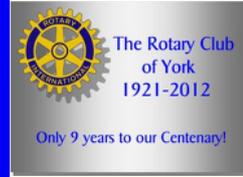


Club News Archive

2011 - 2012
in reverse chronological order

July 2011 - June 2012



Presidential Handover - At the Club meeting on **30th June** the badge of office of President was passed from David Jesper to Darrell Hind who will lead our Club through the forthcoming 2012-13 year. Also at the meeting was Ambassadorial Scholar Luigi Nicoletti, who thanked the Club for their support and received the good wishes of the Club as he heads off now to join a Humanitarian Relief Team working in the Congo.



Presentation to Yorkshire Cancer Research - as President David's "final act" before handing over his presidency at the Club meeting on **June 30th**, he presented a cheque to Professor Tony Robards, chairman of Yorkshire Cancer Research, this being the final balance of the £3600 raised for YCR by the Club's "York 90" fundraiser which was launched in January 2011 under the presidency of PP Graham Wilford. The "three presidents" - including incoming President Darrell - are pictured here with Professor Robards, and also Brian Joscelyne who managed the "York 90" project for the Club.



[click logo for more details](#)

Sunshine at Sheriff Hutton! - The sun shone brightly at Sheriff Hutton on **June 24th** when President David entertained "at home" some members of the council who had supported him during his year. David's wife Anne also presented the "Consorts Jewel" to incoming President Darrell's wife Val.



Bushfire Recovery - Our visitor on **June 22nd** was Rtn Brian Huffen, originally from Nottingham but now from the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek, South Australia. Brian outline the extensive damage that recent bushfires caused to 1.1 million acres of land, where whole communities were destroyed; and the efforts of 500+ Rotary volunteers who worked to supply 300 Shelter Boxes, then help rebuild homes, build fences, and provide supplies and support to the devastated area and its population. An inspiring example of Rotary in action.



Club Walk - The days of guaranteed sunshine for our monthly walks look like they may be (temporarily!) behind us, and on **June 21st** a hardy and positive-thinking group of 12 members and partners set off in the soft rain from Firby, near Kirkham Abbey, for a stroll through riverside meadows (waist-high) along the River Derwent; then some rather less wet pathways which led us, still smiling, to Hutton's Ambo (actually not a village but a civil parish - meaning "both" ("Ambo") High Hutton and Low Hutton). Crossing the Grade II listed suspension bridge, originally built in 1886, was a "moving" experience, and the walk finally ended - in the dry - with a very splendid lunch at the Stone Trough.



Dragon Boat Flag Design - Our 10th York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge on **July 8th** is now only two weeks away, and preparations are moving into high gear. Here, The Mount Junior School pupils are pictured showing their artistic contributions in the competition to design a flag to fly on the school's "Mutiny on the Mountie" Boat.



Olympic Torch News - First, the Club congratulates Stan Wild - one of its Paul Harris Fellows - on being one of the Olympic Torch Bearers in York on **18th June**. Stan was nominated as a Torch Bearer for his 'selfless dedication' to the York City Gymnastics Club which he founded in 1974 and at which he is still heavily involved as a coach. He was an Olympic gymnast, having competed in the 1968 and 1972 Games. He - and his wife Beth - were both made PH Fellows in 2007 for their untiring work with the Gymnastics Club, which still involves classes for 1800 child members.

Also, (right hand photo) two days later Club member Frank Paterson was present to help send off Josephine Loughran carrying the Olympic Flame on the "Scots Guardsman" from York's National Railway Museum to Thirsk.



"York90 Trip "Thank You" - President David recently received a "thank you" card from Charlotte and Mike Ero (and Thomas) in appreciation of their recent trip to London and York as the winners of the Club's "York 90" fundraiser. The card included photo montages of their trip.



Club Speaker - At the Club meeting on **June 8th**, the speaker was Alison Wragg, the Community Fund Raiser at [Martin House Hospice](#) in Boston Spa. This hospice celebrates its 25th Anniversary this year - it was the second Children's Hospice to be set up in the UK and indeed the World. Alison explained that the hospice provides a "home from home" for young people with life-limiting conditions and supports their families; the work is mostly respite care for those with genetic & metabolic problems, with some terminal care. Its annual costs are £4.9 million, only 12% of which comes from statutory funding; thus legacies and trust support, together with community fund-raising are crucial. Alison invited members of the Club to their *Open Day on 7th October between 11am and 3pm*.



Report from Erlangen! - *Robin Rich reports.....* A party of twelve from York, including six York Rotarians lead by the Club's President David Jesper, joined the annual gathering of Members of the three Rotary Clubs – Aubusson, Erlangen and York – and their partners in Erlangen, in the Bavarian District of central Germany, on **May 17th-20th**, for what proved to be a well organised and thoroughly enjoyable couple of days. The Erlangen Club had organised an exciting two day programme of visits and hospitality, with the benefit of wall to wall sunshine throughout. To see a full report on the trip - and a brief visit to our *Partner Club in Gorinchem, Netherlands* whilst en route back to York - and many more photos, [click here](#)



York Rotaract Club's President Handover Dinner - President David Jesper and IPP Graham Wilford together with their wives joined members of York Rotaract Club for their Handover Dinner held at 31 Castlegate Restaurant on **Friday 1st June**. The Dinner, in the company of such enthusiastic, young and charming members of Rotaract, was a very enjoyable occasion and was a fitting end to Aiste Rugeviciute's very successful year as Rotaract President. During her year, the Club had run a very focussed fundraising effort for SASH, grown its membership, organised several training and personal development courses for its members and committee, and arranged many fun social events. President David took the opportunity to wish Aiste well in her chosen career as she leaves for London shortly. It was a pleasure to see Martins Zepps inducted as Rotaract's third President and Giovanni Tarabocchia inducted as President Elect and to wish them well in the year ahead and in maintaining the momentum that Aiste had generated within the Club.

[Click here for more photos](#)



Visit to India - Past President Ian Stockley and his wife Janet recently returned to us from India. On **June 1st** Ian gave a lively and well-illustrated talk about their trip to Southern India to assist with the Polio Vaccination Day at Nagercoil. Their impressions were of overwhelmingly welcoming people with a warmth of approach - and untidiness in the streets! They had some hair-raising journeys by urban tuk-tuk but also saw beautiful and interesting rural places, using trains and boats to travel about in Kerala. Tsunami devastation, private hospitals, rice fields and much Rotary influence were covered in Ian's interesting and comprehensive talk.



