

The York Society, Inc.

History • Heritage • Arts • Culture



Letter from the President

Dear Members



It is with sadness we learnt this month of the death of Walter King, one of the stalwarts of The York Society and a Life Member. Our sympathies go to Adelphie King.

Our Treasurer Michael Kilvington-Guy retired and the committee has appointed committee member Denese Smythe to be Treasurer. We now have a committee of five people which is tight given the number of activities we are involved in. Five is also the quorum for committee meetings under our present Constitution.

The York Society has applied to LotteryWest and other funding agencies for funding to complete extensions to the gallery space which were begun by the previous committee. The kitchen needs to be reconnected and refitted. We would like to encourage the use of the space by York community groups and for functions. Our current hire charge is \$50 a day.

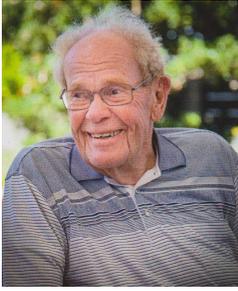
COVID permitting, we are planning to hold the York Photographic Awards next Easter and are currently seeking funding for the event.

I will be running a seminar on Wikipedia programming at the archives on Saturday 12 December from 2 to 4 pm for those interested in learning a little about how to make and amend Wikipedia entries. During the seminar, I aim to put up an entry for Penola House.

Regards

Rob Garton-Smith

NEWSLETTER NO. 2
October-December, 2020



In Memory

Sadly, several members of The York Society have passed away in the past few weeks.

We fondly remember Walter King who, as Rob has said in his President's Letter, was a stalwart of the Society and a Life Member.

Dilys Bailey was a hard-working member of the Committee and coordinator of the Archives for a number of years.

Nona Scott was also a member of the Committee and was always ready to lend a hand at York Society events.

Joan Munckton was a regular helper at Art & Craft Awards and Photographic Awards events.

These people are all remembered with affection and will be sorely missed.

Visit to the restored Masonic Hall

Stephen and Janine Muehlesen took members of The York Society on a tour of their restoration work at the Masonic Hall on 16 August, followed by drinks and nibbles provided by the Society. Thank you Stephen and Janine for showing us your wonderful hall and home!

Stephen and Janine gave us some notes about their restoration work following our visit:

“Now you have seen the restoration of the Masonic Hall, this was our approach being somewhat different to the traditional one but we feel the only way forward if buildings like ours are to be saved and not end up just piles of rubble at a tip site. The reality is that the current generation simply is not interested in spending double or triple what they could ever recouped just to restore an old building. We have to find another way to promote restoration in order to save history and towns like York.

We would ask you consider our outlook on preserving the past and the need to introduce the present and future in order to encourage the next generation to look at the value of preserving these outstanding building but at the same time being able to create a respectful modern approach.

We considered that should double glazing have been available in the 1900's of course they would have used it, so respectfully with consultation we incorporated windows which were sympathetic to the original design instead of poorly manufactured reproductions of the original wooden windows (as the majority of the tradesman able to make them properly are sadly dead).

Our window frame extrusions are made in Germany from approx. 100% recycled materials (the glass is new) and as a product are actually fully recyclable should they be replaced in generations to come.

We then looked at the lovely large rooms and decided to accentuate this with darker walls which drew your eye to the white window frames, which framed beautifully the large gums across the road and also the view of the Town Centre.

We hope that there is a story in this building for future generations that history doesn't necessarily have to be boring, full of old furniture and cost an arm and a leg to make it look like it did 100 years ago. Also that there is a way for this generation of prospective home renovators to restore within a reasonable budget a historic building and bring it into the next generation to be enjoyed and practical for the future."

Bells of the Avon District

On Saturday, 12th September around 30 members and visitors were treated to a most interesting talk by Ian Phillips on Bells in the Avon District. Ian revealed snippets of the Avon Valley's history and spoke on many bells that most people were not aware of and illustrated his talk with a Powerpoint presentation showing photos. Ian's talk was followed by an impromptu talk by Revd Peter Mold which delighted the audience. The talk was followed by drinks and nibbles prepared by Prudence Ford.



