Notes from the Chair

We have now received the first copies of ‘The most fortunate situation’: The Story of York’s Museum Gardens by Peter J. Hogarth and Ewan W. Anderson, which have been sent out to journalists and book reviewers. The Civic Party has accepted our invitation to join us at the Book Launch on 6th November, to which major donors and supporters of the book project have been invited. We are most grateful to the authors for their work over several years to prepare the book for publication and to the Project Team and many others who have worked so hard over the last year to bring this bicentenary project to fruition.

On Thursday 8th November pre-ordered copies will be available for collection from The Lodge, between 10.30am and 2.30pm, when refreshments will be provided. There is still time to preorder a copy from The Lodge. Thank you to everyone who by doing so has made publication of this wonderful book viable. (If you are unable to come along on November 8th, it will of course be possible to collect your pre-ordered book – or just buy a copy – from The Lodge at any time during normal opening hours.)

In early October we enjoyed being a partner with the first York Mediæle Festival. This festival bringing arts and technology together was a great success and will be returning in 2020. As part of our lecture series we had an illuminating conversation with Alexander Whitley, Choreographer, and Hugh Mortimer, Astrophysicist, about their collaboration. Some of us had the privilege of seeing the dance work “8 Minutes” at York Theatre Royal at the beginning of the festival. Both guests clearly brought out the methodology of their respective disciplines; this dance is not an explanation of astrophysics but an exploration of our relationship with the universe inspired by understanding something about space science. There will be a further performance of

With this Newsletter
◆ Lecture Programme Spring 2019
◆ Visit to Bar Convent
◆ Study Tour to Norfolk
◆ Subscription Renewal Form (if appropriate)

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 on page 2)
“8 Minutes” in Leicester next March for British Science Week and I am happy to send details to anyone interested.

With this newsletter you will receive details of the Lecture programme for the first half of 2019. There are two mini-themes for the whole of 2019: “Celebrating Yorkshire” and “Astrophysics”. We have also arranged a Lecture in Memory of Alan Owen on Tuesday 30th April. On this occasion we will also be presenting the first Malden Owen Award to Thomas Turner from the University of York Electronic Engineering Department where he gained an MSc this summer.

In November the YPS Council will be looking at plans for the bicentenary in 2022. We are planning a Celebratory Dinner, a distinguished lecture programme and an expanded Annual Report but it would be good to hear about your ideas so please do let me know your thoughts and suggestions. We are shortly to start working with York Museums Trust on bringing more information about Kirkdale Cave to light; please let us know if you would like to volunteer to help with this project in 2019.

I look forward to meeting many of you at lectures, the annual dinner and events celebrating the launch of the Gardens Book.

Catherine Brophy, Chair

STOP PRESS
Normans in the North
Tuesday November 13th 2018
At time of writing there are still 72 tickets available for YPS members for the lecture “The material culture of the Norman conquest of the North” by Dr Aleksandra McClain, University of York. If you are planning to come along to this and don’t yet have a ticket, please don’t delay; contact Frances at The Lodge as soon as possible. Entry to the lecture will be by ticket only. There is already a waiting list in operation for non-members, and any tickets remaining after 8th November will be released to them. As the Hall is likely to be full for this event, it would be much appreciated if you could arrive by 7.15pm to allow time for everyone to be seated by the 7.30pm start.

We also have just 9 places left for the pre-lecture handling session to look at some of the relevant artefacts with Yorkshire Museum curators, starting at 6.15. Please contact Frances if you would like to join us.

Celebration of the Life of Professor Jim Matthew (1938-2018)
Saturday 10 November, 10.00 to 16:00
Department of Physics, University of York

YPS members are welcome to join the Physics Department in a celebration of the life and work of Professor Jim Matthew. There will be talks, an exhibition and opportunity for discussion and sharing of memories of the many aspects of Jim’s career including his early years at the University, his research, what it was like to be taught by Jim, be his PhD student or his colleague. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. The programme is:

10.00 - 10.30am Registration and coffee
10.30 - 12.30pm Reminiscences from previous physics department heads & senior university management colleagues & a look back at his research projects
12.30 - 2.00pm Informal buffet lunch
2.00 - 4.00pm Reminiscences on his lectures/teaching by former colleagues and students, his time with the YPS, outreach work and reflection on College life

Booking on: https://www.yorkspace.net/events/upcoming

The YPS will also be honouring Jim’s memory in various ways over the coming months and we would like to start by sharing memories from some of those who worked with him.

