

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,

I am delighted to announce that the guest of honour at our annual dinner on 2 December will be Nicky Milner OBE, Professor of Archaeology at the University of York.

Professor Milner's research mainly focuses on the Mesolithic period, but her interests also extend to the Final Palaeolithic period and the Mesolithic/Neolithic transition. She has co-directed excavations of a Mesolithic hut at Howick, shell middens at Baylet and a long blade site at Flixton Island. She is currently a member of world-leading interdisciplinary research teams investigating biodiversity change in the Anthropocene period and the rich history of the world's oceans.



Where is this? See page 8.

With this Newsletter

- ♦ Programme for Autumn 2025
- ♦ Visit to "Ice Age Art Now" exhibition, 27 Aug
- ♦ Visit to Austen/Turner exhibition at Harewood House, 11 Sept
- ♦ Visit to Hopetown, Darlington and Tees Princess Cruise, 2 Oct
- ♦ Visit to Allerton Waste Recovery Park, 12 Nov
- ♦ Annual Dinner, 2 Dec

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.

Nicky is perhaps best known for her massive contribution to our understanding of Star Carr, the 11,000-year-old settlement near Scarborough. Many YPS members will have visited the Yorkshire Museum to see "Star Carr: Life after the Ice", which brings together wonderful artefacts from one of the most famous Mesolithic sites in the world.

I hope you will be able to join us at the annual dinner, which takes place at the Novotel, York, on 2 December. A booking form is enclosed with this newsletter.

* * *

Ever since the York Museums Trust was established, YPS has had the right to nominate someone to serve on the trust board. Our current nominee is Andrew Scott, CBE, former director of the National Railway Museum and the London Transport Museum.

Andrew has served with great distinction, not just because of his immense experience of museum administration, but because he brings wisdom and sense to everything he does.

Andrew's term in office will come to an end in 2026, and we're just at the very early stages of thinking about his successor. I recently spoke to Dr Angela Dean, chair of the YMT, and we appreciate it will be impossible to match Andrew's experience like-for-like. For that reason, we are also interested to hear from people with experience of finance, property (especially heritage buildings) and fund-raising. Please contact me for a chat if you or someone you know might be interested in taking this on.

* * *

At the AGM, I announced that we will be starting a campaign to raise £15,000 for a new projector and laptop for Tempest Anderson Hall. A YPS member has very generously offered to donate half the cost if the rest of us contribute the other half. We're working with YMT on this – further information will follow soon!

Finally, some of us plan to gather for a drink and a chat after evening lectures in the Tempest Anderson Hall. Starting in September, we will head across to the House of Trembling Madness in Lendal – the very building where YPS was founded – from about 8.15pm onwards. See you there, perhaps?

David Harbourne

Thank you to Carole Smith

At our AGM on June 24th we expressed our thanks to Carole Smith, who stepped down after many years of service as a trustee and Vice-Chair of the Society. During this time Carole edited our Annual Report, took the minutes of our Council meetings and AGMs, led our Governance Committee, revised our Laws and was always the “go-to” person for advice on how the Society should be run. Her huge contribution was acknowledged with the presentation of a book token and our best wishes for a more leisurely future participation in our activities.

Remembering John Bibby

We were very sorry to hear the sad news of the death of John Bibby in mid-May. John joined the Society in 1989 and over the years organized visits and talks and contributed help and support for our activities. During the Covid lockdowns he responded with his customary enthusiasm to our appeal to expand our Newsletter and since then we have enjoyed his regular articles on the history of York and further afield. Meticulously researched and informative and always entertaining, they have been a highlight of our newsletters for many of us. He will be greatly missed.

York Museums Trust News

The “**Viking North**” Exhibition is now open in the Yorkshire Museum which members can visit by showing their current YPS membership card for free entry.



On November 25th we will have a linked lecture on “**The Viking Great Army and its Legacy**” with archaeologists Professors Dawn M Hadley and Julian D Richards to discover the ninth-century Viking Great Army and its enduring impact.

