



**Yorkshire Philosophical Society, The Lodge, Museum Gardens, York, YO1 7DR**  
**Tel/Fax: 01904 656713 Email: [info@ypsyork.org](mailto:info@ypsyork.org) [www.ypsyork.org](http://www.ypsyork.org)**  
**Registered Charity No: 529709 An affiliated society of the British Science Association**

## **NEWSLETTER**

OCTOBER 2014

### **A VERY SPECIAL YPS GEOLOGICAL MAP PROJECT**

It is many years since the YPS made a substantial contribution to the Museum or to the Museum Gardens. But during the coming months, we have several motivating factors for doing so. These first two pages of the newsletter are devoted to the project

Many of you will have noticed the great improvements which have taken place within the Gardens during the past 5 years under the past two Head Gardeners, Sjaak Kastelijn and Alison Pringle. They have improved the maintenance, planting, presentation and general image of the Gardens to a point where they are once more heading in the direction of a return to the 'Botanic' status which the YPS imbued them with more than 150 years ago.

The York Museums Trust is now proposing to develop the hitherto unused northern part of the Museum Gardens, and has submitted planning applications for three new gardens. Cascading down from the back of the newly renovated Art Gallery to St Olave's churchyard will be: an Artists' Garden, a Garden of Edible Fruits, and a Garden of Yorkshire Flowers

We have the opportunity of contributing a major feature to the Gardens, by creating a unique 'walk-on' geological map as the focal point of what will become the Garden of Yorkshire Flowers.

By subscribing to the project you will be:

- acting as a benefactor to the Museum Gardens, to the people of York and to its visitors
- celebrating a former YPS member, William Smith, who created the first ever geological map of Britain 200 years ago in 1815
- providing a stunning visual aid, already earmarked by the Yorkshire Museum for use in conjunction with its exhibits and educational programme
- as a YPS member, you will be stimulating and enlightening the 1.7million annual visitors to Museum Gardens - children, parents and grandparents who will pause to admire and question.

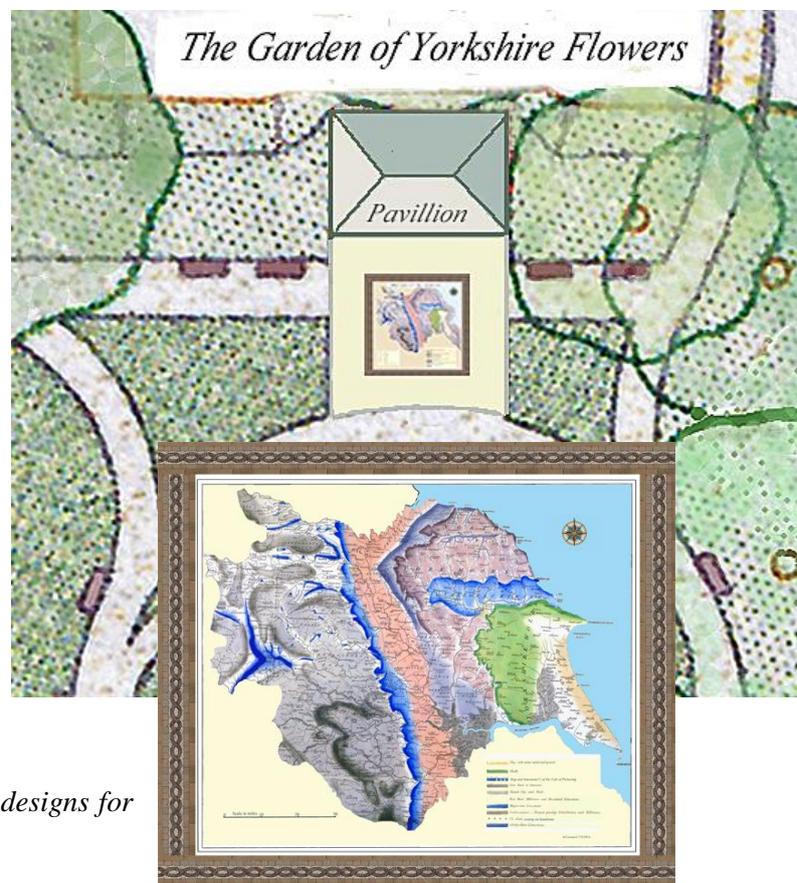
The project is under way and is being developed by a project team led by our own Rod Leonard under the watchful eye of a Steering Team consisting of the Head Gardener, The York Museum Trust's Chief Financial Officer, Rod Leonard and the YPS Chair, Stephen Lusty.

