

Founded  
1822



# NEWSLETTER

## Yorkshire Philosophical Society

Promoting the public understanding of science since 1822

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### *From the Chair*

Dear Members,

In September we were one of the first groups to visit the new RHS Garden at Bridgewater in Salford where we enjoyed guided tours from their well-informed and well-trained volunteers.

Amazing progress has been made since the first diggers started work in 2017 with the main attraction at present being the Weston walled garden, which alone takes up the same amount of space as the Chelsea flower garden. Salford residents can visit for free every Tuesday and the plan is to develop strong community links, including a Community Wellbeing Garden. It will be good to return in a few years to see how this garden has developed.

In September and October we held Wednesday afternoon lectures in the Tempest Anderson Hall and it has been good to enjoy these sessions together. Matthew Snelling from the Yorkshire Peat Partnership,



*RHS Bridgewater Photo: thanks to Roger Backhouse*

which is part of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, gave us an inspiring presentation demonstrating how their work is restoring degraded peat land in the Yorkshire Dales. Matthew encouraged us all to support this work by gardening with peat free compost and joining the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. In October we had a well-illustrated lecture on “John Phillips: Yorkshire’s traveller through time” by Colin Speakman, writer and YPS member, who reminded us of this polymath’s many contributions to scientific research. The lecture was an introduction to Colin’s book of the same title, which participants eagerly purchased at the end of the session. Thanks to Colin for a generous contribution to YPS funds from these sales. We were also very pleased that in her busy working life Dr Louisa Hood, Bar Walls Manager, found time to share her presentation on “Looking After York’s Bar Walls” with us.

I am delighted to announce that Professor Charlie Jeffery, Vice Chancellor of the University of York, has agreed to be our guest speaker at the YPS Annual dinner to be held at the York Hilton on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Professor Sir John Holman, YPS President,

### **With this Newsletter**

- ◆ Bicentenary Lecture Programme - Spring 2022
- ◆ York Water Walk, 20 January
- ◆ Virtual Visit to Bletchley Park, 27 January
- ◆ York Fire Walk, 16 February
- ◆ Subscription renewal invitation (not included for members paying by Standing Order)

*If anything is missing, contact Frances Chambers as below.*

**LARGE PRINT COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM [info@ypsyork.org](mailto:info@ypsyork.org) or 01904 656713.**

Opinions expressed in the articles that follow are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the YPS.

will introduce him. We will also welcome Mrs Elke Jeffery and Lady Wendy Holman. As a courtesy to fellow guests we suggest participants may wish to take a lateral flow covid test\* the day before (\*free tests from pharmacies).

The Yorkshire Museum closed from 1<sup>st</sup> November until next spring; during the closure repairs to the roof and other improvements are planned. As a result most of our November to February lectures will be held on Tuesday evenings on Zoom. We will check if lecturers will give us permission to record their presentations and then these will be available afterwards on a YPS YouTube channel.

As we approach 2022 and the Society's bicentenary we are planning various celebrations including publishing a short history of the YPS written by historian Sarah Shiels, which we plan to launch in the Yorkshire Museum at a reception on the actual 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary so save the date: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Other dates for your diary are on page 12.

As the 1821 discovery in Kirkdale Cave was the starting point for the Society, we are delighted to be a partner with Hidden Horizons, the Yorkshire Geological Society and other partners in a study day in Ryedale as part of "Kirkdale 200"; see the details in the YPS Geology Group's column on page 5. We will bookend this look back over the resulting 200 years of research with a second study conference in York looking forward for 200 years into the future. The theme for this day is "The Anthropocene as a viable stratigraphic unit", with Professor Colin Waters and the Yorkshire Geological Society on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October.

I look forward to meeting some of you at our Annual Dinner on December 8<sup>th</sup> and on behalf of the YPS Trustees and myself I send you our good wishes.

Catherine Brophy, Chair  
[chair@ypsyork.org](mailto:chair@ypsyork.org)

## YPS needs volunteers

Looking through the Annual Report for 2000 I was not surprised to read that Alan Owen, as Chair, was pleading for members to volunteer to help the Society. I can echo Alan's words: "If we do not get volunteers then the Society fails ... a matter of great sadness for an institution that has lasted for almost 180 years to date". My plea echoes this and we do have some small tasks that would help us to keep going at least for another few years if not another 200! Do speak to myself or any trustee if you can offer a couple hours a month to help. Tasks we need help with include sending lecture notifications, recruiting new members, staffing lecture reception, various IT, governance and financial management jobs (most notably a Secretary and Treasurer) ... and a nominee to CBA Yorkshire (see following). Thanks for considering this request.

Catherine Brophy

## CBA Yorkshire

An archaeology enthusiast is required to be the YPS nominee to the committee of the Yorkshire branch of the Council for British Archaeology, reporting to us on CBA Yorkshire's activities and facilitating links between the two societies.

CBA Yorkshire's membership secretary, Jo Heron, writes: "We hold two to three meetings a year plus the AGM. They have all been on Zoom since the pandemic started and we are looking possibly to hold future meetings as hybrid meetings once everything opens up again. Affiliated groups can send more than one member along, but only one will have voting rights at meetings. We would like groups to send in a report to meetings but that is not necessary.

You may have seen some of our activities; we try to support groups working in the County and promote events that are going on. Over the pandemic we have held a series of presentations by members of the Group and affiliated organisations, which are now available through our website, and more are being prepared for future months.

I hope this will help encourage one of your members to come forward; they can get more information on our website if they are thinking about it. <http://www.cba-yorkshire.org.uk/> If anyone wants further information, they can contact me or Dave Went (the Secretary)."

Please get in touch ([info@ypsyork.org](mailto:info@ypsyork.org)) if you might be interested in helping the Society in this way.

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## York Museums Trust News

We were delighted to hear the news last month that the Yorkshire Museum has been able to acquire the Ryedale Roman Bronzes, dating from the later 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. This 'truly exceptional' hoard, found in May 2020 in a field near Ampleforth where it is believed to have been buried as part of a religious ceremony, includes a 13 cm bust of Emperor Marcus Aurelius, a statuette of Mars, the God of War, a handle of a knife shaped as part of a horse and, intriguingly, a plumb bob used for engineering projects. We look forward to being able to see these important artefacts when the Museum re-opens in Spring.

