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1822



Yorkshire
Philosophical
Society



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,

Frances Chambers' retirement

After 25 years, Frances Chambers has decided to retire from her position as Clerk to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society at the turn of the year.

Frances joined YPS as a member in 2001. Not long afterwards, she received her first newsletter, which included an advertisement for a new Clerk and the rest, as they say, is history! Frances has played an immeasurable part in the Society's continued success ever since.



"Mighty in strength and endurance" - nothing to do with the qualities needed by a YPS Clerk but see page 4

Photo: Rosemary Anderton

With this Newsletter

- ♦ Programme for Autumn 2026
- ♦ Visit to Castle Howard Arboretum, 30 Sept
- ♦ Carboniferous Geology of Roundhay Park, Leeds, 14 Oct
- ♦ 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.

The Clerk's role has changed over the years: when Frances started, email was in its infancy. Most payments were made by cheque. The chair – Alan Owen, back then – came into the office two days a week. Other officers called in at least once a week, as it was the only way to get things done.

Today, of course, it all looks very different. Officers still pop in from time to time, but most of our work is done online. Frances keeps meticulous financial records using Xero accounting software. A majority of members receive their newsletters by email.

The way we work might have changed, but the principles remain the same. We are a small, friendly society committed to understanding science in all its forms, from archaeology to zoology and everything in between – and Frances has been at the very heart of all our work for a quarter of a century.

We will, of course, mark Frances' retirement when the time comes, and I hope you will join me in contributing to a gift. By agreement with our Treasurer, Sally Osgerby, contributions can be paid into an account which will be used solely for this purpose between now and the turn of the year. Details for online payments are as follows: account name Mr D W Harbourne, account number 15198518, sort code 40-47-31; please use "Frances" as the reference. Alternatively, you can send a cheque to the Lodge (payable to Mr D W Harbourne) or make a cash donation at one of our future lectures. Sally will monitor all payments into and out of the account.

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Recruiting our next Clerk

Before we advertise externally, we want to give members the opportunity to apply to become our next Clerk. The headlines are:

- 16 hours a week, to include at least two half days based at the Lodge
- A salary of approximately £12,000 a year (based on a full-time salary of £25,000)
- Enrolment into a pension scheme after a two-month probationary period
- Four weeks' paid holiday and pro rata for statutory bank holidays

Duties include –

- supporting YPS members
- preparing and distributing newsletters and flyers
- posting on social media (Facebook etc)
- liaising with York Museums Trust
- keeping records, including basic bookkeeping (Xero is quite simple to use and training will be provided)

A full job description will be provided on request. If you are interested, the starting point will be an informal chat about the role. Please email chair@ypsYork.org and we'll set up a meeting or phone call.

* * * * *

Annual dinner

The Society's annual dinner will take place at the Novotel, York, on 2 December. We are delighted that our guest of honour will be Professor Karen Bryan OBE, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of York St John.

Professor Bryan joined York St John in April 2020 (just in time for the pandemic!). She originally qualified as a speech and language therapist at the University of Newcastle and also gained her PhD there. Her research interests are in communication difficulties in young

offenders and forensic populations. Before joining York St John, Karen held a number of senior roles including Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Greenwich and Pro Vice Chancellor for Regional Engagement and Dean of the Faculty of Health and Wellbeing at Sheffield Hallam University.

Further information about the dinner is enclosed with this newsletter, including details of how to book. This year, for the first time, we have the option to book and pay online. Go to <https://membermojo.co.uk/ypsYork/store>, where you'll be asked to enter your email address. You'll then be sent a secure link to log into the annual dinner booking page.

Using the online system is quick and easy, but we'll also accept bookings by post or email and payments by cheque, Paypal or card.

We are very grateful to Crombie Wilkinson Solicitors LLP for supporting the dinner.

