

Transitions on the sofa!

Updated: Jul 12, 2021



Normally the process of handing over the responsibilities (and formal regalia) of office from one president to another has a rather more formal setting; but these are unusual times.

So it was that on July 2nd the presidency of York Rotary was passed from Kevin Grogan to David Fotheringham as they sat on sofas in David's house; viewed via zoom by over 50 York Rotary members. With two cameras - it was a test of our new "hybrid" approach to face-to-face meetings with zoom capability - the drama was played out with a light touch. Incoming President-Elect Mary Lumley was also part of the proceedings, watched by Kevin's partner Jackie.

There will be more formal "ceremony" later in the month, but the informal setting and fun of this "Handover!" was still much appreciated.



In the garden: Mary, President David, Kevin

(a fuller report of this meeting will be published later)

THE SUNDIAL STORY

Why does the 2021/2 handbook look like this?



At our first “regular” meeting of the new Rotary year on July 9th, still on Zoom, the speaker was our new President, David Fotheringham. He chose as his topic the new Club Handbook, and more specifically the reasons for choosing the image of the Sundial on York’s College Green.

This is of course our Centenary Gift to the city, where members have paid for the refurbishment and repair of the 1730 sundial, which is Grade II listed. This is now complete and returned to “working order” and looks magnificent against the setting of the East Window of York Minster.



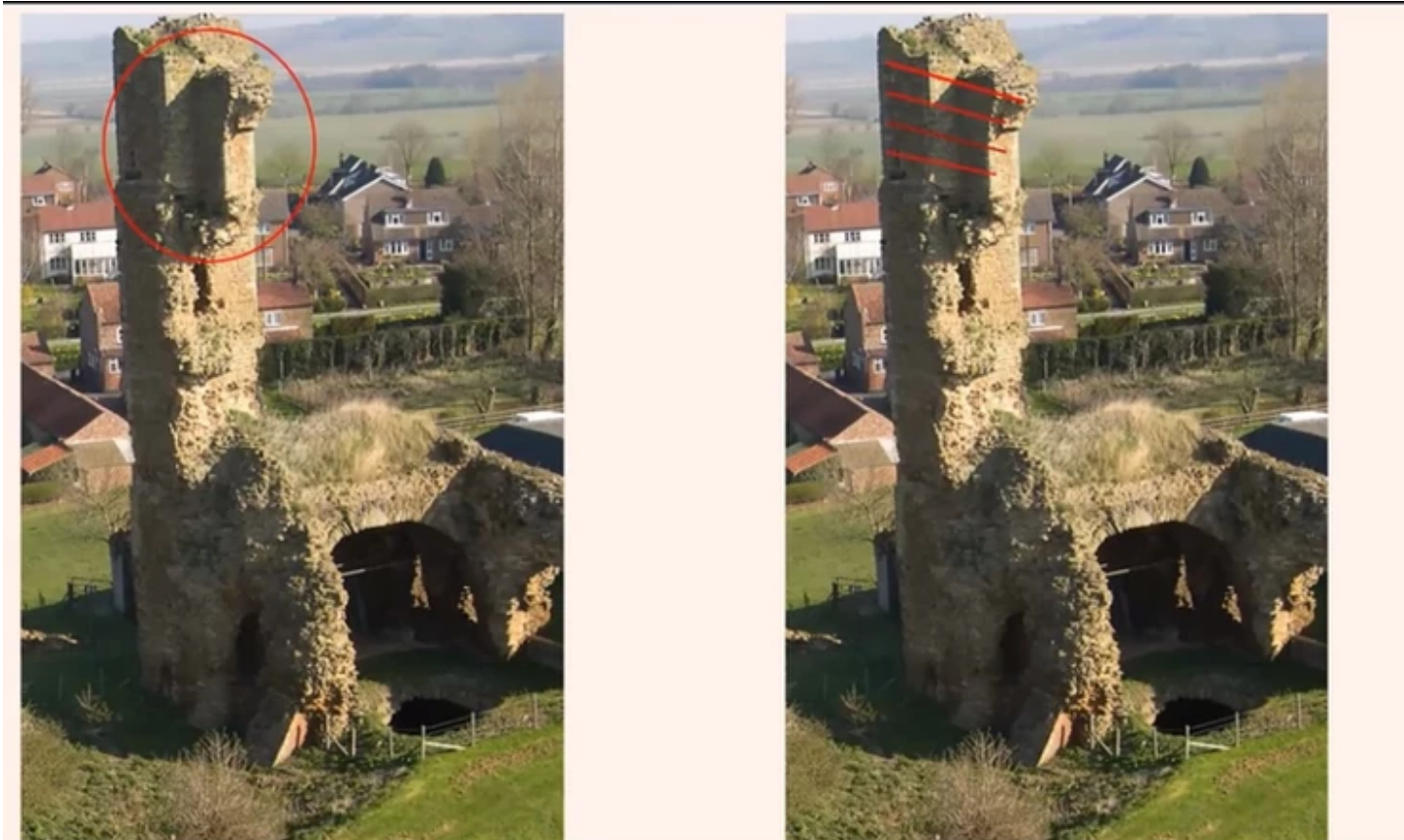
Why might this have been the image?



connections with the project; one being a young Brian Houghton and his crew who replaced the curved windows in 1965.

