

# Club News Web Archive

## 2015-16

in reverse chronological order



The Rotary Club of York  
1921-2016

**A day at the seaside** *Steve reports...* Our annual trip to the sea side was taken on **June 16th** - we even got a glimpse of the sun and no rain, however, the intrepid few, due to go to sea were again thwarted by adverse sea state, which looked flat as a millpond from the cliff tops! Our route of about 8 miles took us from Flamborough village to South landing then along the cliffs to Thornwick Bay, mainly flat, but with some steep ups and downs along the way to raise the heat rate. The usual convivial lunch was rated excellent, but well priced at £8.95 for 2 courses, at The Sea Birds Pub/Restaurant.



**Learning about Prostrate Health** At lunch on **June 17th** we were privileged to have Sue Heaton who has spent 15 years as a Urology nurse give us an informative talk about the issue of Prostate Health. She highlighted that by 60 years of age - 50% of people (men) will have enlarged prostates, more commonly found in black rather than white races and with people in Japan having the lowest incidence. Sue outlined the symptoms to look for plus the normal treatment options of - drugs/surgery / self -management. Importantly, to reduce the risk she recommends to eat healthily including such things as Mediterranean oil, tomatoes, pumpkin seeds and an Alaskan type diet. Above all, in the fight to prevent this "preventable and curable disease" Sue has 2 pieces of advice : *Eat Healthily & Seek early diagnosis*



**Vocational Visit - Hiscox Building Hungate** *Frank reports...* Tem members joined the vocational visit on **June 17th**, a conducted tour of specialist global insurer Hiscox 's new £19 million landmark office in York. Opened in December 2015 it involved 485 days of construction, 750 tonnes of steel and 775m2 of glass .A time lapse film shown in the public reception area condenses the complete building process into a 3 minute video. It is a striking , impressive addition to the Hungate area of the city and an architecturally beautiful yet practical building. Completely open plan working areas with small 'hubs' as meeting rooms. An open roof terrace has a fantastic view of York Minster. The Hypersonic Rocket located in the foyer is a unique introduction to the extensive exhibitions of contemporary art displayed throughout the building.



**MBE for Hazel Haas** Our Club offers many congratulations to District Governor Hazel Haas on her award of an MBE on **June 11th**. The award, part of the Queen's 90th birthday honours list, was for "services to Wounded and Injured Service Personnel and the RNLI" A fitting end to her year as District 1040 DG.



**Sunflower Centre** Jonathan Singh, Manager of the Sunflower Centre at St Leonard's Hospice, was our speaker on **June 10th**. With the capacity for 16 patients on any single day, the Centre is a transformation of the previous "Day Hospice", through a refurbishment in 2014, into a positive, creative environment giving "rehabilitation" support, practical advanced care planning, and advice on wellbeing to patients. It also provides support for carers, bereavement support, and "drop-in" facilities during the week. Some of Jonathan's statistics were enlightening - by 2033 there will be a 135% increase in the age 85+ population - a sure sign that the direction the St Leonard's team is following is a crucial one. Members were impressed - not least with Jonathan's professional, thoughtful yet caring approach to the subject.



Also during the June 10th meeting, we welcomed Francois Bares, who will be President of the York Rotaract Club in 2016-17. He spoke to the Club of his hopes and objectives for Rotaract at the University of York next year.



**A Prison Education** An enigmatic title for a very amusing and enigmatic talk by Alan Smith, and author and our speaker on **May 27th**. "Doing 14 years in prison" as an educator in language and literature, teaching Shakespeare to 'lifers' and violent robbers has given Alan some fine stories, the basis for books he has written, and a very interesting "take" on the redemptive value of education to prison inmates for whom the first impression is there was no hope of changing their lives. To illustrate his wide learning, Alan explained the "best place to stab someone" to hurt but avoid a murder conviction (the face, or the bum, apparently!) and he concluded with a tale of the inmate who wanted to borrow one of Alan's wife's stockings, because when taking his "A" level English, wearing it over his head would make him feel "more comfortable".... A real education - thank you Alan.



**Watching your Waste** Fourteen members ventured to the Waste Processing facility at Rufforth, owned by Yorwaste, on the morning of **May 27th**. It is a carefully landscaped site (hidden from view from surrounding houses and roads) with 300,000 trees planted around the periphery of the 125 acre site. Opened in 1988 the site has expanded over the years, but will change its use in 2017 from landfill to being a transfer site, pre-sorting waste and feeding the new incinerator site at Allerton Park. Composting of garden waste, and recycling of various materials are also of course major functions of the site - 2000 tons a week of garden waste steams away for 5-12 weeks before being processed enough for landfill (surprisingly to many, it's not high enough grade for public re-sale) A fascinating visit, and many thanks to Site Manager Nick Smith, colleague Kevin Smith, and of course to Frank for making it all a memorable waste visit.

**Club Visit to Hull** *Frank reports...* On **May 25th** a group of five members travelled to Hull to join Hull Kingston Rotary Club for their evening meeting. It was their Club Assembly and the 21 members have committed the club to an ambitious programme for next year. Pictured with the York visitors are Hull President Brian Rylance; President Elect Derek Kirby; and Assistant District Governor Christine Dagwell-Thompson. Thanks to Donald for organising the visit.



**Golf - President's Cup** The first Club golfing event of the year took place on **May 23rd** at Fulford, where 16 players enjoyed a perfect summers' day for their golf, and a very nice meal afterwards at the Clubhouse. Here they were joined by P-E Eileen and Keith, and Eileen presented the prizes, including to winner Steve Burton. Dennis Adamson took the runner-up prize, and Brian Joscelyne was third. More photos and a full report on the Golf Results page [here](#).



**African School Update** Mary Lumley and Sheila Weatherburn have provided the following update on the Ebenezer Trust School Project in Livingstone Zambia, which is being supported by the Club.

Decoration of the classrooms is now well underway! These fabulous photographs were received last week. They show the work in progress and a newly decorated classroom. What a difference a coat of paint makes! We have already transferred a total of £3000 (which includes the £1000 District Grant) for Phases 1 and 2. We expect to transfer the remaining funds (£2000 approx), which were raised at the Quiz Night last October, in June. These funds will be used to purchase much needed desks, flipchart stands and other school resources.



**Welcome to Mike!** During our **May 20th** lunch meeting we were delighted to welcome our latest new member, Mike Sullivan. He is a very experienced former Army Officer who joined what is now the Yorkshire Regiment at the age of 18, and over a 38 year career has seen active service in many areas of the world. Mike's main interests are sporting, having played various sports and extreme sports at a fairly high level, but now mainly restricts his activities to golf, hill walking and swimming. He is a member of Yorkshire CC and Yorkshire Carnegie RUC. He is looking forward to "giving something back" by helping the club and the community in their activities as well as socialising with potential new friends. He has already participated enthusiastically in the Triathlon marshalling.



**May walk** Steve reports... A motley collection of Rotarians, spouses, and dogs took to the murky but dry countryside on **May 19th** through deep woods, containing the mysterious Five Star Club, from Sancton to South and North Cliff in the East Riding for a pleasant 5.5 mile stroll of an undemanding nature. Highlight no.1 was views of the Houghton Hall [a family seat; but not of our Brian's]. Highlight no.2 was lunch at the superb Star Inn Sancton (one of the top 50 pubs of the Good Food Guide) which lived up to its billing in great style. Amazingly Dave Thompson found it necessary to praise the side salad, with his Fish Pie, on no less than 3 occasions! and more desserts partaken of (by the other table to mine!) than ever seen before.



**Special Olympics** On **May 13th** our speakers were Maureen Wilson and Andrew Bayston, who introduced us to the Special Olympics City of York, organising a team of athletes, all with intellectual disabilities, who will compete in the National Summer Games in Sheffield during August 2017. In all 2,600 athletes will compete in Sheffield in 19 different sports. Andrew is training to compete, alongside 32 others and 16 coaches, as part of the Yorkshire and Humberside team. His speciality is Short-Mat bowls, having previously competed in 2014 (in Bath) and 2009 in Leicester in Boccia. Andrew also featured in a poster for the Sheffield Games, of which he was clearly very proud. He eloquently explained the importance to him of competing, and if possible winning. In his words "Everything's possible if there's a will". It was a moving presentation and the Club all wish Andrew, and the Special Olympics movement, every success next year.