Visit to Revd Peter Mold's Refectory

York Society members enjoyed a visit to the "Refectory" built by Revd Peter Mold. Peter explains his decision to build his "Refectory" in this way:

"I have always liked buildings. This is a pipe-dream. I wanted a manorial hall, but a mini-mould version. The design had to be small as there were space constraints because of the trees. This is a doll's house. I like to think of it as a refectory, which is where monks used to eat in a monastery. Manorial halls always had a great screen so this one does too. For York people, I say it is a barn."

The building was too small to employ an architect, says Peter. So the architect of the building was a man in his mid 80s, the Revd Peter Mold. Peter, has designed a wonderful building which he may have intended to be like a small manor house hall, but it also seems to be like a small church, with its stonework and wonderful use of jarrah, and stained glass windows. It is a mix of styles, Romanesque with its barrel ceiling, and with Gothic and Tudor features.

The builder was Tom Lydon (0407 428 808) and the building supervisor was Peter Bailey (0404 097 008). Tom Lydon is very proud of the building, and says he was honoured to be the builder. The engineer was Mike Gill.

The stone mason was Kevin Kealley. Stones were picked off the ground on the Daveys' property just as they would have been in the 19th century, says Tom Lydon. There were also stones from the ruins of an old farm cottage.

The utterly beautiful screen, balcony, door frames and other timber work were



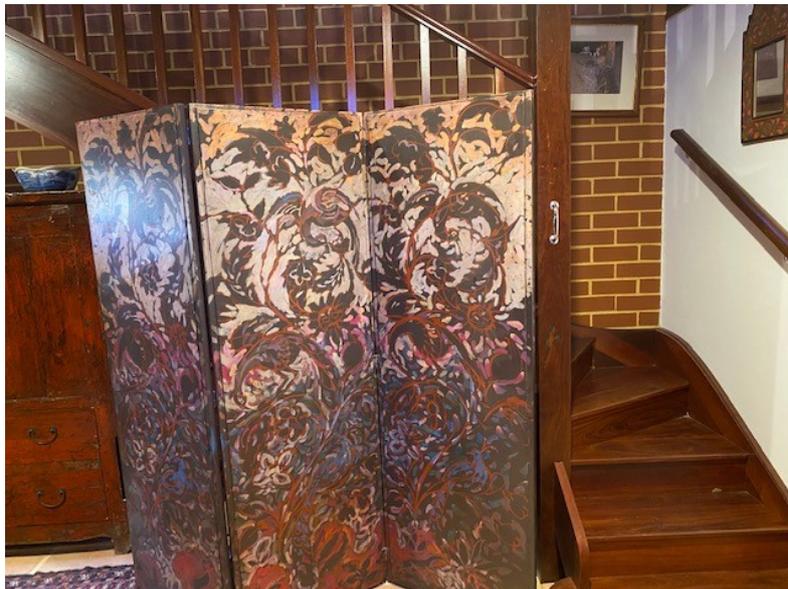
done by Barry Carpenter from Midvale Joinery. He also constructed the refectory table.

The chimney pots are from a house in Paddington, England and were provided by Peter Mold. They had to be fitted in by the builder.

Peter Mold points out that the Left Hand Side chimney is English Garden Bond and the Right hand side chimney is Flemish Bond. It was difficult getting bricks which were right so the selected bricks were tumbled to age them.

The York Society congratulates the Rev Peter Mold for designing and constructing such a building. It is a wonderful gift to York and to Western Australia, matched only by Peter's amazing garden. This is heritage in the making.

Rob Garton Smith (President, The York Society) 17 October 2020



Notes from the Archives



Do you live in Durable, Plaudit or Scarpia Streets?

These three streets were all named after successful racehorses of the 1890s.

Scarpia was owned by the prominent owner and trainer George Towton, (the only man to own, train and ride a Perth Cup winner), and won the Perth Cup in 1893 and 1894, one of the few horses to win the Cup twice.



Durable was also trained by George Towton and won the Perth Cup in 1895.