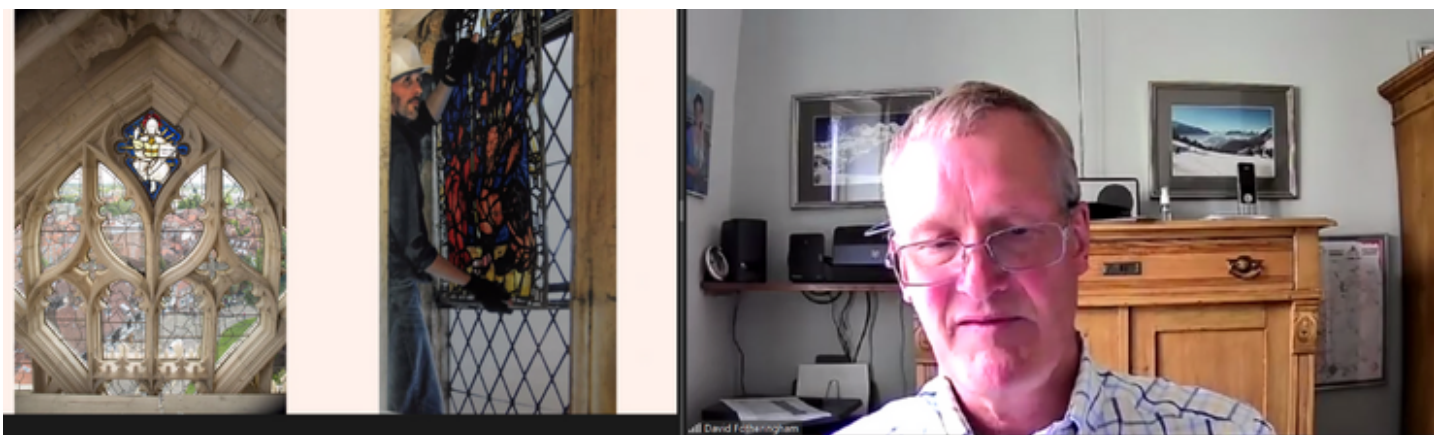
But David had additional reasons for choosing these images, and related a fascinating history of his own involvement in many local architectural renovations and repairs, in particular the Mausoleum at Castle Howard, where as long ago as 1982 he was involved in a huge project to repair / replace part of the structure.

He explained there were four different Rotary



Sheriff Hutton NE Tower; showing precarious protrusion and the line where steel bars were inserted

David took us through several additional ancient monument projects he was involved with over the years, including Fountains Abbey, Harewood Castle, Sheriff Hutton castle and also York Minster's East Aspect and Great East Window.



York Minster's East Window details; and David Fotheringham

With high quality images, David illustrated a wide range of challenges and amazing craftsmanship that shine through these projects.



Statue of St Peter, sitting high on the East Aspect of York Minster; and the original carving

This brought us to the Sundial which sits in front of the Great East Window, with David explaining the intricacies of the refurbishment. It was clear that the images of the sundial have particular relevance for our new President, and it was a real pleasure to listen to his story.

A Walk on the Wild Side



Frank reports..... The first post pandemic vocational visit , organised by Chris Birch on 16th July, took a party of 13 for a guided tour of St Nicks, a 24 acre nature reserve site less than a mile from the City centre which claims to be the green heart of York - a centre for nature and green living.

The charity started as 'Friends of St Nicholas Fields' in the 1990s by transforming a former landfill site into a thriving Local Nature Reserve. In May 2002 a party of 20 rotarians had visited the site and Graham Wilford recalls you could then see right across the site, tracks had just been established and planting was underway - very different to the wildflower meadows and mixed native woodland today and accessible to all.

Ivanah , our very knowledgable and enthusiastic guide explained how the site had developed over the years and last year achieved a milestone - 1,041 different species of flora and fauna now recorded. That's quite an achievement for an ex-landfill site!

Since that time the renamed Charity St Nicks has also significantly expanded its aspirations with its vision to encourage **York to be a city where people value wildlife, the environment and each other equally to sustain a rich and healthy life for all.**



They have an impressive track record and encourage and support local groups to improve their own green spaces at 20 locations across the city. Pre pandemic they had over 240 regular volunteers and around 800 children engaged in environment educational activities .



Recycling Teams in the city have diverted 379 tonnes of recycling from landfill – all collected

by electric vehicles and pedal powered load-bearing tricycles and the Charity has been placed in the top three in a national award for excellence in recycling and waste management.

A 5-year Ecotherapy Programme, funded by the National Lottery Community is recognised as one of the top three mental health service providers in York, and last year provided over 3,000 hours of delivery including a 40% increase in one-to-one mentoring sessions.



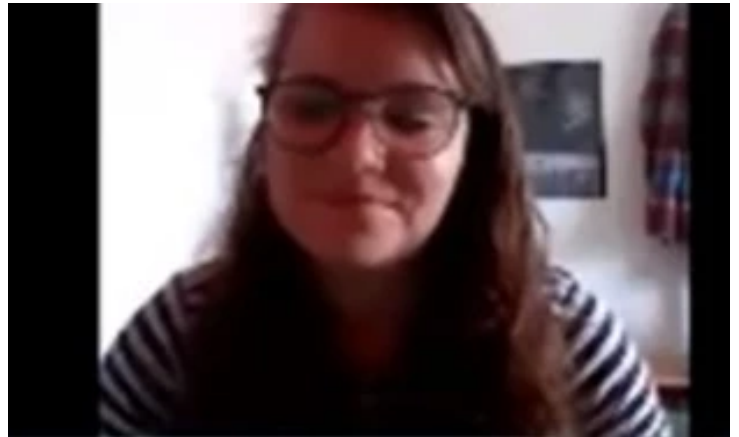
A very informative and enlightening morning - amazing what you can learn in 90 minutes about the active committed people and positive achievements in our community.

Carecent in York

Paul Harvey reports...

Cat Tottie who is the Project Leader at CareCent, spoke about its work (during our last fully Zoom meeting on July 16th) and described the challenges it faced during COVID. In doing so, she taught us that it was in fact doing far more than its description.

CareCent describes itself as “a breakfast centre for all homeless, unemployed or otherwise socially excluded members of the (York) community”.



