



NEWSLETTER

Yorkshire Philosophical Society

Promoting the public understanding of science since 1822

The Lodge, Museum Gardens, York, YO1 7DR, tel 01904-656713
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NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

The second half of the 2017 lecture programme is underway with lectures ranging from Graham Law's "The Science of Sleep" to the interactive lecture from John Goodby and Stephen Cowling demonstrating how Yorkshire helped to build the "High-Tech World of Today". Engineers from Network Rail gave us their "One Day, Three Perspectives - A Day in the Life of a Rail Engineer" complete with audience quiz.

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Mr John Hampshire in August, after a short illness following an operation. There are tributes to John in this newsletter, with a full obituary to follow in the Annual Report. John celebrated his 90th birthday earlier this year when we invited him for a celebratory lunch and presented him with a record of his over 50 years of service to YPS. His support continued this year with the new YPS Schools Science Prize, founded and funded by a generous donation from John. The first awards were made in October to four sixth form students who worked with scientists and engineers during the summer holidays, under the Nuffield Partnership Awards scheme. This feels a very suitable and important way to remember John Hampshire's care for both young people and the Society.

A copy of the lecture programme for the first half of 2018 is enclosed, starting on 16 January, with Dr Tim Whitaker's talk on "Food for thought: Educating the next generation of farmers and food producers". There is a country and landscape theme running through this Spring's programme, which, in May, includes a presentation on Humphry Repton marking the bi-centenary of his death, in partnership with the Yorkshire Gardens Trust.

On Monday 15 January members are invited to join us in the Tempest Anderson Hall at 11am, to hear about potential projects with YMT and the Yorkshire Museum, as



Red Admiral
by Tony Stanfield

part of our YPS Bi-Centenary celebrations. A short presentation will be followed by discussion and refreshments (invitation enclosed).

Our last two lectures this year coincide with a Christmas Festival taking place in the Museum Gardens (16 November to 1 January). We are asking members attending the lectures on 28 November and 12 December to enter the gardens only by the Museum Street entrance (see p5 for details). We also enclose an Email Contact Details form, as this is the easiest way to let you know of any last-minute changes to lectures or other events.

We will be holding our customary Mince-pie Christmas celebration following the lecture on 12 December and I look forward to seeing many of you there. *Catherine Brophy, Chair*

With this Newsletter

- ◆ Lecture Programme, January to July 2018
- ◆ Invitation to YPS-YMT Presentation on 15 Jan
- ◆ Subscription renewal form
- ◆ Email contact details request
- ◆ Gardens & Abbeys, Scotland Tour - flier

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

‘Secrets, Spies and Statesmen’ was the intriguing title of our final multi-day study tour of 2017, visiting Bletchley Park, Blenheim and Hughendon Manor. Of course, we all now know about the wartime activities at Bletchley Park, but those of us who had not visited before were impressed by the efforts made to present this story to the public. We continued on to Blenheim Palace, which, as well as being an impressive architectural creation with a rich history, was the birthplace of Winston Churchill. Hughendon Manor, home of Disraeli, had recently disclosed a secret history of WWII map-making. Many thanks to Catherine Brophy for organising this fascinating trip.



Helmsley Castle,
photo by Tony Stanfield

In September we enjoyed a day trip to Helmsley, visiting the Walled Garden and the English Heritage Store. Again in September, the Geology Group organised a fascinating walking tour of York, looking at the variety of building stones to be seen in our city. This proved so popular we repeated it in October.

A number of shorter events have taken place since the last newsletter. Sharon Lusty hosted two of our regular get-togethers at the Star Inn, and a further one is scheduled for 22 November. The Nuffield Reception took place before the lecture on 17 October, with the inaugural YPS Schools Science Prize.

Two social events will round off our year. The Annual Dinner is being held at the Hilton Hotel on 8 November. This is the most formal event in the YPS calendar and provides an opportunity to enjoy good food in good company. The familiar Mince-pie Reception, after the lecture on 12 December, will be a much more informal event, where members and friends can socialise and enjoy a drink with a variety of home-made Christmas treats. There is no need to book for this event - tickets at £4 will be sold on the night. Please contact Margaret Leonard, c/o the Lodge, if you would like to add your own creations to the feast (this is not a competitive ‘bake-off’!)

