Notes from the Chair

The Lecture Programme has once again provided us with insights into cutting edge science from lively researchers. Dr James Chong from the University of York described the industrial biotechnology project that he is undertaking with Yorkshire Water to research the potential harnessing of energy from sewage as a source of electricity. Dr Lorna Dougan, from the University of Leeds, outlined the work of her biophysics research group on protein molecules which thrive in extreme conditions with the potential of developing novel technologies with applications in medicine and food science. As part of our support for the Yorkshire Museum’s new Exhibition, Yorkshire’s Jurassic World, paleontologist Dean Lomax presented his comprehensive lecture on “Discovering Dinosaurs in Britain: the original Dinomania!” The families who joined us particularly appreciated this presentation and there were excellent questions from the youngest participants. Earlier Dean gave an inspiring talk on his unusual career path to thirty Sixth Form students at Fulford School. Several of our lectures this spring have a countryside theme, including YPS member Professor Agnes Winter’s fascinating talk on “Sheep in all their wonderful variety”. This year’s John and Anne Phillips Lecture, “Geological Mapping and Sustainable Resources in Africa” given by Dr Kathryn Goodenough of the British Geological Survey, Edinburgh, was held at Hull University in March.

Congratulations must go to the Editorial team led by Carole Smith for the excellent Annual Report for 2017, which you will receive with this newsletter. Also enclosed is a letter about the AGM on 5th June inviting nominations for new Members of Council. After the AGM we will have the second part of Dr Peter Hogarth's presentation on the Museum Gardens, “A Treasure not to be Sacrificed: a continuing history of the Museum Gardens”, followed by our Summer Reception. Sample pages from the Gardens History book will be on display at lectures and the special pre-publication price of £20 is still on offer (see report on p4).

With this Newsletter
- York Cemetery Walk, 21 June
- Visit to Farnley Hall, 4 July
- Visit to Mansion House, 18 July
- Field Trip to Hanging Grimston, 1 August
- Tour to Shropshire, 26-30 September
- 2017 Annual Report
- AGM information
- YPS Privacy Statement

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
(Continued from page 1)

Dr Judith Glover has completed her five-year term on Council where she has made a tremendous contribution to the Society. We are grateful for the many and varied projects she has undertaken. As Lecture Secretary for three years she provided us with a wide-ranging and authoritative programme and I have appreciated her wise advice as Vice Chair. Alongside this has been Judith’s work liaising with universities, which this year has involved working with a University of York Masters student on a Public History placement to research “Hidden Women in early YPS History”. This project will culminate in a display in the entrance showcase in the Yorkshire Museum in May.

We have been most grateful to Sally Kingsley, our Newsletter Editor, for the professionalism with which she has produced four newsletters a year for us. Sally has decided that this will be her last newsletter and I am sure you will all want to join with me in thanking her for the excellent work she has done for us and wishing her well in a future without challenging deadlines to meet.

Catherine Brophy, Chair

General Data Protection Act

Included with this newsletter is our updated Privacy Statement in line with the new European General Data Protection Act, coming into force in May 2018. Please note that the Yorkshire Philosophical Society does not share members’ details with any other organisations. All members may request to see a copy of the details we hold for them and instruct us at any time to edit or permanently remove these details.

Activities Group

We have an exciting variety of activities over the warmer months. The 3rd May visit to Throp Perrow will probably have taken place by the time you get this, but you might just have time to book the YPS/YMT Symposium “Uncovering the Yorkshire Jurassic” on Saturday 19th May, and associated field trips on Sunday (see details under Geology Group Activities). Sadly, it is definitely too late to book the visit to Creswell Cave and the Harley Gallery on 30th May - this is already fully booked, but no booking is required for our Summer Reception on 5th June which follows our AGM and lecture - just pay your £5 on the day.

Likewise our monthly Get-togethers do not require pre-booking. Drop in and enjoy an informal chat over a cup or a glass. These will continue until the summer break in August, on 23rd May, 20th June and 25th July, at 2.30pm, at the Star Inn the City, Museum Gardens.

