

Club News Web Archive

2016-17

in reverse chronological order



The Rotary Club of York
1921-2017

A gift from Brazil At our business meeting on **June 23rd** we enjoyed the company of a visitor from Brazil, Monica Bandeira, who now works as an Admissions Officer at the University of York. Her late father had been Past President of the Rotary Club of Bahia, in Salvador on the East coast of Brazil; and Monica is to be a participant in one of the boats in our upcoming Dragon Boat Challenge on July 9th. So she was keen to visit us, and she presented the Club with a cheque for £150, from the Rotary Club of Bahia, as a donation towards the Dragon Boat event and our nominated charities. We hope Monica will keep up her link with us and look forward to welcoming her to future meetings – and of course seeing her on the river!



Visit to York Blind & Partially Sighted Society *Frank reports...* Diane Rowarth, the CEO of this independent local charity gave us a very informative presentation about their work and a conducted tour round their premises in Rougier Street on **June 23rd**. The resource centre has an amazing range of equipment, designed to help blind and partially sighted people, and sourced by the Society and sold with no markup. The new premises also allows for community activities and regular group activities for exercise, crafts, books, sculpture. Mary Lumley signed up to help run a monthly singing group. The visiting service operated by volunteers is a real boon and a couple of hours company once a week or once a fortnight provides social stimulus for people who may be isolated and lonely. The demand exceeds the supply of visitors so please consider getting involved as a visiting volunteer. Training is given. The scale of the need surprised us. Over 600 people attended the York eye clinic last year and 120 became registered with impaired vision. 80% are aged over 60. Over 1700 visits were made to the resource centre last year. The Society no longer gets financial support from the NHS or the City Council and the fundraising target for next year is £180,000. So YBPSS are once again hoping for a successful result from their entry in this year's Dragon Boat - they deserve it. *[Many thanks to Frank for arranging this fascinating visit. Ed]*



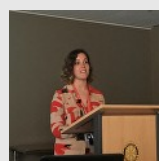
A Rocky path for Rotarians On the Club walk on **June 22nd** eight of us set out from beautiful Goathland on what was supposed to be a gentle stroll along West Beck. But a lot has changed since Steve last visited this stretch of river about 50 years ago (!) and now erosion had resulted in a formidable number of rocks, crevices and boggy patches that made the going into more of an assault course, which everyone bravely tackled without any dissent, despite the slippery conditions resulting in several falls and minor scrapes. We made it the delightful Mallyon Spout and in order to get to lunch at the allotted hour, then took a short-cut up the hill back to Goathland, completing about 3 miles in all. It was "an experience" – even a bonding experience - and both the scenery and company was delightful. Back at the Mallyon Spout Hotel we enjoyed an excellent lunch and had plenty to talk about! Steve was understandably apologetic about the conditions, but in fairness the real problem turned out to be that we had somehow missed a sign at the beginning of that path that said it was "closed due to erosion"! Nonetheless it was an enjoyable day – thank you Steve.



Macmillan Cancer Support. On **June 16th** we welcomed Sarah Tuckwell, Fundraising manager in the York and surrounding areas for [Macmillan Cancer Support](#), the second of our Club's "Nominated Charities" benefitting from this July's Dragon Boat Challenge. In 1911 a young man named Douglas Macmillan watched his father die of cancer. His father's pain and suffering moved Douglas so much, he founded the Society for the Prevention and Relief of Cancer and started to change the lives of so many people. Their development has seen many milestones : they hold two records for the world's biggest coffee mornings raising £10 million and £25 million respectively in 2014 they became the Marketing Society's "Brand of the Year" and their services now reach over 6 million people at a time when 1 in 2 people will be affected by cancer. York and district has around 4600 people living with or beyond cancer and this is expected to double by 2030. Their latest project "Advance Care Planning and Benefits" has recently been launched initially funded by Macmillan themselves for 2 years and which will undoubtedly save the NHS money in the long term. We are proud and privileged that our 2017 Dragon Boat Challenge will be able to support this new initiative in York by Macmillan Cancer Support.



Alzheimer's Society The statistics regarding Dementia in the UK are shocking - one in three people born today will develop dementia, by 2025 there will be over one million people living with dementia. Our speaker on **June 9th** was Hannah Riley, Community Fundraiser for [Alzheimer's Society](#), and she painted a vivid and scary picture of the disease, its impact, and the work that the Society is doing to support sufferers - and their carers; to invest in world-class research; and to raise awareness. The Society is one of Club's "Nominated Charities" benefitting from this July's Dragon Boat Challenge, which will support local initiatives that the Society are taking, particularly Carer information and support programmes; and increased "Demetia Clinics". Although Hannah was not certain whether the perceived increase in numbers suffering from Alzheimer's/dementia is real or a result of better reporting, the costs are huge. Two thirds of the annual cost of dementia is paid by people living with the disease and their families - equivalent to £17.6 Billion. Hannah invited members to help the Society where they can, through volunteer programmes and social action such as becoming Dementia Friends. More information is available on the Society's [website](#).



York Against Cancer On June 2nd we were privileged to have Julie Russell as our guest speaker. We are all aware of this local charity and their fantastic work but Julie gave us an in-depth insight into just how much this organisation does. Established in 1997 with Aims of : Improve and Support Cancer Care for patients and families, Fund Education and Awareness and Fund Ground Breaking Cancer Research they have raised more than £14 million over this 30 year period. In their 25th year they set up a free minibus service from York to St James's Hospital in Leeds for patients who require Radiotherapy treatment which covers some 16,000 miles a year and they also have seaside homes in Whitby and Filey offering patients, their families and friends respite breaks. This year they have managed to fund a mobile chemotherapy unit at a cost of £700,000 to help patients in the outlying areas of north-east Yorkshire. More information is on their [website](#). A truly inspirational talk and a truly inspirational organisation.



Holgate Mill Grinds Again On **May 26th** Richard Green a key member of the volunteer group set up in 2001 talked to us about The History and Renovation of [Holgate Mill](#). Holgate Windmill's builder and first miller was George Waud who got the Mill first working by October 1770. It is York's last surviving windmill and the oldest 5-sailed windmill in the country. As a Tower Mill with 5 double shuttered sails measuring some 10feet by 35 feet it is as such the only one in the world. It was very badly damaged in 1930 by high winds and although there were various attempts to effect repair it was not until 2001 that the Holgate Windmill Preservation Society was formed and through the dedication of its volunteers and a huge amount of fundraising the Mill is now working once more. Visitors can explore 4 floors (including an "award winning toilet"), when wind permits see the sails turning and operating the machinery inside the building and buy traditional stone-ground flour. A fascinating talk which demonstrated how passion, dedication and commitment can achieve great things.



Jorvik - the Fourth Incarnation On May 12th we welcomed Sarah Maltby from the (just re-opened) Jorvik Viking Centre museum. Sarah explained the background to the interactive museum which opened first in 1984 but has gone through four "re-vamps" since then, most recently this year with a £4.5m restoration after the December 2015 flood devastation. Based entirely on actual archaeology on the Coppergate site, the museum, with its "ride-on" journey through reconstructions of houses, trades, lifestyle and very realistic animatronics, is now one of York's top attractions. New themes have now been included including Viking slavery, trades, music and poetry and the depth of thought that has gone in to the displays is remarkable. Highlight of the show was of course, "Peter Nicholson's rat"!!

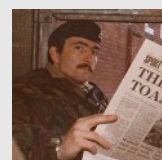


Vocational visit to York Kent Street, Fire Station *Frank reports...*

On May 12th a visit was arranged to the £4.2m fire and rescue station which replaced the historic building in Clifford Street in 2016. It is one of the three stations in York crewed 24 hours a day by full time fire fighters. They provide an emergency response service to fire and other emergencies, including road traffic collisions, chemical spillages and flooding; response to life threatening incidents; and advice, education and community safety initiatives to reduce the incidences of fires, road traffic accidents and other life threatening hazards. There is also a fully equipped power boat for water emergencies located in the station. Training is a constant and we were given a demonstration of how the fire service dealt with a road accident when a car had to be cut apart to remove an injured driver. The powerful battery powered cutters reminded one of the Bond 007 villain. A very informative, impressive visit and thanks to Barry Campbell for organising..



Man of Action to York Rotarian *Steve reports...* On May 5th Mike Sullivan entertained us all to an insight to his Army life from enlisting straight from school in Leeds, having had education beaten into him, to retirement in his 60s, a full career in service of The Queen. Having keen sporting interest in athletics, rugby and cricket the Army, of course, proved the most appropriate outlet for his talents with its fitness requirements. Mike served in all the hotspots of the world in his first 20 years or so, including a spell as Trainer at the US Ranger School, a huge accolade to a man nearing his 40s still prepared to frequently jump out of perfectly serviceable airplanes. Serious illness curtailed his 'active' soldiering and he was confined to desk top duties missing out on Iraq 2, and Afghanistan amongst others, much to his chagrin. Many aspects of the Army's continuing influence described, with much emphasis placed on its Peacekeeping/Humanitarian roles, as well as Fighting force, despite rapidly reducing numbers. A feeling prevailed that there was much more to hear and it should be noted that, having read Mike's application CV, none of Council dared raise an objection to his joining, where he is already showing his organisational mettle.