*David Harbourne
Chair*

Thanks from Catherine Brophy

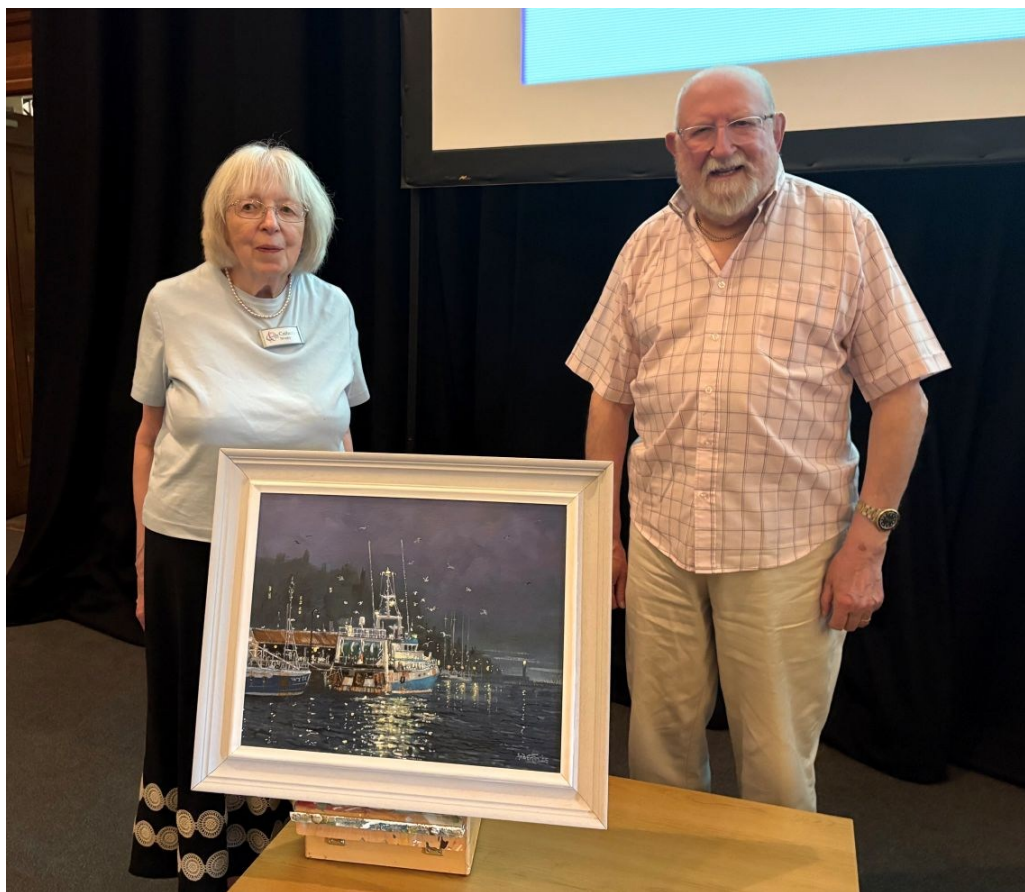
Thank you for the generous gift of the Bob Anderton painting of Whitby Harbour and the fishing fleet at dawn.

It has been a great privilege to be in turn a trustee, chair and lecture organiser for the Society. As I said at the presentation there are many people I would like to thank for their support over the last decade or so but particularly Frances Chambers, our Clerk, who provides a wealth of experience and information to support the smooth organisation of our many activities. I also thanked David Harbourne for his support and advice and for agreeing to become my successor as the Chair.

Noone wants to be reminded about the plague days of 2020 but there are three people in particular who helped me to keep everything going when Museum Gardens were locked and the city was silent. Rod and Margaret Leonard printed the newsletter in the Lodge, edited at home by Frances who also took over the blog with her "The Clerk in the Country" series. This was the time when, with Margaret Hammersley as Secretary and other Trustees, we were determined to stay afloat for the 2022 bicentenary, which we celebrated in style with a reception and dinner at York Mansion House with an excellent presentation by Professor Phil Manning, very much in the footsteps of John Phillips.

It is wonderful to see now how the Society is growing and I would encourage any new members who would like to be a bit more involved to come forward as it can be both enjoyable and rewarding to contribute to the flourishing of the Society.

Catherine Brophy



At our Annual General Meeting on 23rd June 2026 David Harbourne, our Chair, presented Catherine Brophy with a painting of Whitby Harbour by artist and YPS member Bob Anderton to mark her retirement as a trustee after twelve years and her service as Chair for eight of them.

Bob's paintings are on Facebook @BobAndertonFineArt where he has now added paintings going into Autumn exhibitions.

Catherine and Bob with the painting

Photo: Rosemary Anderton

York Museums Trust News

Yorkshire Museum

The exhibition "**Chariots, Treasure and Power: Secrets of the Melsonby Hoard**" is now open until Summer 2027.

On Tuesday 24 November at 7pm we are holding a lecture: "The Melsonby hoards: a window on the nature of power in Late Iron Age Yorkshire" with Professor Tom Moore, University of Durham, lead archaeologist on the project.

Museum Gardens

A rare after-hours experience comes to York Museum Gardens this summer when visitors are invited to encounter them like never before as the historic gardens open after hours for two brand-new evening events this August.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the first date will have passed but the event will be repeated on Friday evening, 28 August 2026, when guests can enjoy **Evening in the Gardens**, a relaxed adults-only experience offering rare access to one of York's most beautiful green spaces after the gardens have closed to the public.

