

Founded
1822



NEWSLETTER

Yorkshire Philosophical Society

Promoting the public understanding of science since 1822

The Lodge, Museum Gardens, York, YO1 7DR, 01904 656713, info@ypsyork.org, www.ypsyork.org

From the Chair

Dear Members,

Since 2020 we have found it difficult to recruit new volunteers to help run the Society, in particular a Treasurer and a Secretary. None of these jobs involve more than a few hours work a month and responsibility for decisions is shared by all the Council Members together. I do hope that there are a few members who are willing to serve the Society and help to keep the YPS flourishing. In summer 2023 I will step down as Chair, after eight years. The usual term of office is five years, extended exceptionally in this case due to the pandemic. As a result, we need urgently to recruit new Trustees and office holders this summer. If we cannot, it will become necessary in the autumn to call an Extraordinary (or Special) General Meeting to discuss the future of the Society.

As part of the Festival of Ideas, on Monday June 5th we have a special Café Scientifique session at Bootham



*Newton's Apple Tree at Woolsthorpe Manor
Photo: Dorothy Nott*

With this Newsletter

- ◆ Visit to Shibden & Farnley Halls, 6 July
- ◆ Visit to Sledmere, 21 September
- ◆ Annual Report – coming separately to those who receive the Newsletter by email (if not already collected)
- ◆ Membership card – for members who have not received it previously
- ◆ AGM Papers

If anything is missing, contact Frances Chambers as below.

LARGE PRINT COPIES OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM 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.

School where Sarah Sheils and Dorothy Nott will be presenting some of the research behind the bicentenary book *“From Cave to Cosmos”: a history of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society*. If you would like to be on the guest list, we have reserved some seats for YPS members; please let Frances know and she will add you to our list which is separate from the tickets available from the Festival of Ideas. (Non-members should book via the Festival of Ideas website.)

We are just starting to send out the Annual Report for 2022 and we are very grateful to Felicity Hurst, our new Editor, for a splendid publication with an excellent collection of essays by some distinguished contributors. We are sure you will enjoy reading this reflection of a busy year in 2022.

I also want to thank Mrs Margaret Leonard who is stepping down as the leader of the Activities Group, a

role that she has held from 2010 to 2013 and again from 2016 to 2023; it is now time for her to relax after a job brilliantly accomplished. Margaret has worked very hard to provide many educational and social activities for members and to support the other volunteers who are part of this group. The group will continue but could really do with a note-taker at its quarterly meetings.

The lecture programme continues with some lectures linked to the exhibitions and conservation work taking place in the Yorkshire Museum. From July 14th to September 20th the Museum will be hosting a small exhibition called “Mary Anning on Tour” including the Mary Anning maquette from the statue unveiled in her hometown of Lyme Regis last year. Dr Sarah King will be presenting a lecture for us on Tuesday 12th September at 2.30pm – “Mary Anning comes to the Yorkshire Museum”.

As you will read on page 6, in partnership with York Museums Trust the mini orchard for the YPS bicentenary has been opened in the far south west corner of the gardens, including the Newton apple tree planted in memory of Professor Jim Matthew. Do explore this new area of the gardens.

On behalf of the Trustees and myself I send you our good wishes,

*Catherine Brophy, Chair
chair@yps-york.org*

Help urgently needed!

As mentioned above, we are still in desperate need of more volunteers if the Society is to continue in its present form. At time of writing we need a Secretary, Treasurer, note-taker for our Activities Group, a representative for the committee of CBA Yorkshire and more help to organize activities and at lectures.

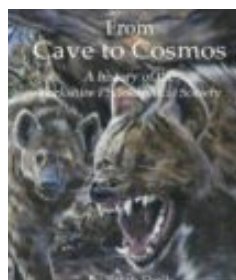
If you are among the members who have joined us recently and are enjoying what we do, please don't be reticent about volunteering to help. Come along to one of our monthly lunches or join us for drinks after a lecture and meet our trustees for an informal chat about what is involved. Even the principal officers' duties are not onerous for those with relevant experience and the more volunteers we have, the easier it is to share out the tasks.

From Cave to Cosmos: A history of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society

by Sarah Sheils

This new book records and celebrates the history of the Society over its first 200 years.

Available from the Lodge
Price: £14.99 (postage & packing extra)



York Museums Trust News

Pop Up Plant Sales

Venue: York Museum Gardens – The shop is located next to the entrance of the Yorkshire Museum

All plants are supplied in 2 litre pots with peat-free compost. Expert advice and guidance about the suitability of plants for your garden will be available from the Gardens Team.

