



NEWSLETTER

Yorkshire Philosophical Society

Promoting the public understanding of science since 1822

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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

The first part of the 2017 lecture programme has now been completed. Amongst excellent lectures were two given by colleagues on YPS Council. In May Dr Judith Glover explained sociological approaches to collecting evidence of changing patterns and trends in women's employment, stressing the possibilities of this research in supporting social policy interventions. In June Dr Peter Hogarth gave us the first part of "A Noble Spot of Ground", excerpts from the history of Museum Gardens. We look forward to Part Two in 2018 as we also progress towards the publication of Dr Hogarth and Prof Ewan Anderson's book: *"The Most Fortunate Situation..." A History of York's Museum Gardens*. You'll find a leaflet enclosed giving more information about this project. We are seeking donations to help with publication costs and are most grateful for the generous response already from members. We hope that many of you will wish to pre-order a copy of the book, which we plan to publish towards the end of 2018.

A copy of the lecture programme for autumn 2017 is enclosed with this newsletter. The first lecture is on 19 September when Professor Graham Law will present "Sleep: The Science and the Myths", following his recent publication on the subject. Copies of his book will be available at a book-signing after the lecture. On 17 October we are inviting members to join us before the lecture to meet the sixth-formers who took part in the Nuffield Partnership Awards, working with scientists over the summer. From 6.15pm there will be an opportunity to see the students' display of posters and discuss their projects with them, with refreshments on hand. During the evening we will present one of the students with a new Science Prize, thanks to the generosity of Mr John Hampshire.



Our new programme offers further study opportunities for members with a visit to English Heritage's Store in Helmsley, a walking tour "The Building Stones of York" organised by the Geology Group, and the monthly Café Scientifique meetings.

The Society's Annual Dinner will be held on Wednesday 8 November and we are delighted that our guest speaker this year will be Prof Brian Fulton, Dean of the Faculty for the Sciences, University of York. We do hope many of you will join us for this enjoyable evening in good company. *Catherine Brophy, Chair*

With this Newsletter

- ◆ Lecture Programme, September - December
- ◆ Building Stones of York Tour - flier
- ◆ Invitation to YPS Annual Dinner
- ◆ A History of York's Museum Gardens - request for support

If anything is missing contact Frances Chambers at the Lodge, 01904-656713, email info@ypsyork.org

LARGE PRINT COPIES OF THE NEWSLETTER ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE LODGE

YPS Activities Group Report

The Mary Rose, Stump Cross Cavern, the Jim Austin Computer Shed, Richmond's Georgian Theatre and the Bridgewater Canal - these are just a few of the places visited by the YPS in the last few months.

The 16th century warship, the Mary Rose, was one of the many interesting sites on our Portsmouth tour. We also visited Coventry Cathedral, Osbourne House, Butser Ancient Farm and Spinnaker Tower. This was the first of our multiday tours run by 'Just for Groups!' and whilst there were a few teething problems, there were many positives, including an excellent hotel, and we are confident that our next tour organised by them will run smoothly.

Three very different day trips took us to Richmond, the Yorkshire Dales and the Manchester area. At Richmond, as well as touring the Georgian Theatre, we visited Richmond and Middleham Castles and heard about the business of running a racing stables. The Geology Group organised our visit to the Dales, where as well as visiting Stump Cross, we also viewed Yorkshire's biggest and highest artwork - the Coldstone Cut, which overlooks Hanson's Quarry. In Manchester we visited the Museum of Science and Engineering, whose extensive collections of industrial machinery included much about the textile industry, and the lives of the folk whose labours made Manchester prosperous. We then boarded a narrow boat on the Bridgewater Canal, built to transport coal, and now providing a scenic route for relaxing tours.

Our half-day tour of Jim Austin's extensive computer collection reminded us of the impact of computers on the way we live, and the changes that have been made in the course of our lifetimes.

A number of social activities have also taken place. Monthly get-togethers at the Star Inn offered the chance for members to meet and chat, whilst the Social Evening in April provided an excellent supper with some brain teasing quizzes. Our lecture season was rounded off by the now traditional reception after the AGM.

Over the next few months a number of other activities are planned. In September there will be a visit by car to Helmsley to see the Walled Garden and the English Heritage store, and the Geology Group are organising a walking tour looking closely at the stonework of York's buildings. The multiday study tour in October 'Secrets, Spies and Statesmen' will visit Bletchley Park and Blenheim Palace. On 17 October we will hold a reception before the lecture, and set up a display of posters by sixth-formers who worked during the summer with University of York scientists. Details of these and further activities will be posted on the website and included in the next newsletter. *Margaret Leonard*

Dates for your Diary!

