York Association Newsletter

An Association of National Trust Members and Supporters

March 2016 Number 176
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<td>Back cover</td>
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With this *Newsletter* you should find booking forms for the following:

- AGM lunch
- 2016 day trips
- 2016 full-day walks

Please contact the Secretary if any of these are missing.

**Chairman:** Roger King  [chair@yant.org.uk](mailto:chair@yant.org.uk)  01904 761274

**Secretary:** Jean Haywood  [secretary@yant.org.uk](mailto:secretary@yant.org.uk)  01904 702402

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**Newsletter:** Della Brotherston  [newsletter@yant.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@yant.org.uk)  01904 629242

*Cover: Helen Whittaker with the Afghanistan Commemorative Window (The Press)*
Annual General Meeting, Saturday 19th March
Hilton Hotel, Tower Street, York

The AGM will begin at 11 o’clock, with tea and coffee available from 10.30 am. The talk will follow, with lunch at about 1.15 pm.

We are delighted to welcome renowned local artists Keith Barley and Helen Whittaker from Barley Studio in Dunnington after the meeting to give us a presentation of their stained glass work. The highly acclaimed Barley Studio, which Keith founded in 1973, has been at the forefront of developing techniques for conserving historic stained glass in cathedrals, churches and historic houses as well as undertaking projects on glass of all periods, from the medieval to the present day and from small domestic repairs and installations to major cathedral works and the preservation of ancient glass.

Keith is internationally renowned in stained glass conservation. He founded Barley Studio in 1973 after an apprenticeship with the York Glaziers’ Trust and has published widely on the conservation and protection of stained glass. Helen, the creative director of Barley Studio, has over 20 years’ experience in stained glass creation and restoration. One of her most prestigious designs is the Afghanistan Commemorative Window in the Church of All Saints Pavement in York, which was unveiled last October to great acclaim. (See cover photo.)

Keith and Helen have won many awards for their work, including the National Award for Conservation for their outstanding work at St Mary’s Church, Fairford, Gloucestershire and an Award of Merit for Craftsmanship from the York Guild of Building for their work at Beverley Minster in 2006.

A two-course lunch will follow the talk, with a cash bar open while the room is being set up for lunch. Please make your choice of main course and dessert from the menu on the enclosed booking form and return it by Saturday 5th March. The cost of £18.50 includes tea and coffee after the meal and a gratuity.

Please note the very short deadline: the Hilton Hotel requires two weeks’ notice of our menu choices.

This venue has been chosen in the hope that members will find it easier to get to than the Racecourse. We should be grateful for your feedback about the venue and lunch for future AGMs.
Chairman's Letter

If you are quick, there is still time to book for the Walks Group’s annual social evening and quiz on Friday 4th March. (See the December Newsletter or page 14 for more details.) This event has become a permanent fixture in the YANT calendar and is eagerly awaited by its regular participants. I say “regular” because it seems to be supported in the main by the same members each year. So if you haven't experienced it before, think about coming this year. We would love to welcome new members: it is a truly fun event, enhanced by a superb buffet supper. We can guarantee that no one will go home "Pointless" – compulsive teatime viewing in the King household.

I am pleased to report that, following the resignation of Brian Josceylne as Assistant Secretary (Communications), Jo Norman has taken on the maintenance of the website that Brian set up and designed for us. We are very grateful to him for fitting into his busy life the time and expertise required to provide us with an essential component of modern life.

Another aspect of improving communications with members, with apologies to those without email, is the issuing of a reminder about an upcoming event a week or so beforehand or notification of a cancellation or change of venue. With a quarterly Newsletter, there may be the best part of three months before an event, which might easily slip the mind if not recorded in the diary as soon as the Newsletter appears. If the Membership Secretary does not already have your email address, please send it to her as soon as possible so that you will be able to receive these emails.

Finally, I look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual General Meeting on 19th March. (See the preceding page for more details.)

Roger King

Membership

We are very pleased to have welcomed the following new members to our Association during the last three months and look forward to meeting them at some of the many events organised by the various committees. The total membership at present is 854.

Vera Cottrell       Michael & Caroline Woodward       Maureen Shackleton
Pauline Campbell    David & Wendy Blissett              Neil and Heather Rowland

If you have not yet paid your annual subscription, please pay now; otherwise this will be the last Newsletter you receive.

Elinor Bailey (Membership Secretary)
Talks

Saturday 16th April, Peter Miller: “The York Art Gallery”

York Art Gallery reopened in August 2015 with a stunning new first floor gallery and 60% extra display space, created by expanding into the former city archive. Together with the Castle Museum and the Yorkshire Museum, it is now managed by York Museums Trust, and we are pleased to welcome Peter Miller, a Life Vice-President of the Friends of York Art Gallery, to speak to us about the gallery from its opening in 1879 to its 2015 renaissance.

The talk will be held at the Friends’ Meeting House in Friargate, starting at 2.30 pm. There will be a charge of £4 on the door; tea/coffee and biscuits will be available.