- **Saturday 13th May - 10.30am to 3.30pm**
- **Saturday 27th May - 10.30am to 3.30pm**
- **Saturday 10th June - 10.30am to 3.30pm**
- **Saturday 24th June - 10.30am to 3.30pm**

Yorkshire Museum opening times:

Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-5pm

The Museum Gardens continue to be open 9am to 6pm seven days a week.

Supporting YMT

Although Arts Council support is good news, York Museums Trust, including the Yorkshire Museum, still relies on donations and if you would like to lend your support, this is the link:

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

YPS Members' monthly lunch

Join us for our drop-in monthly lunch thanks to staff of the Theatre Royal Café who have agreed to host YPS, provided we purchase lunch or light refreshments. Meeting from 12pm onwards, order your food and drink at the Café and then join us upstairs in the Upper Foyer, reserved for our sole use. We will be delighted to enjoy lunch with friends new and longstanding. Come along on any of the dates below; no need to book.

- ♦ Tuesday 13th June 2023
- ♦ Tuesday 11th July 2023
- ♦ Tuesday 8th August 2023
- ♦ Tuesday 12th September 2023
- ♦ Tuesday 10th October 2023
- ♦ Tuesday 14th November 2023

Many of those of us who attend these lunches have mobility problems and find the Theatre's stairs daunting, especially when carrying drinks. Help from those with fewer challenges is always much appreciated!

News from the Activities Group

As I write this, the sun is shining, and though it is quite cold outside, the prospect of getting out and visiting somewhere interesting seems very attractive. We can't always guarantee good weather for our activities, but with wide-ranging themes, good guides and excellent company, we hope you will always find them worthwhile. We have had three tours already this year, typical of the variety of interests of our members.

On 28th February we had a geologically-themed visit to Kirkleatham. Part of the Borough of Redcar and Cleveland, this beautiful rural area contains a number of buildings once part of the estate of the Turner family, still remembered as local benefactors. Palaeontologist Dr Liam Herringshaw led a walk around the area, pointing out the geological features. He also explained the fascinating history of the Turner family, much of whose wealth derived from the alum industry, and of the buildings which they had constructed. We then visited the Kirkleatham Museum, based in one of these buildings, which has some very informative displays on the local steel industry, among other topics.

Our next tour was on 20th April, sunny but cold. Inspired by a book written by local historian David Lewis, describing the history of places along the B1222 road, we visited three of these, Cawood, Stillingfleet and Naburn Lock. David Lewis was our guide for the first two. In Cawood, the gatehouse and banqueting hall is all that is left of what was, for hundreds of years, the Palace of the Archbishops of York, while the 11th century church at Stillingfleet is famous for its remarkable Norman doorway, and even more remarkable decorated door. The latter is now housed inside the church for protection, but may be even older than the church. At Naburn, after lunch in the banqueting hall, once derelict but now restored as a vegan café, volunteers from the Canal and River Trust gave us a guided tour and explained the history of the locks and outbuildings.

The next day, Dorothy Nott had arranged for Alex McCallion, Director of Works and Precinct at York Minster, to take a group around the Minster Precinct, and explain the major development programme which is now underway. Alex was an inspiring speaker, with a real vision for the future.

At time of writing, our next tour, on 10th May, organised by our active Geology Group, is a visit to the Yorkshire coast at Flamborough, looking at Rocks, Fossils and Ice Ages, and then on 14th June we have a visit to a hemp farm! Don't worry – it is all perfectly

legal. Hornington Manor grows hemp for luxury mattresses, among other uses.

These tours are already fully booked, as were all our earlier events, suggesting that now the pandemic is over, members are feeling more ready to take part in group activities. This is a real incentive to book early for our tours, and doing so is always appreciated by our organisers. You should find details and booking forms for our summer and early autumn programme with this newsletter, so why not fill them in and return them straight away?

6th July brings a coach trip to two interesting and contrasting venues – Shibden Hall, setting for the 'Gentleman Jack' television series, and Farnley Hall, much loved by artist JMW Turner, who was a frequent visitor. Farnley Hall is not normally open to the public, so this is a rare opportunity to see the hall, and view many of the pictures painted on his visits.

A different stately home is the subject of our visit on 21st September. Sledmere House, 'East Yorkshire's finest country house', also has wonderful walled gardens, and a small but fascinating museum dedicated to the Wagoners' Special Reserve. This group, brainchild of Sir Mark Sykes of Sledmere House, was recruited from local farmworkers. They became some of the first men to go abroad in the First World War, driving the horse drawn wagons with supplies of food, fodder and ammunition for the frontline. Dorothy Nott has arranged a full day's programme, which will give participants opportunity to learn all about house, gardens and wagoners. Travel will be by private car.

