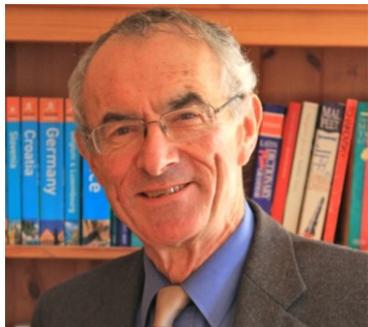


# Officers' Reports

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## Chairman's Report 2014



In July, after five years as Chair, I shall step down. It is perhaps a good moment to reflect on the Society in 2015 and what future challenges lie ahead.

It has shown sustained growth in membership over this period, and lecture attendances have increased appreciably, no small feat in an age of immediate accessibility of information via the internet. Professor Jim Matthew, and current Secretary Dr Judith Glover, must take the lion's share of credit for identifying

engaging subject matter and finding first rate lecturers.

If there is any disappointment that the YPS has not been able to attract more young membership, this has to some extent been compensated by the taking over and development of a younger and different City Screen-based Café Scientifique audience.

Our excursions programme has thrived under the past chair, Alan Owen. The *Annual report*, fast becoming a collectors' item, is a tribute to its editors, Peter Hogarth, Carole Smith and Rod Leonard. The website achieved widespread use and recognition, and will do even more under new Website Manager, Sally Kingsley heading the Communications team. In parallel our Archivist, Bob Hale, manages the comprehensive YPS archives, an asset increasingly used by researchers.

As the founder of the Yorkshire Museum and and its botanical garden, the YPS is concerned about cuts in local authority support for museums, which mean a radical rethink for all stakeholders in museums, nationwide. This year we are contributing with the installation of a walk-on geological map in the Gardens this year – and all credit is due to Dr Rod Leonard and his team for their untiring input. It has been financed through the fantastic generosity of you, the members, and, when it opens in the summer we will all be proud of having created this new asset both for the YMT and for the citizens of York.

Finally, I would like to thank my Co-Chairs Carole Smith and Dr Judith Glover for their industry, advice and support, – as well as our Treasurer Dr Roger Pinder, Secretary Margaret Hammersley, and Clerk Frances Chambers, for keeping the Society healthy, communicating and on an even keel.