

Club News Archive

2010 - 2011

in reverse chronological order

July 2010 - June 2011



Dragon Boats charity presentation - As the final act of the 2010 Dragon Boat Challenge on **28th June 2011** President Graham hands over a cheque for £23,061 to Martyn Callaghan, Chief Executive of St Leonards Hospice the principal Charity for the 2010 event. The total amount raised in 2010 was £65,410 and 35 individual charities benefited.



Young Groves Refurbishment - Photo shows Rotarians Jesper, Naish and Russell (J) taking a break from the decoration of offices at Young Groves, under the supervision of Heidi the manager of the centre, in readiness for a tenant to take up occupation shortly.



Dragon Boat Programmes This photo shows the group at the Press photoshoot on **28th June** in the York Against Cancer Shop at York District Hospital for the launch of the 2011 Dragon Boat programmes.



Presentation to Yorkshire Cancer Research - Following the Club's "York90" Fundraiser, on **21st June** President Graham, together with Brian Joscelyne, visited the Cancer Research Unit at the University of York, which is funded by YCR and headed up by Professor Norman Maitland. This facility is world-leading in research into Prostrate Cancer. President Graham presented a cheque for £2000 to Prof. Maitland and to Professor Tony Robards, chairman of YCR. A similar amount is now being sent to Rotary Foundation for Polio Plus, the second charity supported by York90. A further £1000 is expected to be donated to each charity once the York90 prize trip is completed and the York90 accounts are finalised.



Seniors Outing - Pictured below the nine ladies of Sinnington Womens Institute who provided a splendid afternoon tea in their village hall on **21st June** for the group of York Seniors who had been driven on a scenic tour of the Howardian Hills by eight members of the Club.



New President at Rotaract Club - On **19th June** York Rotaract Club held a dinner to mark their handover of Presidency. [Details here](#)

Club Speaker and Visitors - President Graham's last "presiding" lunch meeting on **17th June** was a busy affair! The Club was delighted to welcome two distinguished visitors - our own 1040 DG Roger Percival, accompanied by Shahzad Ahmed - District Governor Rotary International District 3272 (Pakistan & Afghanistan). Wine was provided by Rodney Dew, to whom members bade a fond farewell as he is leaving the Club after 27 years membership; and the Churchill surpassed themselves by serving enormous lamb shanks! Presentations were made to two recent Paul Harris Fellowship recipients, Mike Russell and John Russell, for their great work running the District Shop.

The Club were then entertained by a talk from new member Russ Rollings who disclosed in turn many interesting, offbeat and amusing aspects of his life during and after his career at Nestle; including ownership of a 1940's Burton City doubledecker bus and the most original excuse yet for missing Dragon Boat Day - having to use passes acquired for the British Grand Prix that day!!



Club Walk - The weather forecast was for rain on **16th June**, but since it was a Rotary Walk Day, the sun dutifully shone brilliantly for the eight members and partners who completed the initiative test - finding our way across to Carle Moor, west of Ripon. We were rewarded with a wonderful 6.5 mile walk on the edge of the Dales, named the "Mosaic Walk" for the 22 mosaics created by the local community which marked the path (somewhat!) The Grantley Arms at Grantley topped off the walk with their superb gastronomic lunch!



Kids Out - Nigel Naish met 10 pupils and 6 teachers from Applefields School at Lightwater Valley on **8th June** and handed over tickets, vouchers, t-shirts and baseball caps so that they could enjoy a day's fun at the club's expense - part of the Kids Out experience organized by District each year. Jayne Blyth from Applefields School commented: "We were delighted with the day - all positive from our point of view. Please pass on our sincere thanks to all the Rotary Club members."