On 6th October, Dorothy Nott will lead a very different tour – a walk around York, looking at the blue plaques put up by the Civic Trust to mark places associated with people with connections to YPS who have made a contribution or brought distinction to the city. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about these people – some well-known, others less so, but all worthy of note. (Details with next newsletter.)

This will probably be the last Activities Group report I write for the newsletter, as I am resigning as Activities Secretary at the AGM (though Rod and I still expect to arrange the occasional event). I would like to thank everyone who has helped to organise activities over the years, and those who have taken part – YPS groups are always good natured and appreciative, and make the work involved in organising feel worthwhile. I wish the very best to my successor, Rosemary Anderton, and hope you will give her every support in her new role.

Margaret Leonard

Important Notice - Change to insurance conditions

We have been advised by our insurers that they are no longer able to provide any cover for participants in our activities who are aged over 80. It is therefore even more important that our terms and conditions are noted: The YPS accepts no responsibility for any loss or injury suffered while taking part in one of its trips or events. Participants are advised to take out appropriate travel insurance, which should include cancellation and accident cover. For full details please see <https://www.ypsYork.org/groups/social-group/yps-activities-booking-terms-conditions-2/>

Notes from the Geology Group

1a) Online material for self-guided trips.

Sheffield Area Geology Trust has a website with a number of geology trails in Barnsley and Sheffield areas. It has a section on the geology of South Yorkshire and an excellent section on the building stones of the area.

https://www.sagt.org.uk/geology_walks

The BGS/Historic England Strategic Stone Study Survey Stone Atlas for the area is at

<https://www2.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/download/EHCCountyAtlases/>

[West and South Yorkshire Building Stone Atlas.pdf](https://www2.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsuk/download/EHCCountyAtlases/West%20and%20South%20Yorkshire%20Building%20Stone%20Atlas.pdf)

1b) Events and Talks: Online and in person

YPS talks:

Tuesday 23rd May, 7pm Yorkshire Museum.

Ruth Siddall, UCL,

Pavement, Pots and Pigments

<https://www.ypsYork.org/events/pavement-pots-and-pigments-applied-geology-in-cultural-heritage/>

Her website on Urban Geology, Pavement and Pigments:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/~ucfbrxs/Homepage/rhome.html>

Wednesday 14th June, 7pm Yorkshire Museum.

Nina Morgan,

"A Story in Stone" From York to Oxford

Her new book, *A Story in Stone*, explores the fabric of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Geologist John Phillips came to Oxford from the Yorkshire Museum and was involved in choosing every stone carefully to illustrate the variety of rocks across the UK and Ireland.

<https://www.ypsYork.org/events/a-story-in-stone-from-york-to-oxford/>

Her Gravestone Geology website is at:

<https://www.gravestonegeology.uk/index.php>

Yorkshire Geological Society

(Register for talks online)

Thursday 25th May, Richard Thompson,

Plymouth, Webinar 4pm

Marine Litter: Are There Solutions To This Global Environmental Challenge?

<https://www.yorksgeolsoc.org.uk/events-list/marine-litter>

Yorkshire Fossil Festival is being held in Whitby 10th-11th June.

Keep checking the website for updates of activities

<https://yorkshirefossilfestival.co.uk/>

2 Women and Men in Geology:

An intriguing couple: Jessica Duncan Piazzzi Smyth and Charles Piazzzi Smyth

Jessica Duncan (1812-1896) studied geology in Edinburgh, probably in her early thirties, and went on many geological expeditions in Britain and

Europe. Details of these activities appear to have been marginalised as in 1855 she married Charles Piazzzi Smyth, Astronomer Royal for Scotland from 1846 and formerly of Cape Town Observatory.

Most of the subsequent accounts of her life are of her contributions to the work she shared with her husband, expedition (honeymoon) to Mount Teide in Tenerife/Teneriffe to investigate improved astronomical observations at altitude. Another expedition was to Egypt to measure the Great Pyramid. She became the photographer, making stereoscopic prints.