All aboard, Captains.. The 2017 York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge was "launched" at the Captain's Briefing held on May 9th at York City Rowing Club's premises. Captains or their representatives from (almost) all of the 36 teams entered for this year's event were there to hear Committee Chair David Fotheringham and his team explain the procedures, sponsorship expectations and safety aspects of the event which will take place on Sunday July 9th. The air of excitement and positiveness was palpable, and we are in for a great day as we - hopefully - reach the target of £1million raised for charity over the past 15 years, alongside a fun and exciting day's racing.



Showing off our new Public Image The lovely sunny weather and our regular fundraising and cafe sale at St Crux on May 3rd provided the perfect opportunity also to show off the brand new Gazebo and banners that the Club have just purchased to improve our "Public Awareness" and project a brighter more modern image for the Club. With added yellow streamers and balloons, and branded t-shirts and aprons, the site looked more like a professional summer garden party than a fundraising sale, and the result was a large crowd and a very successful sale, raising over £1250 for our Charity funds. Congratulations to Diana and her fundraising team on another great event, and to the public Image team who masterminded the design and production of the gazebo and banners.



(Click photos to enlarge)

Visit to RSPCA York Animal Centre. *Frank reports..* What goes on in the treelined RSPCA site of just over an acre adjacent to the Water End approach to Clifton Bridge was a revelation to the group of 10 who visited the location on April 21st. Valerie Hirst, the site manager, her staff of 30 full and part timers and over 130 volunteers in a complex of 9 purpose built units provide TLC for a range of dogs, cats, small animals and birds. The majority of the current 54 dogs, 37 cats and about 20 small animals resident in the centre have been traumatised and are mainly referred to the centre by RSPCA Inspectors in the York & Harrogate area. The aim of Valerie and her helpers is to remedy the ill treatment they have invariably experienced, restore the animals relationships with people and find them new homes. They have arrangements with Minster Vets for professional services and provide daily public clinics for advice and with subsidised treatment charges. They also use external animal behavioural specialists to help animals re adjust. It is a very well structured and enlightened approach with the prime object of rehoming.



Walking for Polio Plus On April 20th the Club's annual Charity Walk took place around Bugthorpe, with two different length walks both starting and finishing from the Village Hall. In fine weather, with great company and lovely views over the Wolds, the walks were greatly enjoyed, and only surpassed by the wonderful buffet prepared by Diana Naish and her many helpers, which looked like feeding the 5000 in the amount available, including sumptuous desserts not forgetting Geoff Brown's famous Apple Pie (with cheese, of course). Many thanks to walk organisers Nigel Naish and David Heasman and the International Committee. This was the second event in support of Rotary's Polio Plus "final push" and the 40+ participants raised over £500 (final figure tbc).



Sponsoring DGE Robert's Marathon As part of Rotary's "big push" to eliminate the last remaining cases of Polio worldwide - which is now within reach - the incoming District Governor Robert Morphet is leading by example and raising money by running the Edinburgh Marathon in May. Club members have put together sponsorship for Robert to a total of over £400. This will be part of a number of projects within the Club to raise funds for Polio Plus. These funds are then tripled as a result of a "double-matching" from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Robert is pictured in his "Paws 4 Polio" running gear, with Rotary National President Eve Conway.



Donation to York MIND The photo shows President Eileen with Rosanna Andrews (Fundraiser) and Mark Willis (Training Officer) at the headquarters of mental health services provider MIND in York. The Club has donated £500 to assist with venue costs to enable the continuation of a successful course called "Right To be You". We have also developed a link between Mind and Door 84, where the follow-on courses may well be located.



Pedalling for York Against Cancer In May 2017 club member Patrick Shepherd and the York Pedallers are cycling from York to Paris (500 miles) in aid of York Against Cancer. Patrick (on right in photo) and the team always supported by David Thompson have already raised £86,000 for York Against Cancer from their efforts on two bike rides between Lands End and John O. Groats. From their ride to Paris they want to raise at least £14,000 to take their total contribution to York Against Cancer to more than £100,000. You can help Patrick raise money for this great cause by donating directly to their fund raising page at www.justgiving.com/YorkPedallers1 or a cheque to Patrick made payable to York Against Cancer.



New Yorkshire Rotary Digital Group At our meeting on **April 7th** visiting Rotarian Richard Booth explained to the Club the setting up and early days of the new Regional "e-Club" who now meet on-line.

Steve Burton has submitted his own "eee-report":

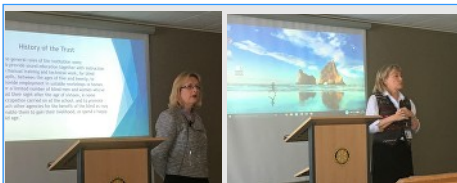
"What the 'eck! – an'eeeeeeeeeeeeeeee club for Rotary Yorkshire

Digital expert Rotarian Richard Booth of Wetherby visited full of enthusiasm, extolling the energy and effort being expended in expediting this new exciting enterprise. Whilst some elderly experienced Rotarians lacked enlightenment he exorcised their evocations by explicit example expelling all doubts and encouraging all find elucidation and to enter this new exhilarating environment. By eliminating existing attendance at normal meal meetings exorbitant expenditure could be eradicated. Entry is by enrolment at www.yorkshire-rotary.digital after which a reminder will be issued the day before the meeting takes place – at that time simply log in to zoom and take part in their preliminary meetings. Whilst 'it may not be Rotary as we know it' - you might even eventually find everlasting enjoyment!"



Sunny Days at Matfen A group of 50 members and partners ventured up to Northumberland for the three-day mini-break at Matfen Hall from **April 4th to 6th**. In contrast to 2016's visit, this time the sun shone brightly as we all enjoyed great fellowship, fun and (optional) activities including 9 holes of golf (won by the unlikely pairing of Barry Campbell and Frank Paterson), swimming and spa, two fiendish quizzes at successive dinners, a moderately strenuous walk in the delightful Coquet Valley at Rothbury; and various excursions members - and/or their partners! - made to shopping towns such as Corbridge (with its Roman city remains), local heritage sights, Hadrian's Wall, or the east coast. After enjoying great company, accommodation and food, we all reluctantly made our way back to York. Huge thanks to David Sweeney, who assisted by Tom, John and David, and the Fellowship Committee, organised the trip and the activities.





Making Life Better when Sight is Worse. At our meeting on **March 31st** Anne Parkinson and Jane Drake talked to us about the great work The Wilberforce Trust does. The Trust traces its roots back to 1833, when the Yorkshire School for the Blind was opened in York making it York's oldest charity. It is committed to supporting people with sight loss through supported accommodation, low vision clinic, visual awareness training and activities within the living and learning zone. They provide high quality support, training and care services for people with sight loss, and, in the future, hearing loss too. Soon their brand and Trade Marks will be recognised as YORSENSORS / YORSIGHT and in common with all registered charities they have a constant but evolving focus on fundraising. That sounds familiar!!

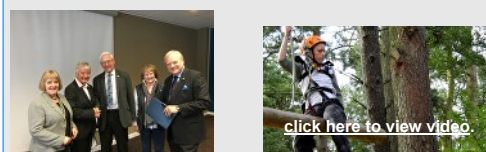
(Click photos to enlarge)



The Big Quiz Held in aid of the Ella Gordon Pre-school in Hermanus South Africa on **March 23rd** the quiz was a resounding success with all 120 tickets sold. Broadly it was 50/50 with Rotarians, partners, friends and our neighbours. We had 19 very competitive teams and the friendly rivalry was tangible. In the end the winning team was 'Norfolk and Chance'. There was a prize for the Team who came in last, who shall be nameless to protect their reputations, but they are all Rotarians! The Ploughman's supper was very substantial and tasty and was commented on favourably by many participants. The ball park figure for what was raised is in the region of £1500 - the final total will be announced soon. An excellent evening thanks to the energetic organisation of Sheila and Mary with lots of help from other members and partners.

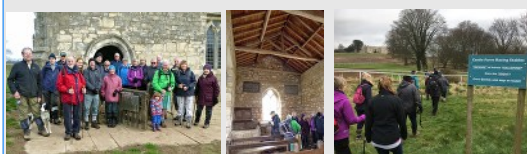


National Rail Record Centre *Frank reports...* The subject of a Vocational Visit on **March 17th** by 10 members, an anonymous building in the heart of the Clifton Moor business park is the home of Britain's railway engineering memory – an archive of around nine million records dating back to the 17th century, but still expanding to take in documents from the 13,000 or so current live projects of Network Rail. All the great engineers are represented – Stephenson (both George and Robert), Locke, Barlow, Brunel – and some original drawings of structures that were the cutting edge of civil engineering in the 19th century were shown to us by Vicky Stretch, Network Rail's Archivist. Amongst a host of priceless deeds, plans and drawings, we were shown the document signed by George Hudson, Lord Mayor when the City of York bought the land in 1839 for the original York station for £5,200 – now the site of the Council Offices.