Our summer events start with an evening walk around York Cemetery on the Summer Solstice, 21st June, and on 4th July we have an unusual opportunity to visit Farnley Hall, with its connections to our home grown insurgent Guy Fawkes. Everyone is invited to join us on Tuesday 17th July when we will trial a family geology trail around Museum Gardens (details below) and on 18th July there is another chance to visit York’s Mansion House. Hopefully this will not suffer the fate of our earlier planned visit, which had to be cancelled due to snow. Our last summer event is on Yorkshire Day, Wednesday 1st August, a visit to an archaeological dig at Hanging Grimston where we will learn about the modern technology used to investigate the site, from member Trevor Pearson. Fliers and booking forms for most of the events are enclosed.

Our main autumn event will be a Study Tour in Shropshire, 26-30th September with a strong ‘industrial archaeology’ theme and varied itinerary including Liverpool World Museum’s exhibition ‘China’s First Emperor and the Terracotta Warriors’, which we will visit on our return journey.

There will be further short events later in the year, see the next newsletter and keep visiting our website: www.ypsyork.org.

Margaret Leonard, Activities Group

Family Geology Trail in Museum Gardens

As part of his course at the University of Hull, Geology student Oliver Purvis has undertaken a project to design a Geology Trail in Museum Gardens aimed at children and families. We are inviting YPS members to try it out on Tuesday 17th July. If you would like to join us meet at the Lodge at 6pm, no need to book. We will finish in time for the geology lecture at 7.30pm.

YPG Archives: Index of Early Members

Our website now has a revised and extended Index of Members covering the first 33 years of the Society’s existence, 1822-1855. By 1855 a total of 712 men had been elected, and 6 women (although only three in their own right - three more were allowed to retain the memberships of their deceased husbands). Roughly 67% lived in York or its immediate vicinity, 30% further out in the three Yorkshire Ridings, and just 3% elsewhere in the country.

As many as 106 of the members were ordained ministers of religion, predominantly Church of England, but with Unitarians under Charles Wellbeloved and John Kenrick strongly influential in the affairs of the Society. There were also Catholic priests connected with York convent. The Anglicans included Archbishop Edward Vernon Harcourt and two of his sons, notably William
Venables Vernon, a dynamic first President of the Society, together with Harcourt’s successor, Archbishop Musgrave, seven archdeacons, three deans and a bishop. The best known today is perhaps the writer and wit, Sydney Smith. York’s Quakers were well represented, with Backhouses and Tukes, Joseph Rowntree establishing his shop in Pavement, John Ford at Bootham School, and the first woman to be elected, Eliza Stringer, Head of the Friends’ Girls’ School.

We had at least 25 Lord Mayors of York, most famously George Hudson, who was also one of our 37 MPs. The legal and medical professions counted about 30 members each, with a dozen army and naval officers, and eight York architects. Many titled Yorkshire families appear in the index, Fitzwilliam, Howard, Lascelles and Stouton among them. We list one duke, 6 earls, a viscount and 10 barons, together with 18 baronets and numerous members of the landed gentry. Commerce and industry feature regularly in the occupations of York residents, with the famous confectionery families of Rowntree, Terry and Craven all represented by 1855, but for about a third of our members biographical details are lacking at this stage. Further information on them will be gratefully received. In June 1855 the membership stood at 320.

The Index, with added biographical data, can be seen on the YPS website: www.ypsyork.org/resources/yps-archive/members_1822/

Bob Hale, YPS Archivist

Geology Group

May is Yorkshire Geology Month, details of events being held around the county are on the Yorkshire Geological Society’s website: www.yorksgeolsoc.org.uk/EDITABLE/yorksgeolmonth.pdf (enquiries by email to: secretary@yorksgeolsoc.org.uk).

Events are free for YGS members and non-members are also welcome to participate. Booking is required for some of the events and field trips, and for all outdoor excursions it is recommended to wear stout footwear and be prepared for all weathers!

