

Chairman's Report for the Yorkshire Society 2015

Once again it is my pleasure and privilege to update you on another eventful year for the Yorkshire Society. The appointment of three new Vice Presidents shows the warmth and affection in the County for the Society as it enters its 36th year. We welcome Lord Patel of Bradford, Bishop Nick of Leeds and Christine Talbot known to us all from her regular appearances on ITV Yorkshire's Calendar News.

Another highlight was the erection of a Yorkshire Society plaque on the wall in front of the Art Gallery on the Headrow in memory of our dearly loved Jane Tomlinson. This was in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Leeds and Jane's family. There was extensive coverage of the unveiling across all the local news media.

We had Society visits to Napoleans in Bradford, Slaidburn Church, Ripon Cathedral, New Hall Prison, Tennants Auctioneers and to only one of two remaining lock gate manufacturers in the country at Stanley Ferry in Wakefield.

I felt privileged to be asked by member, Judith Donovan to be a guest speaker at the Reform Club in London on different aspects of Yorkshire. Judith arranged the Yorkshire Centuries Dinner in April and I joined Sir David Wootton and Jonathan Hick my subject being 'Yorkshire Facts'. I did mention that in a recent survey there were still at least 36 companies in the Bradford area involved in the Textile Industry.

Also in April we were invited to host a table by Downtown in Business at the inaugural City of Leeds Business Awards and I was asked to present three of the awards on behalf of the Society.

Our Annual Dinner & Awards is fast becoming another event not to be missed and we were pleased to have Vice President Sir Rodney Walker as our Guest Speaker and he gave a very interesting talk on his experiences in business. Our award winners were:

Arts & Culture - Millie Johnson

Charity - Yorkshire Cancer Research

Community Involvement - Peter Branson

Company of the year - Dalesman

Media Personality - Christine Talbot

In July I was asked to arrange a visit to Yorkshire for the new Serbian Ambassador Dr Pribicevic, this being his first visit to Yorkshire from arriving in London. He met the Leeds City Region LEP Chairman Roger Marsh, Chief Executive of Leeds Council Tom Riordan, the Deputy Chief Executive of UKTI and the President of Leeds Chamber of Commerce Gerald Jennings.

Yorkshire Day was in Doncaster and we were blessed with good weather and had a memorable day starting with a skype link to our Yorkshire friends in New Zealand, an excellent service in Doncaster Minster and a Civic lunch in the Hub at Doncaster College. Thanks to all concerned in making this another successful day.

Our Annual History Awards and Society's AGM was another pleasant occasion in September at Holy Trinity Church and we thank Arts@Trinity and Nurture Café for providing food and drink to Members. Thanks also to Professor Ted Royle and his team of Academics for being our Judges and congratulations to two winners Dr Dennis O'Keefe for 'Not playing the Game' : the continuation of

cricket in Halifax and the Calder Valley during the Great War and also to Dr Christine Verguson for 'William Holt of Todmorden' : Broadcasting Yorkshire and Britain to the World.

We continue with our sponsorship of the Yorkshire Awards and this year our Lifetime Achievement went to Sir David Wootton, first Bradfordian to be the Lord Mayor of London. The Charities we supported at this event were the David Oluwale Memorial Trust and Friends of Undercliffe Cemetery.

All the above does not happen without support from the Team and I thank everyone involved for giving of their time and effort to make sure the Society delivers its aims and objectives. We make particular reference this year to Nicky Busby who has taken on our social media work and continually tweets our activities and Andrew Wright for auditing our accounts.

The year finished with a very enjoyable Festive Evening at Unity Hall in Wakefield, one of our new Corporate Members and so to 2016.

Our events are on the web site www.yorkshiresociety.org.uk but I specifically make reference to dinner at the House of Lords in February thanks to Lord Patel of Bradford and the Annual Dinner & Awards on the 6th May will see another new Vice President, Bishop Nick of Leeds speaking on 'The Spy who came in to the Fold'.

I look forward to your continued membership and support and hope you will continue to recommend the Yorkshire Society to friends and colleagues around the World.

Canon Keith D. Madeley MBE

Chairman