Club Photograph (part 2!) A photograph of Club members who were not present at the original session has now been taken. Larger versions of both photos can be seen on our "90 Years" page - [click here](#)



International visitors - During a very busy weekend visit organised by our International Committee ably led by Adrian Radford, a total of 29 visitors from our "Twinned" Rotary Clubs of Aubusson (France) and Erlangen (Germany) joined the Club for our lunch meeting on **3rd June** at the ASK Restaurant, in the stately surroundings of the Assembly Rooms.



Club Speaker - George Gilmore, head teacher of the [Applefields School](#) in Burnholme, York, spoke to the club on 27th May about the development of Applefields since it was started in 2004. The school has about 130 pupils, all with special needs and a wide range of challenging educational requirements. The quality of care and evident dedication of the staff who run the school was appreciated by all.



Vocational Visit - On **27th May** a group of nine members (including two from York Rotaract Club) were given a fascinating insight into the operation and finances of the York Racecourse. All profits are ploughed back into the operation (it is a limited partnership LLP). The quality of the facilities and the obvious excellence of its management has meant that the Racecourse is doing well despite the impact most of the surrounding area. The track generates £40m per year to the economy of York and surrounding area.



Recognising new and "experienced" members - In the course of the Club meeting on **20th May**, President Graham presented a Paul Harris Fellowship to Graham Todd, in recognition of his 25 years of service to the Club and to local charities. At the same meeting, the Club warmly welcomed a new member, Jim Wragg, into membership. Jim was sponsored by Fred Anderson.



Lollipop - During the business meeting on **20th May**, the founder of "Lollipop", Andrea Gitsham, gave a brief talk on the history of her charity, which provide help for young people with hearing loss. Andrea herself is profoundly deaf, and her talk was inspirational. She also described the delight they felt at receiving a £198,000 grant from the Lottery Fund. After her talk, President Graham then announced that Andrea was being awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship in recognition of her extraordinary work.



Club Walk - The May "Wolds" walk was led by Dick Stanley who took 11 members and guests through Cow, Rabbit and Horse Dales on **19th May**, in the glorious sunshine that is now de rigeur for all Rotary walking days! After 7 miles of beautiful scenery and great companionship which seemed to make the time fly by, lunch at the Wolds Inn at Huggate was a suitable finale. And Frank was the first to get the full Bar!



Club Speaker - The Club was treated to a presentation on the York Rotaract Club, its past year and its future, at our meeting on **13th May**. Aiste Rugeviciute, President Elect of the Rotaract Club, enthusiastically outlined her plans for next year and for taking York Rotaract to the "next level". Her plans for "Free Hugs" marketing seemed to go down down especially well with many members! During the meeting President Graham presented a Paul Harris Fellowship to Dario Palumbo, the current Rotaract President, in getting the club established over the past 18 months.



Vocational Visit - On **13th May**, a group of 10 Club members visited the York Signalling Control Centre run by Network Rail. We were given a fascinating insight into the pressurised and fast-moving daily operations which control the signals, level crossings and train movements for a very wide area of Yorkshire. York station alone has over 1800 trains a day passing through it. Comparisons with air traffic control came out that the 'priority' of being able to stack planes when there is a backlog!



Dragon Boats Briefing - Representatives of the 36 teams competing in this year's Dragon Boat Challenge on **July 10th** came together for a briefing meeting on 10th May held at the York City Rowing Club. Committee Chairman David Impey outlined the day's events, and presentations were made covering Safety aspects and Fundraising. The excited atmosphere at the briefing was a great foretaste what will be an excellent day on the water in July.