Uncovering the Yorkshire Jurassic - Symposium

Saturday 19th May, 10:00 - 16:30, in the Tempest Anderson Hall, Yorkshire Museum. Book on Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.co.uk, or through the YPS Office. Join us at this free Symposium to learn more about the fantastic geology on our doorstep, and in our museums, putting Yorkshire’s Jurassic into a wider context. The Symposium supports the major new exhibition at the Yorkshire Museum ‘Yorkshire’s Jurassic World’ with a range of talks on themes from the Early, Middle, and Late Jurassic periods, presented by speakers from the Universities of Leeds and Hull, the North York Moors National Park and York Museums Trust.

Uncovering the Yorkshire Jurassic - Field Trips

Sunday 20th May, following the Symposium, there is a choice of three field trips:

Deepgrove Wyke to Keldhowe Steel, led by Tim Burnhill of the Rotunda Geology Group and Yorkshire Geological Society.

Changing Times, Changing Environments: Burniston Wyke and Bretton Farm Quarry, led by Paul Hildreth, Yorkshire Geological Society.

Tracking Scarborough’s Dinosaurs, with Will Watts of Hidden Horizons, Scarborough.

Yorkshire’s Jurassic World: how the Ichthyosaur came to York

One of the star exhibits in the Yorkshire Museum’s major new exhibition, Yorkshire’s Jurassic World, is the magnificent skeleton of an ichthyosaur (which can also be viewed, by the wonders of Augmented Reality, clothed again in skin and flesh). When the ichthyosaur was found at Kettleness near Whitby in 1857, the Museum, then run by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, was keen to secure it. However there was an asking price of 100 guineas. The YPS was considering putting out an urgent appeal to its members for donations when one man, the Rev Danson Richardson Roundell, to avoid any delay, presented the society with the entire sum. Born in 1784, the reverend gentleman was elected to YPS in 1827 under the surname Currier, which he had assumed in 1806. He held no clerical office but was an influential York magistrate, living at Clifton House, now the White House, 10 Clifton. On the death of his elder brother Richard, also a YPS member, in 1851 at the family seat, Gledstone Hall, West Marton, near Skipton, he reverted to the name Roundell and moved to Gledstone, living there until his own death in 1873. Although he did not keep up his membership, his generous gift clearly showed his continuing attachment to York and to the Philosophical Society. Today, it would be the equivalent of about £12,000. Bob Hale, YPS Archivist

These field trips are free but must be booked online with Eventbrite or through the YPS Office.

John and Anne Phillips prize, Tuesday 17th July, Tempest Anderson Hall, presentation of the prize for a mapping project by a student at University of Hull, followed by lecture “Deadly Clouds and Volcanic Flow”, Rebecca Williams, University of Hull.

Paul Thornley, Geology Group

Gardens History Book update and pre-publication offer

Tremendous progress has been made with the Gardens History Book - you may have seen the impressive sample chapters on display at lectures in April. The professional design has now reached the first proof stage, after which indexing can be completed. We expect the design to be finished by the end of May, and then we will negotiate with our short-list of printers. Due to the hard work of the authors and the volunteer support team the project is well within budget and on time. The launch date is planned for November 2018, to allow time for printing and binding and for the book to be reviewed before publication. We still have to finalise the length of the print run. Advance subscriptions help with this, so if you haven’t already taken advantage of our ‘early bird’ offer of only £20 please do so soon! Your support for this creative initiative to celebrate Museum Gardens and the history of the YPS, will be much appreciated by the Society and everyone involved.

Notes on Museum Gardens

by Alison Pringle, YMT Gardens Manager

If you have walked through the Gardens recently you probably noticed the felled tree in front of the Multangular Tower. It was a Sycamore, awfully close to the wall, and could have been self-seeded rather than deliberately planted. A recent tree survey showed that it had extensive rot at the base, not just in the heartwood but extending right to the edge of the trunk. At some point it would have failed and the thought of it falling on the historic stonework gave me many sleepless nights! I plan to leave the trunk where it is as an interesting feature and a habitat for insects, and we will fill the hollow stump with compost and plant it up with ferns. One positive aspect to felling the tree is that it has revealed the repairs to the wall following damage by a cannon ball during the Civil War.

