Founded 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*

I am delighted to announce that Dr Liam Herringshaw has been offered the role of Clerk to the Society. He will take over from Frances Chambers when she retires at the turn of the year.

Liam has been a member of the YPS for many years. Over the last ten years or more, Liam has led guided walks and helped organise events such as 2022's "Lost Beasts of the North" symposium, fieldtrip, and schools' engagement programme, which celebrated 200 years since the discovery of the Kirkdale Cave hyena den.

Liam achieved first class honours in Geology & Physical Geography at the University of Liverpool and later completed a PhD in Palaeo-biology at the University of Birmingham. His varied career includes positions at the University of Aberdeen; Memorial University of Newfoundland; the Centre for Lifelong Learning at the University of York; and the University of Hull, where he was a lecturer in Geology and Physical Geography.



*Liam Herringshaw, our new Clerk*

More recently, Liam has been a freelance educator. Among other things, he is Director of the Yorkshire Fossil Festival and Co-director of York's Hidden History. He is also acting chair of Earth Science Outreach UK, a new charity working with under-served communities.

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**With this Newsletter**

- Programme for Winter 2026-7
- Subscription request for 2027
- Visit to Bradford, 4 November 2026
- Tour to Northumbria, 6 to 9 June 2027

*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.

Between now and the end of the year, Frances Chambers will continue to work tirelessly on membership renewals and very many other tasks including the annual dinner on 2 December. Liam knows she will be a hard act to follow!

Just a gentle reminder that we are inviting contributions to Frances' leaving gift. You can make payments to a bank account which is currently being used solely for this purpose. The details are as follows: account name, D W Harbourne; account number 15198518; sort code 40-47-31. We can also accept contributions at our lectures or you can send a cheque to me at the Lodge.

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Enclosed with this newsletter is a notice about renewing your YPS subscription.

We have introduced a new membership system called Membermojo. This is now our preferred way of receiving subscriptions because it updates our membership list automatically.

If we have your email address, you will receive a message from our Membermojo account on or around 1 November, inviting you to renew your subscription. The process is deliberately as simple as we can make it: you select your membership category and provide your payment card details.

If you encounter any unexpected problems with Membermojo, please feel free to contact us for help. Alternatively, we'll gladly accept your subs by other means including cash, cheque or card payment. All the details are in the enclosed notice.

We were able to keep subscriptions level last year, but inflation affects everything we do and everything we buy. We've therefore increased subscription rates for the first time in two years, but not (I hope!) by too much. We will very much look forward to your company throughout 2027.

*David Harbourne*
*Chair*

## York Museums Trust News

The Yorkshire Museum's Melsonby Hoard exhibition, *Chariots, Treasure and Power*, has been named winner of the Exhibition, Display or Interpretation Project category in the Society for Museum Archaeology Awards for Excellence.

The judges praised the Yorkshire Museum team's ambition in bringing the extraordinary Melsonby Hoard to public display so soon after its discovery, allowing visitors the rare opportunity to see the objects in their pre-conservation state while research into the finds continues. They also highlighted the exhibition's exploration of the wider archaeological process, from metal detecting and excavation to conservation, display and ongoing research and the importance of building public understanding and support for archaeology.

Senior Curator at the Yorkshire Museum, Glynn Davis, commented, "This award means a great deal to all of us here at York Museums Trust. The team are incredibly proud of this award, and we are grateful to the Society for recognising the importance of our partnership work, involving archaeologists and academics to the residents of Melsonby themselves. We decided to display the Melsonby Hoard in its pre-conserved state to show the journey of this incredible find from discovery, through the acquisition and research phases that is not commonly seen in museum spaces. "The scale of the hoard was totally unprecedented, the type of objects and the way they were buried is like nothing we have seen before. The exhibition currently only presents around 20% of the 900 objects found, partially because some of these objects were too large and others were not stable enough to go on display. This is why the next phases of fundraising and conservation are so important for helping to stabilise the objects and display them safely."