From Stephen Lusty

Jim served the YPS in many capacities, as Lecture Secretary, as Chair, and latterly as President.

As Lecture Secretary he built up the programme to some 20 lectures a year – a testimony to his great network of colleagues and contacts who were only too pleased to support him ... and on occasions he would fill in the empty slots himself with a variety of talks, some on local eminent engineers such as George Cayley, some on celebrated international scientists such as Einstein. Never to be forgotten was his memorable double-act performance on “Chaos Theory” which he choreographed brilliantly, and in contrast, on occasions, an evening...
of cartoons poking gentle fun at some of the fallacies and failures of scientific research. He built
to attendances at the Tempest Anderson Hall to well
over 100 and membership of the society to close to
the 600 mark, and that at a time when other
societies were struggling for survival.

For the YPS he was also a great missionary. It was
Jim who started the idea of outreach lectures to
outlying North Yorkshire towns such as
Pocklington and Easingwold. He was absolutely
committed to fulfilling the YPS's mission, of
"bringing science to the people", well before Brian
Cox and Jim Al-Khalili came on the scene.

As Chair of the Society he navigated us through the
choppy waters and long and delicate negotiations
with York City Council and the York Museums Trust
to secure both the Society's future as well as its
relationship with the Museum and its Gardens
which it founded back in the 1830s.

If you ask our members for a picture of Jim, they
will remember him as being quietly spoken, and
characteristically hesitant in speech as the speed of
his thoughts outran his ability to deliver them; but
witty, with his trademark chuckly conversation and
always with a treasure chest of stories. At
Christmas Socials his "Address to a Haggis" had us
all reaching for our Scottish dictionaries as well as for
our handkerchiefs.

Occasionally after a YPS lecture on a Tuesday night,
a few of us would retire to the pub – usually the
Maltings - for a relaxing pint where we would put
the world to rights. It was on one of those occasions
when, much to my surprise, Jim asked me if I would
succeed him as Chair of the Society. I am very
grateful to Jim for the trust he showed a mere Arts
graduate, for setting me off on a string of interests
and activities which have enriched my own
retirement ever since.

In his own unique way Jim was an 'inclusive
person', and whatever your background, he treated
everyone with very much the same interest and
respect. He had devotees from all corners of society
– many of them YPS members - who, still today, are
grateful for the interest he took in them.

And we will always be grateful for the commitment
from Jim, which brought an anchor of stability to
the YPS at a time of rapid change in society.

From Ewan Anderson

The chairmanship of Professor Jim Matthew, as a
direct result of his many attributes, was a golden
era for the Yorkshire Philosophical Society. It was
my good fortune to serve under Jim as vice-
chairman for part of this period.

Jim was far more than a renowned physicist. His
knowledge and expertise extended across the
sciences and he could hold erudite discussions on a
wide range of subjects in the social sciences and
humanities. I enjoyed first-hand experience as my
own research moved from soil mechanics to
residential child care and then geopolitics.

Every meeting with Jim was a learning experience.
It was perhaps the only time in my career that I
actively looked forward to meetings.

Although an eminent scientist, Jim had a great
ability to simplify complex issues and bring them
within the understanding of ordinary people. He
was an excellent speaker and many of his lectures
remain permanently in the memory. His exposition
on the early days of flight and the role of Sir George
Cayley, together with practical exhibits, will live
with everybody fortunate enough to have been in
the audience.

However, above all, Jim was a very friendly,
thoughtful and generous person. He took the
limitations and idiosyncrasies of others in his
stride and treated all with generosity and kindness.
Jim was in every sense a lovely person and we who
knew him were indeed privileged.