The Melsonby Hoard is saved

The Yorkshire Museum is delighted to announce that thanks to over 1000 donations the Melsonby Hoard has been saved for the nation. See the good news here:

<https://youtu.be/1VEJErfBk4E>

Fund-raising continues in order to support the programme of conservation needed for this large collection of objects. If you would like to help:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/save-the-melsonby-hoard>



Images © York Museums Trust

Supporting YMT

For general support for York Museums Trust, including the Yorkshire Museum, this is the link:

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

News from the Activities Group

We are now in another heat wave; it is 29 degrees C at the time of writing. After such a wet spring, I can hardly believe that we now have a hosepipe ban. Hopefully things will cool down soon and we will feel inclined to get out and about in the relatively less hot weather. We have a varied programme of events coming up so I hope you will be able to join us at some of them.

Our monthly get-together lunches have continued to be popular. We meet upstairs in the Theatre Royal from 12 noon on the second Tuesday of the month. Just buy lunch or a drink in the downstairs café and join us upstairs for a chat.

In mid May we had a four day study tour to Hampshire. We visited a National Trust property, Kedleston Hall near Derby, then travelled on to our hotel in Winchester. Day two took us to Jane Austen's Chawton House and then on to the Curtis Museum in Alton. The next day we travelled to Selborne to visit Gilbert White's house and gardens; the museum there also commemorates the Oates family, including Lawrence who was a member of Captain Scott's Antarctica expedition. After this we had free time in Winchester, where many of us visited the cathedral and the city water mill. On the way back up north we had a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum with tours with very engaging guides. Many thanks to Dorothy Nott for organising such a varied and interesting programme.

Later on in May there was a day outing organised by YANT (York Association of the National Trust), which YPS members were invited to join. We started off visiting East Riddlesden Hall, a beautiful house and gardens near Keighley, then we went on to Haworth where we had lunch in pleasant sunshine before a visit to the Brontë parsonage museum.

Our garden party was held at the Medical Rooms just off Stonegate on a lovely sunny afternoon in June. We had a short presentation from our Chairman, David Harbourne, then the weather was good enough for most of us to sit outside in the beautiful garden while we ate our delicious afternoon tea and canapés. Thanks must go to Dr Neil Moran who gave a talk about and short tour of the Medical Society's premises.

On Friday 4th July, a group of us met with Liam Herringshaw outside the Fox pub in Holgate. Liam took us round Holgate, telling us about the culverted beck and the houses of some notable Holgate residents. We passed through West Bank Park and saw landmarks such as Holgate Windmill and the water tower on Severus Hill. We made our way up into Acomb and admired some of its oldest properties and finished our walk at the library. This was a repeat of the event held in March.

Future events Planned:

On Monday 11th August, we have the chance to take a further look at how the building work is progressing in the Minster Precinct. This aims to be a world class facility for research, education and training for ancient craft skills as well as modern technology. Booking details were included with the last newsletter.

On 27th August, there is a visit by train (or own car) to Cliffe Castle Museum in Keighley to visit the British Museum's touring exhibition of drawn and sculpted ice age art, some of which dates back over 24,000 years. We will have a curator talk while we are there. Booking details are included in this newsletter.

On September 4th, we will have another day trip out by coach to Quarry Bank Mill in Wilmslow, Cheshire. This is a National Trust property and is a huge cotton mill with some machinery still working. There are displays showing how different life was for the mill-owning Greg family and the local people they employed. The Greg family home and extensive gardens are also available to explore. This trip is now fully booked. If you would like to be added to the waiting list in case of cancellations, please contact Frances on info@ypsyork.org.

On the Thursday of the next week, 11th September, there is another coach trip, to Harewood House. Here there is an exhibition celebrating Jane Austen's and JMW Turner's 250th anniversaries, so it will be of particular interest to those who were on the May study tour to Austen's Chawton. However, all are welcome to join this afternoon outing. A booking form is enclosed.

Another coach trip is on October 9th to Bolsover Castle on the edge of the Peak district. This is an English Heritage property, originally 11th century, but extensively remodelled in 1600, with the addition of an enormous riding house. There will be a guided tour of the site, including the newly restored Fountain garden. Places are still available. For booking details see our May Newsletter or our website.

On Wednesday 12th November, there is an outing using our own transport to Allerton Waste Recovery Park, near Knaresborough. Here we will learn how our waste is reused, recycled or turned into energy and then look

Important Notice—Insurance

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/>

NB our insurers are no longer able to provide any cover for participants in our activities who are aged over 80.

round to see all this happening. It really is a most interesting visit. Participants for this visit must wear flat covered-in shoes and trousers as some stair climbing is involved. See the enclosed flyer for further information.