The next Social Group meetings at the Star Inn, Museum Gardens are, as usual, on Wednesday afternoons from 2.30pm: 27 September, 18 October and 22 November. Please note there is no meeting in December. Do come and join us and get to know other members of YPS in a relaxed and informal setting.

The YPS Annual Dinner (formerly the President's Evening) will be held on Wednesday 8 November at the Hilton York Hotel, near Clifford's Tower. Your invitation is enclosed in this mailing. *Sharon Lusty*

YPS Geology Group

The Geology Group organises activities for members, supports geological content in YPS lectures and Café Scientifique meetings, and strives to develop links with other local groups, offering members with an interest in geology an opportunity to take part in a wide range of visits and activities.

On a very wet morning in early June, a group of YPS members boarded a coach to visit Stump Cross Caverns and the Coldstone Cut art installation. Fortunately, apart from a few drips, the rain did not affect our enjoyment of the cave and the film we were shown was very informative about its formation and discovery. The weather relented temporarily for the walk up to the Cut, where Bob Orange, Hanson's Quarry Manager, joined us and gave an account of the creation of this extraordinary installation, which doubles as a viewing platform for the quarry workings below. Trained as a fine art sculptor, Bob was central to the Cut from start to finish and it is clearly close to his heart. Lines of lead mining bell pits were visible all around and the limestone kiln at Toft Gate was also explored. Refreshments at Stump Cross and Toft Gate Barn were very much appreciated.

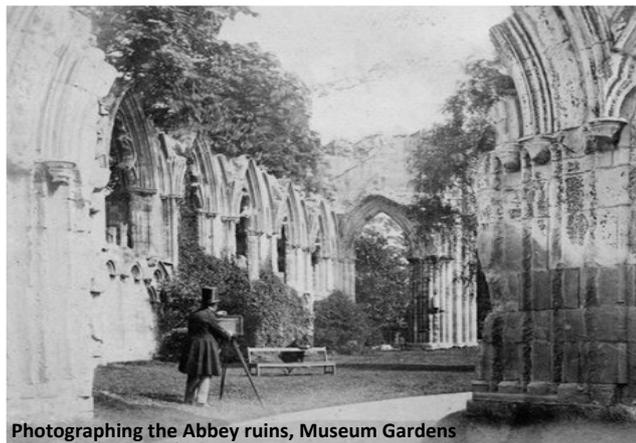
The group has piloted a new "Building Stones of York" tour. Researched and led by Paul Hildreth, using some of the material established in earlier years by Stuart Ogilvy (Yorkshire Museum), the tour provides a fascinating insight into the buildings we all pass every day. It will be offered to all YPS members on 12 September (see enclosed flier). We encourage you to come along and experience it for yourself.

The group welcomes anyone interested in geology, from novice to expert. If you would like to be kept informed of our activities which may include some informal visits arranged at short notice, and of events arranged by other local groups with which we are associated, please contact Paul Thornley by email ypsgeology@gmail.com, or via the Lodge.

Update on Museum Gardens Publication

History moves on... as does the passage of our book about the Museum Gardens. The text is now almost

complete, the page design team are at work and the process of copy-editing has begun. The biggest prob-



Photographing the Abbey ruins, Museum Gardens

lem at the moment is making a selection from the wealth of pictures and maps (we have nearly 400 of the former and 70 of the latter) to illustrate the book. So everything is coming together towards what we hope will be a most noteworthy and handsome publication, and "*The Most Fortunate Situation...*" *A History of the York Museum Gardens*, will roll off the press as scheduled in 2018.

Meanwhile the fundraising team is also hard at work. We rely on donations, and members have already shown remarkable generosity. There is still time to contribute! Donor forms are circulated with this newsletter. *Peter Hogarth*

YMT: Digitising the Tempest Anderson Glass Slide Photographs Collection

When York's amateur volcanologist Dr Tempest Anderson died in 1913 he left approximately 5,000 photographic glass slides to the Yorkshire Museum. York Museums Trust regularly receives requests from researchers and enthusiasts to view these images, and has decided to digitise the entire collection so that it can be available for everyone.



Previously the glass slides have been packed tightly into boxes, made of either cardboard or mahogany, and they require cleaning to remove the accumulation of dust and dirt on their surfaces. The glass is

carefully wiped using cotton wool dampened with deionised water and dried with lint free cloth to remove residual fibres.

The slides are digitised in their entirety, taking care to ensure there is no shadowing. The collection also contains negatives and these are photographed using an under-exposed setting, without the large studio flash. Each image is then given a unique reference number.