On this evening, York Museum Gardens will reopen exclusively for ticket holders from **6.30pm to 9.30pm**,

giving visitors the chance to enjoy the gardens at one of their most peaceful and atmospheric times of day.

Set against the stunning backdrop of the ruins of St Mary's Abbey, guests can unwind with a cocktail, enjoy live music, sample delicious street food and soak up the atmosphere as the sun sets over the historic gardens.

Whether it's a date night, an evening with friends or simply an opportunity to experience one of York's most iconic spaces in a completely different way, **Evening in the Gardens** offers a unique summer evening in the heart of the city.

Tickets cost **£7.50** and include a cocktail on arrival. Additional drinks and street food will be available to purchase throughout the evening. The event is suitable for those aged 18 and over.

Tickets are available now via the York Museum Gardens website: <https://www.yorkmuseumtrust.org.uk/whats-on/events/evening-in-the-gardens-2/>

For other YMT events see:

<https://www.yorkmuseumtrust.org.uk/whats-on/events/?pno=10>

or if you would like to support the Yorkshire Museum and York Museums Trust in general, this is the link:

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

News from the Activities Group

We have had some fantastic sunshine and the evenings are long so I hope you feel inspired to participate in one or more of the activities we have planned. However, I'm sure you join me in worrying about the very high temperatures we have had of late. This seems to be an indication that global warming is a real phenomenon and its effects are being felt now, after many decades of warnings.

Our second Tuesday of the month lunchtime get-togethers on the first floor of the Theatre Royal have continued to be popular. Do come along to meet old friends or make new ones in the relaxed and informal atmosphere of the theatre's upstairs foyer.

On 14th to 18th May 2026, we enjoyed an excellent five day tour to Kent, organised in conjunction with Just for Groups. It was a most interesting tour and included visits to Sir Winston Churchill's Chartwell, Charles Darwin's Down House, Dover Castle and Chislehurst Caves among other places.

On 21st May, the Geology Group organised a day trip using our own transport. It was a guided walk around Scarborough led by Paul Hildreth and had a "William Smith" theme. In the morning, Paul took us to see some of William Smith's engineering and geological achievements, as well as other interesting aspects of Scarborough's history (see report on page 9). After

Our tour to Kent in May included a visit to the site of the church built in Lyminge by Queen Ethelburga on her return to Canterbury after the death of her husband King Edwin of Northumbria. This was the subject of a lecture given by Rob Baldwin via Zoom in 2025, and now available on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9ZC72ACogA>



*Rob Baldwin with YPS members on the site of Queen Ethelburga's church
Photo: Dorothy Nott*

lunch, there was time to visit the Rotunda Museum. Those of us who paid for admission to the Museum then will be able to use their ticket to make a return visit in September when we go to the Scarborough Fair Collection and Vintage Transport Museum.

Future events planned

We will continue our monthly second Tuesday lunchtime get-togethers at the Theatre Royal. Look out for email reminders or on the website for more details.

A day outing by coach is planned on Thursday 17th September. We will go to the Rotunda Museum in Scarborough in the morning. After the visit there will be free time in Scarborough, so people could walk to the art gallery, entry to which is included with the Rotunda ticket. You may prefer to simply enjoy the seaside. (We are keeping our fingers crossed for good weather!) There are lots of cafés and restaurants to buy lunch, after which we will meet the coach and travel to the Scarborough Fair Collection and Vintage Transport Museum. Here we will see a huge collection of beautifully restored and preserved vintage vehicles, fairground rides, mechanical organs and steam engines (see photos overleaf and on page 1 for a sample). Anyone with an interest in engineering, automata, agricultural vehicles, old fire engines, vintage cars or recent history will find this a fascinating place. There is a café at the Museum where we will be able to see and

hear the Wurlitzer organ being played. It certainly is a fun and extremely informative visit which will provoke memories for most of us. Further details of this visit and how to book were included with the last newsletter and are on the website: <https://www.ypsYork.org/events/visit-to-scarborough-including-scarborough-fair/>

On 26th and 27th September, the Geologists' Association Annual Conference is being held in York. On Saturday 26th, there are talks in the Tempest Anderson Hall. There is a fee for the day; however, the Geologists' Association is waiving the fee for members of the YPS and the Yorkshire Geological Society. Members of these two organisations who wish to attend some or all of the talks do not need to book. They simply attend on the day and show their membership cards for free entry. See page 8 for programme.

