



Disaster Relief through Shelterbox

- The Rotary connection



As natural disasters strike across the world – most recently it was severe flooding caused by Cyclone Idai in southern Africa – relief agencies spring into action. One such organisation is Shelterbox, a partner of Rotary International. Headquartered in Cornwall, and originally founded by a Rotarian, this charity has developed a worldwide network of storage depots filled with green Shelterbox units, strategically located near to high-risk geographical areas.

In each box is a large tent (as illustrated above) and a variety of tools, blankets, a cooker and cooking utensils and other essential items that can provide a temporary home and life-saving supplies for a family.

Each box costs £590, and Rotary Clubs across the world raise funds to replenish the stocks of Shelterboxes located in strategic global locations.

In York, our Club also spreads the word by demonstrating Shelterbox contents and their work, to local schools.

Nigel Naish has written about this project, and you can read his article on [page 4](#).

A Message from Elly

BBC Radio York's Elly Fiorentini, who is an Honorary Member of our Rotary Club, is FoYR's Patron

“Where has the last year gone? It is a year since I retrained



for my new temporary role within the BBC. That has come to an end and I am back in York. I have learned so many things about myself and others in that time. It has been a privilege to gain the trust of others and help them in a new journey. FoYR is also a journey - a new way of meeting people, supporting each other and learning from one another too. The last year has shown me that we never stop learning so long as we have a willingness to do so. I hope that your journey with FoYR continues to be a happy experience. Hope to see you all soon”

Elly

Upcoming events for your Diary...

May 22nd

FoYR exclusive: Networking Evening

Topic: “Charitable Funding and Grant Sources”

(see page 2 for more details and how to sign-up)

July 14th

York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge

Please come and volunteer help in running this great event

(see page 4 for more details)

Aug 4th

York 10K Run (Managing the Baggage Store)

We'll be asking for volunteers help us 'run' this store!

Sept 15th

“Friends” and family Barbeque in aid of Shelterbox

Novotel, Fishergate, York from noon

Further details to follow later



In July, *Friends of York Rotary* will celebrate our first birthday!

We hope you have enjoyed your membership of *Friends*, and have learnt a bit more about what we do in Rotary, and perhaps learnt from other members through our Networking events. Many of you have helped us by volunteering at several Rotary events over the year, as we describe in this issue. Thank you for your help, which is much appreciated.

Our Rotary Club itself, founded in 1921, will celebrate our Centenary in two years time, and we've included a sneak preview of what's being planned as a celebration.

By contrast, we've also asked our newest Rotary member to give us his views of Rotary and his thoughts about the future.

Please make a special note in your diaries for **July 14th** –the Dragon Boat Challenge is here again, and we'll very much welcome your help!

Thank you for your support of Rotary, and for being a "Friend"

Brian Joscelyne
FoYR Co-ordinator



Forthcoming FoYR events



NETWORKING EVENING

Wednesday May 22nd 2019

"THE HUT", Wigginton Road York YO31 8HG

(across the road from York Hospital)

6.30pm – approx. 8.30pm



CHARITABLE GRANTS AND FUNDING SOURCES

An open discussion following an
introduction from

Janet Morley

&

David Fotheringham

formerly Fundraising Manager

Trustee

St Leonard's Hospice

Norman CollinsonTrust

An exclusive event for



(max 2 places per FoYR member; bring a colleague!)

To confirm attendance, please notify Brian at: friends@yorkrotary.co.uk

Get in touch...



Friends of York Rotary



www.yorkrotary.co.uk/friends



<https://goo.gl/wXNu75>

Rotary Club of York



www.yorkrotary.co.uk



<https://goo.gl/4d2h7n>



<https://goo.gl/tE1cXW>

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY...

Friends of York Rotary Family Barbeque

is being planned for **Sunday September 15th 2019**

From noon Novotel All welcome

(details to follow soon)

in aid of



ShelterBox

Disaster relief



Tony has been a Rotarian for just 6 months, joining the York Club last October

We asked him for his thoughts about Rotary.....

How did you hear about Rotary and what sparked your interest?

I was first made aware of Rotary through a member we knew in a business capacity. I liked its ethos, genuine support to the community and to fellow Rotarians. After several visits over about 3 years I decided to join last September as I felt I could both contribute to the community projects as well as get to know like-minded people.