**Entente Tres Cordial** Eight members and partners travelled over to France on **May 5-8th** to participate in the International Reunion between our own Club and the Rotary Clubs of Aubusson and Erlangen. With very fine weather and great international fellowship, it was a very busy but enjoyable few days. There were many Romanesque churches (!), beautiful countryside, a visit to Michelin and - of course - lashings of food, wine and long meals in true French style. **A full report with lots more photos can be seen [here](#).** Many thanks to David Jesper (who unfortunately was unable to make it himself) and the International team for the organisation of this trip.



**Ukraine-bound** Club members again assisted the loading of another Physionet shipment on a bright and sunny early morning on **April 30th** - this one bound for Ukraine, loaded onto a Polish registered artic with 45 'soft sided' trailer. Our Club has a close association with Physionet, whose chairman David Kaye visited us just last week to receive a cheque for financial support. Read more about their history [here](#)



**Everest** (not double glazing as one member suggested ! ) On **April 29th** new member Mark Sessions talked to the Club about his "60th birthday trip" trekking to Everest base camp. To ensure we were all awake he started by loudly ringing a Yak Bell and began to take us on his epic journey to the Himalayas -the highest mountain range in the world. His photos illustrated their walk across some very scary looking wooden swinging bridges with their porters who each carried about 75lbs of luggage on their backs They stayed in many Buddhist villages in a mixture of "houses and lodges" some made from dried Yak dung! He explained the steps they took to avoid acute mountain sickness at high altitude - a major risk as at 18,000 feet your oxygen level drops to 50%. Thanks Mark for a very interesting tour of this region.



Also at this meeting, we welcomed Physionet Chairman David Kaye, who was presented with a £900 cheque by President Mike, the proceeds from the April 20th Club Charity Walk.

**St Crux Fundraising** The weather was not kind to us for the St Crux fundraising day on **April 27th**, with cold temperatures and with rain threatened. As a result the number of people coming to browse the stall and partake of the food and drink was lower than normal. And at 2.30pm a huge hailstorm caused a rapid cessation of activities, and some damage to the gazebo, so we were forced to "close" early. However, thanks to a new initiative led by Sheila Weatherburn, with a stall (under a bright red gazebo) selling ladies accessories, produce, and "unopened gifts", the takings were up overall. The new stall took over £500 on the day - a magnificent result. The net result overall was a record £1265 on the day which has gone into the Club's Charity Fund. Many thanks to Sheila, to Diana for the organisation of a fabulous range of goodies in the café, and to the more than 30 members and partners who helped on the day, many giving up their whole day to make this such success.



**Triathlon Marshalling** On **April 24th** some 30 Rotarians and partners turned out for marshalling duties at York's Sports Village. They braved the cold and wind for most of the day in order to provide encouragement to almost 700 competitors, have some fun and importantly raise several hundred pounds for the Club's Charity Fund. Both organisers and competitors expressed their appreciation for our work and support. Thanks and well done to all concerned - and to Mike Hay for project managing this for the Club.



**Charity Walk** On **April 20th** International Committee's annual Charity Walk, for the second year running in support of Physionet, took place under cloudless blue skies, based around Sheriff Hutton Village Hall, with some 75 walkers and helpers/non-walkers. Nigel Naish led the majority of walkers on a 2+ hour westerly loop through pleasant farmland, and David Jesper in a select group of 8 gently did a smaller easterly loop. Everyone then enjoyed a splendid buffet lunch, superbly masterminded by Diana Naish, with help from her chosen team, all washed down with ale and wine in disciplined quantities. Just just under £900 for Physionet was raised of the day. Many thanks to Nigel, Diana and all who helped in any way.



**"Sailing"** At our lunch meeting on **April 15th** new member John Harris gave us his really interesting introductory talk entitled "Sailing". Early life was about school, sport, university and family after which he joined the Army, attended St. Andrews where he met his wife Sheila. They shared a passion for sailing for many, many years and passed it on to their son's Tom and David as they grew up. Favourite trips were to the Scottish shores and across the Med to France, Portugal and Spain and over the years he seems to have crossed the channel a staggering 48 times ! As a Head Teacher and former Principal of York Sixth Form College John was passionate about providing general education for his pupils and encouraging community service and it was in Newark that he first joined Rotary.



**Residential "Get-Away" April 12th/13th** Matfen Hall, just North of Corbridge was an excellent venue for the Club's 2-day trip to Northumberland and a good base for golf, swimming, walks, shopping, sightseeing and indeed chilling. The group came together in the evenings for fellowship, dinner and quizzes provided by John Lacy and Frank Paterson. On exploring the hotel, several observant people noticed that directional signs identified us as the York "Rotary" Club – and the name caught our imaginations. From then on, we were the Rotarties! John Lacy led an interesting walk based around the historic village of Blanchland. Many thanks to David Sweeney and the Fellowship Committee for their organisation of a great trip.



**Potash Mining** At our **April 8th** meeting, Jo Riseley-Prichard gave a very informative and well illustrated talk about Sirius Minerals' proposed potash mine a few miles south west of Whitby. The mine would exploit the world's largest and highest grade polyhalite reserve, to take advantage of the growing worldwide market for fertiliser. She described the engineering complexities of the operation which are immense. Most interesting was the extent to which the impact on the National Park would be minimised, resulting in planning permission being given by the National Park Authority



**Aid for Fiji** Several Club members assisted on **April 2nd** with the loading of Physionet's latest shipment of medical equipment at Lower Dunsforth. This was an emergency shipment destined for Fiji following the devastation caused by Tropical Cycone Winston. Fiji's UK High Commissioner Jitoko Tikolevu was present and also helped with the loading.



**Grant Scholars** On April 1st we enjoyed an interesting talk from our District Scholarship Officer Rotarian David Hirst, also a member of Pocklington & Market Weighton Rotary Club, about Grant Scholars. This is an international Rotary programme which sponsors students of any age who want to educate themselves in a suitable course and then transfer their skills and passion back into the community. The Grant is based on the sponsoring club providing a minimum of \$10,000 which then becomes \$35,000 when approved by RIBI. Successful students are assigned to a host club in the local area to look after them generally – as we did with our own Rebecca Mendoza. Currently we have 3 such placements in our locality - one from the US and two from Japan studying in York & Leeds Universities.



At this meeting, President Mike also presented a cheque to Ian Panter, of York Archaeological Trust, to provide financial assistance, and to thank YAC for their help in freeze-drying and preserving important Club archives after the damage caused by last December's floods.

**Visiting the Vulcan** Frank reports.. On **March 31th**, a group of 50 Club members, partners and friends spent an enjoyable and informative afternoon in Hangar 3 at Robin Hood Airport. The attraction Vulcan XH558 an iconic example of British aerospace engineering at its world-beating best. It's great agility allowed XH558 to deliver amazing air displays, which unfortunately finished in 2015. The strikingly restored Avro Vulcan is owned and operated by Vulcan to the Sky Trust, a British charity. It is a sobering thought that they were designed to deliver nuclear bombs and fortunately were never used for that purpose.



**Up the Crag** Eileen reports.. On a beautiful day which heralded the start of Spring, 17 members and spouses set off on **March 17th** with a spring in their steps across fields and along lanes, with the aim of reaching Almscliffe Crag. The views across Lower Wharfedale were spectacular and there were banks of spring flowers – snowdrops, primroses, daffodils and crocus to admire. After the very wet winter, the fields were thankfully drying out, so mud was really only encountered at stiles and in gateways. The photograph taken at the foot of the Crag captures the sense of achievement and good fellowship. The meal at the Square & Compass lived up to high expectations and James Conyers treated the group to a drink in honour of his Special Birthday, celebrated the day before. Grateful thanks were extended to Janet & Phil Morley for planning and organising a superb outing.



**The Pipeline Project** Ian reports.. This year's annual Technology Tournament took place on **March 15th** again at the National Railway Museum with some 8 schools and 22 teams participating. The Pipeline Task involved the design, construction and testing of a vehicle to travel along, and move debris along a pipeline with the complexity of the task increasing through Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced levels. The task required the provision of test rigs, which were common to all 3 levels to be used for the final testing of vehicles that the students had made. Marks by the team of judges are then awarded on their success and also on their portfolio which they write during the project describing how they approached the task, how the team decided on their design and details of how they built it. The atmosphere was really positive and full of good fun and with help from the judges – a learning experience. A full report, including details of the winners and more photos, is on our Technology Tournament pages [here](#)



**"Scattering" at Barton-upon-Humber** Eileen reports.. On **March 9th** four of us visited RC Barton-upon-Humber to fulfil our Scatter Week duty and particularly to thank them for the generous gifts of cleaning products and cash for the York Flood Appeal. President David Blakey warmly welcomed us to the Club of over 20 members which meets in a cosy room above Harrison's Restaurant. We heard about their fundraising efforts and were struck by the strength, influence and public awareness of the Club - probably because of the smaller size of both town and membership. We shared greetings between the Clubs, enjoyed good fellowship and hoped for future cooperation.