The recognition comes as YMT prepares to host the Society for Museum Archaeology and Portable Antiquities Scheme annual conference in 2027, marking 30 years of the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

***Chariots, Treasure & Power* is currently on display at the Yorkshire Museum until summer 2027.**

If you would like to support further work on the Melsonby Hoard, donations are invited here:
https://www.yorkshiremuseum.org.uk/exhibition/chariots-treasure-and-power-secrets-of-the-melsonby-hoard/

## News from the Activities Group

The days are getting shorter now and we have had some very mixed weather. The much needed rain has failed to appear in any meaningful quantity at the time of writing and it still feels quite warm, but who knows what the next few months have in store for us. I hope the low reservoirs fill before next summer!

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 friends, in the relaxed and informal atmosphere of the theatre upstairs foyer.

On Thursday 17th September, we had a day outing by coach to Scarborough. It was a lovely sunny day for a visit to the seaside. Mick, our driver, took the coach right round the bays on the coast road so we had a marvellous sea view to start our visit. Then most of us visited the Rotunda Museum where we enjoyed the diverse and eclectic collections of fossils and various artefacts in the fantastic building, one of the world's first purpose-built museums, to a design suggested by William Smith, and opened in 1829. After free time in Scarborough, (during which time some of us enjoyed fish and chips and ice cream) we met the coach and travelled to the Scarborough Fair Collection and Vintage Transport Museum. Here we saw a huge collection of beautifully restored and preserved vintage vehicles, fairground rides, mechanical organs and steam engines. Our entry fee included a ride on the carousel. This was very much enjoyed by a brave few of us with legs long enough to mount the horses! We also enjoyed the vintage Cake Walk, Dodgem cars and Ghost Train. In the café we could hear the old Wurlitzer organ being played and watch people dancing.

On 26th and 27th September, the Geologists' Association Conference was held in York. On Saturday 26th, there were talks throughout the day held at the Tempest Anderson Hall. The Geologists' Association waived the fee for members of the YPS and the Yorkshire Geological Society, so some of us attended some or all of the Saturday talks. On Sunday 27th there were various Field Visits in York and Scarborough. Again, YPS members were invited to join these and found them interesting and informative.

The planned outing on Wednesday 30th September to the Yorkshire Arboretum at Castle Howard unfortunately had to be cancelled. This was due to low numbers of interested participants and the fixed (rather high) cost of the talk, so visit finances became unviable. The autumn foliage colours have not progressed as quickly as we anticipated, so at the time of writing in early October, the colours are not yet at their full glory. We may consider trying to arrange another visit next year.

On Saturday 3rd October, we opened the Lodge up to the public, as part of "York Unlocked". Downstairs we gave brief talks about the history of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society and the buildings in the Museum Gardens. Upstairs, there



*Photo: Mary Brewster*




*Photo: Pamela Davies*

were geological specimens on display and available for handling and discussion. In the other upstairs room was a display of history and research projects carried out by members of our history research group. The opening did prove very popular, with nearly 200 people visiting us, some of whom expressed interest in joining the YPS. We welcome any new members who have joined recently, especially as a result of the Lodge visit, and many thanks to all YPS members who helped with this event.

Two events will have occurred between the time I write this and the publication of the newsletter. One is the study tour 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. The other, on 14th October, is an approximately 3 mile walk round Roundhay Park in Leeds, led by Ru Smith who is Vice President of the Yorkshire Geological Association, looking at geological features.

### Other 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.

We decided to postpone our visit by public transport to Hull Maritime Museum until next spring, so look out in the next newsletter and on the website for details of that.

Instead, this autumn, on 4th November, we have a visit to Bradford to include the National Science and Media Museum in the morning and the Society of Dyers and Colourists in the afternoon. We will travel together by train to Bradford Interchange Station. Details of this and how to book are on the website and included with this newsletter.