COVID-19 and homelessness in York

Cat Tottie, Carecent Project Manager

Run almost totally by volunteers, it is open six days a week and provides far more than just breakfast. Clients also benefit from clothing, showers and fellowship in this friendly and non-judgemental environment.

As well as a big clothing store (Rotary is a regular contributor of socks for Christmas), they supply toiletries, sleeping bags and more.

It is estimated that around 200 live in homeless accommodation across the city but this total does not include the hidden homeless including people who hide from homeless services or who are sofa surfing. For many, homelessness is one part of a wider support need which might include alcohol and/or drug abuse, domestic issues etc.



What Carecent does
More than just breakfast!

The majority of their clients are male and a women's focused service does exist elsewhere in York although CareCent welcomes everyone.

The number of rough sleepers declined considerably during COVID due to the “Everyone In” scheme that was implemented

in two days at the start of Lockdown 1. Consequently the levels of infections and COVID related deaths has been low amongst the homeless community. A COVID vaccination programme was offered at CareCent and there was a high demand for it. It was offered on site because many of their clients had no address for vaccination letters to be set to, might not be able to read or write or might not have sufficient phone credit to enable them to be a part of any mobile phone driven vaccination programme.

Issues currently being faced or on the horizon include the fact that there is a significant shortage of social housing in York with waiting period of up to five year not uncommon; the eviction ban has ended and the rental market is almost inaccessible to those on welfare benefit; health care needs are expected to rise as COVID support declines, and the EU Migration Scheme cut-off date is now passed which means some EU Migrants will lose support and more will be on the streets.



It was pleasing to hear that North Yorkshire Police adopt a safeguarding rather than a more enforced legal approach, a policing system which is perhaps more supportive in York than elsewhere in the country.

CareCent takes no centralized funding because the "client information" needs which this can lead to may be off-putting to those seeking to access the centre. Hence CareCent helps some people who would not go anywhere else.

Looking ahead

- New people have started sleeping rough during the pandemic
- The risk of rough sleeping is increasing (job losses, poverty)
- Problems around affordability of housing still exist
- More needs arising around health, addiction, debt
- Brexit and laws around EU migration mean many will have their support cut off



A Walk on the Nidd Side

Steve reports... July 21st saw the first official mass gathering of York Rotary Walking group for a 7 miler starting at Brimham Rocks Car Park.

Some 20 assorted Rotarians and partners along with welcome guest John Wainwright, were expected to foregather, but 2 suffered clutch failure en route and had to abandon. The rest made it after suffering the perplexing National Trust car parking system – only cash or downloaded app for non members, the direct phone number proving unobtainable and the app requiring so much detail was discarded.



So off we went away from the rocks by various paths down towards the Nidd valley – thank goodness for the cloud cover in this period of heat wave some said – maybe a little cooler but far higher humidity had everyone glowing on worse.

A very large pig in a gorse strewn enclosure made an appearance to delight of Dave T who had to take its photo, which is shared as a highlight.

Stiles of difficult to b.....y dreadful were surmounted - 'til gate at side was proved open able - there's always a least one smarty on every walk!

Back to the car park , where farewells to Morley's made and off to The Sawley Arms where landlady had been charmed (Nigel of course) to open just for our lunch and excellent most found it.

A great start to be back together after nearly a full 12 months of 2nd lock down and thanks were expressed by all for his expert leadership and organisation.



York Rotary · Jul 25, 2021

And we're back....!!

Updated: Jul 29, 2021



After such a long period of enforced separation and isolation , there was a somewhat surreal feeling to seeing all our fellow Rotarians in the flesh ("Hell, I'd forgotten what you looked like from the waist down!!") as we gathered on July 23rd for our first face-to-face meeting at the Novotel since March 2020.



The celebratory air continued as President David completed the formal handover from Kevin, and then welcomed Paul Harvey as our new Vice-President (to be President in 2023-24)





It was also the initiation of a new "hybrid" meeting format as 14 members joined via Zoom, and Mike Hay managed to get all the technology working such that the Zoomers felt very much part of the meeting, and the 45 present "live" saw their smiling faces on the screens around the room.



The meal was fabulous and the staff of the hotel greeted us long lost friends - which they are.

A sense of normality is slowly starting to take hold again.

Watching Hannah's Progress in Tokyo

Updated: Jul 29, 2021

Eileen writes.... Every President of York Rotary has the sometimes unenviable task of asking a special person to be the Guest of Honour at the formal President's Dinner. In March 2017, I invited Ewen Cameron's Granddaughter, Hannah Mills, to be our Guest - and what a special evening it turned out to be. She told an inspiring and riveting story of her sailing triumphs, with her partner Saskia Clark, winning the Silver medal at the London Olympics in 2012 and Gold in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. We were in awe of the hard work, dedication and total concentration required to achieve such heights. Hannah is calm, modest and not perhaps what one would expect of such a successful competitor.



Proud Grandfather Ewen (on left of picture) was a much respected Rotarian, being our Past President 1996, the 1040 District Governor 2002-3 and a Paul Harris Fellow; his pride in Hannah was evident and I was pleased that he and Sylvia joined us at the top table and posed for photographs with the Civic Party. But, so much for history!



Hannah is currently in Tokyo, preparing to defend her title in the Two-handed Women's 470 Sailing Class.

Her experience as a competitor (she is one of the "oldest") and her strong sense of team values led to her being chosen as the flag bearer for Team GB at the Opening Ceremony - an honour she describes as the greatest of her career - and one which would have made Ewen even more proud.

Hannah's new partner is Eilidh McIntyre and they are ready and focused, having endured the longer than usual build-up to the Games. Hannah is described as good under pressure and able to fight back from setbacks; it is hoped that her experience will win through stiff competition, especially from the Dutch and Italian teams. She is determined to get the basics right and maintain mental strength to gain the upper hand, especially in the searing heat and choppy waters of Tokyo Bay.