**"Days for Girls Workshop" at York Minster** Eileen reports.. To coincide with Women's International Day, Issy Sanderson of RC York Ainsty, and Rev Ellie Bangay, a Curate at York Minster, organised a "Days for Girls Workshop" on **March 8th**. Several Rotarians from RCoY and Inner Wheel joined the volunteers. DfG works in 21 countries to provide washable feminine hygiene kits so that girls can go to school during menstruation and not miss large parts of their education. The event saw women from York and beyond drawing around templates, cutting out pattern pieces, pressing fabrics, machine and hand-sewing and finally packing the kits. It was an impressive day.



**President's Dinner** There was a "full house" at the Novotel on **March 4th** for the President's Dinner, with our guests the Lord Mayor Sonja Crisp, the Sheriff of York Brian Smith, and the civic party. The Mayor praised the good works of the Club and our reputation for delivering on promises, whilst President Mike spoke about the historical nature of York's institutions and traditions. On this theme, the night's speaker, Damian Cruden, artistic director at York Theatre Royal, gave a fascinating and well-illustrated history of the theatre from its medieval origins; the current building originally opened in 1744 and granted Royal Patent in the mid-1800's; through many upgrades and additions, up to the current major refurbishment due to finish next month. He stressed the theatre's involvement with the community, in particular with younger people, for which York Theatre Royal is now recognised country-wide. The evening ended with another guest, Graham Urwin, deftly playing a selection of light pieces on piano.



**EMR4DW** What is that?? We discovered during the talk on **February 26th** that this stands for *Electronic Medical Records for the Developing World*. It was the brainchild of speaker Dr Peter Smith, a Haxby doctor, who with software specialist Bass Stewart developed a basic records system that can be used to keep medical history and personal data on patients in African countries (mostly Uganda) where such things (taken for granted in the UK) do not exist. Peter, together with a group of eight other doctors from the Haxby area, regularly visit seven clinics, chosen for their long-term sustainability, and provide treatment, advice and education to local medical staff, and help them use the records system. Following the talk, Peter was presented with a cheque by President Mike with a contribution towards his work, from the Club's Charity account.



**Film Archive Evening** The Fellowship Committee's Vintage Film Night on **February 25th** was a great success, with 60 attending and a fascinating selection of old films of York and vicinity, complete with popcorn (!), shown by the [Yorkshire Film Archive](#) who are based at York St John University. They store over 17,000 films, and we were shown an interesting selection dating from a hundred years ago right through to the 1980's. Films can be accessed through their [website](#). Cries of "I remember that" and "Oh, we used to go swimming there every week" were typical of comments heard throughout the show. A top-class varied and interesting buffet prepared by Novotel staff followed, rounding off a great event. Many thank especially to Jim Wragg who hosted the evening.



**Rotaract Club Charter Night** Twenty Club members and partners attended the York Rotaract Club's Charter Night Dinner on **February 24th**. The Rotaract Club is celebrating 6 years and a positive atmosphere and lively conversation were the order of the night. As well as local Rotarians, other guests were District Governor-Elect Phil Poole, newly-appointed RIBI National Rotaract committee chair Tony Jordan, and District Rotaract Chair Neil Thomas. With an extensive raffle, there was (almost) something for everyone, and the organisers, Rotaract President Nina and Treasurer Taut are to be congratulated on a well organised and highly enjoyable event. More photos on our Rotaract page [here](#)



**Welcome back Tom!** During the business meeting on **February 19th** we were pleased to welcome new member Tom James. Well, not so new, really - Tom had been member of the Club in the 1990's but had had difficulty in maintaining this commitment at that time alongside the hours needed to run his own Print Brokerage business. Tom is well-known to many members of the Club, who joined President Mike in welcoming him back to the fold!



**Club Walk and fry-up** Steve reports.. On **February 18th** the February Walk - brisk and invigorating - on one of the clearest blue skied days of the month took us from Sledmere in a northerly circuit of a little over 6.5miles. It was good going most of the way with only a couple of hills for the 6 Rotarians and Judith Todd. True to form though a very deep gateway full of liquid mud had to be negotiated by climbing right over the stile top - Rotarians not so elegant in such a manoeuvre! As ever excellent meal at The Tritton Arms where the Managersess refused sight of pudding list as no man had touched their vegetable side dish [well our wives' weren't there were they!]



**Tales of India** On **February 12th** our speaker was Nick Heaton, son of our own Philip Heaton, who visited us hot-foot from a flight back from India the night before. Nick travels and works extensively in India, and he gave us an insight into travel, work and also cricket in that country. He showed photographs of Bangalore, where he has been working; the fastest growing city in India, and known as the "Indian silicon valley". It is nevertheless polluted, often dirty, busy and very noisy. But despite this, Nick said that the people of India made it a beautiful place. He has recently been involved in donating cricket equipment, and other supplies, to the Vasundhara Children's Academy, a school in a remote farming village in Uttar Pradesh, Northern India, and plans to continue to provide more of such donations in the future.



At the same meeting, we welcomed two **Rotarians from the Doncaster club** - President Graham Higgins and Fundraising Chair Peter Oldridge - who presented us a cheque for £2000 to aid our Flood Appeal. Another wonderful example of Rotarians pulling together in time of great need.



**What do you do with an old train ferry?** Our speaker on **February 5th** was Rotarian Dr John Rhodes, and in a very professional presentation he explained to the Club the operation of [Mercy Ships](#), founded in the U.S. in 1978 by Don Stephens. The current ship being used is an ex- train ferry from Denmark, fitted out 8 years ago as a floating hospital with extensive medical facilities and re-named the *Africa Mercy*. It is crewed and staffed entirely by 400 volunteers, and equipped with 5 operating theatres, 82 ward beds and extensive facilities for crew and patients, including a library, children's play area and conference room. Visiting by invitation only, the ship docks at various African ports (between Senegal and Benin) for several months at a time, and long queues are common for their provision of free medical diagnosis and procedures for an astonishing range of medical problems, from cleft lip to dental needs to plastic surgery. With the tag-line of "*Bringing Hope and Healing*", the Mercy Ships organisation is still strongly supported by Rotary worldwide, including a donation from our Club, and is an amazing example of Rotary assisting in humanitarian action. Watch the video below of just one challenging but heart-warming story...



**Crimestoppers - and a new member** Our speaker on **January 29th** was Mark Iveson, Chairman of Crimestoppers North Yorkshire. [Crimestoppers](#) is a charity, independent of the Police, founded in 1988 by Lord Ashcroft (originally under the name of Community Action Trust) to provide a channel for the public to provide, anonymously, information related to crime and suspected criminals. They publicise "Most Wanted" lists online, and produce publicity campaigns, examples of which is the regular Drink/Drive commercials. Most recently there is a focus on youth crime and youth vulnerability particularly in the area of IT and social media. The new "[Fearless](#)" campaign is designed to communicate with young people in their own language. Funding is however required for this programme to be rolled out in the York area.



Also at this meeting, the Club welcomed their newest member, **Andrew Falconer**, who is the Master at St Olave's School in York. He was warmly welcomed by President Mike, his sponsor Peter Netherwood, and all the club's members.



**Update from Ebenezer Trust School Project in Zambia.** *Mary reports...* Our project in Zambia is underway! These photographs show improvements have been made to two critical areas identified by both inspectors and ourselves, the Grade 1 Classroom and the Kitchen. These photographs say it all - Rotary does make a difference!



**Club's 1921 Charter saved.** The recent floods in the City were devastating, and David Thompson's business in Walmgate suffered badly. Many of the Club's early archives were also stored at his premises, and have been lost. But members were delighted to hear that the Club's original Charter, granted in 1921 from the "British Association of Rotary Clubs", has survived intact, with its wooden frame, safe from the flooding. It will now be deposited in the York City Archive, where (thankfully) quite a few other Club archive items were deposited earlier last year.