Image processing is undertaken by the YMT Digitisation Team, who colour-correct, crop and straighten the images and remove any blemishes. A copy is then processed further to convert it (back) to black and white. It is exciting to see the crisp, polished images materialise! The images are then ready to be digitally archived, and the whole collection will be published online for all to enjoy in the near future. *Rebecca Hall for the YMT Digitisation Team*

Tuesday 12 September 12.30-1pm

Curator's Talk at the Yorkshire Museum:

"Tempest Anderson and the 1902 Eruptions - An Explosive Tale!"

Admission to the talk is free and there is no need to book

YMT Gain Arts Council England Funding

York Museums Trust has successfully secured £4.9 million funding from Arts Council England, spread over the next four years. The Trust achieved a rating of 'Strong' or 'Outstanding' in every area of its assessment.

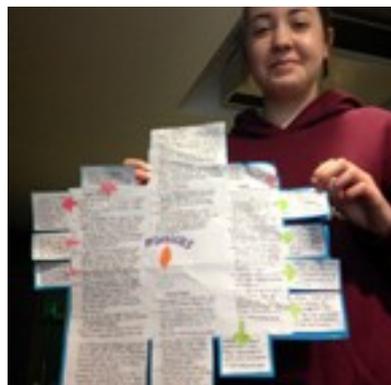
The Trust will also receive £1.35 million over four years to continue its role as a Museum Development Sector support organisation, offering expertise and advice to other museums in the region.

In a recent press release Reyahn King, Chief Executive of YMT said: "We are delighted that the Arts Council has backed our vision for the Trust for the next four years. The guarantee of £1.23 million a year will allow the Trust to continue to effectively plan and deliver a wide range of high profile exhibitions, events and activities designed to engage with larger and more diverse audiences. It is our aim to build on (our) successes as well as looking for new and exciting ways for visitors to experience our nationally designated collections, wonderful buildings and beautiful gardens. These include the proposed development of York Castle Museum and the city's wider bid to transform the Castle Gateway. York Art Gallery will continue to enhance our collections by bringing the best art and exhibitions to York, such as Picasso ceramics this summer and Paul Nash and John Stezaker in October. At the Yorkshire Museum the 'Viking: Rediscover the Legend' exhibition will be on show until November before going on tour around the country. Next year a major exhibition on Jurassic

Yorkshire will showcase the museum's significant natural science collections."

Café Scientifique Report

York Café Scientifique is organised by YPS and held on the first Wednesday of each month, February to July and September to December. Our venue is City Screen Basement, Coney Street, York. All events are free and include a presentation on a key area of scientific or technological research, followed by audience discussion.



One of the highlights of the first half of this year was an evening of presentations (in February) by student scientists, aged 12 to 16, who had worked in partnership with professional scientists. Four schools were represented: Fulford, Malton, Bor-

oughbridge High and Ripon Grammar. Malton School, for example, built on Dr Nick Summerton's research into Roman Medicine by testing some of the remedies in their school lab. Ripon Grammar School worked with research chemists from Systagenix (based near Skipton) on designing wound dressings for a range of scenarios.

In March we hosted Dr Julie Lane from APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency) who helped us towards an understanding of how to measure the welfare of our wildlife and other animals. In April Café Scientifique held the first of two sessions in partnership with York St John University research group Motivation, Performance and Wellbeing (MPaW) - the subject was "Perfectionism in an Imperfect World". In May as part of Geology Month we had a presentation from engineer Jenny Cooke and geologist Sarah Burton, both of Network Rail, on the theme "Geology on the Rails".

Warren Fearn from the Design Centre at York St John University gave the June presentation under the umbrella of the York Festival of Ideas. This was an exploration of new tools for designers including augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR). However, Warren led us to the conclusion that designers still need to start with pencil and paper! The final talk, in July, was linked to the British Society for the History of Science Conference in York. Our speaker Dr Tom Lean, of the British Library, discussed his book *Electronic Dreams* about how 1980s Britain learnt to love the home computer. See also Tom Lean's oral history archive of interviews with scientists, online: www.bl.uk/aboutus/stratpolprog/oralhist/team/team.html.



A new season of Café Scientifique starts on Wednesday 6 September, followed by meetings on 4 October, 1 November and 6 December. Sessions include scientists from FERA, St Nicks Environment Centre on the York Becks Project (to improve green spaces whilst increasing flood resilience) and discussions on engineering, social science and linguistics. Café Scientifique provides an opportunity over a coffee or a glass of wine or beer, to enjoy a dialogue with cutting edge researchers about their work and its implications for all of us. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Catherine Brophy, Andrew Jones, Terry Kirk

Keep up to date with reports of events, links and information online, on the YPS Blog:
www.ypsYork.org/blog/

YPS Survey of our Audience

The British Science Association (BSA), which YPS represents in North and East Yorkshire, recently asked us to carry out a review of our audiences, both for the main lecture programme and Café Scientifique. Hundreds of our members filled out the BSA's questionnaire in the early part of this year and the BSA has now analysed our results as follows:

- ◆ We have a wide range of ages represented, although over half are in the age range 60-74, with fewer than 1 in 10 being under 40.
- ◆ We have a good gender balance.
- ◆ About half of our attendees work (or worked) in science. The other half are fairly evenly split between those who feel connected with science and engage with it and others who are interested but may not actively engage.
- ◆ Most regular attendees had heard about the event via our mailing list or website.
- ◆ People under 35 were particularly likely to be attending their first event and to have heard via local promotions (library, leaflet, bookshop, local magazine).
- ◆ Almost everyone rated the event they attended positively ("excellent" or "good"), and about a third said the event had made them more interested in science, with the rest already being interested in science - as we would expect from our members!

The findings will be useful to YPS in thinking about how we can reach new audiences - and if you have any suggestions please do let us know.
Judith Glover, Vice Chair

DIARY

Wednesday 6 Sep 7.30pm - Café Scientifique

"Sirius Minerals Woodsmith Mine" Tom Berry & Asher Haynes, Arup

Monday 11 September

'Gardens & Archaeology' - a day in Helmsley

Tuesday 12 September

Building stones of York Tour

Tuesday 19 September 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

"Sleep: The Science and the Myths" Graham Law, University of Lincoln

Wednesday 27 Sep 2.30pm - YPS Get-together

The Star Inn the City (see below), no need to book.

Tuesday 3 October 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

"From Flat-screen TVs to Augmented Reality Devices: How Yorkshire helped to Build the High-tech World of Today" John Goodby, University of York & Stephen Cowling, Kingston Chemicals Ltd (Hull)

Wednesday 4 Oct 7.30pm - Café Scientifique

"Language and the Representation of Number(s)" George Tsoulas

Sunday 8 - Tuesday 10 October

'Secrets, Spies and Statesmen' study tour

Tuesday 17 October 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

"One Day, Three Perspectives: A Day in the Life of a Rail Engineer" Philippa Britton, Amir Parekh & Michael de Botte

Preceded by Nuffield STEM Awards at 6.15pm

Wednesday 18 Oct 2.30pm - YPS Get-together

The Star Inn the City (see below), no need to book.

Tuesday 31 October 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

"Evidence-based Education" Bette Chambers, Institute for Effective Education, York

Wednesday 1 Nov 7.30pm - Café Scientifique

Details TBC (see YPS website or contact the Lodge)

Wednesday 8 November - YPS Annual Dinner

(see invitation enclosed with newsletter)

Tuesday 14 November 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

"William the Conqueror and the Harrying of the North 1069-70: Contexts and Perspectives" David Bates, UEA
Joint lecture with CMS, University of York

Wednesday 22 Nov 2.30pm - YPS Get-together

The Star Inn the City (see below), no need to book.

Tuesday 28 November 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

"Recent Excavations at the Mesolithic Site of Star Carr" Nicky Milner, University of York

Preceded by presentation of YPS Archaeology Awards

Wednesday 6 Dec 7.30pm - Café Scientifique

York Becks Project, St Nicks Environment Centre

Tuesday 12 December 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

"Does Wine Prevent Dementia?" Roger Pinder

◆ 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.

Public lecture: Tuesday 19 September 2017

"Hull and its Architectural Heritage"

York Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of London invite you to a presentation by Dr David Neave

Hull's little appreciated rich architectural heritage will be used to illustrate its long history as one of Britain's leading ports since the 12th century. The built townscape ranges from the splendid Holy Trinity Church founded by Edward I, the fine merchant houses of the 17th and 18th centuries and grand Victorian and Edwardian commercial and civic buildings, to the 21st century aquarium The Deep.

The Historic Towns Trust has recently published *An Historical Map of Kingston upon Hull* by DH Evans FSA, David Neave FSA and Susan Neave and we hope to have copies available.

Refreshments at 18.00, presentation at 18.30 followed by questions.

Venue: Bar Convent York, Nunnery Lane, York, YO23 1AA

This event is free but places are limited and must be booked in advance. Please contact Ailsa Mainman, email ailsa.mainman@york.ac.uk.

Do join us to celebrate Hull's year as City of Culture!

Arras 200 - Celebrating the Iron Age

The Royal Archaeological Institute Conference in York, Saturday 18 November 2017

In partnership with the University of Hull and the Yorkshire Museum and in association with Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society and East Riding Archaeological Society.

The conference will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the first excavations on the Middle Iron Age cemetery at Arras in East Yorkshire and will coincide with a special exhibition at the Yorkshire Museum displaying artefacts from those excavations.

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall, Museum Gardens

Details: www.royalarchinst.org/conferences

The Lodge will be closed from Mon 23 October to Wed 1 November inclusive for Frances' holiday