

Founded
1822



NEWSLETTER

Yorkshire Philosophical Society

Promoting the public understanding of science since 1822

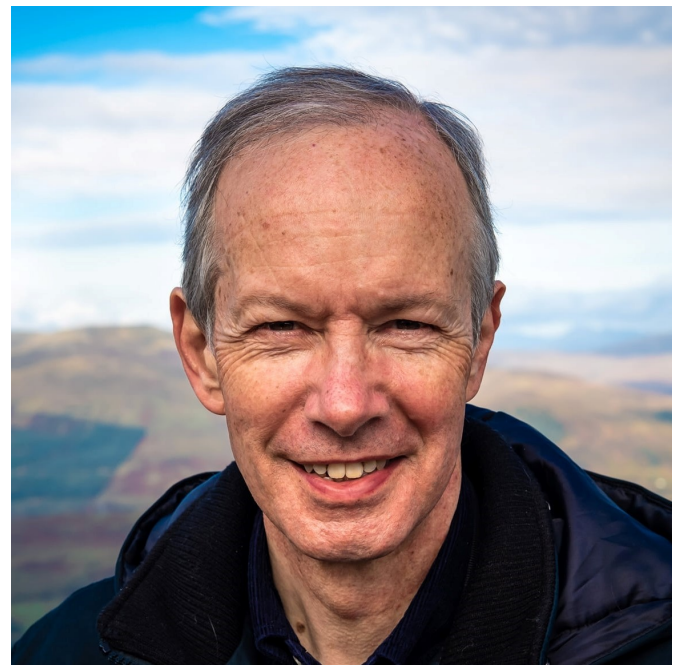
The Lodge, Museum Gardens, York, YO1 7DR, 01904 656713, info@ypsyork.org, www.ypsyork.org

From the Chair

Dear Members,

This November I am grateful to be handing over the reins of the Society as Chair to David Harbourne. David is an experienced Chair and has over thirty years' experience in the field of technical and vocational education. He was involved in creating national qualification and training frameworks, delivering training programmes throughout Great Britain, managing public funding for education and training in North Yorkshire, researching technical education in the UK and worldwide, and presenting policy options to politicians and officials. He has written two books and has extensive experience as a school and college governor, charity trustee and non-executive director. He is a past chair of York and North Yorkshire Community Foundation (now Two Ridings Community Foundation) and Carers' Resource, based in Harrogate. He is currently chair of York Centre for Voluntary Service.

We will both be welcoming members of David Rowe's family and YPS members to join us on Tuesday 21st November for a David Rowe Memorial Lecture. As



Introducing our new Chair, David Harbourne

David in retirement was a keen geologist who took student groups to Iceland to study geology, it is most appropriate that Dr Rebecca Williams, Reader in Volcanology at the University of Hull, will give this lecture on the theme of "Iceland, the land of Fire and Ice".

Professor Andy Marvin has been working with colleagues from the Royal Aeronautical Society, Brough Branch, Institute of Physics, and the History of Parliament Trust to provide a wide-ranging programme to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the birth of George Cayley, "Father of Aeronautics", on Tuesday 5th December. As we have invited members of the Cayley family and friends from several organisations it would be helpful if members who have access to Eventbrite could book a free ticket. Members without

With this Newsletter

- ◆ Programme for Winter 2023-4
- ◆ Subscription Reminder (if appropriate; see page 11)

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.

access to this website should show their membership card on the door. We hope to have some “Cayley” artifacts in showcases in the Tempest Anderson Hall, so do arrive from 6.30pm onwards to look at these.

Our Annual Dinner is to be held on 6th December at The Novotel York Centre, Fishergate, York YO10 4FD from 6.30pm and we are honoured to announce that Professor Deborah Smith, from the University of York, will be our after-dinner guest speaker. This will be a very special occasion as Deborah has also accepted our invitation to become the next, and first woman, President of the Society. Deborah is a distinguished scientist who has served as Head of the Biology Department followed by becoming Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and acting Deputy Vice Chancellor. We look forward to many of you joining us as this new chapter in the Society’s life opens.

My thanks to all of you for your friendship, support, and much useful feedback and advice over the past eight years.

With good wishes,
Catherine Brophy

York Museums Trust News

New Exhibition at the Art Gallery

A British Museum touring exhibition ‘Drawing attention: emerging artists in dialogue’ opened at York Art Gallery this October as part of a new Season of Drawing.

Visitors will be able to discover some of the most compelling up-and-coming names in the field of contemporary drawing, displayed alongside works by celebrated artists within the British Museum collection of prints and drawings.

Supporting YMT

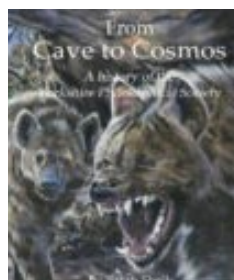
York Museums Trust, including the Yorkshire Museum, still relies on donations and if you would like to lend your support, this is the link:

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

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 Trailblazers Project

YPS is a partner in this project with York Civic Trust, Make it York, York Museums Trust, and others. The project aims to uncover lesser-known heritage stories of York through community workshops and in 2024 a large-scale sculpture trail, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Working with community groups we will be exploring the story of Museum Gardens along the lines of the book “A Street through Time”. We have also nominated a “Trailblazer” for a “tansy beetle” sculpture in Museum Gardens. Watch the press for further announcements and we will have more details in the next newsletter.