Tell us about your professional background

From leaving an agricultural college in my early 20's I have been involved in the property market. I started off as an estate agent in Durham. Then after about 9 years moved into property development. I have remained in such since and am still fully active in both consultancy work including builders and developers. I am also looking to return to residential development projects myself.

When did you join York Rotary and what were your impressions?

I formally became a member in October 2018. I found the group friendly and supportive. Keen also to attract new members. Like all groups there are those who stand out in the sterling work they undertake in community projects. There is a strong club ethos to support.

What do you see as the benefits of being a Rotarian?

Putting something back into the community. I did my bit back about 20 years ago supporting local kids in football teams for several years. Time has drifted by. I felt Rotary was a good motivator to get back in to do positive things. It's also a great place to meet new likeminded people, make friends and build on the social side.

What sort of activities are you involved in with the club?

The advice given to me was ...'take your time' as you can become if not careful overwhelmed with involvement in projects. Amazingly there is an enormous amount of Rotarian support to helping in the community. Since joining I have so far helped in the community at the annual York Marathon and tree planting on Haxby Road. Personally I have been on monthly walks as well as Friday morning visits into businesses. I particularly enjoy seeing behind the scenes and how things work!



Rotary Tree Planting Project, on Haxby Road

Any thoughts about how you would like to see York Rotary develop in the future?

We clearly need to attract more of the younger generation as well as more people who are currently active in business. When my wife and I recently went to the US on holiday I was genuinely struck as to how many Rotarians there were people in business.

We need to adapt and clearly over there their groups are much larger and though fully supportive of their communities like us, they may, I suggest, see Rotary International as a business networking platform too. Perhaps this might be something we can develop too, without losing the great things we all enjoy now.

Dragon Boat Challenge – can YOU help?

Our York Rotary Club's flagship fundraising event, the York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge, is taking place this year on **Sunday July 14th**



Last year we raised over £80,000 for local charities, and the total raised over the past 16 years has been £1.1 million! It's a fabulous fun day for everyone, and is now a highlight of York's calendar each year.

Some of you may be participating with our business or charity, or taking a stall on the North Bank Gala area. Have a great day!



Running the day takes a huge effort from a large team of people, and we would welcome help from **Friends** volunteering for tasks such as setting-up, marshalling, car-park management, boat loading and programme selling, and clearing up after the event.

Can YOU help us?

We would like **Friends** volunteers to help for the morning (8.30am – 12.30pm) or the afternoon (1pm– 5pm) - or ideally both!

We will give you full instructions, and support. Please let Brian know if you can help, so we can add you to the roster for the day.

friends@yorkrotary.co.uk



Pupils wide-eyed at Shelterbox Demo

Rotarian Nigel Naish reports.....



Shelterbox Tent Demonstration at Stillington School

A team from the Rotary Club of York have been demonstrating their relief ShelterBox to pupils at three primary schools in the York area. The idea was to raise awareness of the plight of thousands of families recently made homeless by devastating floods, hurricanes, landslides, volcanic eruptions or cyclones, and to encourage schools to consider raising funds for the charity.

The Rotarians were able to show pupils the contents of a ShelterBox, including a family size tent that can withstand extreme weather conditions, cooking stove, water filter, blanket, torch and, yes, cuddly toy. Instead of a tent it may have to contain a tarpaulin, ropes and nails, depending on the type of disaster. Schools visited so far have included

Stillington (31 pupils), Stockton on Forest (90 pupils) and Bishopthorpe Junior (250 pupils) and the children were keen to look inside the tent and asked many questions about the ShelterBoxes, including "where is the mobile phone?" and "what happens to the family pets?"

Rotarians Nigel Naish and Brian Joscelyne explained that the ShelterBox people are geared up to respond quickly to emergencies, delivering relief from their warehouses in the UK and in relevant parts of the world. But this means that their stocks are constantly being depleted, so fund raising to provide replacement boxes is urgently needed.



Explaining the contents of a Shelterbox

DOYCI AWARDS



Our Rotary Club of York was honoured recently with the **Duke of York's Community Initiative** award,



presented to our President Ian Helby by HRH Price Andrew, Duke of York at a ceremony in Catterick. The award recognises Rotary's contribution to our local community and it is the third time we have received the award in recent years.

We were in good company – other local groups receiving the DOYCI award included KYRA Women's Project (members of *Friends of York Rotary*)



Heard of The Hut? 5



We asked Tom Meares, The Hut's Governance and Funding Officer, to explain....