All this brings us to 2018 and the Activities Group is working hard to put together an interesting programme. We plan to offer at least two multi-day Study Tours, with Just for Groups. One will be organ-

ised by Catherine Brophy, a four day tour looking at the Gardens and Abbeys of Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders (24-27 June, see flier enclosed). The other/s will be chosen by members from a selection presented on 31 October (see below). Additionally, we hope to arrange a Fossil Day at Scunthorpe organised by the Geology Group, coach tours to Thorpe Perrow and Teesside, a trip by car to Creswell Cave and the Harley Gallery and another to Farley Hall, home of Guy (Horton) Fawkes. Farley Hall is full of artworks, including many by Turner who was a regular visitor, and is only open to small groups in a restricted season so this is an opportunity not to be missed. Most of these activities are still in the planning stage, and will be advertised in the New Year.

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have held a presentation on Study Tours being considered for 2018, giving members an opportunity to hear about and vote on the alternatives. If you were unable to attend the presentation, there could still be time to participate, if you act quickly - we have asked for questionnaires to be returned to the Lodge by 14 November (including at the lecture). You can find information and download the questionnaire from our website: ypsyork.org (follow the link from the news item on the front page, or click on the Groups tab and open the Social Group page). Questionnaires are also available from the Lodge.
Margaret Leonard, Activities Group

Inaugural YPS Schools Science Prize

The first YPS Science Prize was presented to four sixth form students on 17 October. Our two YPS judges, Roger Pinder and Anthony Hammersley, spoke at length to the students responsible for the five entries. We are grateful for the judges’ conscientious work in making a difficult choice amongst the excellent work discussed and demonstrated.



James Chapman & Tanvi Kishore (top)
Layla Abbott & Olwyn Read (bottom)
photos by Kishore Budha

They agreed that two teams would share the prize: James Chapman (Richmond School) and Tanvi Kishore (Heckmondwike Grammar School) “**Measuring the Mass of Dark Matter in the Milky Way**”, and Layla Abbott (Elliott Hudson College, Leeds) and Olwyn Read (Harrogate Grammar School) “**Flow Visualisation using Schlieren Optics**”. Each student received a certificate and a cheque for £25.

2018 Subscriptions increase

Please support the Society in its need to increase the annual subscriptions. The last increase was in 2014, and you may have noticed that in 2016 our unrestricted net income moved from a surplus to a small loss. This was due to a general rise in costs and increased expenditure on charitable activities. Since then we have had to pay for expensive security at Marygate for our lecture programme, and have also felt obliged to increase the very modest lecturer fees by 50% as these had remained unchanged for fifteen years. As a result, Council has reluctantly decided to increase subscriptions for 2018, and hopes you will agree that the new rates continue to offer excellent value.

	Current	From 1 Jan 2018
Single membership:		
Full (Concessionary)	£26 (£19)	£31 (£23)
Joint membership:		
Full (Concessionary)	£42 (£32)	£50 (£38)
Institution rate:	£40	£48
Life membership:		
Under 60 Single (Joint)	£400 (£600)	£480 (£720)
Over 60 Single (Joint)	£300 (£450)	£360 (£540)
Over 70 Single (Joint)	£250 (£375)	£300 (£450)

The good news is that the Society's overall balance sheet continues to recover from its low point in 2010. This is due to a combination of a fortunately strong stock market, a successful investment strategy and generous bequests, donations and grants. However, almost all our funds are legally restricted for special purposes, or designated for future commitments. They are not available for the charitable and day to day expenditures which are covered by the annual subscriptions, investment income and fundraising activities, hence the need to increase the subscription rates. Thanks again for your understanding and support. *Rod Leonard, Hon Treasurer*

Tributes to John Hampshire

Graham Williamson on behalf of the YPS gave this tribute to John at his Memorial Gathering, held on Sunday 24 September 2017 at Strensall Village Hall.

"It is a pleasure to celebrate the life of someone who gave an enormous amount of his time and enthusiasm to the YPS. When Pat and I joined the Society in 1999, John was at the height of his powers and it seemed as though he had been around forever. In his own words he had dragged the YPS screaming into the 20th Century. He had certainly established procedures and ways of working that we now take for granted. I had, at the time, little idea about where he came from and how he came to be involved with the YPS. I know more now thanks to Frances, Catherine and colleagues.