On Sunday 27th there are Field Visits. There may be spaces for any interested YPS members to participate in these visits. These will be advertised much closer to the time, probably in mid-September.

A trip using our own transport has been planned on Wednesday 30th September to the Yorkshire Arboretum at Castle Howard. We will meet for a 2pm introductory talk, followed by time to explore as little or as much of the arboretum as we wish, at our own pace. As it has been such a hot and dry summer, we are hoping that by the end of September, there should be some lovely autumn colours to be seen. Further details and booking instructions are included with this newsletter.

We are opening the Lodge up to the public again this year, as part of "York Unlocked" on Saturday 3rd October. Do visit us if you are in town that day, especially if you are not familiar with the interior of the quirky building that houses the YPS office.

Those of us who have booked are looking forward to another study tour in conjunction with Just for Groups, this time to the Lake District on 9th to 12th October. The itinerary looks interesting and varied, visiting places that are a little different from the usual Lake District attractions. Lets hope we have some good weather for the visits planned.

On 14th October, we have another outing using our own transport. It is an approximately 3 mile walk round Roundhay Park in Leeds, looking at geological features. This will be led by Ru Smith who is Vice President of the Yorkshire Geological Association, so it is sure to be a very informative visit. Details and a booking form are enclosed.

As we go to print, we are trying to arrange a visit to Hull and the recently reopened Maritime Museum, possibly in October, travelling together by public transport. Please keep an eye on the website and look out for flyers when our lectures restart in September.

Thinking ahead, we have opened bookings for our Annual Dinner on Wednesday 2nd December, and a flyer is enclosed. Once again we will be enjoying the comfortable surroundings of the Novotel in central York, and we are delighted that Professor Karen Bryan from York St John University has accepted our invitation to address us after our meal.

I hope to meet you at one or more of these events.

Rosemary Anderton

All photos right: Rosemary Anderton

Scarborough Fair Collection & Vintage Transport Museum

A few of the fascinating exhibits ...



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/yys-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.

YPS Members' monthly lunch

Our monthly drop-in lunches are continuing into autumn. Join us upstairs in the Circle Bar at the Theatre Royal from 12.00pm onwards (order your food and drink in the downstairs café) on any of the dates below; no need to book. New members are particularly welcome.

- ♦ Tuesday 8th September
- ♦ Tuesday 13th October
- ♦ Tuesday 10th November

Trailblazers Project

Local History Group

The group continues to meet but now in The Lodge rather than York Explore Library. Our next meeting is on:

Tuesday 15th September at 2.30pm at The Lodge

Although only two people were able to attend our last meeting, some good progress was made using the online British Newspaper Archive and generous helpings of cake were consumed. We hope to be able to display some of our projects at our York Unlocked open day in October. YPS members and non-members are welcome to join us. Please email cafesci@ypsYork.org

Catherine Brophy, Project Lead

The Lodge Library

Our library upstairs at The Lodge will be open for members to drop in on:

- ♦ Tuesday 13th October, 2.00 to 4.00 pm
- ♦ Tuesday 10th November, 2.00 to 4.00 pm

Come along to see our small but interesting collection of books.



We will once again be taking part in the York Unlocked festival by opening the Lodge to the public on Saturday 3rd October 2026 from 10am to 12pm and 2pm to 4pm. Could you come along to the Lodge for either of these sessions to help promote YPS to visitors? We show off the building as well as our activities so need volunteers for both upstairs and downstairs rooms.

Email Catherine Brophy on cafesci@ypsYork.org if you are interested.

Lecture news

Café Scientifique

Our programme for autumn:

- ♦ Wednesday 16th September: **'The Trouble With Methane'** with John Cossham
- ♦ Wednesday 14th October: to be confirmed
- ♦ Tuesday 17th November—**'Why the World Needs Contemporary Archaeologists'** with Professor John Schofield

We are going to be trying a new venue, FortyFive Vinyl Café, 29 Micklegate, York, YO1 6JH, so we hope you will join us. As usual the start time is 7.00 for 7.30pm. The events are free but advance booking is required. Further information on this will follow soon on the website and via our emailing list.

Charles Watson (1771-1836), 'Yorkshire's leading architect' by Dr Christopher Webster FSA FRHistS, Architectural Historian

A reminder that our new lecture season begins with an afternoon lecture at 2.30 pm on 8th September in the Tempest Anderson Hall, when we will hear about Charles Watson, architect of many fine buildings in Yorkshire but now largely forgotten.

