



# NEWSLETTER

## Yorkshire Philosophical Society

Promoting the public understanding of science since 1822

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### NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

It is with great pleasure that the YPS Council can announce that Professor Sir John Holman has accepted our invitation to be the next President of the YPS. Members will be asked to ratify his appointment at the AGM on 5 June. As many members will know, Professor Holman is the founder of The National Science Learning Centre based at the University of York and is currently completing his term of office as President of The Royal Society of Chemistry. John will join us to chair the lecture on 10 April, when our speaker will be Dr John Grimshaw, Director of the Yorkshire Arboretum.



2018 is the 'Year of Engineering' and it is most appropriate that we will be commemorating Alan Owen, YPS Vice President, with a lecture in his honour. This will also be an opportunity to introduce the Malden/Owen Awards to you, made possible by a generous bequest from the family. The awards will be made annually with the objective of promoting Alan Owen's interests in the public understanding of electrical engineering and other STEMM subjects, his love of the outdoors, and his desire to give young people educational and other opportunities to make progress in their lives. This also provides us with an opportunity to expand our work with Education partners in Yorkshire.

Several Members attended a joint meeting with York Museums Trust in January when Andrew Woods, Senior Curator, reminded us of the early history of the Society, which includes of course the birth and development of the Yorkshire Museum. Andrew also outlined a potential redevelopment of the Museum Atrium for 2022 to include the history of the Society and the Museum. A summary of the presentation is

included in this newsletter and I would very much like to hear your views. We are grateful to Reyahn King, YMT CEO, for leading the discussions and for her support as Patron of the Society.

Our lecture programme is increasingly popular and we have taken the decision that once or twice a year we will need to ticket a lecture. Details will be given in the newsletter and at lectures in good time to avoid any disappointment. We are also continuing to pay for extra security at the Marygate entrance and do appreciate anyone using that entrance putting a donation in the 'Garden Pig' on the reception desk.

YPS has a tremendous team of volunteers amongst the membership, who really work hard to help the Society to thrive. Even if you are tentative about getting involved do speak to volunteers and Council Members at lectures, easily identified by their YPS name badges. Enclosed with this newsletter is a note of the AGM on 5 June and nomination form for new Members of Council. As we approach the bicentenary in 2022 we hope to involve more members in the work of the Society, particularly those who can offer fund raising, legal or networking skills and experience. Thank you all for your support for the Society. *Catherine Brophy, Chair*

#### With this Newsletter

- ◆ 2018 Membership Card or Subscription Reminder
- ◆ Notice of AGM & call for nominations to Council
- ◆ Visit to York Mansion House, 28 February
- ◆ Geology Trip to North Lincs, 9 March
- ◆ Visit to Thorp Perrow & Mount Grace Priory, 3 May
- ◆ Yorkshire Jurassic Symposium, 19 May
- ◆ Visit to Creswell Crags, 30 May
- ◆ Annual Dinner Survey
- ◆ Gardens History Book invitation to pre-order

*If anything is missing contact Frances Chambers at the Lodge, 01904-656713, email [info@ypsyork.org](mailto:info@ypsyork.org)*

**LARGE PRINT COPIES OF THE NEWSLETTER ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE LODGE**

## Meeting of YMT and YPS

The following is a brief summary of the meeting held at the Yorkshire Museum on 15 January between the Society and York Museums Trust. It was hosted by Catherine Brophy (Chair, YPS) and Reyahn King (CEO, YMT). The aim of the meeting was to explore how the two institutions might work together most effectively.

The origins of the collections that YMT now curates are to be found with the YPS in 1822. Some of the star items (Head of Constantine) and outstanding collections (Kirkdale Cave) of the museum today were donated in the first years of the YPS. These acquisitions grew rapidly with scientific collectors and antiquarians creating a huge and highly varied collection. Today, all of the collections of YMT have been awarded nationally 'designated' status by the Arts Council. This is very unusual and denotes that they are of national importance.

The collections held at the Yorkshire Museum divide into three major sections: Natural Science, Archaeology and Numismatics. There are over 600,000 natural science specimens with highlights including the Middlesbrough Meteorite and our Jurassic material, which is to be the subject of a major exhibition from March. The Archaeology collection comprises around 1,000,000 objects with incredible artefacts such as the Middleham Jewel and the Four Seasons Mosaic. The Numismatic collection numbers 45,000 objects with highlights including the Vale of York Hoard. In each case, these collections are the strongest in Northern England. They are curated by a small team of five curators.