Presentation to "Off The Hook" - President Graham, with Nigel Naish on behalf of the Club's Community Service Committee, recently presented a cheque for £200 to [Off the Hook/York Boxing Club](#), a community charity helping disadvantaged young people. They are encouraged to develop life skills and integrate with the wider community through a wide range of learning opportunities at their premises in Layerthorpe. Making the presentation, he said: "We are pleased to support the team of committed and dedicated people who give so much of their skills and time to help youngsters who, for a wide variety of reasons, haven't had a good start. I have been very impressed with the range of activities that are available in addition to boxing and astonished at the number of youngsters who receive services regularly provided by this York Charity"



"York 90" Prize Draw - Before the Club meeting on **6th May**, the Draw was made for the winner of the York 90 Draw, who, together with a companion, will enjoy a 7-day VIP trip to York and Edinburgh. The Draw was made by John Yeomans, Chairman of Visit York; and also present was Prof. Anthony Robards, Chairman of Yorkshire Cancer Research, one of the two beneficiaries of the fundraiser, which has raised over £6000 (\$10,000) for YCR and Rotary Foundation's 'Polio Plus'. President Graham announced the winning number 18. The winner, from just under 400 entries, is Mr. [Name] of Illinois.



St George's Day Dinner - This year's St George's Day Dinner, somewhat delayed by a clash with Easter (!), was held on **4th May** in the splendid surroundings of Bedern Hall. After a very enjoyable dinner featuring Roast Beef, Members and their guests were introduced first to St George by Alasdair Walker, of York Ainsty Rotary Club, who then proposed the toast. Proceedings were managed in masterly fashion by the skery, and with a trio whose wide range of styles went from classical to - appropriately enough for the occasion - "avin' "



Club Walk - The April walk, on **21st April**, saw a good turnout of 11 following a 7-mile route in Ryedale from Nunnington, south to Stonegrave and its ancient minster (supposedly the smallest in the UK, and certainly one of the oldest, with its Saxon doorway and Norman tower) then round past East Newton Hall and the River Rye, back to the Royal Oak in Nunnington for a very tasty lunch which, considering the warm afternoon, was well worth



Member's Talk At the Club meeting on **15th April**, Barbara Stephens gave us an insight into her busy life. In between juggling her job as Head of Wills and Probate for Hetheringtons, children and grandchildren duties, and many Rotary commitments, she manages to complete multiple long-distance (20 miles plus) walks each year with husband Nick, including 50-milers, and also a 48-hour 100 mile walk. Members were left in awe and were still seen discussing this feat as they later sat exhausted in their cars trying to get out of the Car Park.



Club Photograph - The Club photograph taken recently is shown below. A larger version can also be viewed - [click here](#)



Blood Pressure Testing - On **9th April** the general public in Coppergate were again corralled by smooth-talking Club members into have their blood pressures taken, as part of Stroke Awareness Day, and advised if they needed to seek any further medical diagnosis. Despite the "sideshow" of the Grand National running that afternoon, by the end of the day over 430 people had been tested.



District Assembly - At the District 1040 Assembly held at Fulford School on **9th April**, John & Mike Russell are pictured manning the District Shop. Their activities contributed over £1000 to the Club Charity fund in 2010.



Club Speaker - On **8th April** the Club welcomed Ben Andrews, of Benenden Healthcare Society as our speaker. Benenden is one of the sponsors of the 2011 Dragon Boat Challenge. Ben outlined the history of Benenden from its beginnings 106 years ago, providing a Sanatorium in Kent for the treatment of TB, and subsequently a mutual, nonprofit society supporting healthcare for Post Office workers; to today's organisation headquartered in York and providing mutual healthcare for a million "public sector" members. (PS Ben did confirm after the meeting that all Rotarians are eligible for membership since they are members of a charity!)



Charity Walk - This year's International Charity Walk took place on **7th April**. Organised by David Heasman, with splendid catering arranged by Angela, the walk in the Howardian Hills was a most enjoyable outing for the 46 people participating, and raised over £520 for the Mwabi school project in Malawi.



Dragon Boat Challenge - Preparations for the 2011 Dragon Boat Challenge on **July 10th** are gathering pace. Pictured here are the nucleus of the team from the Jack Birch Unit at York University who will be paddling for York Against Cancer. Jenny Southgate, Director of the Unit holds the dragon head while Julie Russell, General Manager of York Against Cancer tentatively looks for the fiery breath. The young supporter is Alex Duke recruited by his mother Ros—who will be paddling.