Double Diamonds! Wonders were worked at a very special double Diamond celebration at the Club meeting on **June 1st**. To mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee the Churchill Hotel served us a special Jubilee Lunch - Roast Beef and Yorkshire, then Strawberries - and members of the Club gathered outside by the recently dedicated Jubilee Tree for a photo opportunity. Equally noteworthy, the Club celebrated the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Philip and Marise Heaton, whose health - and his 46 years as a Club Member - were toasted by all.



Club Walk - On **May 17th**, seven Rotarians, three wives and four dogs set off in 'Scotch Mist' on a section of the Minster Way above the village of Millington. On a clear day we would have looked out over the Vale of York but had to be content with close ups of cowslips, bluebells and wild garlic. Lunch at the Gait Inn Millington was evidently enjoyed by all. Thanks to Brian Houghton - our leader for the six mile stroll!!



Visit to Selby Rotary Club - On **May 14th**, 7 members of the Club, organised by Donald Heath, ventured into the deepest and furthest south point of the County of North Yorkshire and had a most enjoyable visit to the Rotary Club of Selby. That Club meets at Monk Fryston Hall which is a beautiful medieval/tudor building situated in some most attractive grounds. The Selby Club members made us most welcome and we appreciated their hospitality which included a dinner with a choice of three dishes in each of two courses.

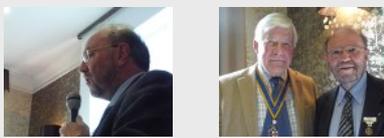
Young Writer - Molly Horner, a 13 year old pupil at Joseph Rowntree School in York, was recently presented by President David with the Young Writers certificates she won in the Yorkshire and National Rotary competitions. Her 800 word submission, [Olympic Dreams](#), was top in both Yorkshire District and Northern Region and she was a finalist in the National Competition. [Click here](#) to read *Olympic Dreams*



District Shop under new management - Taken on **May 12th**, Club Members David Impey and John Lacy, the new District 1040 'shopkeepers' are pictured serving Ray Springall at the District Council meeting in Fulford School.



New Member's talk - Mike Hay, recently transferred to the Club from the Edinburgh Breakfast Club, entertained us on **May 11th** with his talk on "Who I am and how I got here?". He warned his audience that his talk might be like the quote from Shakespeare's Macbeth "...a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing". Mike, a former church choirmaster, is married to a Music teacher, so they both make much music and enjoy the many concerts and recitals in York. Having worked with the Open University since 1974, Mike is currently still tutoring in Maths & IT, and he spoke of his respect and admiration for both the organisation and its many part-time students. Mike has quickly settled in to our Club and all agree he clearly did not follow his Shakespearean label!



"York 90" Winners visit York - Almost a year after the completion of the Club's "York90" fundraiser, the Draw's winning ticket holders have been visiting the UK. Mike and Charlotte Ero, from San Francisco, spent 4 days in London enjoying the Capital's sights before arriving in York, and taking part in a hectic programme of special events - including afternoon tea with York's Lord Mayor David Horton in the Mansion House, and a personal tour of Ripley Castle with owner Sir Thomas Ingilby. The fundraiser, open to residents of the USA or Canada, raised over £7000 net for the two charities supported. For a full report and more photos of their visit, [click here](#)



"Visit York" and Visitors! - At the Club meeting on **May 4th**, the speaker was John Yeomans, formerly Chairman of Visit York, the Tourist Information and Marketing organisation for York. John updated members on recent developments, and the continuing success of York in expanding its number of visitors from all parts of world - and especially China in recent years. John is also linked to the Club through our recent "York 90" internet fundraiser, as he actually drew the winning ticket from all the lottery entrants almost exactly 12 months ago. It was very fitting therefore that also visiting the Club at this meeting were Mike and Charlotte Ero, from San Francisco, who were the "York 90" winners and who were completing their winning trip to London and York (see [separate report](#))



Stroke Awareness Day - Once again this year, as part of Stroke Awareness Day on **April 28th**, Club members helped increase health awareness and prevent more serious hypertension problems amongst the general public by running the Blood Pressure Testing service in Coppergate, York. Nearly 180 BP readings were taken.



St Crux - Making the most of some very fine weather on **April 24th**, members of the Club, spouses and friends, manned the St Crux stalls and tea and cakes sales in fine style, and business was brisk. A total of £825 was raised for the charities fund.



St George's Day Dinner - In the splendid historic surroundings that are Bedern Hall, the annual St George's Day Dinner on **April 23rd** was very much enjoyed by about 45 members and guests. After an excellent dinner, including - of course - Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding - we were entertained by a speech from Canon Glyn Webster, Canon Chancellor of York Minster (and equally notably, from last November, now Chaplain to HM the Queen) who gave a wide-ranging, and often very humorous, talk about "What it is to be English". Other guests included a visiting Rotarian from Linz, Austria (now at the University of York) Josef Zellinger. Many thanks to Donald Heath and the Fellowship Committee for arranging such a successful evening.



Club News 2011-2012 continued.....

Cheque Presentation to YWAM - President David, together with Community Service Chairman Nigel Naish, and Mike Miller, recently presented a cheque for £500 to the charity 'Youth With a Mission'. YWAM (York) is part of a worldwide missionary organisation and volunteer movement of Christians. They have purchased the Barnabus Centre in Salisbury Terrace (Leeman Road) to develop as a local community centre. Our contribution will go towards furnishing a café area, which they are currently decorating and refurbishing. It is run entirely by volunteers, whose enthusiasm and dedication were hugely impressive.



Send-off for GSE Students - Brian Houghton and PP Graham Wilford attended a "send-off dinner" for the Group Study Exchange team who are about to depart for Brazil. Amongst them is Jane Crosby, who is being sponsored by our Club. Past DG Roger Percival also joined the event (and insisted on being included in the photographs!) We wish Jane and the whole team a very successful time in Brazil.