YMT and YPS have worked well together in the past. There has been excellent programming with YPS events and lectures matching up with exhibitions, such as *Viking*, in the museum. YMT has been fortunate to be able to call upon YPS's expertise and time, such as with a project to clean our glass slide collection. We have also been able to work together with Universities, including hosting a display of the winning entry for the John and Anne Phillips Prize for the best Geological Mapping Dissertation. We are also very grateful for the funding that YPS has provided for a number of projects, including the Geological Map in the Gardens.

Looking forward we are keen to build upon this existing platform, but must do so within the capacity and plans of each organisation. The aim of the meeting was to try to determine where those ambitions overlap. By way of beginning discussion, it was suggested that the following might be areas

where we could work together:

- Continue, and build upon, our joint programme. Work together on the delivery of events around the Jurassic exhibition and the 'Normans in the North' lecture.
- A project to bring together YPS's outstanding work on the history of the Gardens with our archives.
- Work on a project associated with Kirkdale Cave, one of the outstanding early parts of the collection, with an important role in the history of Science.
- Work on a 2022 project associated with the Bicentenary of the YPS and the collections. This might encompass a redisplay of the history of the collections within the museum and a popular book detailing the history of the museum and its collections.

*Andrew Woods, Senior Curator, YMT*

## Activities Group

### Visits to book now

(further details on flyers enclosed with newsletter)

**Wednesday 28 February**, an early evening visit to the recently refurbished York Mansion House, including a guided tour and tea/coffee in the State Room.

**Thursday 3 May**, a day visit to Thorp Perrow, Snape Chapel and Mount Grace Priory.

**Wednesday 30 May**, a one-day study tour in the 'Dukeries', visiting Creswell Crags in the morning to view the Cave Art, with a talk, followed by an afternoon visit to the recently opened Harley Gallery.

### Two dates for your diary

You will see from the flyers enclosed with this newsletter that we are offering an interesting and varied programme of visits for the spring. Further activities will be advertised in the next newsletter and on the website, but you might like to keep a space in your diaries for these two events:

**Wednesday 4 July**, day visit to Farnley Hall, the home of Guy Horton Fawkes, a descendent of Guy Fawkes of the Gunpowder Plot. JMW Turner was a frequent visitor and many of his paintings will be on view.

**25-30 September**, a study tour to Shropshire including visits to several houses and gardens as well as some interesting industrial archaeology. On the way back we will stop in Liverpool to see the exhibition of the Chinese Terracotta Warriors.

*Margaret Leonard, Activities Committee*



by Tony Stanfield

## YPS Annual Dinner

Formerly known as the YPS President's Evening, our Annual Dinner is a highlight of our social calendar and very much enjoyed, with much positive verbal feedback. Over the years the President's Evening has changed substantially in form and when I took over running it in 2015 it seemed a good point to reflect on what further changes members would like. The President and Council tasked the Social Committee with this and I conducted a survey of members' views. We have implemented a number of changes as a result and have tried three different venues over the last three years. I promised that I would review the situation again, so please fill in the accompanying questionnaire and return it to the Office in the Lodge, Museum Gardens. We look forward to hearing from you!

*Sharon Lusty, Annual Dinner Organiser, Activities Committee*

## Lecture with Yorkshire Gardens Trust

Tuesday 8 May, "Humphry Repton, Landscape Gardener (1752-1818) and his Yorkshire Commissions". This lecture marks the bicentenary of



Humphry Repton and is likely to be well attended by members of both organisations so we will be ticketing the event. Priority entrance will be given to ticket holders provided they arrive by 7.20pm. Tickets will be free, and available at lectures in April as well as from Frances Chambers in the Lodge.

## Geology Group

### John and Anne Phillips Lecture

"Mines and Mapping in Africa", Thursday 8 March at the University of Hull, by Katherine Goodenough (BGS Scotland). Details will be posted on the YPS website, also from the YPS Office, or by email: [ypsgeology@gmail.com](mailto:ypsgeology@gmail.com).