Visit to Merchant Adventurers’ Hall, Fossgate, York

Wednesday 27th April at 2pm, following the drop-in lunch.

Eagle-eyed members will have spotted this event in the diary on the back cover. The Hall is currently drying out after the recent floods, but will reopen in plenty of time for our visit. Lauren Marshall, the manager, has kindly agreed to show us round this marvel of York civic history. Begun in 1357, it is the oldest of York’s Guild Halls and the best preserved, and we look forward to an interesting and entertaining tour.

The discounted group rate of £5 will be payable on entrance.

Talk Reviews

Peter Palmer: “Richard III”, 29th November 2015

Peter returned to tell us more about Richard III, whose life will ever be distorted by Shakespeare’s largely fictional play, written to please the Tudors. Born in 1452, Richard was doomed to be the last royal of the House of York and the last of the Plantagenets, his death at 32 at the Battle of Bosworth marking the end of the Wars of the Roses.

Peter took us on a rapid and comprehensive tour of the aristocratic family feuds of the time – all those Nevilles, Percys, Stanleys, Norfolks and Beauforts! After the Yorkists won the Battle of Towton in 1461 the nine-year-old Richard was sent to Middleham Castle, home of the Earl of Warwick, for an aristocratic education and was then made governor of the north.

When his brother Edward IV died in 1483 Richard was made Protector of the next in line to the throne, Edward’s 12-year-old son, also Edward. For their “protection” Prince Edward and his brother Richard were taken to the Tower
of London, at the time a safe, fortified, royal castle rather than the prison we think of today, but the princes were never seen again.

Richard was crowned in June 1483, but was immediately faced with rebellious families from the south and south Wales. When Henry Tudor, who had a distant claim to the throne, invaded with a small mercenary French army and met Richard’s much larger coalition army at Bosworth, all Richard’s allies except for Norfolk deserted him, and Richard was unhorsed and killed, the only English king to die in battle since Harold in 1066. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Greyfriars Priory in Leicester and, as we all now know, reburied in Leicester Cathedral in 2014.

Peter’s presentation, without notes, was remarkable in its range and comprehensiveness. He concluded that Richard, although considered at the time a good and kind king, must have known of the fate of his royal nephews, the princes in the Tower.

**Kaeli Wishart: “York Theatre Royal”, 16th January**

We were delighted to welcome more than 80 members to the changed venue of the Hilton Hotel for Kaeli Wishart’s excellent talk.

Kaeli, who trained as an archaeologist, first outlined the Roman, Saxon and medieval history of the Theatre Royal site in St Leonard’s Place. She said that the theatre, originally built in 1744, was the oldest outside the Drury Lane in London. In those days actors were seen as rogues and theatres were not allowed to charge for entrance: they were an opportunity to be on display – hence the popularity of the private box, despite the poor view of the stage.

Tate Wilkinson, actor manager for 30 years in the late 18th century, lived in the Georgian house attached to the theatre in Duncombe Place, with stairs from his living room leading directly to the stage.

The current rebuilding work began last March and is due to be completed in April: there will be a new roof, the front of house will be much more spacious, stall seats will be at stage height with a much better sight line, circle and gallery seating will be improved and the stage will be level.

Finally, Kaeli told us about the work of the thriving youth theatre, with over 500 members, and described the creation of a production in only three weeks from first read through, including the work of in-house costume makers, lighting and sound engineers and set designers.

_Roger Armistead (Talks Co-ordinator)_
Day Trips

Thursday 14th April: Visit to the Hat Works and Air Raid Shelters in Stockport

Our first visit in 2016 will be a trip across the Pennines to the Greater Manchester area. This journey back in time will recall an era when Stockport was renowned as the leading national centre of hat-making, a time when men and women from all walks of life wore hats inside and outside the home for all manner of business and social occasions. Hat-making was established in this area in the 16th century and flourished until the outbreak of WW2, after which fashions changed and demand for hats reduced.

On arrival in Stockport the coach will drop us at Wellington Mill, a former cotton spinning mill, which now houses the Hat Works and is home to a re-created hatting factory floor, with over 20 fully restored Victorian-style machines, and the Hat Gallery, which displays over 400 hats.

After light refreshments, there will be an hour’s guided tour of the museum and then a chance to look at the collection of hats in the gallery. The Hat Works is housed on several floors, but a lift is available. At the end of the morning a cold buffet will be served in the museum café.

During the afternoon there will be a visit to the Air Raid Shelters. Please note that the coach cannot drop off or pick up here because of the narrowness of the road, so there will be a 10-minute walk between the two venues.