Club Visitors - The Club welcomed several visitors to its meeting on **April 20th**. The speaker was Rtn Trevor Woodward of York Vikings Club, who gave an extensive presentation about the various "New Generations" (previously Youth Opportunities) programmes run in District 1040. Fittingly, a second guest was Aiste Rugeviciute, President of York Rotaract Club, who was paying her final visit to the Club before she leaves Rotaract, and York University, next month. President David, and Brian Joscelyne, paid tribute to Aiste's skills and achievements with Rotaract during her year as President. Finally, we welcomed Assistant Governor North Hazel Haas who outlined the forthcoming Gala Concert at the Barbican on June 2, and asked for members' support in selling tickets.



Club Charity Walk - 26 intrepid rotarians and friends braved the fierce elements on **April 19th** for a six and a half mile annual fund raising walk through the Howardian Hills before returning, wet and weary, to lunch the Wass Village Hall. Proceeds totalled over £450 and are being donated to the Malawi Sand Dams project.



Rotaract Presentation to SASH - Several Club members were present on **April 18th** when the York Rotaract President Aiste Rugeviciute and Treasurer Inga Pruseviciute met with Peter Robinson, the Director of SASH (Safe and Sound Homes), in York to present a cheque for over £300. The Rotaract Club have been fundraising for SASH over the past year, and this is the first time they have presented a charity with a donation from their efforts. It was the culmination of a busy and very successful year for the Rotaractors. Well done!



Rotary Young Musician National Final Winner is from York - Club Members will be interested to learn that in the National Finals in Bournemouth on **April 13th** Amy Jayne Milton, playing the flute, and sponsored by York Vikings Rotary Club, won the National Young Musician instrumental competition. Olivia Turner, also sponsored by the Rotary Club of York Vikings, also sang beautifully at the National Singing Final. Congratulations to them both, and to Peter Acaster and York Vikings on their success.



New Member's Talk. On **April 13th** (relatively) new member Jim Wragg entertained us with his tale of "Many Firsts" in his life and career, from his first school, notable for his first Canadian apple!.. through to his first (?) three daughters and finally his first retirement speech. Here's to many more firsts, Jim!



PHF Fellowship for founder of "Our Celebration" - At the Club's meeting on **March 30th**, President David presented a Paul Harris Fellowship award on behalf of the Club, to Emmy Burdon, who in 1985 founded "Our Celebration" which, now recently merged with York and District Mind, provides a wide variety of support, help, and work experience, to those recovering from mental illness in York. Our Club has had a strong connection with "Our Celebration" and Emmy's award was very warmly welcomed by all members present. The meeting also saw an unavoidable but last-minute change as the planned speaker was unable to attend. Our own Speaker's Finder Trevor Phillips stood in and delighted members with an interactive walk down memory lane as we all tried to identify early photographs of York scenes and streets. It was fascinating - seemed to keep all members awake! Is this a record? Many thanks to Trevor.



Visit to University of York's Dept of Theatre, Film and Television - A large group of around 30 members were granted an extensive tour on **March 30th** of the TFTv Department, and an excellent introductory talk by Carole Dove and Lisa Peschel about their facilities and activities. Impressive indeed on both counts - a £30m investment in state of the art equipment and buildings, opened in 2010; two TV studios, two theatres, rehearsal rooms, mixing rooms, post-production rooms and more. As well as teaching around 350 students in a huge variety of graduate and post-graduate courses, the department has extensive commercial contacts and contracts, allowing real work experience for all students on academic courses, as well as providing vital income for the Department. [Read more here](#)



REPoD (Rotarians Easing Problems of Dementia) - With our Club being actively involved in this area, particularly in setting up the Memory Cafe at MHA Field Court, members might be interested to read of the recent Government announcements regarding research funding and support for dementia sufferers; and also the REPoD activities in Rotary across the UK. The forthcoming RIBI conference will feature a presentation on this topic, which will include our Club's involvement with Field Court. Find out more [HERE](#) or click the logo.



Jubilee Tree - Our photo shows President David and Club members planting a tree in the grounds of the Churchill Hotel to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee year. The Queen is visiting York next week for Maundy Thursday. Apparently Her Majesty has not yet included our tree in her itinerary, but we are sure Frank is working on it!! The tree is accompanied by a very smart plaque which is inscribed

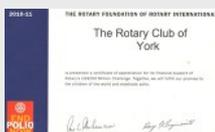
**"The Rotary Club of York
HM Queen Elizabeth II
Diamond Jubilee 2012"**



Club awards PH Fellowship - During the Business Meeting on **March 23rd**, President David presented a Paul Harris Fellowship award to Sue Thompson, Chair of SASH (Safe and Sound Homes) and Nightstop, in York, for her dedication and service to needy young people in the City.



Double Citations! - The Club has recently received the certificates for two citation awards from Rotary International. Earlier in March, DG Willie Clark presented the Club with the citation to recognise our contribution towards Rotary's Polio Eradication Project. Then at the Club meeting on **March 23rd**, PP Graham Wilford displayed the second Citation; this was awarded by the President of Rotary International to Rotary Clubs which could demonstrate their effectiveness in the four avenues of Rotary service. Ours was one of the two Clubs within District 1040 to receive the Citation for 2010-11.



Two New Members and a Presentation - In the course of the Club meeting on **March 16th**, two new members were welcomed to our Club. Major Andrew Dunkinson is Commanding Officer at the Salvation Army in York, and previously has served with the S.A. in both Singapore and London. David Minns, a retired Army Major - he was a Paymaster - has spent 15 years subsequently running a hospitality business. Welcome, Andrew and David. The first photo shows President David with Andrew (second left) with his sponsor Dennis Adamson, and David with sponsor Frank Paterson. David Impey, chairman of the Dragon Boat committee for 2011, also presented a cheque to Patrick Shepherd, chairman of York Against Cancer, a total of over £22,000 that was raised from the 2011 Dragon Boat Challenge event.



Club News 2011-2012 continued.....

Club Meeting - At our meeting on **March 16th** Dr Alex Heaton (son of our own Rotarian Philip Heaton) gave an illustrated talk about his journey aboard the clipper "Edinburgh", accompanying a young recovering transplant patient, around Australia and New Zealand as part of the Round the World Clipper Race. The 68ft single-masted clipper had very basic accommodation for its 15 crew, including "hot-bunking", a term new to most members (!), and keeping dry was a major challenge as during most of their 21 days at sea were accompanied by heavy seas with 60ft waves!



