



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

Tel/Fax: 01904 656713 Email: info@yorksphilsoc.org.uk www.yorksphilsoc.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 529709 An affiliated society of the British Science Association

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2009

Welcome to our November Newsletter, which comes to you just as the Society embarks on the temporary move of its lecture venue to the Hospitium instead of the Tempest Anderson Hall. We welcome your comments and suggestions about this temporary move, and are more formally seeking your views on our change from Tuesday to Monday evenings for lectures (see the enclosed questionnaire). Of course this is the time of year when you have the chance to express your overall approval of the Society's activities by (we hope) renewing your membership.

Your envelope should contain the following inserts. Please contact Frances at The Lodge if any are missing.

- ✓ Visit to Physics Department, University of York, 13th January 2010
- ✓ Behind the Scenes at York Glaziers' Trust, 14th January & 18th February 2010
- ✓ President's Evening, 20th January 2010
- ✓ Visit to York Mosque, 4th February 2010
- ✓ Visit to York Brewery, 4th March 2010
- ✓ Questionnaire about lecture evenings
- ✓ Membership renewal invitation
- ✓ York Bibliographical Society Programme (reciprocal mailing)

E-Newsletter

Members who returned the form requesting Newsletters by email may be surprised to receive this version. The return of responses to the questionnaire sent out in the last mailing has been slow with relatively few replies received so far, though they are still coming in. It has been decided to wait until a greater proportion of members request the email version of the Newsletter before we change to a dual system. If you are interested in receiving Newsletters and/or other information by email but have not yet returned your form, we would be grateful if you would do so. Please ask Frances if you have mislaid it.

A note to new members – please could you also return the questionnaire included in your welcome pack, even if you ticked the box on your membership application to say you are willing to accept communication by email. The questionnaire gives us your specific permission to send you information which goes to other members by mail, whereas the tick box on the application form covers individual correspondence.

Subscription Renewals

Membership subscriptions are due for renewal on 1st January and the enclosed letter either gives details of the amount due or confirms your payment by Standing Order. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact Frances at The Lodge.

We would be very grateful if renewals by cheque could be made promptly so that we can save postage by sending out your Membership Card with our January/February mailing ... and Frances would be particularly appreciative if you could manage to deal with your subscription before the Christmas holiday, as January is one of her busiest months. Thank you in anticipation.

Lecture News

Change to published programme

In a change of plan for our last meeting of 2009, the Members' Evening on 14th December will be replaced by a lecture by our Chairman, Jim Matthew:

Einstein: Superscientist? Superman?

Albert Einstein was a genius by any measure of that term but that doesn't mean he was a perfect scientist or a perfect human being. After a momentous career between 1905 and the 1920s he became the best known scientist in the world but this coincided with him being out of fashion with the mainstream of research in physics. In addition his political intrusions into the League of Nations and Zionist promotion of a state of Israel were not always consistent and helpful. Jim Matthew will paint a sympathetic but realistic picture of an extraordinary man and pose the question "Will there ever be another scientist like Einstein?"

The Michael Clegg Memorial Lecture, 18th January 2010

When our Programme Card went to press details of our joint lecture with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust had not yet been finalised. We are pleased to announce them here.

Last Chance To Sea? - 'The future of life in our oceans'

by Kat Sanders, Marine Awareness & Research Officer at the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

The lecture will aim to include:

- Current threats facing the global marine environment
- Examples of different species from different areas eg sedentary coral reefs in Caribbean & pelagic blue fin tuna in Indian Ocean
- Examples of current research & project work to study the effects of these threats.
- The Wildlife Trust's vision for the future of the UK marine environment – '*Living Seas*'
- The Marine Bill – how will it help us deliver sustainable management for UK seas and designate Marine Protected Areas for recovery and protection of our habitats and species?

An Appeal for Wine

If anyone could spare a bottle of wine, our store cupboard for the post-lecture refreshments is looking a little bare at present. Thank you in anticipation.

Events

Winter Social

There are still a few places left for our Winter Social on Tuesday 8th December at St Andrew's Church Hall, Bishopthorpe. If you would like to join us in getting the festive season off to a good start, please contact Margaret Scotter on 01904 672886 or Frances at The Lodge.

