



Yorkshire Philosophical Society, The Lodge, Museum Gardens, York, YO1 7DR

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NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2010, and thank you to all of you who have paid your subscription promptly. It is much appreciated and your membership card(s) should be enclosed with this Newsletter. If it is missing, please contact Frances at The Lodge. To those who have not yet renewed, we do hope the list of activities below will encourage you to continue your membership for another year and look forward to hearing from you soon. If on the other hand you have decided not to re-join, we would be very grateful if you could let us know so that we do not trouble you with further reminders.

In addition to your membership card (or subscription reminder letter), your envelope should contain the following inserts. Please contact Frances at The Lodge if any are missing.

- ü Repeat Visit to Physics Department, University of York, Wednesday 10th March
- ü Visit to Howsham Mill, Wednesday 14th April
- ü Visit to Sledmere, Sunday 23rd May
- ü Tour of Houses and Gardens in Cheshire, Friday 4th to Monday 7th June
- ü "With abundance and variety" - details of a new book from the Yorkshire Gardens Trust

Events Note: We will be arranging a repeat visit to York Mosque but this is now likely to be in summer and not in March, as previously advised to some members. Details will follow in the next newsletter.

Lecture News

After much thought and discussion at YPS Council meetings it has been decided to revert to holding our lectures on Tuesday evenings for the 2010-11 season. The questionnaire sent out with our last Newsletter was inconclusive, with equal numbers of members favouring Monday and Tuesday while 50% of respondents had no preference at all.

We know that for some of you this change will be inconvenient, and we will be reviewing the situation again in 2011, so please do make your views known over the next few months.

Clerk's Holidays

Please note that The Lodge will be closed on the following dates when Frances will be on holiday.

- Friday 26th February
- Wednesday 3rd to Monday 8th March
- Wednesday 17th to Friday 19th March
- Monday 12th to Friday 16th April

YPS 2022

It might look an old car registration plate – or a product code or – but get used to it, because, if the YPS Council ideas are pursued, then YPS 2022 will become a mantra that you will see and hear with great frequency over the coming few years.

Of course, those of you who are long-standing members of YPS will immediately recognize the significance. **In 2022 the Yorkshire Philosophical Society will be 200 years old.**

... and although it is still a good way off, we would like to use this pending great anniversary as the catalyst for a significant project to celebrate our double centenary.

We would like your ideas as to what such a project might be.

At the last YPS Council meeting several ideas were mooted including the sponsoring of an ornament or monument in the Gardens – or even a 'garden' within the Museum Gardens.

We would like to hear YOUR ideas – however unusual – as to what sort of a project might excite you. There was a feeling in Council that such a project should not just be one of 'funding', but should enable members to participate in something which could be useful to the Museum Gardens or to the City ... and of course it should be something that we could at least make a start on soon.

So be active, take 10 minutes out, jot down some ideas, however far-fetched and e-mail them through to me at the YPS office at info@yorksphilsoc.org.uk (careful with the spelling!) or phone Stephen Lusty at 01904 630275

The Fern Garden

As you know YPS contributed towards the establishment of the new and fascinating Fern Garden in Museum Gardens, close to the side entrance to the multi-angular tower.

Sjaak Kastelijn, the Head Gardener, and his team are now in the process of expanding it further to incorporate a circular walk around it.

You may be interested to look at the plaque which will have the following wording on it:

Fern Garden

This is a collection of over 50 native and non-native ferns. Ferns are an ancient plant type with fossil records of more than 400 million years ago. There are over 12000 different species of fern worldwide found in habitats from sea cliff and woodland to semi-desert and rain forest. In medieval times ferns were surrounded with mysticism, fear and superstition. It was believed they could help you become invisible, cast the iron shoes from horses and kill tapeworms. The absence of flowers, and seed to reproduce has puzzled people for many centuries. It was not until late eighteenth century before the mystery was solved that ferns use the complicated process of spores to reproduce.

This fern garden was created with the generous support of The Yorkshire Philosophical Society.

Library Volunteers Wanted

We still have a need for volunteers in two areas, based at the Yorkshire Museum.