YMT has also just announced its new Patrons and Supporters Schemes, offering ways to experience the collections while supporting the Trust's work. This is an opportunity to help secure the long-term future of the Art Gallery, Castle Museum, and of course the Yorkshire Museum and Gardens, so please do take a look ...

<https://www.yorkmuseumstrust.org.uk/support-the-trust/patrons/>  
<https://www.yorkmuseumstrust.org.uk/support-the-trust/become-a-supporter/>

## News from the Activities Group

On 29<sup>th</sup> July, a mere ten days after the lockdown restrictions had been lifted, members were able to celebrate at a wonderful Garden Party in York Medical Society Rooms organised by Catherine Brophy. The sun shone, and we were able to enjoy strawberries and sparkling wine in the garden, after a short indoor presentation about the YPS future programme. Catherine also organised a coach tour on 16<sup>th</sup> September, to visit the Royal Horticultural Society's new Bridgewater Gardens in Salford. Participant Roger Backhouse reported 'Forty-two members of YPS and YANT joined forces for the coach excursion. The site is huge with the walled garden alone extending to eleven acres. Some areas are still to be developed, but the RHS has created much during its brief ownership and a return visit in five years' time should see a garden reaching a mature phase. Altogether an excellent visit on one of September's sunniest days, and with the garden site surrounded by meadows and woodland it is hard to believe that this really is in Salford!' Many thanks to Catherine for organising both these popular events.

We have just held an unusual walking tour of York led by Liam Herringshaw and his colleague at 'Hidden Horizons'. This tour was called the 'Earth Walk', and used the geology of the city to demonstrate why York was founded here, where the building stones came from, and why the buildings start to decay. We were also introduced to some interesting people from the past who had contributed to our understanding of geology (photo: page 4).

Looking forward, our Annual Dinner will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> December in the York Hilton. The speaker will be Professor Charlie Jeffery, Vice Chancellor, University of York. Do support this special event in our calendar, and enjoy good food, wine and conversation in an elegant setting.

We are now working on the programme for 2022. As the 'Earth Tour' (above) was so interesting, we have booked two further tours with Liam, the 'Fire Tour', and the 'Water Tour'. Also, on January 27<sup>th</sup>, we are offering an interactive virtual tour of Bletchley Park. We had arranged this for last year, but the Bletchley Park Learning Department staff were then furloughed and had to cancel our booking. I do recommend this activity - it should be a great way to see Bletchley Park and get a real understanding of the important code-breaking work that went on there in WWII, all from the comfort of your own armchair. Booking forms for all these three activities are included.

In the next newsletter we hope to give details of events we are currently planning for the spring. One of these is a visit to Rosedale top, where an expert from Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society will show us the remains of the industrial complex which used to occupy this now peaceful and scenic site. The fascinating story of this contribution to Britain's nineteenth-century prosperity is told in the book reviewed elsewhere in this newsletter. The visit will be coupled with an opportunity to look round the Ryedale Folk Museum.

Another spring event we are working on is a tour of the Victorian architecture of Beverley. Our guide will be Jim Godfrey – some of you may know Jim and Marlene, who are members of YPS. They now live in Beverley, where they play an active role, so we can be sure Jim will be an informative and entertaining guide. As the cost of coach travel is becoming prohibitive, and Beverley is a busy little city where parking can be difficult, we are considering arranging this trip by public transport on a Sunday. There is a very convenient bus service, and most of us would be able to travel free using our bus passes. I would appreciate any feedback on these suggestions. You can contact me via written or phone messages left at the Lodge, or email via [info@ypsyork.org](mailto:info@ypsyork.org)

Our Geology Group, under the leadership of Paul Thornley, is also very active. By the time you get this newsletter, another of their activities will probably have taken place; a day on the east coast, studying the geology and archaeology of Skipsea. Geology Group activities are open to all members, but are often arranged at short notice. Watch out for details of these on the website, or ask to be added to the group's email list.

As well as one-day trips, in May we are hoping to offer a multi-day tour in conjunction with 'Just for Groups'. This will include the Manchester Ship



*RHS Bridgewater Photo: thanks to Roger Backhouse*

**STOP PRESS!****Annual Dinner**

7 pm on Wednesday, 8th December, York Hilton

By the time you read this, booking will have closed, but if you would like to join us for our Annual Dinner, please do let us know and we will add you to a waiting list in case of a cancellation. But don't delay; get in touch now! ([info@ypsyork.org](mailto:info@ypsyork.org))

Canal and Jodrell Bank. Details will be published on the website when they are available, and in the next newsletter.

It is in 2022, of course, that we celebrate our bicentenary. A number of events will be held to mark this. There will be a Garden Party in the Medical Rooms on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, and on the 7<sup>th</sup> December, exactly 200 years after the meeting which gave rise to the YPS, the book on our history, which is being written by Sarah Shiels, will be launched at a celebration in the Yorkshire Museum.

*Margaret Leonard*

**New!****YPS Members' monthly lunch**

Join us for a drop-in monthly lunch thanks to the Theatre Royal Café which has agreed to host YPS, provided we purchase lunch or light refreshments. Meeting from 12pm onwards, order your food and drink at the Café, explaining that you are part of the YPS group, and then join us upstairs in the Upper Foyer, booked for our sole use. We will be delighted to enjoy lunch with friends new and longstanding. Why not bring along a non-member to give them a "taste" of what we do? Come along on the following dates; no need to book:

- ◆ 11 January
- ◆ 8 February
- ◆ 8 March



*Viewing the Mosaic Map*

*Photo: thanks to Andrew Jones*

**Notes from the Geology Group**

Further notes on geology in the time of Covid.

## 1a) Virtual Trips and field guides:

If it is still too far to visit North Wales, try looking round Anglesey with the **GeoMon Geopark**

<https://www.geomon.co.uk/>

You can visit the Geopark Centre, read the geological history of the island with its extensive Precambrian strata, and follow the many geological trails round Anglesey.