St Crux Fundraiser - It was all go at the biennial book and bric a bac sale in the centre of York on **5th April**, where despite the lack of sunshine, business was brisk for much of the day, ended up raising approx £700. And President Graham was reported to be up to his elbows in hot water...



"Fore!" - Spring is almost sprung, and with a flourish of cleaning of clubs, balls and mobility aids, the Club's golfers are celebrating the start of the new Club season. The Draw for the Shouksmith Trophy has been announced, and can be found in the Golf Section of the website.

"Thanks for Life" Poppleton Coffee Morning - The fundraising coffee morning in the Poppleton Methodist Church Hall on **2nd April** raised £246 for the End Polio Now campaign – enough to immunise another 1000 children. The young discoverers, who planted 500 purple crocuses in the grass verge outside the Hall, show off the acknowledgement sign



Club Speaker - at our meeting on **18th March**, a full house heard Hannah Phillip, Director, Fairfax House "the finest Georgian town house in England (Sir Simon Jenkins)" speak about what's been involved in creating the forthcoming exhibition 'Gilding the Lily'. Exercising patience perseverance and persuasion she has managed to borrow some pieces from the Royal Collection (the Queen personally approved the loan), The British Museum (incredible bureaucracy), the Sir John Soanes Museum and private collectors to form an exhibition of gems, never before been seen in Yorkshire, illustrating the significance of the flower in 18th century decorative art. The exhibition will be on display in Fairfax House from 1st April to 31st July.



March Walk - On **17th March** our group of 12 set off in cloud from the car park at the Hole of Horcum for an eight and half mile walk on the North Yorkshire Moors. The sun came out eventually and at the half way point, Skelton Tower, our organisers Celia and David Impey refreshed us with home made sloe gin and biscuits. The views on the return journey along the ridge high above the North Yorks Moors railway line back to Saltergate compensated for the misty start. We all felt we justified the substantial lunch at



Technology Tournament - 43 teams from 14 schools competed in the 7th York Technology Tournament held in the National Railway Museum on **16th March**. The winners in each section were:- **Foundation**. All Saints trophy presented by Patrick Shepherd, Dep Chairman Shepherd Group

Intermediate

St Peters

Joseph

Jane Granville, Pro Vice Chancellor University of York

Cllr Sue Galloway

York



'Thanks for Life' planting - The photo shows some of the children at Osbaldwick primary school who 'planted' the acknowledgement sign this week. The three York clubs planted 25,000 crocus bulbs at 40 locations, mainly schools, last October as part of the End Polio Now project. A3 weatherproof signs have been planted at each site when the purple flowers emerge in the outline of **T F L - Thanks For Life**



Club Speaker - On **11th March** our speaker was Jim Porteous, of British Polio Fellowship. Jim was afflicted by polio as a child, spent a year in an iron lung, and despite having been confined to a wheel chair has lived a full and productive life. His message was appreciation to Rotary for what they are doing to eliminate polio and to stress that polio victims needed support as they got older.



President's Evening The 90th Presidents evening on **4th March** in the splendid banqueting rooms at York Racecourse attracted 120 Rotarians, partners and friends. President Graham gave an eloquent toast to the city and our principal guest the Lord Mayor, in her response, commented on her involvement with Rotary during her year of office and congratulated the members for their positive contributions to



RIBI President visits York. RIBI President Jim Moulson with DG Roger Percival spent the afternoon and evening of **1st March** with the three York clubs. Highlights included a visit to Ralph Butterfield School House, the House of the Saviour and the Saviour, and a Business Meeting at the York Vikings Club.



