

## **Yorkshire Society, Chairman's Annual Report December 2012**

2012 has been another good year for the Yorkshire Society with a very interesting programme of activities for Members.

A White Rose Plaque was unveiled on the Library building in Menston to commemorate the birth in the village of Eric Knight the creator of the Lassie books and films. At the conclusion of these proceedings those present then visited The 1875 Anglo-Indian Restaurant who kindly sponsored a truly delightful lunch which was enjoyed by all present and in the presence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Bradford.

The Annual Dinner and Awards in May, held at the Leeds Club, was another well-attended evening and we were pleased to announce the appointment of Kay Mellor as a Vice President of the Society. We have all been entertained so well over the years with Kay's writing and screen achievements.

Those who were able to attend a visit to Undercliffe Cemetery (Corporate Charity Members) in Bradford enjoyed an interesting and informative event and we all came away with a greater knowledge of many of Bradford's leading families.

Pontefract Races has become a regular annual event for Members and will appear in our future list of activities.

Yorkshire Day in Scarborough was first class and congratulations to everyone involved in the day's activities. The annual Yorkshire Day dinner at the Leeds Club on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August was also well attended and gives everyone the opportunity to celebrate our very special day on either occasion.

The AGM and History Prize evening was another success and we were pleased to have three winners this year. We were also delighted to announce on the evening the appointment of another Vice President, Linda Pollard. Linda is a Yorkshirewoman who has achieved great success in business and is a role model for our young people making Yorkshire their future base.

The Society took a stand at the Brand Yorkshire Conference in Harrogate in October and came away with many new Members and opportunities for the Society to work in partnership with other organisations operating in Yorkshire.

Once again, the Yorkshire Awards Dinner was a great success and we were delighted to present our Lifetime Achievement Award to John Godber. Later in the month the Society planted 420 trees in Wakefield to commemorate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee with our President, Lord St Oswald, planting the first one.

The year was finished with our usual evening of Festive Music at Hazelwood Castle with entertainment by the Greener Gals.

We hope you agree that we are providing our Members with many activities throughout the year and that this will lead to more Members joining the Yorkshire Society thus enabling us to do even more to promote the County worldwide.

On to 2013 and we have more events for you to attend and have the opportunity to meet other members throughout the year.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> February our Corporate Members, Rendezvous Hotel in Skipton, have an evening called ‘  
“Yorkshire Remembers the 1940’s,” details of which are attached. This will give you the opportunity to sample the delights of this wonderful hotel which will be the venue for the Yorkshire Day Civic Lunch. The owners of the Rendezvous, Malcolm and Karen Weaving, have generously agreed to donate the proceeds from the dinner jointly to Manorlands Hospice and the Yorkshire Society. Tickets, priced at £25 per person, can be obtained by phoning 01756 700100 or by e mail to [lindsaymueller@rendezvous-skipton.com](mailto:lindsaymueller@rendezvous-skipton.com) . We do hope you will support this fun packed evening.

The Society is hoping to work with students of Leeds Metropolitan University to explore how we can engage more with young people. The first result from these discussions is to give Members the opportunity to visit the new Carnegie campus at Headingley Stadium. We have 30 places available for the 5<sup>th</sup> March when we will meet at 11am for a tour of the building followed by a lunch provided by the catering students for a cost of £10 per person. If you can make this date please contact me on 07831 159800 or e mail at [keith@mryorkshire.com](mailto:keith@mryorkshire.com) Do please book early to avoid disappointment.

The 17<sup>th</sup> May is the date for the Society’s Annual Dinner and Awards Presentation which will be held at the Leeds Club with our Guest Speaker being Yorkshire’s very own Harry Gratton.

Pontefract Races will follow in July and Yorkshire Day this year will be held in Skipton for the first time. Planning meetings have already been held and you are promised a day to remember. Please tell all your friends and relatives about the day and remind them that apart from Civic Leaders only Members of the Yorkshire Society can attend these celebrations. The usual Yorkshire Day Dinner will follow on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The AGM and History Awards are provisionally booked for the 3<sup>rd</sup> September. The Yorkshire Awards Dinner will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> October and this will be a very special evening as it will be the Silver Jubilee Awards. This dinner is one of the longest-running events of its kind in the County and early booking is recommended.

Following the continued success of our Festive evening, we will again visit Hazelwood Castle in December.

We are currently exploring a Gourmet Dinner, open to all Members, at the Grand Cedar Court Hotel, York (Corporate Members) together with other visits to Corporate Members and possibly a Yorkshire Plaque unveiling, details of all these to follow later.

I do hope you will agree that our Committee is doing everything possible to ensure you feel your membership of our Society is worthwhile and we also look forward to further suggestions for visits, dinners and other activities.

I wish you and your families and friends a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Keith D Madeley MBE  
Chairman.