I have emailed Hannah to wish her GOOD LUCK. Let's hope that experience counts!

Dragon Boats Captains' Briefing

Updated: Jul 30, 2021



It seemed such long time! Although we had a highly successful Virtual Dragon Boat event in 2020, raising over £20,000 for York Hospital Charity, there was bound to be a real buzz when we started up again with the real Dragon Boat Challenge.

And so it was, on July 27th, when the captains and representatives of the 33 teams taking part in the 2021 Challenge gathered at the Novotel for their Briefing about the event.



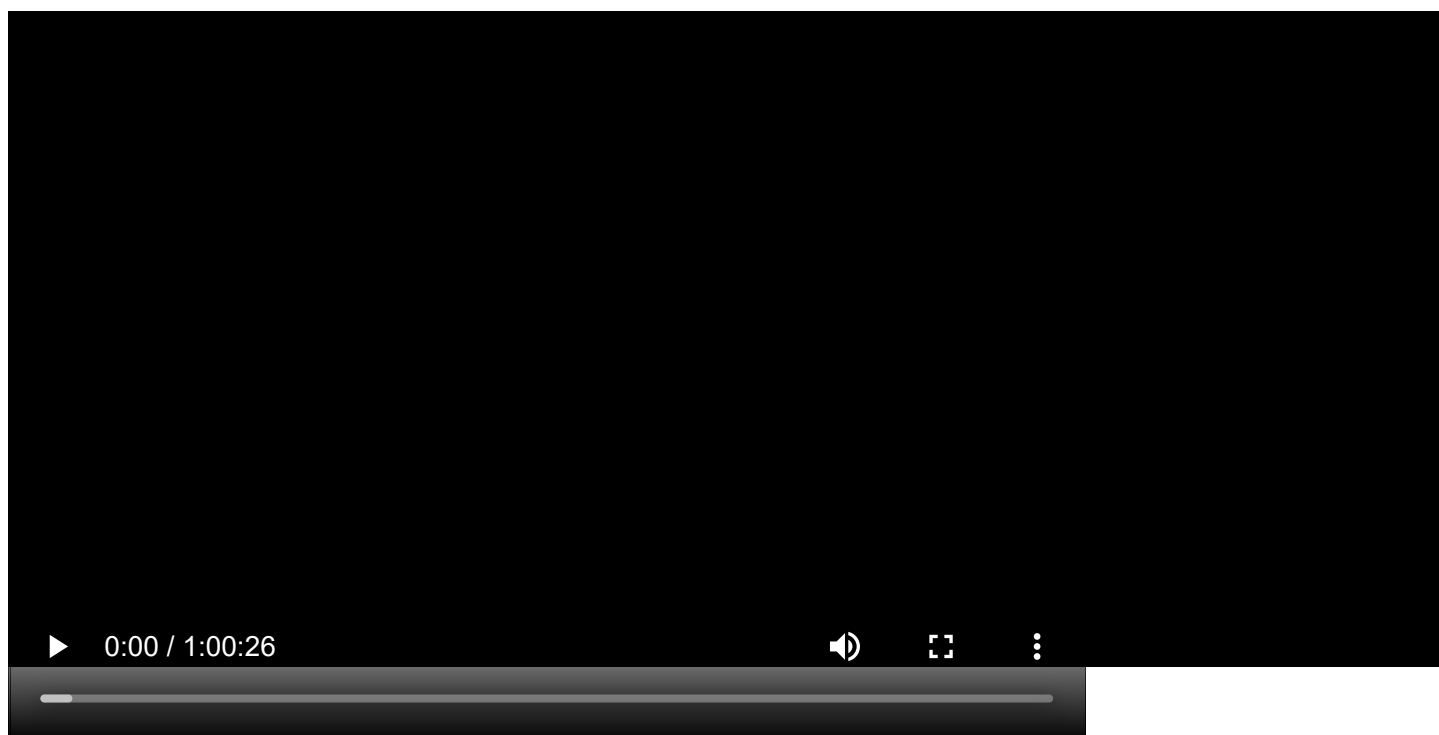
Supported by around 20 Rotarians who are Team Contacts for their particular team, the soon-to-be paddlers heard a professional presentation by new Chair of the Dragon Boat Team Brian Joscelyne, Mike

Sullivan (also new in post as Dragon Boat Treasurer), with Dave Marchant covering the safety and public liability aspects.

We are greatly looking forward to seeing everyone on the river on September 12th for the return of this flagship event in our calendar (and York's calendar) as the teams battle it out whilst raising £000's for this years' nominated charities SASH and The Hut, and their own charities. It will be an epic day - again.

RECORDING

The presentations were recorded via Zoom..... click below to view



The New York Forest!



David Rayner reports...

Cllr Paula Widdowson is a Liberal Democrat member of York City Council and holds the position of Executive Member for Environment & Climate Change, coming to the post with a degree in biochemistry and many years practical experience in aligned industries.

Her talk to the club on July 30th was on the subject of the recently acquired 52 acre site in Napton village which the Council plans to turn into York's new forest – an exciting development of an open-access woodland ultimately offering the people of York access to recreation, sport and education among 50,000 newly planted trees ultimately providing substantial long term carbon capture.



Between Knapton and Rufforth

194 acres / 78 hectares



The site

Paula talked with enthusiasm how, after many years contemplation by the Council, the site – a former farm – had unexpectedly become available, planning consent for change of use obtained and, critically,

Baggage Handlers extraordinaire!

Mike Hay reports...