President Jim, The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of York, Cllr Sue Galloway, DG Roger and President Graham in the York Mansion House

With the children at Ralph Butterfield School Haxby

TFL Acknowledgement sign at Ralph Butterfield

RIBI President Jim Moulson (l) and DG Roger with the presidents of York Rotaract, York, York Ainsty and York Vikings Clubs at the York Vikings Business Meeting

York Rotaract Charter Night - The York Rotaract Club celebrated their first Charter Night on **Friday 25th February** with a black-tie dinner at the Hilton Hotel. 13 members and partners attended the dinner, (3 of them winning raffle prizes!) and in all a total of over 60 people enjoyed the celebrations, including representatives from the other 3 Rotaract Clubs in the District. DGE Willie Clark was the after-dinner speaker and entertained the assembled gathering! Congratulations to the Rotaract Club, and we wish them a very successful Year Two!

(more photos on the [Rotaract page](#))



TFL Collection - Club members held a collection for "Thanks for Life" at Tesco, York on **19th February**, raising nearly £700. Pictured here, President Graham and Vice-President David manage to 'persuade' DG Roger Percival to add to Ian Denoon's pail !!



Club Speaker - On **18th February** the speaker at our lunch meeting was Max Newton, who gave members an update on the work and objectives of the [British Red Cross](#) in Yorkshire.



Bronte, Deer and Thompson - This month's walk on **17th February** started from Aldwark and joined the Bronte Walk. The reason for this name is that Anne Bronte was employed as a governess at Thorpe Green Hall, where Queen Ethelburga's School now stands, between 1840 and 1845 along with her brother Branwell. We also had the opportunity to see the 390 red deer at Low Farm in their space-age roundhouse ([read more here](#)). The full walk was 7.76 miles and finished back at the Aldwark Arms for lunch.

Right: The picture was taken by Dave Thompson (no relation unfortunately) in front of the Thompson Mausoleum at Little Ouseburn Church, which contains the remains of the Thompson family of the now demolished Kirby Hall, from 1760 to 1844.



Jo Ro Pupils go for Purple. The Joseph Rowntree School Council recently organised a range of fundraising activities in support of the Rotary End Polio Now campaign and are pictured here handing over their contribution of £200 to President Graham Wilford and Frank Paterson. The School's Head Girl Laura Eden said: " Organising the different ways of raising money has been a very interesting experience and I was particularly pleased at the response we got from the pupils in every year. Painting finger nails purple went down well and we sold nearly 100 of the purple bows we made. I feel we all know much more about Polio now and we realise how fortunate we are in this country not to have to worry about this dreadful disease."



Valentine's Day Lunch The Club held its 6th St Valentine's Lunch on **Sunday 13th February** at Stockton-on-the-Forest Hall. Eight Rotarian 'chefs' prepared a three course meal for 72 guests - all eight preparing menus of their own choice for their individual tables. A good party spirit quickly developed with no little help from the generous wine supplies from Graham Maskery! Graham also supplied raffle prizes and this raised a stunning £295. Gift Aid recovery of over £175 is to be claimed and due to the generosity of Barclays Steve Burton hopes to recover a further £750 on their £4£ scheme, yielding a profit overall of nearly **£1900** to our Charity fund.

So well done the chefs Brian Houghton, David Impey, Peter King, Nigel Naish, Frank Paterson, David Rayner, John Russell and Ian Stockley!



Club Speaker. At the Club meeting on **11th February** Wishart Malinga updated the club on the huge efforts being made in school building by the [Malawi School Project](#), which we are supporting in partnership with the Rotary Club of Pocklington and Market Weighton.



Cheque Presentations - President Graham, with Nigel Naish on behalf of the Club's Community Service Committee, recently presented cheques to three local charitable groups - the [York Council for Voluntary Services](#), to support a Learning Difficulties Forum for some of York's most vulnerable citizens; [York Young Carers](#), for one-to-one support for 8-18 year olds who are unpaid carers; and also to the [York Citizens Advice Bureau](#), for a new telephone advice network to cater for the 33% increase in demand for their services.