It is now reaching the critical stage where it needs your input and help - as the enclosed letter will describe.

We have already received 6 donations of £1000 or more. Donations of this order will, if desired, be acknowledged with the donor's name on a plaque close to the map, but **each and every donation of whatever size will be important to the project and gratefully received, and will attract an invitation to one of several Map Opening events.**

## THE 'WALK-ON' GEOLOGICAL MAP

- Substantial and aesthetically pleasing in tesserae, mosaic or pebble.
- Geology brought to life by the map and rock samples in the surrounding garden.
- A major Educational Aid for teachers illustrating landscape, topography, rocks, minerals and other curriculum subjects.
- Complements the Yorkshire Museum's geology collections and educational programme.



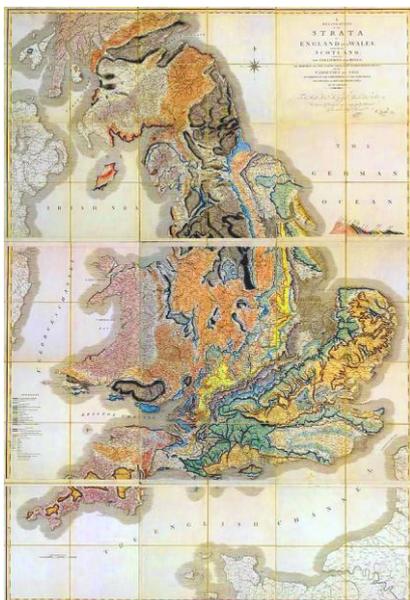
*A notional representation of the proposed map, three designs for which are currently being assessed*

## MUSEUM GARDENS

The Gardens were designed in the 'Gardenesque style' in 1844 by Sir John Naesmith for the Yorkshire Philosophical Society. Through the stewardship of the Society's curators (the most renowned being John Phillips) they became one of the country's leading scientific gardens. In 1960 they were donated to the city of York and are now professionally managed by the York Museums Trust. Today they attract 1.7million visitors per year. The Trust is embarking on a major extension to the Gardens which will incorporate the proposed Garden of Yorkshire Flowers in front of the pavilion on the old bowling green.

## WILLIAM SMITH

William Smith was born in 1769, the son of a blacksmith. He had little education but was good at geometry and became a self-taught surveyor. In 1794, while supervising the building of the Somerset Coal Canal, he observed that fossils of the same species were always in the same geological strata, that different species came in a specific order of the strata, and that this pattern was repeated in different parts of the country. He then embarked on his dream – to make a geological map of Britain, based on the geological data collected on his travels walking round the country.



William Smith became known in his day as "Strata Smith". He is now recognised by geologists as "The Father of English Geology". His 1815 map has been immortalised in Simon Winchester's book "The Map that Changed the World".

He was member, mentor and lecturer of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, and uncle to The Yorkshire Museum's most renowned keeper, John Phillips, who was, to a great degree, responsible for making the gardens what they are today – one of the loveliest public gardens in England.

## *And now read on for other news ...*

### **YPS Trip to Newcastle; November 3rd**

John Bibby, the organiser of this trip, writes as follows:

"Almost 60 people have signed up for this trip, and I have booked tickets for those who asked me to do so on the 9:34 train from York in Coach F. This is what I recommend for others booking their own tickets.

"I am on holiday in Bosnia/Kosovo etc. until October 16th, and will contact all participants with final details towards the end of October. If there are any queries, please email me at [jb43@york.ac.uk](mailto:jb43@york.ac.uk) although your email is less likely to get lost in my spam box if you can write after I return rather than while I am away."