From Frances Chambers

Jim became chair of the YPS soon after his "official"
retirement from the University. Although as vice-
chairman he had been chairman in waiting, while
he was still working, our paths had rarely crossed
and our first real meeting came when he took over
from Alan Owen and presented me with a bunch of
flowers. This kind surprise proved to be typical of
him, being followed over the years by bags of home
grown tomatoes and apples, more flowers after my
battle with a leaking roof at the Lodge, and, in Jim's
words, "a slap-up lunch" with himself and Jean to
to celebrate my getting a second part-time job which
enabled me to continue working for the Society.

As a manager, he left me to run the office my way
which suited me perfectly, but often arrived
unannounced which didn't always. There were
several occasions when I had to set aside my plans
for the day when Jim appeared unexpectedly with
some urgent task to deal with. The first step was
always to make coffee and then we would settle
down to work, Jim drafting replies to
 correspondence and handing over to me for typing
with an anxious "Can you understand it?" a sheet of
paper covered with a spidery hand and a series of
long arrows putting the sentences into order.

There was much to do. In addition to his duties as
Chairman, involving at that time negotiations with

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Registered Charity No. 529709 An affiliated society of the British Science Association 3
the City Council about new arrangements for the management of the Yorkshire Museum, Jim was also responsible for the lecture programme and arranged many popular visits to university science departments, a science walk round Leeds and visits to York Mosque. On top of all this he would find time to join in with the team of newsletter packers, even though he was still doing some teaching at the university.

As Chairman, Jim set about coaxing the Society into the 21st century. He started the distribution of agendas and papers by email, gave us our present modern-looking logo, and introduced an extra annual Council meeting to be used for a relaxed brain-storming session on the future direction of the Society. There were experiments with outreach lectures away from York and debates in the Tempest Anderson Hall where the roving microphones donated by the Society with Jim’s encouragement continue to prove invaluable. His idea of up-dating the Clerk’s job title to Administrator was, however, abandoned in the face of resistance from the post-holder!

Above all he was passionate about encouraging interest in science, exploiting his University contacts to arrange lecture programmes with very broad appeal. Highlights for me included Richard Keesing describing his lifelong pursuit of Newton’s apple tree and Michael Woolfson’s sparkling explanation of the development of the solar system, not to mention borrowing the university’s 1/3 scale model of the Cassini-Huygens space probe to illustrate a lecture by David Jenkins. At 2.5 metres high and 100 kg in weight, moving this across York and into the Yorkshire Museum was not without problems but determination was one of Jim’s qualities, as was demonstrated during the floods of 2009 when, finding himself caught in stationery traffic on his way to give a lecture at the university, he pulled his car onto the verge, rolled up his trousers and walked cross-country, arriving three minutes before he was due to speak.

He had an irreverent sense of humour and was delighted to become a Companion of the Royal Aeronautical Society (CRAeS), because he said it allowed him to put “crass” after his name. It joined a very long list of qualifications and honours but he wore his learning so lightly that he was easily able to share his enthusiasm for science with people from completely non-academic backgrounds. His immensely entertaining lecture about scientific cartoons was the only time a YPS audience has asked to see the whole presentation again as an encore.

Jim was also a very sociable person, thoughtful and genuinely interested in others. I remember a trip with him to PC World to buy a new printer. A Chinese assistant helped us to make our choice and afterwards, in the time it took me to deal with the payment, Jim not only found out that the young man was a student in the University Electronics Department but gained some useful tips for a forthcoming holiday in China. As President it fell to Jim to present the Charles Wellbeloved Award. Invited to say a few words to a full lecture hall one nervous winner pettered to a halt. “And did you enjoy it?” prompted Jim kindly, drawing an “Oh yes”, of such heartfelt enthusiasm that she was able to leave the stage and re-join her proud family to a surge of warm applause. With gentle persistence he persuaded me to come along to the annual dinner (President’s Evening, as it was then known), turning an event I had previously considered “not my kind of thing” into a highlight of my calendar.