Age-related Macular Degeneration

Anyone who missed the 9th June lecture on Age-related Macular Degeneration might like to see Professor Richard Gale's previous lecture on the subject as unfortunately we were not able to record this year's talk:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfWArVd6ja8>

Philosophers and Engineers engage with York Central!

In the July York Central newsletter, on page 7, there is a short item about our April lecture with Rob Auld, CEng FICE, Construction Director McLaren Property, Living and Regeneration:

<https://yorkcentral.uk/news/>

Geothermal potential mapping of the Sherwood Sandstone in the Humber region

by David Peacock, University of Hull

This Zoom lecture from 21st July is now on the YPS YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eP7RHs_Mm8Y

Notes from the Geology Group

1a) Online material for self-guided geology/

building stones tours:

Grassington Lead Mines Trail

The Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust have produced a series of 18 very informative boards for this trail which starts at Yarnbury, along the dead-end road going north from Grassington. They have not placed this resource online, but describe the area and route.

Lead mining in the dales

Below, choose the Wharfedale Grassington Lead Mine Trail: YDNP Trails in Wharfedale

For a longer route, start from Hebden. The Old School Tea Room at Hebden is strongly recommended.

Lead Mining Trail from Hebden

1b) Events and Talks: Online and in person:

Geologists Association Conference, Tempest

Anderson Hall, 26th-27th September

Saturday Talks and Sunday Field Trips. Attendance for the talks will be free to members of YPS and/or YGS. No need to book, just bring membership card on the day. See page 8 for programme.

Non-members should book through the GA website GA Conference Booking website

YGS

Thursday 17th September 7pm. **Mauled, injured and sick: Sore tales of giant pliosaurs**

Judyth Sassoon, University of Exeter. YGS 17th September webinar booking

Mike Benton. Dinosaur Behaviour. Talk from March on YGS YouTube
YGS YouTube Mike Benton

Alice Paine. Large explosive eruptions are dominated by pyroclastic flow instead of buoyant plumes. This remarkable talk was recorded and is still available on the YGS YouTube site.

YGS YouTube Alice Paine

2) Women and Men in Geology

Rachel Wood FRS

The Chair of Carbonate Geoscience at the University of Edinburgh since 2012, Rachel Wood is a field-based geologist and palaeontologist, with research interests in the Cambrian Radiation of animals, early biomineralisation, mass extinctions, and the evolution of reefs. She is on the Council of the Palaeontological Association.

She has created insights into the coevolution of life and Earth, focussing on ancient reef systems

Rachel Wood wiki

University of Edinburgh. RW research links

She gave a talk to University of Oxford Natural History Museum, The Cambrian Explosion, YouTube:

RW YouTube talk. What Triggered The Cambrian Explosion.

3) Study and Resources:

Two links from Graeme Churchard:

The strength of the Earth's magnetic field in the Ediacaran and the possibility of life

GC blog. The link between life and the Earth's magnetic field

Observing the spread of a mid-ocean ridge - the Southeast Indian Ridge (SEIR)

GC blog. Mid-ocean ridge spreading observed

4) Real Trips outside:

YPS:

Thursday 17th September. **Trip to Scarborough including Scarborough Fair and opportunity to visit the Rotunda Museum**

YPS Trip to Scarborough. 17th September

Wednesday 14th October. **Geology tour of Roundhay Park with Ru Smith**

Flyer attached.

York Rivers Trail. An Ousewem Project.

Ousewem project

5) Our Museum of the Month if visiting Glasgow: Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow.

The geology collections at The Hunterian in Glasgow rank among the finest in Britain, featuring world-class fossil collections, Scottish minerals, and historical rock specimens.

Hunterian Museum

6) Books and Mags:

Down to Earth Extra for August:

Down to Earth August 2026

Sourcebook of Decorative Stone: An Illustrated Identification Guide by Monica Price

Also published as ***Decorative Stone, The Complete Sourcebook***. Monica Price. Invaluable.

Abe books link to book. Other sellers available.

7) Extra

Following up the recent YPS talk from David Peacock on mapping geothermal energy potential in the Humber region, there is a website and annual project update for the geothermal energy project at the University of York Campus.

York University Geothermal project

York University Geothermal Annual Report

Paul Thornley



Geologists' Association Annual Conference. Tempest Anderson Hall, Yorkshire Museum Saturday 26th September 2026

The Geologists' Association Annual Conference will be held in York this year. Saturday will be a day of talks highlighting the diversity of Yorkshire geology. The Yorkshire Geological Society is about to publish a thorough revision of its book of geological expositions and excursions: 'Yorkshire Rocks and Landscapes'. Several contributors to this new edition will be speaking.