They are both buried at St John's Sharow, just outside Ripon with a remarkable Pyramidal memorial.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jessica_Duncan_Piazzzi_Smyth

A contemporary account of their wedding is at:

<https://www.geni.com/people/Jessica-Smyth/6000000021403162691>

<http://tenerifeprivatetours.com/honeymoon-on-mount-teide/>

<https://www.piazzzismyth.org/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Piazzzi_Smyth

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/27152597/jessie-piazzzi-smyth>

3 Study and Resources:

View past talks from Yorkshire Geological Society on their YouTube site:

<https://www.youtube.com/@yorkshiregeologicalsociety2697/streams>

And the vast resource of material, virtual field trips, courses and talks on the Geologists' Association site 'Geology from your Sofa':

<https://geologistsassociation.org.uk/sofageology/>

4 Real Trips outside:

May is Yorkshire Geology Month with events at <https://www.yorksgeolsoc.org.uk/community-events>

This includes these YGS events:

Saturday 20th May, Trip to North Lincolnshire Museum and Conesby Quarry

Jurassic Ironstone Field Trip:

<https://www.yorksgeolsoc.org.uk/events-list/jurassic-ironstone-fieldtrip>

Wednesday 24th May, Trip, Flamborough North Landing

Using chalk marker bands to find formation boundaries.

<https://www.yorksgeolsoc.org.uk/events-list/findingyourlimits>

5 Our Museums of the Month:

The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, Hanley. This has galleries on Natural Science, Coal, Fossils and Minerals. (As well as the extraordinary exhibits of the Staffordshire Hoard - not to mention the superb collection of ceramics.)

<https://www.stokemuseums.org.uk/pmag/exhibitions/natural-science-gallery/>

6 Books and Mags:

***Cumbria Rocks* by Ian Jackson and the Cumbria Wildlife Trust. 60 Rocky places**

<https://www.cumbriawildlifetrust.org.uk/cumbria-rocks-60-extraordinary-rocky-places>

This can also be bought from Geo Supplies as a special offer with Ian Jackson's book ***Northumberland Rocks***

<https://www.geosupplies.co.uk/acatalog/Down-To-Earth--Recommended-Titles-p1.html>

Paul Thornley

A Story in Stone

by Dr Nina Morgan

This new book will be available for sale at our lecture on 14th June.

The cost is £18; cash or cards accepted. Advance purchase for collection at the lecture is possible via online shop:

<https://nina-morgan.sumupstore.com/>

**Jane Ewbank Diary Conference**

Thursday 8th to Saturday 10th June 2023

“I continued ... to attend the Lectures regularly, & think became more & more delighted with them. The love of knowledge is an appetite that grows with being gratified”

Something we can all identify with?

The quotation is from the 1805 diary of Jane Ewbank, a young woman who attended many of the public lectures on science given in York around that time: twenty years before the Yorkshire Philosophical Society existed. Jane Ewbank (1778–1824) was the daughter of a York druggist and the 34,000-word diary she kept during 1803–1805 details a conscious and informed project of self-education via reading, sociability, and her involvement in the intellectual and social landscape of a northern English city, including the theatre, concerts, science lectures, the natural world, and its materiality. She stars in a forthcoming conference:

Science, Gender and Sociability in a Northern City c. 1775-1820

This conference, hosted by the University of York, is supported by the Centre for Eighteenth Century Studies, the Department of English, the Department of History, Modern Humanities Research Association, Yorkshire Philosophical Society, and the York Georgian Society.

On Friday 9th June from 9.30am YPS is sponsoring a session on the history of science in the Tempest Anderson Lecture Theatre in the Yorkshire Museum. The theme for this session is “Jane Ewbank and the Acquisition of Scientific Knowledge”. Lectures will include:

- ◆ ‘Chemical Yorkshire: mineral waters, itinerant lecturers, and Jane Ewbank’s account of the Eskdale-side alum works’ - John Christie (University of Oxford)
- ◆ ‘From crocodiles to the structure of the universe: Jane Ewbank and ways of knowing in early nineteenth-century York’ - Rachel Feldberg (CECS, University of York)
- ◆ ‘Rewriting nature: how Jane Ewbank learned to understand climate science through keeping a diary’ - Matthew Eddy (University of Durham)

Details of the conference are available at:

<https://www.york.ac.uk/eighteenth-century-studies/events/all/2023/science-gender-sociability-conference/>

YPS is a sponsor of the Conference. **So concession rates apply to members!**

If you have problems booking online, please phone either Jane Rendall (01904 658564) or Rachel Feldberg (07932 738742), and if you don’t have internet access but wish to attend, please let us know.

