Notes from the Chair

The Society is delighted that the Gardens History Book ‘The most fortunate situation’: The Story of York’s Museum Gardens has been very well received and was the subject of excellent reports in both the York Press and the Yorkshire Post. If you would like a copy, the books are available at lectures, from the YPS office and from the Yorkshire Museum. Dr Peter Hogarth is giving lectures based on the book to several York groups and we have invited Professor Ewan Anderson to give us a Tree Walk in the Gardens in June. Many thanks to everyone who has helped us to prepare, publish and promote the book.

As part of the book launch and in partnership with York Civic Trust and York Museums Trust the Society arranged to install a blue plaque in Museum Gardens to commemorate the work of Henry Baines, Sub Curator in the Yorkshire Museum, who is largely responsible for creating the Gardens from 1829 to his retirement in 1870. The YPS Annual Reports provide an insight into Henry's varied activities, from being authorized to collect plants from other botanical gardens, purchasing a watering machine and loads of manure, to being given permission to judge the East Riding Agricultural Show. Appropriately enough the plaque has been installed on Manor Cottage, the house built for Henry Baines and his family by the YPS, at the side of the Museum leading to King's Manor.

The 2019 lecture programme has three mini themes beginning with “Celebrating Yorkshire”. Dr Andrew Woods, Senior Curator at the Yorkshire Museum, gave us an illuminating insight into the coinage discovered in the Wold Newton Hoard and how much we can learn about the rise of Constantine and the events leading to the subsequent reshaping of the
Roman Empire. Professor Richard Morris provided us with some new insights into the whaling master, Arctic navigator and (latterly) clergyman William Scoresby (1789-1857), the engineer and aeronautical pioneer George Cayley (1773-1857), and the geologist William Smith (1769-1839). In February Dr Joe Ross explained the work of the Biorenewables Development Centre, where he is the Director, in the week that the University of York launched BioYork: https://www.york.ac.uk/bioyork This initiative aims to use the university’s world class research and knowledge base to drive the development of UK bio-based industries, delivering growth, jobs and environmental benefits.

The second mini theme beginning in March is “Astrophysics” and the third is “Photography”, which will support the “Creative Calotypes” project (see page 3). Short reports of the lectures are published on the YPS website soon after they take place as well as in the Annual Report. We are grateful to the team of volunteers who undertake this work.

As members will be aware, on 7th December 2022 the Society will be 200 years old and Trustees would like to hear your suggestions for celebrating this bicentenary. We are already planning a dinner on that date and a programme of special lectures from September 2022 to July 2023. I would be interested in your ideas for ways to honour our history whilst keeping members up to date with the latest scientific research. One initiative, the Kirkdale Cave Project in partnership with York Museums Trust, started at the beginning of February and we will have updates in future newsletters.

We welcome Steve Williams as York Museums Trust Garden Manager and he has kindly contributed to this newsletter (see page 4). Steve is already in discussion with Dr Peter Hogarth and Professor Ewan Anderson about them leading informative walks in the Gardens.

I look forward to meeting you at lectures, activities and at YPS Get-Togethers and hearing your thoughts about the bicentenary.

Catherine Brophy
Chair

News from the Activities Group

As I write this, the sun is shining, and it is a great invitation to think about spring and summer activities. I would encourage you to consider booking for the Study Tour to Norfolk (see below). This should be a really interesting trip.

However, before we get too caught up with the summer, it is good to remember what we did at the end of last year. In October we held the Nuffield event - a pre-lecture reception and the award of the John Hampshire prize to local sixth-formers. November was a busy month. On 3rd there was a joint meeting with Yorkshire Geology Society, and on 6th and 7th we held events to launch our new book on the story of Museum Gardens. On 12th of the month a number of us visited the ‘Streets of York’ art exhibition, while the 14th brought our Annual Dinner, which seemed to have been enjoyed by everyone present. In December, we had a visit to Harewood House, which enabled us to view their Chippendale furniture whilst also enjoying the Christmas decorations and an afternoon tea, and the year was rounded off by our annual ‘Mince-pie reception’ after the final lecture.