[York Trailblazers project](#)

YPS History Research Group

Partly to help with the Trailblazers’ project and partly to discover more about YPS history we are setting up this group, probably meeting monthly. Do let me know if you would like further details.

Catherine Brophy
cafesci@ypsYork.org

Request for Information – were you there in 1983?

The Renzo Piano portable pavilion was installed in Museum Gardens in 1983 to demonstrate IBM’s new computer technology at the beginning of the development of personal computers.

The software was written and provided by a small group of engineers in California called “Microsoft” – how they have grown! The pavilion was shown in 20 European cities including York and London. Ever since Museum and Gardens’ Managers have had a stream of architects with their own creative ideas for a Museum Gardens Installation.

There is a good image of the pavilion on page 192 of Peter Hogarth and Ewan Anderson’s book ‘*The most fortunate situation’: the Story of York’s Museum Gardens*. Our question now is: does anyone reading this remember being one of the visitors to this exhibition? Perhaps on a school visit or maybe you remember a launch event?

An easy way to help

If you use “Give As You Live” to make online purchases you can raise money for a charity at no extra cost to yourself and Yorkshire Philosophical Society is one of the registered charities on the site:

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/>

News from the Activities Group

It certainly is very autumnal weather now and at the time of writing, the clocks are just about to change meaning darker evenings, but brighter mornings to look forward to, at least for a while! We have had good weather though for the events we have held since the last newsletter.

On 21st September, thanks to Dorothy Nott, we had a most interesting visit to Sledmere where we had guided tours of the house and garden. We then had a talk about the World War I Wagoners, followed by a visit to the museum and to the heavy horses which are used to pull the restored wagons and horse ambulance housed there and used to display in events.

Our next event, on Sunday 24th September, was a Café Scientifique session. Our friends at the Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow, had made a fascinating film about the history of Glasgow's architecture, entitled "A Symphony in Stone". The film was shown in a venue new to Café Scientifique: The Den. This is the basement of the Micklegate Social just inside Micklegate Bar on the corner of Micklegate and Bar Lane which is the top of Toft Green. For future Café Scientifique events, it is worth noting that access may be tricky for the less mobile of us, as it is a rather old building and the basement is down stone stairs. However, hot and cold drinks of all sorts can be purchased in the ground floor bar and enjoyed while attending the event. The film, narrated by Bill Paterson, gave us insight into the development of different architectural styles and many of us would love to revisit Glasgow as a result.

On 4th October, Dorothy Nott conducted a fascinating guided walk across York from Bootham to Micklegate, with a coffee break at the Theatre Royal, visiting Blue Plaques erected to commemorate notable people with a link to the YPS.

The YPS took part in York Unlocked on Saturday 7th October. Our quirky office building, The Lodge, at the entrance of the Museum Gardens on Museum Street was open for public visitors from 10am to 4pm. About 170 people came to hear a short talk about the history of the YPS, then climbed the unusual spiral staircase to reach an exhibition of Calotypes taken in 1844 at a conference in York, and examine geological specimens upstairs. Thanks to Catherine Brophy for organising the event, Margaret and Rod Leonard for explaining the calotypes and Liam Herringshaw for engaging young and old with his exhibition of fossils, and also to Dorothy Nott and Paul Thornley who guided small groups around the Museum Gardens,

while Jon Coulson and David Harbourne (*and Rosemary herself - Ed*) gave valuable help on the day.

Future events planned:

We are continuing to hold our second Tuesday of the month get-together lunches upstairs at the Theatre Royal. Look out for the email reminders and come along and join YPS members for a coffee or lunch.

On 2nd November we will have a repeat visit to the Minster Precinct when Alex McCallion will tell us about the 15 year Neighbourhood Plan for the Minster, focusing on sustainability.

We are very much looking forward to our Annual Dinner, this year to be held at the Novotel on Wednesday 6th December. It promises to be a lovely evening. A few tickets are available still, so do book and join us if you can.

The events committee is working to plan events for 2024, using both our own or public transport, or coach hire, although hiring transport does substantially increase the cost to participants. If you have any suggestions of places you believe YPS members may like to visit, please let us know.

Rosemary Anderton

Annual Dinner 2023

Wednesday 6th December 2023, 6.30pm

The Novotel York Centre, Fishergate, York YO10 4FD

Although the deadline for booking has officially passed, there are still a few places available for this year's Dinner. We have a new venue with excellent parking and access and, as Catherine announced on page 2, our guest speaker is to be Professor Deborah Smith, the Society's new President, who will be welcomed by our new Chair, David Harbourne. Please contact Frances on info@ypsyork.org or 01904 656713, if you would like to join us on this important occasion.