Don’t forget our YPS YouTube Channel

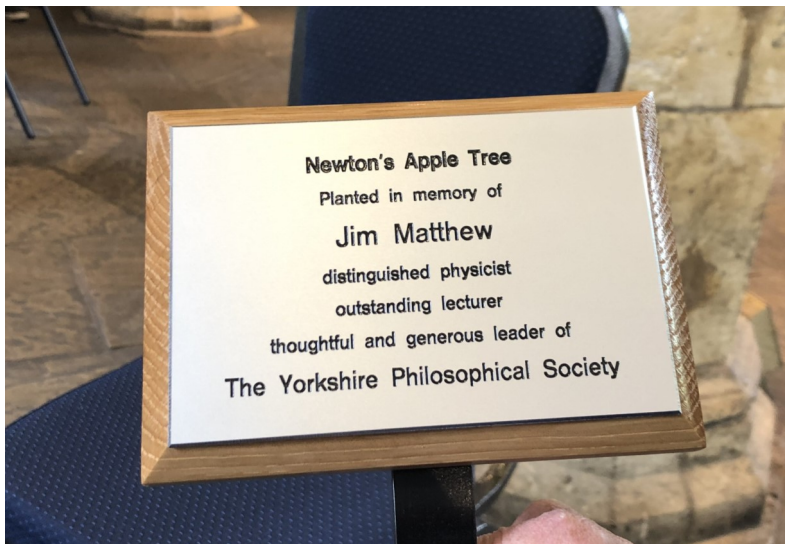
<https://www.youtube.com/@yorkshirephilosophicalsoci1876/videos>

Recordings of Zoom lectures are added regularly. We have 22 subscribers to date - why not join them?

Newton Apple Tree and Plaque for Professor Jim Matthew

Thanks to Steve Williams, Gardens Manager, and with advice and support from Dr Peter Hogarth and Professor Ewan Anderson, the Museum Gardens now have a new mini orchard of apple trees, including a Newton tree, to celebrate the YPS bicentenary, as you can read on page 7.

On April 27th a plaque in memory of Professor Jim Matthew was unveiled beside the Newton apple tree by Mrs Jean Matthew and this was followed by a small reception in the Hospitium with



offices of the Rev Charles Turnor who was the younger brother of Edmund Turnor the owner of Woolsthorpe Manor, Little Ponton Hall, Stoke Rochford Hall and a fair fraction of the land around Grantham.

Generations of Physics students will have enjoyed apple pie from the Physics Department's Newton apple tree as part of their graduation celebrations.

Catherine Brophy

With thanks to Richard Keesing, University of York Physics Department, for apple tree provenance information.

Below: Jean Matthew with son Mark

suitably apple themed refreshments.

The wording on the plaque, written by Ewan Anderson and Peter Hogarth, is an apt tribute to Jim who served the Society in a variety of roles, including Chair and President, for 50 years.

This apple tree is an offshoot of the one at Woolsthorpe Manor (see photo on page 1), under which Sir Isaac Newton is supposed to have sat while musing on his theory of gravity. Long standing members will remember Jim's brilliant Newton and apple trees lectures.

Less well known will be the provenance of the Newton apple tree that thrives in the Physics Department Courtyard at the University of York. This grafted sapling came from Kew gardens which obtained it from The Cambridge Botanical Gardens which in turn got it from The National Fruit Research Station at East Malling in Kent. The Research Station obtained its genetic material from Lord Brownlow's kitchen garden at Belton Park in 1939. Lord Brownlow obtained his cutting of Newton's Apple Tree from Woolsthorpe Manor c1820 by the good



Gardens News

The mini orchard is a joint YMT / YPS initiative that was planted to recognise and celebrate the YPS bicentenary in 2022.

Six old Yorkshire varieties of apple trees were planted along with a graft descended from the original apple tree at Isaac Newton's home Woolsthorpe Manor in Lincolnshire because of its scientific connection. Interestingly, the tree is called the Isaac Newton tree but the actual cultivar is 'Flower of Kent'. Another point worth noting is the 'Isaac Newton tree' is not to be confused with an apple cultivar called 'Newton Wonder' which is something different. The Isaac Newton tree was seen as a suitable memorial for the highly regarded and much-missed past YPS chairperson Jim Matthew.

It was lovely to be able to hold a small ceremony for Jim and meet his widow Jean and her son Mark on Thursday 27th April attended by YPS members, former friends and colleagues and YMT CEO Kathryn Blacker and place a plaque next to the Isaac Newton tree.

The orchard area, once established, will provide a haven for wildlife and be a quiet area for reflection in the Garden. The grass will be allowed to grow longer and we will be introducing wildflowers. Orchards are such a fantastic habitat for wildlife and offer interest for the majority of the seasons from blossom to fruiting.

I am also working with Tansy Beetle Action Group to increase the size of the Tansy allocation with a view to re-establishing the Tansy beetle population in the Garden with a longer goal of working with the Yorkshire Museum curator team so that this can be utilised for educational purposes for visitors to learn about the Tansy beetles and the challenges they face.