**Goodmanham revisited.** *Steve reports..* Having missed our second midwinter visit in late December, due to inclement conditions, 8 stalwarts made up for it on **January 21st**. After visiting the village church, our walk proceeded on frosted muddy paths to Londesborough village, the home of George Hudson for a few years where perversely he had his own station built. Warming weather thawed the frost, so eventually boots became clogged with Wolds clarts, before we reached Market Weighton, where we posed with statue of Yorkshire tallest man who even made John Lacy look small! Then following railway tracks back to the Goodmanham Arms for good food and excellent cheap ale brewed by the landlady.



**Yorkshire East Group Final of "Young Chef".** *Eileen reports..* On January 19th, nine Young Chefs from York and Scarborough gathered at York College to compete in the East Group Final of the Rotary Young Chef competition. They ranged in age from 11 to 17 years and all demonstrated good skills and understanding of their brief "To prepare, cook and present a healthy two-course meal, main and sweet, costing no more than £10, for two people in two hours." The judges were Graham Fyfe who is the Senior Tutor at York College and Andrew Flint, Chef at Fulford Golf Club. They praised in particular the presentation of the meals, which also struck the right balance between great taste and nutrition. The winner was Jack Miladinovic from Scarborough (centre stage in the group photograph below). Thanks to the judges, to President Mike for presenting the prizes and to Frank Paterson for organising the very successful event.



**Further help for flood victims** We were joined on **January 15th** by a group of Rotarians from Barton-upon Humber who, led by their President David Blakey, had raised £1300 for York Flood victims (and a further £500 from their own Club) and brought a very large quantity of donated cleaning materials. This amazing effort is typical of Rotary Clubs across the UK (and in Europe) who have generously donated to our Club's Appeal, which is now in excess of £8000. This money, together with those of other York Clubs, is being given to the York Flood Appeal administered by the Two Ridings Community Foundation. The cleaning materials were delivered the following day to the local community volunteers (contacted via social media!!) who manage the store of such materials for flood victims' use. They were extremely grateful - many thanks to our friends in Barton! Rotary making a difference again...



**The Nepal Trust** Over the past couple of weeks, a lot of attention has been paid by the Club to the flooding in our area, and the hardships still being felt by its victims. But, bad though this is, it was brought into perspective by Jeroen van den Bergh, our speaker on **January 15th** who outlined the work of the **Nepal Trust** in bringing help and relief to the earthquake victims in Northwest Nepal. He showed photographs and a harrowing film of the devastation, loss of income, home, education and hope suffered by the people of this remote area where government support is slow or non-existent. Hundreds of villages are affected, and the Trust are providing hands-on help, focussing on relief work, development of learning centres, and longer-term economic recovery of agriculture.



**Update from Age UK York** Our speaker on **January 8th** was Sally Hutchinson, Chief Executive of Age UK (York) who returned to the Club to give an update on their activities and new initiatives for the older people of the City. With a £1.2m budget and 108 staff (35 full-time equivalent) they have the help of around 400 volunteers to deliver a wide range of programmes to "bridge the gap" between the needs of the elderly and the government/local authority provisions for them. In an interesting presentation, interspersed with the funnier side of their experience (most memorably the old man who phoned asking to "donate his large organ.....") Sally explained the free services (such as "First Call" an information service, and providing transport to and from hospitals) and those that people pay for, including a toenail cutting service! The importance of Age UK's role in York was not lost on members who thanked Sally for her interesting presentation. Also during the meeting, President Mike presented a cheque for Novotel staff gratuities to Julie Parkin (Conference & Events Mgr) and Maxime Dupont (Food & Beverage Mgr), to warm applause from all members who appreciate the excellent service, in all respects, that we get from this hotel. Thank you, Novotel!



**'Three Rotary Clubs' collection for Flood Victims** The three Rotary Clubs in York worked together to raise funds for the York Disaster Fund for flood victims on **January 2nd**, through a collection at Tesco's on Tadcaster Rd organised by York Ainsty Club. Fourteen of our own Club members and partners helped out, and by the end of the day a total of £1540 had been raised for the Fund. The support of the general public to this cause was very clearly evident.



**Flood Victim Appeal launched** The three Rotary Clubs in York are co-ordinating their efforts to help flood victims in our City and environs. Part of this entails means of raising funds locally for relief for affected families and individuals in York, to help them get back on their feet. The key objective is to channel such funds in a way that they can be used urgently where genuinely needed and with minimum red tape. Our own Club is setting aside a ring-fenced part of our Charity Fund, and contributions to this have already been received from other Rotary Clubs in the UK and Europe. We now have a web page where individuals can contribute, and this is also being publicised through our Facebook and Linked-In social media sites. Details of this fund-raising effort, with links for credit card contributions and other methods of donation, can be seen on the [dedicated page here](#).



**Floods in York and surrounding areas** After enjoying their Christmas celebrations, members were shocked to witness and read about the severe flooding that has affected York, many villages in the surrounding area, and other parts of Yorkshire and beyond. Several Club members responded directly by helping in the relief efforts, and the Club as a whole are providing support where it is needed in our community. An appeal fund is being set up where Club members and the general public can contribute towards providing help to families in need - details will follow shortly. We send out our heartfelt sympathies to the families and businesses that are suffering from the flooding and its after-effects, and wish them a better and happier 2016.



**Christmas celebrations!** On **December 18th**, our last meeting of 2015 got off to a good start with a special 3-course Christmas Lunch prepared by the Novotel, and grateful applause for Chef VJ and all the staff who once again did us so proud. This was followed by the induction of a **new member, Mark Sessions**, who was warmly welcomed by members. Finally, the *piece de resistance*, a staging of "Santa Claus on Trial", written and performed by John Russell with the red-suited bearded help of Peter Netherwood. Much amusement for all, as Mike Hay on piano accompaniment tried his best to follow the musical parts - sung in a unique sort of harmony - from the performers. Many thanks to John and Peter for their hard work in producing a special brand of entertainment which will live on with us over the festive period and beyond!

*PS A short video extract of their performance is available - however small donations to Charity Funds can prevent it being published here!!*



**Rotary December walks.... part 1** *Steve Burton reports...* On **December 17th** nine eager walkers assembled in the car park in Goodmanham for "Toddy's" first part of the **two** planned December walks. The excitement was not so much for the forthcoming enjoyable, remarkably dry under foot conditioned trek, but the long awaited return to the splendid Goodmamham Arms for lunch where assorted enormous helpings of steak & ale pie, gypsy pot stew and splendid lamb chops, amongst other delights, were much appreciated. Well done Graham and we are delighted we'll be back there on the 30th for post-Christmas repast - preceded by an appetite raising stroll beforehand.



**Turkey Trot for Golfers** The break in the incessant rain this week was a blessing for the Club's golfers **December 14th**. The "Christmas Turkey Trot" 9-hole competition took place at York Golf Club, Strensall, with 18 members teeing off. The ground underfoot was very wet (many other golf courses had not even opened) but it stayed fine and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event. A Christmas lunch at the Golf Club followed, and organiser David Sweeney, using a process that would be worthy of the Magic Circle, paired up players and finally "drew" the top-scoring winning pair, David Impey and Michael Wilson. Runners-up were the Dennis Adamson / David Jesper "duo". Two players had the best individual (*Stableford Rules*) scores, and by a short head Barry Campbell was declared the individual winner. A very good winter golf break - thanks to David for his organisation.



**Supporting Orphans in Nepal** Our speaker on **December 11th** was Nick Morrice, who told us his personal story of his "Godsons" - five orphans in Kathmandu, Nepal. Nick had, after months of deliberation, decided to support the boys financially in an attempt to give them a better life and free them from the confines of the orphanage which, although providing them a lifeline in earlier years, was reluctant to lose their "clients" (Nepal orphanages are run as businesses) The five are now flourishing, with one qualified as a doctor, others working in hotel and catering industries, and one about to come to study at York College. One works in a charity organisation himself, and sponsors a blind cricket team which has had international success. Quite a story from the "Godfather".



**Young Chefs at Fulford** The Rotary Young Chef heat took place at Fulford School on **December 4th**. The competition requires entrants to plan, cook and serve a healthy two-course meal for two in two hours and within a budget of £10. All fifteen entrants rose to the challenge and the variety of ideas was amazing! Pastas, fish, meat, poultry, cheesecakes, pastries and mousses were delivered on time and (mostly!) to a high standard. Judge Sali Herman, assisted on this occasion by Rotarian Eileen Davis, observed and marked the chefs' skills, timekeeping, menu choices and presentation before sampling every dish. The winners were Hollie Littlewood and Edward Issot. Good luck to Hollie and Edward for 19th January at York College.