Club Speaker - At the Club meeting on **28th January** a presentation was made by Adam Myers, who is the founder and manager of [Brunswick Organic Nursery](#), Bishopthorpe. Adam gave a fascinating insight into the very practical help and experience that this enterprise gives to people with learning difficulties, and also in the development of volunteers, whilst operating as a commercial Nursery.



New Member - At the club meeting on **21st January**, Russ Rollings was welcomed into the club by President Graham Wilford. Russ was born in Peterborough and as a result of his father's occupation as a postmaster lived for subsequent parts of his childhood in Burton on Trent and Mansfield before doing a geology degree at Aston University. After University, he joined Rowntrees, initially in sales and marketing and then in IT. Based in Croydon from 1998, he worked on IT projects across the globe, finishing up as Data Manager for Nestle UK prior to retirement in 2010. Russ is married to Janet and they have two children. Russ is known to many in the Club through being a member of York Ebor Round Table, and was sponsored by Steve Burton.



Young Chef Competition The seven competitors in the East Group finals held in York College on **Friday 21st January** are shown below, with the winner Emma Coulson, Fulford School, flanked by President Graham and (right) John Merchant of Rotary Club of York Ainsty.



"What goes down must come back up again!" On **20th January** in an attempt to shake of some Christmas excesses 7 Rotarians, 3 wives and 2 dogs spent a very enjoyable day in bright sunshine walking from the Sutton Bank Car Park. The route Steve chose was down the hill to Gormire Lake then along to Bolby [with an unexpected detour to Thirlyby - map reader talking!] Then a zigzag route up (a very steep!) Bolby Scar to the last leg along the Cleveland Way & back to the cars. Overall in a little over 4 hours, 8 miles and a rise & fall of over 1000 feet! A well deserved lunch at The Hambleton Inn finally finished us off.



Visit to Harrogate Rotary Club - On **18th January**, 9 members of the Club travelled across to Harrogate to join the members of the Harrogate Club at one of their regular meetings. An excellent evening of fellowship was enjoyed by all. Following a very good meal, a speaker gave an account of a team building exercise which he and various colleagues/friends had been on centred on the use of the Rotary Shelter Box.

90th Anniversary Lunch - The Club celebrated its 90th Anniversary on **14th January 2011** at a special Lunch held at the Mansion House, home of the Lord Mayor of York. President Graham Wilford welcomed our special guests the Lord Mayor, Cllr Sue Galloway, and the Sheriff of York, Cllr Richard Watson. It was a splendid event befitting the occasion and marking the Club's Anniversary in style.

A [full page feature](#) on the Lunch, including more photographs, can be found [here](#).

Local press coverage can be found [here](#).



Club Walk - On a very icy morning on **16th December** five stalwart Rotary walkers skated into the Burythorpe Bay Horse car park. Suitably dressed in many layers, Nigel led the group on a snow and ice circular route via Birdsall. There were, apparently, many spectacular views of the Vale of York - but it was under snow showers. However after 2.5 hours or so and 5.5 miles later they eventually returned to the warmth of the Pub and whilst they were the only 5 in that lunchtime, were presented with 3 menus to chose from - the Bar, The Christmas and the full A la carte! and excelsior service.

Ladies Day - At the annual Ladies Day lunch on **26th November** at York Racecourse members and their guests enjoyed a thought provoking address on the role of women in developing countries from Mrs Margaret Sentamu, the wife of the Archbishop of York.



Club Walk - A select band had an eight mile walk based around the Olde Sun Inn at Colton on **18th November**. Here they are train spotting and taking a photo opportunity at the Fairfax Gate in Bolton Percy. Also present photographer David Thompson and John Wardale



York 90 Fundraiser - The new website featuring the details of our new fundraiser "York90" has been published on the web. The fundraiser, aimed at North American Rotarians and non-Rotarians, will officially launch on January 14th to coincide with our Club's 90th birthday celebrations. See www.york90.com



Vocational Visit - On **16th November** a group of members visited Econ Engineering at Ripon, who are the UK's biggest manufacturer of demountable bodies for road maintenance vehicles. This was followed by a visit to Ripon Rotary Club at the Spa Hotel.