Rotaract Club twins with Sri Lanka - As our Club has a number of links with Sri Lanka, members might be interested to hear that York Rotaract Club have just agreed a twinning arrangement with the Rotaract Club of Panadura, Sri Lanka. Plans are being put in place for a joint project in the near future.



Club Walk - It has been said that the sun always shines when there is a Club walk....it looked a little unlikely on the morning of **March 15th** when a hardy group of 15 Club members and partners assembled in the deep fog at Sir Tatton Sykes's Monument (folly?) near Sledmere. However, during the course of the 8.5 mile walk, the fog lifted to give a perfect..... mist! The sun did also peek through for a brief moment! But it was universally agreed that the Wolds are wonderful in any weather, and everyone enjoyed the walk, the fellowship, the misty and spooky derelict chapel at the lost village of Cottam, and especially the superb lunch at the Triton Inn in Sledmere. Who needs sunshine?



Sleep-out for SASH - Three members of York Rotaract Club spent the night on **March 13th** sleeping rough in front of York Minster, as part of the "Sleep-out" event to raise awareness of homelessness, and to raise money for SASH (Safe and Sound Homes) a charity supported by our own Club. Several Club members sponsored the three Rotaractors, who reported later that the event was very worthwhile - but very cold! The event was also covered by Radio York and by The Press - [click here](#) for their report and also a video.



Rotaractors debate Bankers! - On **March 13th** Club members Craig Richardson and Kevin Grogan were at the University of York to lead an educational debate run by York Rotaract Club about the role of Investment Banking in Society - for and against! A lively and intelligent audience of nearly 30 young people listened and joined in the debate which ranged from bankers' salaries, through the ethics of banking, to the role of the regulatory bodies in the UK and across the world. Craig and Kevin's excellent presentations and answering of questions was much appreciated by all. Many thanks to them for giving their time and expertise.



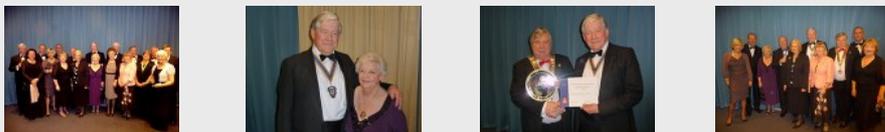
Technology Tournament 2012 - This annual event, held at the National Railway Museum, took place on **March 13th** and was an outstanding success, with over 43 teams from 13 schools - in total over 170 youngsters - taking part, each team designing and building a "coin-sorting" machine. The winning teams were: Foundation level: Millthorpe School, Intermediate level: Bootham School, Senior level: St Peter's School.



District 1040 Youth Speaks competition: District Final - In a well-supported, highly talented and close-fought District Final on **March 8th** at Poppleton Road School, the team from Brooksbank School Sports College, Calderdale emerged as the winners, by a close margin. The local Mount School team, Tamara Satychell, Alice Grierson, and Holly Gardiner were runners up. The photograph shows the Mount School team, supported by the Deputy Head, Vicky Sherwood and Head of College Jo Hayward.



President's Evening - Ladies well to the fore in these photographic line ups of the principal guests at the annual Presidents Evening held on **March 2nd** at York Racecourse. In the right hand photo the "back row" included the Lord Mayor and the Sheriff of York, the Presidents of the three York Rotary Clubs and the recently retired MP John Greenway. Over 120 rotarians and their guests enjoyed an evening of good food, fun and fellowship. During the course of the evening, President David also received from District Governor Willie Clark both the trophy for District 1040 Website of the Year and the RI Presidents citation for the Club's contribution to the Polio Eradication Project.



Youth Speaks - The East Group final of the 2012 Youth Speaks competition was held at Pickering on **February 28th**. Holly Gardiner, Alice Grierson, Tamara Satchell from the Mount School, York are pictured here with District Governor Willie Clark.



Thanks for Life - These photos show one of the 23 sites in York where the crocuses are now in splendid bloom to remind everyone of the Purple Pinky eradicating Polio project.



Rotaract Charter Night - York Rotaract Club celebrated their second annual Charter Night with a black-tie dinner on **February 24th** at Bedern Hall. 10 Club members and partners attended the very successful evening.



New Member - During the meeting on **24th February** President David is seen formally welcoming new member Barry Clarke to the Club. Barry's career was in Education. He was a Primary School Headteacher for 17 years and latterly worked in different local authorities assisting schools with leadership problems. Barry has three children and seven grandchildren. He is a season ticket holder for Aston Villa, a "Friend" of York City Screen and enjoys live theatre and music. He was a member of Nidderdale Round Table where he enjoyed the social and fund-raising aims of the group, so we look forward to his contributions at RCoY.



Ambassadorial Scholar - On **17th February** 24-year-old French Ambassadorial Scholar Angelique Ribas spoke to the Club about her experiences. She is doing a Business Management degree at York University. There are 200 students taking the same high reputation course (150 of them come from China!!) She is the only French student at York University and is sponsored by Montpellier Rotary Club, which claims to be the oldest club in France. Angelique was also a member of the Rotaract Club in Montpellier



Club Walk - The (left) picture, showing a collection of old ruins, with Sheriff Hutton Castle behind, illustrates how you do not need to be young to complete a 5.8 mile walk around some heavy Vale of York mud. On **16th February**, the day (bright sunshine of course) saw the group gather opposite the President's house, forcing him to go along with them, and then leave the 14th century castle ramparts, via a cricket ground. The route was through Sheriff Hutton Park, then headed towards Flaxton, then north across more farmland, giving walkers an extra handicap of thick mud on each boot. After about 2.5 hours relief came with a final pull up to the 12th century (+ additions) Sheriff Hutton Church, and back to The Highwayman for a light bite - though Steve B managed to get his treacle sponge.



St Valentine's Day Lunch - On **12th February** John Russell's Pork Crown was just one of the many superb dishes turned out by seven Rotarian chefs to their 60 guests at the 6th Annual Valentines fundraising lunch in Stockton on the Forest Village Hall. Over £1550 was raised for charity funds on the day.