The six trees:

Isaac Newton tree (Malus 'Flower of Kent'). An old cooking apple, flushed red and quite large, dating from 1629 in Kent. A triploid so needs another apple close by for pollination.

Malus 'Balsalm'. Yorkshire 1831. Known as the farmers wife apple in Yorkshire, a smallish bright green dessert apple.

Malus 'Nancy Jackson'. An old cooking apple from Yorkshire. Harvest in mid-October. Has a rosy red blush.

Malus 'Ribston Pippin'. Also known as 'Glory of York'. The Queens Tree in Edible is also a Ribston. The most famous of the Yorkshire apples. A parent of the world-famous 'Cox's Orange Pippin' cultivar.

Malus 'Sharlston Pippin'. A dessert apple to be harvested in mid-September. Dating from 1888 in Yorkshire. Pale in colour but darker than Golden Delicious.

Malus 'Dog's Snout'. An old cooking apple apparently shaped like a quince or a dog's snout. Dating from 1800s and was said to be popular in Yorkshire. Quite a rare variety.

The Pop Up Plant Sales are well and truly underway and we are receiving very positive feedback from visitors and customers alike. It's a great opportunity for people to interact with the Garden Team and share their love of plants and the outdoors and also get some advice about suitable plants for specific conditions.



Now that we have the polytunnel we can grow our own plants for the Garden and also some for sale. Over time, as we build our plant stock, we will be aiming to offer for sale some really interesting plants so keep an eye out for some choice specimens!

Thanks to everyone who has come along and supported us by purchasing plants or encouraging others to pay us a visit! It is nice to be able to offer people the opportunity to take home a small piece of the Garden and the income generated goes towards helping us to keep the Garden looking beautiful.

The remaining Pop Up Plant Sales will be held fortnightly every Saturday from 13 May until Sat 24 June.

*Best wishes
Steve Williams
York Museums
Trust*



Photos: Steve Williams

Indexes of 19th century YPS Members - revised and updated

- ♦ *Index of YPS Members 1822-1855* – newly revised and enlarged
- ♦ *Index of YPS Members 1855-1890* – NEW!
- ♦ *Index of YPS Honorary Members 1822-1890* - newly extended
- ♦ *YPS Patrons, Officers and Curators 1822-1890* – a complete listing

Index of YPS Members 1822-1855 now features 702 men and 6 women (although only three in their own right – three were allowed to retain the memberships of their deceased husbands, which would come to be customary practice). As many as 106 of the members were clergymen. The Church of England counted 98 of them, from lordly archbishops down to humble curates. As well as Archbishop Edward Vernon (later Harcourt), and two of his sons, notably William Venables Vernon, a dynamic first president of the society, they included Harcourt's successor, Archbishop Musgrave, seven archdeacons, three deans and a bishop. Nationally today the best known is probably the writer and wit, Sydney Smith, rector of Foston le Clay. Outnumbered, but equally influential in the affairs of our society, were the Unitarian ministers Charles Wellbeloved and John Kenrick. York's Quakers were well represented, with Backhouses and Tukes, Joseph Rowntree establishing his shop in Pavement, John Ford at Bootham School, and the first woman to be elected, Eliza Stringer, head of the Friends' Girls' School, then in Castlegate.

Medicine, law and the army, the professions of our three founders, Messrs Atkinson, Thorpe and Salmond, had numbered 60, 78 and 21 members respectively by 1855, together with 28 bankers and 9 architects. Many titled Yorkshire families appear in this index, Fitzwilliam, Howard, Lascelles and Stourton among them. We list one duke, six earls, a viscount and 13 barons, together with 17 baronets and numerous members of the landed gentry. Commerce, trade and industry feature prominently in the occupations of the York residents, with the famous confectionery families of Rowntree, Terry and Craven all represented by 1855. We had 36 Lord Mayors (or future Lord Mayors) of York, most famously George Hudson, who was also one of our 39 MPs. In June 1855 the membership stood at 323.

This revised edition of *YPS Members 1822-1855* now gives, in the majority of cases, street addresses

taken from local directories for the two-thirds of members who lived in York (not given in YPS records before 1855). Research in local newspapers has provided further biographical details on many people, including a number previously unidentified. One or two continue to be a mystery, usually members of brief duration, although not necessarily with common names like Smith or Robinson: for example, we haven't yet pinned down William John Arthington Carruthers. Many newspaper obituaries that can be followed up online are referenced, and occasionally sadder news items: ten instances of bankruptcy, for example, and three, possibly four, of suicide, including Henry Redhead Yorke, MP for York, who took his own life in 1848.