A merry (well, sort-of) band of York Rotary members, Friends of Rotary, and other acquaintances assembled on a pretty damp Sunday morning on the Knavesmire on August 1st to again look after the “left luggage” for some 3000 runners in the Jane Tomlinson 10K Charity run. Since many of the team involved had assisted on a number of occasions previously, it would be true to say that a “well-drilled team sprang into action”.



I was told that past experience had shown that the key to success was to store the luggage in **strict** numerical order - failure to do this could lead to long queues and unhappy participants.

As the morning progressed and the weather happily improved, the care taken with storage clearly paid off as the runners returned, some looking as fresh as if they had just taken a gentle stroll and others clearly suffering from the (perhaps unaccustomed?) exercise.

In many cases we were able to spot the entry number on the returning runner, and such were our slick handling skills that we managed to have the bag(s) available before the runner actually reached us. Impressive Rotarian efficiency!



So, job well done, £300 for the Club Charity Fund, and very positive feedback from the event organisers. We have been asked if we will be available to help with a similar (but longer) exercise for the full Marathon on October 17th.



A confession: although I have taken over the organisation of the event from Brian Joscelyne (who as you know is now masterminding Dragon Boats), I haven't been involved in the Knavesmire event before; my vague, muttered suggestions during the morning were quite sensibly ignored by most present. I'll know what I'm doing next time; my grateful thanks to all the volunteers for their excellent support, flexibility and expertise!



Tales of Rotary past...

Eileen reports...

Who knew? Well, obviously many of the older Members, but they were reminded and more recent Members entertained by tales from the past on August 6th, when we heard about six events and activities once enjoyed by York Rotary; part of our Centenary talks series.

President David kicked off the session, speaking to the **Pigeon Shooting** fundraiser, a joint activity with RC York Ainsty. 1999 President Jim deLittle had to fend off complaints from the wildlife lobby but Brian Houghton and a team organised for 200+ guns to participate - and quadrupled the £500 target. Some shenanigans were hinted at....!!



During his long membership of the Community Service Committee, Dennis Adamson most enjoyed the hands-on **Blood Pressure Testing** years, in association with the Stroke Association. On April days 2003-13, Rotarians gathered tents, furniture, leaflets, banners, the caravan and personnel at a city centre location and marshalled 5,000+ people who were tested by professionals persuaded to help by Rtns Mike Wilson and David Porter. About 400 were referred on GPs.

Between 1986 and 2002, York Rotary organised **car boot sales**.



Barry Campbell explained how receipts had gone from £370 to £1,400



over the period and how Jim DeLittle was instrumental in getting the goods on sale, collecting, washing, cleaning and pricing the items - and then transporting them with his famous trailer.

These sales gave way for the Dragon Boat Challenge after 2002.



A **vocational visit to York Minster** to see the damage caused by the July 1984 roof fire was recounted by President David who then asked John Lacy to add background. John had been called to Museum Gardens in the lightning storm which almost certainly caused the fire. John and his team transferred quickly to the Minster and helped to remove artefacts and secure the scene. Rotarians were present at one of York's most famous events.

LANDS END TO JOHN O'GROATS ROAD TRIP 1998

The collage features three main images. On the left, two men stand next to a yellow car with '100%' and 'SEAT' branding. In the center, a man in a white jacket leans into the driver's side of the same yellow car. On the right, a small video inset shows Barry Campbell speaking into a red microphone, with 'YORK ROTARY' visible in the bottom left corner of the inset.

Robin Rich related the story of thinking big to plan the **1997 Drive York - Land's End - York - John o' Groats - York**. This fundraiser grew out of the desire to help *Hope and Homes for Children* and founders Col. Mark and Caroline Cook supported the event, as did Kate Adie who spoke at the pre-drive Dinner.



4 drivers - Robin, Vic Brookes, James Conyers and Mike Saville - two on each leg - drove the car in two-hour shifts; various Rotary clubs welcomed them at journey stops along the way.

The whole trip took 2 days and raised over £3,000. Amazing!
Mike Saville

One of Rotary International's great achievements is the **Polio Plus initiative** .



Brian Houghton explained how the 100 or so members of York Rotary 1986-7 responded to the request from RI that every club raise some initial funds. The allocation of £10,500 became £12,000+ once York Rotary grasped the nettle. Some projects were done alone, some with RCs Ainsty & Vikings, but the list of activities was exhausting.

Brian Houghton

Every opportunity was grabbed, including a stall at the York Car Show, a concert in the Minster, promises (including a cartload of manure!) and covenants, a frugal lunch, Sportsmans' Dinner and many more.



Rotarians have always been "People of Action" and enjoyed fun and fellowship whilst helping others. Over the years, the type of activities reflect the context and restrictions, but nothing daunts those who are inventive in generating fresh ideas and determined to persevere once started. Teamwork underpins all that we do. I found a new respect for what has gone before; it was almost too much to take in; any one of the six would make an interesting presentation in itself. We must not lose sight of such creativity, expertise and experience.

Back to the Barbie!



Paul Harvey reports... Meeting fellow Rotarians via Zoom has been better than not meeting at all but nothing is the same as sitting down together at a social event and experiencing that feature of Rotary life which is important to us all – fellowship.

And so on August 7th, a total of 64 Rotarians, partners, friends and family met at Derwent-on-Sutton Village Hall for the annual Club Barbeque - a victim of COVID last year but not so this year now that we are out of lockdown.

Although the option of meeting outside was a possibility, the weather forecast indicated that rain was due during the course of the day and so 8 tables of 8 were arranged inside the hall as socially distanced as possible.

For the golfers and also those who were not golfers but were convinced it would be easy, pitch and putt and chipping were set up outside on the grass.

Barbequed Chicken, Sausages and Steak (with a veggie option for the one vegetarian present) plus copious quantities of salads



were followed by too many deserts with tea / coffee / wine and soft drinks.