YPS Members' monthly lunch

We have no Monthly Lunch in December but do join us in 2024 upstairs in the Circle Bar at the Theatre Royal from 12.00pm onwards (order your food and drink in the downstairs café):

- ◆ Tuesday 9th January
- ◆ Tuesday 13th February
- ◆ Tuesday 12th March
- ◆ Tuesday 9th April

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/y-ps-activities-booking-terms-conditions-2/>

Notes from the Geology Group

1a) Online material for self-guided trips. Studley Royal/Fountains Abbey to Brimham Rocks

The National Trust has a walk from Brimham to Fountains Abbey that can be undertaken in either direction. Plenty of geological interest at both ends.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/yorkshire/brimham-rocks/monks-walk-from-brimham-rocks-to-fountains-abbey>

At Studley Royal, the Seven Bridges walk from the Lake passes from the red and grey Millstone Grit of Fountains Estate to the Magnesian Limestone of the Seven Bridges Valley, with the River Skell sometimes disappearing underground and the rock outcrops either side.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/yorkshire/fountains-abbey-and-studley-royal-water-garden/the-seven-bridges-valley-walk>

At Brimham Rocks, the formation, glaciation and erosion of the rocky tors gives much to explore and admire. History and Geology links:

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/yorkshire/brimham-rocks/history-of-brimham-rocks>

<https://nora.nerc.ac.uk/id/eprint/517034/1/Brimham%20field%20guide.pdf>

Map:

<https://nt.global.ssl.fastly.net/binaries/content/assets/website/national/regions/yorkshire/places/brimham-rocks/pdf/brimham-rocks-map.pdf>

1b) Events and Talks: Online and in person

YPS talk, 21st November, 7pm in the Tempest Anderson Hall

Dr Rebecca Williams of the University of Hull on volcanic activity in Iceland:

<https://www.ypsyork.org/events/iceland-the-land-of-fire-and-ice/>

A Memorial Lecture in thanksgiving for the life of David Rowe.

YGS has webinars:

1st November, 7pm, Professor Colin Reeves on **Godwana's Demise**

22nd November, 4pm, Professor Steve Brusatte on **The Rise and Reign of the Mammals**

Also two meetings:

4th November, Sheffield Hallam University, **Perception of Pangaea**, 2pm-5.30pm

2nd December, Leeds, Weetwood Hall, **AGM and Address by Karen Hanghoj (BGS)**, 2pm-5.30pm

Details and registration on the YGS website:

<https://www.yorksgeolsoc.org.uk/events>

Webinars should all be available on the YGS YouTube channel, including recent:

Mike Simmons, UCL, **Arabia – its role in deciphering the last 600 million years of Earth history**

<https://www.youtube.com/>

[@yorkshiregeologicalsociety2697/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@yorkshiregeologicalsociety2697/streams)

The Yorkshire Museum talks: Mary Anning Rocks!

The most recent talks by Liam Herringshaw on where to find fossils on the Yorkshire Coast and Tori Herridge on other female fossilists and palaeontologists who had links to Mary Anning are still available to see on the Yorkshire Museum YouTube channel.

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

York Centre for Lifelong Learning has an online course on Fossils and Palaeo-environments,

11th and 15th November with Liam Herringshaw.

<https://fossilhub.org/fossils-palaeoenvironments/>

<https://www.york.ac.uk/lifelonglearning/dates/202324/non-accreditedcourses/scienceandearthsciences/autumn/fossilsandpalaeoenvironments/>

[fossilsandpalaeoenvironments/](https://www.york.ac.uk/lifelonglearning/dates/202324/non-accreditedcourses/scienceandearthsciences/autumn/fossilsandpalaeoenvironments/)

[fossilsandpalaeoenvironments/](https://www.york.ac.uk/lifelonglearning/dates/202324/non-accreditedcourses/scienceandearthsciences/autumn/fossilsandpalaeoenvironments/)

2) Women and Men in Geology:

Barbara Hastings (1810-1858)

Barbara Marchioness of Hastings. Another palaeontologist mentioned by Tori Herridge in her talk.

Something to read on the Trowelblazer website and on Wiki.

<https://trowelblazers.com/2014/05/08/barbara-hastings-the-jolly-fast-fossil-hunter/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Rawdon-Hastings,_Marchioness_of_Hastings

There is also an article by Martina Kolbl-Ebert on her work and contacts with other geologists.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/24137300>

It is quite easy to register with JSTOR as an independent researcher to read these articles for free.

3) Study and Resources: Trowelblazers

Tori Herridge championed the Trowelblazers website in her recent talk. Women archaeologists, geologists and palaeontologists, highlighting their contributions with a view to encouraging wider participation. She said that archaeologists were most numerous and encouraged submissions on geologists. Much to explore, time disappears...

<https://trowelblazers.com/about/>

Read a discussion about the possible causes of the disappearance of the dinosaurs.

<https://www.wired.com/story/what-killed-the-dinosaurs/>

4) **Real Trips outside: a YPS trip to Skinningrove** is being planned for early Spring. Look out for details in the next Newsletter.

5) **Our Museums of the Month: Land of Iron, Skinningrove.**

<https://landofiron.org.uk/>

Plenty to read on the history of Ironstone mining and iron foundry working in the area.

<https://landofiron.org.uk/explore/story>

6) **Books and Mags: Ken McNamara: *Unearthing the Underworld: A Natural History of Rocks* (2023)**

‘A history of the Earth as told through rocks – the secret-keepers of past environments, of changing climates and the pulse of life’. Ken McNamara is the former director of the Sedgwick Museum.