Our annual dinner is on Wednesday 2nd December at the Novotel in central York. We chose this venue again because of its convenient central location with parking and good food and service. This year, Professor Karen Bryan OBE from York St John University (a Speech and Communications expert) has agreed to address us after our meal. There is still time to book for this event, so I hope to meet you there.

*Rosemary Anderton*

## YPS Members' monthly lunch

Our monthly get-togethers at York Theatre Royal will continue in 2027, on the second Tuesday of each month. There is no need to book; just come along from 12pm onwards, order your food and drink at the Café explaining you are part of the YPS Group, and then join us on the first floor in the Circle Bar, reserved for us.

Please keep an eye on the website for confirmation of dates.

## Annual Dinner

There are still places available for our Annual Dinner on Wednesday 2nd December, and we do hope you will want to join us for what is always a friendly and enjoyable event. Further information and the menu are available at lectures, from the Lodge or on our website. The deadline for bookings is 30th October, so please don't delay. Late bookings make extra work for the organizers.

https://www.ypsyork.org/events/annual-dinner-2026/

## Trailblazers Project

### Local History Group

The group was happy to be able to provide some of the results of their work for display on York Unlocked open day. Members continue to research their individual projects, including family, house and local history, and to meet up informally to share tips and findings over tea and cake. The next meeting is on

**Tuesday 3rd November at 2.30 pm in The Lodge**

All are welcome but please let us know at info@ypsyork.org so that we can provide enough cake.

## Lecture News

### The Varvill family: 19th century entrepreneurs

On 2 December, Richard Varvill will deliver a YPS lecture in the Tempest Anderson Hall about his work on cutting-edge engines which – had they gone into production – would have ushered in a new era of hypersonic travel.

It just so happens that Richard's ancestors were pillars of the York economy throughout the 19th century. David Harbourne researched the Varvill family for a book published by Clements Hall History Group, *Micklegate: the Great Street of York*.

Michael Varvill started a plane-making business in York in the late 18th century. His sons subsequently expanded the business in three directions. Summers Varvill built a factory, the Ebor Works, where he made a wide range of wood-working tools. Michael junior became a plumber, glazier and gas fitter: his firm installed gas lighting in York Theatre Royal among many other places. Robert Varvill expanded the retail and wholesale side of the business, building a five-storey emporium which towered over Ouse Bridge. He also took over the tool-making business after Summers' death, moving production to a new factory in North Street.

Robert's sons took charge after his retirement but did not enjoy the same success and in 1900 the firm passed into the hands of receivers.

On **Tuesday 17th November, 7.30pm**, David will tell the Varvill family's story in a Zoom lecture. A link will be sent to all those on our emailing list a couple of days beforehand.



## Café Scientifique News

### Why the World Needs Contemporary Archaeologists

**Professor John Schofield**

Wednesday 25 November 2026, 7.00 for 7:30 pm

John Schofield is Professor in Archaeology at the University of York, where he researches archaeologies of the contemporary world and heritage studies. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and a Corresponding Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

In this talk, John will draw on nearly 40 years of experience to both define what is meant by contemporary archaeology, and to discuss some of the ways in which contemporary archaeologists can use their methods and insights to help resolve some of the problems that are threatening planetary health and security.

This event is at our new venue, FortyFive Vinyl Café at 29 Micklegate, York YO1 6JH which we are trialling over the autumn courtesy of co-owner Ian Reid. Hot drinks and alcoholic/non-alcoholic refreshments will be available from Vinyl Café's bar.