This year’s events began with the February visit to the Bar Convent, which highlighted the remarkable life of the founder, Mary Ward. We then had tea in the very pleasant atrium.

The programme for the rest of the year is still being worked on. There are a number of ideas which are on the drawing board and will be

Our President and Chair enjoy the Annual Dinner

Photo: Tony Stanfield
announced later. However, we can tell you that in April Catherine Brophy is planning a morning tour of the historic Leeds Library followed by a light lunch and talk/tour of the fascinating Thackray Medical Museum. On 6th June, Professor Ewan Anderson will lead a tree walk in Museum Gardens. Ewan has a particular interest in these trees, and was responsible for the lovely drawings in the recently published book on the story of Museum Gardens.

The Norfolk Study Tour, already mentioned, will take place from 16th to 20th June. There is strong interest in this, and the official booking form is available from the Lodge and on our website.

Paul Thornley, Geology Group chair, is also planning a number of events which are open to everyone. Please see his report below for details.

**Calotype Project Update**

The plans for this event, which will be a joint venture between the YPS, the York Museums Trust and York Explore, are proceeding well. The main event will take place in September and October. This will involve a display of large, weatherproof copies of historic calotype photographs in Museum Gardens and the grounds of York Explore. These very early photographs were taken at the 1844 York meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, (now the BSA). There will be a number of other events - lectures, displays, workshops - associated with this. You can learn more about this project, and see some of the photographs, by visiting the YPS website – www.yps.york.org – and clicking on ‘Calotype Project’ in the red column on the left-hand side of the home page.

There will be an opportunity to hear more about the calotype project if you are attending the day's seminar on 12 March entitled “1844 and all that”, which John Bibby is organising. Although not an official YPS event, this will include a short presentation on the BA and the 1844 conference, where the calotypes were taken. Please see page 6 for further information.

**Notes from the Geology Group**

On Thursday 14th March, the annual John and Anne Phillips Lecture will be held at 6pm in the Allam Lecture Theatre, Esk Building, University of Hull, when Professor Mark Williams of the University of Leicester will speak on ‘Mapping the Anthropocene impact on the biosphere’. (For more on this topic see: https://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/press/pressreleases/2018/january/scientists-home-in-on-a-potential-anthropocene-2018golden-spike2019)

There will be a reception from 4pm at the Cohen Building Map Room, with a show of students’ mapping projects, and Catherine Brophy is inviting members to join her at the Hull Maritime Museum at 2pm. Following a look round the Museum we will travel, via bus, to the University for the reception and lecture. If you would like to visit Hull University to attend this event, contact Frances at the Lodge.

On Wednesday 1st May, Paul Hildreth, President of the Yorkshire Geological Society, will give the York Café Sci talk on ‘Women in Geology’, at City Screen Basement Bar.

Advanced notice of a trip to Kelham Hall and the Duke’s Wood Oil Museum on Friday 5th July. Kelham Hall is a stately home in North Nottinghamshire and the Dukes Wood Oil Museum, the only onshore oilfield museum in Britain, is set within a nature reserve in the grounds. Booking forms for this tour will be distributed in the next newsletter.

On Tuesday 16th July in the Tempest Anderson Hall there will be a presentation of the YPS-sponsored John and Anne Phillips Mapping Prize to a University of Hull student prior to a lecture by Dr Liam Herringshaw.

**Other events of interest:**

Saturday 23rd March - Yorkshire Geological Society Indoor Meeting at the University of Hull, ‘Yorkshire Geology, Landscape and Literature’.

Saturday 27th April – Yorkshire Geology Day at the National Mining Museum, Caphouse, Wakefield.

May is Yorkshire Geology Month. Events will be listed at http://www.yorksgeolsoc.org.uk/EDITABLE/programme.pdf

*Margaret Leonard*  

*Paul Thornley*
A message from the new Gardens Manager

I arrived from Newby Hall Garden Team (near Ripon) on November 19th so I’m two and a half months in and enjoying getting to know the team, the Garden and everyone who is associated with York Museums Trust.