<https://reaktionbooks.co.uk/work/unearthing-the-underworld>

<https://www.waterstones.com/book/unearthing-the-underworld/ken-mcnamara/9781789147186>

<https://www.dow.cam.ac.uk/people/dr-ken-mcnamara>

7) **Extra**

Tori Herridge has narrated a recent series on BBC Radio 4: **Hoax**

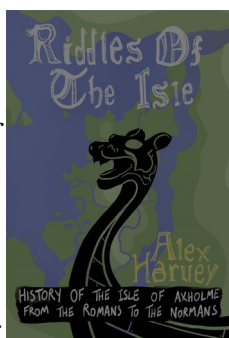
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/m001psq9>

Paul Thornley

Café Scientifique

Thank you to Alex Harvey for providing a stimulating session based on his new book *Riddles of the Isle* which is published on the 20th November at £11.99:

<https://jjmoffs.co.uk/product/riddles-of-the-isle/>



The history of the Isle of Axholme is well-documented after 1066: the time of the Mowbrays, Cornelius Vermuyden, and John Wesley. But what was happening in and around the Isle before the Norman Conquest? As it turns out, quite a lot! But deciphering this was quite the challenge. Through a mixture of disciplines, the Early Medieval history of the Isle (and beyond) can be uncovered, and after five years of historical and archaeological research, we have some answers.

Christmas Chemistry

Join us for this Christmas Family Event on the University of York campus with thanks to Dr Annie Hodgson and the Chemistry Department.

Colourful Chemistry

Dr Annie Hodgson, Department of Chemistry, University of York

How have chemists brought colour to our lives? Why do chemists use colour to help them understand the world around us? What makes fireworks look so brilliant? Discover the answers to these and other burning questions in this exciting lecture, delivered by Dr Annie Hodgson from the University of York. Prepare to be amazed as colours change before your eyes and find out why Colourful Chemistry makes Father Christmas feel extra jolly!

Room C/A/101, Chemistry Buildings, Campus West, University of York; this building is just before the start to the Science Park, where there are car parks.

George Cayley 250th Anniversary Symposium

Tuesday 5th December, 7.00pm

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

Programme

Introduction and Chair, Professor Andy Marvin

- “Cayley: A Curious Man”, Dr Mary Jones, Biographer
- “An Aeronautical Engineer Ahead of his Time”, Stephen Blee, Engineer
- “Sir George Cayley as a public man”, Dr Kathryn Rix, History of Parliament Trust

Free admission but please pre-book on Eventbrite:

<https://georgecayleysymposium.eventbrite.co.uk>

YPS members who are unable to book online must show their membership card on the door - but please pre-book if you can, as it helps our administration.

... and more anniversaries in 2024

2024 will see the anniversaries of the death of John Phillips and of William Smith’s first lecture to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, and also an important new exhibition on Star Carr at the Yorkshire Museum.

We will be involved in events to celebrate all of these. Look out for news in future newsletters and on our website.

YPS Members 1822-1890 ... and Slavery

Research continues on the indexes of YPS members available on our website. Our new Chair, David Harbourne, resolved the puzzle over William John Arthington Carruthers in the Index for 1822-1855, mentioned in May's newsletter. He suggested it must have been William Thomas Carruthers (1799-1848), who had inherited Arthington Hall through his mother and sold it in 1842 on moving back to his native Scotland. The dates all fitted. A revised edition is in preparation.

Since then, an unexpected occupation found via the 1881 census is that of Edmund Lee Haynes, of 29 St Mary's, York: retired sugar planter. He was 40 when elected a YPS member in 1876, and 'Mrs Haynes', who joined YPS as a Lady Subscriber the following year and lived a few doors along at number 37, was his widowed mother Elizabeth. By 1881, aged 72, she had moved round the corner to the house that is now 76 Bootham. According to the census Edmund had been born 'at sea' and Elizabeth in Barbados. She wasn't the only one: Edmund's wife Susan and eight of their nine children in St Mary's, ranging in age from 20 years down to 6 in 1881, had also been born there. Their youngest, Alice Maud, was little more than a year old in 1875 when Edmund had announced in the Bridgetown newspaper that they were leaving for England.

Discovery of these references to sugar planting and Barbados prompted questions about slavery. Although the slave trade was terminated by law throughout the British Empire in 1807, slavery itself continued in operation until the 1833 Slavery Abolition Act. Even then, enslaved men and women in the colonies were still not freed until 1838 – and only after the slave-owners were awarded financial compensation by the Treasury to the tune of approximately £20 million (multiply that by around 150 to reach today's values). Enslaved people themselves received nothing.

The subject of these financial awards received considerable publicity recently when University College London's Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery issued a searchable database listing all those compensated for the 'loss' of their human 'property': <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/search/>

Had our Haynes family been among the recipients? Clearly, Edmund, the sugar planter above, was only an infant in 1838, but his mother Elizabeth and her late husband could have benefitted.

They had. Elizabeth's husband was Robert Haynes junior, born in 1795. He received the huge sum of £22,359 9s 2d (in today's terms well over £3 million) in respect of 1043 enslaved people on his five estates in Barbados. His father, Robert senior, took just over £6,000 for 271 men and women on his estates, and his

brothers Richard and Henry were paid, respectively, more than £7,000 for 319 enslaved people and over £1,400 for 62 more. In total, for some 1700 enslaved persons, the British government awarded them around £37,000, perhaps equivalent today to between £4 and £5 million.

The two Roberts were both prominent figures on the island, not only owners of plantations with ships sailing to and from Britain but also members of the colonial parliament, the House of Assembly, Robert senior occupying the Speaker's chair. His ancestors had settled in Barbados as early as the 1640s, and he was born there in 1769. He had ten children, six surviving to adulthood. Over the same period in which he served in the Assembly he was appointed to senior command as General of the local militias. He moved to England in 1836 or 1837, first to Bath and then to Reading, where he died in 1851 aged 81. A glowing obituary was published in the *London Illustrated News*.