Doors open at 7.00pm for a start at 7.30pm. Admission is FREE but tickets are required via this link:

https://www.ticketsource.com/yorkshire-philosophical-society

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## News from PLACE

Our friends at PLACE have announced details of their autumn conference:

**Yorkshire Moorlands, a Sense of Place**
**Saturday 7 Nov 2026, 10.30 – 3.45**
**Location: Bedern Hall, York**

This major conference includes five speakers, who will give illustrated presentations on different aspects of moorlands. The conference fee of £20.00 (£10.00 for students) includes tea/coffee on arrival and a buffet lunch. For more details and booking instructions please see:

https://place.uk.com/news/place-conference-yorkshire-moorlands-a-sense-of-place/

## Notes from the Geology Group

**1 a) Online material for self-guided geology/building stones tours. Boroughbridge and Aldborough**

Go to see the Devil's Arrows near Boroughbridge, examine the Triassic sandstone in the garden walls around the town. Visit St Andrew's Church and the Battle Cross at Aldborough. If you time it right in October, you can tour Aldborough Roman Town

Stone Circles on the Devil's Arrows

Look at the Official List Entry and explore the links on the Comments and Photos sections on HE site

Historic England on Devil's Arrows

English Heritage Aldborough Roman Town

Historic England on St Andrew's Church

Britain Express images of St Andrew's Church

The Battle Cross Aldborough

But for recent geological and archaeological discoveries: See next link and Section 3

BBC News on Devil's Arrows origin

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

**YPS in the Yorkshire Museum**

Wednesday 11th November **Yorkshire's hidden toxic legacy of historical metal mining. Mark Macklin**

YPS event 11th November

**Yorkshire Geological Society**

Saturday 24th October. **Palaeoecology**. **Fossils and Palaeoenvironments. Meeting 1.30 to 4.30pm Sheffield Hallam University**

YGS Sheffield Meeting 24th October

Wednesday 4th November 7pm. Webinar. **Mauled, injured and sick: Sore tales of giant pliosaurs Judyth Sassoon, University of Exeter**. YGS Webinar 4th November

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

Mike Benton YGS talk

**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.

Alice Paine YGS talk

**2 Women and Men in Geology. Mary Theresa Talbot**

The standard account of the Red Lady of Paviland, is that it was discovered in 1823 and transported to Oxford. The role of Mary Theresa Talbot in saving and preserving the bones seems to have been overlooked in the male society of enthusiasts at the time. Mary Talbot was the niece of William Fox Talbot of photographic fame. (Of course, we now know the Red Lady was male).

See wiki: Wiki on the Red Lady

Article referencing Mary Talbot

Alice Roberts includes this discussion in a video talk she gave to the Royal Society in 2021.

Alice Roberts talk to the Royal Society

**3 Study and Resources: The Devil's Arrows at Boroughbridge and Brimham Rocks**

University of York, Archaeology Department:

York University article on Devil's Arrows discovery

Royal Society paper: Click on pdf to open the article.

Royal Society Paper on Devil's Arrows discovery

**4 Real Trips outside:**

YPS:

Wednesday 4th November: **Visit to Bradford including "Colour Experience" and "National Science and Media Museum".** Information and booking form at:

YPS trip to Bradford 4th November

**5 Our Museum of the Month: Jed Atkinson and Becky Bennion referenced several Yorkshire Museums at the GA Conference on 26th September. One special one is the Cliffe Castle Museum at Keighley, part of Bradford Museum.**

The story of Carboniferous period, coal and resources. A remarkable international collection of minerals. The evolution of insect life upon the Earth.

Cliffe Castle Bradford Museums

6 **Books and Mags:**

**Down to Earth Extra for October:**

Down to Earth Extra October 2026

**Geology: An Illustrated History. David Bainbridge. Princeton University Press.**

The book focusses on the development of geological thought throughout history.

It has been highly recommended.

Princeton University Press. Bainbridge Geology

Reviews

Review of Geology by 'travels with birds'

Review of Geology by Earth Science website

**7 Extras: Feathered Dinosaur**

An exquisitely preserved fossil found in China shows that many anatomical features seen in birds also evolved independently in another group of dinosaurs
New Scientist abstract
Latest Digest report of feathered dinosaur

*Paul Thornley*

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## A Date for your Diary

### Visit to Bishop Auckland including Palace, Grounds, Faith Museum and Spanish Art Gallery on Thursday, 8 July 2027

Leaving York by coach from Memorial Gardens, we will travel to Bishop Auckland where we will be met by a member of the team and escorted a short distance to the Palace for a guided tour. It is anticipated that the Zurbaran paintings will have returned for display in the dining room (expected Summer 2027). There will then be opportunity for lunch in the Bishop's Kitchen before visiting the Faith Museum (free flow) followed by a visit to the Spanish Gallery (also free flow). We will leave Bishop Auckland for our return to York shortly after 4 pm with an expected arrival time of just before 6 pm.