<https://www.geomon.co.uk/activities/>

A virtual walk round the island coastal path can be followed:

<https://www.visitanglesey.co.uk/en/about-anglesey/isle-of-anglesey-coastal-path/>

And for other parts of **North and North East Wales**, there are several geology trails

<https://www.geomon.co.uk/activities/newrigs-geological-trail-leaflets/>

## 1b) Virtual Events and Talks:

In connection with a three-day Geological Society conference: William Smith Virtual Meeting 2021 in October, there is an excellent YouTube talk in three parts with Mike Searle (see #2)

**A Short History of Geological Mapping: from William Smith to present**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PsoNwPRSmE&t=1886s&ab\\_channel=TheGeologicalSociety](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PsoNwPRSmE&t=1886s&ab_channel=TheGeologicalSociety)

[v=1PsoNwPRSmE&t=1886s&ab\\_channel=TheGeologicalSociety](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1PsoNwPRSmE&t=1886s&ab_channel=TheGeologicalSociety)

The Geological Society has also released a recent talk on **The Anthropocene: A new geological epoch driven by human impacts**, by Colin Summerhayes of the Scott Polar Research Institute.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvm3dze2FEg&ab\\_channel=TheGeologicalSociety](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvm3dze2FEg&ab_channel=TheGeologicalSociety)

[v=cvm3dze2FEg&ab\\_channel=TheGeologicalSociety](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvm3dze2FEg&ab_channel=TheGeologicalSociety)

The Anthropocene is the most recent period in Earth's history when human activity started to have a significant impact on the planet's climate and ecosystems.

YGS online events; register for the session or watch live or recorded on YGS YouTube

**Saturday, 6 November, Sustainable Geoscience in Northern England (webinar) 1-4.30pm**

<https://www.yorksgeolsoc.org.uk/events-list/sustainable-geoscience-in-northern-england>

Showcasing ground-breaking geoscience research from across the region, focusing on sustainable geoscience in Northern England.

## 2) Women and Men in Geology:

**Mike Searle**, Professor of Earth Sciences at Oxford University has been described as one of the most experienced field geologists of today. His long-standing work on the plate tectonics of The Karakorum, Himalaya and Tibet has taken him to high and remote mountains in the area as mountaineer and geologist. This boundary has up to 2500 km of crustal shortening. He has also worked on the Oman Mountains and is currently working on the connection between the Himalayas and the much earlier Caledonian Orogeny in North West Scotland. University profile:

<https://www.earth.ox.ac.uk/people/searle/>

**Geology Bites** has a podcast with his discussion of plate tectonics and mountain building

<https://www.geologybites.com/mikesearle>

Mike Searle has a beautifully illustrated book about how mountains form when two continents collide. Along with the geology, it is packed with engaging accounts of a lifetime of exploration and adventure in places such as Nepal, Oman, and Myanmar.

**Colliding Continents**: now available in a new paperback edition.

<https://global.oup.com/ukhe/product/colliding-continents-9780198798514?cc=gb&lang=en&>

## 3) Online Study and Resources:

A free three-week **Future Learn course on Climate Change** from University of Bergen

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/causes-of-climate-change>

Learn the physical processes behind climate variation around the world to understand better the causes of climate change.

**Geosupplies of Sheffield** are offering three Zoom courses and five one-day schools. These are advertised in their free monthly Down to Earth Extra update.

<https://www.geosupplies.co.uk/acatalog/Educational-Courses.html> (21 products)

## 4) Real Events and Trips outside:

Paul Hildreth and Paul Thornley are offering a **geology and archaeology trip to Skipsea on 25<sup>th</sup> November**. Glaciation and more at Withow Mere and the surprising age of Skipsea Castle. Information on the YPS website.

**YPS Lectures. Zoom, 7.30pm Tuesdays**

23<sup>rd</sup> November, African Urbanism and the Swahili Coast

30<sup>th</sup> November, How did COVID-19 change the air pollutants we emit?

**Save the date!****Lost Beasts of the North  
200 years of Kirkdale Cave**

A Yorkshire Philosophical Society Bicentenary Event supported by the Yorkshire Geological Society & the Yorkshire Fossil Festival

On Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th March 2022

Saturday 12th March, 9.30am – 5pm

**Symposium** at Ryedale School, Nawton, YO62 7SL

Cost: to be confirmed (registration required)

Speakers and topics will include:

- ◆ Dr Laura Eddey – the Quaternary landscapes of the Vale of Pickering
- ◆ Dr Jed Atkinson & Dr Rebecca Bennion – the Jurassic geology of Kirkdale Cave
- ◆ Dr Ross Barnett (The Missing Lynx) – cave lions (& other felids)
- ◆ Professor Hannah O'Regan (Nottingham) – cave bears
- ◆ Professor Terry O'Connor (York) – frog earths & herbivores
- ◆ Becky Knight (York) – the lost beasts of Star Carr

Sunday 13th March

Field trip to Kirkdale Cave site, with a reading from William Buckland's seminal 1822 paper

Cost: free (but registration required)

Full details and booking form with our next newsletter

## 5) Our Museum of the Month:

On **Anglesey**, the **Geopark has its own visitor centre** with displays relating the changing geology to climate change throughout geological time

<https://www.geomon.co.uk/activities/visit-the-geopark-centre/>

There is also a family run Museum, **Stone Science**  
<http://stonescience.co.uk/>

## 6) Books and Mags: Two books

An updated version of the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society's **Rosedale Mines and Railways**.

With updated research, maps, photographs, illustrations and track plans, this book documents the dramatic growth, heyday and decline of the Rosedale Mines and Railway and its nationally important contribution to the Industrial Revolution.

<https://www.sahs.org.uk/Publications-of-the-Scarborough-Archaeological-and-Historical-Society.html>

See also Mike Searle's **Colliding Continents** in #2.

*Paul Thornley*

## Two hundred years ago ...

Following the discovery of the Kirkdale Cave and its contents in July 1821, word rapidly spread. Fairly soon practically everyone in Yorkshire with an interest in such things seems to have known about it.