As for Robert junior, Elizabeth was his second wife. He had had two daughters, possibly three, by his first wife, Sarah Anne Payne, who died in 1824. Elizabeth then bore him another daughter and a son, William, in Barbados before Edmund, as we have seen, was born at sea, in 1836. Robert and Elizabeth must have come to England about the same time as his father. They were here by June 1838 when, presumably using his financial compensation, Robert bought Thimbleby Lodge, a late Georgian mansion near Osmotherley in the North Riding. Three more sons and another daughter were born there between 1839 and 1862. Probate records when he died in 1873 show he was worth some £35,000, perhaps around £4 million today. His death brought William and Edmund, who had been managing the Barbados plantations, to England. William took over the Thimbleby estate that he inherited, and subsequently Edmund, next in line, came to York with his young family, and his widowed mother Elizabeth left Thimbleby to move in nearby.

However, by 1890 things had changed completely. William died in Scarborough in 1889, leaving a mere £200 16s 5d. It turns out the Thimbleby estate of some 2,000 acres had been mortgaged to the hilt. Eventually, by an Order of Court of 1898 issued in Chancery, Robert junior's widow Elizabeth and eight surviving descendants, beneficiaries of his will, were all "henceforth debarred and foreclosed", and Thimbleby passed via their creditors to a wealthy Sunderland shipowner for his Yorkshire seat. So it was that the Haynes family suffered a far more complete and tangible 'loss of property' than they had 60 years earlier.

But Edmund, the retired sugar planter with whom we began, was spared such ignominy. He had left York, and the YPS, in the late 1880s, seemingly to return to Barbados with his wife and children, and he died in 1894 before any court actions began. His mother Elizabeth remained in Yorkshire, living with a younger son, Jonathan, at Patrick Brompton Hall, near Bedale. She died there in somewhat reduced circumstances in 1900 at the great age of 90.

Bob Hale

Yorkshire Philosophical Society – the menagerie

The President, the Rev W V Vernon, spoke at a dinner following the Yorkshire Philosophical Society's AGM on 2 February 1830 (reported in York Herald, 6 February):

The President, in a speech replete with good feeling and good humour...said he should propose a toast which they might all contribute to realize, the Prosperity of the Yorkshire Museum...

To no individual could the Society be more indebted than to Mr Marshall, for his exertions on occasions of this kind, as well as for his contributions to the Museum, of which he was one of the most extensive benefactors. From his late extensive travels on the Continent, he had brought back not only his wonted zeal and activity, but along with him a whole menagerie of rare animals to ornament the New Museum. (Cheers.) The President concluded by giving – “Success to the Yorkshire Museum”.

Later, H Preston Esq proposed the health of the Vice-President, W Marshall Esq¹ (reported in Yorkshire Gazette 6 February 1830):

This toast was received with great applause; when silence was restored, Mr Marshall said – Gentlemen, for the very flattering manner in which this toast has been received by the present company, I feel that a warm acknowledgement is due. I am afraid, however, that the old adage, “practice makes perfect”, will not be realized in me. It has been my lot to have the honour of filling this post since the Society was instituted; - but I fear I shall fail to convey to you my thanks in a proper manner; though I trust you will not doubt my sincerity. I am gratified to see the number of members at our meetings increase; and I would like to see the numbers which assemble round this festive board increase, even in a greater ratio than the members on the books. Before I sit down, I will beg leave to propose a toast; and it is one that has always been received with approbation. At the time of the institution of this society, other societies did not view it with jealousy; on the contrary, they cheered us on our way. I hope similar institutions will arise in all parts of the nation; that they will go on increasing in prosperity; and that they will exert themselves to diffuse knowledge through all ranks of life. I give you – *The Scientific Institutions of Yorkshire*.

Other mentions of the menagerie

Yorkshire Herald, 2 July 1831

The Multangular Tower – In the course of preparing the ancient Roman remains for the reception of the menagerie of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, some interesting discoveries connected with the architecture of this building have been discovered. In the hope of further elucidation of this relic of antiquity, a subscription has been entered into to carry on the excavation.

Preston Chronicle, 8 October 1831

Great Scientific Meeting at York

The promoters of the assemblage have had in view the establishment of a great Scientific Association...

The meetings were held in the new, spacious, and handsome building of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, which stands in a situation eminently beautiful and abounding in classic interest. The Museum, which is a chaste edifice with a Doric portico, stands on rather elevated ground within the precincts of the ancient Abbey of St Mary, one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture existing; on the left is a Roman multangular tower, which forms part of the city walls, and which is about to be devoted to the purpose of a menagerie by the Society...

David Harbourn

¹ William Marshall, born 1788, changed his name in 1833 to Hatfeild [sic] after inheriting a relative's estate at Laughten-en-le-Morthen. He died in September 1844. His estate passed to his sister, but his collection of Yorkshire minerals was donated to the Yorkshire Museum. He lived in Newton Kyme.



*Ghost Bear in the Museum Gardens
Photo: Frances Chambers*

Gardens News

We seem to be catching up on the distinct lack of rainfall earlier in the year. Enough now.