No Rotary Barbeque would be completed without a quiz and John Lacy was on form as always (does anyone really believe that an HB pencil can draw a line 35 miles long?) with questions that were almost answerable by everyone.



These events do not happen without the hard work of fellow Rotarians and so grateful thanks are given to Donald, Diana, Hazel, John



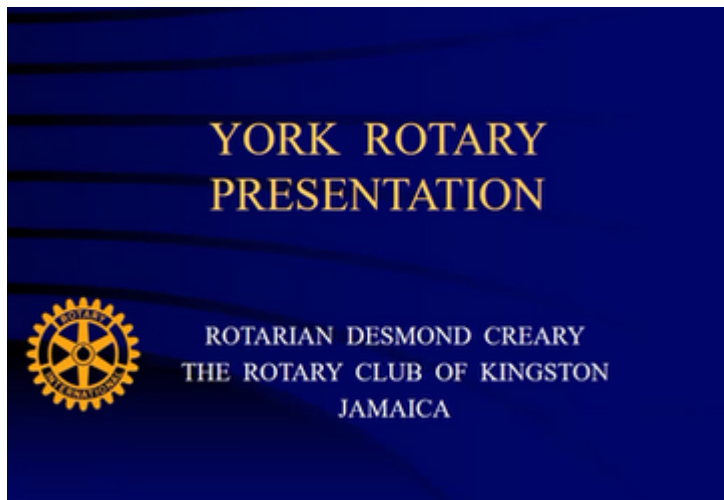
Rotary in Jamaica

Mike Fieldsend reports....

One of the unanticipated outcomes of our enforced time having to meet on zoom, has been the interaction this has brought with many Rotarians from across the world joining our Friday sessions. The most 'faithful' of these has been Desmond Creary from the Rotary Club of

Kingston, Jamaica, who we believe has got up early on at least thirty occasions to join us at lunchtime before settling down to his own breakfast in the Caribbean time zone!

On August 13th Desmond became the first Speaker to give a zoom talk to our new hybrid meeting structure. In addition to those Rotarians at the Novotel he was joined, remotely, by two friends from Erlangen, a member of Montego Bay Rotary Club, and several of our own members who could not be physically present.



Desmond gave a brief introduction to his own background - in glass container production - as well as telling us a bit about Jamaica. He then proceeded to talk about the Rotary Club of Kingston and, in particular, about the major projects each President initiates for his year.

These are all substantial pieces of work and, as part of the process, they have to be sustainable in the long term. The scale of their ambition brought cries of admiration from York!

The RC of Kingston has been in existence for 62 years and currently has a membership of around 70 - down from 120 at its peak. They were the first of the twenty-nine Rotary Clubs in Jamaica and have spawned nine daughter clubs themselves. They actively pursue international relationships and are

The Rotary Club of Kingston

- Club Chartered 18th June 1959 - 62 plus years ago
- Membership now currently just under 70
- In earlier years we were up to 120
- Being the first Rotary Club in Jamaica RCOK sponsored 9 of the 29 Clubs on the Island
- We have 8 Interact and one Rotaract Club
- We have Twin Club Agreements with
(1) White Bear Lake , (2) Naples North
(3) Camrose and (4) Willowdale

have resulted in water services being shut off for periods.

For the last 40 years, RC Kingston has provided a 'Christmas Treat' for 1000 poorer citizens. This was not possible in 2020, but instead items were sourced from the 'wish-lists' of senior citizen's homes. These included such things as washing machines, microwaves, PPE and sanitizing products. They also took gifts to the residents of a local Cheshire Village for people with disabilities.

And, not least, still found the energy to provide 340 meals to feed homeless street people.

twinned with two clubs in the US and another two in Canada.

The onset of COVID meant that the traditional approach to the Presidential Project was no longer feasible. However, not daunted, RC Kingston organised an impressive array of smaller schemes, providing, via a Global Grant, US\$160k, worth of equipment for the baby unit of a children's hospital; sustainable supplies of clean water for kindergarten and primary schools where 10 years of drought

Computer Lab and Covered Walkway



Major and Other Projects 2020-2021

- Homes for the Homeless
- Provision of Water Tanks, Pumps and Pressure Tanks to Early Childhood Development Centers
- Global Grant Project with RC Camrose to supply Equipment to The Bustamante Hospital for Children



To say York Rotary was impressed would be an understatement! President David brought the session to a close, encouraging Desmond to come back on another occasion and tell how they raised the funds for all this splendid work.

Shouksmith Trophy & Thompson Plate refought

Steve B reports.... Competition for these 2 prestige, long standing, Club Golf trophies rejoined at Pike Hills Golf Club on August 19th under the most capable direction of Dennis Adamson and David Impey, with only 7 members in the fray. Tom Jackson and Dennis took the first tee- time fully motorised, followed by David and Stuart Cranidge, Mike Sullivan, Steve Burton and the late arrived Graham Todd, more of whom later, taking up the rear.

The weather, fair but cloudy, saw golf of all standards, with many duffed drives and missed putts, prevalent in the last 3-ball especially.

The golfers, wives and guests, re-gathered at 7pm for an excellent 2 course meal in the clubhouse and were particularly pleased to welcome Carolyn Sweeney and President David and Janet.

The prize giving was introduced by David I. who thanked every one for their attendance, great to see so many people 'in the flesh' once more, regretting though the reduction in golfers now available to take part in these events, where the Shouksmith event only a few years ago having attracted over 20 entrants, now down to 7 today.