John Gibson's friend (and possibly relative) Dr Thomas Harrison of Kirkbymoorside was the first to know, and in fact may have been aware of the quarry before Gibson. One of his daughters was married to Robert Petch who owned land adjoining the quarry and overlying parts of the cave. Harrison almost certainly discussed the cave with a local antiquarian, the Rev. Joseph Smyth, and with the Rev. William Eastmead, who later wrote extensively about Kirkdale in his *Historia Rievallensis ...* (History of Ryedale) published shortly afterwards. As did Rev. George Bird in *A Geological Survey of the Yorkshire Coast ...* (which appeared within a year of the discovery). The local Member of Parliament, Sir Charles Duncombe, certainly took an interest, and acquired a selection of the fossils: his wife, Lady Charlotte, produced some excellent drawings of hyena jaws and the like.

In York, Kirkdale had come to the attention of several gentlemen who – although they didn't know it at the time – were to become key figures in the future. William Salmond, retired Army officer, gentleman of means, was certainly there by September 1821, and by November was superintending the excavation, and carrying out a detailed survey of the entire cave; his friend, the eccentric surgeon James Atkinson was assembling a collection of Kirkdale bones, as was the lawyer Anthony Thorpe. And it is hard to imagine that the Rev. William Venables-Vernon (later better known as William Vernon Harcourt), a man of insatiable curiosity and an amateur geologist, was unaware.

Most, if not all, of these personages probably visited the site, and the more intrepid ventured into the cave. As they flocked towards the cave, the actual specimens flew out. All of those named above amassed collections, and there was a brisk local trade in bones scavenged from the quarry spoil heaps. John Gibson took many, and distributed them to

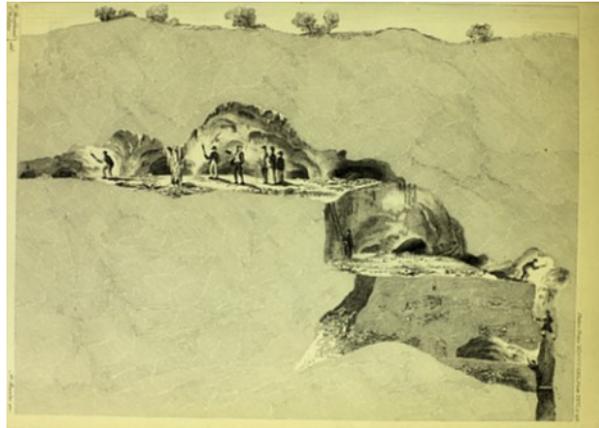
the Royal College of Surgeons, the Geological Society, Baron Cuvier in Paris, and elsewhere. The Kirkdale Cave “*is now become the rallying word to all the literati and virtuosi of London; a party of the most distinguished of whom met to dinner at the Freemason's Tavern*” to discuss the remains.

Most significantly, word spread to the Rev. William Buckland, Reader in Geology and Mineralogy at Oxford, and a key figure in the subsequent history of the Kirkdale fossils. Buckland first heard of the Kirkdale discoveries from the Bishop of Oxford, Edward Legge, a brother of Lady Charlotte Duncombe, although various other sources of information were probably not far behind. William Venables-Vernon, for example, had attended Buckland's lectures at Oxford and the two were corresponding about Kirkdale within months of the initial discovery. And information travelled between learned gentlemen of the day at the speed – literally - of a stage coach.

In any event, William Buckland sped northwards, visited the cave in December of 1821, immediately started tracking the wayward fossils, and began work on his first great work on the subject: about which more, in our next issue ...

In early December, the Kirkdale cave became widely known to the public, with an article in the Yorkshire Gazette. This mentioned, in passing, that the collections “*were of such an extent as to be too [heavy] for land carriage. They were sent to London by water*” which took 5 weeks. The Gazette also felt that the entire collection should be kept together, preferably in Yorkshire, and that “*if all the specimens of natural curiosity ... found in Yorkshire from time to time ... had been associated together under one roof in York, they would have formed a Museum of not less value than £60,000*”.

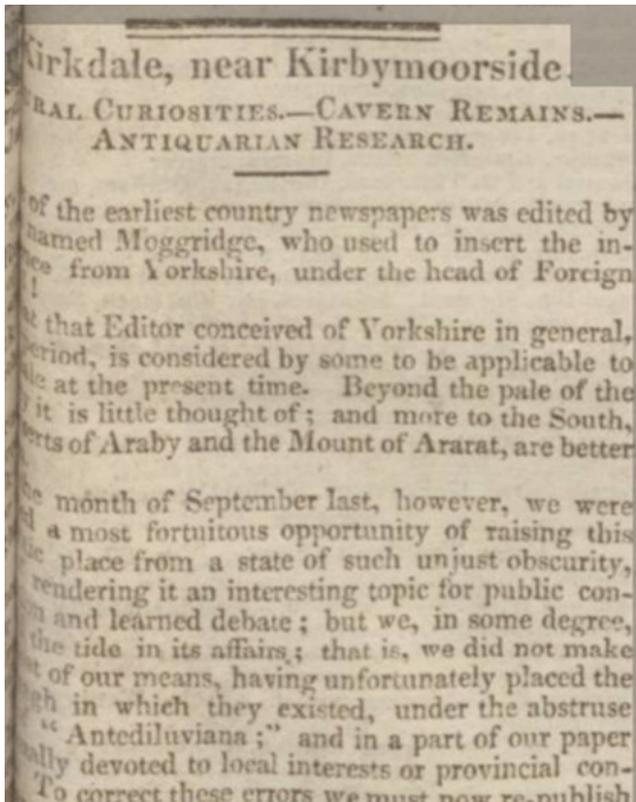
Looking forward in time, as the above gentlemen (and lady) could not do, the three who actually founded the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, and the Yorkshire Museum – Thorpe, Salmond and Atkinson – are on stage, with the fourth – William Venables-Vernon – waiting in the wings. The play is ready to proceed.