Autumn colour arrives in the Garden albeit a little later than expected. I thought the leaves would have dropped earlier this year – they didn't really start to drop (Horsechestnut's aside that always turn first) until after storm Babet. I think as a result of Climate Change the autumnal transition doesn't really start until much later in October than it used to. It has been nice to see the new Riverside planting colour coming through as planned with the Acer, Hydrangea, Clerodendron and Euonymus in particular providing the pinky/reds. It's hard to make out just how much colour there is from this photo – best to take a wander and see for yourself!



Photo: Steve Williams

We are making good progress on the Spring bulb planting with circa 4000 planted so far and another 4250 to go. Mainly Tulips with increases to Daffodils, Snowdrops and English Bluebells. We don't have many of either of the latter surprisingly so we will continue to bulk up year on year.

We have been doing more renovative work around the Garden and have been introducing some unusual shrubs to the flower bed on the left hand side as you walk in the Main Gates and past the YPS Lodge. Hibiscus syriacuse, Viburnum furcatum and Tetrapanax papyrifer 'Rex' to name a few. Keep an eye on this bed which we are opening up and bringing a better balance to, which will enhance the visitor experience on entering the Garden.



A Tetrapanax

The Orchard apple trees are growing well and we will be undertaking initial formative pruning this winter to shape their future growth to ensure they have an open habit with three to five main branches. We have also introduced some native wildflowers to this area as we hope to establish communities of wildflowers over time.

Talking of wildflowers, we are creating a wildflower meadow in the Artist garden timing it to bloom in conjunction with the Monet exhibition running May to September 2024. The link to Monet is inspired by his paintings of wildflowers in the fields near Argenteuil in 1873 and 1875 (as we don't have waterlilies). A number of impressionists would spend time walking in the outer suburbs of Paris gaining inspiration from the natural world. We have sown the seed and I now cross my fingers and trust the process (whilst forming a couple of back up plans just in case!). I am hoping that there will be enough density of flower to be able to mow a path through the 'meadow' so that it becomes an immersive experience for visitors and it will also benefit pollinators / support wildlife so a nice project all round.



Poppies near Argenteuil 1875 by C Monet

Ghosts in the Garden have returned and continue to delight visitors. I think they are a wonderful addition to the Garden I'm pleased that we are able to work together with YorkBID as this initiative has fast become an annual event in the calendar around Halloween.

We also look forward to welcoming Thor's Tipi to the Garden for a 6 week period as we play a role in supporting York's Christmas market. A lot of planning has been undertaken to ensure Thor's integrates with the Garden as comfortably as possible and any necessary rectification to the grass where Thor's will be sited (near the Multangular Tower) will take place in the New Year.

*Until next time..... best wishes
Steve Williams, York Museums Trust*

100 years ago: Elmfield College and the World in December 1923

Fragments from history using contemporary snippets from the December 1923 edition of The Elmfieldian, the school magazine of Elmfield College, a Primitive Methodist establishment on the Malton Road in York.

Elmfield College, York, was founded in 1864 and so in December 1923 was approaching its Diamond Jubilee. The Golden Jubilee ten years earlier had been rather marred by an altercation in Sarajevo whose consequences were still resonating in 1923.

The 32-page *Elmfieldian* was published three times per year. It was aimed at Old Boys as much as current pupils. The issue of December 1923 was largely inward-looking. It included copious sports reports and outlined fund-raising for the new cricket pavilion planned to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. Other articles congratulated boys who had recently passed their exams or who had obtained jobs or university places. A 14-page appendix listed some 1200 Old Boys who had attended as far back as the 1870s. Their names and addresses were listed under headings of eleven "Local Centres" which consisted of eight northern towns and London plus "Unattached", and "Abroad" categories. The latter included Elmfieldians from America North and South, Siam, India and Africa.

Other reports were more flippant and light-hearted, written for the 'in-crowd'. "A Visit to France" described school-boy sea-sickness *en route* to Dieppe complete with graphic descriptions which only schoolboys could relish.

A bizarre collection of "*Morceaux Choisis*" is inscrutable to the uninitiated: for instance "We hear that Brearley has just finished his 176th pork pie", and "Now that Casabianca is gone, we have a very good substitute in Mr. Pledger". Some are more understandable and may even raise a laugh today, e.g. "What does LXX stand for? Love and kisses".

The Headmaster Stanley Slack¹ contributed a three-page article on Councillor Jerry Ickringill who was at the school from 1884 to 1887. His father was involved in founding Elmfield in the 1860s. Some indication of priorities may be gleaned from Slack's comments that Jerry excelled at cricket and football "although he never got his name up on the scholarship and matriculation board". On leaving school he went into his father's business in Keighley "... but let this be clearly borne in mind Jerry never, under any circumstances, allowed his duty to his business to take second place to his love of cricket". Also, "Like the late President Roosevelt of the U.S. he believes in large families and he has a houseful of bairns" who "when they are all at home" number four boys and three girls. He also became a councillor on Keighley Town Council and is now an Elmfield Governor. "May he be blessed with Health so that in years to come he may be spared to shed his spirit of geniality upon all with whom he comes into contact."

Other *Elmfieldian* items in this issue reflected contemporary concerns: the world was only five years away from the Great War; its human legacy was all around, primarily in a surfeit of young spinsters and widows. Unemployment was high and there was continual preoccupation with Europe and the failures of the Treaty of Versailles. In September the League of Nations mandate for Palestine came into effect; in October the Great Powers withdrew from occupying Istanbul; November saw Hitler's attempted Beer Hall putsch in Munich as German hyperinflation mounted.