Humanitarian Project in Tanzania - At our Club meeting on **10th February** we welcomed Rotarians Patricia Rowe and Steven Pratt, both relative newcomers to Rotary, who spoke about their involvement in a recent D1040 project in Ukerewe, Tanzania, an island group within Lake Victoria with a population of over 350,000. Their slide presentation was a humbling experience for all, showing the depth of poverty existing there - and extremely low concern for Health and Safety! - but at the same time the immense impact that Rotarian projects such as this can have, in this case in building/upgrading a pre-natal and natal care facility for the area.



Cheeky Monkeys - This photo shows the staff and children at Cheeky Monkeys play-group, Westfield, Acomb, receiving a gift of £100 worth of stationery items, crayons, pencils, paper, paints etc. from Community Service Committee members Dennis Adamson and Nigel Naish.



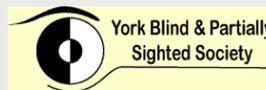
York Theatre Royal - At the Club meeting on **27th January** Dianne Wilcocks and Liz Wilson, from York Theatre Royal, gave us a fascinating and engrossing insight into the operation and importance of the Theatre to York's cultural and economic life (over £3m pa, 600 performances per year) and focussed especially on their wide range of projects that involve young people. In particular, the very active Youth Theatre engages over 300 people in its year-round activities; and the TakeOver Festival where year-round young people aged 12-25 actually budget, direct, plan and then manage and present this 3-week festival in May with a budget of £100K, entirely on their own. This latter activity is mostly supported by charitable donations. Also at this meeting President David said a formal farewell and a vote of thanks to Graham Maskery as he leaves, after many years of service to the Club, to move to Morecombe with his wife Vera.



Burns Nicht - Aye, it were a bonnie evening indeed when, after a gap of 9 years, the traditional celebration of the man from Ayrshire was enjoyed on **25th January** by over 80 members, partners and guests from York Ainsty Club. And traditional it was (almost) - with Cock-a-Leekie, Cullen Skink, bagpipe entry of the haggis, tatties w'neeps, wonderful venison pie, and Cranachan. Frank was in fine form as ever, addressing the haggis and acting a bit like William Wallace aka our gentle host... then a fine and beautifully articulated speech to the "immortal memory" by Ron Robb was followed by a new twist - an Ozzie "toast to the lassies" and a Kiwi (ok, and Scots) response - wonderful entertainment from Peter King and his wife Maggie. So, a toast of a wee dram to the lot of ye! Slainthe.... It was a fine evening!



Dragon Boat Challenge Announcements - The major beneficiaries of this year's DBC have been announced, together with the major sponsors. The Club's thanks go again to **The Shepherd Group, Benenden Healthcare, and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation** who are this year's Sponsors. The two charities being supported by the 2012 Dragon Boat Challenge are **Brunswick Organic Nursery and Craft Workshop** (in Bishopthorpe) and **York Blind and Partially Sighted Society**. A special logo commemorating the fact that this is the 10th year of the Club's DBC events has also been created.



Rotary Young Chef: District Finals - On **24th January** eight youngsters, including East Area finalist Hannah Connolly from Archbishop Holgate School, York, competed for the District 1040 Young Chef title at Betty's Cookery School. The winner was Jessica Berry (aged 15) from Upper Wharfedale School, sponsored by the Rotary Clubs in the Dales group; and the runner up was Megan Haneskog (aged 13) from Nidderdale High School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Knaresborough. Congratulations to them and to all who took part.



Rotary Young Chef: East Group Finals - Six youngsters from Archbishop Holgates, Fulford and Joseph Rowntree Schools prepared and cooked a healthy two course meal for two people for under £10.00 at York College on **20th January**. Judges Martin Henley, Head Chef at Cedar Court Grand Hotel and Robert Porter of the Green Room Restaurant, Scarborough decided that Hannah Connolly from Archbishop Holgates should be York Rotary Young Chef 2012. Hannah will compete at Betty's Cookery School Harrogate for the Yorkshire title.



Brunswick Organic Nursery - On **20th January** a large group of 18 members visited Brunswick Organic Nursery and Workshops. BON is one of the two nominated charities for this year's Dragon Boat Challenge and we were given a conducted tour of the facilities at Bishopthorpe by Lauren Webb and two of her colleagues. Currently the charity, celebrating their 20th anniversary, provides horticultural work for 69 clients who have learning difficulties.



Club Walk - Thirteen brave souls fought through torrential rain on **19th January** to get to the starting point in Darley. Then the sun came out and although cold and blustery, we had a lovely walk with some stunning views across the valley. It was a nice surprise to receive a seasonal visit from a local Robin (Robinus Richus). As has become traditional on one of the early walks in the year, David and Celia produced a bottle of their excellent homemade Sloe Gin, it certainly helped keep the cold out! We all repaired to the Wellington Inn for an excellent lunch and some hugh haddock, with the added benefit that we had a 50% meal deal!



New Member - During the meeting on **13th January** President David is seen formally welcoming Mike Hay to the Club. Mike has transferred from the Edinburgh Breakfast Rotary Club.



Safe and Sound Homes - Our speaker at the Club meeting on **13th January** was Peter Robinson from SASH. He explained the various strands to this charity's work in York, principally the NightStop and Supported Lodgings programmes, which rely on volunteers to take in homeless (mostly youngsters) who are in desperate need of help, perhaps for very short times. Some of his statistics were very stark - the life expectancy for homeless people in the UK is only 43 (women) or 47 (men) and they are 9 times more likely to commit suicide. Members may be interested to know that York Rotaract have decided to support SASH in their principal fund-raising activities this year.



Young Chef - Nine pupils of Archbishop Holgates School participated in the Rotary Young Chef competition on **11th January**. Hannah Connolly and Megan Smith will represent Archbishops at the East Area Group final at York College on Friday 20th January. Photo (left) shows professional judges Elaine and Lionel with Sue Leach (Head of Design Technology) and Rotarians Russ Rollings and Frank Paterson.



RYLA and Ocean Youth Trust At our Club meeting on **6th January** we heard two excellent presentations by recent "graduates" of RYLA and OYT. First, Katie Presley and Rachael McAllister-Bean spoke of their experience and the confidence-boosting they received at RYLA; and Marcus Burgess then enthralled us with his description of the Ocean Youth Trust sail he did on the "James Cook" from North Shields to Edinburgh and back. It was inspiring to hear these young people relating so confidently the personal growth and development they had experienced, and how it evolved their own understanding of "service before self" and teamwork.