A member since the 1960s, he had been Deputy Head of Huntington School during the years when it

was a small(ish) secondary modern school, when the school leaving age was raised and when it became a large comprehensive school. One of his former pupils (a neighbour of ours) described him as 'necessary', a backhanded but appropriate compliment. He meant someone who could manage small but vital administrative matters as well as master grand strategies. John served for several years as our Education Secretary (the YPS did a lot of work in schools in those days) and for twelve years as Chairman at a time when relations between the YPS, the Yorkshire Museum and York Council were often tricky. John, more or less tactfully, would remind often reluctant local council representatives of what they had agreed when the YPS gave them the Museum and Gardens in 1961. The Society ran lectures, arranged conferences and exhibitions, worked in schools, granted awards, sponsored events and published reports. Always in the background was John and, I suspect, his wife Joyce. He relished the details of bureaucracy but he was never a bureaucrat, and he had dogged enthusiasms, not least for a travelling planetarium which never missed a mention in innumerable meetings.

What he was particularly good at, and it's a remarkable skill, was finding out the talents, strengths and connections of YPS members and exploiting them for the Society's benefit. This room is full of people benevolently exploited for our profit! He advised the YPS Council and liaised with the City of York Council and Yorkshire Museum staff on many issues. One that springs to mind is the case of the last peacock in the Museum Gardens. Its presence was supported by the press and public but Museum staff were struggling with the damage it caused to plants and the noise nuisance. It was John who pointed out that, to have a really happy peacock, we would need at least six peahens! Seriously though, John was someone the Society will miss very much. He was generous with his time and, more recently, with donations in support of several projects. Without his input the YPS would have missed out on much and would never have flourished as it has. We wouldn't be what we are without him. He was much more than 'necessary', he was invaluable. Thank you, John."

Memories of John Hampshire, by Frances Chambers

When I became Clerk, John was already the "elder statesman" of the YPS, having stepped down as Chairman the year before. Although no longer involved in the day to day running of the Society he continued to take a keen interest and was a regular visitor to the Lodge, which was where I first encountered him, when he was in the middle of dealing with a phone call asking for a comment on *Harry*

Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

His commitment to the Society soon became apparent along with his liking that everything be 'just so'. If he decided that something needed to be done, he would set out to find a way of doing it, and he wanted it to be done right. I sometimes found myself being questioned in meticulous detail about how I was approaching a task but, though John could be exacting, he always balanced this with a kind concern about my workload. He also had a dry sense of humour and an elegant turn of phrase which he used to good effect when thanking lecturers or saying the grace at our President's Evening dinners, a task he carried out unfailingly until last year despite his increasing frailty.

John's long membership and service made his advice and opinions particularly valuable and, to the end, he would contact the office to check on what was happening or pass on his views to the Council members of the day. He once telephoned from a cruise ship battling through an Atlantic storm!

In recent years John approached his advancing age with the same determination with which he had served the Society. His mobility scooter became a familiar sight at YPS events, and was even used to tour Ireland with us. There were a few near misses. Members' toes were sometimes in danger, as was the plaque, newly unveiled on its stand, at the launch of the Geological Mosaic map in the Museum Gardens.

To celebrate his 90th birthday, we arranged a companionable lunch for the YPS friends and colleagues he had worked with over the years. John was delighted. For all his drive and industriousness, he had a real appreciation of the simpler pleasures of life. Soon after the end of his long stint as Chairman, he took a holiday on a canal boat, announcing enthusiastically on his return, "I've just spent a week being overtaken by butterflies!"

Joyce Pickard

We were also very sad to learn of the death in September of Joyce Pickard at the age of 95.

A member since 1990, Joyce was still delivering YPS newsletters in her area - by bicycle - in her 93rd year. She will be greatly missed by many of us.

Digitising YPS Annual Reports

You may remember that our earliest Annual Reports, from 1823 to 1859, were digitised by the Natural History Museum in London and can be easily accessed and read by clicking on the link to

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

the Biodiversity Heritage Library from the YPS website Resources page, or by going direct to: biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/2482#/summary.