**Helping Disadvantaged Youth of York** Our speakers at the Club meeting on **December 4th** were Sara Orton and Jean Harris, who work with the [PSI service \(Personal Support and Inclusion\)](#), run by the City of York. Practice Manager Sara explained that the service had several aims, providing support for young people's aspirations, preventing anti-social behaviour, helping families with mental health or behavioural issues, and reducing young people's disaffection through mentoring and acting as a "focal point" for the provision of necessary services. Jean, once of such "focus people", outlined a number of case studies, and spoke in particular of the benefits of the recent "Youth Challenge" at Peatrigg, run by the Rotary Clubs of York, which had positively affected several youngsters referred to the Challenge by the PSI service. (see [report and video in November 13th report, below](#))

Before the meeting, we also welcomed a Rotarian visitor (who could not stay for lunch due to time constraints). **Luke Davidson**, from the Rotary Club of Potchefstroom Mooi (near Johannesburg) who chatted with several members over drinks.



**Golf Awards** During the Club meeting on **December 4th** Golf Organiser David Sweeney presented, in his inimitable style, the prizes for the golf tournaments that have been played over the summer - and have been played every year since 1933! The winner of the Shouksmith Trophy was Dennis Adamson, who collected his trophy - together with bottle of wine, chocolates and golf ball! This is the fourth time Dennis has won this event. Runner-up was Peter Netherwood. The Thompson Plate is played for by the players losing their first-round Shouksmith games, and this year the Plate was collected by Mike Saville, with Brian Joscelyne as runner-up (*the latter being a testament to the generous handicap system used, for sure!*) Many thanks to David for his excellent organisation of this ever-popular event in the Rotary calendar.



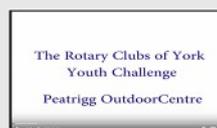
**President's Lunch** The annual President's Lunch took place on **November 27th** at York Racecourse, where we welcomed and thanked members' partners, and former members' widows, for their support of our Club and its activities. Guest of honour, and our speaker, was Dr Delma Tomlin MBE, director of the National Centre for Early Music in York.



**RYLA Report** It is always a pleasure for the Club to hear reports back from the youngsters whom we have sponsored on the RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) programme, and this year was no exception. On **November 13th**, Mark Holmes and Eleanor Dook made a presentation (as professional as any that most of us have ever made!) of their experiences during the 6-day programme. They explained the varied tasks they were given, ranging from building a coracle through mountain rescue, assault courses and raft races, to a "Murder Mystery". Whilst the 6.30am starts were clearly an additional challenge, it was clear that they had both enjoyed their time. More importantly, they explained the benefits they received, including improved confidence - very evident in their presentation! - communication skills and above all leadership skills. Congratulations to two very impressive young people, for whom Rotary's investment has clearly made a difference.



**Grant will assist Youth Project** During the Club meeting on **November 13th**, it was announced that the Club has been awarded a grant from the Duke of York's Community Initiative. The grant of £2500 was awarded under the "[Business End Grant Fund](#)" scheme and is to be used to support the Youth Challenge courses organised by the Club (with Ainsty and Vikings Clubs) for youngsters with difficult backgrounds - the most recent course being last August at Peat Rigg. A video of that course can be seen below. Our Club is eligible for such a grant as a result of receiving the Duke of York Community Initiative Award in 2013.



(Click to view the video)

**Rusks and Crumbs before lunch for Rotarians** Fourteen members and partners took part in the Vocational Visit to [Ripon Select Foods'](#) premises on **November 10th**, and were treated to a fascinating and personal tour - in small groups - of their factory. The company has an 8 acre site at Ripon encompassing a Flour Mill, Rusk, Breadcrumb, Dry Mixing and Batter Factories as well as an Administration Block, Laboratories & Warehousing. They employ 90 people on 3-shift, 24-hour work patterns. The business has been run, in various forms, for over 100 years by the Wood family, now in their 6th generation of ownership. Highly sophisticated - and very clean! - modern machines now make the process almost fully automated, and their products are exported to food manufacturers across the globe. Think fish fingers coatings, for example! After the visit, the group were welcomed by Ripon Rotary Club to their business meeting at the Ripon Spa Hotel, where a very good lunch was served and we enjoyed many discussions with their members. Many thanks to Robin Rich who co-ordinated the arrangements so smoothly, and made for a highly enjoyable day. NO photographs were allowed inside the factory - but the two "internal" photos below are taken from similar processes (not Ripon SF) sourced from the web!



**Double celebration** During the Club meeting on **November 6th**, we were delighted to welcome Patrick Shepherd as a "new" member of the Club - although he has been an Honorary Member for nearly ten years! Patrick and his company The Shepherd Group have been staunch supporters of Rotary for a long time, and have been generous sponsors of the Dragon Boat Challenge as well as the York Technology Tournament. So it was a great pleasure for us to welcome Patrick as a "full-time" member. Further positive news came with the announcement that the Club has received a District Grant of £1000 to aid the project supporting the Ebenezer School in Tanzania. Joint project leader Sheila Weatherburn is pictured presenting the cheque to Treasurer Nigel.



**99% there - the fight against Polio** At the start of "Foundation Month" we welcomed Rtn Robert Jackson, from Birstall Luddites Club, to our meeting on **November 6th**. Robert is the "End Polio Now" Co-ordinator for 1040 District, and gave members an interesting update on the status of Rotary's commitment to help eradicate Polio worldwide. Nigeria has now been polio-free for a year, and in two years' time all of Africa should be declared free of the disease, leaving just two countries - Afghanistan and Pakistan - with a small number of cases, and diminishing year on year. (Pakistan with 38 cases, down from 219 the previous year). A new policy is being introduced to use inoculation (IPV - Inactivated Polio Vaccine) rather than oral OPV (drops on the tongue) vaccine, which although a lot more expensive is apparently more effective in avoiding the long-terms side effects of OPV. Members interested in learning more about the rationale can find additional information [here](#)



**Rotary goes to Bollywood!!** On **November 5th**, it was time for Curries and Bollywood, as the Club held it's Curry and Indian Night fundraiser at the Novotel. Generously supported by the Novotel, their head chef V.J served up a variety of delicious and spicy dishes (and a few modestly-spiced ones) to the delight of the 70 members and guests who attended. Our entertainer Sanjeewa then demonstrated and led a small group of brave souls in a number of lively Bollywood dances, and the evening ended with a raffle of genuine Indian artifacts and food and drink items. A great night, which raised £1055 for the Club's charity funds. Thanks to all who helped with the organisation, and especially to Christophe and his wonderful team at the Novotel.



**Make It York** On **October 30th**, our speaker was Steve Brown, MD of *Make It York* (MIY), a new private/public partnership - a "Destination Management Organisation (DMO)"! - aimed at reducing duplication and promoting York in a co-ordinated way. Steve's talk to us was actually a verbatim repeat of the presentation he gave at the Press Launch of *Make it York*, so was full of aspirations, not a few anachronyms (NAFA?), and a vast range of plans and activities incorporating the aims of Visit York, Science City York (SCY) and many others. Many new initiatives were planned in Steve's 45-people organisation, including York Culture Awards, a new Taste York Festival and development plans for the Shambles Market. Many members seemed bemused by the vast amount of information, but at question time the current reality (6 months on from the talk) was examined and Steve explained that in practical terms the plan was evolving but inevitably there were many issues to resolve along the way! The aim was for *Make It York* to be self-financing and a commercial operation, and members will watch with interest as this new organisation "makes it own mark" (MIOM) on the City, under the watchful eye of its one shareholder, the CYC (City of York Council).