The Hut York is a members-led charity based on Wigginton Road York. We provide services for those with learning disabilities and or/mental health issues. The Hut was established in 2011 by 3 psychiatric nurses who felt that there wasn't a dedicated safe space for those with mental health issues or learning disabilities to learn, grow, socialise and be themselves. Since then we have gone from strength to strength attracting members from across York and beyond. At present we have over 200 registered members. Although we focus on people with mental health and learning disabilities we are open to all offering a cup of coffee and a chat to anyone who visits us.



Some of the members of The Hut

We offer a range of programs for our members. These include arts and crafts, chair based exercise, creative writing, organised games and music sessions. Our flagship program, *Aspire* looks at developing social, life and vocational skills in a supported and safe environment. Our ethos is that no one should face barriers to participation based on ill health or non-attendance therefore members are allowed to participate in as many sessions as they wish.

Our work is only possible through fantastic volunteers who support our staff team; offering a wealth of knowledge and experience which we could not do without. Our volunteers bring experience in arts and crafts, fundraising, exercise and more. We also offer study placements in partnership with York College, York St. John and Joseph Rowntree school.



Through *Friends of York Rotary*, The Hut has been able to connect to a wide and diverse range of organisations that can help us in our journey to offer the best possible service to our members. We strongly believe in inter-organisational partnership and working together to serve the community of York, *Friends of Rotary* has been an excellent forum in which to this. Particular highlights have been the social networking workshop and our upcoming hosting of the next event.

If you are interested in partnering with The Hut, or would like to learn more please email info@thehutyork.co.uk

Rotary Club of York



In 2021, the **Rotary Club of York** will celebrate our Centenary - the Club was founded in 1921 - and party plans are already afoot! As well as a formal Civic celebration, and a "Centenary Gift" to the City of York, there will a more informal Dinner Dance in May 2021, at the Racecourse, featuring the country's number one ABBA tribute band, **...ABBA Revival..**

You've got two years to get your glad rags ready!!



There are 103 Rotary Clubs in Yorkshire/Lincolnshire district (3 in York!)

... with 2,700 members!



6 Social Media.....

The Friends of York Rotary's February **networking** meeting was focussed on the use *Social Media as a Marketing Tool*. The session was brilliantly led by "Friends" member **Kirsty Halliday**, from Accessible Arts and Media and resulted in a lot of discussion and sharing of experiences. Here's Kirsty's take on the event..

"It was great to get together with Friends and chat about how charities can use social media to talk about their work and make connections. Conversations focused on a few key areas, including:

- With so many social media platforms and tools out there, how do you decide which one(s) to use? We talked about the importance of knowing your audiences and the different messages you want to get across – one platform might work better for having conversations with your supporters, another for connecting with other charities.



Kirsty leading the Networking session

- We talked about the fact that social media can be a powerful listening tool as well as a broadcasting tool, keeping you up to date with the latest sector news.
- We shared some of the tools available for managing and analysing social media, many of them free to use. And we talked about whether we should just be counting the number of people who follow us or focusing more on how, when and why they engage with our posts.

There were some really interesting and wide-ranging discussions. Everyone was willing to share their success stories as well as their frustrations with social media and it was fantastic to be in such an open, supportive group."

Kirsty

Women helping Women

Rotary holds special event for International Womens Day

by York Rotarian Sheila Weatherburn



Women from our Rotary Club and friends came together recently to celebrate International Women's Day and raised over £700 in the process to support local women's organisations.

The *Women helping Women* idea came about as a result of the long standing relationship between the Rotary Club of York and the Charity **Two Ridings Community Foundation**. Rotarians Sheila Weatherburn and Diana Naish organised the lunch following the unprecedented demand for funding when the TRCF launched the recent Tampon Tax Community Fund providing grants to groups working to support women in Yorkshire

The fund was hugely oversubscribed and with the need so clearly demonstrated the Women in Rotary together with other like- minded women organised their response **Women Power!**

We raised £700 at the lunch and have facilitated the start of a new Fund for Women and Girls. At the lunch our guests were asked to bring donations of women's sanitary items and toiletries and the Foundation has now delivered these to deserving women's groups such as **Hull Sisters**. One such group wrote "we just wanted you to know that all the women were very happy with the donation One woman said that I should pass her message onto you as only God can reward you for all you have done for us – we poor people can't"



Members of Hull Sisters

Further information about the new Fund or the Community Foundation can be obtained through their website <https://www.tworidingscf.org.uk/>

or by telephoning Jackie McCafferty on 01904 929500.



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