The Air Raid Shelters, which were opened in 1939, were the largest purpose-built civilian shelters and able to accommodate up to 6,500 people. Carved into the natural sandstone cliffs, this intriguing network of underground tunnels offers an unparalleled insight into life in war-torn Britain in the 1940s. The displays in the tunnels provide an opportunity to learn about the experiences of the local people during those dark days of the Blitz. There will be an hour’s guided tour of the tunnels.
Please note that there are three steps down into the entrance. The tunnels are wide and well-lit, but this visit might not be appropriate for anyone who has a problem with claustrophobia. At the end of the tour there will again be a walk of about 10 minutes back to the coach.

Stephensons’ coach will pick up in Easingwold (opposite the Co-op in Long Street) at 8 am, Memorial Gardens, Leeman Road, York at 8.30 am and Middlethorpe Drive, Dringhouses, York at 8.45 am. The journey time will be about 2¼ hours, including a brief comfort stop. The coach will depart from Stockport at 4.30 pm. Please remember that traffic can be very heavy in the Manchester area and on the M62. The arrival time back in York is 6.45-7 pm and in Easingwold 7.30 pm.

The cost of the trip is £32, which includes morning refreshments, guided tour and lunch at the Hat Works, guided tour of the Air Raid Shelters, coach and gratuities.

**Wednesday 18th May: Visit to Renishaw Hall and Gardens**

Our May trip will take us down to Derbyshire and Renishaw Hall, home of the Sitwell family for 400 years. The original hall, a conventional Jacobean house built in 1625, was Gothicised at the turn of the 19th century. The Derbyshire branch of the Sitwells made money from coal and nails, and this accumulation of wealth allowed the famous 20th century “Sitwell Trio” (Edith, Osbert and Sacheverell) to devote their lives to the literary arts.

The hall contains the spectacular collections of art and furniture acquired by generations of Sitwells, notably the Trio, famously described by their biographer as “tall, fair attenuated courtiers from a medieval tapestry”. Despite its wealth of cultural riches, the house maintains the atmosphere of a well-loved family home.

![Renishaw Hall](image_url)
The Italianate gardens, which were laid out over 100 years ago by Sir George Sitwell, are divided into “rooms” with yew hedges, flanked by classical statues; each room is filled with an impressive collection of plants. Renishaw Hall is now home to the National Collection of Yuccas.

On arrival, tea and coffee will be served, followed by a private guided tour of the house. **Please note that, as in most stately homes, there are a number of stairways to entrances and upper floors.** At some point there will be an opportunity to see the Sitwell Museum and Art Galleries, which are housed in the Georgian stables and contain displays of letters, books and artefacts from the archives and the family’s own private collection.

At the end of the morning’s activities, a buffet lunch will be served. There will then be time for a leisurely stroll round the gardens. **It is advisable to bring sensible footwear, as there could be uneven ground, muddy paths and slippery grass.** The day’s events will conclude with a light afternoon tea.

Stephensons’ coach will pick up in Easingwold (opposite the Co-op in Long Street) at 8.30 am, Memorial Gardens, Leeman Road, York at 9 am and Middlethorpe Drive, Dringhouses, York at 9.15 am. The journey time will be around 2 hours, including a short comfort stop. The coach will depart at 4.30 pm and arrive back in York for 6.30 pm and in Easingwold for 7 pm.

The cost of the trip is £32, which includes admission to Renishaw Hall, morning refreshments, private guided tour, buffet lunch, afternoon tea, coach and gratuities.

**Wednesday 8th June: Visit to Woodhorn Colliery Museum/Ashington Pitmen Painters and Northumberlandia**

The June trip will be a visit to the North East of England to a former industrial area primarily centred on the mining industry.

For more than 80 years Woodhorn was a coal mine. Work to sink the original shaft began in 1894 and coal was first brought to the surface in 1898. At its peak nearly 2,000 men were employed at the pit and 600,000 tons of coal were produced each year. Production stopped in 1981, but the shafts continued to be used for the neighbouring Ashington Colliery until 1986. It is the best surviving example of a late 19th/early 20th century colliery in the North East tradition.

The Ashington Group of Painters was an amateur art group formed by miners and others from a WEA art class in the 1930s. The men painted scenes of everyday life as pitmen and enjoyed some success with exhibitions in London.
as well as in the North East. In recent years the play “Pitmen Painters” has been performed in various theatres up and down the country.

On arrival at Woodhorn there will be an hour’s guided tour of the museum explaining the stories and the history behind the exhibitions. The tour will also go behind the scenes in the archives and into one of the huge storage pods to see how artefacts not currently on display are stored. A buffet lunch will then be served in one of the private hospitality rooms, after which there will be time to wander round the displays, which are all fully accessible.

Mid-afternoon we will travel the short distance from Ashington down to Cramlington to visit Northumberlandia, a unique piece of public art set in a 46-acre community park. The centrepiece is a stunning landform sculpture of a reclining lady, “The Naked Lady of Cramlington”, which is made of 1.5 million tons of rock, clay and soil, and is 100 feet high and a quarter of a mile long. At a cost of £3 million, Northumberlandia has been built as part of the restoration of the adjacent Shotton surface coal mine. The mine, which is still operational, can be seen from the top of the sculpture.