[click here to view video.](#)


Thanks to the Duke of York's Community Initiative We welcomed to the Club's meeting on **March 17th** Kevin Sharp, Chair of the Initiative's management board, and Carole Smithies, York & East Riding Chair, who are both Trustees of the Duke of York's Community Initiative. The DOYCI made a significant grant available to the York Rotary Clubs to help fund the Youth Challenge Programme (Peatrigg) run in August 2016. President Eileen thanked the DOYCI for their generous support and presented them with a copy of the video made of the event, and a dossier compiled by ADG Darrell explaining the programme. Also present were John Nicklaus and Christine True, from York Ainsty RC, who also participated as mentors on the programme. The video is available to view by clicking the link below.



Revisiting Towton Battlefield Our March walk on **March 16th** was a circular one incorporating part of the Towton Battlefield, south of Tadcaster. Just under 20 took part in the 7-miler, which incorporated the medieval church of St Mary's in Lead, past woods and fields north to Hazlewood Castle hotel (with its racehorse training track where we artfully dodged the three horses out that day) then south again with views across to the Battlefield, where in March 1461 the bloodiest battle ever on English soil took place. Nearly 30,000 perished out of 70,000 taking part, a huge proportion of the population of England at that time. The Yorkists triumphed in the end, thanks to snowy conditions, longbow skills and the river behind Bloody Meadow (Cock Beck) only being passable by the retreating Lancastrians after it was forded by a "Bridge" comprising the piled-up bodies of soldiers. We were less challenged, and retreated ourselves to the Crooked Billet where a delicious lunch was served in a very efficient manner by their staff, who offered white or red wine without any political or military persuasions.



www.valeradio.co.uk

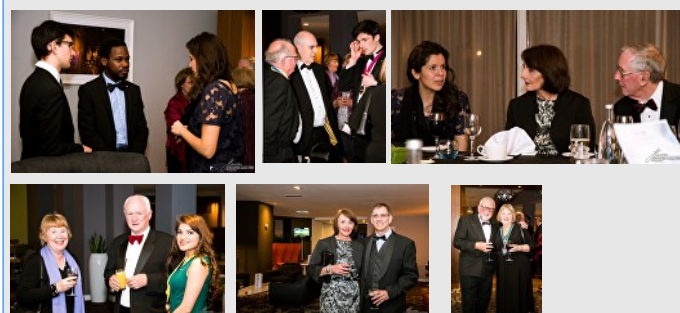
Local Radio Stars visit Vale Radio is a relative newcomer on the Yorkshire and surrounding region airwaves. But in their third year, they have already amassed a huge listening audience of nearly 100,000 a week. On **March 10th** two of their presenters (and directors) Dougie Weake and Chris Marsden, showed us why. Their infectious enthusiasm and passion for real local news, and local events, demonstrated why they wanted to set up this digital station to provide a service to smaller communities and support local efforts. A not-for-profit business, based in Haxby but about to expand to premises in Clifton Moor, and with 32 presenters, they help with fundraising for a huge number of events and have raised over £225,000 in just two years. There was a clear synergy between the radio company and Rotary, in their enthusiasm and affinity for their "community". Their success is evident, and we hope to keep a close link with Vale Radio in the future. They broadcast on DAB (look for "Vale") but members can also tune in to them via their computer.. <https://vale-radio.com/radio> then click 

Riding Lights



Theatre installs flood defences thanks to Rotary On **March 8th** IPP Mike Fieldsend, President Eileen, and P-E Brian Joscelyne (as cameraman!) visited the Riding Lights Theatre Company in their home at Friargate Theatre, Lower Friargate, to talk to their directors about the flood door installation that was made possible by a £5000 grant from Rotary District 1040 monies collected after the flooding in York and elsewhere in December 2015. The resulting 3.5-minute video shows their premises, a demonstration of the doors installation and Mike interviewing key staff about the impact of the floods and their now being "stronger than King Canute" as a result of Rotary's help. The Club also provided significant other contributions to help flood victims in York both in cash and practical help. A great example of Rotary working in the community.

Click the image to view the video.



Rotaract Club Charter Dinner On **March 7th** the York Rotaract Club held their 8th annual Charter Dinner, and ten members and partners attended the event at the Novotel, along with guests from York Ainsty and from District 1040. Rotaract President Francois Bares, though obviously nervous, not having hosted such an event before, had complete command of the proceedings and made everyone very welcome. There was non-stop conversation with the Rotaractors present and a very successful, and amusing, raffle. Altogether a very enjoyable evening, and we wish the Rotaract Club every success for the remainder of their year, and for 2017-18.



President's Dinner Our annual President's Dinner took place on **March 3rd** at the Novotel. Our VIP guests included the Lord Mayor Cllr Dave Taylor and Mayoress Susan Ridley, the Sheriff of York Jonathan Tyler and Sheriff's Consort Brenda Tyler. We also welcomed Anne Jesper, President of Inner Wheel and other Rotary and Rotaract Presidents. After a delicious three-course meal and a speech from the Lord Mayor, members welcomed our special guest Hannah Mills MBE, who - aside from being the grand-daughter of Ewen and Sylvia Cameron - was a gold medallist at the Rio Olympics in the Class 470 Sailing with partner Saskia Clark. Hannah explained the long and often hard road to success through early years of training and events, winning Silver at the London Olympics (she felt "gutted" at that!!!) and finally the tense days in Rio leading finally to the ultimate prize of the Gold medal. A remarkable achievement - and she is still not yet 30!



Technology Tournament at new venue *Russ reports...* **February 28th** saw the fourteenth Technology Tournament organised by a committee with representatives from the three Rotary Clubs in York. For the first time, all registration was done electronically through links on the clubs' websites, replacing the old paper and postal application process. Thirty-five teams from twelve North Yorkshire schools registered and all 35 teams attended on the day. Thanks to Rtn. Patrick Shepherd new facilities at the Portakabin site were used this year, and were a great success. Rtn. Steve Cluderay (Chief Judge) praised the very high standard of all teams and announced the winners. Deputy Chairman of the Shepherd Group, Patrick presented the junior awards, Sheriff of York Jonathan Tyler presented the intermediate awards and Lord Mayor Dave Taylor presented the senior awards. The Lord Mayor was so impressed by the event that he asked President Eileen Davies if he could make a special impromptu speech to round-off the event. **More photos and report [here](#)**



Club gets recognition for membership development During the business meeting on **February 24th** President Eileen was presented with two Certificates, recently presented to the Club at District Council on behalf of Rotary International. The first was for the highest number of new members recruited in 2015-16, and the second for high member retention during that period, amongst Clubs in District 1040. Kevin Grogan, our Membership Chair and pictured with President Eileen, has been driving our recruitment efforts for several years and these awards are a real credit to his efforts in particular. We all hope our numbers will continue to expand; to reflect the vibrancy of our Club and help our contributions to the local community and "service above self".



The Granny Cloud On **February 17th** our speaker was Denise Wells, from "[The Granny Cloud](#)". Part of team of over 100 people organised from Newcastle University, she explained that the charity originally started as a "Hole in the Wall" project in India, the brainchild of Prof Sugata Mitra; where computers were set up in the community and children were encouraged to use them to experiment and learn. From that the idea of SOLES (*self-organised learning environments*) grew and Grannies (not necessarily female!) now help teach groups of students via Skype and other remote internet methods, through laboratories now set up for this purpose in villages in India and now many other countries. The aim is to stimulate curiosity, develop confidence and generally have fun. Denise is not a trained teacher, but a facilitator and coach to children who continue to show an amazing motivation to learn. There have been many individual success stories where children's learning has led them to university and a chance to rise above their previous poverty state. It is a remarkable story, and Speaker's Host David Rayner, in thanking Denise for her talk, handed over a contribution from the Club to assist the "grannies" work.



In search of a Rock Legend *Mike reports...* **February 16th** saw sixteen hardy souls and two dogs assembling in the car park of the recently re-opened Bay Horse at Burythorpe. Fortunately the rain didn't have an adverse effect on the conditions underfoot, it couldn't; they were already awful. Walking poles were heavily relied upon to keep people vertical (or not). As we climbed over stiles, walls and railings. The route took us past some wonderful old buildings, not least of all Burythorpe House Hotel, which was apparently bought in 1913 by rock legend Eric Clapton. We also passed Birdsall Church, part of the Birdsall Estate and which stands on top of a sharp rise just to the north of Birdsall House. The event was completed with an excellent lunch at the Bay Horse. They struggled to get sixteen meals out at the same time but the food and service were excellent.