There is much to see in Bishop Auckland which has recently been the subject of a major cultural transformation driven by The Auckland Project thanks largely to the generosity of Jonathan Ruffer. The Palace boasts the magnificent 900 year old former home of the powerful Prince Bishops of Durham alongside an ancient 150 acre deer park and re-imagined walled garden.

The Faith Museum is Britain's first museum dedicated to exploring how faith, belief and religion have shaped lives and communities across the UK over 6000 years. Opened in 2023, it is housed in a mixture of the historic Grade 1 listed Scottish Wing of Auckland Palace and a modern purpose built extension.

The nearby Spanish Gallery continues the theme originating in the Palace and is the first museum in the UK to be devoted to Spanish art exhibiting works by, among others, Murillo, El Greco and Zurbaran.

Cost, to include travel, entry fees and tour, £53

## The Lake District: an enjoyable tour

29 participants left by coach on Friday 9th October 2026, travelling to the Tullie museum, Carlisle, where lunch was provided. A guided tour of the new extensive Roman exhibition followed, which showed the importance of Carlisle during Roman times. We then proceeded to the village of Wreay with a visit to the chapel of rest containing the Sarah Losh Heritage Centre followed by a visit to St Mary's church, conceived and constructed by Sarah Losh, romantic heroine, architect and visionary. Raymond Whittaker, a local expert and one of the '12 men of Wreay' gave an informative talk at both venues. From here we went to the Riverside Hotel in central Kendal which was to be our base for 3 nights.

On Saturday we travelled to Coniston Pier where the plan was to take the National Trust steam yacht to Brantwood, home of John Ruskin. However, because of the heavy rain of the previous few days the level of the lake was rising rapidly and although we could get to the jetty at Brantwood the skipper of the Coniston launch that was to bring us back, was very doubtful about being able to land later in the day. As the roads to Brantwood are unsuitable for a coach it was decided it would be imprudent to risk being stranded on the wrong side of the lake. A decision was made to take a cruise round Coniston water on the steam yacht instead, followed by lunch at the Bluebird Café at Coniston Pier. From here we drove the short distance to the Ruskin museum in Coniston which had extensive information about John Ruskin and a very comprehensive exhibition about Donald Campbell and his speed record attempts including the 1967 attempt in Bluebird on Coniston water which cost him his life. Bluebird has been recovered and restored and is on display. From here we returned to Kendal.

On Sunday we travelled to Penrith and visited Dalemain House where we were given guided tours and the opportunity to explore the celebrated gardens. We then travelled to Lake Windermere and visited the Windermere Jetty museum which had a fine collection of historic boats and lake trips on historic craft for those so inclined. We then returned to Kendal.

On Monday we drove to Blackwell, an arts and craft property built as a holiday property for Sir Edward Holt, a Manchester brewery owner, by architect Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott. A guided tour was given by volunteers though unfortunately views of Lake Windermere were obscured by low cloud. From here we returned to York stopping for lunch at Tebay services.
A rewarding and enjoyable weekend for all.

*Jon & Anne Coulson*

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## Gardens News

I'm delighted to report that we have won Platinum and Best in Category Awards (joint best this time - with Cannon Hall and Museum Park & Gardens in Barnsley) as part of the RHS backed Yorkshire In Bloom. We are very pleased as it is the 3rd consecutive year that we have received these awards, and it is testament to the Team's hard work and the value that the Senior Team led by the irrepressible Kathryn Blacker places on our special green space in the heart of the city.