On arrival at Northumberlandia there will be an opportunity to tour the site with one of the wardens. The tour will last about 30 minutes and will be on the flat, walking around the landform. The more energetic can climb to the top of the sculpture. Those who do not want to walk round the site can view the landform after a short walk through some woodland. The site has been made as accessible as possible, though the winding footpaths could be uneven and slippery. Sensible footwear is recommended. Before departure light refreshments will be served.

Ingleby’s coach will pick up at Memorial Gardens, Leeman Road, York at 8.30 am and in Easingwold by the Co-op in Long Street at 9 am. The journey time will be around 2½ hours, including a coffee and comfort stop. The coach will depart from Northumberlandia at around 4.30 pm. Estimated arrival time in Easingwold will be around 7 pm and in York around 7.30 pm.

The cost of the trip is £32, which includes the Woodhorn tour, buffet lunch, visit to Northumberlandia, afternoon refreshments, coach and gratuities.

PLEASE NOTE: On all trips the day trip leader will carry mobile phone No. 07960 710975. Please call this number on the day if you are delayed or cannot attend. We have tight schedules and try not to delay our departure.

Jenny Denton (Programme Committee)
Notice is hereby given that the 45th Annual General Meeting of the York Association of the National Trust will be held in the Hilton Hotel, Tower Street, at 11 am on Saturday 19 March 2016 to conduct the following business:

1. To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015
2. To elect officers for the year 2016–17
3. To elect members of the Association Committee for the year 2016-17

A detailed agenda will be issued at the meeting. Members wishing to raise items under Any Other Business are requested to notify the Hon. Secretary by 29 February 2016. Non-members will be welcome to attend, but will not be entitled to vote.

Nomination forms for candidates for election as Officers or Members of the Association Committee may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Mrs J. Haywood (01904 702402 or secretary@yant.org.uk.) and to be valid must be returned to her at the address below not later than 3 March 2016, 14 days before the AGM. Nominations received after that date will not be valid. Nominees must sign the forms to confirm that they are willing to stand.

The elected officers of the Association for 2015-16 were:

- Chairman: Roger King
- Hon. Secretary: Jean Haywood
- Hon. Treasurer: Roger Mortimer

The elected members of the Committee, in addition to the officers, were Elinor Bailey (Membership Secretary), Catherine Brophy, Don Chambers, Alison Rutter (Chairman, Walks Committee), Colin Sherwood (Chairman, Programme Committee) and Christine Truman (Chairman, Projects Committee). Peter Drew was co-opted as Tours Organiser and Della Brotherston as Newsletter Editor.

Mrs J. Haywood, Hon. Secretary, York Association of the National Trust
12 Rutland Close, Copmanthorpe, York, YO23 3SS
### YORK ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL TRUST

**Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2015**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Main Account</th>
<th>Projects Account</th>
<th>Programme Account</th>
<th>Walks Account</th>
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<td>(187)</td>
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<td><strong>Reserves C/fwd. at 31st December 2015</strong></td>
<td>11,415</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>1,282</td>
<td>1,247</td>
<td>14,177</td>
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**Represented by:**

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<td>1,282</td>
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<td>Less: Accruals/Receipts in advance</td>
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<td><strong>Total Funds c/fwd.</strong></td>
<td>11,415</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>1,282</td>
<td>1,247</td>
<td>14,177</td>
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R H King
Chairman

R F Mortimer
Treasurer

We confirm that we have examined, without carrying out an audit, the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet of the York Association of the National Trust, and we confirm that the combined Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the Main Account inc. Holidays, the Projects Account, the Programme Account, and the Walks Account, are in accordance with the books and information supplied.

BHP Chartered Accountants
Bathurst House
86 Micklegate
York
YO1 6LQ

Dated: 26th January 2015
### YORK ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL TRUST

#### Income & Expenditure Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2015

**Consolidated Accounts**

<table>
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<th>2014 Income</th>
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<th>2015 Expenditure</th>
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<td>£</td>
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<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
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<td>4,197 Subscriptions &amp; Donations</td>
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<td>2,962</td>
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<td>3,351 Holidays' Receipts</td>
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<td>Holidays' Expenses</td>
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<td>335 Other Income</td>
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<td>132</td>
<td>Meetings</td>
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<td>84 Bank Interest</td>
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<td>AGM Expenses</td>
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<td>3,922 Projects - Events surplus</td>
<td>2,139</td>
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<td>Admin Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme - Day trips surplus</td>
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<td>Projects - Events Admin</td>
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<td>1,477</td>
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<td>Programme - Admin &amp; Other Expenses</td>
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<td>173 Programme - Talks surplus</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Other Outgoings</td>
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<td>77 Walks - Half day surplus</td>
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<td>297 Walks - Quiz Night surplus</td>
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<td>7,750 National Trust Yorkshire</td>
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<td>Dales Appeal</td>
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<td>943 Surplus/(Deficit) for year</td>
<td></td>
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<td>(1,358)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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| Total                            | 13,913 | 12,084 | 13,913                                | 12,084 |
Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2015

Finance. As will be seen on the preceding pages, the finances are in good shape under the stewardship of Roger Mortimer in his first year as Treasurer. The annual subscription has remained unchanged for several years but for this to continue we need as many members as possible to take the electronic version of the Newsletter.