A Date for your diary

We are planning a visit to Howsham Mill on Wednesday 14th April. This Gothick water mill, attributed to John Carr, is being restored by a group of enthusiasts who have converted the water wheel to generate electricity for the national grid and use the revenue from this to fund further restoration work. Please keep the date free - a booking form will follow in the New Year Newsletter.

YPS Volunteers Wanted

We have two activities that need keen and active volunteers, probably starting in the New Year. However, we need to plan in advance - so please make contact as soon as you can.

1. The YPS Library Group, working in the Yorkshire Museum, is about to start a major conservation/preservation programme on the 10,000 old books we are currently cataloguing. We are looking for a regular commitment of one day per week, with an optional long break over the summer. You would get professional training and guidance.
If interested, please contact Pat Williamson at pat@pwilliamson16.freeseerve.co.uk or Rod Leonard at leonardrom@ocens.net.
2. A small group of YPS Council members is trying to set up a pilot for a Schools' science competition, aimed initially at 13-14 year olds. The main emphasis will be on how to use science to solve challenging problems, but this platform can be used to develop team work, verbal, written, and IT skills, and an appreciation of the economic, engineering, and marketing constraints that scientists meet in the real world. We are looking for a commitment of one evening per week in the spring term, to help mentor the teams after-hours at school.

If interested, please contact Rod Leonard at leonardrom@ocens.net or Stephen Lusty at stephenlusty@btinternet.com.

Interested in Museum Gardens?

One of the pleasures of YPS lectures is the evening walk through the Gardens to get to the lectures. These gardens were laid down by YPS back in the 1830s, so we feel that we have a vested interest in their condition - even if we relinquished ownership to the City Council in the 1960s.

A modest YPS Garden Group has now had two meetings with Sjaak Kastelijn, the head gardener of Museum Gardens. The purpose of these meetings is to keep a dialogue going between YPS and the Gardens. Sjaak tells us about his latest garden projects, warts and all, - and for anybody interested in the Gardens, these are fascinating and very informative.

At our meeting in October Sjaak talked us through the following projects:

- Prairie Garden going well except under Hornbeam. Still people 'trespassing' on coffins and taking photos on overhanging branch
- Grass sown under beech - not taken as well as hoped
- Butterfly Garden area to be expanded
- Beds and planting outside Multangular Tower and fern garden very successful
- Hoped to plant additional level of ferns in fern garden
- 36000 bulbs being planted for spring.

For our part, we look for areas that we, as YPS, might be able to help with - either by contributing knowledge or articles, or by financing small projects through an annual contribution that we make. For instance this year the newly installed fern garden will be associated with our contribution.

If you are interested in joining the Gardens Group which meets twice a year, please speak to Stephen Lusty on 01904 630275 or e-mail at stephenlusty@btinternet.com.

And on the subject of financial contributions

A few donations to the Yorkshire Museum refurbishment appeal are still coming in, so if you haven't yet participated, it's not too late. Please make your cheque payable to York Museums Trust Charity no 1092466 (not to Yorkshire Philosophical Society, please) and hand it in to us at a lecture or send it to The Lodge. If you are a tax payer and would like to add Gift Aid to your donation, please ask Frances for a form.

Christmas Holiday & Reading Room

The Lodge will close on Wednesday 23rd December for the Christmas and New Year holiday, re-opening on Monday 4th January.

While the Yorkshire Museum is closed for refurbishment, we are trying to ease the problem of lack of space for its staff by offering the use of our Reading Room for some of their meetings. This does mean that over the next few months the Room will be unavailable more often than usual. Anyone wanting to look at the books or consult our back copies of Annual Reports is recommended to contact Frances in advance, particularly if planning a special trip into town.

News from other Societies

The Sheldon Memorial Trust

It is some time since I reported on the activities of this Trust, whose committee meets biannually and on which I have enjoyed being your representative for some years now. It was set up in memory of Oliver Sheldon, who bequeathed a sum of money to encourage writing and other activities connected with the history of York. Consequently at committee meetings I meet eminent and busy people, our President among them, who are prepared to give their time and serious consideration to the distribution of relatively modest amounts for worthy causes in line with these aims. What can be more delightful than giving money away, especially when that activity is accompanied by coffee and biscuits, courteously served by the chairman, Richard Hall, in the hospitable atmosphere of the YAT headquarters in Aldwark!

