Notes from the Chair
The 2019 lecture programme “Astrophysics” mini theme began in March with Dr Emily Brunsden taking us on a journey to discover exoplanets concluding with one of the first photographs ever taken of one, which has, of course, now been upstaged by the recent photograph of a black hole. The Astrophysics theme will continue with lectures on November 12th and in March 2020. Photography is an important theme for us this year and a leaflet about forthcoming talks will be available soon.

There is a change to the lecture programme on May 14th when Dr Jane Grenville will talk to us about “Updating Pevsner - Yorkshire: North Riding” as part of our “Celebrating Yorkshire” theme. Since the last newsletter we have enjoyed two lectures in this mini-series. Ian Saxelby, engineer from the Environment Agency, gave us an excellent account of the work that has been undertaken over the last three years to future proof and rebuild the Foss Barrier. In February we welcomed PLACE and Royal Geographical Society members to listen to Dr Neil Macdonald from Liverpool University describe his research into records of flooding at York in the context of other European cities. This project is being undertaken with partners across several European universities, including from the Vienna University of Technology and Brno University of Technology.

We were also pleased to offer a memorial lecture for Elizabeth Hartley, who was the first Curator of Archaeology at the Yorkshire Museum. In tributes both Dr Andrew Woods, Senior Curator at the Yorkshire Museum, and (Continued on page 2)
archaeologist colleague and friend Dr Peter Addyman reminded us of Elizabeth's distinguished career, particularly her curating of exhibitions such as "Constantine the Great" in 2006. Paul Bidwell then gave us a detailed account of the Wallsend area of Hadrian's Wall, and Segedunum Fort, explaining the aqueduct flooding that led to the repeated challenges of rebuilding faced by the Roman Army.

In March we heard the sad news of the sudden death of Mrs Vivien Irish. Vivien was one of our most stalwart volunteers and played an important role in the Project Team for the Gardens History book. She often helped with the Tuesday lecture evening jobs, including taking responsibility for the sound system in the Tempest Anderson Hall and serving members and guests wine in the Lodge. Vivien was also a stimulating and lively companion on day trips and study tours and will be greatly missed by those of us who knew her.

Thank you to everyone who has made suggestions for celebrating the 2022 bicentenary. At present I am collating all the ideas so that later in 2019 the Trustees can develop a plan for the next three years leading up to a well-organised celebration. Looking back at the 1922 Annual Report we find that many people and organisations sent their congratulations to the Society on becoming a centurion. Many of these distinguished organisations are still flourishing; for example, the Leeds Library, which a group of us are visiting this April.

After lectures wine is served in the Lodge for members to meet the lecturer. You are welcome to join us and please do speak to the YPS volunteers (wearing YPS badges) if you need any further information.

I look forward to meeting you at lectures, activities and at YPS Get-Togethers. Read on for details of what's happening.

Catherine Brophy
Chair

News from the Activities Group

On 19th March, a YPS Get-together was held in the snug at the 'House of the Trembling Madness'. This proved popular, and we intend to use this venue again. Events will be advertised on the website and the pre-lecture ‘info-loop’.

The post AGM reception will be held after the lecture on 4th June. As usual, there is no need to book in advance, as tickets priced £4 will be sold on the night. This event is very informal, and gives a good opportunity to catch up on old friends, and meet new ones. Two days later there is an opportunity to tour Museum Gardens with tree expert Professor Ewan Anderson. Ewan drew the beautiful pencil drawings of trees in the new YPS book on the story of Museum Gardens.

On 16th June a group will leave York for a five-day Study Tour of Norfolk. Sadly, the exhibition at Sutton Hoo will not be open in time for our visit, so we have arranged to visit Burgh Castle instead.

In September and October, a display of calotypes (early photographs) taken at the 1844 York conference of the British Association will be mounted in Museum Gardens. YPS is being partnered for this event by York Museums Trust and York Explore, and a number of supporting lectures and other events will be held.

Before the lecture on 15th October we plan to host the annual Nuffield Reception where local sixth formers display their posters. On 23rd October we will host a meeting of the History of Geology Group, and on Saturday, 2nd November we will host the Yorkshire Geology Group. Both of the last two events will be followed by field trips on the next day.