Membership. We welcomed 69 new members, and at the end of the year the membership was 852, a slight increase on the previous year. Twenty-six of the new members attended the new members’ coffee morning at Goddards in October.

Day Trips. The Programme Committee, chaired by Colin Sherwood, organised eight trips including one in spring to Tennants Auctioneers at Leyburn, which was so oversubscribed that it was repeated in the autumn.

Social Events. The Projects Committee, chaired by Christine Truman, organised several successful fund-raising events – the annual Summer Fair at St Crux, a garden party and November coffee morning at Goddards and a splendid musical evening in the chapel of York St. John University given by Jacqui Edwards, a YANT member.

Walks. Five full-day and 12 shorter walks were organised, and Alison Rutter’s group was pleased not only that several new walkers joined the loyal band of supporters but that some new walk leaders came forward. The annual social evening and quiz was as popular as ever, and thanks are due to Dorothy Pope for her many years of researching and delivering the questions.

Holidays. Peter Drew, the Tours Organiser, reported that 142 members (of whom 20 were new members) took holidays to six destinations, including two abroad – the south of France and Crete – and four in the British Isles.

Monthly Drop-In Lunches continued on the last Wednesday of the month (except in September and December) at Walmgate Alehouse & Bistro, which gives new members in particular an opportunity to meet other members.

Christmas Lunches: Both offerings – at York College and on the Christmas trip (to Kiplin Hall followed by lunch at Tennants) – were, as usual, well supported.

Communications: Brian Joscelyne resigned from the Committee during the year after setting up the website, for which we are most grateful. It will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. Email reminders will be issued for walks, talks and one-off events.

Finally, I must thank all the hard-working committee members and other volunteers for the time and effort they put in to offer you, the membership, such a diverse range of events. Thanks also to everyone who supports these events and to the staff at Goddards for their help in so many ways.

Roger King (Chairman)
Local National Trust Property News

It has been one of the busiest winters that I can remember, with projects ranging from the installation of new fire alarms to upgrading electricity supplies, and we are planning an exciting year ahead.

Treasurer’s House will be hosting a new exhibition “Restoration and Demolition”, which will look at Frank Green’s passion in restoring his house and at the fate of other Yorkshire houses that did not survive.

Goddards is hosting a new story about The Terry Women. So often the history of this house is seen through the eyes of the men who inherited the property: this display offers visitors a new angle on the Terrys’ family life as well as on the part they played in York’s chocolate story.

Happy Birthday Beningbrough! is a celebration of a house that has survived by reinventing itself into a country house gallery and garden. Visitors will discover the stories of the people who lived and worked at Beningbrough Hall during the last 300 years – from the wealthy teenager who created the house to National Trust ownership and the problem of finding tenants to live in the Hall. As part of the celebrations we will be unveiling the Ten Year Garden Vision, an exciting project to look at the garden in its entirety, improve what is already there with fresh planting schemes and create new areas in it.

David Morgan (General Manager, York Area Properties)

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Password reminder for members’ pages on the YANT website

The members’ pages are password protected to prevent casual viewing by the general public. There is a link from the menu on the main YANT website www.yant.org.uk (top right). You will need these passwords:

username – member; password – yant

Once you have accessed a members’ page, you can mark it as a favourite so you don’t need to put the password in again.

Alternatively, as a member, you can go direct to the members’ pages via www.yantmemb.moonfruit.com.
Holidays

During 2015 holidays were taken by 142 members, including 20 new members, to six destinations, compared with 116 members in 2014, of whom 12 were new members. To date we have received 109 bookings for 2016 holidays.

The last holiday of 2015 was to Thursford, where 24 members enjoyed the very professional Christmas Spectacular. A review is on page 19.

Availability for the 2016 holidays is as follows:

- **Cork and Killarney** (17th-23rd April): 21 confirmed bookings. 7 twin/double and 1 single available.
- **Orkney** (1st-6th July): 27 confirmed bookings. 7 twin/double rooms available.
- **Norfolk** (15th-19th August): 16 confirmed bookings. 14 twin/double rooms available.
- **Albania** (30th September to 7th October): 14 confirmed bookings. 12 twin/double and 1 single available.
- **Birmingham** (11th-12th December): 14 confirmed bookings. 15 twin/double and 2 single rooms available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tours Advisory Meeting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The 2016 Tours Advisory Meeting will take place at 10 am on Wednesday 30th March at Walmgate Ale House &amp; Bistro before the monthly drop-in lunch. Graeme Mitchell and Andrew Sharples from Brightwater Holidays will be present to answer questions and talk to members about the 2016 holidays. Please let me know if you intend to come, as places are limited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Drew (01904 702285, <a href="mailto:holidays@yant.org.uk">holidays@yant.org.uk</a>.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Birmingham Christmas Visit, 11th – 12th December 2016, from £125**