*Kirkdale Cave ca November 1821*



*The Rev. William Buckland on a geological field trip*



*Yorkshire Gazette, 1<sup>st</sup> December 1821*

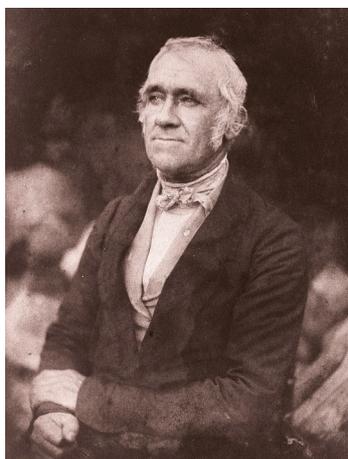
What of other key figures in the early Society?

John Phillips and William Smith, nephew and uncle, were engaged in a systematic geological survey of east Yorkshire. They walked in parallel transect lines, a few miles apart: in Phillips' words:

*'On one of these (lines) Mr. Smith moved with the due deliberation of a commander-in-chief; the other was traversed by his more active subaltern, who found the means often to cross from his own parallel to report progress at head-quarters'.*

Both must at some stage have passed close to Kirkdale, but even if they did hear of the discoveries during 1821, it is unlikely that they would have deviated from their mission.

And Henry Baines? Baines was in Halifax, working as a gardener, and also getting to know the 'artisan naturalists', a loose group of self-educated millworkers, blacksmiths, and the like who – collectively – knew a great deal about plants and insects: a formative influence in Henry's later career.



*Peter Hogarth*

*Henry Baines*

## Book review

### Rosedale Mines and Railways

by RH Hayes and JG Rutter, updated and expanded edition. Published by Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society 2021, price £8.00

The scenery around Rosedale in the North York Moors, will be familiar to most members. This spectacularly beautiful area, with its dramatic road snaking precariously upwards through bracken and heather covered banks grazed by sheep, seems idyllically rural. Not everyone knows that, for part of the nineteenth century, it was the scene of a flourishing mining industry. The recently updated edition of this book, published by Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society, tells the story of ironstone mining in this area, from early workings in medieval times, through the flourishing industry in the mid-nineteenth century, the mine closure in 1926, and the current work to conserve and celebrate this heritage.

The iron ore found in Rosedale was valuable, but the site was very difficult to access because of the steep slopes and poor roads, so railways were built to transport it. These included two tramway inclines, where wagons were hauled up steep slopes using steel ropes wound round drums. As the ore contained a high percentage of water, large coal fired stone kilns were built to drive this off and reduce impurities, before the ore was taken away to blast furnaces elsewhere. The life of the workers in all these processes was hard, particularly in winter, when deep snow blocked the railway tracks.

In recent times the story of the important role played by this area in the industrial revolution has become better appreciated, and a number of initiatives have been taken to conserve the relics of the industry, most recently by the 'Land of Iron' project, which has also provided interpretation boards at the various sites.

Descriptions in the book are amply illustrated by contemporary photographs of the railways and other workings, and also of the people employed there and their families. These help to give a real understanding of the conditions under which they lived and worked. There are also many diagrams showing the layout of the railways, and maps showing walks which can be followed.

I would thoroughly recommend this book to anyone interested in industrial history, railway history, social history, or simply wanting a deeper understanding of the beautiful North York Moors.

*Margaret Leonard*

To purchase copies of this book, go to: <https://www.sahs.org.uk/Publications-of-the-Scarborough-Archaeological-and-Historical-Society.html>

Note. The Activities group are planning a visit to this site – details in next newsletter.

## Museum Gardens in Autumn

The rainfall that I have been praying for over the last few weeks (months?) has arrived and my team are benefitting from a well-deserved break from essential watering duties to support the new plants that have been introduced to the Garden this growing season.

In conjunction with my border planting plans / general renovation and development, I am taking steps to improve habitat for wildlife and increase our team's environmentally friendly credentials.

With the onset of the Environment Agency's preparation and clearance work, (which was the forerunner to their enlargement of the existing floodbank situated behind the Hospitium), it became apparent to me that we don't have that many areas of the Garden that truly provide what could be considered proper habitat for wildlife. There was a good number of sizeable shrubs running along the serpentine path providing density that allowed birds to roost / nest / take shelter and likely provided the same protection and respite for other wildlife such as hedgehogs. Whilst this area will be replanted post-EA works, it will not retain its previous density due to the smaller space afforded for greenery and the need to prevent larger specimens' roots from interfering with the integrity of the floodbank.

I was already conscious that whilst we have a green space in the heart of the city, there aren't too many areas within the Garden that provide enough density to benefit wildlife, and the floodbank developments helped to bring this into sharper focus. This got me thinking about my plans and potential areas where I can increase the density of planting and create improved habitat.

Cut to the chase with a few examples....

We have introduced several young shrubs to the border close to St Mary's Lodge along the main path (Weigela, Cotinus, Viburnum, Ceanothus, Philadelphus) and we managed to rescue and relocate a few Hydrangea from the Riverside serpentine path ahead of the EA work. As these shrubs develop, we can remove some of the existing mass of Geranium and other less eye-catching specimens and utilise them in less prominent areas. I want to build up layers of greenery near the Lodge so that it enhances the experience of visitors entering the Gardens from Marygate and they feel cosseted by the planting. I felt this area was under-developed and can work harder. We often see hedgehogs patrolling this border and building up a medium sized shrub canopy also provides a better wildlife corridor. Additionally, we have cut a few hedgehog-sized holes in the fence running along the back of the border so that hedgehogs can make their way into that area that is free of visitors (where we have started to build up woodpiles as potential hibernation sites).



*Bulking up the planting on the Prairie border  
Photo: thanks to Steve Williams*

We are in the process of planting up the rear of the Prairie border which is very patchy and will take time to restock. The area is mainly shaded and dry. It is not really a Prairie border, more a woodland border with some Prairie planting at the front along the main path that competes for sunlight. The end nearest the Multangular Tower comes closest to fulfilling the description of what is considered Prairie planting ... anyway I digress ... at the rear of the Prairie we are introducing ferns, and hardy specimens such as Tiarella, Heuchera, Epimedium and Pachysandra which will provide some greenery that tolerates these conditions, provides groundcover which aesthetically enhances that area and improves the border as a wildlife corridor, and, in some cases, flowers and supports pollinators.