My first plant purchase for the Gardens included a Hammamelis x intermedia ‘Arnold’s Promise’ – a late yellow-flowering variety (late February into March) which I have located in the Winter Border near to where the paths cross up from the Hospitium. The other plants purchased were a tray of Helleborus ‘Mont Blanc’ which are situated under the yew canopy near to Manor Cottage and are lighting up this area nicely. I intend to improve this part of the Garden in the future.

You may have noticed that I’ve begun work on the Tempest Anderson border (the bed in front of the TA Hall). I am drawing up a new planting plan and intend to source the plants shortly so that the bed is newly planted before April. As with any new planting, it will take a good couple of years to move into full maturity, but I am excited thinking about how things will be starting to knit together in the summer.

Look out for a forthcoming York Art Gallery exhibition of Michael Lyons’ sculptures which is set to run for 12 months from mid-May in the Artist Garden and Edible Wood. I have been working in conjunction with the Art Gallery team to deliver this exhibition of Michael’s work and I have agreed to incorporate some of his wonderful pieces within the flower beds of the Edible Wood. It will be really interesting to see how the changing nature of the garden through the seasons and Michael’s work interact.

It is nice to have met a number of you already and I look forward to seeing you all in the Gardens over the course of the next weeks and months. Also, I would like to note my thanks to Ewan and Peter who have provided my Garden Guides team with informative talks on the history of the Gardens and some of the special trees that our collection contains.

Best wishes,
Steve Williams
York Museums Trust

Lecture News

We’re delighted to announce that our lecture this year for York Festival of Ideas will be Women’s War Photography: the pioneers by Dr Pippa Oldfield. Dr Oldfield is Head of Programmes at Impressions Gallery in Bradford and an Honorary Research Fellow in the University of Durham and this talk will be one of a number of events on the theme of photography to celebrate our Calotypes project, described above. The lecture will take place on Tuesday 11th June in the Tempest Anderson Hall, but please note that it will start and finish later than usual, 8 pm to 9 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Eagle-eyed members will have spotted that on the programme card issued with our last newsletter Ian Saxelby’s lecture on 26th March, The Foss Barrier: the road to recovery, is described as ticketed. In view of the amount of administration required, it has been decided not to issue tickets for this lecture or any of the others on our current programme, but we do recommend that members try to arrive by 7.15 pm to make sure of a good seat.
Archeology Awards

The Charles Wellbeloved and Hermann Ramm Awards were presented by Stephen Lusty before the lecture by Professor John Schofield on ‘Galapagos: Archaeology and the Global Challenge of Marine Plastics’ on 27th November. This year saw two winning students for the Charles Wellbeloved Prize: Elizabeth Hicks for her dissertation “The Gendered Household: Making space for women in the study of Islamic archaeology in Quatar”; and Evy Rousham for her dissertation “Frailty and periostea reactions: a study of periostea lesion activity and dental enamel hypoplasia trends at St James’ Abbey, Northampton”. The Herman Ramm Prize was awarded to Isobel Wisher for her dissertation “In the Eye of the Beholder? Negotiating Identity through Personal Ornaments in the Upper Palaeolithic”.

Can you help?

YPS has a tremendous team of volunteers amongst the membership, who really work hard to help the Society to thrive. As we approach the bi-centenary in 2022 we hope to involve more members in the work of the Society, particularly those who can offer fund raising, legal or networking skills and experience. Even if you are tentative about getting involved, do speak to volunteers and Council Members at lectures, easily identified by their YPS name badges. Enclosed with this newsletter is a note of the AGM on 4 June and nomination form for new Members of Council. If you may be interested in serving the Society in this way, please contact Catherine Brophy for an informal chat in the first instance.

Thank you

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who sent cards and kind wishes on the loss of my mother in early January. My parents and I were very grateful to the Society for allowing me to take time off during her final illness so that we could have some precious time together, and I can only apologize to members who travelled to the Lodge to find restricted opening times as a consequence. I’d also like to proffer particular thanks to Catherine Brophy for keeping things running so smoothly in my absence at a busy time of the year.