Following the great success of the Art Gallery's Making Waves exhibition we have now deconstructed the Japanese Garden that we created at the rear of the Gallery in association with the exhibition, to make way for the Ice Rink due to be installed in November to provide visitors with a unique winter experience.

The wildflower meadow needs work to reduce some of the more dominant plants to create space / allow more diversity of planting. We have already begun to revitalise the meadow and we will see a broader colour palette next year beginning in May and running through to late August. We are very pleased with the focal point created by the two Val Barry sculptures within the meadow and intend to keep them in place for 2027.

Recently, thanks to both the people at Fairfax House and to our own Estates Team, the Museum Gardens has seen the return of a little piece of its own history. When the Yorkshire Philosophical Society formed and in the subsequent decades created the York Museum Gardens in the first half of the 19th century, they created a space that whilst recognisable today, still had many features that differ from how we see the space now. Many buildings have come and gone, much of the planting changed, the



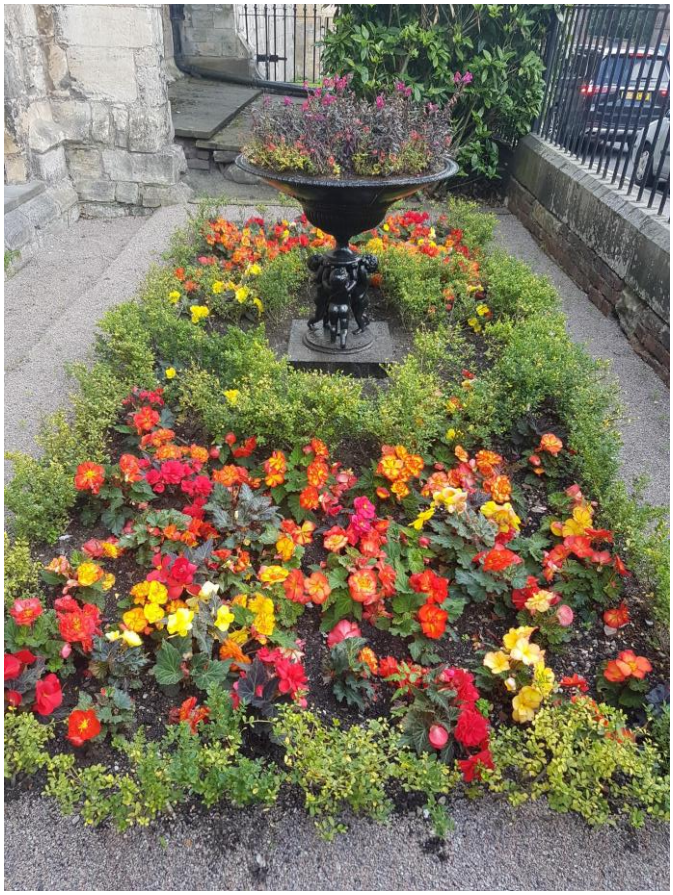
*Working in the Wildflower Meadow in September*
*Photo: Steve Williams*

peacocks have left, but one of the fountains that once stood in the grounds has now come back. Although it no longer functions, York's first public drinking fountain stands towards the gates on Museum Street, and on our website, there can be seen photographs of an ornamental fountain that stood behind the Hospitium in an area now covered by a flood bank. This fountain is neither of those, but a third one that stood on the lawn to the right of the Multangular Tower.

There is surprisingly little information about this third fountain, but it does appear in some of the earliest photographs of the Museum Gardens taken in 1857 and had likely been there for a number of years even then. The writing embossed on its base states that it was presented to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society by J.Bradwell, and it once featured a second smaller bowl with a spout at the top, and a column like pedestal below the feet of the infants. The whole structure stood within a circular pool that was dug into the lawn, capturing the water that splashed down from the bowls above. It remained this way for a century, appearing in the background of many

subsequent drawings and photographs of the Multangular Tower, but seemingly never being the subject of the pictures itself. Being somewhat overlooked, and with all the challenges faced by the YPS, the fountain found itself at risk of being lost by the 1960s. With the Museum Gardens set to become a more open public space, the cost of retaining an ornamental fountain meant that its time on the site came to an end. Whilst the aforementioned pieces were lost, much of the fountain was rescued and taken to Fairfax House on Castlegate, where it had been tucked away at the rear of the building as a curious ornament, and repurposed as a planter.