Perhaps a bit too much detail for you there but it provides some insight in terms of my planting considerations.

Another positive move we've made is to leave a few select areas where the grass grows longer; a good example is the bulb bank. Long grass is great habitat for insects and butterfly breeding grounds. We have spotted a good number of Speckled Wood butterflies in the Garden this year and I'd like to think it was a result of allowing these areas to remain relatively untamed but of course I cannot be sure. It feels like a good thing to be doing though. I'm working on the basis that to support biodiversity you must start at the bottom of the food chain with insects and that foundation allows / supports the hierarchy's development.

As we move forward, we can introduce native wildflowers to these areas – we have planted several Cowslip (Primrose family) in the longer grass near the Pavilion and in time they should seed around and

proliferate. We experimented with wildflower seed but it wasn't successful – better to drop robust young plants in this area I feel.

In terms of improving the teams' environmental credentials - I have invested in battery powered hedge cutters which means we move away from petrol driven hedge cutters, and I will continue to explore opportunities to migrate away from fossil fuel equipment. We are establishing two compost bays in the Edible Wood – an area of particularly vigorous growth – and we will return the goodness back to the borders in time. We have a number of years' worth of leaf mould banked up around the Garden and it is time we distributed it across the wider Garden which will help improve the soil (acid-loving shrubs and trees in particular will welcome the application) and it will help with moisture retention generally – very useful when our climate is delivering regular prolonged dry spells.

Brief update on the Environment Agency works; the plan is that the engineering work will be completed by the end of November, with work continuing in the Marygate area into the New Year. Once the engineering work is finished, the working areas will need reseeding with grass and there are plans in place for replanting certain areas. Timelines are subject to change at the moment (dependent on EA procurement



*Extending the flood bank  
Photo: thanks to Steve Williams*

process) but we are working hard to obtain clarity. Undoubtedly a whole-heartedly worthwhile initiative to protect residential and business properties in the area from future flooding, but I can't pretend that I've enjoyed having them dig up the Garden!

*Steve Williams  
York Museum Trust*

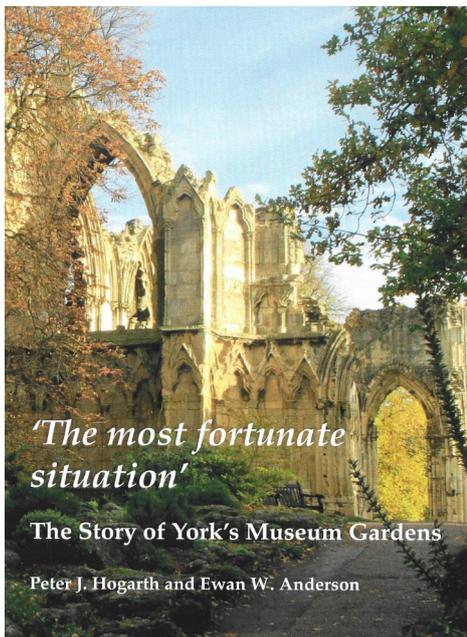
## Books for Christmas

### ***'The most fortunate situation': The Story of York's Museum Gardens***

by Peter J Hogarth and Ewan W Anderson, beautifully illustrated  
Special price: £20 (RRP £25)

### ***John Phillips: Yorkshire's traveller through time***

by Colin Speakman, signed by the author  
Special price £10 (RRP £15)



*'The most fortunate situation'*

The Story of York's Museum Gardens

Peter J. Hogarth and Ewan W. Anderson

### ***The Nature of the World: the Yorkshire Philosophical Society 1822-2000***

by David Rubinstein, a definitive history of the Society  
Special price: £12.50 (RRP £15.95)

### ***The Gardens of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society***

Full colour print (61 cm x 47 cm) of J Storey's illustration of the Museum Gardens c.1860, supplied in a tube.

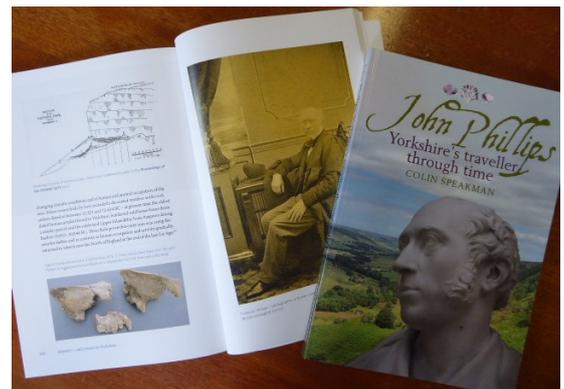
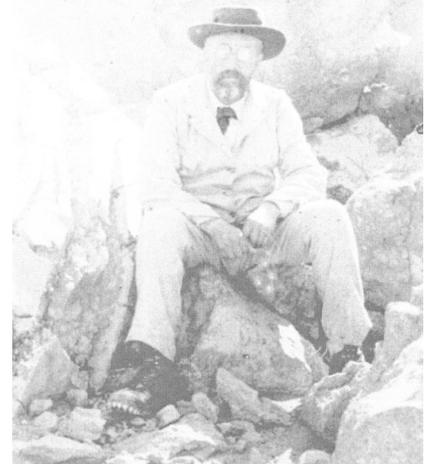
Special price: £12.50 (Full price: £15.00)

All available from the Lodge in person or by mail order (postage & packing extra – contact Frances on 01904 656713 or [info@ypsYork.org](mailto:info@ypsYork.org)

### **The Nature of the World**

the Yorkshire Philosophical Society 1822-2000

David Rubinstein



## Archaeology through the lens

The YPS was delighted to provide grant support for a new exhibition from our friends at York Archaeological Trust.

“Archaeology through the Lens” draws on YAT’s archives to reveal a series of images from key excavations, showing how York began to uncover its Roman past and exploring how photography has changed over the last 50 years. One for camera enthusiasts and history lovers alike!

