

Dear Member

It is my custom to personally contact you at this time of the year and it is my pleasure to update you on certain changes taking place within the Yorkshire Society.

Bearing in mind the difficult economic climate, the Society has had a satisfactory year with regard to Membership which has held steady with the very welcome addition of a number of new members, both Corporate and Individual.

The Society's 30th Anniversary Dinner held in York was most successful but it was probably rather ambitious to attempt two major dinners in one year, again thanks to the economic climate! However, the postponed Annual Dinner held in November was well attended and was a successful evening.

As the Society grows in size, it has become increasingly difficult to manage the administration of the various aspects – everyone on the Committee is a volunteer! Therefore, I am pleased to announce a collaboration the Committee has agreed with Brand Yorkshire which will be dealing with all our membership renewals and arranging some of the Society's visits to our Corporate Members which will be open to everyone. Brand Yorkshire has quickly established itself as an organisation promoting many corporate talents within the Region. Both organisations will work closely together yet maintain their separate identities.

To keep pace with increased costs, the Committee have had to take the decision to amend the annual subscriptions from 1st January 2012. The Individual Membership will rise to £19.95 but will now **include a voucher for £5** which can be used as a credit against the Annual Dinner ticket price or against an event with a charge during the membership year. The charge for a couple will rise to £29.95 and again **include the £5 voucher**.

The Corporate Subscription will rise to £195 but **include 2 x £5 vouchers** to be used against events and also a subscription to **6 issues** of the Brand Yorkshire bi-monthly magazine (worth £19.95). This is a very informative magazine aimed at the Corporate Market.

A number of activities and events have been arranged throughout 2012 and these are listed below to enable you to put them in your diaries. Any subsequent change of date will be advised.

Visit to Marshalls of Elland - late morning Tuesday 27th March
Annual Dinner Club LS1 Friday 18th May. Our Guest Speaker will be Andy McMenemy the '66 Marathons' Man'
Visit to Historic Undercliffe Cemetery (find out exciting and little-known facts about the history of Bradford!) late morning Tuesday 12th June
Pontefract Races late morning Sunday 29th July
Yorkshire Day in Scarborough 1st August
Yorkshire Day Dinner at Club LS1 2nd August
Annual General Meeting and History Awards at Club LS1 Tuesday 4th September
Visit to Backstage Academy South Kirby late morning Tuesday 25th September
Yorkshire Awards Dinner Friday 9th November
Christmas Celebrations Hazelwood Castle evening Tuesday 11th December

More details and booking information will be sent out separately.

I do hope this exciting calendar of events will not only encourage you to renew your subscription but to recommend membership to your friends and colleagues to enable the Society to deliver even more towards the life of the County.

I take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Keith Madeley MBE
Chairman