With Fairfax House set to make some changes of their own, the fountain turned planter needed to move again, and where better than back home to the York Museum Gardens? It came back in several pieces and had become rather weathered over time. Given its fragile state and the many missing pieces, it was apparent that it would never be able to be used as a fountain again and would need to be placed in a spot where it would not easily be disturbed. This being the case, the Garden Team decided on placing it in the Knott Garden by the Marygate pedestrian entrance. Here it would be seen clearly by the public as they pass by, protected and complimented by the iron railings which surround that spot, and being given a wonderful backdrop by both the planting there and by the historic St Mary's Lodge. Removing the worst of the weathering and reassembling some of the damaged parts took quite some time, and it was a team effort to lift the substantial iron sections into place for final assembly, but the idea became reality. Gradually, the new paint was applied, and the plants were acquired, so that much like it was at Fairfax House the fountain could live on as a planter. Now it is here to stay, perhaps looking the best it has since it first came to the Gardens the better part of two centuries ago. So, if you haven't had the chance to take a look, then head to St Mary's Lodge and peek through the railings outside to see what the fuss is about. Then once you have done that, go back and look again later, and see the planting change with the seasons. The flowers that fill the space make repeat visits worthwhile.



*Restored fountain in the Knot Garden*
*Photo: Steve Williams*

*Steve Williams*

## YPS and the Conservation Areas Advisory Panel

Conservation Areas Advisory Panels (CAAP) were originally established by Government guidance in 1968 to provide the local council with advice on planning applications which could affect the character of a conservation area. Their role is strictly advisory and not a statutory function.

YPS is represented on York's CAAP. Established in 1969, this is one of the few surviving examples. It comprises 10-15 people, all with a professional interest in different aspects of historic buildings and their conservation. It meets monthly, and submits its comments to the Council's Planning Portal. Its opinions appear to be well-valued by the Council's Conservation Team.

I have represented YPS on the CAAP for the last 5 years, and have seen many interesting planning applications – some very good, and rather too many not so good. We have been consulted on the proposals for York Central, York Railway

Station, the Minster Precinct, and the re-use of major mental health institutions (Bootham Hospital, The Retreat). In recent times, many of the proposals have involved student housing and the use of upper floors in historic buildings for holiday accommodation. We also provide comments on smaller schemes.

York has 35 designated Conservation Areas, including the largest one which covers most of the historic core, together with smaller ones in the suburbs and surrounding villages. There are over 1,500 Listed Buildings on the national register, including 65 at Grade I. Looking after this heritage properly can make a major contribution to the maintaining the culture and attraction of the City to residents and visitors alike.

If anyone wants to know more, or has comments on the conservation aspects of a planning proposal, please get in touch.

*John Stevens*

## *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 3 Nov**, 2.30pm
**Local History Workshop** *See page 4*

**Wed 4 Nov** - YPS Visit
**Bradford** *See flyer enclosed*

**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**

**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**, 7.30pm—YPS Zoom Lecture
**The Varvill family: 19th century entrepreneurs**
David Harbourne *See page 5*

**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 25 Nov** - Café Scientifique
**Why the World Needs Contemporary Archaeologists**
Professor John Schofield
*Venue: FortyFive Vinyl Café - see page 5*

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

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

**6 to 9 June 2027**
**Tour to Northumbria**

**Thur 8 Jul 2027** – YPS Visit
**Bishop Auckland** *Full details next year*

***Please keep an eye on the website for details of our 2027 lecture programme, presently being put together by our new Lecture Committee.***

### 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 close for Christmas on Tuesday 22nd December. Details of our 2027 opening times will be published on our website.

**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