Focus on the Crocus - The last of the 25,000 bulbs were planted at Poppleton Junior School on **15th November**. The planting was arranged by the three York Rotary Clubs. These Purple Flowers represent the colour of ink dabbed on a child's little finger to indicate they have been immunised against polio and is a reminder of the essential need to continue the fight to eradicate polio from our world.



Club Walk - On **21st October** the club walk took off from the centre of Pateley Bridge with only four intrepid participants to face the climb out of Pateley Bridge. It must have been the altitude or the lack of oxygen but they are sure they have found the site of the first Rotary meeting!!



Minds in Motion - On **17th October** Community Service Chairman, Nigel Naish and Dennis Adamson presented a cheque for £300 to "Minds in Motion". From left to right, Rebecca Coates, Nigel Naish, Nicola Greenwood and Dennis Adamson.



Minds in Motion is a project set up and run by Medical Students at University of York, it aims to contribute to the well being of people with dementia and their carers by providing opportunities for them to socialise and take part in stimulating activities. The students provide activities at local centres for residents and day visitors with dementia, including reminiscence groups, interactive music, art and crafts, singing, dance and movement, restoration and gardening. They also run a free once a month Harmony Café with activities such as singing, sampling live music and having a free buffet provided by the students.

Their funding comes from fundraising activities organised by the students, such as running half marathons, car washing, supermarket bag packing, and gardening. The students efforts have been recognised by several awards including, a Higher Education Volunteering Award, a Higher York Award, "Best Community Project" at the York Community Pride Awards, and most recently a "Guardian" Public Service Award.

Shouksmith Trophy - At the club meeting on **15th October**, the golf organiser, Tony Coward presented Brian Houghton with the Shouksmith Trophy for winning the club singles knockout competition whilst President Graham looks on.



Mansion House Reception - The Lord Mayor, Cllr Sue Galloway, hosted a reception at the Mansion House on **5th October** for the teams participating in the York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge, when team captains were presented with their prizes and cheques for their nominated charities. The Lord Mayor is seen here presenting the 2010 Challenge Trophy to Steve Newby, Chairman of York City Rowing Club in the presence of other prize winners.



Focus on the Crocus - Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) are working with The Eden Project, the International Flower Bulb Centre (IBC), the National Trust and Learning through Landscapes to plant purple crocus bulbs from the beginning of October so they will be in flower for Rotary Day – 23 February 2011. These Purple Flowers represent the colour of ink dabbed on a child's little finger to indicate they have been immunised against polio.

Rotary clubs across RIBI are currently contacting their local schools, residential homes, local councils and other community organisations to ask them to identify suitable sites which can then be planted with swathes of purple crocus bulbs in the autumn – as a reminder of the essential need to continue the fight to eradicate polio from our world.

In York the Lord Mayor, Sue Galloway, and the three Club Presidents launched the crocus planting project at Ralph Butterfield School on Wednesday **5th October**. During the month the three York Clubs will be planting 25,000 bulbs as part of the campaign.



New Members - At the club meeting on **24th September** 2010, Fred Anderson and Barbara Stephens were welcomed into the club by President Graham Wilford. Fred was a member of the club from 1988 to 2001 when he had to resign due to other commitments. His career was spent in insurance, working finally as Insurance Manager to the Shepherds Building Group. Barbara is a solicitor and is head of the Wills and Probate Department at Hethertons in York. They are seen here with the President and their proposers, Kevin Grogan to the left and Bill Stubbs to the right.