It's particularly appropriate to write this now, as we have just inaugurated an annual Sheldon Memorial Trust History Prize for the best dissertation (with York as the subject) submitted by a final-year undergraduate in the history department at the University of York. Does this remind you of anything? Of course – it is based on the model of our Wellbeloved Prize. The YPS can feel a slight quiver of satisfaction that in its 187th year its influence continues to affect York life beneficially!

Recent publications supported by the Trust include those of the York Oral History Society and the fourth book in the YAT series by Barbara Wilson and Frances Mee, *St Mary's Abbey and the King's Manor: The Pictorial Evidence*, to be released soon. We saw the proof of the cover last week, and it looks *good!*

A series of Sheldon Lectures began successfully last year when Dr Katherine Webb spoke on the life of Oliver Sheldon, the lecture afterwards published as Borthwick Paper 115. Lectures planned for the future will feature Hans Hess, J B Morrell, Lord James and Dean Milner-White. All of these were influential in the development of York and the setting-up of its University in the 1950s and 60s; as the end of the era when people will have personal memories of them approaches it is an appropriate time to commemorate them. YPS members with memories to offer would be very welcome to do so.

And there's a chance for more participation by YPS members. If anyone is doing private research into an aspect of the history of York, why not submit it for the annual essay prize? Watch out for details early next year.

Veronica Wallace

York Bibliographical Society

We are again distributing the programme of our friends at York Bibliographical Society in return for their promotion of our lecture programme. We hope the literary-minded among you will find it of interest.

Geographical Association Lectures

From the Geographical Association programme:-

Antarctic Exploration by Dr Fausto Ferraccioli (British Antarctic Survey) - 25th November 2009

Current Issues on the Holderness Coast by Mike Ball (East Riding Council) - 20th January 2010

Both held at Bootham School; starting 7.15 pm.

Season's Greetings to all our members

STOP PRESS

Another opportunity to volunteer

Our small Annual Report Editorial Team is seeking an additional member who could take on the task of contacting potential contributors and liaising with writers of articles. The volunteer will not need to be involved in type-setting or proof-reading which are handled by other members of the team, but some patience is required for tracking down often busy people. If you are interested in helping in this way, please speak to Jim Matthew or Bill Smith at a lecture or contact Frances at The Lodge.

STOP PRESS

Another opportunity to volunteer

Our small Annual Report Editorial Team is seeking an additional member who could take on the task of contacting potential contributors and liaising with writers of articles. The volunteer will not need to be involved in type-setting or proof-reading which are handled by other members of the team, but some patience is required for tracking down often busy people. If you are interested in helping in this way, please speak to Jim Matthew or Bill Smith at a lecture or contact Frances at The Lodge.

STOP PRESS

Another opportunity to volunteer

Our small Annual Report Editorial Team is seeking an additional member who could take on the task of contacting potential contributors and liaising with writers of articles. The volunteer will not need to be involved in type-setting or proof-reading which are handled by other members of the team, but some patience is required for tracking down often busy people. If you are interested in helping in this way, please speak to Jim Matthew or Bill Smith at a lecture or contact Frances at The Lodge.

STOP PRESS

Another opportunity to volunteer

Our small Annual Report Editorial Team is seeking an additional member who could take on the task of contacting potential contributors and liaising with writers of articles. The volunteer will not need to be involved in type-setting or proof-reading which are handled by other members of the team, but some patience is required for tracking down often busy people. If you are interested in helping in this way, please speak to Jim Matthew or Bill Smith at a lecture or contact Frances at The Lodge.

The President's Evening

Wednesday 20th January 2010

The Churchill Hotel, Bootham

From 7 pm members will be welcomed into the elegant Blenheim Room to enjoy a welcoming glass of sherry, wine or fruit juice.

Dinner will be served at 7.30 pm in the Westminster Room where a wide choice of drinks will be available for purchase by the bottle or the glass during the meal.

Coffee will be served at our tables after the meal.