Our final event planned so far this year is the Annual dinner, to be held on Tuesday 2nd December. This will again be at the central Novotel which has convenient parking and was praised last year for good food and friendly staff. There will be a post dinner address by Professor Nicky Milner. A menu and booking form are with this newsletter.

I do hope to see you at some of these events.

Rosemary Anderton

STOP PRESS A late addition to our programme has just been finalised. See page 6 and the enclosed booking forms for details:

- A coach excursion to the Hopetown Museum in Darlington followed by a Tees river cruise—2nd October

SAVE THE DATE

A trip to Kent is being organised through Just For Groups from 14-19 May 2026. It will incorporate visits to Down House, Charles Darwin's home, Dover Castle, Chartwell, Chislehurst Caves, the excavation of Queen Ethelburga's church at Lyminge, built after she left York in AD633, with stops off en route at Belton House and Wimpole Estate. Further details and pricings will follow shortly.

Visit to Bolsover Castle Thursday 9th October 2025

There are still some places available on this full-day coach trip to a fascinating English Heritage site.

Information was sent out with our May Newsletter and is on our website:

<https://www.ypsyork.org/events/visit-to-bolsover-castle-on-thursday-9-october/>

“Ice Age Art Now”: Book, Exhibition, Lecture and Visit

The British Museum, as part of “**Bradford: City of Culture 2025**”, presents “*Ice Age art now*”, an exhibition of extraordinary drawn and sculpted images from the end of the last Ice Age. These astounding works, some dating back to around 24,000 years ago, reveal the deep roots of drawing, sculpture and modelling in the era of the great painted caves of Lascaux in France and Altamira in Spain, and are on display from 21st June to 14th September 2025 at **Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley**. We have arranged the following linked activities:

Tuesday 12th August at 2.30pm in the Tempest Anderson Lecture Theatre in the Yorkshire Museum

Lecture by Jill Cook, Keeper of the Department of Britain, Europe and Prehistory at the British Museum. Jill has written the accompanying book and signed copies will be available for purchase during the afternoon for £14.99 and will also be in stock in the Yorkshire Museum shop.

Wednesday 27th August YPS group visit to the “Ice Age Art Now” Exhibition at Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley (A flyer with full details is enclosed.)

We have arranged an introduction by two curators to both the exhibition and to this fascinating museum. Entry to the Museum is free but we will make a small donation from the group. We suggest travelling by train which takes just over an hour with a change at Leeds and then sharing taxis from Keighley Station as it is quite a long walk to the Cliffe Castle grounds and Museum but there is a car park if participants prefer to drive. Our visit is booked with the Museum for 11am. There is a Café in the Museum.



<https://www.britishmuseum.org/about-us/press/press-releases/announcing-ice-age-art-now-british-museum-partnership-exhibition>

Left: Drawing of a young reindeer, c. 14,500 years old. La Madeleine rockshelter, Dordogne, France. British Museum, Palart.419. © 2025 The Trustees of the British Museum.



Stockton & Darlington Railway Bicentenary celebrations and cruise along the river Tees with afternoon tea

Thursday 2nd October 2025

This event was originally planned by the Cleveland National Trust Association and the York National Trust Association are joining them and inviting Yorkshire Philosophical Society members to also join the one-day coach trip from York.

Travelling by coach from York the morning will be spent at **Hopetown, Darlington** (formerly Head of Steam Museum). After securing £35 millions of funding, between 2022 and 2024 the museum, and surrounding heritage buildings, were transformed into a brand-new visitor attraction, Hopetown Darlington. The name takes inspiration from the old Hopetown foundry works associated with the railways.

The classic features from the museum are joined by ground-breaking new attractions spread over a 7.5-acre site and incorporating other heritage railway buildings showcasing Darlington's innovative history. North Road Station Museum is in the 1840s Victorian station building and explains Darlington's role in 200 years of railway heritage. Carriage Works (a Grade II listed building) contains the Exhibition Hall which will have the exhibition "Steam to the Future" during our visit, reflecting on the history of steam railways and how the rail industry is gearing up for a second revolution driven by the growing green technologies sector in Teesside.