There is a fee for the day, but the GA is generously waiving this fee for YPS members, who can simply turn up on the day and enter for free on production of membership cards.

Non-members will need to book through the GA Conference Booking webpage:

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

Time	Title	Speaker
10.15	Registration	
10.30	Welcome, Introductions and Housekeeping	Prof. Deborah Smith (YPS) David Harbourne (YPS)
10.40	Session 1 introduction	Alison Barraclough (President, GA)
10.45	'Yorkshire Rocks and Landscape' - Keynote Lecture	Colin Waters (President, YGS)
11.25	'The Craven Inliers: windows into the lower Palaeozoic'	Peter del Strother
11.55	Q&A Session	
12.00	Comfort Break	
12.10	Session 2 introduction	Laura Burrell-Garcia (BGS/YGS)
12.15	'Minerals of the Yorkshire Pennines – an introduction'	Brian Young (University of Durham)
12.40	'Yorkshire's Jurassic rocks and landscape – what's so special about them?'	Andy Howard
13.10	Q&A Session	
13.20	LUNCH	
14.20	Session 3 introduction	Sarah King (YMT/YPS/YGS)
14.25	'Yorkshire Museums'	Rebecca Bennion (The Folly, Settle) and Jed Atkinson (Leeds Museum and Galleries)
14.55	'Yorkshire Caves and Karst'	Phil Murphy (University of Leeds)
15.25	Comfort Break	
15.30	Session 4 introduction	
15.35	'The Sands of Tide - shifting perspectives on Spurn Point's evolution at the Yorkshire coast'	Dan Normandale (NYCC) and Mark Bateman (University of Sheffield)
16.05	'Deglaciation of the Yorkshire Dales'	Trevor Faulkner (University of Birmingham)
16.35	Q&A Session	

William Smith Tour of Scarborough

Thursday 21st May 2026

Led by Paul Hildreth, Past President of Yorkshire Geological Society

A joint YPS/YGS event in the Yorkshire Geology Month Programme

On a clear day, with improving weather, the group met Paul Hildreth and Professor Peter Rawson at the front entrance to the Rotunda Museum with views of the Spa Footbridge, the sea in South Bay and the dinosaur sculptures hiding in the bushes opposite. Professor Rawson gave an account of the history of the Museum, the first ever purpose-built museum of geology. The design was proposed by William Smith – of 1815 first geological map fame - and built by Richard Hey Sharp for the Scarborough Philosophical Society in 1829. It was built of Hackness Rock (as the Yorkshire Museum) from the Hackness quarries of Sir John Johnstone who employed Smith as land steward. The two original features inside were the sloping shelves that Smith used to display rocks and fossils in their correct stratigraphic positions and the frieze around the balcony, designed by Smith's nephew, John Phillips, which showed the geological strata of the whole Yorkshire coast. Cases replaced the shelves in 1850 and the Museum was extended with wings added in 1860.

By the 1950s it had been handed on to the local government to run and geology was held elsewhere, but In 2008 the Rotunda was ambitiously restored and modernised, and now provides a very fine introduction to the geology and local history of the area. The cases have been reinstalled and incorporate sloping displays with a recreation of Phillips' frieze above.

Paul Hildreth then led us on the tour: Bar Street, where Smith lived for a time, The Old Town Hall, where Smith and Phillips delivered a course of lectures on geology in 1824, Chapman's Yard, the site of an underground reservoir fed by water from Spring Hill – planned by Smith to solve a serious water shortage in the town, Anne Bronte's grave in St Mary's churchyard from 1849 and the Castle Entrance with the Castle Hill Faults with the throws measured by Smith.

Paul handed out copies of the geology map showing how the faults line up with the outcropping rocks on the cliffs. We found the upper part of the Cornbrash and then found it again 50 metres below just as Smith had identified the throw on the fault. The Cornbrash is a thin bed of Middle Jurassic bioclastic limestone, rich in shelly fossils, mainly brachiopods and bivalves.

As we walked along the Marine Drive looking at the cliff face, the boundary between the steep, grassy Middle Jurassic Oxford Clay and the bands of chunky Upper Jurassic Lower Calcareous Grit become easy to spot. It took a little more effort to spot the harbour porpoises playing off the coast. Dorothy Nott then ushered the group across to the new Seawatching Station near the pumping station. The mosaic 'Roman Mosaic c. 2025' by Turner prize-winning artist Jeremy Deller in collaboration with Carolie Turpin is worth looking for when next in the town.