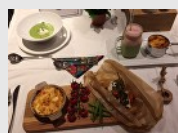
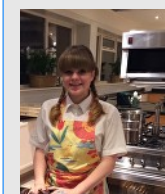
Books Change Lives. On **February 10th** we were privileged to have Hannah Watson as our guest speaker talking about the great work of [Book Aid International](#). Hannah who comes from the Whitby area but now works in the London H.Q. is the main fundraiser for this UK based Charity which was founded back in 1954 and whose vision is of "vibrant libraries", inspired teachers and empowered communities. They work in partnership with libraries in sub-Saharan Africa and send over 1 million new books each year donated by the publishing world to cities, villages, slums, colleges and universities. They also run several major projects such as "Open Doors Children's Corners", "Inspiring Leaders" across some 300 schools and "Exploring Digital Resources" in children's libraries in Kenya and Uganda. Hannah explained that their involvement with Rotary stemmed from contact made with Ian Helby whilst he was in Zimbabwe and following her talk President Eileen and Speakers Host Adrian Radford presented her with a donation from the Club.



Alzheimers Society on board with Dragon Boats On **February 7th** a team from the Alzheimers Society, headed up by Community Fundraiser Hannah Riley, took part in a photoshoot with President Eileen and Frank Paterson, to show their enthusiasm for July's Dragon Boat Challenge and our aim to top the £1 million mark in 2017 for funds raised by the DBC over the past 15 years. Alzheimers Society are one of the two Rotary nominated charities this year - the other being Macmillan Cancer Support. Both charities will use the funds raised to support projects in the York area. Read more of The Press report [here](#)



Sierra Leone On **February 3rd** we welcomed Rtn Tony Perryman of Brighouse RC and incoming chairman of our District International Committee, as our speaker. Tony outlined the serious deprivations in Sierra Leone, the third poorest country in the world where a population of 6 million are supported by just over 1000 doctors, and where life expectancy is still around 48 years of age. Since the devastating impact of the civil war which ended in 2002 and local elections for the first time in 2004, the country was recovering, only to be hit with the recent Ebola outbreak that killed 4000 and saw 12,000 children orphaned. Rotary's District 1040 raised £15,000 for medical equipment, funded research into tropical diseases, and a huge quantity of pencils for children. Most of the current funding is channelled through Educaid, a British charity working from the capital city Freetown. Tony appealed for help with raising a further £5,000 to support two teachers in the region. With a literacy rate of 35% in Sierra Leone, there could not be clearer need for Rotary's help.



Rotary Young Chef Update On **January 30th** Ysobel Sheppard, from All Saints School, York was placed third in the District 1040 final at Betty's in Harrogate.. She will be representing Yorkshire at the Rotary regional finals at Mansfield in April. This is the first time All Saints School has entered Young Chef. Congratulations to Ysobel. The winner was Rebecca Hulse, from Settle College.



Groundwork On **January 27th** Peter Murphy, Operations Director, [Groundwork North & East Yorkshire](#) described the work of this charity , founded after the Toxteth riots in 1981, to regenerate depressed urban areas by encouraging the involvement of all sections of the local community. *Changing Places- Changing Lives* - one green step at a time is a very succinct description of their aims and Peter outlined several successful local projects. They ranged from creating children play areas using natural features, designing and building skate boarding sites to managing and maintaining municipal golf courses at Hull and Wakefield which would otherwise have been closed. They are the Charity with the green heart and work with the Betty's restaurant chain to promote community tree planting. They also administer the Tesco 5p plastic bag scheme and the money raised is available for any group developing local community projects.



Poskitts - A Yorkshire Carrot Grower *Frank reports...* On **January 27th** fourteen members visited this 1600ha farm at Eggborough, which produces a wide range of arable crops but specialises on root vegetables, principally carrots and parsnips. Over 100 tons a day are processed ,packed on site and distributed to a wide range of supermarkets and other outlets. Guy Poskitt ,managing director of the family owned business is proud to have been awarded National Farmer of the Year in 2012. Over 250 people are employed throughout the company and the 100 or so involved in the manual screening of the vegetables are predominantly Eastern European. BREXIT is therefore a great concern to Guy because local people are not willing to undertake the work. A recent investment of £2.3m is in 7 machines that scan a 360 degree photo of each carrot to select size, shape and quality before weighing and packaging without human intervention.Each machine can process two tons an hour! On the farm a seven year crop rotation is needed for carrots and a GPS system provides detailed soil nutrient information to optimise appropriate fertiliser distribution and maximise the different crop yields. A recently installed Anaerobic converter, fed mainly by maize, uses the biogas to generate all the electricity needed to power the site and produces a six year pay back on the investment. The farm participates in the countryside stewardship scheme and, after mining subsidence, they converted an area - Beals Carr - into a publicly accessible environmentally sensitive wildlife site. A very informative visit and a very impressive farmer.



Rotarians invade Brearton Pub *Steve B reports...* For the **January 19th** walk we all met at The Malt Shovel in Brearton after filling the car park full of Rotarians. Once we were all prepared and most wearing gaiters which would be much needed. A small group of 16 people and two dogs set off through the village. The day was overcast and cloudy but wasn't going to dampen our day. For most of the walk we walked through farmers' fields, and up some steady inclines with lovely countryside views. The ground was very saturated with many of us carrying excess weight on our boots from all the mud. At a part of the walk David Heasman's labrador decided to chase the nearby pheasants. Further on many people were surprised to find the biggest dead rat anyone had ever seen nothing to do with David's dog. We enjoyed a very brief stop for jaffa cakes and chocolate; thinking of the great lunch ahead of us. As we neared the end of our walk passing over a stream we knew lunch was soon. As we strolled back into the village we saw the Malt Shovel beckoning us in. The Malt Shovel was very welcoming with a roaring fire and lovely staff. They must have known Rotarians were in the village because the pub was empty. The food was delicious and we all had huge helpings. It was a lovely day out and many thanks to Nigel Naish for organising the route.



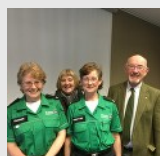
Visiting the Barrier *Ian T reports..* On **January 20th** 28members enjoyed a vocational visit to see the construction of the much enhanced capability and understand the background to the events of Boxing Day 2015. Phil Edwards from York Environment Agency showed his long time commitment and passionand gave us full facts and figures about what really happened and importantly how the current multi-million pound investment will provide so much more protection for the future. Tony Andryszewski, project lead for the Foss Barrier improvement work at the Environment Agency told us that the new investment in additional pumps each weighing 6.5 tonnes and at a cost of £800,000 together with the 16.5 tonne gate will provide the City of York with a much increased level of flood resilience. This was a very interesting and informative visit and dispelled many of the unfortunate pieces of misinformation reported in the media.



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Pirates on the Ouse On **January 19th**, members of **RC Pickering and District** came to the River Ouse bank in York to officially present a new inland rescue boat to their local mountain rescue team. Jonathan Cowap of BBC Radio York covered the event, alongside a camera crew from Look North. Jonathan spent an hour with the groups and can be seen amidst the red uniforms of the rescue team; the Pickering Pirates are mid-river. Three members of RCoY went along and were warmly welcomed by the Pickering contingent who explained all about this novel form of fundraising. At the instigation of the current President of RC Pickering, Luke Arnold, members bought a small craft and converted it to a pirate boat, then towed it across Europe to take part in the 2016 *Vogalonga* in Venice. The monies raised were in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care but so large was the overall total that the purchase of a new inland rescue boat was made possible. A fine example of the spirit and determination of Rotarians in District 1040.



Getting to the heart of Rotary.... We welcomed two visitors from **St John Ambulance** (SJA) to our **January 13th** meeting. After checking that everyone was feeling "ok" (as we always do!) Angela and Yvonne, who are volunteer trainers with SJA, (who volunteer at least 60 hours per year and in their case considerably more) first explained the long and distinguished history of the organisation - founded in 1080 in the Holy Land as Knights Hospitallers - and their current work in the field of "saving lives", training in first aid techniques, providing medical facilities at events, and the provision of defibrillators. It was the latter that they especially concentrated on, and members stood in rapt attention as Yvonne demonstrated the use of a defibrillator - and associated CPR techniques - on a "dummy". It became clear that these machines are very sophisticated and "smart", yet are very easy to use following the instructions coming from the machine itself. 30,000 people a year are affected by heart problems where a defibrillator could be used, and in many of these cases, where the machine is used as part of a fast response, it does indeed save a life.

(Click photos to enlarge)



Cometh the Flood – again.... The speaker at our **December 16th** meeting was IPP Mike Fieldsend, who as Club President a year ago led the Club's response to the devastating flooding in York on Boxing Day 2016. He has since spent a lot of time learning more about the causes, and following up how our Club could help in any future such emergencies. His talk explained how the Romans has it right when they built York on "high ground" but since then there have been floods throughout the ages (the highest being in 1625) mirroring climatic changes over the centuries. Their intensity has increased however in the past 30 years. Apart from the Environment Agency rebuilding the Foss Barrier, increasing its capacity by 300%, and numerous other flood prevention barriers and schemes, Government and local agencies are increasing the focus on "resilience", including a £45m increase to the York Flood Defences budget. Mike explained how the Club, and individual members, could get involved now in developing resilience teams and contingency planning. The only certainty is that flooding in York is NOT a thing of the past.



