Notes from the Chair

The Lecture Programme for the first half of 2019 has been successfully concluded and included memorial lectures for Mr Alan Owen, former YPS Chair, and Mrs Elizabeth Hartley, former Curator of Archaeology at the Yorkshire Museum. The “Astrophysics” mini-theme will continue with further lectures in November 2019 and March 2020.

The Autumn Lecture Programme is enclosed and begins with the “Photography” Lecture/Café Scientifique mini-theme, which has been planned to complement the “York’s First Photographs” exhibition we are mounting with York Museums Trust and York Explore. Mrs Margaret Leonard, Project Manager for YPS, is to be congratulated on not only suggesting this exhibition but also working very hard to bring it to fruition. Thanks must also go to all the Calotypes Project Team members but particularly to Bob Hale and Bob Anderton who both gave many hours of unstinting work. I do hope that most of our members will find an opportunity to visit Museum Gardens in September or October and admire and enjoy the results (see page 2 for more information) and support the complementary talks and other activities on the leaflet included in this mailing.

We are delighted that this autumn will see the resumption of outreach lectures in Easingwold and Pocklington. Please do encourage friends

(Continued on page 2)
in these areas to come along, and if you missed the splendid lectures from Agnes Winter and Mike Burton first time around in the Tempest Anderson Hall, this is a second chance to hear them.

In June and July we have presented four young people with prizes as part of our annual programme of awards. Further details about their work is included on page 5. On October 15th we will be inviting members to join us before the lecture to meet sixth formers who will be displaying posters explaining the research work they have undertaken with scientists, during the summer holidays, for the Nuffield Partnership Awards. From 6.15pm there will be an opportunity for individual discussion with the students and refreshments. During the evening we will be presenting one, or more, of the students with the third YPS Science Prize.

The Society was delighted to support the York Museums Trust Symposium on “The Romans in the North” in May. It was most appropriate that the event was held in honour of the late John Hampshire, former Chair of the YPS and champion of archaeology in York. We have received a letter of thanks for the financial support we gave to the event from the Museums Trust. They are planning to organize a similar event next year so do keep Friday 29th May 2020 free if you would like to participate next year.

The Activities Group multi-day study tour to Norfolk was extremely well supported and I have heard many excellent reports from the participants. Rod and Margaret Leonard are to be congratulated and warmly thanked for all the work they undertook in planning and leading such a successful tour.

The Society’s Annual Dinner will be held on Wednesday 20th November at the York Hilton, opposite Clifford’s Tower, when we are delighted to announce our guest speaker will be David Fraser, recently retired CEO of York Civic Trust. We do hope many of you will join us for this enjoyable evening in good company.

I look forward to meeting you then and at lectures, activities and at YPS Get-Togethers.

Catherine Brophy
Chair

York’s First Photographs

Throughout September and October, Museum Gardens and the ‘Library Lawn’ at York Explore will host an exhibition of some of the first photographs taken in York. These remarkable images, called calotypes, were taken at the 1844 York conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which had returned to York for the first time since it was founded here in 1831. Pioneering photographers, David Octavius Hill and Robert Adamson came down from Edinburgh to set up their open-air studio in the ruins of St Mary’s Abbey and photograph the delegates.

175 years after this event, in partnership with York Museums Trust and York Explore, we have chosen to display large waterproof prints of a selection of these photographs in the form of a trail around the gardens. We hope you will take the time to follow it, and learn something of the people who were present, including nationally important scientists like astronomer Sir John Herschel, and local people like Henry Baines, the Yorkshire Museum Sub-curator, who did so much to establish the gardens we all love.

To support the exhibition, we are also putting on a programme of photography-related events, which is outlined in the leaflet enclosed with this newsletter.

Margaret Leonard

Interested in knowing more? To learn about the calotype process, the history of photography, and much more, see our website:

News from the Activities Group

35 members enjoyed the varied programme provided in the Study Tour to Norfolk. This included birdwatching on Hickling Broad, exploring the impressive remains of the Roman Burgh Castle, touring Holkham Hall with its farming display and walled garden, and visiting a variety of churches, cathedrals and other interesting buildings.