It was at the 2010 Dinner that the Society marked his retirement as Chairman by presenting him with a landscape painting of his own choosing. To my great surprise once again, he used his speech of thanks to present me in turn with a beautiful vase which I treasure along with many happy memories of working with one of the nicest of men.

Towards 2022: Kirkdale Cave Project

YPS members are invited to volunteer with the Yorkshire Museum Curators in a project beginning in 2019 to lay the groundwork for the future display of some of the approximately 200 objects the Museum holds from the Kirkdale cave. These objects, mostly bones, teeth and cave earth, are the founding collection of the Yorkshire Museum and have a hugely important place within the history of science. Volunteers have the choice of three projects: packaging and documentation; photography; or research. A more detailed information sheet is available from the YPS office.
News from the Activities Group

Since the August newsletter, we have had a very successful Study Tour to Shropshire, visiting Ironbridge Gorge, Powys Castle, Snailbeach Lead Mine, among many other interesting places. We hope this will inspire you to consider the next Study Tour, to Norfolk. Details will be available in the next few weeks, but you should find a short flyer in this newsletter, to return if you may be interested.

Our annual Nuffield reception took place before the October 16th lecture, when local sixth formers demonstrated the posters describing the work they did in internships over the summer. A prize for the best of these was awarded in the name of John Hampshire and further details follow on page 6.

On Saturday November 3rd the YPS and The Yorkshire Geological Society will present an afternoon of lectures on *Mammals, Dinosaurs and Sea Dragons of the Jurassic*. If you receive this in time, you will find details below.

Bookings are still open for the *Christmas Tea with Chippendale Tour* at Harewood House on December 4th. The booking form is available on the website at www.yps york.org/events/yorkshires-greatest-furniture-maker-thomas-chippendale-tour/. We may also be able to accept late bookings for *The Streets of York*, an exhibition of artwork and photographic images in aid of charity, on Monday 12th November, from 12.30pm to 2pm at the McClaggan Hall, St. William’s College, College Street, York. Details are on our website. Please contact the Lodge if you are interested. However, bookings for the Annual Dinner on November 14th are now closed.

There is no need to book for the Mince Pie event on 11th December. This is our informal annual reception held after the last lecture before Christmas. Tickets, price £4, will be available on the night, and will include a glass of sparkling wine, or a soft drink. If you feel able to bring along half a dozen or so home-made mince pies, that would be a bonus. Contact Margaret Leonard via the Lodge.

2019 plans As detailed above, a flyer requesting expressions of interest for the Norfolk Study Tour is enclosed, along with a proper flyer for the February 5th visit to the Bar Convent, always a warm and welcoming place to spend a winter’s afternoon. Other activities under consideration include a visit to Leeds, to include the Thackeraay Museum, and afternoon tea on the Leeds/Liverpool canal, a trip to Teesside in the summer, including Ormesby Hall and Stuart Park, and a joint seminar with the National History of Geology Group in October.

Jurassic Afternoon Meeting, 3rd November, 1pm to 4.20pm

The Yorkshire Philosophical Society and The Yorkshire Geological Society present a free half-day indoor meeting of lectures on *Mammals, Dinosaurs and Sea Dragons of the Jurassic: recent developments in vertebrate palaeontology* on Saturday November 3rd (1pm to 4.30pm) in the Tempest Anderson Hall.

This will provide an overview of current cutting-edge research for amateur geologists and the general public as well as a professional and academic audience. The speakers are:

- The Carnian Pluvial Episode and the origin of the dinosaurs – Professor Mike Benton, University of Bristol
- Dinosaur tracks from the Middle Jurassic rocks of the Cleveland Basin of Yorkshire and a comparison with those from the Isle of Skye, Scotland – Dr Michael Romano, formerly of the University of Sheffield
- Mammals of our Jurassic World: from Yorkshire to the Isle of Skye - Elsa Panciroli, National Museum of Scotland and University of Edinburgh
- The Scunthorpe Pliosaur: excavating a significant new find – Richard Forrest, independent researcher

Free to YPS and YGS members showing their membership card and to the general public with free ticket on Eventbrite.