Merry Christmas! - The final Club meeting of 2011 was on **16th December**, and we were really pleased to welcome three of our York Rotaract friends as guests. After an introduction from Martins Zeps, Rotaract's Vice-President, and Events Officer Giovanni Tarabocchia, recently-joined Rotaract member Jehangir Hayat entertained us with some songs and a virtuoso performance on the acoustic guitar. President David thanked our guests, and also presented a cheque on behalf of the Club, with our grateful thanks, to the staff of Churchill Hotel who have the unenviable job of serving our lunches to us each week throughout the year!



A Tall Story - A party of eight walkers took to the snowy foothills of the Wolds on **15th December**, leaving Market Weighton past the statue of the famous 18th century resident William Bradley, 7ft 9ins in his socks, and continuing to Londesborough Park, one time home of George Hudson. The 6 mile circular walk took them next to the pretty village of Goodmanham and then back to the starting point via the disused Market Weighton-Bridlington railway (Dr Beeching again!). The sun finally shone through the fog for the last ten minutes, and the group then made for The Plough at Allerthorpe for sustenance.



St Crux - The Club manned St Crux again on **13th December**, but a combination of cold weather, other Christmas distractions in the City, and possibly the reduced volume of items on sale all contributed to a rather disappointing result on the day, compared to similar fund-raisers during the summer months. Nevertheless, a generous show of support from members of the Club and Inner Circle made the day worthwhile. Thanks to all who contributed.



Rotary Young Chef in York - Our first two photos show the 9 pupils from **Joseph Rowntree School**, the first of the five schools sponsored by the York club who are competing in this years Young Chef Competition. The group photo (centre) includes our volunteer judges Dianna Naish and Simon Halmshaw and the two teachers Mrs Outram and Mrs Robinson with the winner Holly Martindale.



Also pictured (right) are the fifteen students who participated in the **Fulford School** competition on **13th December**. The three judges Stephanie Moon, Elaine Lemm and Graeme Robertson selected Tim Wilson and Jasmine Hill to represent Fulford at the York Area Finals on 20th January.

Ladies Lunch - On **25th November** 110 members and guests attended the 83rd annual Ladies Lunch in the Ebor Suite at York Racecourse. The principal guest Lady Emma Ingilby spoke, under the title of *Downton It's Not*, of how Ripley Castle, her husband's family home for the last 700 years, was developed and is managed as one of Yorkshires leading tourist attractions. The occasion was also used to award Bobby Hughes with a bar to his *Paul Harris Fellowship* in recognition of his significant contributions to the club and district 1040 during his 37 years as a rotarian.



Club Walk to Towton Battlefield (cont'd....)

Many thanks to Graeme Thomas for supplying this video/montage of the Club Walk to the Towton Battlefield earlier this month.



Club President 2013-14 - Following the recent Club SGM, **Nigel Naish** has been elected as Club President for the year 2013-14. President David is pictured congratulating Nigel.



Vocational Visit - On **18th November** a group of members visited York City Screen, which is part of a small national group of cinemas specialising in quality and artistic films. The building in the heart of York was converted from newspaper offices into a compact three screen cinema complex with the projection equipment capable of showing old and new films. Bill Thomson enlightened and entertained the group with demonstrations of the equipment and his 50 years experiences of the film industry.



Inner Wheel Quiz Night - On **17th November**, a total of 112 Club members and friends enjoyed a fun evening in the Village Hall at Stockton on the Forest and raised over £1360 for the charity NSPCC - National Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children.

President Anne Jesper and the quiz evening organisers Anne Houghton, Pat Anderson, Celia Impey, Diana Hardie, and Helen Porter.



Club Walk - For the monthly walk on **17th November**, an enhanced group of 17 was sufficiently brave to join a walk led by Frank Paterson.....the attraction was the Towton Battlefield with its newly erected informative signposts. This was a good choice, it being the 550th anniversary year of the bloodiest battle on English soil - and that probably accounted for the extra walkers in the party! After meeting at Dacre's Cross Frank led the group along the designated trail for a half-mile or so..... then a few diversions and re-routing.... good humour, lunch at the *Crooked Billet* and a superb sunny day probably saved Frank from being lynched as he put up with a lot of inevitable ribbing....



Rotaract Weekend Seminar - As part of a **12th/13th November** weekend seminar in Stockton-on-the-Forest, organised by Rotaract President Aiste Rugeviciute, Graham Wilford and Mike Fieldsend by request gave an excellent 75 minute interactive Powerpoint presentation. The theme was "Planning a BIG event" and exemplified our nine years of organising the Dragon Boat Challenge. This was well received by eight Rotaractors in the cosy confines of a B&B outbuilding, and supported by "sitters in" President David and Kevin Grogan. The workshop provided much food for thought as the York Rotaract Club starts to plan its own 'big event' for 2012. We wish them well with their endeavours. This was an ideal opportunity for the Rotary Club of York to bridge the generation gap by providing practical help to Rotaract in the form of knowledge and experience. Well done Graham and Mike.

Golf Presentations (Part 2) - During the Club meeting on **11th November**, President David presented the winner of the recent Shouksmith Trophy competition, Dennis Adamson, with his silverware.



Club Speaker - District 1040 Foundation Officer Mike Bamford was our speaker on **4th November**. Mike impressed greatly as he explained Foundation (Rotary's Charity) in a clear and concise manner. For many listeners, it was the first time they had really got to grips with what often seems a very complicated aspect of Rotary. From monies received and invested, Foundation provides the financial support for project grants, scholarships, exchanges and Polio Plus, thus enabling Rotary to further serve and promote goodwill and understanding.

Vocational Visit - On a very wet Friday, **4th November**, two groups, each of 10 Members, were shown around the Siemens Rail Maintenance Depot in York, where they service and maintain 3-coach units for Trans-Pennine Express Trains. Our Guide was Neil Luty who was most informative and interesting as he explained the workings. Trans-Pennine has 51 units and the Siemens York Depot is one of several where they ensure safety and cleanliness. We were lucky that a unit came in whilst we were there, passed through the washer-unit and onto the fuel point, where the toilets are also cleared! After that, the next stage depends on any fault-reporting or service due; otherwise the units are cleaned whilst parked overnight.