The walk ended at the Toll House. Paul was thanked for leading us round; some of the group took lunch by the harbour and went on to visit the Rotunda Museum and the restored gallery.

Paul Thornley



Photo: Dorothy Nott

Gardens News

We are experiencing another prolonged hot and dry summer period which brings both benefits and challenges. It has been brilliant for roses, yuccas and those plants of a more Mediterranean leaning but has been hard going for many plants and trees. The team has been supporting the more recently planted areas of the Garden with a watering regime and we cross our fingers and hope that the more established planting comes through relatively unscathed.

Mulching will play an increasingly important role in helping to retain moisture in the ground and help keep roots cool and we have had some good news that the Finnis Scott Foundation, who provide grants to support horticulture, plant sciences and fine art, have responded to an application we submitted for funds to increase our mulching ambitions to better protect our trees and borders and have awarded us £5000. This is something we can plan to progress in Autumn / once we have had sufficient rainfall.

I'm really pleased at how quickly the new border extension next to Ciao is settling in. Plants have benefitted from the sunshine (ably assisted by a watering regime to help them establish) and are knitting together. The new planting is blending with the existing border so that it appears to be one area creating a depth of planting from full sun to a deeper shade which enriches the experience when entering the garden from Museum Street of transitioning from the urban to a leafy space.

Tree health and safety is always on my mind and I've noticed an increase in the number of trees that appear to be less than optimal in terms of health. We have a number of mature trees and some near the end of their natural life cycle and any that have issues will be suffering more stress during these longer drier periods. Mulching will help mitigate some of that stress as previously mentioned. You may have noticed that in the past 12 months I have been adopting a different approach to the felling and removal of dead trees. As part of our strategy for managing the decline of trees I am now working with our arboriculturists to retain standing dead wood (i.e. parts of the dead tree's trunk). It provides sculptural interest in the Garden, makes for a slower release of carbon over years, creates important habitat for birds and insects (playing into our wildlife strategy) and allows minerals to return to the soil. It delivers a number of benefits.



Speaking of wildlife, notable sightings this last couple of months include a Lime Tree Hawk Moth caterpillar and an Elephant Hawk Moth that was caught in an overnight moth trapping activity. A male and female blackcap pairing were recorded visiting our Bird Feeding Station for a drink of water and a large Dragonfly was spotted (unidentified but most likely a Southern Hawker which can be seen on Strensall common amongst other places). I would like to think that efforts the Team has made over the last couple of years to create habitat suitable for wildlife is paying dividends. A notable addition to the Garden are the 52 adult Tansy beetles we received from the Tansy Beetle Action Group in late May. We have been expanding our Tansy planting behind the Gardeners shed in the South West area of the Garden. I'm allowing them to settle in and make sure they establish before raising their profile to visitors.

We have hosted a number of successful events in the Garden in recent months including the Future Sound Music & Comedy Festival, Vintage Cars in the Garden (all pre 1910!!), and the Proms. It's great to be a cultural hub for York residents and visitors providing unique experiences and generating much needed income at the same time. We look forward to Ghosts After Dark this coming Autumn and then the arrival of an Ice Rink behind the Art



Gallery from early November. A lot of thought goes into how best to utilise the garden spaces to mitigate wear and tear through the year. With more events in the Garden we are learning as we go and I've mentioned before the focus we are bringing to improving resilience in the lawns in particular, so the garden recovers as quickly as possible post-events.

The Japanese Garden has been well received and it won't be long until the highly successful Making Waves exhibition draws to a close with a mini festival held at the rear of the Art Gallery over Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th August – keep an eye out for relevant information about the activities!

Steve Williams
York Museums Trust

Left: Tansy beetles
All Photos: Steve Williams

News from other groups

The Friends of York Art Gallery

are delighted to announce a lecture:

Wedgwood and Flaxman: A Creative Collaboration
by Sir Tristram Hunt, Director of the V&A

York-born John Flaxman, sculptor and designer (1755-1826), was one of the most celebrated artists of his day and remained the best-known British sculptor for over a century. He worked as a designer and modeller for Josiah Wedgwood, the great potter and Enlightenment figure, who rated him above all his other designers. This lecture explores the creative partnership between the two men.