1. Library Cataloguers

Are you interested in cataloguing the historic YPS collection of 10,000 books and other material? We have urgent need of cataloguers (preferably experienced) to join the existing volunteer team.

2. Book Preservation

Many of the above books require preservation. We will be receiving preliminary training from NADFAS on Thursday 25 March. Would you like to join this team?

If interested, please contact Janice Leadbeater at jmleadbeater@gmail.com or Rod Leonard at leonardrom@ocens.net.

YPS Schools' Initiative - Help Wanted

The YPS wants to introduce an "after-school" science programme for York schools, focussing on early secondary and possibly late primary levels. We are having difficulty in identifying and contacting a motivated science teacher in each school. Do you have strong links with one or more local schools that you could share with us?

Please contact Rod Leonard at leonardrom@ocens.net or Stephen Lusty at stephenlusty@btinternet.com.

... and easy ways to help the YPS!

Just a reminder that it's possible to help the YPS with very little effort in two ways:

If you buy from **Amazon**, please use the link on the home page of the YPS website (www.yorksphilsoc.org.uk). For each purchase made in this way, up to 10% of the purchase price is paid to the Society.

If you ever use a search engine, please consider **everyclick.com**, which donates half of its revenue to charity. You can nominate the YPS to receive funds raised through your own searches. Simply go to <http://www.everyclick.com/uk/the-yorkshire-philosophical-society/215561/0> and make the page one of your favourites. Thanks to members who already use **everyclick** we receive a small but regular income from this source. Let's try to increase it in 2010!

News from other Societies

"With abundance and variety" - Special Offer for Members!

You should have received in your envelope a flyer for this attractive new book published by the Yorkshire Gardens Trust, which will be launched at our joint lecture with the YGT on March 1st. On this occasion only the book will be on sale to members at the special price of £15 (otherwise £18.25), so do come along and take advantage of this special offer.

PLACE Spring Conference

"Fables ... When reason borrowed fancy's painted wings": Exploring Yorkshire's Folk Heroes and Legends on Saturday 27th March 2010, 10 am to 5 pm, at King James' School, Knaresborough

Speakers at the conference will include: Professor Jim Sharpe on *Dick Turpin*, Professor Barrie Dobson on *Robin Hood*, Dr Peter Addyman on *Yorkshire secret passage legends*, David Hunt on *Knaresborough worthies: Mother Shipton and Blind Jack*, Dr Peter Hogarth on *Yorkshire dragon legends*, and Dr James Gregory on *Legends and folk heroes: a 21st century perspective*. There will also be a short walking tour, led by David Hunt, to see the Knaresborough Castle tunnel and pay respects to Blind Jack of Knaresborough.

The cost will be £15 (£10 for retired/unwaged) which includes coffee and tea but not lunch. For further information or to book, please contact PLACE on 01904 766291; place@yorks.ac.uk; www.place.uk.com

Public lectures at St Peter's School

Members may be interested in the following public lectures to be held at St Peter's School during National Science & Engineering Week:

- *A Passion for Penguins* by Professor Peter Barham of Bristol University, 7 pm on Saturday 13th March
- *The search for Dark Matter at Boulby Mine* by Dr Sean Paling of Sheffield University, 7 pm on Wednesday 17th March

Admission is free but tickets must be obtained in advance from Charlotte Cranfield at St Peter's School: c.cranfield@st-peters.york.sch.uk; tel: 01904 527300. Full details of the lectures can be found at the following web link:

http://www.st-peters.york.sch.uk/stpeters_info.asp?pid=4&sid=320&ssid=478

Walks & Rides

Hilary Arnold tells us of a series of walks and easy cycle rides that are currently being publicised at the York Tourist Information Office on Exhibition Square, where leaflets are available. They are all free and the details given on the leaflets are particularly clear.



Members enjoying the Winter Social at St Andrew's Church Hall last December, and Dr Peter Addyman on the occasion of his President's Evening at the Churchill Hotel in January. We look forward to many more such pleasant events this year. (Photographs: thanks to Tony Stanfield)