In January 1923, France and Belgium occupied the Ruhr, opposed by Britain as well as Germany. Civil war raged in Ireland till May. In March, Lenin had his final stroke



*Elmfield College overlooking Monk Stray in York.
(Only the house on the right is now extant.)*

but seemed to be recovering. His regular health updates in the British national and local press reported “symptoms of speech paralysis have diminished” (*Yorkshire Post* 19 March 1923:11), and “speech and movement of the right arm are gradually improving. Today’s temperature 98.04”. (This latter appeared just under a report headed “Soviet confiscation of a Hull trawler”; *Yorkshire Post* 24 April 1923:7).

Other events were more celebratory. April saw the marriage of the Duke of York (later King George VI) at Westminster Abbey and the first FA Cup Final in the new Wembley Stadium. The latter cost £750,000, the former probably not quite as much.

In May, Bonar Law had fallen ill. He resigned as Prime Minister after just 211 days and was succeeded by Stanley Baldwin who dissolved parliament in November despite having another four years to run. The general election on 6 December misfired badly for Baldwin who lost 86 seats. Labour and Liberals gained 49 and 43 respectively.² In York, John Marriott (Tory) was elected with a majority of 3000 over Joseph King (Labour).

The Elmfieldian reflected these world events in local terms:

- School numbers fell which led to an appeal for more boys: “For the first time Elmfield is feeling the slump in business, and when we hear on all sides the jeremiads on the falling trade of the Country it is not to be wondered at that our numbers are less – the lack of trade has “put a brake on the ‘boom’ and we have to work hard now to secure pupils – will you all help us?”
- In November, the Rev. Spaul³ of York spoke to the school about the League of Nations. Following this a junior branch of the League of Nations Union was established at Elmfield. Miss Gunn⁴ and Mrs Grey from the local York branch addressed the boys in January 1924 and in June the school “took part in an open-air demonstration held in the city” which was addressed by Arthur Greenwood⁵ M.P. among others (*Elmfieldian* July 1924:23).
- A school mock election resulted in 72 votes for the Liberal candidate, 45 for the Conservative, and 32 for Labour. The winning Liberal was Ronald Vincent Spivey whose father – also an Old Elmfieldian - had distinguished himself in 1901 by blowing himself up in his laboratory at Cambridge while distilling a derivative of cannabis.

Thus merged the parochial with the global, the transient with the long-lasting, and the flippant with the serious.

John Bibby

Notes

1. Stanley Radcliffe Slack (1870-1946) became Sheriff of York in 1924 with Robert Newbald Kay (1869-1947) as Lord Mayor. Ten years later they were both involved in closing Elmfield down and selling off the property as real estate – but that is another story!
2. The 1923 UK election led not only to Britain’s first Labour government but also to Elmfield’s “first Minister of the Crown”. This was Ben Spoor (1878 -1928) who attended Elmfield from 1891 to 1892 and became Labour Chief Whip in Ramsay MacDonald’s government. The *Elmfieldian* (May 1924:5) reprinted a letter from Spoor in Downing Street to the Old Boys’ Association in York thanking them for their “message of goodwill and congratulations” and stating that “It gives me great satisfaction to know that the thoughts of the Old Boys are with me. I shall constantly endeavour to prove worthy of their confidence”. By all accounts Spoor was ineffective as a whip: he suffered from malaria as a result of war service and alcoholism possibly due to his wife dying in 1920 and/or his remarriage in 1923 (see Michael Meadowcroft (2018) *The 1924 Labour Government and the Failure of Whips. Journal of Liberal History* 100:24-35).
3. Bernard R. H. Spaul, M.A., of the Salem Congregational Church on Spen Lane (built 1839, closed 1934 and used for storage by Rowntree’s; demolished 1963 and replaced by HRMC offices; gentrified into apartments c.2010).
4. Winifred Eleanor Gunn (1888-1950), Scottish journalist and playwright; at 72 Marygate, York in the 1939 Register. “Miss Winifred Gunn is well known in York for her work as honorary secretary for eight years of a branch of the League of Nations Union. Her organising ability is notable ...”. See also *The Border Magazine* 1929 34:93.
5. Several Greenwoods attended Elmfield. These included William Gilbert Greenwood (1893-1969), the Liberal politician, who captained the school cricket and football teams.

YPS YouTube channel

111 people have viewed the latest addition to our YouTube channel, “*When the Mask Slips*”, and we are delighted to see that we have gained another eight subscribers, making 33 in total. Please do consider signing up and encourage others to do so.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIQv7l8oVKCRgdzv8WeabBw/about>

Lecture News

17th January – **Roman York Beneath the Streets: Project Update**

Please note that Martin Millett's lecture will start at 2.00 pm and not our usual afternoon time of 2.30 pm. Professor Millett is speaking in Hull that evening and needs the earlier finish in order to transfer between venues. We are fortunate that he is able to fit us into a busy schedule, so please come along in good time to welcome him at 2 o'clock.

24th January – **Café Scientifique**

We are pleased to announce that James Spencer will be able to join us to give his presentation **Dreams versus Reality: exploring the gap between what people want renewables to deliver and what they can deliver**, postponed from October when James had an unavoidable last-minute work commitment. The venue will again be the Den at Micklegate Social.