Friends of Archways - The Club's Community Services committee recently agreed to donate £250 to the Friends of Archways to assist in buying a new Flatscreen TV for the residents' dining room, following the change to digital - the old one having become obsolete. Archways is an NHS Intermediary Care Home off Haxby Road. Photo shows Nigel Naish handing the cheque to Mrs Taylor, who set up the "Friends" project.



Club recognises star fund-raiser - At the Club meeting on **28th October**, the Club recognised the outstanding contribution made by Beverley Eastwood, of Yorkon Ltd, towards the success of this year's Dragon Boat fundraising. Beverley personally raised £3350 of the £5000 sponsorship money from Yorkon this year. Beverley is pictured here with President David, and (left) David Impey, Chair of the Dragon Boat Committee. Well done, Beverley!



Golf Presentations - President David recently presented Golf prizes to the successful competitors in this years Shouksmith and Thompson Golf events. (Dennis Adamson, winner of the Shouksmith Trophy, was unfortunately absent).



Club Speaker - The speaker at our meeting on **21st October** was Sue Galloway. She talked eloquently about her year as the Lord Mayor of York. Sue highlighted the historical nature of the post and gave examples of the many special events that marked her year in office. She said she had found the year both poignant and fun.



Club Walk - On **20th October**, following an early frost, ten walkers (plus Willow!) enjoyed a pleasant 7 mile walk mostly in the sunshine, taking in Burton Leonard, South Stainley, Wormald Green and Bishop Monkton. There were lovely clear views over to the White Horse and the North Yorkshire Moors.



District 1040 Conference - 17 Club members and their partners enjoyed the Scarborough conference weekend **14th - 16th October** in glorious sunshine. They were convivially joined at the Saturday evening hotel dinner by Pres Stephen Clark and Alexandra, and 14 other Rotarians and wives from Pocklington & Market Weighton Club. Presentations about many successful Rotary projects in Yorkshire and beyond illustrated the conference theme of *"Working Together"*. Inspirational speakers included Baroness Tanni Grey-Thomson, Britain's greatest Paralympic athlete, and Terry Waite CBE, a respected international humanitarian. An excellent entertainment programme and the irrepressible District Governor Willie Clark ensured there was never a dull moment. DG Willie also announced that our Website had won the award for "BEST IN 1040".



The last lap! A relaxed Tony Robinson, our conference officer, with his wife Margaret and Ron Robb on the final day.



The two Russells with President David at Scarborough, after their final appearance with the Rotary shop

Club Speaker - At the club meeting on **14th October** James Alexander, Leader of City of York Council, gave a succinct outline of his principal aspirations for the future of the city. His emphasis was to maximise the economic development opportunities of the city without prejudicing the natural and built environment features which makes York so attractive.



Club Speaker - Our speaker on **7th October**, Professor David Fleming, Vice Chancellor of York St John University, gave a comprehensive overview of the current situation in Higher Education in the UK and an upbeat assessment of the encouraging prospects for Yorks second university.



End Polio Now - Since the *Thanks For Life* crocus planting at their school last November Stockton on the Forest Primary have held two fundraising events and raised sufficient money to help Rotary immunise over 1000 children in India. President David recognised their contribution and presented the School with an acknowledgement certificate.



Mansion House Awards - On **4th October** the York civic party hosted the presentation of this years dragon boat awards in the State Room of the Mansion House. An audience of 60, including team captains, sponsors and charities heard the Lord Mayor compliment the York Rotary Club on the project and their contribution, during the last nine years, of over £600,000 to 133 charities.



Russells Last Stand!! At District 1040 Council meeting in Fulford School on **1st October** DG Willie Clark presented John & Mike with inscribed tankards to acknowledge their eight years service as District Shop organisers. The duo's final stint will be at this year's Scarborough Conference



Club Visit - On **21st September** 14 Rotarians from our club visited the Osgoldcross & Elmet Rotary Club in the historic Monk Fryston Hall . Despite being a relatively small club they have a formidable record of community and fundraising activities.



Club Speaker - On **16th September** Club member Mo Hayward made a presentation to the Club Meeting about **REPOD (Rotarians Easing Problems of Dementia)** in which she outlined the organisation's background and its links with MHA . REPOD operates 50 "Memory Cafes" in the southern part of the UK, and it is hoped that shortly a new Memory Cafe can be operated in York. Mo illustrated the work of REPOD in helping sufferers of dementia through such Cafes (for prompting and recalling old memories and stimulating discussion) and also Music Therapies, and showed two very moving videos of the progress that can be made in some cases. Members of the Club (and also Ainsty and Vikings Clubs) are asked to support this venture by attending an "interest meeting" at MHA's premises in Heworth on Monday 10th October at 10.30am.



Club Walk - It has proven to be a guarantee of good weather, taking a Rotary Walk each month!! (famous last words..) And once again on **15th September** the intrepid group of walkers (32 legs in all including 3 canine sets) enjoyed a glorious sunny day for the 8-mile easy-going Wolds ramble in a figure of eight from Thixendale. The highlight of the morning was being able to drop in on Wharram Percy, a deserted medieval village that flourished in the 12th century and then was deserted for reasons unknown. More on Wharram Percy [here](#).



Calling all railway buffs!! - Rumour has it that the Club includes several Railway aficionados amongst its members!! The Club has been asked, by the Friends of the National Railway Museum, to enter a 6-person team in a Fundraising Quiz Night, being held on **6th October** at the NRM. Entry is £10 per person, to include a meal. Members are asked to contact Russ Rollings if interested.

Club Speaker - The speaker at our Club meeting on **9th September** was Delma Tomlin, who gave a wonderfully illustrated talk about the [York Early Music Centre](#) and particularly her involvement in developing musical interest and talent amongst young people, as well as the very successful Early Music Festival which she started in 1977. The York Early Music Festival is now Britain's premier festival of historically informed performance set in some of the country's most beautiful historic venues including York Minster, Harewood House and the National Centre for Early Music. Nowadays BBC Radio 3 broadcasts the whole 10 days of the Festival each July.



Vocational Visit - A large group of Club members attended the vocational visit to the amazing [Ron Cooke Hub](#) on the University of York East Heslington campus, on **19th August**. The Hub is a £20million, 7000 sq ft 'melting pot' for engagement and innovation in Education, and was opened earlier in 2011. Along with the open and light filled atrium the building is home to a tiered lecture theatre for 220 delegates as well as a range of rooms of unique designs and capabilities.



