charitable Trust, the Institution of Engineering and Technology, YAYAS, York and District Geographical Association, The Sheldon Trust, and St Peter's School. We now have enough funds to finance the large-scale map and to undertake a few of the smaller associated projects which will heighten its significance. Details of these will emerge over the coming months.

Stephen Lusty, Chair

Geological Map Progress report

The great news is that work has now started on the map. Our designer, Janette Ireland, has begun to construct the first of the prefabricated blocks in her studio, and in Museum Gardens the civil engineering work required for the map foundations and access paths is underway.

A few weeks ago, at the William Smith lecture, you may have seen the stunning conceptual design displayed in the Yorkshire Museum Atrium. After some further work on the details, Janette made a full sized 4m x 4m template, which she cut into the sizes and shapes needed for the blocks. Laying the pebbles is both creative and painstaking work, and Janette expects to make an average of 1 square metre of pebble mosaic each week. The engraving of the text, on black granite inserts, has been out-sourced to a specialist in Scotland.

The project is clearly on track, and we are now hoping the map will be completed ahead of schedule so that it is in place for the International Ceramics Festival, planned for the second week of September in Museum Gardens.

Background information on the project is available in the Reading Room at the YPS Lodge.

Rod and Margaret Leonard for GMP Team

Lecture programme 2015-2016

Details of the first part of the next year's lecture series are sent to you with this newsletter. We are

trying a new system this year - giving the details of the September-December 2015 lectures ahead of the January-June 2016 ones. The latter will be included with the next newsletter. Dividing the programme in two is much easier for me as lecture secretary and we hope it won't inconvenience members - but do let us know if it does!

For the last 200 years, our aim has been to promote public understanding of science. Science (formerly 'natural philosophy' - hence the Society's name) is defined very broadly to encompass all fields of organised knowledge. We don't have an overall theme as such, but we usually have a mini-theme of three or four connected lectures. In 2015-16 this will be 'Educational research - making a difference'. As ever, we welcome your feedback and comment.

Judith Glover, Vice-Chair & Lecture Secretary

YPS to host Festival of Ideas event

Normally the AGM marks the end of the lecture season, but this year there is a further exciting event. On **Tuesday June 9th** YPS will be hosting this year's Festival of Ideas opening event, in partnership with the University of York. Two public figures, the humanist philosopher AC Grayling and former Tory MP Jonathan Aitken, known to hold widely differing views, will speak in front of a public audience. Further details of this and the full programme for the Festival of Ideas will be available from May on the FoI website: www.yorkfestivalofideas.com/2015/

Next YPS Outreach Lecture

"The Waggoners' Memorial: a sense of place"
by **Dorothy Nott**

Thursday 1 October, 7.30pm, at the Galtres Centre, Easingwold

Following the carnage of the First World War, there was a widespread desire to remember those killed in the conflict, and the extreme numbers of the dead led to new ways of marking their sacrifice, both at home and where they fell. Throughout Europe, survivors struggled to give form to their memories in poetry, song and visual art. This lecture will examine the story behind the

formation of the Waggoners' Reserve as revealed on the memorial, and look at how this unusual monument reflects both the cosmopolitan interests of Sir Mark Sykes of Sledmere, and those of the Waggoners, against the specific backdrop of the Yorkshire Wolds.



Members who attended this lecture in York some time ago will welcome another opportunity to enjoy this very popular talk. Those who did not are recommended to join our members and friends in Easingwold on October 1st.



Conisborough Castle
 'A Day in South Yorkshire' 10 June (see flier)



Hartlepool Maritime Experience - The North East Coast, 3 September (see flier)

"The rough and the smooth" of a superb YPS study holiday in the South West, which included tin mine and china clay mine visits, as well as a private tour around the Royal Navy's Training College at Dartmouth...



President's Evening Questionnaire

Thanks to everybody who filled in and returned the questionnaire regarding the President's Evening. There has been a tremendous response, which I will analyse and report back on when I return from India at the beginning of May. Meanwhile, just a reminder that the date for this year's President's Evening is Wednesday, October 21st. *Sharon Lusty*

What Council Members Do - What does the Chair Do?

(Continued from p1)

Having done this job for nearly 5 years now, I readily admit that I should have asked myself this question 5 years ago!

According to the Charity Commission's guidance, it is the Chair's job to ensure that the Society conforms to Charity Commission law, that it fulfils its stated charitable aims and that the society's accounts are submitted correctly and on time. The Chair is also expected to plan and chair Council meetings, to deal with any internal administrative issues and to settle any internal disputes.

You will be pleased to know that the YPS has a really strong officer team and a very committed employed Clerk, and that the Chair does not have to spend a lot of time worrying about these fundamental issues. Because of the size and the quality of the team, it has been my good fortune to have been able to devote more time to being active in the YPS working groups and in ensuring that the Society involves itself in more exciting outward-looking projects, and that its members feel that they are getting value for money from their membership subscriptions.

But if you would like a tongue in cheek (but surprisingly true) list of some frequent and important Chair 'duties' that seem to be forever recurring ...

1. Responding to complaints about the sound system in the Tempest Anderson Hall
2. Settling disputes as to whether the Chair should be called Chair, Chairman, Chairperson (it is surprising how much time has to be spent in a fast-changing world, making sure that we get protocols right!)
3. Avoiding the torrents of members visiting the Lodge when Frances is in residence
4. Buying Frances, our clerk, an Eccles Cake for lunch whenever possible!

... So if there are any prospective candidates for a future Chair reading this, be warned!

Stephen Lusty, Chair

Some dates for your diary...

Tuesday 2 June, 6.45pm
YPS AGM

Monday 8 - Friday 12 June
Lodge closed for Clerk's holiday

Tuesday 9 June
YPS/Festival of Ideas opening event -
Speakers AC Grayling & Jonathon Aitken

Wednesday 10 June
A Day in South Yorkshire
(flier enclosed)

Tuesday 4 August
Visit Abbey Gatehouse Museum,
Kirkstall Abbey and Thwaite Mills (flier
enclosed)

Thursday 3 September
Wood and Iron: visit the North East
Coast (flier enclosed)

13-18 September
Tour of Kent (flier enclosed)

And further ahead :

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

Wednesday 21 October
President's Evening, Lady Anne
Middleton's Hotel

Thursday 12 November
A Voyage of Discovery: Leeds Museum
reserve collections (flier enclosed)

A thank-you to all our mail distributors...

There is a very good chance that this newsletter has been delivered to your letterbox by one of our members living near to you. Their willingness to take on this work saves the Society at least £800 per year. It can be a weighty, thankless task, so here's a very big THANK YOU! to those who volunteer to do it. If you feel you could join their ranks, please get in touch with Frances, at the Lodge.