At 1pm we will return to our coach for the short drive to **Preston Park** where the group will board the "**Teesside Princess**" for a 3.5-hour cruise between Stockton and Yarm. During the journey we will be served afternoon tea which includes sandwiches, a slice of quiche, a scone with jam and cream finishing with a selection of sweet treats with a pot of tea.

More details on the YPS website with links to the Museum and to a video of the Tees cruise. A booking form is with this newsletter.

YPS Members' monthly lunch

Do join us throughout the year for our drop-in monthly lunches upstairs in the Circle Bar at the Theatre Royal from 12.00pm onwards (order your food and drink in the downstairs café). Come along on any of the dates below; no need to book. New members are particularly welcome.

- ♦ Tuesday 12th August
- ♦ Tuesday 9th September
- ♦ Tuesday 14th October
- ♦ Tuesday 11th November

Lecture at the Recreation Hall at the Retreat, Heslington Road, YO10 5BN Tuesday 30th September at 2.30pm

We are looking forward very much to our lecture at The Retreat on 30th September. Following the closure of this well-known York institution, the premises are in the process of being transformed into homes while the Recreation Hall is being used for community events. Dr Victoria Hopgood will tell us more about its history and architecture. There is car parking on site and the University Buses U1 and U2 from the Station stop within easy walking distance of the venue.

York Unlocked Saturday 27th September

Once again we will be participating in the York Unlocked event by opening The Lodge to the public from 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm on Saturday 27th September.

York Unlocked is your chance to step inside some of York's most intriguing and normally inaccessible locations; places you may have only glimpsed through windows or passed by without a second glance.

The full programme is available from York Explore library or York Visitor Information Centre or can be downloaded from:

<https://york-unlocked.org.uk/2025-festival/>

Trailblazers Project Local History Group

This group of history enthusiasts reaches its first anniversary and welcomes anyone interested in local history to join them. Some of the participants are taking their first steps as researchers and we are arranging an introductory talk on the City Archives with one of the archivists on October 1st at 2.15pm.

Our next two meetings will be held on Tuesday afternoons from 2.30pm to 4.30pm, 23 September in the Garden Room at York Explore and on 21 October in the Marriott Room at York Explore.

Email cafesci@ypsYork.org or phone me on York 499179 to reserve your place and ensure we have enough tea and cake.

Catherine Brophy, Project Lead

This year's **Sheldon Memorial Lecture** on Edna Annie Crichton, York's first lady Lord Mayor, by Dorothy Nott, will be held in the evening of Tuesday 21 October in the Bowland Room in the Berrick Saul Building, University of York (west campus). The exact time will be confirmed nearer the date

Notes from the Geology Group

1) Online material for self-guided trips Cayton Bay and Yons Nab, near Scarborough

Park on the road or in the car park by the Cayton Bay Surf Shop where coffee is available. A short walk takes you to the Salty Dog Café.

Cayton Bay facilities

Start on a falling tide, walk the cliff path east to Yons Nab with views of the middle and upper Jurassic strata on the cliff, the Red Cliff Fault and the Middle Jurassic river channel and point bar cutting down into the Yons Nab beds in Gristhorpe Bay to the east.

Back to Cayton Bay and down to the beach to see the palaeo-valley, filled with glacial till. Walk east until rock starts to show and follow the guide (link below) as far as the tide and scrambling over the rocks on the beach will allow:

YGS Guide to the excursion to Cayton Bay and Yons Nab

2) Events and Talks: Online and in person:

YPS in the Yorkshire Museum

Tuesday 12th August 2.30pm. **Jill Cook, Ice Age Art Now** and the exhibition at Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley.

Cliffe Castle notes on Ice Age Art Now exhibition

Dates for the Diary:

Wednesday 19th September: YGS Webinar:

Beyond the Field, Dave Hodgetts

<https://www.yorksgeolsoc.org.uk/events-list/beyond-the-field-webinar>

Saturday 25th October: YGS Indoor Meeting:

The Jurassic Oceans, Leeds Museum.

YGS Link to Jurassic Oceans meeting

Saturday 15th November. Joint YPS/YGS symposium:

Women in Geology.