Carriages may be ordered for 10.30 pm, but the comfortable bar will be available for our use as long as we choose to stay.

Dress code is dinner jacket or lounge suit.

The Churchill Hotel has some rooms available for guests wishing to stay overnight. Please telephone them on 01904 644456.

We do hope that you will be able to come and enjoy this special occasion. Please telephone me if I can help with any information or special needs.

Kate Cartwright
Organiser

Transport Notes

The Churchill Hotel in Bootham is five minutes' walk from Exhibition Square and from the car parks at Bootham Row and Marygate. The hotel will be pleased to summon a taxi for anyone who wishes. Buses to and from town stop near the hotel. Please consult your local timetable.

Menu

to commence

- S1 Home Made Chick Pea & Chorizo Soup
- S2 Confit Duck Leg Terrine, Apricot Chutney
- S3 Trio of Smoked Fish, Soda Bread, Caviar, Crème Fraiche
- S4 Pan Fried Gnocchi, Wild Mushrooms, Parmesan, White Truffle Oil

to continue

- M1 Roast Sirloin of Beef, Yorkshire Pudding, Onion Gravy
- M2 Chicken Supreme stuffed with Basil & Goats Cheese
- M3 Grilled Sea Bass Fillets, Braised Pak Choi, Cashew Nuts, Curry Syrup
- M4 Butternut Squash Filo Strudel, Black Truffle Cream

to conclude

- D1 Chocolate & Hazelnut Pavlova
- D2 Passion Fruit Crème Brûlée
- D3 Cheeseboard Selection, Chutney & Crackers

Booking Form
The President's Evening
Wednesday 20th January 2010

Please complete and return to:
Mrs Kate Cartwright, Sugar Hill Farm, Stockton Lane, York YO32 9UA

I/We would like to attend the President's Evening Dinner and my/our menu choices are:

Name	Starter / Main / Dessert
1)	S..... / M..... / D.....
2)	S..... / M..... / D.....
3)	S..... / M..... / D.....

(If necessary we will remind you of your choice on the night.)

I/We enclose a cheque for £30 per person made out to YPS and an sae.

Cheques will be returned to members who need to cancel before 13th January.
We hope to accommodate all who wish to attend, but early booking is advised to secure a place and to assist the Organiser with the arrangements.

Contact address

.....

.....

Tel Email

Yorkshire Philosophical Society
The President's Evening

We have pleasure in inviting you to the Churchill Hotel on 20th January for the one formal event in the YPS calendar, when we enjoy good food and good company.

Our principal guest will be Denise Jagger, the new Chair of the York Museums Trust, who will tell us a little about exciting developments at York Museums.

The evening's itinerary is overleaf and we look forward to seeing you on the 20th.

Jim Matthew
Chairman

Yorkshire Philosophical Society

Visit to Physics Department University of York

3.30 p.m. Wednesday 13 January 2010

The visit will show off three aspects of the research of the Physics Department of the University of York: Controlled thermonuclear fusion, scanning tunnelling microscopy (seeing atoms) and giant magnetoresistance (how information on your computer disc is read). To be followed by refreshments. The event will last about an hour and a half.

There is a charge of £4 per person and numbers are limited.

Participants will be sent instructions about how to get there with confirmation of their booking about 10 days before the event.

Jim Matthew

*The Yorkshire Philosophical Society accepts no responsibility for any loss or injury suffered while taking part in one of its visits.

Visit to the University of York Physics Department

3.30p.m. Wednesday 13 January 2010

- I/We wish to attend the visit.
 - I/We enclose a cheque for £..... and a stamped addressed envelope
- Signed:

Please also print name(s):

- Phone number: _____ email: _____
- Please return to Jim Matthew
- YPS, The Lodge, Museum Gardens, York YO1 7DR

Yorkshire Philosophical Society

YORK MOSQUE

Bull Lane, off Lawrence Street, YORK

7.30 p.m. Thursday 4 February 2010

The event:

We will arrive at York Mosque at 7.30 p.m. on 4 February 2010 and have informal discussions prior to observing prayers at 8 p.m. After a cup of tea we will join the inter-faith group that meets regularly at the mosque and take part in further discussions till around 9.30 p.m.