The extension to the Prairie Border nearby is an attempt to make better use of the space underneath the trees where grass is poor and easily damaged. We are moving some plants from the existing border into the new area by the path where they will get more sun and should perform better. The team are trying to find ways of reducing the impact of the desire line caused by pedestrians cutting across from the Manor Lane gate and hope this will at least give a better foreground to the Multangular Tower than several square meters of bare mud.

Spring - Summer events in Museum Gardens:

9 May - 7 August: Installation of winning images from the International Garden Photographer of the Year Competition, in the Garden
1 - 3 June: Eboracum Roman Festival
2, 11 and 16 June: Royal gun salutes
30 June: York Proms
5 - 8 July: Bloom! Festival. A city-wide celebration of horticulture to mark the 250th anniversary of the Ancient Society of York Florists.

‘Hidden Women in the Early History of the YPS’

This display, to be held in the Yorkshire Museum foyer throughout May, is based on research undertaken by Rachel Campbell, MA student in the Department of History, University of York. It demonstrates the involvement of women in the YPS and the Museum’s early history, explored through the Norcliffe/Best and Thorpe family networks, with a
display of objects from the museum collections which are similar to these women’s donations. The exhibits range from a bison from Kirkdale cave, ammonites from Langton Wold and Roman coins to an alligator egg. Do have a look when you visit the Museum.

The illustration above is from Mary Ellen Best's “The Artist at Work”. The original will be on display in York Art Gallery in the Friends’ Exhibition ‘70 Years of Giving Art’, 4th May to 2nd September.

Judith Glover, Vice Chair

**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 or Judy Dench Walk.

**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 - Uncovering the Yorkshire Jurassic YPS-YMT Symposium**

10:00 - 16:30, Tempest Anderson Hall, Yorkshire Museum. Book on Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.co.uk, or through the YPS office

**Sunday 20 May - Field Trips**

Symposium Field Trips are free but must be booked on Eventbrite or through the YPS office

**Tuesday 22 May 7.30pm - YPS Lecture**

“The Bare Bones of Burials in Archaeology: a Commercial Archaeologist’s View” David Williams, WYAS

**Wednesday 23 May 2.30pm - YPS Get-together**

at the Star Inn the City (see box above)

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

**Tuesday 5 June 6.45pm AGM, 7.30pm - YPS Lecture**

“A Treasure Not to be Sacrificed: a continuing history of the Museum Gardens” Peter Hogarth, University of York followed by YPS Summer Reception (£4, no booking)

**Wednesday 6 June 7.30pm - Café Scientifique**

for York Festival of Ideas “Language change as competition” Ann Taylor, University of York

**Tuesday 12 June 7.30pm - YPS Lecture**

for York Festival of Ideas “Bones – Imaging Prehistoric and Modern Women” Alison Macintosh, University of Cambridge

**Wednesday 20 June 2.30pm - YPS Get-together**

at the Star Inn the City (see box above)

**Thursday 21 June 7.30pm - Visit to York Cemetery**

A geological walk Led by Clive Dawson and Neil Bartlett of York Cemetery Trust, booking required, flier enclosed

**Wednesday 4 July - Visit to Farnley Hall**

(flier enclosed)

**Wednesday 4 July 7.30pm - Café Scientifique**

“Conservation of a Henry Gyles Stained Glass window” Susan Harrison, English Heritage

**Tuesday 17 July 6pm - Trial of Family Geology Trail in Museum Gardens**

No need to book, meet at the Lodge (see p2)

**Tuesday 17 July 7.30pm - YPS Lecture preceded by John & Anne Phillips Prize presentation**

“Deadly Clouds and Volcanic Flows” Rebecca Williams, University of Hull

**Wednesday 18 July - Visit to the Mansion House**

See flier enclosed

**Wednesday 25 July 2.30pm - YPS Get-together**

at the Star Inn the City (see box above)

**Wednesday 1 August, - Visit to Hanging Grimston Archaeological site, led by Trevor Pearson, see flier enclosed**

**26-30 September - Study Tour in Shropshire**

See flier enclosed

**Office Closure**

The Lodge will be closed from 18-22 June, inclusive