



Role Description:

Chairperson (voluntary)

The background is a classical painting depicting a group of people in 18th-century Georgian attire walking through a lush garden. The scene is framed by tall, dark trees on the left and right, with a bright, cloudy sky above. The figures are dressed in elaborate period clothing, including long dresses, waistcoats, and hats. The overall tone is elegant and historical, fitting the theme of the York Georgian Society.

York Georgian Society: Who we are

York Georgian Society was founded in 1939 to promote the preservation and care, and to foster the study and appreciation, of Georgian buildings in and around the City of York. It is one of the oldest societies in the world devoted to the Georgian era, and the second oldest such society in Great Britain outside London.

The Society's remit extends beyond architecture and the crafts associated with building to include the arts, culture and society of the period from 1660, the year of George I's birth, to 1837, the year of William IV's death.

“The York Georgian Society aims to encourage the conservation, restoration and maintenance of Georgian buildings and architecture; to prevent disfigurement to settings and other features of Georgian character; to promote interest and education in, and knowledge and learning of all aspects of Georgian architecture, arts, culture and society, all with special but not exclusive reference to the City of York and its neighbourhood.”

Role Overview

Anticiated commitment: 6-8 hours per month in addition to quarterly committee meetings

Location: York/Yorkshire

Role Type: Voluntary

The Chairman provides leadership and strategic direction for the society, ensuring the smooth running of its activities and the continued delivery of its charitable objectives. This volunteer role involves chairing committee meetings, representing the Society at events, overseeing core programmes (such as lectures and event management), and working closely with the committee and trustees.

As an established membership organisation, the Society plays a valued role in promoting the study and conservation of Georgian architecture and culture across York and Yorkshire. Our activities include an annual lecture programme, seasonal events, outings, publications, and historic building casework. The Chairman helps coordinate these initiatives, offering guidance and support to committee members and fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment across the society.

This position is well suited to someone with experience in leadership, heritage, or charitable governance, or an individual with deep enthusiasm for the Georgian period who is ready to take on a meaningful and rewarding role within a longstanding local society.



Key responsibilities

- **Leadership & Governance:** Provide overall direction for the Society, ensuring that its objectives are met and that activities align with its charitable purpose. Chair committee meetings, set agendas in collaboration with the Secretary, and support effective governance.
- **Representation & Advocacy:** Act as the public face of the Society, representing it at events, meetings, and engagements with partners.
- **Committee Coordination:** Work closely with committee members, providing guidance and oversight of key areas including lectures, membership, planning matters, publications, and communications. Ensure good communication and smooth operation.
- **Strategic Planning:** Help shape the future direction of the Society, including strengthening member engagement, supporting recruitment of volunteers, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the organisation.
- **Events & Activities Oversight:** Provide support and oversight for the Society's lecture programme, events, visits, and social activities. Attend major events and offer introductions or remarks where appropriate.
- **Administration & Compliance:** Work with the Secretary and Treasurer to ensure compliance with relevant policies and charitable requirements, oversee the preparation of annual reports, and support the management of budgets and financial planning.



Person Specification and remuneration

Essential Attributes and Skills

- A commitment to heritage and conservation of Georgian York
- Understanding of the role of a Board of Trustees and principles of good governance within charities (or willingness to learn)
- Experience of governance or leadership (in business, non-profit public sector or academia)
- Strategic thinking, sound judgement and decision-making
- Strong communication and collaboration skills
- Experience of chairing meetings or facilitating group discussion
- Willingness to join the society as a member
- Willingness to join the society as a trustee

Remuneration

Trustees receive no remuneration, though reasonable travel and out-of-pocket expenses may be reimbursed.