Until 23rd December at DIG. Open 1pm – 4pm on weekdays and 10am - 4pm on weekends.

Exhibition prices: £2.50 adult; £1.50 concession and child; special family rates.

For further details:

<https://www.jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk/whats-on/photography-exhibition/>

## An invitation to YPS members from the Rowntree Society

Dear Supporter,

We are delighted to be launching a new e-newsletter to share information about the work of The Rowntree Society. In the first edition we have shared details of two new innovative collaborative projects we are launching this Autumn.

Over the last two decades, we’ve discovered that people’s connections to the name ‘Rowntree’ come in many different forms. We’ve met with former Rowntree company employees who have shared their memories of working at the Cocoa Works factory, and with residents who enjoy the legacies created by the Rowntree family in York’s heritage buildings, green spaces, and communal facilities. We’ve collaborated with academics nationally and internationally studying histories of poverty, social housing and industrial welfare, and the lessons that the work of the Rowntrees in these areas offer for the challenges we face today. We’ve also learned from staff and trustees with knowledge and experience of the philanthropic work undertaken on a global scale by the three Trusts set up by Joseph Rowntree in 1904.

Whatever ‘Rowntree’ means to you, if you’d like to receive news and updates from the Society, you can **sign up to our newsletter here**:

<http://eepurl.com/hpKKwL>

Thanks so much for your interest in the Society and your support for our work.

Best wishes,

**Dr Catherine Oakley**

Executive Director, The Rowntree Society

## Exploration from your armchair

### Richard III

Even if you didn’t get chance to visit the “Richard III: Coming Home” exhibition during the summer, the series of accompanying talks from experts and curators is still available on YouTube and is highly recommended. Go to the webpage below and scroll down for links:

[Richard III: Coming Home - Yorkshire Museum New Exhibition](#)

There is much to enjoy elsewhere on York Museum Trust’s website. “Virtual exhibitions” include “1914: when the world changed forever” showing key objects from the Castle Museum’s exhibition of the same name and “Yorkshire Hoards” with videos and close-up photographs of some of the treasures of the Yorkshire Museum. It is often possible to see more detail of artefacts on screen than in a display case.

[York Museums Trust, York, United Kingdom — Google Arts & Culture](#)

Of course, mounting an online exhibition costs money too, so please do consider making a donation:

<https://www.yorkmuseumstrust.org.uk/support-the-trust/donations/>

### DARE Art Prize

For something a little different – the DARE Art Prize is a grant of £15000, awarded by the University of Leeds and Opera North in association with the National Science and Media Museum and The Tetley, to enable artists and scientists to collaborate on new approaches to the creative process.

*“The thinking and experiences of artists and scientists are often thought to be mutually exclusive, however the collaborative proposals submitted for the DARE prize not only show that this is not the case, but reveal the beauty and excitement of a symbiotic creative relationship between the two fields.”* Professor John Ladbury, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Biological Sciences at the University of Leeds

This year’s winner is Redell Olsen, Director of the Poetics Research Centre at Royal Holloway, University of London, where she lectures on poetry and the visual arts. She has produced an intricate multimedia work which incorporates scientific data from the University of Leeds’ BioDAR unit measuring different species of insects in our skies, and explores alternative ways to represent climate change and the risk of species extinction.

[Home - DARE \(dareyou.org.uk\)](#)

[weather, whether radar: plume of the volants \(weatherwhetherradar.art\)](#)

## The Malden Owen Engineering Award

This award of £500, given to the best graduating student on a MEng programme at the University of York, was this year shared between two outstanding graduates, James Gardner and Louis Newman. Their awards were announced at a Zoom presentation hosted by the University of York on 27<sup>th</sup> August. Catherine Brophy and Andrew Marvin attended remotely on behalf of the Society.

## Mince Pies

For many of us the last lecture of the year is indelibly associated with our tradition of enjoying mince pies and a glass of something afterwards in the atrium of the Yorkshire Museum. For the second year running the pandemic has robbed us of this opportunity, so for those who would like to reproduce the celebration at home for our Zoom lecture on 7<sup>th</sup> December, we offer the following recipe with thanks to Christine Biglin.

Short crust pastry [Bero recipe -amended]  
Other recipes are available.

200g (8oz) self raising flour  
50g (2oz) lard - Trex is good - take out of fridge 20 minutes before starting to allow to ease  
50g (2oz) margarine - Lurpac spreadable lighter - DO NOT take out of fridge until ready to start  
ICE cold water to mix about 30 ml

Everything, including your hands should be as cold as possible.

- 1 Preferably sieve flour into a bowl to aerate. Add fat, cut into small pieces and rub in until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Aerate the flour again by lifting out of the bowl whilst being rubbed in and allow to fall back.
- 2 Using a round ended knife stir in cold water a little at a time to form a stiff paste.
- 3 Turn dough onto floured board or worktop and roll out.

### ALTERNATIVELY

Buy a pack of short crust pastry from the supermarket. I have never bought the short crust variety but I use the puff pastry version all the time and it is excellent so I assume the shortcrust is the same.

Line the tartlet tins with pastry and spoon in mincemeat - I use a supermarket's better brand.

I do not put a sealed lid on as I find they are more prone to boiling over. I use a small piece of pastry cut into the shape of a star or Christmas tree.

I do not glaze with egg or milk but this is my personal preference.

Cook in the middle of the oven at 190°C for approximately 14 minutes. This is the temperature for a NON-fan oven. Having recently just had to change my oven which was non-fan to a fan oven I have not yet used the new one for baking, but understand it should be 10 to 20° lower.

## YPS Subscription Renewal

For members who pay their subscriptions by cheque, cash or Paypal, guidance on how to renew for 2022 can be found on the enclosed form (a separate attachment if you're reading this online). We would be grateful if you could return this to the office at the Lodge by Monday 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.

2022 membership cards will be sent out with our first newsletter of the new year in late January or early February. Your 2021 card remains valid until then, so please retain it.

If you have any questions about your subscription, membership category or how to renew, please contact Frances on [info@ypsYork.org](mailto:info@ypsYork.org) or 01904 656713.