We now propose to continue the series by scanning reports from 1860 onwards ourselves. Increasingly nowadays, researchers around the world expect historical information to be available online and digitisation of our Reports will enable anyone interested in the past activities of the YPS to view them, without needing to visit the Lodge or to contact Frances to request information or copies. But we also hope you, our members, will enjoy the facility to access them at home.

As we progress through the 20th century archive there will be copyright issues. Those who have contributed articles to the Reports, or their heirs, will be the owners of copyright in them, and could withhold their consent to digitisation. We trust that few would wish to do so and that most authors would be pleased to know their articles will reach a wider readership. However, if you have written an article for us and do not want it to be digitised, please let us know. Likewise if you hear of any other contributor who feels the same, please encourage them to get in touch with us, via Frances, at the Lodge.

Bob Hale, Hon Archivist

Diversity in Science

In recent years YPS has sought to make sure that its lecture programmes have a good representation of women speakers. This reflects the mission of the many organisations that have campaigned for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) to have a more diverse workforce, the Royal Society being arguably the most prestigious. The RS sums up its position as follows: "*The Society is committed to increasing diversity in STEM by seeking out participation from under-represented groups, in order to build and develop a world in which studying and working in science are open to all. Diversity is essential to delivering excellence in STEM. A diverse and inclusive scientific workforce draws from the widest range of backgrounds, perspectives and experiences, thereby maximising innovation and creativity in science for the benefit of humanity.*" (royalsociety.org)

The RS does not restrict itself to focusing on women, it also seeks to encourage ethnic minorities and other under-represented groups into science. Furthermore the RS highlights the need for science to be sympathetic to those men and women who seek to combine a scientific career with their roles as parents and carers.

Close to home the Chemistry Department at the University of York was the first academic department in the UK to receive the Athena Swan Gold Award, in 2007. This was renewed in 2015 in recognition of

the department's demonstration of substantial and well-established activity in working towards equality in career progression in STEM. More recently the University's Biology Department has received a Gold Award. Their website gives details of the various forms of activity and achievement that have led to this recognition, see york.ac.uk/biology/equality-diversity. *Judith Glover, Vice-chair YPS*

Access to Lectures on 28 Nov & 12 Dec

A Christmas Festival is being staged in York Museum Gardens from 16 November to 1 January, which will affect our last two lectures of 2017. Please note that on the evenings of 28 November and 12 December we will only be able to enter and leave the Gardens through the **Museum Street gate** (opposite Lendal). There will be no access from Marygate.

As Museum Street is the exit gate for people who have paid for the Christmas event, a guard will be on duty. To speed things up, please bring your Membership Card to show him. Non-members and anyone without a card will have to explain that they are coming to the lecture and give the title.

Limited vehicle access to the Museum for the disabled will be possible but please telephone 01904 687627 in advance to arrange this.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Frances at the Lodge (but bear in mind that the office is not open on Tuesdays). Otherwise, enjoy your glimpse of the festive illuminations as you walk up to the Museum!

Receiving Updates by Email

By the time you read this, *Christmas at York Museum Gardens* will be about to fill the area around the Museum with illuminations and all manner of festive things. Guidance on how to reach our lectures during this event can be found above. Along with the approach of wintry weather and the ever-present worry of the sudden unavailability of a speaker, this has given us yet another reason for wanting to be able to contact as many people as possible in case of a change of plan. We are grateful to all those who have already completed the Members' Email Contact Details form, giving us permission to contact you by email with last-minute information. If you have not yet done so, please do complete the form enclosed with this newsletter and drop it in at the Lodge or at a lecture.

Please also consider ticking the box to receive your newsletter by email. Each paper copy that we send out costs us 36p, plus a further 56p for every one we can't deliver by hand.

And don't forget to let us know if you change your email address – just send a message to Frances: info@ypsyork.org.