Calotype Project

Those interested in the history of the YPS, the British Association for the Advancement of Science, or the history of photography might like to know about a project we are planning for September/October 2019.

The project is based on a set of very early photographs or calotypes, which were taken by Scottish photographers D. O. Hill and R. Adamson at the second York meeting of the British Association in 1844. We hope to display a selection of these in Museum Gardens and the grounds of York Explore in September-October 2019, and to support this with a number of educational side projects.

The images we have obtained so far include several people of particular interest to the YPS, such as Henry Baines and the Archbishop of York. There are also some notable scientists, the astronomer and polymath John Herschel, the geologist De La Beche, and some interesting characters such as the Whaler and Scientist William Scoresby.

The project is very much still in the development stage, but watch this space.
**Nuffield Partnership Awards**

On October 16th members joined us before the lecture to meet sixth formers who displayed posters explaining the research work they have undertaken with scientists during the summer holidays. The students explained the work they had undertaken and all received a Nuffield Partnership Award. We also announced the winners of the second YPS Science Prize, thanks once again to the generosity of John Hampshire.

This year’s winners were Nicole Taylor, Scarborough Sixth Form College, and Taranver Singh Sabharwal, Allerton High School, Leeds. We will be sending their awards to their respective Head Teachers to present in school, explaining that John Hampshire generously set up this prize and also thanking the Nuffield Foundation for offering students the opportunity for research placements.

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**“York 1844 and All That” Meeting on 12 March 2019**

In 1844, York was a centre for world science as it hosted the British Association meeting; YPS will commemorate the 175th anniversary of this important event next year.

As a preamble in March 2019, John Bibby is organising an open-to-all wide-ranging meeting to discuss "York in the 1840s" and the context of York 1844. This will bring professional historians together with family and local history researchers. Please tell your friends and pre-book if you can.

Details: "York 1844 and All That", York Explore, 10-1 and 2-5 on Tuesday 12 March 2019.

Please pre-book (free or by donation) at www.tinyurl.com/York1844

Speakers are invited on any topic: please contact jb43@york.ac.uk or 01904-330334.

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**Au revoir, Alison**

Alison Pringle, York Museums Trust Garden Manager has accepted a new job with the National Trust in Yorkshire. Alison says, ‘I would like to take this opportunity to thank YPS Council and members for their support of York Museum Gardens over the years and in particular for their generosity to the Geological Map project. In creating the Museum Gardens, the YPS gave a priceless gift to the city of York which is now enjoyed by millions of people. I will never forget my time here.’

The YPS in turn is very grateful to Alison for her work in the Gardens over the past few years and particularly for her willingness to listen to our ideas and contribute to our projects and activities, including this newsletter on several occasions. We wish her every success in her new post and look forward to enjoying her work on visits to National Trust gardens in the area.

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**Request for old iPAD or similar**

The YPS is working with the Yorkshire Museum to improve the sound system in the Tempest Anderson Hall. You may have noticed that the current system keeps losing its signal, probably due to another nearby Wi-Fi system or 4G phones that have not been turned off in the lecture theatre. YPS member Peter Wheatcroft has suggested a solution to the WiFi interference problem, but the other weak link is the obsolete Hudl that a YPS volunteer uses to control the sound level during lectures. We hope that a generous YPS member may have an unwanted iPAD or similar that could be used as a replacement for the Hudl. The main requirement is for a Wi-Fi enabled device with a modern browser like Safari or Chrome, and a good battery. If you think you may be able to help, please contact Rod Leonard at: RLeonardYork@gmail.com or phone 079 868 868 14.

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**Office hours**

The Lodge will be closed from 12 noon on Friday 21st December for the Christmas and New Year holiday, re-opening on Thursday 3rd January …

... and don't forget our new opening hours:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays – 10am to 4pm (lunch 1pm to 2pm)
- Fridays – 10am to 1pm
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 invited to make 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.