Index of YPS Members 1855-1890 contains some 1580 men and women, comprising all those elected prior to 1855 and still in membership then, together with all elected in subsequent years up to 1890. This remains a work in progress (as of April 2023): not all names are yet provided with biographical information, which we hope to add over the coming months, although perhaps not as extensively as in the *Index for 1822-1855*. We aim to cover the rest of the 1890s in due course.

This index includes Lady Subscribers and Associate Members (men), who were not full members, but could visit the Museum and enjoy the Gardens for a reduced annual subscription. Women had had this option since the Museum opened in 1830, men only from 1850, but none were listed before 1855. In that year the full membership stood at 323, plus 52 lady subscribers and 9 associates. Numbers then rose steadily. Many residents close by in Bootham and Clifton had always been attracted to join, and this remained the case. For example, in the 1861 census for St Mary's (the street of that name, built in the 1850s), all but two of its three dozen households contained a YPS member.

By 1890 the society had 443 full members, 51 of them women, 60 Lady Subscribers and 20 Associates. What's more, by 1890, of the 1580 people indexed here, 404 are women, around two-thirds Lady Subscribers, but 133 having subscribed for full membership, up from only 6 in the period 1822-1855. Another significant change since 1855 was that the number of full members not living in York but 'residing in the County or beyond its limits', 83 in 1855 or roughly 25%, had shrunk by 1890 to just 26, about 6%. So York residents now made up by far the bulk of the membership.

YPS Honorary Members 1822-1890

From its inception in December 1822 the YPS gave honorary membership to numerous already distinguished

gentlemen of learning, deliberately to enhance the status of the new society. As early as February 1823 there were 30 honorary members, including university men like William Buckland and Adam Sedgwick. Our first president, William Venables Vernon, used his many contacts from his Oxford days and his position as the son of the Archbishop to add to their number over the next few years. Some locals were also honoured, such as William ‘Strata’ Smith and the artist William Etty, as well as fellow officers in other northern Literary and Philosophical societies. By April 1831 the total throughout Great Britain and Ireland was 69, plus ten foreign members, Cuvier in Paris, Humboldt in Berlin, and others in Geneva, Prague, Philadelphia and New York. Here, we counted John Dalton in Manchester, Sir Humphry Davy in London and David Brewster in Edinburgh.

The last-named assisted in bringing about the crowning success of the society’s early years, a gathering later in 1831 of men from all over the country and abroad at the newly opened Yorkshire Museum that established the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the BA (now the British Science Association, or BSA). Another 18 honorary memberships followed, including William Whewell of Trinity College, Cambridge (who would later coin the word ‘scientist’). As the years went by and older men died, membership was awarded to the younger generation replacing them, such as Richard Owen, Charles Darwin and Thomas Huxley. By 1890 awards had been made to 250 men, 56 of them overseas. There were 59 honorary members in Great Britain and Ireland at that date, with a further 31 abroad.

All three indexes, together with a listing of *YPS Patrons, Officers and Curators 1822-1890*, can be found at:

<https://www.ypsyork.org/resources/yys-archive/>

Smith, sloth, and “young clergymen distantly related to a bishop”

Two small *addenda* to my little piece on Archbishop Vernon in February’s *YPS Newsletter*:

First, I cited a letter dated July 1823 from the Archbishop addressed to his wayward ninth son, who was newly appointed as Rector of Rothbury and was spending too much. “*I am well aware that you have not the great principles of character requisite for forming a good Economist*”, he began, and continued admonishment by recalling how he

himself had had to contend with equally high prices when he was setting out on his church career some forty years earlier. He had received only £500 p.a., out of which to pay “*the Oilman, the Tallow Chandler, and the Grocer*”. “*In Coffee I did not indulge myself ...*” he continued self-pityingly; “*... I could not afford to buy either the superfine Green or Bohea Teas*”. Despite this, the family-generous Archbishop sent his son £100, worth about £10,000 at today’s rates. The “Bank of Mum and Dad”, then as now, preserved social inequalities.

I provided no source for this citation and some people thought I had made it up. But no, I do not have that inventiveness. In fact the source is Alfred George Gardiner’s (1923) *Life of Sir William Harcourt*, vol. 2, p. 11. Sir William (1827-1904) achieved fame as a Liberal politician. He was Home Secretary and Chancellor under Gladstone, and Leader of the Opposition when Lord Salisbury was Prime Minister. His father was the Archbishop’s *third* son, William Vernon Harcourt (1789-1871), who was closely associated with the YPS and BAAS.