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.**

NB: There is no Café Scientifique in January

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 November 2.30pm - YPS Get-together

The Star Inn the City, no need to book

Wednesday 22 November 7pm - Outreach lecture

at Northallerton School and College, Grammar School Lane, Northallerton, DL6 1DD "Air Pollution" Sarah Moller

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 December 7.30pm - Café Scientifique

"Reconnecting with our Rivers" Jonathan Dent, Nature Reserve Manager, St Nicks Environment Centre

Tuesday 12 December 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

"Does Wine Prevent Dementia?" Roger Pinder, followed by YPS Christmas Mince-pie Reception (tickets £4, at the event)

Monday 15 January 11am, Tempest Anderson Hall

Members are invited to join in discussions on bi-centenary projects with YMT (invitation enclosed)

Tuesday 16 January 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

"Food for Thought – Educating the next generation of farmers and food producers" Tim Whitaker, Askham Bryan College

Tuesday 30 January 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

"Making Sense of Sewage – Industrial Biotechnology" James Chong, Department of Biology, University of York

Wednesday 7 February 7.30pm - Café Scientifique

"Fantastic Planets and how to find them" Emily Brunnsden, Dept of Physics, University of York

Tuesday 13 February 7.30pm - YPS Lecture

"The Biophysics Design Project: a collaborative arts-science approach" Lorna Dougan, Department of Physics, University of Leeds

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 7 March 7.30pm - Café Scientifique

"Invisible Superheroes" presented by ICE Engineers

Tuesday 13 March 7.30pm - YPS Lecture
 "Discovering Dinosaurs in Britain: The Original Dinomania!" Dean Lomax, Palaeontologist - a joint lecture with York Museums Trust for British Science Week

Tuesday 27 March 7.30pm - YPS Lecture
 "A Sheep is a Sheep, is a Sheep, or is it?" Agnes Winter, FRCVS, Honorary Professor, University of Liverpool

The Lodge will be closed from 12 noon on Friday 22 December for the Christmas and New Year holiday, re-opening on Wednesday 3 January



YPS members enjoying afternoon tea on the Bridgewater Canal in July. Photo by Manuela Sowter

**"The Most Fortunate Situation"
 A History of York's Museum Gardens**

It's not too late to make a donation in support of our Gardens History Book Project - or why not pre-order a copy at the special price of £20? Publication is expected in the second half of 2018, so you could get your Christmas presents for next year sorted out a whole year ahead! Contact Frances at the Lodge.

Staples seeking a good home

Do you use No 200/6 staples? We have two boxes of 5000 at the Lodge which are surplus to requirements and available free to anyone who would like to collect them. First come, first served!

Christmas at York Museum Gardens

Thursday 16 November 2017
 to Monday 1 January 2018
 4:45pm – 9:30pm daily (except Christmas Day)

York Museum Gardens will be transformed into a magical after-dark experience, filled with colour, music and the biggest display of lighting and special effects York has ever seen. Further details and booking information at:

www.christmasatorkmuseumgardens.co.uk/

YPS Subscription Renewal

Guidance on how to renew your subscription for 2018 can be found on the enclosed form. We would be most grateful if you could return this to Frances before 20 December to enable prompt processing. Thank you, and our best wishes for the festive season!

YAYAS

In their 175th year, Yorkshire Architectural & York Archaeological Society are offering another fascinating series of talks covering the archaeology and history of York and the region. The Society is also the custodian of two important collections of historic photographs of York subjects, the Evelyn and Hanstock Collections.

See website for details: www.yayas.org.uk

**The Royal Archaeological Institute
 Annual Conference 17-18 November**

Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the first excavations of the Middle Iron Age cemetery at Arras in East Yorkshire, and coinciding with a special exhibition at the Yorkshire Museum - displaying artefacts from those excavations.

For more information please visit www.royalarchinst.org or email admin@royalarchinst.org for a booking form.

BBC History Weekend

24-26 November

The BBC History Magazine Weekend is returning to York for its third consecutive year. This year the festival has expanded to include over 25 speakers across two venues – the Yorkshire Museum and the 14th-century Hospitium in the Museum Gardens. Talks are individually priced and can be booked online: www.historyweekend.com/york

PAS Finds Days - Yorkshire Museum

Fridays 1 December and 2 February, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Potential objects of treasure, as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, must be reported to the Coroner within 14 days of discovery. Our Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer, based at the Yorkshire Museum, can advise and facilitate the reporting of treasure. Bring your finds and meet our PAS Officer (no need to book).

Observatory Opening

Museum Gardens

Saturday 2 December 11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Learn more about astronomy at York's oldest working observatory located in the centre of the York Museum Gardens. We aim to open 11.30am to 2.30pm on Thursdays and Saturdays subject to the availability of our volunteers. Please call 01904 687687 to check opening dates and times ahead of your visit. Free, no need to book.