All day, Tempest Anderson Hall, Yorkshire Museum.

Keynote Speaker: Tori Herridge

Tori Herridge home page

3) Women and Men in Geology:

Hugh Miller (1802-1856)

‘Inspirational geologist, folklorist and fossil hunter’. Though he had no academic credentials, he is today considered one of Scotland's most influential Victorian palaeontologists, particularly in communicating science to a wider audience. Among his geological works are *The Old Red Sandstone* (1841), *Footprints of the Creator* (1850), *The Testimony of the Rocks* (1857), *Sketch-book of Popular Geology*. *The Cruise of the Betsey, or a Summer Holiday in the Hebrides, with Rambles of a Geologist or Ten Thousand*

Miles over the Fossiliferous Deposits of Scotland. This brings together Miller's accounts of his travels across Scotland, and was published by his wife Lydia after his death.

Friends of Hugh Miller

National Trust of Scotland. Hugh Miller Birthplace and fossils of Cromarty

National Trust for Scotland Hugh Miller YouTube

4) Study and Resources: Mass Extinctions?

The end-Permian mass extinction was the deadliest event in Earth's history. Also called the Great Dying, it is thought to have nearly wiped out all life on Earth 252 million years ago. Yet, earlier this year, we learned of an ancient ecosystem at South Taodonggou, a geological site in what is now China, where plants and animals were thriving just 75,000 years later – a blink of the geological eye. paper in Science Advances

You might call it an isolated miracle. But Hendrik Nowak of Nottingham University suggests that there was little or no disruption to terrestrial (plant) ecology.

Hendrik Nowak paper in Nature

5) Real Trips outside:

YPS:

Wednesday 27 August: **Trip to Cliffe Castle Museum in Keighley**. See enclosed flyer.

6) Our Yorkshire Museum of the Month:

Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley. Ice Age Art Now.

(Until 14th September)

This exhibition, curated with the British Museum, ‘shows how artistic creativity existed thousands of years ago, as an essential part of human life.’ Part of the Bradford City of Culture programme.

Cliffe Castle Museum Keighley, website

7) Books and Mags:

Down to Earth Extra for July

Down to Earth July 2025

This Volcanic Isle: The Violent Processes that forged the British Landscape

Robert Muir-Wood

OUP. This Volcanic Isle. Muir-Wood

“It is land famed for its geological antiquity, and yet in journeying through its last 66 million years it is the enduring youthfulness of tectonic, seismic and volcanic actions that constantly surprises and enthralls. Local places and familiar vistas are interwoven with planetary processes in a beautifully written account of how our appreciation of the natural world around us can be immeasurably enhanced by viewing it through rock-tinted spectacles.” Iain Stewart

Draft programme for YGS/YPS Joint Meeting

WOMEN IN GEOLOGY

to be held in the Tempest Anderson Hall, Yorkshire Museum, York

Saturday 15th November 2025

10.45 Welcome and Introduction – Dr Deborah Smith OBE (YPS President) and David Harbourne (YPS Chair)

11.00 Keynote lecture – Dr Tori Herridge (University of Sheffield)

11.45 Pioneers – Dr Leanne Vanes (British Geological Survey)

12.25 Professor Cathy Hollis (University of Manchester)

13.05 LUNCH INTERVAL

14.30 Welcome back and YGS Business – Prof. Colin Waters (YGS President)

14.45 Dr Rebecca Williams (University of Hull)

15.25 Dr Amanda Owen (University of Glasgow)

16.05 Discussion and Q&A

16.30 Close

Full details will be with our next newsletter and on the website. In the meantime please save the date.

8) Extra

On Tuesdays, during school holidays, Rotunda Geology Group will be offering hands-on sessions:

Fossil Handling at the Rotunda Museum (Summer) 12th, 19th and 26th August.

Fossil handling Rotunda Museum

And move on to the Art Gallery (same ticket) to see the Atkinson Grimshaw Nocturnals. (Seven on display until August 2026)

Paul Thornley

2025 Science Festival in Liverpool organised by the British Science Association

10-14 September with The University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University

Celebrating the 194th anniversary of the Science Festival, and working in partnership with the two co-hosting universities, the British Science Association will bring its flagship event to the city of Liverpool for the first time since 2008.