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Sat 3rd Nov, 1.00-4.20pm - Jurassic Afternoon Meeting
See page 5 for details

Tue 6th Nov – Launch of 'The most fortunate situation': The Story of York's Museum Gardens
By invitation only

Wed 7th Nov, 7.30pm - Café Scientifique
When is a Gene really a Gene? ... or how to unify the language of science by Dr Allyson Lister

Thurs 8th Nov, 10.30am-2.30pm – Collection of pre-ordered copies of 'The most fortunate situation': The Story of York's Museum Gardens from The Lodge; refreshments available

Tue 13th Nov – Unveiling of a plaque to Henry Baines on Manor Cottage, Museum Gardens

Tue 13th Nov, 6.15pm
"Normans in the North" Handling Session
Admission by ticket only - see details on page 2

Tue 13th Nov, 7.30pm - YPS Lecture in partnership with the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York, for the "Normans in the North" programme
The Material Culture of the Norman Conquest of the North by Dr Aleksandra McClain
NB This lecture is ticketed – please see page 2

Wed 14th Nov, 6.30 for 7.30pm - Annual Dinner

Wed 21st Nov, 2.30pm – YPS Get Together

Tue 27th Nov, 7.30pm - YPS Lecture
Presentation of the Charles Wellbeloved and Herman Ramm Awards followed by: Galapagos: Archaeology and the Global Challenge of Marine Plastics by Prof John Schofield

Tues 4th Dec - Visit to Harewood House with Chippen-dale tour and Christmas afternoon tea

Wed 5th Dec, 7.30pm – Café Scientifique
Extracting DNA from parchment by Dr Matthew Teasdale

Tues 11th Dec, 7.30pm - YPS Lecture
For one night only – engineering the business of show business by Peter Wheatcroft

Tues 11th Dec, 8.30pm - YPS Mince Pie Reception
Tickets £4; available on the night

2019

Tue 15th Jan, 7.30pm - YPS Lecture
Constantine and Coinage: Interpreting the Wold Newton Hoard by Dr Andrew Woods

Tues 22nd Jan, 2.30pm – YPS Get Together

Tue 29th Jan, 7.30pm - YPS Lecture
Strata, sea and sky: three pioneers at work in nineteenth-century Yorkshire by Prof Richard Morris

Wed 6th Feb, 7.30pm - Café Scientifique Can wildlife escape rapid climate change? by Dr Andy Suggitt

Tues 12th Feb, 7.30pm - YPS Lecture
Getting back to our roots - building the region's bioeconomy by Dr Joe Ross

Tues 19th Feb, 2.30pm – YPS Get Together

Tues 26th Feb, 7.30pm - YPS Lecture
Is the history of flooding at York representative of UK and European flood trends? by Dr Neil Macdonald

Wed 6th Mar, 7.30pm - Café Scientifique
Presentations by students from the North Yorkshire schools project on “Cutting Edge Science”

"Brushes with War" This art exhibition at the Kelvingrove Museum, Glasgow, until 6th January is highly recommended by John Bibby who says, “It is unique in at least two ways: it is genuinely international with Turks, Russians, Italians, Bosnians, Austrians and soldiers from British colonial territories all represented; and the artists are real fighters, portraying big stories on small canvases - gruesome grit on postcards or whatever else was available in the trenches. There is much more to see in Glasgow and you can still get there and back for under £40.” John is happy to advise if anyone is interested.

John Bibby jb43@york.ac.uk

YPS Subscription Renewal

For members who pay their subscriptions by cheque, cash or Paypal, guidance on how to renew for 2019 can be found on the enclosed form. We would be most grateful if you could return this to Frances before 20th December to enable prompt processing. If there is no form enclosed, this means your subscription will automatically be paid by standing order or has already been paid by other means, and you need do nothing.

2019 membership cards will be sent out with the next Newsletter in early February. 2018 cards remain valid for entry to the Yorkshire Museum until the new cards are issued, so please don’t worry that you don’t have one at the beginning of the year.

If you have any questions about your subscription or how to renew, please don’t hesitate to contact Frances at The Lodge:

01904 65613 or info@ypsyork.org

Thank you, and our best wishes for the festive season.