There is a charge of £4 per person and numbers are limited.

Participants will be sent instructions about how to get there with confirmation of their booking about 10 days before the event.

Jim Matthew

*The Yorkshire Philosophical Society accepts no responsibility for any loss or injury suffered while taking part in one of its visit.

- **York Mosque Visit 7.30 p.m. Thursday 4 February**
- I/We wish to attend the Mosque visit.
- I/We enclose a cheque for £..... and a stamped addressed envelope.
- Signed:

Please also print name(s):

- Phone number: _____ email: _____
- Please return to Jim Matthew
- YPS, The Lodge, Museum Gardens, York YO1 7DR

Yorkshire Philosophical Society

Visit to York Brewery, Toft Green

3.30 pm on Thursday, 4th March 2010

Established in 1996, York Brewery was the first company in over 40 years to supply traditionally brewed ales within the walls of York. Production takes place in a 20 barrel brew plant, five 20 barrel fermenters and ten conditioning tanks.

The duration of the visit will be approximately 1 to 2 hours. A complimentary drink will be served on completion of the event.

The cost is £9 per person for the over sixties; otherwise £10.

Please send the slip below with your cheque, payable to Yorkshire Philosophical Society, and a stamped addressed envelope to:

Mrs M Scotter
3 Compton Street
Clifton
York YO30 6LE

Tel: 01904 672886

A prompt reply by 10th January will be appreciated.

The Yorkshire Philosophical Society accepts no responsibility for any loss or injury suffered while taking part in one of its visits. Participants are recommended to take out appropriate insurance cover.

Visit to York Brewery 4th March 2010

I/We would like places and enclose a cheque for £ made payable to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society and a stamped addressed envelope.

Name(s)

Address

.....

Telephone Email

The Yorkshire Philosophical Society accepts no responsibility for any loss or injury suffered while taking part in one of its visits. Participants are recommended to take out appropriate insurance cover.

Yorkshire Philosophical Society

**Another chance to go
Behind the Scenes at York Glaziers' Trust**

Bedern Glaziers' Studio

**Thursday, 14th January 2010, 3.00 pm
& Thursday, 18th February 2010, 3.00 pm**

The York Glaziers' Trust is one of Britain's oldest stained glass conservation workshops and its work on York Minster is renowned throughout Europe. In 2009 the Trust opened its Bedern Glaziers' Studio in the 13th century chapel of the College of Vicars Choral as a public showcase for its work, particularly on the glass of the Minster's Great East Window.

We shall have a tour by a conservator, be able to watch the glaziers at work and see how the glass is cleaned and re-leaded. The visit will last approximately 1 hour.

The cost of the visit is £8 per person. Places are limited so bookings will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

Please complete the application form, remembering to tick your choice of date, and send with your remittance and a stamped envelope by 12th December 2009 to:

Mrs N Scotter
3 Compton Street
Clifton
York YO30 6LE Tel: 01904 672886

The Yorkshire Philosophical Society accepts no responsibility for any loss or injury suffered while taking part in one of its visits. Participants are recommended to take out appropriate insurance cover.

Visit to York Glaziers' Trust Bedern Studio

I/We would like places and enclose a cheque for £ made payable to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society and a stamped addressed envelope.

We wish to join the visit on: Thurs 14 Jan Thurs 18 Feb *please tick one*

Name(s)

Address

.....

Telephone Email

The Yorkshire Philosophical Society accepts no responsibility for any loss or injury suffered while taking part in one of its visits. Participants are recommended to take out appropriate insurance cover.

The Yorkshire Philosophical Society would like your views

We would be grateful if you would take a moment of your time to fill in this questionnaire and return it to us at a lecture, at the Lodge or by post. Thank you very much.

Council of the YPS

1) When the Yorkshire Museum re-opens, do you prefer (*please tick one*):

Lectures to continue on Monday evenings []

Lectures to return to Tuesday evenings []

No preference []

2) Please give reasons for your preference, if you wish, or any other comments.

3) Do you know of any other societies in York holding events on Mondays or Tuesdays, whose dates we might try to avoid?

Name (if you wish to give it)

Thank you for your participation.