It is intended to add an afternoon activity for those interested. Lunch and a visit to a site of historical, local or geological interest to be arranged. Please contact Paul Thornley to register your interest: [ypsgeology@gmail.com](mailto:ypsgeology@gmail.com)



**Friday 9 March** Trip to North Lincolnshire Museum, Scunthorpe, and Conesby Quarry. We will visit the Museum's new galleries: Jurassic Seas and The Steel Town, with a talk on the local Frodingham Ironstone (on which the steelworks were founded). This will be followed by a trip to Conesby Quarry to view the geological strata and collect fossils, bivalves and ammonites, especially *Aegasteroceras sagittarium*, often characterised by a beautiful moss-green colour. The day will be led by Paul Hildreth, General Secretary of the Yorkshire Geological Society. Stout footwear is necessary, hard hats optional, bring a hammer and goggles. Transport by private car (flyer enclosed).

**"Yorkshire's Jurassic World"** A major new exhibition at the Yorkshire Museum from 24 March: This exhibition has been part supported by a YPS grant. Sir David Attenborough has agreed to officially open it on 23 March and YMT Card Holders will have a chance to win tickets for the opening, see [yorkmuseumstrust.org.uk/yorkshires-jurassic-world-ymt-card-holders-competition/](http://yorkmuseumstrust.org.uk/yorkshires-jurassic-world-ymt-card-holders-competition/).



**“Uncovering the Yorkshire Jurassic”** Saturday 19 May, a one-day symposium held jointly by YPS and YMT, in connection with Yorkshire’s Jurassic World exhibition at the Yorkshire Museum, flyer enclosed.

**Sunday 20 May** Field trips to be organised to Jurassic sites in Yorkshire. Details on the YPS website or from the YPS office. *Paul Thornley, Geology Group*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Membership Cards

If you have renewed your subscription, your 2018 membership card should be enclosed with this newsletter. If not, please contact Frances at the Lodge 01904-656713 or email [info@ypsYork.org](mailto:info@ypsYork.org). If you receive the Newsletter by email, we would be grateful if you could save postage by collecting your card from the Lodge or at a lecture.

### Standing Orders

Thanks to all of you who have changed your standing orders to the new subscription rates. There are still quite a few standing orders which have not yet been up-dated. If yours is one of them please do complete the enclosed form and return it to Frances as soon as possible, to save her the extra work of contacting members individually.

### Newsletters by Email

The response to the questionnaire about email preferences sent out with our last newsletter has almost doubled the number of members who receive their newsletter by email, saving postage and the effort of our volunteer newsletter packers and deliverers. Thank you to all who have signed up for this and, if you haven’t yet, please do consider it.

### William the Conqueror at the Lodge

In response to the interest in the lecture by David Bates on 14 November, a copy of his book *William the Conqueror* has been acquired for the library at the Lodge and is now available for borrowing by members. If you would like to read it, please contact Frances.

### Gardens History Book

Good progress is being made on the book, with the final images ready to go with the completed text to the designer, who has been commissioned to work on the book in April. Thanks to all the sponsors of the book which means we have the resources to go ahead. Enclosed with the newsletter is an order form to pre-order your copy at the pre-publication price of £20, if you haven’t already done so.

### Office Closure

The Lodge will be closed from 6-13 April inclusive for Frances’ holiday re-opening on Monday 16 April.

## DIARY

◆ **YPS Lectures are held on Tuesdays, unless otherwise stated, at 7.30pm in the Tempest Anderson Hall and are free to members. Non-members are welcome to attend and are asked for a voluntary contribution.**

◆ **Café Scientifique presentations are held on the first Wednesday of each month, meeting at 7 for 7.30pm in the City Screen Basement Bar, Coney St. YO1 9QL. Tickets are free and can be pre-booked by phone or online with City Screen (tel 0871-9025726).**

◆ **YPS Get-togethers are held at The Star Inn the City, access from Museum Street - down the slope beside Lendal Bridge, or Judy Dench Walk on the riverbank.**

### Tuesday 27 February 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

“Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation - reaching the parts other stimulators cannot reach” Anthony Barker, Medical School, University of Sheffield

### Wednesday 28 February 2.30pm - YPS Get-together

at the Star Inn the City (see box above)

**Wednesday 28 February** Evening visit to the York Mansion House (flyer enclosed)

### Wednesday 7 March 7.30pm - Café Scientifique

“Invisible Superheroes” with ICE Engineers

### Thursday 8 March John & Anne Phillips Lecture at the

University of Hull “Mines and Mapping in Africa” Katherine Goodenough (BGS Scotland), details on website or email: [ypsgeology@gmail.com](mailto:ypsgeology@gmail.com)