Frances Chambers
Clerk to the Society

Membership Matters

2019 cards …
If you have renewed your subscription, your 2019 membership card should be enclosed with this newsletter. If not, please contact Frances at the Lodge, 01904 656713, or email info@ypsyork.org. If you receive the Newsletter by email, we would be grateful if you could save postage by collecting your card from the Lodge or at a lecture.

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

Office hours
Don’t forget our opening hours: are now:
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 House of Trembling Madness, 14 Lendal (please note the new venue).

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

Sat 9 Mar & Tue 12 Mar - York 1844 and All That (see right)

Tue 12 Mar, 7.30pm – YPS Lecture  Fantastic Planets and how to find them  Dr Emily Brunsden, University of York  (in partnership with York Museums Trust for British Science Week)

Tue 19 Mar, 2.30pm onwards - YPS Get-Together
Join Catherine Brophy for a Get-Together at “The House of Trembling Madness”, 14 Lendal. Buy yourself a drink and join us upstairs in the Snug which is reserved for our use.

Tue 26 Mar, 7.30pm – YPS Lecture  The Foss Barrier: the road to recovery  Ian Saxelby, The Environment Agency  (in partnership with IET North Yorkshire)

Wed 3 Apr, 7.30pm - Café Scientifique  To be confirmed

Tue 9 Apr, 7.30pm – YPS Lecture  Hadrian’s Wall after Hadrian: The Survival of a Roman Frontier  Paul Bidwell, formerly Head of Archaeology for Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums  (The Elizabeth Hartley Memorial Lecture)

Mon 29 or Tue 30 Apr - Visit to Leeds Library & Thackray Museum  (see enclosed flyer for date and details)

Tue 30 Apr, 7.30pm – YPS Lecture  Science for all - technology innovation with South Pacific Islanders  Dr Steven Johnson, University of York  (The Alan Owen Memorial Lecture preceded by presentation of the Malden Owen Engineering Award)

Wed 1 May, 7.30pm - Café Scientifique  Women in Geology  Paul Hildreth, Yorkshire Geological Society

Tue 14 May, 7.30pm – YPS Lecture  Astrophysics  (title to be confirmed)

Tue 4 June, 6.45pm - Annual General Meeting

Tue 4 June, 7.30pm - YPS Lecture  Learning to Protect Nature: Conservation, education and the tansy beetle  Dr Deirdre Rooney & Caroline Howard, Askham Bryan College  (preceded by presentation of the Malden Owen Askham Bryan Awards)

Wed 5 June, 7.30pm - Café Scientifique  Archaeology and the Image  Dr Colleen Morgan, University of York

Tue 11 June, 8.00pm – YPS Lecture  Women’s War Photography: the pioneers  Dr Pippa Oldfield, Hon Research Fellow, University of Durham  (A lecture for York Festival of Ideas)  Please note that this lecture will start and finish 30 minutes later than usual

16 to 20 June  Tour of Norfolk  (see flyer enclosed)

Wed 3 July, 7.30pm - Café Scientifique  Biovalve  (title to be confirmed)  Elspeth Bartlet and Emma Needham

Tue 16 July, 7.30pm – YPS Lecture  Exceptional carrots of Yorkshire  (title to be confirmed)  Dr Herringshaw, University of Hull  (preceded by presentation of the John & Anne Phillips Prize)

“Walking York in the 1840s”: a brief guided tour
Saturday 9 March, 10 to 11am
A walk looking at buildings, roads and other features which were important in the 1840s. Please book via Eventbrite.

The event on 12th March, York 1844 and All That, is already fully booked but do check out Eventbrite in case of cancellations.

For further details see: www.tinyurl.com/York1844 or contact John Bibby jb43@york.ac.uk

Surprise Concert on Tuesday 12th March at 11.30am to 12.30pm

YPs Members are cordially invited by Allen Warren, Master, to join the Merchant Taylor’s Company of York in their hall for a concert by Music students from the University of York. The event is free and tickets can be booked on Eventbrite; just search for Surprise Concert, York UK. The hall is open from 11am to 3pm so do come along; there may be space at the concert without pre-booking.

At the end of the concert there will be refreshments, and donations for Music Education in the City will be invited. The musicians and music are not announced beforehand but will be of excellent quality.