Walking in Bulmer *Peter reports...* On **December 15th** thirteen adventurers and two dogs gathered in the car park of the Crown and Cushion in Welburn eagerly anticipating a 6 mile circular jaunt taking in Bulmer. The weather was overcast and whilst not raining, the atmosphere was damp but charged with friendly banter. The route, carefully chosen by Steve Burton, did not disappoint as it included elevated sections giving great views over the Castle Howard estate and, if there had not been as much cloud, long distant views of the Yorkshire power stations although the sun did put in appearance for 30 seconds. Other parts of the route took us through mixed woodland where conditions underfoot were a challenge in parts with significant accumulations of mud clinging to boots. We enjoyed a brief confectionery stop with Frank providing the toffees. Moving briskly on to Bulmer, not a soul to be seen, we then encountered the only stile on the walk, well done Steve. With the promise of lunch we strode out for the last mile arriving on schedule at the Crown and Cushion where conversation continued to flow in the extremely comfortable .

[return to top of the page](#)



Rotary Clubs of York Christmas Carol Service It was the turn of RC Ainsty to make the arrangements for this annual Carol Service at All Saints', Pavement, on **15th December**. The service of Nine Lessons and Carols was conducted by Revd Canon Derek Earis, and the Director of Music was Tim Hone who played the organ to lead the Choir and congregational carols. Lessons were read by Club Presidents Margaret Richardson, Dick Powell, Judith Saunders, Eileen Davis, Mark Inman and Sheila Dickson, as well as RC York Ainsty President Elect Colin Perrott and Canon Earis. Mulled wine and mince pies warmed the fellowship which followed. Thanks are due to RC York Ainsty and in particular Rtn Jim Murison for this special start to the Christmas season. In 2017 it will be our Club's turn to organise this event.

(Click photos to enlarge)



Aiding maternal health worldwide The speaker at our **December 9th** meeting was Lisa Schalk, the Rotary Grant Scholar for whom we are the "host" Club. Lisa is from Novato, California, and is studying for a Masters degree in Public Health at the University of York. She outlined her previous 20 years experience in obstetrics, as a "critical-care" nurse, focussing on "high-risk mums" and with a particular interest in pre-eclampsia, a pregnancy complication where the body rejects the placenta. She explained that over 800 women die each day, worldwide, from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. She applied for a Global Grant after being impressed with Rotary's commitment to improving Maternal Health worldwide. Her goal now is work on the world stage and to be an advocate for women's health, focussing especially on sub-Saharan Africa, after her study time in York finishes next year. With two young boys and making the very brave decision to interrupt her nursing career in the US to take a broader view and move across to York, Lisa clearly made an impression on members with her courage, dedication and her avowed intent to teach her children the meaning of "service to others". She is a true example of Rotary principles in action and we wish her well for the future.



Fulford School

(Click photos to enlarge)

Young Chef Schools Competitions *Frank reports...* Over the past few weeks four Schools have held their heats in the Young Chef 2016-17 competition sponsored by the three York Rotary Clubs. **Fulford School** had 14 entrants. Sali Herman & Stephanie Moon were brilliant judges, assisted by Rotarians Frank Paterson and Christine Watkinson. Two winners were chosen - Edward Vernon Issott year 8 and Theo Lockett year 11. **York High** was the first of the six York secondary schools to have their competition. York High had not participated before and it was a new experience for Matthew Parker the teacher and the five year 9 girls who took part. The menus were interesting and challenging and the judges Sue Leach and Graeme Robertson had a difficult task before they chose Abbi Porter as the one to go forward to the York Area finals. It was a great encouragement to the girls to have the Head, David Ellis and the Deputy Head Amanda Lane, call in and see them at work. **Queen Margarets School**, **Escrick** also entered for the first time. Ms Laura Gardner, Food Technology teacher had held a series of heats before selecting the three girls in the picture to compete for a place in the York area cook off. Chairman of Governors, Mrs Caroline Bayliss assessed their efforts along with Rotarian judge Diana Naish. Sofia di Clemente, pictured in the centre, will be representing Queen Margarets and will join Abbi Porter from York High and the Fulford and **All Saints** school winners at the Area Finals at York College on 17th January 2017



York High School

Queen Margarets School

All Saints School

President's Lunch November 25th was the occasion of the President's luncheon at the York Race Course. Organised by the Fellowship Committee under the Chairmanship of Rtn David Impey and in particular Rtn Donald Heath, club Rotarians were able to express their appreciation to their "other halves", many of whom are members of the York Inner Wheel Club. A total of 113 members partners and wives of former members joined the President for an excellent three course meal followed by a very interesting presentation from James Brennan. James is in charge of the hospitality arrangements at the race course which might just have explained as to why we were looked after so royally by the caterers. He spoke of "Racing on the Knavesmire; from Gimcrack to Frankel". His amusing and well-crafted presentation covered the History of racing in York, starting with the Romans; in 1730 it moved from Clifton Ings to the Knavesmire. James spoke of the development of the buildings, some of the more famous horses and the special events, most of which were until relatively recent times "free and brought in no profit". The Vote of Thanks was given by Vice-President Ian Helby. The meeting closed with sincere thanks expressed to the Fellowship Committee

PHF for John Lacy During the President's Lunch, President Eileen took the opportunity to announce and present the award of a Paul Harris Fellowship to John Lacy, to recognise his many years of service to the Club in various capacities, particularly in promoting our work in support of young people in the City, the Club's Youth Challenge programme, our Dragon Boat organisation and City liaison, and jointly running the District Shop in recent years. John was Club President in 2014-15.

(Click photos to enlarge)

They may be hired!! As part of the Club's Community Service/vocational service, during weeks beginning **November 7th and 14th**, 13 Rotarians spent time at The Mount School holding mock interviews for the Senior College (Upper 6). They met some capable young women with good CVs and great potential, but in need of practice when being interviewed by people they did not know. Everyone was given feedback on their performance and advice for future interviews. Head of Senior College Wendy Thompson matched the students to Rotarian careers as much as possible and she expressed sincere thanks and appreciation for the Rotarians' time and commitment. Thank you to everyone who took part. Who knows where these talented young people may end up??

Golf Winners The presentation of the Shouksmith Trophy and Thompson Plate took place at the Club meeting on **November 18th**. Twenty three golfers participated in the tournament which took place over the summer, and the eventual winner of the **Shouksmith Trophy** was Dennis Adamson - after a marathon play-off over 26 holes (!) with runner-up Keith Hayton. Joint winners of the **Thompson Plate** were David Impey and Steve Burton, who shared the liquid prizes presented by President Eileen!

[return to top of the page](#)

(Click photos to enlarge)

(Click photos to enlarge)

November Walk The Club walk on **November 17th** was forecast to be under rainy and miserable skies. In the end, in true Rotary Walk tradition, the rain held off - until the final ten minutes - and the sun even showed the occasional sign of peeping. With the largest turnout for a while (18 members and partners, plus Oreol!) the walk pace started out a little slow as we all negotiated the numerous stiles, and very boggy conditions, setting out from Felixkirk (near Thirsk) and heading east towards the Hambleton Hills, then turning north to Boltby. Soon afterwards, the option to take a "shorter" 5 1/2 mile route back to Felixkirk attracted about half the group, who sensibly made it back to the Carpenters Arms for the planned lunch time. The remainder strode off with leader Brian up yet another hill, through the woods to Kirby Knowle and back to Felixkirk via an interminably long set of fields (and a minor unintended detour!). Late, exhausted but having managed nearly 8 miles in the end, we joined the "shorties" for a lovely lunch from a very varied menu at the Carpenters, and finally drove home - in the rain!

Insights into Afghanistan Our speaker on **November 11th** was Zabitullah Aimal, currently a Rotary Peace Fellow at Bradford University. Aimal's background growing up in war-torn Afghanistan after the Russian invasion, and his description of life under the Taliban were personal and poignant. He later became a translator for the US forces who finally gave his country a chance to re-build and develop, and he was full of praise for the US army and positive about the changes now coming about in Afghanistan. For example, 29% of the Afghan parliament are now women - a higher percentage than in either the UK or the USA!! Thanks to the CO of the Nevada Guard, part of the US forces, who was also a Rotarian, Aimal was given the opportunity to move to Nevada USA and to take a college degree course. He now lives in Nevada, but has worked for the US government in Washington and hopes to return there at some stage - and eventually to go back to his native country. As an ambassador for peace, and contributing to reconciliation and peace processes, it is clear that Aimal has made, and will make, a significant contribution. As a courageous and heartwarming story, his talk held members attention and defined once again the role that Rotary plays in promoting world peace.