**Presentation of Arts Award Certificates** President Mike and Graham Todd were invited by the Theatre Royal to join them for the presentation of Arts Award certificates on October 20th. Earlier in the year Community Service made a grant to YTR to enable a group of disadvantaged young people to take part in the production of 'In Fog and Falling Snow', which was going to help them achieve their 'Bronze' level Arts Award. As a result of our support, this group of young people did indeed achieve the award - (for some, probably their first ever formal qualification). Mike had the pleasure of presenting them with their certificates, alongside the YTR Artistic Director Damian Cruden. The Press also reported the event (see photo below)



**Community Service Theatre Visit** Over 40 Rotarians and our elderly guests went to the matinee performance of "When the Lights go on Again" at the Joseph Rowntree Theatre on **October 24th**, on the annual visit organised by the Community Services Committee. The show was a nostalgic reflection of the kind of evening enjoyed by thousands of ordinary people during some of the blackest wartime days that Britain has seen. With interval ice creams and sweets a-plenty our guests had a real treat. Thank you to Patrick Curran for his organisation and to the drivers who both transported the guests and looked after them at the theatre.



**Looking Forward** The Business Meeting held on **October 23rd** was upbeat and positive, and members heard several reports of activities and plans for the future. Most noteworthy was the agreement of a contract to continue to hold our Club Meetings at the Novotel, a popular decision with all members who have enjoyed their excellent service, food, and flexibility since last January. The new contract will run for two years. The Business Meeting was also a milestone event for the Club, being the first Club Meeting ever to be chaired by a woman - our President-Elect Eileen!



**Rotaract Presentation** Continuing the dynamic start to their new year under President Nina, The York Rotaract Club's meeting on **October 22nd** included a presentation by our Club Members Brian Joscelyne and Lukasz Druzic about "Running a Small Business". This included a positive but "warts and all" description of what it was really like to start up and run a small business, from a personal point of view. The Rotaract audience had lots of questions... hope we didn't put them off altogether!!



**District Conference** *Eileen reports....* A total of 15 members and partners attended the District 1040 Conference on **October 16th to 18th** in Scarborough. The Business Sessions on Saturday & Sunday included RI President K.R.Ravindran representative Louis Marciano from RC North Providence, Rhode Island, USA giving a succinct update on Polio from his significant leadership position in the eradication programme, Major Lil Gurung giving a report on the post-earthquake work being coordinated by Rotarians, Charity presentations including School in a Bag, Action on Hearing Loss, and Hope and Homes for Children. Sunday's speaker was former politician and Minister of State Ann Widdecombe, who came across as both unassuming and confident; her incisive wit and wisdom very much "told it as she saw it". The entertainment included a Black-tie Dinner & Dance which proved enjoyable - although not much RCoY dancing was in evidence! - and Saturday's not-so-Frugal Lunch. Finally there was private dining at the Park Manor Hotel on Saturday followed by a Cabaret Performance based on the life of Frank Sinatra (also with limited RCoY dancing!).



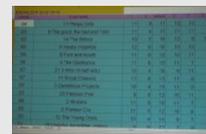
**Club Walk - October** *Eileen reports...* Ten walkers assembled on **October 15th**, just off the A61 at the edge of the Harewood Estate. The rain eased as we went into the Estate and stopped altogether to enable us to enjoy views across Capability Brown's landscaped park and the backdrop of Harewood House. The autumnal colours were spectacular and we were treated to displays by Red Kites and rutting Deer. Organisers Mike and Ros Hay had planned a break at the café in Harewood Village and we all partook of coffee, some even enjoying toasted teacakes - perhaps forgetting that lunch was only an hour or so away! We completed the circular 6.5 mile walk via New Laithe Farm and Hollin Hall, after which we drove the short distance to make a welcome return to the Shoulder of Mutton at Kirkby Overblow for a hearty lunch. A very manageable and beautiful walk; thank you Mike and Ros.



**A Vision for York** Our speaker on **October 16th** was Cllr Chris Steward, Conservative Leader of York City Council. Heading up what he described as the "Joint Administration" with the Lib Dems ("don't mention the 'c' word!!!") he expounded his views on the importance of cross-party working for the good of the City, and explained his top priorities which included revising and finalising the long-drawn-out Local Plan, improving local services such as pot-hole repair and adult social care, and ensuring a long-term 4-year budget, despite constant cost pressures. Questions from members ranged from Fulford roundabout to cyclists and the rail links to Leeds and trans-pennine; these exemplified the interest and appreciation shown for Chris' honest approach to communication.



**Peas Pies and Puzzles** The International Committee held their Quiz Night (with Pea and Pie Supper) in aid of the Ebenezer School project in Zambia, on **October 15th**. With nearly 130 squeezing in to the Stockton-on-Forest Village Hall, the atmosphere quickly became both very social and highly competitive as teams competed in 5 rounds of questions, presented with great verbal clarity from quizmaster Frank Paterson; plus an intriguing "picture quiz". Over half of those attending were not Rotarians, and it was an excellent night of fellowship and fun, expertly organised by Mary Lumley and Sheila Weatherburn, who kept the competitive spirit going with Excel displays of the scores after each round. The eventual winners were "Philip's Girls" - with Philip and Marlise Heaton - he should be so lucky! In the end the event raised over £2000 for the School Project, a fantastic result for which huge thanks to Mary and Sheila, and all who helped with the organisation.



**Police and Crime Commissioner tells all** Our guest at the Club meeting on **October 9th** was Julia Mulligan, the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire, who spoke eloquently, and without notes, about her background, role and expectations in this position. Despite widespread voter apathy during the election, Julia has grasped the nettle of many key issues in the region, including the appointment - in a transparently open selection process - of a new Chief Constable; the focus on new technology as the key element in successfully lowering crime rates; and her emphasis on dealing with and supporting vulnerable people in the community. She explained that 23-40% of people in contact with the police have mental health issues, and she expressed concern over potential budget cuts in the mental health provision, and police budgets, in 2016 and beyond. On the positive side, our region is apparently the "safest region" in England, which as Julia explained did not happen "by accident" but by dedicated policing and sound policy.

Joining us at this meeting and listening to the presentation was Karsten Weise, a Rotarian from Dortmund-Romberg, Germany, who was welcomed by President Mike and by all members.



**Rotaract Recruiters** Back from their summer vacations, President Nina and two of her committee of York Rotaract Club set up their stall at the University of York's "Freshers' Fair" **October 3rd** to publicise the Rotaract Club and attract new members from the incoming first-year students. Despite competition from what looked like hundreds of other University societies and clubs, they got a large number of students signing up as interested, and on **October 8th** they ran a "Welcome and Information" session for them. This featured a presentation by Rebecca Mendoza and generated real interest amongst many new potential members. We wish them success in further growing this dynamic Club in 2015/16.



**Presentation of Dragon Boat Trophies** At a well-attended event held in York's magnificent Guildhall on **October 6th**, the trophies for the 2015 Dragon Boat Challenge overall winners, and category winners, were presented by the Lord Mayor Cllr Sonja Crisp. Also recognised were the team, and the individual, who had raised most sponsorship; and the special presentation of cheques to the two principal beneficiaries from the 2015 event, Door 84 and Martin House Hospice.



**The Deep Story** Our speaker on **October 2nd** was Colin Brown, a member of Weighton Wolds Rotary Club, who enthralled members with his revealing, and often very funny, description of the development of "The Deep", Hull's very successful Aquarium (or more accurately "Submarium" according to Colin). From initial inception as a focal point for tourism through approvals, funding and construction, the project was clearly a challenge. Colin described the difficulty of selling Hull as a tourist destination ("*Up to then Hull's most common visitors were those being taken on a mystery tour!*") and the task of getting local financial support for the project which in the end cost over £34m. But the attraction opened on time, now has no debt, and is attracting people to come specifically to Hull. They also have many conservation projects on the go, working with countries such as Sudan and Costa Rica. Colin's last slide was a photo which he described as Penguins from Texas (?) - this was somewhat puzzling to the two US visitors we welcomed at the meeting, Bob Derser from the Rotary Club of Temecula, California, and his son!



**Peat Rigg Presentations and Video** A "Reunion" meeting was held for the young people and their families, at Door 84 on **September 23rd**. The audience of parents grandparents and friends shared some of the experiences through the 17 minute filmed recording of the activities over the five days. The youngsters, of course, reacted vocally and predictably to some of their colleagues starring roles. The seven resident rotarians all turned up wearing the distinctive Peatrigg Polo shirt and it was very encouraging to see the positive spontaneous reactions from the young people to the reunion. Certificates of attendance were presented to the youngsters by Peter Kendall, President of Ainsty and Terry Clark President of Vikings. There is a unanimous conclusion that the project was very worthwhile, achieved the objectives and Councils of the three clubs have agreed in principle to fund a similar project in 2016. The video of the event can be viewed by clicking [here](#)



(Click to watch the video)

**Two New Members** We welcomed two new members to the Club at the business meeting on **September 25th**. Rebecca Mendoza, previously an Associate Member and well-known to Club members through her association with RYLA, Rotaract and other activities over several years, becomes our youngest member. John Harris, a retired head teacher and former Principal of York Sixth Form Collage, was previously a member of Newark Rotary Club, and was also warmly welcomed by all Club members. At the same meeting, Carl Crossfield presented a cheque for £250 for the Club's Charity account, funds raised from a wonderful concert performed on **August 23rd** by John Wardale's family, in memory of John on what would have been his 90th birthday. The concert was attended by many Club members.