Other activities during the last three months included a visit to the Thackray Museum and Leeds Library, tree walks led by Prof. Ewan Anderson, who drew the delightful pictures of trees in the YPS Gardens History book, and the fascinating 'geology plus' tour of Kelham Hall and Duke’s Wood, arranged by Paul Thornley of the Geology Group. Thanks to everyone involved in organising all these events.

Flyers for activities planned for the next few months are enclosed with the Newsletter. These include tours of the Calotype display giving some of the stories behind the photographs, a coach tour to three interesting buildings in Lincolnshire (Gainsborough Old Hall, Belton House and Woolsthorpe Manor), an archaeology trip to Fimber in the steps of the great Wolds archaeologist JR Mortimer, a tour of the local winery, and our Annual Dinner. Please try to choose which you would like to take part in and return the relevant forms as soon as you can – it does make life easier for the organiser.

There will also be a couple of regular end-of-year events which need no advance booking – on 15th October we will host the Nuffield reception when we celebrate the work of local sixth-formers, and on 10th December, at the end of the last lecture of the year, we will hold our popular mince-pie reception.

From the Geology Group

There are two joint conferences planned for the Autumn.

The genesis of geology in York and beyond
Wednesday 23rd to Thursday 24th October
History of Geology Group, 25th Anniversary Meeting in York
in association with the YPS and supported by the York Museums Trust

On the 23rd, a morning of talks to be held in the Marriott Room, York Explore, and an afternoon of tours and discussions at the Yorkshire Museum. 24th October is a Field Day to the Kirkdale Cave and the Rosedale Iron Mines by car. See the programme enclosed.

The cost will be £20 to YPS members who produce their membership cards for access to the Yorkshire Museum, £25 to non-YPS members who have an annual membership to York Museums Trust, and £30 to others.

There is no charge for attending the Field Day, but please respond to request about requiring or offering lifts.

There is also the opportunity for YPS members to attend the HOGG 25th Anniversary dinner at ASK on 23rd October, on a self-choice/pay on the night basis.

All this should be booked through the HOGG website (not through the YPS office): https://historyofgeologygroup.co.uk/october2019-york/

Decarbonisation of the Northern Powerhouse
Saturday 2nd November
Yorkshire Geological Society in association with the YPS

All day indoor meeting of talks to be held at the Tempest Anderson Hall, Yorkshire Museum, highlighting the scientific, economic and social challenges and potential solutions for decarbonisation, embracing the following themes:

- Energy Storage (including compressed air storage)
- Carbon sequestration
- Hydrogen replacement of natural gas

Margaret Leonard
• Bio-energy and CCS
• Geothermal energy (including from flooded mine workings and sedimentary basins)
• Transport
• Mineral production

Keynote speakers confirmed: Professor Mike Stephenson, Director of Science and Technology, British Geological Survey, and Professor David Manning, Professor of Soil Science, Newcastle University

There is no charge for this meeting and no need to book. Full details available later, and in the meantime further information may be seen at:

Paul Thornley

**Trip to Kelham Hall, Dukes Wood Oil Museum and Dukes Wood SSSI**

Friday 5th July 2019 - organised and led by Paul Thornley

This very enjoyable day began with a tour of Kelham Hall, completed in 1863 and considered a masterpiece of high Victorian Gothic architecture. It was designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, who repeated many of the details on the façade of the St Pancras Hotel in London. The Hall houses the Duke's Wood Oil Museum where we were hugely entertained by the curator, a sprightly 91 year-old Kevin Topham, who had spent almost all his life in the oil and gas industry. Oil was found at Dukes Wood in 1941 and the oil field there became critical to the allied war effort as fuel supplies ran low due to shipping losses. In 1943 and under great secrecy, a team of 43 American oil workers (roughnecks) were brought over for 12 months to speed up drilling and were billeted at Kelham Hall. Working 12 hour shifts, they drilled 93 oil wells while a rumour was allowed to circulate that they were making a movie.

After lunch at Kelham Hall, Kevin led us to the Dukes Wood nature reserve, an area of ancient and secondary woodland around the site of the UK's first oilfield with five restored nodding donkeys remaining. After an excellent day when the weather was kind, we adjourned to the Limes Café for a well-earned cup of tea.