Our pre-Christmas break in Birmingham promises to be an exciting two days. It features a world-class museum, a concert at the Symphony Hall, a German-style Christmas Market and a visit to the newly-refurbished Armed Forces National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire with Christmas lunch.
We depart by coach on Sunday 11th December, stopping for refreshments en route (not included), and on arrival will visit the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, with its world-class collection, including many items from the Staffordshire Hoard, the most important collection of Pre-Raphaelite art anywhere in the world, an extensive Egyptian collection and a section dedicated to Birmingham’s colourful history. We will have an early dinner/high tea at our hotel in central Birmingham before leaving for the Symphony Hall for our evening concert (programme to be announced).

After breakfast on Monday we will have an opportunity to visit Birmingham’s Frankfurt Christmas Market, the largest outdoor Christmas Market in Britain, which features a wide range of gifts and handicrafts as well as a tempting variety of German food and drink.

Later in the morning we drive to the Armed Forces National Memorial Arboretum in Alrewas, Staffordshire. The 150-acre site features a beautiful central memorial (pictured below) and more than 300 smaller memorials, each with a story to tell and fascinating symbolism to discover. A land train tour of the site is included. We will then enjoy Christmas lunch with wine there before returning to York in the early evening.

Included in the price: one night dinner, bed and breakfast at Jury’s Inn Birmingham (or similar); comfortable coaching throughout; visits to Birmingham Museum, the Frankfurt Christmas Market and the National Memorial Arboretum with Christmas lunch; ticket for a concert at the Birmingham Symphony Hall (details to be announced); services of a Brightwater Holidays Tour Manager; porterage and all gratuities.

Not included (per person): single room supplement £25; insurance £23 (65-74); £34.50 (75-90).

Please book direct with Brightwater Holidays using the form at the back of the 2016 Holiday Programme.

Peter Drew (Tours Organiser)
The Temple of Diana at the archaeological site of Apollonia
Albania (30th September–7th October)

Social Events

Review: A Musical Evening with Jacqui Edwards

On a wet, windy and cold Saturday evening last November more than 100 YANT members and their guests arrived at the Chapel of York St John University for a one-person concert entitled “A Frog in my Throat”, given by mezzo-soprano and pianist Jacqui Edwards. Luckily, Jacqui did not have a frog in her throat and gave us a wonderful evening of laughter and song. Her repertoire ranged from arias to comedy vignettes, for which she provided her own piano accompaniment.

Jacqui is herself a YANT member and has given a number of concerts to raise money for the National Trust. The evening was preceded by drinks and some excellent canapés and will, I am sure, be remembered by all who were able to get tickets for this packed event.

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We were very disappointed to have to cancel the Gardeners’ Question Time arranged for 1st March in Bishopthorpe Village Hall and would welcome suggestions from members for future events that they would be happy to attend. We look forward to seeing you at the following events planned for the remainder of 2016.

The **Summer Fair at St Crux, Friday 17th June** is our most important fund-raising event of the year. I am very grateful to the new members who have offered their help and I will be contacting them nearer the time. As always, we need as much help as possible on the day. The June *Newsletter* will contain details of the people to contact with offers of help or for the collection of books and items for the stalls: unwanted presents, cakes, plants and bric-a-brac are all welcome, but not clothes.

On **Tuesday 2nd August** we will be holding what is becoming an annual event – our garden party at Goddard's. This year the new head gardener has offered to do garden tours during the afternoon. Our thanks go to Goddard's for allowing us to hold this event in their garden and to the staff who give us so much help. A booking form will be enclosed with the June *Newsletter*.

Later in the year, on **Tuesday 11th October**, there will be a return visit of the very popular York Archives film show. Again, full details and a booking form will be in a future *Newsletter*.

Congratulations to Sally Mayo on winning the Christmas quiz, which made a profit of £134 for the Association.

*Christine Truman (Chairman, Projects Committee)*

**Walks Group’s Social Evening and Quiz Night, Friday 4th March**

There is still just time to book for the Walks Group’s annual social evening and quiz night, to be held at the New Earswick and District Bowls Club on Huntington Road. *(See the December Newsletter for full details.)*

A cash bar will open at 7 pm and the quiz starts at 7.30 pm. There will be a buffet supper at about 8.15 pm and an optional raffle. Please ring Eileen Wishart on 01904 633705 **before Wednesday 2nd March** if you would like to come. Admission is £11, which includes supper.

We look forward to seeing members and friends on 4th March.
Country Walks

Full-day walks with coach transport and afternoon tea

Saturday 23rd April, CWP 2016/1, Filey to Hunmanby, 8 miles.