*Thank you very much to all those who defy the years by continuing to subscribe at the full rate long after their 60<sup>th</sup> birthdays or who round up their annual payment by a pound or two. These contributions are especially appreciated during these difficult times.*

*Season's Greetings*

## SAFEGUARDING

The Yorkshire Philosophical Society (YPS) takes seriously its obligations and responsibilities to protect and safeguard the welfare of any child, young person or vulnerable adult who attends our events.

Unless otherwise stated, all our events are open to members and non-members. We welcome children provided that they are accompanied by a responsible adult.

The Safeguarding Policy is displayed at the Lodge. The Safeguarding Officer is the Chair, Ms Catherine Brophy ([chair@ypsYork.org](mailto:chair@ypsYork.org)) to whom all safeguarding concerns should be addressed.

## PRIVACY

The Yorkshire Philosophical Society (YPS) holds members' names and addresses and, where supplied, telephone numbers and email addresses. This personal information is used for sending out details of our activities. The information remains confidential and is retained within the Society. Members may have access to their personal information on request by contacting the Clerk at [info@ypsYork.org](mailto:info@ypsYork.org)

## Diary

Please note that the following is correct at time of going to print but details, including venues, may change and we continue to add new events. For the most up-to-date information, please check the website:

www.ypsYork.org

**Tues 23 Nov, 7.30pm** – YPS Lecture

*On Zoom – an invitation will be sent out by email*

**African urbanism from the ground up: exploring urban lives on the Swahili coast**

Stephanie Wynne-Jones, University of York  
With announcement of the Charles Wellbeloved and Herman Ramm awards

**Thurs 25 Nov** - YPS Geology Group activity

**Day trip to Skipsea**

*See website for details*

**Tues 30 Nov, 7.30pm** – YPS Lecture

*On Zoom – an invitation will be sent out by email*

**How did COVID-19 change the air pollutants we emit?†**

Professor Alistair Lewis, National Centre for Atmospheric Science

**Wed 1 Dec, 7.30pm** – Café Sci

*On Zoom – an invitation will be sent out by email*

**Digital Games and Attention**

Dr Joe Cutting, Dept of Theatre, Media, Film, TV & Digital Media, University of York

### Lodge Closures

**Tues 7 Dec** - Frances is on holiday from 2 to 7 Dec inclusive

**Tues 28 Dec** - Frances is on holiday from Fri 24 Dec to Mon 3 Jan inclusive



**Tues 7 Dec, 7.30pm** – YPS Lecture *On Zoom – an invitation will be sent out by email*

**Pox and Pestilence – Art and the unforgiving\***

Dr James Grant

**Wed 8 Dec, 7.00pm** – YPS Social Event

**Annual Dinner**

## 2022

**Wed 5 Jan, 7.30pm** – Café Sci

*On Zoom – an invitation will be sent out by email*

**Salt marsh 'blue carbon' in a changing environment†**

Lucy McMahon, Department of Environment and Geography, University of York

**Tues 11 Jan, 12.00pm** - YPS Social Event

**Members' monthly lunch** at York Theatre Royal

**Thurs 20 Jan, 10.30am to 1pm**

**Water Walk**

*See enclosed flyer*

**Tues 25 Jan, 2.30pm** – YPS Lecture

*Venue: Main Hall, Priory Centre, Priory Street, York*

**Aerial Archaeology in England – Discovering Past Landscapes from the Air**

Matthew Oakey, Historic England

**Thurs 27 Jan, 2.00pm** – YPS Virtual Visit

**Bletchley Interactive Virtual Tour**

*See enclosed flyer*

### New!

**Members' monthly lunch at York Theatre Royal**

See page 4 of this newsletter for details. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

**Wed 2 Feb, 7.30pm** – Café Sci

*On Zoom – an invitation will be sent out by email*

Details shortly on the YPS website

**Tues 8 Feb, 12.00pm** - YPS Social Event

**Members' monthly lunch** at York Theatre Royal

**Tues 8 Feb, 7.30pm** – YPS Lecture

*On Zoom – an invitation will be sent out by email*

**Life in hot acid: the alga Galdieria**

Professor Seth Davis, Department of Biology, University of York

**Wed 16 Feb, 10.30am to 1pm**

**Fire Walk**

*See enclosed flyer*

**Tues 22 Feb, 7.30pm** – YPS Lecture

*On Zoom – an invitation will be sent out by email*

**Secret Wartime Britain**

Colin Philpott

**Wed 2 Mar, 7.30pm** – Café Sci

*On Zoom – an invitation will be sent out by email*

**Traffic - can we beat the queues?**

Professor Tony May, Emeritus Professor of Transport Engineering, University of Leeds

**Tues 8 Mar, 12.00 pm** - YPS Social Event

**Members' monthly lunch** at York Theatre Royal

**Tues 8 Mar, 7.30pm** – YPS Lecture

*On Zoom – an invitation will be sent out by email*

**What can 'Glass' bring to the UN's 2030 humanitarian goals?\*** *A lecture for the International Year of Glass*

Professor Emeritus John Parker, University of Sheffield

**Sat 12 Mar, all day** – Symposium Day 1

*Ryedale School, Nawton*

**Lost Beasts of the North: 200 years of Kirkdale Cave**

Full details with next newsletter

**Sun 13 Mar** – Symposium Day 2

**Kirkdale Cave Field Trip**

Full details with next newsletter

**Tues 15 Mar, 7.30pm** – YPS Lecture

*Venue: Main Lecture Theatre, Bootham School, Bootham side entrance Y030 7BU*

**From Climate Science to Climate Policies†**

Professor Piers Forster, Priestley Institute, University of Leeds

† Climate change theme \* Art and Science theme

**Dates for your diary** – full information to follow

**Early May**

**Tour to Manchester, Liverpool, Canals & Jodrell Bank**

4 days; 3 nights

**Thurs 23 Jun, afternoon** – YPS Social Event

**Garden Party**

**Sat 15 Oct, all day** – Symposium

**The Anthropocene as a viable stratigraphic unit**

**Wed 7 Dec, early evening**

**Bicentenary Reception & Book Launch**