Other activities under consideration include visits to an archaeology site near Fimber, the Allerton recycling centre and Allerton Castle.

Margaret Leonard

Romans in the North Symposium

We are delighted to be supporting the York Museums Trust's symposium on the Romans in the North on 31st May in the Hospitium. This event is in honour of the late John Hampshire, former Chair of the YPS and champion of archaeology in York. For full details please see the enclosed flyer.
From the Geology Group

A visit to Duke’s Wood Oil Museum, Kelham Hall, Near Newark
Friday 5th July 2019 10.30am to 4pm
£20 per person to include morning tea/coffee and lunch, and donation to the Museum

Please see the enclosed flyer for booking instructions.

The Duke’s Wood Oil Museum, now based at Kelham Hall, celebrates the drilling of Britain’s main onshore oil field at Eakring and Duke’s Wood in Nottinghamshire from 1939 to 1965, and the Roughnecks from Oklahoma and Texas who came over to Britain to help extract essential oil reserves in 1943. Many of these Americans were billeted with the monks at Kelham Hall.

The oil was a state secret at the time as the invasion of France would have been unsustainable without reliable oil supplies and delivery across the Channel.

The Museum curator, Kevin Topham, has had an eventful career: Bomb disposal with the RAF during the War, drilling wells at the Nottinghamshire Oilfield and he was on the drilling barge ‘Sea Gem’ when, on 27th December 1965, two supporting legs collapsed as it was about to move, the rig collapsed and the crew ended up in the sea; 13 of the crew were killed. The rig was the first to discover hydrocarbons in the British North Sea sector when gas was found in September 1965.

Kelham Hall was designed in Gothic Revival style by George Gilbert Scott in 1861 for the Manners Sutton family, the previous building being destroyed by fire in 1857. Gilbert Scott went on to design St Pancras Hotel. Both Kelham and St Pancras are built mainly from the Red Mansfield stone, a dolostone from the Permian Cadeby Formation (locally with a higher quartz sand content than the equivalent magnesian limestone so ubiquitous in York). The Hall was used by Anglican monks for 70 years and they built the adjacent huge, domed, Chapel.

In the nearby Duke’s Wood nature trail, run by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, there is some of the original extraction equipment in its original position, including nodding donkeys. It is an SSSI and rare plants, animals and bird life can be found.

Paul Thornley

Annual Dinner 2019

Our Annual Dinner will be held on Wednesday 20th November at the York Hilton. David Fraser, retiring Chief Executive of York Civic Trust has kindly accepted an invitation to be our guest speaker. Further details and booking forms will be with the next Newsletter.

Lecture on 14th May, 7.30pm

Change to published programme

Dr Jane Grenville is undertaking the revision of the Yorkshire: North Riding volume in the iconic series “The Buildings of England” written by Professor Sir Nikolaus Pevsner. In her lecture Updating Pevsner - Yorkshire: North Riding she will tell us about the progress of her work with special reference to Pevsner’s passion for architecture in the region, and some of the musical highlights that she has discovered along the way.

Café Scientifique and Lecture Outreach Events

The monthly Café Scientifique sessions in City Screen continue in 2019 on the first Wednesday of each month, except for August, but we are also planning a small series of Café Scientifique talks to be held across the summer at “The Centre@Burnholme”, Mossdale Avenue, York, YO31 0HA. In June (date to be confirmed), William Varker will give us his lecture on ”A Palaeontologist’s Perspective on the History of Bees”. Leaflets about this new series will be available in May from the YPS office, at lectures and on the website. Outreach lectures are being planned for Pocklington and Easingwold in the autumn, but we are interested in other locations if members think their local community would support and appreciate them.

Sir Nikolaus Pevsner
Museum Gardens News

It’s been a busy month and with the recent passing of the Spring Equinox we are starting to see some herbaceous growth. The Magnolia stellate bushes flowering in the Rock Garden provide a welcome sight.

The Gardeners John, Kevin and Tony have been hard at work planting up the Tempest Anderson border and have also been instrumental in creating the new tiered garden outside Manor Cottage, opposite the Fernery. The tiered garden has been planted with plants that like semi-shade conditions and as such, many of them are plants that flower earlier in the season before the tree canopy reduces light levels. Look out for Primula denticulata (which looks like lilac lollipops) and the white Bergenia ‘Harzkristall’ which I think make good bedfellows.