We start the walk at North Cliff Country Park, Filey, and follow the Centenary Way to Muston, then take the Wolds Way through Stocking Dale, rejoining the Centenary Way back into Hunmanby for tea at the Spring Cafe.

Standard moderate. Leader Dorothy Pope (01904 763794).

Dawson’s coach leaves the Memorial Gardens, Leeman Road at 9 am and Rawcliffe Bar Park and Ride at 9.15 am. The cost is £17, which includes travel, tea and all gratuities. Please return the relevant booking slip with payment by 16th April.

Saturday 21st May, CWP 2016/2, North York Moors – Lealholm to Grosmont along the Esk Valley, 7 miles.

We start at Lealholm, which has been described as the prettiest village in Yorkshire. From there we continue down river on good paths, passing through Glaisdale with its famous packhorse bridge and through Arncliffe Woods to Egton. The walk ends at Grosmont, where we will have a cream tea at the Artisan Cafe, which also houses the Gaell Art Gallery. Jane, the cafe owner, will cater for dietary requirements, including gluten-free food, if necessary. Please indicate any such requests on the booking form.

Standard easy to moderate. Leaders Alison and Nigel Rutter (01904 703430).

Dawson’s coach leaves the Memorial Gardens, Leeman Road at 8.45 am and Rawcliffe Bar Park and Ride at 9 am. The cost is £17.50, which includes travel, tea and all gratuities. Please return the relevant booking slip with payment by 14th May.

Saturday 18th June, CWP 2016/3, Upper Swaledale (the Muker, Keld and Kisdon Force Round), 7 miles.

Starting at Muker, we cross the ancient hay meadows where the wild flowers should be in full bloom. The route follows the river upstream to Keld, passing an area of waterfalls and disused mine workings, and then returns over the shoulder of Kisdon Hill on the Old Corpse Road back to Muker. Some inclines and declines. Excellent views of Upper Swaledale. Tea at Gunnerside, prepared by TLC (Thursday Ladies Club) Gunnerside.

Standard easy to moderate. Leaders Alison and Nigel Rutter (01904 703430).
Dawson’s coach leaves the Memorial Gardens, Leeman Road at **8.30 am** and Rawcliffe Bar Park and Ride at **8.45 am**. The cost is **£18**, which includes travel, tea and all gratuities. Please return the relevant booking slip with payment by **11th June**.

**NB. Walkers participate at their own risk and must be capable of completing the distance in open countryside over uneven ground, with some ascents and descents, in a variety of weather conditions. Suitable clothing and footwear must be worn and a packed lunch and drinks carried.**

On Saturday **16th July**, Tony Brook will lead a full day walk in Teesdale. Details and a booking form will be in the June *Newsletter*.

**Circular half-day walks using own transport.**

**Tuesday 15th March, Yearsley Woods, 5 miles (can be shortened by about a mile, depending on weather and timing).**

One or two inclines, two stiles.

Park in Yearsley Woods, map reference SE 582 752, for a **10 am start**. Take the Ampleforth road from Yearsley and then the second lane on the right, signed Windyridge. There are pubs in Ampleforth and Stillington. Leader Elizabeth Hjort (01347 821490).

**Wednesday 13th April, Ripley area, 4 ½ miles.**

Meet in the car park at Ripley, where the walk starts from the toilet block at **10.15 am**.

The route goes through Hampsthwaite, following the river Nidd and the Nidderdale Way through fields and woodland. There are about six stiles and one hill on this easy to moderate walk. Lunch is available in Ripley. Leaders Alison and Nigel Rutter (01904 703430).

**Thursday 12th May, Warthill, a two-hour walk.**

Meet at the Agar Arms, Warthill, YO19 5XW, for a **10 am start**. The route goes as far as Stockton-on-the Forest along paths and quiet lanes, through fields and a wood. No stiles.

Park at the pub, which is near the pond. Food is available for those who wish to eat there: a menu will be available to choose from before leaving on the walk. Gardeners may be interested to know that Breezy Knees nursery is nearby. Leader Ruth Davies (01904 763248).

**Please park with consideration where roadside/village parking is involved.**
NB. Walkers participate at their own risk and must be capable of completing the distance in open countryside, over uneven ground with some hill ascents, in a variety of weather conditions. Suitable clothing and footwear must be worn and light refreshments carried.

If you would like a lift for any walk or can offer one to others, please contact Colin Sherwood (01904 640915). A 50p administration charge will be collected on each walk.

HF Holiday September 2016.

Several members have booked a seven-day guided walking holiday at the HF Centre at Bourton-on-the-Water, starting on Friday 23th September. It is also possible to go for four days from Monday 26th September. For further information please contact Alison Rutter or me. This holiday is not arranged by the Walks Group: participants need to make their own arrangements with HF at www.hfholidays.co.uk or on 03454 707558, quoting ref. BNBOB.