**St Crux Fundraising** The weather was not kind to the last of this year's St Cux fundraising events on **September 24th**. But through some heavy intermittent rain showers, selling of bric-a-brac and books continued, the cafe did a very steady trade and over 30 Club members who helped on the day remained in very good spirits. Despite the conditions, the event raised £860 on the day for Club Charity funds.



**Paul Harris Fellowship Award for Dawn** At the Club meeting on **September 18th** chaired by Past President Nigel, a PHF award was presented to Dawn Watts. Kevin Grogan, who has known Dawn and her family for many years, outline Dawn's remarkable achievements in positive and creative fundraising, in many guises, despite her own challenges, being diagnosed herself with cancer two years ago. She has arranged "New Dawn New Day New Life" events, festivals, charity gigs, and even a tandem skydive to raise over £15,000 for York Against Cancer and for Dreamflight, using Social Media extensively and clearly very successfully. The Club was delighted to applaud Dawn's efforts, as Nigel presented her with her award, in front of her husband Stuart, her mum Doreen and sister Deb. If she looked surprised, it's because it was all kept a secret from her - she thought she was just meeting up with family for a coffee!! The presentation was also reported in The Press - click [here](#) to view.



**Teenage Cancer** A powerful talk from Catherine Foster, Regional Fundraiser for [Teenage Cancer Trust](#), held everyone's attention at our meeting on **September 18th**. With 28 units in hospitals across the UK (including 5 in Yorkshire), TCT provide treatment areas designed with a teenage environment in mind for youngsters aged 13-24 who suffer from cancer, and education and conferences arranged to ensure this special need is understood - it can often take many visits to a GP before a teenager can get a correct diagnosis, as their symptoms are often passed off as "young people's problems" before being properly diagnosed. Reaching about 55% of those affected (currently 240 per year in Yorkshire alone) the charity aims to be able to help 100% by 2020.



**High Speed Presentation!** At our meeting on **September 11th** Frank Paterson gave an enthusiastic, and very well researched, talk about the need for, and benefits of, the HS2 rail plans. He explained that in the 30 years up to 1865 there were 15000 miles of track laid, as the railways grew. There have been very few since - indeed a reduction of 12000 during the Beeching years - and yet passenger miles have doubled in the past 20 years. The new 225mph trains will serve Birmingham at first (2026) then Crewe and Leeds (with links to York!) in Phase 2 by 2033. Frank explained the economic and jobs benefits of new links and faster connections, and emphasised that the UK was miles behind (!) in such developments compared with France, Japan and especially China, where 300kph travel is commonplace (*as your webmaster can testify!!*) Controversial, yes (as evidenced by questions from other members) but Frank's exposition did allow many facts and positive arguments to be understood by us all!



**Bowls Night** Once again the Rotary bowlers (21 in all) descended on the RI (Railway Institute!) Bowling Club for an evening of fun, confusion and fellowship on **September 8th**. Frank organised the seven teams and tried to explain the rules, which were then treated with much scepticism and ignorance by everyone! No-one really knew how to score and so it was not a great surprise to anyone when, during the delicious pie, peas and chips (and apple pie) supper that followed, Frank announced that the winners were himself and Enid Rayner! The stewards enquiry is, we believe, still sitting..... But it was a great evening - thank you Frank, and David Minns, for organising!



**New Member's Talk** Explaining that her first business customer was Rotarian Mike Wilson, on **September 4th** new Club member Diana Naish described her journey from a small start-up catering business to one which was providing catering services on a huge scale, with 250 staff and clients including many of the Royal Family and a large list of celebrities. On occasion she would be catering for four weddings on one day... Diana kept her audience amused with many tales of near-disasters, mostly seeming to involve chefs, missing food, electricity supplies, or a combination of the above. Now retired, her skills are now being eagerly sought by Club members for Rotary functions!



**Russ discusses buses** The scheduled speaker for our **August 27th** meeting was unfortunately indisposed, so our own Russ Rollings stepped in and kept members amused and educated with a presentation about one of his interests - 1960's buses. And not just a passing interest! Russ explained how he and a group of friends spent £400 to purchase TFA 987, a 1961 Daimler bus (which was familiar since it was the one Russ had taken to school in Burton-on-Trent in his youth) which was at the time in a dilapidated state, in Perth, and awaiting the scrap heap. Back in Burton, after careful restoration, and spending about £5K, the bus was returned to its original Burton colours and started on the exhibition circuit (and "recreating 1960's bus routes" in Burton). Russ injected great humour into the presentation, and held everyone's interest, despite describing his earlier hobby of bus-spotting as "a hobby for those who find trainspotting too exciting"! Thanks Russ for stepping in and providing great entertainment from Daimler buses!



**New Member** Our newest member, Christine Watkinson, was welcomed to the Club at our **August 21st** Business Meeting by President Mike. She was introduced to the Club by Diana Naish, accompanied by Christine's "mentor" Vic Brookes. Christine, formerly a dentist and also a past President of the York Dental Society, is a member of York Sommeliers; and enjoys fishing and walking. We welcome Christine, who is keen to become involved in many of the Club's activities and "give something back" to the community.



**York Rotary Clubs' Youth Challenge** Last week saw the Youth Challenge event, sponsored by the three York Rotary Clubs, take place at Peat Rigg Outdoor Training Centre near Cropton, Pickering. Twenty-one young people, most from very challenging family backgrounds, were guided through a series of tasks and team-building activities by the professional trainers at Peat Rigg, with eight Rotarian mentors, from clubs in York and beyond, assisting. Frank, John and Linda talked about how tough the week was for them, mentally and physically (e.g. 2.30am "events" to be dealt with) but by the time 30 Club members and partners visited the group on **August 20th** it was clearly evident that the youngsters had learnt a lot, gained a lot, and – for the most part – enjoyed their week. Rotary clearly has made a difference, to these young people's lives. Oh, and the cream tea we visitors were served was also delicious. Congratulations to Frank and his team for organising this week's event, and to the indefatigable Rotarian members who took part. It was inspiring to see the results, on our visit.

*A video of the week's activities is being produced which will be shown to members later.*



**Golf Tournament and Dinner** - The annual Bill Mann Tournament took place on **August 16th** at Pike Hills Golf Club. The weather was sunny and warm, and golfers from all three York clubs enjoyed the afternoon, displaying a variety of golfing talents! The overall winner of the Bill Mann Trophy was Steve Cluderay, of York Ainsty Rotary Club, with our own Brian Houghton taking 3rd place. The prizes were awarded at an excellent dinner at the Clubhouse for over 50 Rotarians and partners from all three clubs. We were delighted again to welcome Sheila Royce, Bill Mann's daughter, who presented the prizes. Many thanks to her, and to David Sweeney who organised the whole enjoyable event. Full results, and lots more photos, are on our [Golf Results page here](#)



**Loading for Africa** On **August 15th**, nine Club and Inner Wheel members made an early start and arrived at Lower Tunsford to help load the latest Physionet container, this one bound for Zambia. In a very convivial atmosphere, and supported by coffee and cakes, the whole team of about 20 loaded over 500 items of surplus NHS equipment - mostly wheelchairs, mobility aids, zimmer frames and childrens' aids - in under two hours. The container was carefully filled like a sardine can! The shipment is bound for a hospital about 200Km from Lusaka, via Felixstowe for the ocean journey, followed by a very long overland drive to Lusaka.