(Click photos to enlarge)

Askham Bryan College Wildlife and Conservation Park On **November 11th** a group of 21 members and partners were given a behind the scenes tour by Caroline Howard the Wildlife Manager of this exciting and unusual potential visitor attraction to York.

The College has a range of over 100 different species of animals housed in several specialised habitat areas; these include an aquatics room, tropical house, exotic mammal room, small mammals yard, bird garden, rodent room and a paddock. The two-storey state of the art building houses lecture rooms, a computer suite, a vet nursing facility as well as the visitor grade attraction including aquatics, reptiles and nocturnal animals which will be open to the public in the spring of 2017.

The prime aim is however to teach relevant skills required to work in roles such as Zoo keepers, animal welfare, kennels, catteries, pet stores and develop academic qualifications up to degree standard.

The Foundation of Rotary is 100 years old "It's like your home's foundations - deeply embedded and supporting everything else" said our speaker on **November 4th**, Andrew Bateman, our District's Foundation Treasurer. Andrew explained the history range and impact of Rotary Foundation's world-wide schemes, including Grants, the "End Polio" campaign, Group Study Exchange and Peace Fellow funding, all of which make a difference across the world and of course speak volumes about Rotary as a charitable institution. 90% of Foundation funds, donated by Rotarians across the globe, are spent on projects and just 3.5% on administration. Andrew explained the operation of Endowments and Annual Funds, and the mechanisms for Clubs to apply for Global or District Grants, the latter being the more simple and faster to process. We received a District Grant for the Ebenezer School project, and are looking at at least two additional projects that may be eligible this year. And of course in global terms, we are, as Andrew repeated "nearly there" in the drive to eradicate polio across the world.

(Click photos to enlarge)



Why York? Our speaker on **October 28th** was Alan Millard, Chief Operating Officer at Hiscox Insurance. He explained to us the background of Hiscox as a company, its market areas and its operating ethos and core values. It was very interesting - and refreshing - to hear such a senior executive talking about his role in terms of corporate values, "Hiscox try to be a "trusted insurer". They have 2500 employees worldwide, with 250 (growing to 500) in their new **HQ in York**. Most of Alan's presentation featured the rationale for their choice of York, and the decision to construct their own £20m building (good quality office rental of that size not being available in the city!) which reflects both Hiscox core values and echos of York's heritage in the Hungate area of the city. And the rocket? Just a quirky addition, dubbed the Peace Rocket (Russian/US construction, but it never flew) Alan's vision for the city as a top-class "City for entrepreneurs" was both visionary and inspiring - we hope the City Council are listening...

[We later learned that Alan was also a mountaineer and has successfully climbed Everest in 2011 - see the intriguing video of Alan talking about this [here](#). ed.]

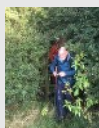
Also at this meeting, former member Fred Dennis was awarded an Honorary Membership of the Club for his many services and past contributions since 1972. Fred was Club President in 1979-80.

Shop sales success During the Club's business meeting on **October 21st**, David Impey presented a cheque for over £800 to Club Treasurer Nigel. David, together with John Lacy, runs the District Shop, and these net proceeds go to our Charity Account which supports so many local good causes (see accompanying article) The Shop has had a very successful few months following sales to Club members, and notably at the recent District Conference on Scarborough.

Also at this meeting, Community Service Chair Graham Todd gave a brief presentation about the work and scope of this committee, who distribute part of our Charity Funds to a very wide range of local charitable organisations (see photo) as well as organising practical "hands-on" projects and arranging outings for older people from Abbeyfields and Salvation Army contacts, to the theatre and to Sinnington afternoon teas.

| LAST THREE YEARS' DONATIONS £51,100 | | |
|---|---|---|
| £2000 York City Council York Diocese York Museums Trust York Museums Trust York Museums Trust | £1500 York City Council York Diocese York Museums Trust York Museums Trust York Museums Trust | £1610 York City Council York Diocese York Museums Trust York Museums Trust York Museums Trust |

Myton Loops The 6-mile Club walk on **October 20th** was in a figure of eight (less chance to get lost - we thought!) starting from the out-of-the-way Myton-on-Swale, east of Boroughbridge, and traversing cornfields meadows and tracks and eventually crossing Myton Bridge, next to the site of the bloody Battle of Myton (1319) where a vast local army (led by the Archbishop of York, no less) tried in vain to beat off the 15000-strong marauding Scottish army during the First Scottish War of Independence (*more pending, of course...*) Returning to Myton and then on by car to Helperby, we enjoyed a superb lunch from a wide-ranging menu at the Oak Tree Inn. Amazingly, sunshine ruled the weather, another fine October day for a fine Rotary walk.



Ben Fatto (or "Well done") to the Fundraising Team who organised the Italian Night on **October 18th** at the Novotel. Thanks to the Novotel who provided a wonderful array of Italian dishes, and red and green place settings, whilst Italian song and slides of Italian culture and scenery played in the background. The highlight was a short but dazzling performance of three Puccini arias by lone Cumming and members of York Opera. A raffle with Italian prizes rounded off a lively evening for the 80 members and partners attending. Best of all, a total of £2400 was raised for our Charity Fund. *Eccellente!*



Inspiring Social Change Our speaker on **October 14th** was Steven Burkeman, a trustee of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) and the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust. He eloquently outlined the history of these organisations from their founding in 1902 by Joseph Rowntree, to provide affordable housing in communities and to understand the root causes of poverty - both themes that continue to drive the organisations today. Steven explained that there are currently 7760 people in "fuel poverty" in York and around 6000 in overcrowded housing. The cost to the UK of poverty and its repercussions exceeds £78billion. Steven is also a beneficiary of the Housing Trust's work in that he and his wife live in Derwenthorpe, a community of owner-occupied and rented housing built to high standard of energy efficiency - albeit served, as Steven reluctantly admitted, by a bus powered by diesel! Members were fascinated by his descriptions of the research work of the JRF (who are a major sponsor of our Dragon Boat Challenge) and the Housing Trust. There is a lot more information available on the JRF website [here](#), and on the Derwenthorpe project [here](#).

Carrying more baggage for charity The Yorkshire Marathon took place in York on **October 9th**, and once again it was a chance for Rotary to help the community and fly the Rotary flag. A total of eighteen members and partners volunteered to manage one of three "baggage store" marquees where the runners deposited, and later collected, their personal belongings. From a very early start at 7am the first crew took in and organised the bags into numerical sequence, allowing the afternoon crew (12-5) to retrieve them as the exhausted - and sometimes barely mobile - runners returned for them throughout the afternoon. Good weather and a great atmosphere at the Heslington university campus base made it a pleasurable day - and the organisers did comment on how well-organised the "Rotary" marquee was compared to others!! Thanks to all who helped on the day. A small donation is being made to our Charity Fund from the organisers.



Rotary at the seat of power. A large group of 23 members and partners visited the Drax Power Station on **October 5th**, for an excellent conducted tour of their facility near Selby. We have all seen the cooling towers, but the size of the whole site and the gigantic engineering structure were awe-inspiring. It produces 8% of the UK's total electricity needs from its six units, three coal-fired but three using biomass, which is imported in huge quantities from, mostly, the USA and Canada. Biomass has reduced their carbon footprint by 80% and by 2025 the whole site will be using only this fuel. 300 miles of tubes in each boiler (there are six) carry water that is heated to 568 degrees to produce high pressure steam that drives the turbines and thus generate electricity. The generators run at precisely 3000 rotations per minute, which is 50 per second (hence the 50 cycles, or 50Hz, the UK standard). With 950 Drax employees on site, the company invests heavily in technology to ensure that they stay within the ever-tightening emission limits set by government. A £100m investment in 2014 increased efficiency by a mere 2%, but paid for itself! We were universally impressed with the operation it's integrity and it's forward thinking. Thank you Frank for your organisation of the day.

A photo gallery of the visit can be seen [here](#)



Surviving Winter Appeal. We welcomed Jan Garrill, CEO of Two Ridings Community Foundation our lunch meeting on **September 30th** when she explained that her role as the Leader of an Independent Community Advisory body was to help the "bedrock charities". Following the terrible floods of December 2015 Jan's team kicked in and raised some £1.5M within the first two weeks and executed their policy of giving "immediate aftermath" help to the local community. Our own Club donated a significant amount through money raised by ourselves and from many other Rotary Clubs in the UK. The TRCF work with Government Agencies and the British Red Cross to ensure that plans are in place to help for any future crises but also provide access to emergency funds (based largely on trust) to support elderly people during the winter months - helping over 340 people last year. The "Surviving Winter Appeal" is aimed at requesting donations of the Government Winter Fuel Allowance from people who receive it but would prefer to have the money spent in a better cause such as this. More details on the Appeal can be found [here](#)

Rotary Youth Challenge - Peatrigg Reunion at Door 84 Frank reports... On **September 21st**, 15 out of the 21 Peatrigg participants attended this reunion accompanied by 21 parents/grandparents/siblings and one teacher. The 4 buddies and the resident team of 5 gave individual feedback and were supported by 10 rotarians and wives. The 20 minute video* was projected, photographs of the activities were displayed along with the comments posted during the course. Parents were invited to write their own comments on post-it notes. One grandparent, in appreciation, donated £50.00. Many comments from parents were very positive - one parent said "After a rough year at school ----- came back from Peatrigg a happy engaged loving person. It has made such a difference to her giving her confidence back again - she still is talking about her wonderful time - thank you". Another stated "Can I firstly thank you all for providing such a great holiday for the children. -----really enjoyed it and definitely gained more confidence out of the week. He was shattered when he got home which proved how much he enjoyed himself. Thanks again - a great opportunity had."