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### **Presentation of Archaeology Prizes**

Before our lecture on *Animals in York: reflections on the zooarchaeological record* by Professor Terry O'Connor on December 9<sup>th</sup> we shall have the pleasure of presenting our two annual archaeology prizes for York University students, the Charles Wellbeloved Award for the best under-graduate dissertation and the Herman Ramm Prize for the best post-graduate dissertation. As we go to press, the names and topics of this year's winners are eagerly awaited.

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### **Christmas Post-Lecture Mince-Pie Reception**

Start your Christmas celebrations with wine and mince pies in the Yorkshire Museum Atrium after Peter Hogarth's lecture on dragons on 16th December. All welcome. There will be a charge of £3, which will be collected as you leave the lecture.

### **Pancake Day ?**

It has been suggested that YPS might hold a pancake lunch on Shrove Tuesday 17th February 2015. Possible menu – a savoury pancake, followed by a sorbet, and finally a sweet pancake and tea/coffee. Probable location – St. Olave's church hall by Marygate car park (pay alas!). Likely cost in the region of £13.

As this will involve considerable organisation, we need to know in advance whether a pancake lunch as above would be supported. Please let Alan Owen (on 01904 791543 or email [alowen2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:alowen2000@yahoo.co.uk)) or Frances at the Lodge (on 01904 656713; email [info@ypsyork.org](mailto:info@ypsyork.org)) know if you are interested in supporting such a lunch, and leave your contact details (preferably an email address), and you will be contacted at a later date giving details of what has been arranged, or advising that there has not been enough support to justify the event.

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### **YPS Tours and cancellations**

YPS Council has agreed that in future, the YPS should operate a cancellations procedure akin to that followed by other tour operators. This will ensure uniform treatment of any cancellations.

Cancellation procedures will be issued along with booking forms for all future tours. Please take the trouble to read them before you next make a booking.

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### **Traveller tip**

Regular users of National Express coach services should note that a National Express Senior Coachcard (60+) is available from them for £10 (+£1.50 postage).

***Why not consult the YPS website for all the latest information on events?***

## Office closure

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

- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October inclusive
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November

And will close for Christmas/New Year at midday on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December, re-opening on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

## Subscription Renewals

The festive season approaches which means it's the time of year to think about subscription renewals. This year's rates remain unchanged as follows and we hope the notes below will be useful.

*Single membership: £26*

*Joint membership: £42*

*Single concession: £19*

*Joint concession: £32*

*Institutions: £40*

- Membership subscriptions fall due on January 1<sup>st</sup>, and you should find a renewal form enclosed with your newsletter.
- If there is no renewal form in your envelope, this means that you have already paid up to the end of 2015 or you have a Standing Order in place to pay your subscription. You need do nothing, and your membership card will come to you automatically with the next Newsletter.
- We would be very grateful if you could pay your subscription promptly so that your membership cards can be sent out with our first newsletter of 2015, which will go out in late January or early February. Your 2014 card remains valid until then, so don't worry that you don't have a new one at the start of the year.
- If you wish to change to paying by Standing Order, it would be very helpful if your form could be returned to the Lodge **before 19th December** in order to allow time for banks to set up the Order before the payment date.
- It is still possible to pay your subscription via our website using Paypal. You don't need a Paypal account - just a credit or debit card will do. Simply go to the "Donate to YPS" page (click on the "Payments" link at top right of the Homepage) or the "Make a Payment" page and follow the instructions. Please state "Subscription" and your membership category in the "Purpose" box.
- If you are one of the small number of members who have not yet up-dated their Standing Orders to reflect our new subscription rates, we would be very grateful if you could do so. Please contact Frances if unsure of how to do this.
- Please don't hesitate to contact Frances at The Lodge if you have any questions about your membership or subscription payments.

You should have received the following flyers with this Newsletter. Please contact Frances at The Lodge if any are missing:

- ✓ Your invitation to support the Geological Map Project
- ✓ Visit to Ripon Museums
- ✓ Advance notice of a Tour to South West England - Pirates, Shipwrecks and Railways
- ✓ Subscription Renewal Form (if applicable)