New Sponsors for Technology Tournament – Rotary in York is delighted to have the University of York's Departments of Computers Science and Electronics as sponsors of the Sixth Annual Technology Tournament to be held on 15th March 2011 at the National Railway Museum. This annual event has over forty teams of four students each from the schools in and around York working against the clock to design, build and demonstrate a practical solution to a technology problem.

Professor John Robinson, Head of the Electronics Dept announcing the sponsorship on **24th September** said: "*Our triumvirate decided that this established Rotary event was well worth supporting. It creates an excellent opportunity to introduce youngsters to the practical application of the principles of science and engineering and hopefully may encourage some to consider pursuing their studies beyond school. The feedback from previous tournaments has been very positive and we are really looking forward to working with Rotary.*"

Ron Thompson - Ron developed pneumonia whilst on holiday in Austria. He spent a distressing three weeks in hospital in Austria mainly in intensive care and despite excellent care died on 6th September 2010. His wife, Paddy and Yvonne his sister-in-law were with him throughout this period. Ron was a member of the club for over forty years and was President in 1980. He suffered a stroke some years ago which limited his activities but he rarely complained and was a regular attender at club meetings. His business career was almost all within electrical retailing where he was a director of Cussins and Light and represented the industry in many ways through a difficult period of change in the retailing scene. He had a life long interest in military history and enjoyed small bore shooting in his younger days. He contributed to the life of the city being a City Councillor for a number of years and also a member of Round Table, York Chamber, the Guilds and a member of the Crime Prevention Panel. For those of us privileged to know him before his stroke, we will particularly remember his ready wit and impressions.



Tony Revell - Tony died on 13th August 2010 in Melbourne Australia after a long battle with cancer. He had a long business career with Rowntrees, latterly Nestles, serving in Australia, Switzerland and the USA, following which he joined the club in 1999 serving on the Dragon Boat Committee and as Club Treasurer from 2004-7. In 2007 he decided to return to the warmer climes of Melbourne, where he enjoyed the sailing and joined the Rotary Club of Melbourne. A memorial service was held in St Andrews Church, Bishopthorpe on the 7th September.



Roy Howell 1921 - 2010 - Roy was with us for lunch on Friday 6th August in his usual good spirits and enjoying the company of members. Sadly he suffered a fall leaving the meeting and died the following day. Roy had been a member of the club since 1957, was President in 1974 and in 2007 was made an honorary life member to recognise both his service to Rotary and to the City of York. Roy came to York in 1954 to join York City Council becoming Treasurer, Clerk and in 1974 Chief Executive to the Council. His service to the local community was immense, an excellent singer he was prominent in the amateur theatre and a Trustee of the Theatre Royal. Active in his local church he was leader of the Youth Club and also a prime mover in the fund raising project required to rebuild the church in 1970. Many and varied were his interests and activities and his contribution to the City and the University were recognised by the award of an Honorary Masters Degree from the University of York in 1983. Members of the club will always remember his humour, his warm friendship and latterly his courage in coping with the effects of a severe stroke.



Bric-a-Brac at St Crux - This regular fundraising event raised over £1090 on **10th August 2010**. Another excellent result where the club receives support from individual members and from members of Inner Wheel.

Immediate Past President Ian's Thanks Party - Some of the group who enjoyed Janet and Ian's hospitality in the Tithe Barn, Poppleton on **Saturday 17th July 2010**.



Rotaractors to the fore - Rotaractors were keen to assist at the Dragon Boat Challenge on **Sunday 11th July** and are seen here with President Graham.



For a full report on the 2010 Challenge, results and photographs click on the dragon.



Dragon Boat Sales - the sale of programmes on **Saturday 3rd July** went well with the help of Lenny the Lion, the St Leonards Hospice mascot, who was the star attraction in the city centre for the advance sale of programmes for the Dragon Boat Challenge on Sunday 11th July.



Handover - At the club meeting on **2nd July** President Ian Stockley handed over to Graham Wilford, the President for 2010-11.