The British Science Festival is one of Europe's longest-running science festivals, hosted at a new location each year. The Science Festival provides a platform for scientists and social scientists, innovators and inventors, researchers and artists, to bring their work to the public.

More details at <https://britishsciencefestival.org/>

Café Scientifique

**“Electrifying York” debate and reception
16th June at York St John University**

We are grateful to Professor Volker Pickert from the Universities of Newcastle and Nottingham with nine engineering PhD students who joined us for a lively evening which included a networking reception where we discussed their work with these confident and engaging students before the more formal debate with a further opportunity for discussion of the issues around ‘electrification’. This unusual format is worth revisiting in future with such a highly educated group. Thank you to YPS members who joined us to support the event.



Photo: David Harbourne

Congratulations to University of York graduates Sam Locock and Kit Brown who won our **2025 Malden Owen Awards for Engineering and Physics** respectively. The awards were presented at a Graduation Reception on July 21st, and abstracts of the winners' projects will be on our website shortly.

A visit to Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park, Rajasthan

I travelled to India in February and March this year. My tour group experienced many of the most famous sites including temples, forts, palaces and (of course) the Taj Mahal; but from my perspective, one of the most interesting visits was to Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park, just outside Jodhpur.

The park was established in 2006 to conserve the Thar Desert's fragile environment. It showcases both the geology of Rajasthan and a diverse range of flora and fauna.

Visitors follow trails through over 170 acres (72 hectares) of arid terrain featuring welded tuff (volcanic rock), sandstone formations, canyons, ravines and a plethora of endangered plants, animals and birds. The main path leads through a gully cut by hand over 500 years ago to channel rainwater to lakes which supplied water to the nearby Mehrangarh Fort. Other trails lead to the lakes, a volcanic viewpoint and the sixteenth century Jodhpur city wall.

In 2006, the first challenge was to remove thousands of mesquite shrubs (*Prosopis juliflora*), locally known as *Bavaliya*. This is an invasive species introduced from Central America that had proliferated among the rocks and outcompeted many indigenous plants. Ridding the park of *Bavaliya* took seven years.



Since then, careful planting has resulted in a much more diverse ecosystem featuring over 250 plant species. Some, such as grasses, have very short life spans and burst into life when the rains come. Others, including succulents, rock-growing lithophytes and some deep-rooted trees (for example, *Tecomella undulata*, also known as desert teak) can survive both the monsoon and periods of intense heat: the temperature here can reach well over 45 degrees Celsius.

At the latest count, more than 200 species of bird have been identified in the park. They include wading and diving birds attracted by the lakes and raptors such as Bonelli's eagle and the marsh harrier. Mammals include the desert gerbil, Indian crested porcupine, five-striped palm squirrel and the *chinkara* (Indian gazelle), which has the ability to shrink its liver to reduce its need for water. There are many lizards, skinks and snakes, too, and of course many species of insect.

The park has a large collection of geological specimens, including sandstone from the Ediacaran period (635 to 641 million years ago); banded chert formed in undersea volcanic vents 720 to 1,000 million years ago; iron-rich sandstone sculpted by gas bubbles from below; and examples of stromatolites, fossils of the blue-green bacteria dating back billions of years.

For further information, including several publications about the park, I recommend <https://era-india.org/project/rao-jodha-desert-rock-park/>.



David Harbourne

Photos (from top):

A euphorbia flowering

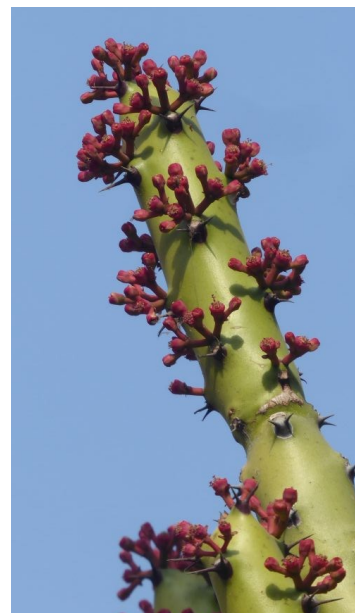
Tecomella Undulata

Part of the geology collection

A guide describing the history of the park with part of the Jodhpur city wall in the background