Denis took over and explained that The Shouksmith, originally and 'til 2 years ago, being a knock out competition played through the summer months, with the Thompson being a knock out for first round losers. This had had to be revised in 2020 due to the late in season easing of Covid restrictions, with the prizes going to the best and second best scorers on the day, not quiet in the spirit of the first round losers having a second chance at a prize. He advised that Steve had come up with an alterative, 'clear as mud', way of resolving this anomaly, with the best Stableford score of the day winning the Shouksmith, the winner of each of the 3 games then being eliminated and the best of 'first round' losers taking the Thompson Plate.



President David was invited to present the prizes, the winner, being announced by Denis, of Shouksmith Trophy David Impey with an impressive 35 points; he, Dennis and Mike Sullivan then eliminated as first round winners.



The Thompson Plate necessitated a 'count back' to last 9 holes resulting in Graham beating Steve for the Thompson Plate; leaving Steve perplexed as to why his selection method had not favoured him, especially as he had even marked Grahams card.

Congratulations to the winners.

Walking through the birth of Christianity



Graham Todd reports...

A return to Goodmanham was chosen for this month's walk on August 18th. 14 walkers set out in beautiful summer sunshine. Many were not aware that Christianity was to become the religion of choice throughout the north of England when Edwin of Northumbria married the Kentish princess Ethelburga, all recorded by the venerable Bede in 629AD.



Setting off down quiet country lanes we were soon able to join the Hudson Way utilising the bed of the old railway line towards Kiplingcotes. Beautiful fields full of wild flowers were to be seen followed by a field with sheep as big as cows. Turning up towards Arras we joined the Wolds Way. When the walk was reced the evening before two pods of peas were tasted from a 15 acre field. Today the field had been cleared by 11am, unbelievably there was not a pea to be seen!



The views, at this point, back towards the north showed the Wolds in all their majesty. Continuing back, in the direction of Goodmanham, we were treated to rolling meadows with more wild flowers and more sheep.

By this time one or two were wanting to taste the beer at the welcoming Goodmanham Arms, 10 decided to rejoin the Hudson Way back towards Market Weighton and enjoy a shaded level pathway. One mile on we turned

back along the road through the village admiring the new properties that had been completed since our last tour of the area.

The food and beer were as good as ever. We were lucky to be able to sit at tables in the sunshine. The forecast of a dull cloudy day once again confounded. I am sure that we will be back soon to sample beer at £2.90 a pint.



Under 17 Drivers learn Safe Driving Skills

Updated: Aug 25, 2021

Report from Eileen and David....



On August 20th, a group of six visited Tockwith Karting to see one of the Under 17 Car Club's Pathfinder courses. The idea had arisen when the Youth Services Team had learned that there was a course running and wished to see if and how we might be able to lend support. We knew about the Pathfinder Initiative; David McAulay and Vic Brookes are tutors and local leader Ian Goring had spoken at a Friday meeting, but the chance to witness the course in action seemed too good to miss.



Pathfinder is for students aged between 15 to 17 years of age (pre-licence) and the course is accredited and supported by *IAM Roadsmart*. During the one week intensive course the students achieved the essential driving competence, attitude and understanding to become safe drivers when they eventually attain the age of 17 and commence driving on the roads.

As well as learning driving skills, the students also received presentations on road safety from Safer Roads Humber, regarding speed awareness, road safety issues and risks associated with country roads

They attend with a parent or carer in their own car and, after coaching from Advanced Driving Instructors, practice manoeuvres and situations on the course - entering sections by the black cone and exiting by the yellow one! The level of competence was impressive after only 5 days and we all trusted our young drivers who gave us a ride around and demonstrated their skills. Evidence shows that 1 in 20 young people who have undertaken the course are involved in accidents during their first year on the road, compared to 1 in 5 of all novice drivers.



David McAuley was an instructor on the Pathfinder Course all week





Our Rotarian Visitors with Ian Goring

Thank you too to David McAulay and Ian Goring for hosting us.

The next Pathfinder course at Tockwith will be held between 25-29 October. Anyone wishing to visit during this event, or require further information regarding family and friends attending a Pathfinder course, please contact David McAulay, or Vic Brookes.

Playing Bowls and learning the lingo



It turned out to be a perfect evening with warm sunshine (creating a mottled shadow pattern which some of us were able to use as an excuse for some very poor bowling!) and a good turnout of 30 bowlers – Rotarians and partners – who competed in teams of 3 in relaxed style.



The ten teams played 10 “ends” each against each other, and got to grips with the scoring system, aided by the “professionals” from the Railway Institute Bowls Club who knew what they were doing, and gave us encouragement as well as guidance!

Not to mention explaining the bowling fraternity’s unique language... Sometimes fine judgements were needed to determine which “wood” was “holding shot” and closest to the “jack” at each “end” after successful use of the “Bias”! I was told they sometimes use feeler

gauges to determine this.

It was all exhilarating stuff, and the number of arguments between teams could have been counted only one - or perhaps two - hands.

Right - "How many "feet" it it then...?"





Measuring to the millimetre

As the sun set, and backs and thighs started to ache after a period of 18 months lack of use, we all returned to the club house and were joined by half a dozen more "non-playing" members for a delicious steak pie peas and chips supper, followed by even more delicious artic roll, strawberries and cream.



The fellowship and laughter continued, only to be interrupted by Mike announcing the winning teams of our epic encounter. Runners up were John Lacy with Val Revell and Kevin Grogan.



The winners, collecting the bottles of wine, were David Minns, Janine Jackson and Paul Harvey. Well done to them all. *(pictured with Mike Miller and President David who presented the bottles)*

It was a great evening, and our thanks go to the staff and caterers at the Bowling Club for their help and for the wonderful food – and especially to organiser Mike Miller (aided by David Minns) and the YR Social Team for running such a successful event.



Changing Lives - the effects of COVID

Graham Wilford reports...

On August 27th we were very fortunate to have James Ford talk to the Club. James is the Service Manager for Changing Lives – the charity that has the contract with City of York Council to provide services for the homeless and others who are going through extremely difficult times in their lives.