**Friday 9 March** Geology trip to North Lincolnshire Museum and Conesby Quarry (flyer enclosed)

### Tuesday 13 March 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

“Discovering Dinosaurs in Britain: The Original Dinomania!” Dean Lomax, Palaeontologist, joint lecture with YMT, sponsored by BSA for British Science Week

### Wednesday 14 March 2.30pm - YPS Get-together

at the Star Inn the City (see box above)

### Tuesday 27 March 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

“A sheep is a sheep, is a sheep... or is it? Sheep in all their wonderful variety” Agnes Winter, FRCVS, University of Liverpool

### Wednesday 4 April 7.30pm - Café Scientifique

“Bioenergy” Patrick Mason

### Tuesday 10 April 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

“Trees for the Future: Protecting trees from pests and diseases and climate change” John Grimshaw, Director, Yorkshire Arboretum

### Tuesday 24 April 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

“Engineering the Future” Naomi Climer, past president, IET, joint lecture with the Institution of Engineering & Technology (North Yorkshire), sponsored by IET (North Yorkshire)



Dean Lomax, 13 March Joint Lecture with YMT  
Sponsored by BSA for British Science Week

**Wednesday 2 May 7.30pm - Café Scientifique**  
“The Late Pleistocene Glacial History of the Vale of York”  
Bill Fairburn, for Geology Month

**Thursday 3 May** A day visit to Thorp Perrow, Snape Chapel and Mount Grace Priory (flyer enclosed)

**Tuesday 8 May 7.30pm - YPS Lecture**  
“Humphry Repton, Landscape Gardener (1752-1818) and his Yorkshire Commissions” Patrick Eyres, joint lecture with Yorkshire Gardens Trust *NB: this event will be ticketed (free for members)*

**Saturday 19 May - YPS & YMT Symposium**  
“Uncovering the Yorkshire Jurassic” (flyer enclosed)

**Tuesday 22 May 7.30pm - YPS Lecture**  
“The Bare Bones of Burials in Archaeology: a Commercial Archaeologist’s View” David Williams, Archaeological Services, WYAS

**Wednesday 30 May** A one-day study tour in the ‘Dukeries’ (flyer enclosed)

**Tuesday 5 June 7.30pm - YPS Lecture & AGM**  
“A Treasure Not to be Sacrificed: a continuing history of the Museum Gardens” Peter Hogarth, University of York

**Wednesday 6 June 7.30pm - Café Scientifique**  
“Language change as competition” Ann Taylor, University of York, for York Festival of Ideas

**Tuesday 12 June 7.30pm - YPS Lecture**  
“Bones – Imaging Prehistoric and Modern Women” Alison Macintosh, University of Cambridge, for York Festival of Ideas

**Tuesday 17 July 7.30pm - YPS Lecture preceded by John & Anne Phillips Prize presentations**  
“Deadly Clouds and Volcanic Flows” Dr Rebecca Williams, University of Hull

Keep up to date with reports of events, links and information on the YPS Blog: [www.ypsYork.org/blog/](http://www.ypsYork.org/blog/)

## Ocean clean-up project to be part of British Science Week 10-19 March

The British Science Association has revealed their citizen science partnership for British Science Week 2018 - with **The Plastic Tide**, a charity made up of ocean, science and tech enthusiasts committed to working out ways to clean up our beaches and oceans of marine litter and plastics. Their ultimate mission is to create a machine learning algorithm that can automatically detect, identify and monitor marine litter in images supplied by armies of drones surveying beaches. This will offer, for the first time, a tool that can help us understand not only where plastics and marine litter goes but what kind and how much. They are starting with beaches but will soon extend imaging to the seabed and sea surface.

**How you can get involved:** During British Science Week, the public is being asked to help tag 250,000 images of beaches on a computer or mobile device - you don’t have to go to a beach! Every image tagged gives a boost to the algorithm’s ability to detect plastics and marine litter in pictures of the oceans, increasing its success rate. To get started, go to: <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/theplastictide/the-plastic-tide>

You can begin clicking images now - but the official counter will be put up during British Science Week (10-19 March). Ocean waste is having a huge impact on wildlife, as many of our precious sea creatures are ingesting as well as getting trapped in plastics, which harms them and the food chain - which could even include us!

[britishscienceassociation.org/news/ocean-clean-up-project-to-be-part-of-british-science-week](http://britishscienceassociation.org/news/ocean-clean-up-project-to-be-part-of-british-science-week)