My second *addendum* is more a *mycelium* – a long, tenuous thread. It starts with the Wakefield-based scientist and traveller Charles Waterton (1782-1865) whose *Wanderings in South America and the Antilles* (1828) was sardonically reviewed by Sydney Smith (1771-1845). Smith was far less travelled than Waterton. He famously regarded his posting to Foston near York as “twelve miles (i.e. far too far) from a lemon”. The nearest lemon was perhaps at Heslington where he had been based before his banishment to the wilds of North Yorkshire.

Smith was a cleric and a wit. He spent some of his wit on Waterton, whom he described in his review as “a gentleman of Yorkshire, of good fortune, who, instead of passing his life at balls and assemblies, has preferred living with Indians and monkeys in the forests of Guiana”. He praises Waterton’s “genuine zeal and inexhaustible delight with all the barbarous countries he visits. He ... rejoices that he has left his species far away, and is at last in the midst of his blessed baboons!” However, apart from zeal and inexhaustible delight, Waterton also has a predilection for “sloth, an animal of which he appears to be fond”. Smith is less enamoured of this beast: “*The eagle to the sky, the mole to the ground, the sloth to the tree; but what is most extraordinary, he lives not upon the branches, but under them. He moves suspended, rests suspended, sleeps suspended, and passes his life in suspense – just like a young clergyman distantly related to a bishop*” (emph. added – Who could Smith have been thinking of? – Surely not the son of the Archbishop, the wayward Vicar of Rothbury?).

John Bibby

Diary

Plans for our autumn/winter lecture season are well advanced and details will follow with our August newsletter. Our two “mini-themes” will be Roman archaeology and research being undertaken at the Yorkshire Museum.

Important Note: Please check the following times, dates and venues carefully, in particular our lectures in the Tempest Anderson Hall, as times and days of the week do vary. For the most up-to-date information, please keep an eye on our website: www.ypsyork.org

Tue 23 May, 7.00pm - YPS Lecture

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

Pavement, Pots and Pigments: Applied Geology in Cultural Heritage Dr Ruth Siddall, UCL

A lecture for Geology Month

Mon 5 Jun, 7.00pm – Café Sci

Venue: Bootham School

“From Cave to Cosmos”: YPS and Science in York Sarah Sheils, Historian

An event for York Festival of Ideas - see page 1 for booking information

Thur 8 to Sat 10 Jun - Symposium
Science, Gender and Sociability in a Northern City c. 1775-1820

Booking required; details on page 5

Tue 13 Jun, 12 noon

Members’ Monthly Lunch

at York Theatre Royal

Wed 14 Jun – YPS visit

Hemp Farm at Hornington Manor & Bolton Percy

Fully booked

Wed 14 Jun, 7.00pm – YPS Lecture

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

“A Story in Stone” from York to Oxford

Dr Nina Morgan

A lecture for York Festival of Ideas

Members should show membership cards; non-members book via Festival of Ideas website

Wed 21 Jun, 2.00pm - YPS AGM

followed by Lecture at 2.30pm

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

An Etruscan Lady in York: Investigating Antiquarian Collections in the Yorkshire Museum

Professor Maureen Carroll, University of York

Thur 6 Jul – YPS Visit

Shibden Hall & Farnley Hall

See flyer enclosed

Lodge Opening Times

Tuesday & Thursday

11.00am to 4pm

but please do telephone first to make sure Frances is there before making a special journey.



Tue 11 Jul, 12 noon

Members’ Monthly Lunch

at York Theatre Royal

Tue 18 Jul, 2.30pm – YPS Lecture

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

Muddy Bottoms: response of Jurassic seafloors to palaeoenvironmental change

Dr Bryony Caswell, University of Hull

John & Anne Phillips Lecture with University of Hull

Tue 8 Aug, 12 noon

Members’ Monthly Lunch

at York Theatre Royal

Tue 12 Sept, 12 noon

Members’ Monthly Lunch

at York Theatre Royal

Tue 12 Sept, 2.30pm – YPS Lecture

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

Mary Anning comes to the Yorkshire Museum

Dr Sarah King, York Museums Trust

Thur 21 Sept – YPS Visit

Sledmere

See flyer enclosed

Tue 26 Sept, 7.00pm – YPS Lecture

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

The interaction of pharmaceutical contaminants in agriculture (title to be confirmed)

Dr Brett Sallach, University of York

Save the Dates – booking forms with the August newsletter

Fri 6 Oct – YPS Visit

A Walk around York’s Blue Plaques

Wed 6 Dec – YPS Social Event

Annual Dinner

At our new venue: Novotel, York, YO10 4FD

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) 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