From notes by Peter Christopherson

(A full report by Peter will appear in the next Annual Report)

**Museum Gardens News**

The odd day of rain aside it has continued from a dry Spring into a dry Summer and the newly planted areas of the Garden have required more intensive watering that I had anticipated. The Gardeners have been doing a great job to manage it as best they can.

I'm pleased with the way the Tempest Anderson bed is developing. It's been slow to bulk up - again, a result of the dry weather despite additional watering, but I'm getting a sense that it is going in the right direction. It will need proper staking next year.

Work continues to expand the newly created tiered area around Manor Cottage (I call it the Tiered Garden). The low wall is being extended and a number of foxgloves have been planted as they are great native plants that support our bee population and will tolerate less amenable growing conditions.

We have a new Garden volunteer that some of you may have already met - Mary, who has specialist alpine plant knowledge and is working with the team to renovate and reinvigorate the Rockery. A lot of clearance will need to be undertaken and you can already see the 'spot' planting of interesting specimens that has been implemented at the top end of the Rockery where the new grit has been laid. I will introduce some more unusual additions over time to extend our collection.

'How will we identify these new plants?' I hear you ask.... Well, as the Gardens were established as botanical Gardens, I am keen to build on the 'botanical' nature of Museum Gardens and one way of doing this is by increasing the plant labelling. The Tempest Anderson bed is sporting some new labels and the plan is to label the Tiered Garden and also the Rockery as the priority areas. For one thing, it is much easier to do when you know exactly what plants you have purchased and introduced! We have an old engraving machine and I've managed to get the software update and it is now (slowly) churning out some labels. The Garden Guides are involved in the labelling and the plan is that they will run some off during the quieter times. As we enter the school summer holidays and a permanent presence is required in the Gardens then we will see a temporary
cessation of labelling, but this will recommence in six / seven weeks’ time.

I hosted the Yorkshire in Bloom judge last week who came to cast his eye over the Gardens and listen to my plans and what the team are up to. I feel that the Gardens have taken some positive steps forward since my arrival in November; however, judges change from one year to the next so I’m not sure there is consistency and this sort of thing always has a certain subjectivity about it. Let’s see what happens!

I hope you all enjoy your summer – we are entering a mini-heatwave as I type this and I’m thinking an ice-cream might not be a bad idea.

Steve Williams
York Museums Trust

Awards

Our Awards season began on 4th June when the Malden Owen Askham Bryan College Awards were presented by Mary Owen before our lecture “Learning to Protect Nature: Conservation, education and the tansy beetle” by Dr Deirdre Rooney, Head of Higher Education, and Caroline Howard, Wildlife Park Manager, from Askham Bryan College.

We were delighted to have two recipients this year, both of whom will continue onto the BSc final year in September:

Isaac Overton, Year 2 FdSc Countryside Management student. His research project for his FdSc award was titled: “Productivity of beehives based on geographical location.”

Joe Hardaker, Year 2 FdSc Arboriculture with Urban Forestry. His research project was titled: “Most effective tree species in reducing flooding from storm water run-off in UK urban environments?”

The John and Anne Phillips Prize is awarded to the University of Hull student producing the best final-year geology mapping dissertation. This year’s prize was presented to Kelly Wood before our lecture on 16th July, “Exceptional carrots of Yorkshire” by Dr Liam Herringshaw, Lecturer in Geology and Physical Geography, University of Hull.

Kelly Wood’s dissertation focused on reconstructing the Early-Middle Jurassic palaeoenvironments preserved in the south-east of the Isle of Raasay, Scotland, and the results of her research are presently on display in the showcase in the Yorkshire Museum entrance. Do call in and have a look.

Finally, the Malden Owen Award for the best graduating student on an MEng programme, University of York was presented by Mary Owen at a ceremony on Graduation Day at the University, 18th July.

The recipient was Jonathan Rasch, whose final year project was entitled “Multi-objective Evolutionary Hyperparameter optimization for Deep Neural Networks”.

Mary Owen with Jonathan Rasch
**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 in person, by phone or online with City Screen (tel 0871-9025726).

♦ YPS Get-togethers are held at The House of the Trembling Madness, 14 Lendal.