Our Facilities Manager, Geoff Hutchinson, has been coordinating the laying of new cables in the garden so that the old Victorian-style (most of them) lamps can be utilised once more. As the digging has moved forwards significantly we will shortly begin re-turfing those areas of the lawn that have been disturbed and require attention. I will also introduce some new planting in the small bed outside the YPS lodge …. watch this space!

I am a keen supporter of providing young people with opportunities, as making your way in the modern world is no easy thing. With this in mind I have been speaking to our local Horticulture College, Askham Bryan, to discuss the potential opportunity of building a relationship with them so that we can offer periods of work experience to some of their committed students. I see this as mutually beneficial; students would gain valuable hands-on experience in a wonderful botanical garden that is open to the public, and we would benefit from their assistance.

With 1st April rapidly approaching we are on the verge (grass verge?) of grass cutting season, and before we know it the trees are in leaf. Lots to do!

Best wishes,
Steve Williams
York Museums Trust

Report on “York 1844 and All That”
(meeting on March 6th)

A spinoff of Margaret Leonard’s group commemorating the 1844 BAAS meeting in York was a wider meeting independently organised by John Bibby on the question of what was happening in York about then.

The meeting was self-funded via donation and was oversubscribed by about 20%. About 100 people applied for tickets. Two remarkable features were

◊ That there was still almost a “full house” at the end of what was admittedly rather a long, intensive day
◊ So many people wanted to speak that a follow-up day was arranged for April 12th

Fuller reports will be issued. Some information is available at:
www.York1844.eventbrite.com
and www.PPDD.eventbrite.com

In total there were some 30 talks/quizzes/displays/food tastings. YPS members were prominent in all, and I would like to thank them for their support. There was also an “1840s Walk” around York, organised by John Shaw and Ian Tempest. Details of this are at www.1840sWalk.eventbrite.com

For further information please contact John Bibby 01904-330334, jb43@york.ac.uk

John Bibby
DIARY

♦ YPS Lectures are held on Tuesdays at 7.30pm in the Tempest Anderson Hall, unless otherwise stated, 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 the Trembling Madness, 14 Lendal (please note the new venue).

Mon 29 Apr - Visit to Leeds Library & Thackray Museum

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

Tuesday 7th May, 2.30 pm YPS Get-Together
Come along and socialise with other YPS members at "The House of the Trembling Madness", 14 Lendal. Buy yourself a drink and join us upstairs in the Snug which is reserved for our use.

Tue 14 May, 7.30pm – YPS Lecture Updating Pevsner: Yorkshire: North Riding Dr Jane Grenville

Fri 31 May, 10.00 am - 4.30pm – YMT Symposium Romans in the North (see flyer enclosed)

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 (An event for York Festival of Ideas)

Thur 6 June - Tree Walk in Museum Gardens (see flyer enclosed)

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

Office Closure

The Lodge will be closed during week beginning 17th June for Frances’ holiday. We will re-open on Tuesday 25th June.

Tempest Anderson Exhibition

The University of York Library invites YPS members to view a free small exhibition in the University Library from 9th April to 1st July, based on their Tempest Anderson resources.

The focus is to give an overview of this York polymath, and his impact across a range of fields including:

• Role as an ophthalmic surgeon at York County Hospital and his input to developments in methods/instrumentation around ophthalmology
• Role as a civic activist/leader in York – including his interest in town planning, sanitation, waterworks, preservation of historic buildings
• Role as a respected geologist, photographer and vulcanologist
• Role in the learned societies of York: Yorkshire Philosophical Society and York Medical Society.

Entry to the Library is free but car parking is limited and it is advisable to travel to the University by public transport.

Wednesday 26th June, 2.30 pm YPS Get-Together at “The House of the Trembling Madness”, 14 Lendal. Buy yourself a drink and join us upstairs in the Snug which is reserved for our use.

Wed 3 July, 7.30pm - Café Scientifique Waste not want not; using new science to make more from unavoidable food waste. How can we move from our ‘throwaway society’ to a world without waste? Elspeth Bartlet and Emma Needham

Fri 5 July - Visit to Kelham Hall & the Duke’s Wood Oil Museum (see flyer enclosed)

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