Eileen Wishart (Secretary, Walks Group)

Review: Christmas trip to Kiplin Hall and Tennants Auctioneers

From York two coaches travelled via different pick-up points, arriving at Kiplin Hall within a few minutes of each other. The Jacobean house lies midway between Northallerton and Richmond and, as the brochure says, is “a hidden Yorkshire gem”.

Built in the 1620s for George Calvert, Secretary of State to James I and founder of Maryland, by the early 1900s the house and much diminished estate had been neglected and struggled to survive in the 20th century. The Hall's dilapidation was exacerbated during WW2 when RAF officers were billeted there and bombs and ammunition were stored in the grounds. In 1968 Bridget Talbot, the owner from 1937, saved the house from demolition by establishing a charitable trust, which owns and maintains Kiplin today.

Unfortunately, there was only time for a brief guided tour, but it may have encouraged members to return in the summer when the grounds, topiary and walled garden, glimpsed from upper rooms, are at their best and there is more time to study the artefacts associated with each of the family owners.

For our Christmas lunch we travelled on to Tennants Auctioneers at Leyburn, our third visit of the year, where the meal was taken at a leisurely pace, but with excellent service, enabling plenty of conversation and camaraderie before the journey back to York.

Ron K. Greig
Review: Thursford Christmas Spectacular, 11th and 12th December

This was a marvellous excursion, which packed so much into just two days. Departing by Ingleby’s coach from York for Norwich, we paused en route for refreshments at the Friendly Farmer, before visiting the historic town of King’s Lynn. Some of us participated in a 90-minute guided walking tour, while others enjoyed coffee or tea indoors away from the chill wind. Arriving at our hotel adjacent to the Norwich City Football Ground, we had an early dinner and a quick change before leaving just after 5 o’clock for Thursford.

It is difficult to describe in words the magical wonderland that was created there, let alone the magnificent three-hour Christmas show featuring a cast of some 130 professional singers, dancers and musicians who played to a packed audience of over 1,400 people. The show rivalled the famous annual Christmas one at New York’s Radio City Theatre that my wife and I saw some years ago, but this setting embraced the entire audience with ever-changing fairy lights overhead, and singers, dancers and candlelit processions moving through the aisles.

Traditional carols, high-kicking show girls and dancing snowmen, a capella and solo singing of favourite songs and chart toppers, a virtuoso display on the splendid Wurlitzer organ, humorous sketches and stand-up humour from Paul Eastwood, the show’s compère: we loved every moment, and all this in an auditorium surrounded by gorgeous fairground organs, a beautiful carousel and magnificent traction engines. I could go on, but, if you have never been, I can only say please go yourself next year!

I have barely space to mention our visit the next day to the impressive Sainsbury Arts Centre at the University of East Anglia, our free time taking in some of the sights of Norwich or the informative commentary by Michael, our Brightwater tour manager, as we were driven round the city. We had a great – if enjoyably exhausting – time, and our heartfelt thanks go to Darren our driver for getting us safely there, around and back and to Peter Drew for organising it all.

John Dawick

Last Wednesday Drop-in Lunches

Having had to cancel the January drop-in lunch because of the floods, the Walmgate Ale House & Bistro will be back in business for lunches from March onwards. The price for members will remain at £7.50 for one course and £10.50 for two; both options include tea or coffee after the meal. There is no need to book in advance. All the dates are on the back cover of the Newsletter.
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH
4   Walks Group’s social evening, New Earswick Bowls Club, 7.30 pm
15  Half-day walk: Yearsley Woods
19  Annual General Meeting followed by a talk by Keith Barley and Helen Whittaker, “Stained Glass”, and lunch, Hilton Hotel, Tower Street, York, 11 am
30  Tours Advisory meeting, Walmgate Ale House & Bistro, 10 am
30  Drop-in lunch, Walmgate Ale House & Bistro from 12 noon

APRIL
13  Short walk: Ripley
14  Visit: Hat Works and Air Raid Shelters, Stockport
16  Talk: Peter Miller: “The York Art Gallery”, Friends’ Meeting House, Friargate, 2.30 pm
17-23 Holiday: Cork and Killarney
23  Full-day walk: Filey
27  Drop-in lunch at Walmgate Ale House & Bistro from 12 noon
27  Guided tour of Merchant Adventurers’ Hall, 2 pm

MAY
12  Short walk: Warthill
18  Visit: Renishaw Hall and Gardens
21  Full-day walk: Esk Valley
25  Drop-in lunch, Walmgate Ale House & Bistro, from 12 noon

JUNE
8   Visit: Woodhorn Colliery Museum and Northumberlandia
17  Summer Fair at St Crux, The Shambles, York from 10 o’clock
18  Full-day walk: Swaledale
29  Drop-in lunch, Walmgate Ale House & Bistro from 12 noon

Please send contributions and photographs for the June Newsletter to Della Brotherston at newsletter@yant.org.uk by Wednesday 4th May.