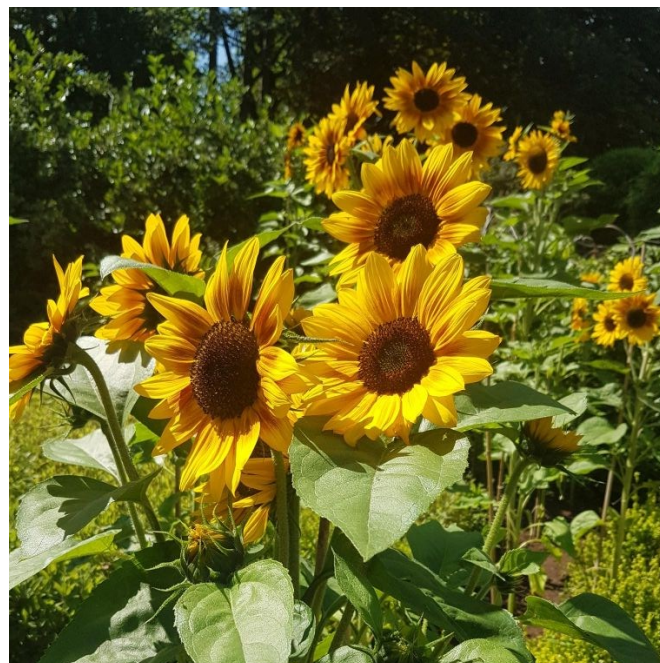
And on page 1: One of the lakes in Rao Jodha Park

All photos © David Harbourne



July in the Museum Gardens

Meanwhile a little closer to home:



Left: *Anthemis tinctoria* 'E.C. Buxton' (yellow) and *Helenium* 'Moerheim Beauty' in the Tempest Anderson bed.

Above: Sunflowers in the Edible Garden grown by the Gardens Team in the polytunnel from seed.

Photos © Steve Williams, York Museums Trust

Book Review

The Ghost Lake by Wendy Pratt

The Borough Press, an Imprint of Harper Collins Publishers Ltd, paperback edition published 2025.

In this recently published memoir, *The Ghost Lake*, the Yorkshire writer Wendy Pratt writes about making a pilgrimage around the periphery of Paleolake Flixton an extinct post-glacial lake in North Yorkshire a handful of miles south of Scarborough. She visits locations 'that have acted as journey markers in her own life.'

Wendy takes 'a series of deliberate journeys' writing about 'nature as refuge, and how belonging to landscape gives you a place to connect to your ancestors, even if those ancestors are only joined to you through the land you walk on.'

The main thread which runs through the narrative is the author's history of a range of mental health issues including depression, social anxiety, and lack of self-esteem all underlined by what appears to be undiagnosed autism. She wonders if she can 'find a way to reconnect with myself by gaining a greater understanding and appreciation of the landscape I have always been embedded in.'

Although an early draft of *The Ghost Lake* was longlisted for the 2021 Nan Shepherd Prize, the pilgrimage, as described in the book, was made up of several individual trips which took place between June 2022 and July the following year.

The author's first trip is to the Woodlands Cemetery on the edge of Scarborough where she visits the grave of her daughter Matilda who was still born in 2010. From

the cemetery the author can see ancient woodland 'studded with Bronze Age burial mounds' and in the following month she explores nearby Seamer Beacon the site of a Bronze Age burial ground not far from where the author grew up. Two months later she visits the Mesolithic site at Star Carr with her mum, both of whom are grieving after the recent death of her father. Her mum still lived on the small holding near Seamer which her parents had bought together and worked hard to own. Her dad had wanted to be buried on their land, and he eventually got his way but his daughter writes 'burying a whole human is very, very complicated...' In April 2023, on the anniversary of her daughter's birth and death Wendy takes flowers to her daughter's grave then visits a Neolithic child burial site on Folkton Wold which is famously connected to three inscribed chalk objects known as the 'Folkton Drums'. Afterwards she writes: 'On the anniversary of my daughter's death, I am feeling the familiar, yearly panic about her being forgotten. My pilgrimage to selfhood, to rootedness and belonging, is weighed down today by a desire to know that the dead are not forgotten.'