**In Cuckoo Land** Cuckoo numbers are down 50% over the past 20 years. We Brits spend £30m a year on bird food, whilst the French spend virtually nothing. Our feeding methods and other behaviours have contributed to a 13-fold increase in the number of pigeons in the past 30 years (yes, we had noticed!) at the same time as seeing a dramatic reduction in the population of blue tits. Such interesting facts, and many more, were part of the talk on **August 14th** by Mike Gray, from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Mike focussed particularly on the migration habits of the diminishing number of cuckoos in the UK. Having tagging over 40 cuckoos (using £1000 GPS monitors attached to their backs), BTO are able to track their migration paths (mostly to Africa) on a real-time basis on their website. Click [here](#) to see the map. One bird ("Charlie" by name, apparently) has travelled over 60,000 miles to and fro, stopping in Southern Europe en route to stock up on food (perhaps good Greek Feta with olives?) to gain enough bodyweight to continue the trip.



**Tough Mudder Hero Kevin** On **August 1st**, Membership Chairman Kevin Grogan took part, after months of training, in the 2015 Tough Mudder Yorkshire near Skipton, to raise funds for Help for Heroes. Sounds like 4.5 hours of hell... *In Kevin's own words...* "The course was 10.6 miles long and featured 26 obstacles, 430,000 litres of mud and not forgetting the 'Arctic Enema' (the -10C ice plunge) which, for me, was the worst obstacle on the course. Half way through the afternoon it began to pour down with rain which didn't really help. The last obstacle was aptly named 'Electroshock Therapy', a 20 yard dash through a curtain of wires carrying 10,000 volts. The event was difficult, we are all battered and bruised, but the team managed thanks to our preparation. We've collected around £700 in donations so far, but my employer will add another £250 to that, so all in all not a bad team effort for Help for Heroes. Thank you to everyone who supported us." *Amazing – well done Kevin.*



**Is it raining yet?** Our annual Barbeque seems to be synonymous with falling rain, so it was with some surprise that around 70 attendees - members, partners and guests – sat outside at Sutton-Upon-Derwent Village Hall on **August 1st** and enjoyed lovely sunshine as our two Master Chefs (Davids Walkden and Thompson) cooked up some excellent lean steaks, together with chicken and plump sausages. It was not to last! The gloom descended and the rain gained pace and finally overcame us. David Sweeney's putting contest was abandoned, and John's much-anticipated quiz had to be conducted inside, along with a fabulous array of desserts, produced by members and partners (allegedly all female – but do step forward any men who fashioned a pud!!). It was a great event, despite the worsening weather, and huge thanks to the Fellowship Committee, especially Donald Heath and Peter Fox, for organising the BBQ again – and to John and all who helped make it a memorable day.



**Moving RIBI forward** Our speaker on **July 31st** was our new 1040 District Governor Hazel Haas (the first women to hold this position). She explained her enthusiasm for the leadership of the incoming Rotary International President K R ("Ravi") Ravindran, and RIBI President Peter Davey, who were both bringing more measurement and reform to the Rotary organisation as well as leading Rotarians in making a difference across the world. Hazel emphasised the importance of growing clubs, with new members and vibrant and flexible Clubs. She felt our own Club was in this category and praised the way we do try to promote Rotary through our website, facebook and Linked-In activities. She particularly welcomed Kevin Grogan's appointment as District Membership Chair, bringing his enthusiasm and ideas to the District level.



**The Presidents Cup** This annual golfing event was held at the York Golf Club Strensall on **June 28th** *David Sweeney reports...* Everyone thoroughly enjoyed both the golf and evening meal. It was Presidents John's final social event before handover to Mike and he presented the cup and prizes together with entertainment telling some classical jokes in particular one about a monkey !!! President John thanked everyone for supporting him in his year of office and we in return thanked him and Linda his lovely wife for all the hard work they had done with full commitment and dedication to the club. What a President. The winner of the Cup was Tony Howard. Thanks go to everyone who came and supported both the golf and the fellowship evening.



**RYLA Visitors** At the **July 24th** business meeting, we were joined by the two selected young people who are about to embark on their RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) week - Mark Holmes and Eleanor Dook. They both spoke to the Club very eloquently, and clearly these are two very talented young people. Mark, from Huntington School, is an accomplished musician (taking grade 8 in two instruments) while Eleanor, from The Mount School, is an award-winning athlete at European level. They both expressed their enthusiasm, and not a little apprehension, about their forthcoming RYLA week. We wish them well.



**DOYCI** Our speaker on **July 17th** was Steven Byer, who enlightened Club members about the [Duke of York's Community Initiative](#). RCoY received an Award in October 2013 for our work in our community, so members were especially interested to hear more of the origins and workings of the Community Initiative. The scheme was started by the Duke of York after a visit to Walmgate where the local community was rallying round to improve problematic aspects of the area, and the Duke felt that some "recognition" was due to such initiatives. Nowadays, a rigorous assessment of both background, finances and objectives of applicant organisations ensures a high standard is maintained, summed up by Steven in the phrase "What do you do to go the extra mile?" 47 Awards were issued in the past year. Steven also explained the "Innovation Fund" in the DOYCI, open to Award holders only. This will make awards of £5k to organisations demonstrating new, innovative and collaborative programmes working in partnership with other community organisations. Members took careful notes... you can expect to hear more!!



**Vocational Visit to Askham Bog** On **July 17th**, a group of Rotarians and friends gathered at Askham Bog for a site visit to follow up Louise Wilkinson of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's talk to the Club in April. Eileen reports: "The group were privileged to be shown round by an expert, Trustee Alastair Fitter CBE., FRS., Professor of Biology at the University of York. The bog formed in a lake behind the York Moraine, a glacial ridge; vegetative decay was halted and peat accumulated. The importance of Sphagnum Moss in building up the peat was explained and Alastair wrung out a handful to demonstrate its capacity to hold water; he also had the group jumping up and down like 5 year olds (*see video below!*) to demonstrate the springiness of 6 inches of peat on top of 6 feet of water. From Roman times, the peat was used as a source of fuel, resulting in a mosaic of habitats and a legacy of ditches which were probably originally used for punt access to the peat."



Click to view Rotary Jumpers Video!

**July Walk** 9 members took part in the Club walk around Helmsley on **July 16th**. Mike Hay reports: "A beautiful walk in excellent weather! Almost 7 miles, starting and finishing at Helmsley followed by a fine lunch at The Feathers. Temptation to Sticky Toffee Pudding was strong!"



**Dragon Boat Challenge on Radio York** The day following the very successful Dragon Boat Challenge, on **July 13th**, Radio York presenter Elly Fiorentini, a good friend and Honorary Member of our Club, included a feature spot on her "Afternoon Show" where she aired interviews and comments about the day (Elly has for many years been our Announcer broadcasting from the Dragon Boats Control Tent on the riverbank).



Also, read [The Press coverage](#)

**Dragon Boat Challenge** The **July 12th** Rotary Club of York Dragon Boat Challenge was blessed with perfect weather, and great atmosphere on both banks of the Ouse as the 36 teams battled it out for the trophies, amid rising excitement and competitiveness amongst the teams! In the end the defending champions "The Growlers", Ged Bell Butchers, prevailed, a fitting tribute to their many years of competing and after they had announced this would be their final year competing. Over £57,500 has already been pledged by the teams, which means it is likely the final total raised for local charities will be in excess of £65,000. A hugely successful day. Thanks go to all the Club Members who helped out in the organisation of the day.



**President's Handover** The **July 3rd** handover meeting continued with the formalities of John Lacy welcoming incoming President Mike Fieldsend, and Mike in turn introducing President-Elect Eileen Davis and VP Brian Joscelyne. Mike explained that all three in the "line of succession" were already working close together to ensure the continuity of good practice and policy in future years, and ensuring that, as well as moving forward with beneficial changes to the Club, due respect and deference would be maintained for the Club's traditions, history and the service of long-standing members who had made the success of the Club possible over the years. There was however an indication (*see 4th photo*) that a new Club Hosiery Dress Code might be forthcoming!...



**John's UPSide** Reviewing his very successful year as President at the **July 3rd** Handover meeting, John decided to use a visual aid to express his enthusiasm for what the Club is achieving - illustrating amongst other things that membership is UP, attendance at lunch (and quality of same) is UP, and other illustrations less suitable for a public website!! Finally he admitted his own time was UP - a humorous and fitting epilogue to his year, in John's inimitable style! Incoming President Mike did mention that his first appointment might be to make John our Honorary Club Jester.

In equally positive vein, John also congratulated **Bill Stubbs** who really has become an honorary member, having given 50 years' service to the Club since he joined in 1965. Members warmly applauded this amazing achievement, and we wish Bill many more happy years in the Club. On **July 10th** Assistant Governor Darrell Hind also presented Bill with a framed certificate and Bill spoke to the Club.