*The video of the Peatrigg week held in August can be viewed, via YouTube, [here](#)



The Rotary Clubs of York
Youth Challenge
Peatrigg Outdoor Centre
2016

[Click for Peatrigg 2016 video](#)

Badminton and Butchery On **September 16th** we were entertained by a "new member's" talk from Steve Barker. Born at the Puree Cust next to York Minster in 1953 Steve went to Fishergate Primary School and was good at sport. He found his talent in Badminton and played at the York Railway Institute until he was selected for the North East District Team playing against the Irish Police in Blackpool. Steve comes from a family of butchers who can be traced back to the Shambles in York and he bought his first shop in 1972 in Boroughbridge followed by one in Poppleton in 1994 also with land available to breed livestock. He was very successful at this, twice being nominated for the Best Rural Retail Enterprise at the Yorkshire Show. Having sold his business over 2 years ago Steve and his wife enjoy holidaying at their other house in Turkey and he continues to be involved with sport and young people from a coaching and mentoring perspective. Although Steve's background was as a butcher - he said that he really loves all animals - especially in warm gravy!

September Walk Steve reports.... Rotary walkers were pleased to welcome 2 new recruits to the **September 16th** walk - Peter Nicholson and Steve's new dog Oreo. Nigel led us on a most pleasant 7.4 miler from Wombledon across farmland then up wooded valleys, one the strangely named 'Robin Hoods Howl', round to St Gregory's Minster (photo right) before enjoying a well earned rest and lunch at the very pleasant Plough Inn Wombledon. Lunch continues, as ever, to be one of the main motivators for our exertions - so why not join us? It was a blazing hot [and humid] day, believed by some to be the last day of this year's summer, so hopefully an enjoyable autumnal few weeks await us.

Emergency Planning On **Sept 9th** our speaker was Katie Fisher from the Emergency Planning section of York City Council. She explained that under the Civil Contingencies Act, the City has plans in place for various contingencies, and must test these plans regularly. There is a particular focus on business continuity, ensuring the city services are kept going. After last December's flooding in the city, there was particular focus on flood emergencies and Katie explained that these plans were part of a multi-agency plan with emergency services and others. There was increasing planning for interaction with volunteers, especially after the recent floods, and she felt that Rotary, and the three York Clubs in particular, could be better involved in this area in the future. Mike Fieldsend is already representing our Club in looking at such opportunities.

Getting a grip of the bias... A whole new language, not to mention new skills and the use of little-exercised muscles, were learnt on **September 6th** as 36 members partners and guests were organised into teams of three for the annual Lawn Bowls evening. After four "ends" the winning teams rotated clockwise and the next Jack, being unbiased of course, was thrown as far away as possible, followed by each team trying to get shot (later explained as "closest to the Jack") by using bias (a weighting on one side causing the bowl to curve). Exhausted after assimilating such a lot of new ideas, everyone was glad to retire to the clubhouse bar where delicious pie, mushy peas chips and pud (no language problems here!) were served and much appreciated by all. After several recounts, it appeared, the winners were finally announced - Brian Houghton, Helen Porter and Ian Stockley took the prize, awarded by President Eileen. A great and very sociable evening, thanks to the organisation of Frank, and Davids Minns and Impey, and all at the Railway Institute Bowls Club. We look forward to next year, when learning will doubtless start all over again.





Of fish and drills.... Members' attention was held as new(ish) member Christine Watkinson gave an excellent and well-illustrated talk on **September 2nd** about her background. Growing up in Newcastle where her parents ran a store ("an early B&Q") called Elliotts Corner House, Christine demonstrated early promise as she won the Queens Guide Award and developed her dancing skills. But the lure of a career in dentistry soon took her and late husband Peter, after their training, to Bradford, their first Dental practice, then to Pickering and eventually to York. They also became hooked (*her pun*) on fly fishing and much of her talk was devoted to educating us about the migration and feeding habits of salmon, trout and others – not to mention, of course, the 36lb salmon she landed in Alaska – a feat Christine put down to female pheromones attracting the fish (not sure we all bought that explanation!) She finally hung up her drill (*her pun*) three years ago and enjoys her retirement with partner Ian and a lot of time now spent with the Rotary Club, which we are all delighted about!

(Click photos to enlarge)



Record turnout for Physionet On **August 27th** a record number of Club members responded to [Physionet's](#) appeal for help in loading their latest container of special needs physio equipment, this one destined for Sierra Leone - the first time a shipment has been sent there. Eleven members and partners helped out, and the shipment was on its way in under two hours! Rotary in speedy action!!



The buzz about bees On **August 26th** Patricia Miller, Secretary of York & District Beekeepers Association and a Beekeeper in her own right give us a fascinating insight into the life of honey bees and their contribution to our overall environment. Tricia described the different types of honey bee from the Asian to the Giant through to the Small honey bee and how they can be mistaken for – bumble bees, hornets and wasps. The first identified depiction of Bee Husbandry was around 8000 years ago and interestingly elephants will not go near bee hives – so a good tip for vegetation protection! Typically the number of bees in a colony are: 60,000 workers; 1 Queen; 2,000 drones; But in winter this reduces to 10,000 workers and 1 Queen - Zero drones who actually get thrown out!!



Successful Youth Challenge Programme at Peat Rigg *Kevin reports....*

For the third year running, the three York Clubs have sponsored candidates for the York Rotary Club's Youth Challenge, a five day residential course at Peat Rigg Outdoor Pursuits Centre, held from **August 15th to 19th**. The course was designed to benefit school children in the 12 to 15 age group who were acknowledged to have a range of behavioural difficulties. Peat Rigg staff took responsibility for the children's daytime activities. From 20:30 until 07:00 the following morning six members of the Rotary clubs of York and Ainsty supervised with a member of the Peat Rigg staff on hand in the background. Throughout the daytime and evening activities four 'buddies' were also interacting with the children, selected from ex-RYLA students and Door 84 youth staff. A Rotarian Course Director (Kevin) was appointed to deal with any disciplinary issues which might crop up. The objectives of the course were to build confidence, develop communication skills, encourage team work and generate self esteem through a mix of physical, mental and fun challenges. All in all this was a fantastic opportunity for the children, some of whom were carers for family members when not at school, and it was a very rewarding experience for the buddies and Rotarians involved.



"Mutiny at Cow Dale" - The Dales in the Wolds Walk *Steve reports....* On **August 18th** whilst 13 + 1 dog set off - mutiny struck just after half way with 2 desertions followed by further 6 a little later, when shortcuts to the pub became apparent [note - no figure of 8 routes in future]; so only a gallant band of 5 stalwarts did the full circuit of Frendal Dale, Pasture Dale and Horse Dale, with a view of Cow Dale, on a glorious sunny day. The main feature of the walk, (which David Rayner researched) were two sections of extensive Early Bronze Age (2500 - 1500 BC) system of defensive boundaries that marked out the greater part of the Wolds as a managed grassland farming area. Graham Wilford advised a further interesting fact, in that, Huggate has the second deepest well in England at 339ft, dug into solid chalk in 1765. It took two men nearly twenty minutes to draw one bucket of water and before 1873 it had been boarded over. All that remains is a millstone on the village green to mark the spot. Lunch as ever a great success in the Wolds Inn, to which we shall no doubt return in due course, if a further walk is researched.



Bill Mann Golf Our annual three-Club golfing and fellowship event took place on a lovely sunny day on **August 21st** at the York Golf Club at Strensall. It did turn out to be quite windy conditions, which became the favoured excuse of many golfers, including the author, for their lacklustre rounds! The winning score belonged however to Tony Coward, who collected his prize and trophy from Sheila Royce, Bill Mann's daughter, at a very convivial dinner later in the day attended by around 50 members, partners and guests. Steve Cluderay from York Vikings RC was the runner-up, and also the "closest to the pin", whilst David Impey scooped the "longest drive" award. Many thanks to golf organiser David Sweeney for another excellent day much enjoyed by all. More photos a full results are on our [golf results page](#)



Golden Granddaughter Ewan Cameron was one very proud grandad when his granddaughter Hannah Mills struck gold in Rio. At our meeting on **August 19th** he talked about his delight as Hannah and her fellow sailor Saskia Clark took the Gold Medal in the 470 event in the Sailing Regatta at the Rio Olympics earlier this week. They beat New Zealand who took the Silver Medal - a reversal of the 2012 London result. The Club congratulates Hannah and Saskia on this great achievement.