30th January – **Artefactual Geographies of the Viking World; reconstructing trade, communication and movement through the analysis of bone artefacts**

If you have been wondering about the Charles Wellbeloved and Herman Ramm Prizes for 2023, these will be presented before this lecture by Dr Steve Ashby of York University, rather than the usual November date. We look forward to seeing the students and can already announce that there are two winners of the undergraduate Wellbeloved Prize this year.

YPS Subscription Renewal

For members who pay their subscriptions by cheque, cash or Paypal, guidance on how to renew for 2024 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 11th 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. If you think the amount of your Standing Order may need up-dating, please contact Frances as soon as possible.

2024 membership cards will be sent out with our first newsletter of the new year in late January or early February. Your 2023 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 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 60th birthdays or who round up their annual payment by a pound or two. These contributions are especially appreciated during these difficult times.

If you have family members who are students ...

It was agreed at our AGM this year that students can register for online membership free of charge. They will receive our newsletters and bulletins by email (but not any printed material). Encourage them to fill in our 2024 application form with the appropriate details.

Exploration from your armchair

The Church Monuments Society has free online lectures:

- Saturday 18 November 2023 – 5pm **Splendour for the Afterlife: Cardinal Bessarion and the Biggest Funerary Chapel of Fifteenth-Century Italy** – Philip Muijtjens (King's College, Cambridge)
- Saturday 25 November 2023 – 5pm **The Feriköy Protestant Cemetery and Heritage of Monument Row** – Brian Johnson and Daniel Joseph MacArthur Seal (American Research Institute in Turkey, and British Institute At Ankara)

See churchmonumentsociety.org for more information and book on Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/church-monuments-society-32669221889

Latest news from the **Humphry Davy Notebooks Project** (see our April 2022 Newsletter)

“We have just started to transcribe our final tranche of notebooks (some very interesting ones!) but still have some way to go until the project ends in the next few months. It would be wonderful if you would pass this information on to your members, who might be keen: <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/humphrydavy/davy-notebooks-project> and help us get over the finish line.”

“And we have a Davy Notebooks exhibition at the Royal Institution in Albemarle Street, London, until 3rd November; from there it goes to Northumberland County Hall, and then the Wordsworth Trust in Grasmere in the new year.”

Diary

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

There will be more lectures and Cafe Scientifique sessions between February and May which are in the process of being finalised and will be added to the website shortly. An updated list will be available at lectures in January.

Lectures marked ** are related to exhibitions, conservation and research by the Yorkshire Museum and its partners and those marked † are on the theme of Roman and Viking archaeology

Tue 14 Nov, 7pm - YPS Lecture

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

Listening to the Universe with Gravitational Waves

Dr Hannah Middleton, University of Birmingham

Tue 21 Nov, 7pm - YPS Lecture

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

The land of fire and ice: volcanoes in Iceland

Dr Rebecca Williams, University of Hull

A lecture to honour the memory of David Rowe.

Wed 29 Nov, 7pm - YPS Lecture

Venue: Chemistry Department, University of York

Colourful Chemistry

Dr Annie Hodgson, University of York

See page 5

Tue 5 Dec, 7pm – YPS Symposium

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

George Cayley 250th Anniversary Symposium

See page 5

Wed 6 Dec – YPS Social Event

Annual Dinner *See page 3*

2024

Tue 9 Jan, 12 noon - YPS Social Event

Members' Monthly Lunch at York Theatre Royal

Wed 17 Jan, 2pm – YPS Lecture **NB Early start time**

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

Roman York Beneath the Streets: Project Update†

Professor Martin Millett, University of Cambridge

Lodge Opening Times

Tuesday & Thursday, 11.00am to 4.00pm

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

The Lodge will close for the Christmas holiday at 4pm on Thursday 21st December and reopens on Tuesday 2nd January.



Wed 24 Jan, 7pm – Café Sci

Venue: The Den, Micklegate Social

Dreams versus Reality: exploring the gap between what people want renewables to deliver and what they can deliver James Spencer, Portland Analytics

Tue 30 Jan, 7pm – YPS Lecture

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

Artefactual Geographies of the Viking World; reconstructing trade, communication and movement through the analysis of bone artefacts †

Dr Steve Ashby, University of York

With presentation of Wellbeloved and Ramm Awards

Tue 13 Feb, 12 noon - YPS Social Event

Members' Monthly Lunch at York Theatre Royal

Tue 20 Feb, 2.30pm – YPS Lecture

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

Archbishop Vernon-Harcourt, Archbishop of York 1807-1847

Tony Vernon, Lord Vernon

Tue 5 Mar, 7pm – YPS Lecture

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

Lilies of the Sea: Martin Lister (1639-1712), crinoid fossils and chemical theories of fossilisation

Dr Anna-Marie Roos, FLS FSA, University of Lincoln

Tue 12 Mar, 12 noon - YPS Social Event

Members' Monthly Lunch at York Theatre Royal

Tue 19 Mar, 7pm – YPS Lecture

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

Future Railways (title to be confirmed)

Professor Clive Roberts, University of Birmingham

Tue 23 Apr, 7pm – YPS Lecture

Venue: Tempest Anderson Hall

John Phillips and the Cambrian Explosion

Professor Rachel Wood, University of Edinburgh

Dates for your Diary

Sat 21 & Sun 22 September

William Smith 200th Anniversary Study Day & Field Visit With the Yorkshire Geological Society

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 Ms Catherine Brophy, Trustee, (cafesci@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