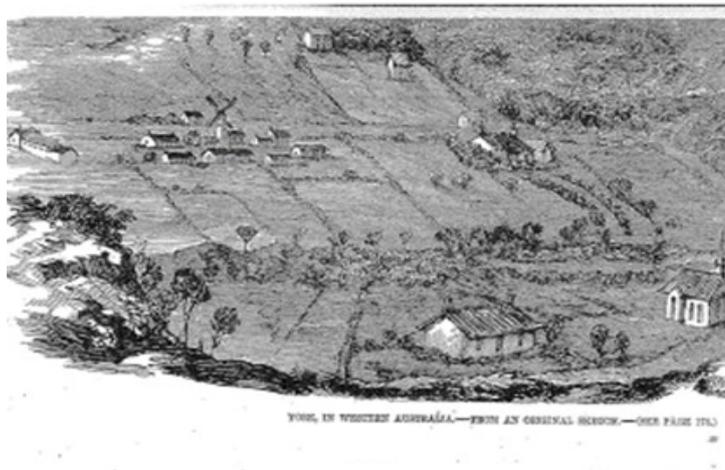
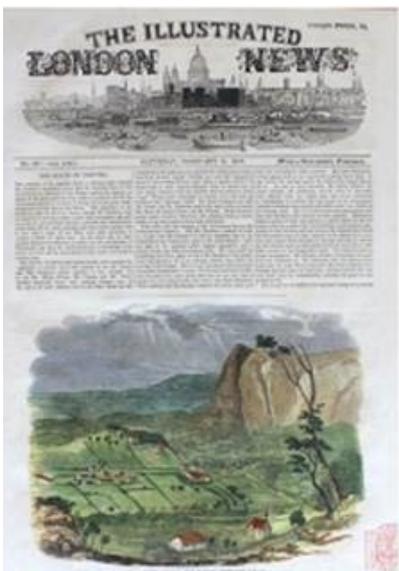
Plaudit was a mare bred by Messrs Rouse in NSW and imported to Western Australia by Dr O. Meehan (who served as Resident Medical Officer and magistrate in York). She ran in the Avon Valley and Eastern Districts in 1891, winning three races on the first day of the York Jockey Clubs Easter Meeting, including the Flying Handicap over 6 furlongs.

Jackie Phillips

Coming Events

On Sunday, November 15th, members and friends are invited to the Sandalwood Gallery at 4.30 to hear Rob Garton-Smith tell us about the engraving of York which appeared in the *Illustrated London News* in 1857 and the buildings in that engraving.

Members free, non-members \$5



This will be followed by a Sundowner when drinks and nibbles will be served.

Christmas Function

Saturday, December 5th, 4.30pm.

Christine Lindsay & Peter Ellis are in the process of restoring the Westpac Bank Building and have very kindly invited the York Society to visit and hold its Christmas function there. We Will hear about their work and enjoy a Sundowner at 4.30pm.

Membership

A reminder that Membership fees are due in January. \$20 single membership, \$35 Family. Payment may be made to BSB 636000 Ac. 117 811 182. Please put your 'surname and membership' in the details.

Dates to remember:

- Sunday, November 15th, 4.30pm: Sandalwood Yards, talk by Rob Garton-Smith on the story behind the engraving of York which appeared in the *Illustrated London News* in 1857.
- Saturday, December 5th, 4.30: Christmas Function to be held at the old Westpac Bank building.
- Saturday, December 12th, 2-4pm: Seminar on writing for Wikipedia, Archives building.

Keep up-to-date with York Society activities on our website:

www.theyorksociety.com and on Facebook:

[York Families & Footprints](http://www.theyorksociety.com) and www.facebook.com/yorksociety

The York Society Inc

PO Box 143

York WA 6302

Phone & Fax:

08 9641 1765

Email: yorksociety@westnet.com.au

Website: www.theyorksociety.com

THE YORK SOCIETY COMMITTEE

President: Rob Garton-Smith

Email: yorksociety@westnet.com.au

Vice-President: Elizabeth Parker ph. 0428 322 167

Email: parkerprint@bigpond.com

Secretary: Liz Christmas ph. 9641 1937

Email: lizchristmas@westnet.com.au

Treasurer: Denese Smythe

Email: desmythe@bigpond.net.au

Prudence Ford: Committee Member

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PUBLICATIONS

Aborigines of the York Area \$15

York Sketchbook \$15

York Cemetery Walk Trail \$10

Recollections of York Diary \$10

Origins of the York Town Hall \$10

“YORK WA – A Documentary History”,

by Pamela Statham-Drew \$70

“Sunset over Mt Douraking” \$35

These books are available by contacting:

York Archives, 9641 1765, or email:

archives.yorksociety@westnet.com.au