Exploring The Island At our meeting on **August 12th**, we learnt more about The Island, one of the two charities that the Club supported this year in our Dragon Boat Challenge event. Their chairman Keith Blanchard explained the role of [The Island](#) York as a mentoring organisation for young people between ages 8 and 13, providing support, advice and encouragement on a weekly basis, for a period of a year, to those referred to it - often from difficult home backgrounds. Keith explained that the cost of such mentoring was around £2,200 per annum; this compares with around £200,000 cost for a place in a children's home, or £65K at a Young Offender Institution. Some of the facts he gave us were shocking - 18% of York's children are in poverty; 200,000 children in the UK have a parent in prison. The Island has been in operation for 10 years, has 9 trustees and currently has 40 children in its 1:1 mentoring programme. Sobering statistics for a supposedly affluent city such as ours.



Baggage Handlers Strike by Rotarians Eileen reports... 12 members and 2 partners (as well as a number from RC York Ainsty) struck out early on the morning of **August 7th**, volunteering to assist in administering the runners' "baggage store" at the [Asda Foundation York 10K run](#). The Race started and finished on the Knavesmire. Runners' bags were taken in and stored on the beds of 3 large container units; whilst the race proceeded, the bags were sorted into numerical order so that as soon as the reclaim began, efficiency was the order of the day! In bright but rather windy weather, thousands of runners took part in one of the legacy races inspired by the late Jane Tomlinson OBE. The atmosphere was lively and friendly; everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, including the yellow-shirted Rotarians who used the opportunity to demonstrate cheerful service to the community. We would all be "up for it" again if called upon.



Club Barbeque The sun shone on a large gathering at Sutton-on-Derwent Village Hall on **August 6th** as Rotarians and Guests gathered for the annual BBQ. On arrival, organiser Peter Fox took the payments and handed us over to barmen Donald Heath and Stuart Briggs. In charge of the cooking were Davids Thompson & Walkden who managed to supply everyone with steak, chicken and sausages; these were accompanied by salads etc. and followed by delicious sweets. So lovely was the weather that virtually everyone ate outdoors. Outdoor activities included a Quiz managed by David Impey and won by IPP Mike Fieldsend and friends, as well as putting golf balls into upturned umbrellas organised by David Sweeney and won by Bill Stubbs. Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for another very enjoyable occasion.



Teaching and the Outdoors Ian T reports... This was at the heart of Andy Falconer's "New Member" talk at our lunch on **August 5th**. Born in Aberdeen he then moved to Glenshee where his parents ran an outdoor centre and it was here that Andy developed his love of the outdoors and associated types of sport, later becoming a ski instructor, a mountain guide and ski racer both in Aviemore and more widely across Europe.

Unsure of what to do next he found "the perfect" course at Lancaster University and emerged with a degree in Outward and Primary Education after which he taught at Primary schools in Terrington, Perth and Salisbury before moving to York some 11 years ago. Here he took up the position as the 8th (and youngest) Head Teacher (or *The Master*) at St Olave's School (founded in 1876). His wife Lesley is a nurse at the same school and for one year all the family including his 3 daughters will be at St. Olave's.

His passions are running (marathon man!) and photography.



Helping Local Community Projects Community Service Chair Graham Todd and IPP Mike Fieldsend made a couple of 'Community Service' presentations on the morning of **July 1st**. The first was to [York Mind](#). The Club has decided to support **York Mind** in an exciting new project they have initiated called 'Healthy Body, Healthy Mind' and approved a grant of £500. Later in the day, Graham and Mike, were then delighted to be able to present a cheque for £1000 to **Age UK**. This will go towards replacing their ageing minibus which has taken a few knocks recently. This is featured on their own website [here](#)



Keeping our pants on! Hazel Hart started her "New Member" presentation on **July 29th** by hoping her talk would not bore the pants off members - and that she would check! It turned out that Hazel's personal and often funny story of her family history in the hotel and catering business, going back to 1850, succeeded in keeping everyone fully clothed! Although she is not that new a member, having been in the Club for over a year, this was the first time many had heard details of her background, how she gained qualifications at Huddersfield and experience in Scotland, Liverpool and elsewhere; and how she has run a well-known local hotel in Holgate for 39 years and developed it from a 12-bed somewhat run-down establishment into a very successful 32-bed hotel.



New Member At this meeting we also welcomed another new member, **David Ison**. With a background of a career in electrical engineering, David has been a Rotarian in the late '90s with the Stockton West RC. President Eileen welcomed David to the Club on behalf of all members.



Thanks to the Novotel At our meeting on **July 22nd**, President Eileen presented Julie Parkin, Novotel's Conference and Events Manager, with our annual cheque for staff gratuities - to warm applause from all Club members. The level of service, and support, from the Novotel has maintained a consistently high level, and the Club is grateful for the very close relationship that has been developed with the hotel over the past 18 months. Long may it continue!



Visitors from far and near At our meeting on **July 15th**, our speaker was our new District Governor Phil Poole. He spoke to the Club about his priorities of "continuity" and "joined up Rotary" and encouraged members to continue to grow Club membership ("ask a friend") look for opportunities to publicise Rotary's presence, and support Foundation and the District Conference.

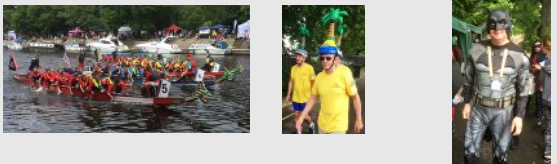
Also visiting us, from Santa Croce Sull'Arno, a small town in Tuscany, near Florence Italy, was their Past President Andrea Orsini, who also watched our Dragon Boat event the previous Sunday and was so impressed he is taking the idea back to his club, as they are based near the River Arno!



Minster Tours On **July 12th** and **13th** (and 21st) groups of members were privileged to take a Tour of York Minster with their most famous Minster Guide, Rtn Steve Burton.....(!) Most of us had been in the Minster many times but had not taken a tour and thus had missed 90% of the historical and whimsical sights and secrets that are to be seen there. Steve eloquently explained that we were on a site with a history going back over 2000 years, the current cathedral (for it is a cathedral as well as a Minster) having its origins from 1070 when a Norman church was erected, replacing Roman and Saxon Church remains. It is now the largest Gothic cathedral this side of the Alps, and contains 65% of all the medieval glass remaining in England. Much of the glass was restored in 1789 but much of it put back in the wrong order, or to the wrong plan! From 1950 onwards this has been corrected and modern restoration now removes more lead and puts the windows back to the glory that was their original construction. We saw "monkey windows", evidence that the original cathedral was painted extensively both inside and out, the wonderful newly-exposed Great East Window, and much more. A fabulous tour, many thanks to Steve for taking the time to educate us all.



Dragon Boat success After more than a year in the planning, the Club's 2016 Dragon Boat Challenge event took place on **July 10th**. Blessed with good weather for most of the day, the 36 teams competing had a great day on the river, with fierce competition mixed with a friendly positive atmosphere. The amount pledged to date for local charities, including our own two nominated beneficiaries *Family Fund* and *The Island*, is over £63,000 and will increase as more comes in. Thanks to our sponsors, and to all our members who helped in ways great and small to make the day a real success for the City and for our community. More details and photos on our Dragon Boat page [here](#)



Rotarian in disguise.....
(Clue: on our Dragon Boat page)



Eileen takes the baton At the first meeting of the 2016-17 Club year, on **July 1st**, President Eileen Davis formally took on the role of leading the Club, from Past President Mike Fieldsend. Mike gave a brief heartfelt speech about the progress he felt had been made during his year, this being echoed by President Eileen who thanked Mike for his many contributions towards moving the Club in a very positive direction, and managing the unexpected events of the year, particularly the Club's response to the York Floods in December. Also taking up their new roles were President-Elect Brian Joscelyne, and Vice President Ian Helby.

(Click photos to enlarge)



More celebrations for Philip Before handing over to incoming President Eileen on **July 1st**, Mike Fieldsend explained how honoured he was that his last duty as President was to present an award to Philip Heaton, who has just completed 50 years of membership of the Club. Following on from a recent notable birthday which he also celebrated with the Club, Philip was accompanied by his wife Marlise, who is very well known for her own service to the Club and to Inner Wheel, giving in particular essential help in translation of correspondence to and from our French partner Club in Aubusson; Marlise is a Paul Harris Fellow in her own right. Philip recounted some of his memories of the Club through the years, and how times had changed. He recalled that he once (for "good" reasons) appeared at lunch without a tie, only to find that the then President (*still a member, but a reformed character by all accounts*) admonished him and sent a strongly worded letter to Marlise telling her to "dress Philip properly"!! Many congratulations to Philip and for his active contributions to the Club, which continue to this day.