Fri 23 Aug - Unveiling of a plaque to Thomas Cooke on Observatory, Museum Gardens   By invitation only

Thur 29 Aug - Launch of “York’s First Photographs” exhibition”   By invitation only

30 Aug to 4 Nov – “York’s First photographs” exhibition in Museum Gardens   See also enclosed leaflet for list of associated events

Wed 4 Sept, 7.30pm - Café Scientifique   10 Cameras That Changed the World   Dr Jeff Craine

**Thursday 12 Sept, 2.30 pm** YPS Get-Together

Together with your help is appreciated

We would very grateful if any cheques to pay for activities, subscriptions or other purposes could in future be made out to Yorkshire Philosophical Society in full and not just YPS or any other abbreviation. The reason for this is that our bank has forewarned us that its new more automated counter system will now only recognise cheques made out to the full name of the account holder. Any cheques made out incorrectly will probably have to be returned, making extra work for Frances as well as inconvenience for the payer, so your help will be much appreciated.

Dr Geoff Belknap, National Media Museum, Bradford

Wed 18 Sept, 10 am or 2 pm – Calotype Talk and Walk   See flyer enclosed

Thur 26 Sept – Coach excursion Gainsborough Old Hall, Belton House & Woolsthorpe Manor   See flyer enclosed

Wed 1 Oct, 7.30 pm - YPS Lecture   A Perfect Chemistry: Hill & Adamson's use of the Calotype Process   Anne M Lyden, National Galleries of Scotland

Wed 2 Oct, 7.30pm - Café Scientifique   Wild York Simon Roy, photographer

Sat 5 Oct – Visit Wolds Archaeology   See flyer enclosed

Thur 10 Oct, 7.30 pm - YPS Outreach Lecture   A Sheep is a Sheep…. Or is it?   Professor Agnes Winter, Honorary Professor, University of Liverpool   NB Venue is The Galtres Centre, Easingwold

Tue 15 Oct, 7.30 pm - YPS Lecture   Mapping the Anthropocene impact on the biosphere   Professor Mark Williams, University of Leicester   (Preceded from 6.15 pm by viewing of projects and presentation of Nuffield STEM Awards and the YPS Science Prize)

**Office Closure**

The Lodge will be closed from Friday 18th to Friday 25th October inclusive for Frances’ holiday. We will re-open on Tuesday 29th October.

**Wed 23 & Thur 24 Oct – HOGG 25th Anniversary Meeting**

The genesis of geology in York and beyond   See flyer enclosed

**Tue 29 Oct, 7.30 pm - YPS Lecture**   Is Air Pollution a Problem Worth Fixing?   Professor Alastair Lewis, University of York & National Centre for Atmospheric Science

**Sat 2 Nov – Decarbonisation of the Northern Powerhouse**   – day of talks in Tempest Anderson Hall   See page 3

**Wed 6 Nov, 7.30pm - Café Scientifique**   Augmented Reality   Sharon Reid, Symbolism Studios

**Tue 12 Nov, 7.30 pm - YPS Lecture**   Interstellar snowflakes: from simple molecules to life   Dr Catherine Walsh, University of Leeds

**Thur 14 Nov, 7.30 pm - YPS Outreach Lecture**   Face Perception: from recognising friends to checking passports   Professor Mike Burton, University of York   NB Venue is Pocklington Arts Centre, Pocklington

**Wed 20 Nov, from 6 pm – Annual Dinner** at Hilton York   See flyer enclosed

**Tue 26 Nov, 7.30 pm - YPS Lecture**   Water and War: the archaeology of Breary Banks, Colsterdale   Dr Jonathan Finch, Reader in Historical Archaeology, University of York   (Preceded by presentation of the Charles Wellbeloved and Herman Ramm Awards)

**Wed 4 Dec, 7.30pm - Café Scientifique**   Big Data Archaeology   Eleanor Green, University of York

**Tue 10 Dec, 7.30 pm - YPS Lecture**   Sun-powered Flight: How gliders work   Professor Emeritus Andy Marvin, Department of Electronic Engineering, University of York   followed by Mince Pie Reception   (small charge payable on the evening – no advance booking)