Club Walk - On **18th August** eleven members and partners joined together for a memorable circular walk from Burton Leonard, near Ripon. On a beautiful, mostly level, walk of about 6 miles, the group enjoyed perfect sunshine with superlative companionship followed by first-class lunch "al fresco" at the Hare and Hounds. Finally everyone made it home before the rain came! What more could one ask for?



Community Service - Pictured below, Nigel Naish on behalf of the Community Services Committee handing over a cheque for £500 to Colonel Kirby of [The Salvation Army at The Citadel in York](#) to help maintain the provision of food parcels to the growing number of people in York who find themselves in difficulty.



Bill Mann Golf Day - The weather was kind to the 18 golfers from all three York Rotary Clubs as they took part in the Bill Mann Trophy competition at Forest Park Golf Course in Stockton-on-Forest on **14th August**. The overall winner was Steve Cludery (Ainsty) and the runner up Mike Harrison (Vikings). Brian Houghton was third. An excellent dinner afterwards was attended by 58 Rotarians and guests with Bill Mann's daughter Sheila Royce presenting the prizes.



Club Speaker - At the Club meeting on **12th August** we heard a presentation by Martin Marsh about the [York Consortium for Conservation and Craftmanship](#), a unique group brought together since 1998 to promote the work, and particularly the training, of the myriad craftsmen and artists in York who work on the Conservation of our cultural, historic and artistic heritage. It brought home to members the tremendous heritage and wealth of York's archaeology, buildings and history that many of us (as we live here!) take for granted!



St Crux - On **9th August** members of the Club and Inner Wheel manned the stands and poured the teas at St Crux, making the most of the one beautiful sunny day in the week! As a result of the weather but more especially the efforts of all concerned, not least the tremendous support from Inner Wheel members on the catering front, a record £1120 was raised for Club charities!



Club Visit - Six members were given a very warm welcome when they visited the Whitby Endeavour Club meeting in the Sneaton Castle Conference Centre on **10th August**. The 26 members include three married couples. President John McEachen is pictured behind the unusual centrepiece – the logo a ships wheel circumscribed by:- " *Rotary Club Endeavour - Leave Nothing Unattempted*"



Barbeque - The annual Club and Inner Wheel Barbeque took place at Sutton on Derwent on **6th August**. Despite some heavy rainfall, a good time was had by all. Our chefs are pictured hard at work cooking - and apparently demonstrating martial arts too!



Club Visitors - At the Club meeting on **5th August**, Val Revell, widow of past member Tony, made a visit to the Club in her own right as a Rotarian. Following Tony's death a year ago, Val was invited to join his Rotary Club, Temple Stowe, Melbourne, Australia, which has given her a new focus on life through being a part of Rotary. She has told us that their Club has created a memorial Trophy for Tony named 'The Tony Revell Engineering Trophy' which has already been awarded to the first recipient, a young engineer. We send best wishes back with her and hope she enjoys her years in Rotary.

Accompanying Val at the meeting was her daughter Tracy who many will know produces our very fine Dragon Boat Programme each year. Tracy was a guest of the Club and President David Jesper said a big 'Thank You' to her for all her efforts for the Dragon Boat events.



Club Speaker - On **29th July** our speaker was Simon Wallace, from the Alzheimer's Society. He gave an insightful and moving presentation about dementia ("*a disease, not just part of ageing*") and Alzheimer's in particular, one of the most challenging diseases facing the country as its population ages. ("*1 in 3 people over 65 will die with dementia, a disease costing the UK £23Bn*"). Both Simon and Speaker's Host John Lacy pointed out that very valuable information about dementia is on their website www.alzheimers.org.uk



Visit to BBC Radio York - Over 20 members (and one Rotaractor) enjoyed a vocational visit on **29th July** to the newly refurbished premises of BBC Radio York, off Bootham. There Station Manager Sarah Hammond explained the objectives and local public service requirements of the station, and sought members' views of how much they listened to Radio York and their feedback. BBC Radio York has been on the air since 1983 and currently has about 100,000 listeners, about 20% of the local population. Members enjoyed a fascinating tour of the operations areas and studios with Elly Fiorentini, well-known presenter and an Honorary member of our Club.



New Member - At the Club meeting on **22nd July**, President David welcomed another new member to the Club. David Sweeney, who lives in Bulmer, was proposed by Tony Robinson. David formed and ran an office refurbishment business for 30 years before his retirement, and he was especially noted as being a keen golfer of many years' standing!



Club Walk - Another Rotary walk, another fine day!! On **21st July** John Lacy led a group of 11 members and partners on the 'Bishop Wilton round', on the edge of the Wolds, a 7-mile "up-and-downer" starting and finishing at the Fleece Inn in Bishop Wilton. The excellent fellowship, fun, and sun resulted in the challenging walk seeming like little more than a stroll - though lunch at the Fleece might have also helped!



Club Speaker - At our Club meeting on **15th July** our speaker was Marjorie Marks, who explained the background and workings of her charity Caroline's Rainbow Foundation, founded after the tragic murder of Marjorie's daughter Caroline in 2002 whilst in Australia. The charity and their excellent [website](http://www.carolinesrainbowfoundation.org.uk) help provide advice and information for young people travelling overseas, especially in a 'gap year'. It was a moving example of a terrible tragedy being turned into a constructive positive force.



Dragon Boat Challenge - The Club's ninth annual Dragon Boat Challenge on **10th July** was a huge success, despite suffering a one-hour deluge from above! Over 50 Club members helped out during the day and the organisation by the committee was magnificent again! A total of over £64,000 has already been pledged in sponsorship and fundraising, from 36 teams. The day was capped by the overall trophy winners being Graham's company Herbert Todd & Son!



President David takes the reins - At the Club meeting on **1st July** the badge of office of President was passed from Graham Wilford to David Jesper who will lead our Club through the forthcoming 2011-12 year.

One of President David's first duties was to welcome a **new member**, Rotarian Eileen Davis, who has transferred to the Club from the Edinburgh Breakfast Club. Eileen has been a Rotarian for over 12 years, and together with husband Keith recently retired and moved to York, after a career in teaching, most recently as head teacher at St Margaret's School in Edinburgh. She was warmly welcomed by all members.