Thursday 15 October
6.30pm-7.45pm

Tempest Anderson Hall
Yorkshire Museum

Cost: £15

Book online at:
www.friendsofyorkartgallery.co.uk/events/
or contact the organiser, Moira Fulton
mfulton58@gmail.com

This is a fund-raising event for the Friends of York Art Gallery.
Registered Charity 510659



York Archaeology

In 1976, the Coppergate dig began, leading to a 5 year effort in excavating what would become one of the most significant discoveries ever of Viking-Age artefacts. In celebration of this 50th anniversary, York Archaeology is excited to invite members of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society to the **Richard Hall Symposium** as we explore the Coppergate dig, what it taught us and what we have yet to uncover about York's Viking History.

The Symposium will take place on Sunday 18th October throughout the day. A full programme and tickets will be released towards the end of this month wherein members of YPS can receive a 10% discount. Further information will follow when tickets become available.

Topping & Company Booksellers

We are very pleased to see a new bookshop in York, especially so close to The Lodge! Topping & Company has a full programme of talks as well as a selection of reading groups. Details can be found at:

<https://www.toppingbooks.co.uk/events/york/>

Unfortunately their talk by Carlo Rovelli, "superstar poet of Physics", on 22nd September clashes with our own lecture "Movement as medicine: what can physical activity really do for our health?" by Professor Garry Tew. We hope to see you at our own lecture, but perhaps with a copy of Carlo Rovelli's new book *On the Equality of All Things: Physics and Philosophy*.

Membership

By now all members should have received our Annual Report for 2025 as well as 2026 membership cards either by collecting at a lecture, or by post or hand delivery. If you don't have these, please let Frances know.

This is the first newsletter sent out using our new Membermojo database. If you still receive a paper copy of the newsletter, please do consider changing to email delivery. You will receive all the same information ... but more quickly. For the few members who presently get newsletters both by post and email, this will not be possible with the new system, so we would be grateful if you could choose either one method or the other.

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

Tue 8 Sept, 2.30pm—YPS Lecture
Charles Watson (1771-1836), 'Yorkshire's leading architect' Christopher Webster

Tue 15 Sept, 2.30pm – YPS Event
History, Tea & Cake See page 6

Wed 16 Sept—Café Scientifique
The Trouble With Methane John Cossham
Venue: FortyFive Vinyl Café - see page 6

Thur 17 Sept—YPS Visit
Scarborough & Scarborough Fair Collection
Details with May Newsletter & on website

Tue 22 Sept, 7.00pm—YPS Lecture
Movement as medicine: what can physical activity really do for our health? Professor Garry Tew

Sat 26 & Sun 27 Sept—Conference & Field Trips
Geologists' Association Annual Conference
with YPS and YGS See page 8

Wed 30 Sept—YPS Visit
Castle Howard Arboretum
See flyer enclosed

Sat 3 Oct, 10.00 to 12.00 & 2.00 to 4.00
The Lodge open for York Unlocked

Tue 6 Oct, 7.00pm—YPS Lecture
Details to be confirmed

Fri 9 to Mon 12 Oct—YPS Study Tour
Tour to Lake District

Tue 13 Oct, 12 noon - YPS Social Event
Members' Monthly Lunch at York Theatre Royal

Lodge Opening Times

Tuesday & Thursday, 11.30am to 4.30pm

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

The Lodge will be closed for Frances' holiday for 2 weeks beginning 28th September, re-opening on Tuesday 13th October.



Tue 13 Oct, 2.00 to 4.00pm
The Lodge Library open See page 6

Wed 14 Oct—YPS Visit
Carboniferous Geology of Roundhay Park, Leeds
See flyer enclosed

Wed 14 Oct - Café Scientifique
Topic to be confirmed
Venue: FortyFive Vinyl Café - see page 6

Tue 20 Oct, 7.00pm—YPS Lecture
The Buildings Archaeologist – Discovering the Secrets of Britain's Ancient Buildings Dr James Wright, FSA

Tue 10 Nov, 12 noon - YPS Social Event
Members' Monthly Lunch at York Theatre Royal

Tue 10 Nov, 2.00 to 4.00pm
The Lodge Library open See page 6

Wed 11 Nov, 7.00pm—YPS Lecture
Yorkshire's hidden toxic legacy of historical metal mining: lead, floods and health
Professor Emeritus Mark Macklin

Tue 17 Nov - Café Scientifique
Why the World Needs Contemporary Archaeologists
Professor John Schofield
Venue: FortyFive Vinyl Café - see page 6

Tue 24 Nov, 7.00pm—YPS Lecture
The Melsonby hoards: a window on the nature of power in Late Iron Age Yorkshire
Professor Tom Moore

Wed 2 Dec—YPS Social Event
Annual Dinner See flyer enclosed

Tue 8 Dec, 7.00pm—YPS Lecture
Reaction Engines Richard Varvill

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, 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