During her trips through these ancient landscapes, and to other locations linked to her own life and recent family history, Wendy Pratt explores themes such as loss, grief and belonging, birth and death, ritual and remembrance encountered by ordinary people over ten millennia and reflected in the landscape they have all walked on.

The Ghost Lake also includes a sizeable bibliography listing the books, articles, journals and websites which the author used in her research. Wendy can be contacted via her own website: <https://wendyprattauthor.com/>

Jeff Taylor

Diary

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

Unless otherwise stated, the venue for YPS lectures is the Tempest Anderson Hall, Yorkshire Museum.

Tue 12 Aug, 12 noon - YPS Social Event
Members' Monthly Lunch at York Theatre Royal

Tue 12 Aug, 2.30pm - YPS Lecture
Ice Age Art Now Jill Cook, British Museum

Wed 27 Aug—YPS Visit
Ice Age Art Now Exhibition
Cliffe Castle Museum, Keighley *See enclosed flyer*

Thur 4 Sept – YPS Visit
Quarry Bank Mill *Fully booked*

Tue 9 Sept, 12 noon - YPS Social Event
Members' Monthly Lunch at York Theatre Royal

Tue 9 Sept, 2.30pm - YPS Lecture
Snow White to George Stephenson – the 'prehistory of railways' Bob Gwynne, railway historian

Thur 11 Sept—YPS Visit
Austen / Turner Exhibition
Harewood House *See enclosed flyer*

Wed 17 Sept, 7.30pm—Café Sci
Venue: City Screen Basement Bar
Conservation in the 21st Century
David Craven, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Tue 23 Sept, 2.30pm – YPS Event
History, Tea & Cake *See page 5*

Tue 23 Sept, 7.00pm—YPS Lecture
Rome's African Emperor Dr Simon Elliott FSA

Tue 30 Sept, 2.30pm—YPS Lecture
Venue: Recreation Hall, The Retreat
The Retreat (title to be confirmed)
Dr Victoria Hopgood

Thur 2 Oct—YPS Visit
Hopetown, Darlington, & Tees Princess Cruise
See enclosed flyer

Lodge Opening Times

Tuesday & Thursday, 11.00am to 4.00pm

NB Please do telephone first to make sure Frances is there before making a special journey.

The Lodge will be closed for Frances' holiday on:

- ♦ Thurs 14 August
- ♦ Mon 8 to Tues 16 September inclusive (reopens on Thurs 18 Sept)



Thur 9 Oct – YPS Visit
Bolsover Castle *Details on website*

Tue 14 Oct, 12 noon - YPS Social Event
Members' Monthly Lunch at York Theatre Royal

Tue 14 Oct, 7.00pm—YPS Lecture
How can we find new antibiotics in the ocean?
Dr Kate Duncan, University of Newcastle

Tue 21 Oct, 2.30pm – YPS Event
History, Tea & Cake *See page 5*

Tue 28 Oct, 7.00pm—YPS Lecture
NB Date to be confirmed
Conservation Engineering: Philosophy, Principles and Practice Gez Pegram, Mason Clark Associates

Wed 29 Oct, 7.30pm—Café Sci *To be confirmed*
Venue: City Screen Basement Bar

Wed 5 Nov, 7.30pm—YPS Zoom Lecture
This lecture is on Zoom. Invitations will be sent to our emailing list two days beforehand.
Is Healthcare AI Safe? (Updated lecture)
Dr Mark Nicholson, University of York

Tue 11 Nov, 12 noon - YPS Social Event
Members' Monthly Lunch at York Theatre Royal

Tue 11 Nov, 7.00pm—YPS Lecture
The importance of citizen science in protecting tree and plants health
Dr Charles Lane, FERA Plant Health Pathologist

Wed 12 Nov—YPS Visit
Allerton Waste Recovery Park *See enclosed flyer*

Sat 15 Nov – YPS/YGS Symposium
Women in Geology *See page 7*

Tue 25 Nov, 7.00pm—YPS Lecture
The Viking Great Army and its Legacy
Professors Dawn Hadley and Julian Richards, University of York
With presentation of YPS archaeology awards

Tue 2 Dec - Annual Dinner *See enclosed flyer*

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 Mr David Harbourne, Chair and Trustee, (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