He was York born and has spent the whole of his career in this service sector, initially with Arlight, the charity which formerly had the York contract. The latter established the Arlight Centre in Union Terrace, which he now manages for Changing Lives, along with a second hostel in Walmgate.



Providing services to their clients - many of whom have very complex needs – requires dedication and determination, which clearly James, his staff and their volunteers have in abundance.

Arlight Centre

The focus of James talk was on the effect that Covid had on the services they provide. It was as he said uncharted territory, on how to maintain the services for the 43 residents of the Arlight Centre, the Walmgate Hostel and the many others in the community who rely on the help of Changing Lives.

Whilst he and his staff were classed as key workers, they rapidly found the facilities provided by other organisations which Changing Lives relied upon, were either strictly limited or unavailable from being in lockdown, leading to impromptu arrangements having to be made. One change they had to make - instead of communal dining – which also provides one of the main social interaction opportunities for their clients - it had to be food purchased from outside takeaway sources and then served to their clients in their rooms, adding to the loneliness many were already experiencing.

They were as James described, scary times, for he and his staff knowing so little about how best to deal with the uncertainties of the pandemic, but yet having to look after their clients very basic needs. It was indeed humbling to Rotarians present, to appreciate the willingness of those providing the services, to put themselves at risk in doing so. James very ably answered a wide range of questions, highlighting the difficulties they had encountered but had had to be overcome in providing such a wide range of services to those in desperate need and so keeping to their philosophy of '*changing people's lives*' for the better.



Further information about Changing Lives can be found at www.changing-lives.org.uk/about-us/

COVID's industrial impact: the Simpson experience



Brian Houghton reports... I was delighted to have the opportunity to be speakers host on September 3rd when Mike Jaconelli, HSQE executive at Simpsons York Ltd addressed the members.

It was a pleasure to discuss with Mike the SYL progress through the years over lunch. Having known the business from 1960/70s as Simpsons, a small family builder in Bishopthorpe, taken over by Ken Garland in the 70s. They retained the name for a few

years before Ron Gatenby moved in. He took over the company during the early eighty's and developed it as a major national shop fitter under the SYL banner.

As our speaker pointed out, they are far from being a national shop fitting company now but, they carry out major building projects throughout the British Isles whilst continuing to carry out the shop fit out projects.

The problems created by the Pandemic was the main focus of his talk and the major issues it had caused throughout the industry. With the company working on many major sites throughout the country, the decision was made, following government guidelines, to close the company sites down.

Major issues ensuring site security was maintained throughout and introducing Furlough payments to employed staff were but two of the problems Mike and the company faced. As is the way with the building industry now, a lot of staff were self-employed and used by contractors on a project by project basis. They could not be Furloughed which meant a lot moved out of the industry to maintain an income.



The government decided, very soon after lockdown, that it was necessary to keep the industry working provided, the staff could work safely following the government guidelines. That then created a major logistical problem for the industry to re-open the building sites. Obtaining labour at a time when needed. Getting sub-contractors to be on site to dovetail in with others and on top of all that getting the materials to site to allow the project to progress. A logistics nightmare.



SYL continue to be a leading construction company, training a regular throughput of apprentices through their workshops in Dunnington and on site.

There is no doubt the Pandemic has left it's scars on the industry, lack of tradesmen, materials in short supply, timber prices sky rocketing, at one point 120% increase, although, he said, it has levelled out a bit now.

2021 Dragon Boats was a Challenge

Updated: Sep 21, 2021



This annual event (held on September 12th) is billed as a “Challenge” for the teams that take part. This year, it was also quite a challenge for the organising team!!

The impact of several lockdowns, office closures, home working, isolation and “pinging” was obvious as we received fewer entries for this year compared to previous years. We had one team withdraw, and several were “on the edge”, unable to recruit enough crew members, as the date approached.

But in the end the 31 teams participating all showed up, and very quickly the traditional excitement, fun and competitiveness returned – complimented by a lovely sunny day – so that 2021 will be remembered as a very successful event.

Samaritans team (left)



KYRA team

How successful? The current total raised by the teams stands at £65,000 and may yet go higher, which is a very pleasing result – this will be split between teams' own charity selections, and the rest (1/3) going to our own nominated charities, SASH and The Hut. In addition, over £2,200 was raised in donations on the day, and a further £1000+ between the North Bank Stall fees and Diana's Tea Tent.



(left) Tea Tent



Lord Mayor and Civic Party at VIP

reception

And the success of the racing was clear when we had one of the closest-run 6-boat final in many years – the first 4 boats finishing within 2 seconds of each other. The eventual winner was 2 Signals Regiment, who celebrated with military whoops and shouts - yet seemed unable to open the two bottles of champagne!!



After overcoming several other challenges – COVID restrictions (a mild impact in the end, as it turned out), losing our porta-potty supplier – no joke actually! but we found a new one two weeks before the event; and finding a new caterer for the VIP reception lunch – everything worked to plan with only minor issues on the day.

This year saw several new initiatives in how we organise the event, notably the use of digital technology. No paper was sent out to teams (and no postage costs!) and all sign-ups were via our website. Regular email correspondence kept teams informed of changes and reminded them of tasks they needed to do.

All team sponsorship/fundraising was channelled through Team Pages on Virgin Money-Giving, with no paper forms, no cash and no cheques.

Finally we did not print programmes this year (just simple Race Cards, which were handed out freely)



On board with the York Mix team

As well as new catering and toilet arrangements we also insisted this year that all teams took away their own rubbish afterwards, and we supplied them bin bags for this purpose. This worked like a dream, with a spotless site remaining after they had all gone. Just as well, as the Council had forgotten to supply us with green bins for the day!

We got lots of positive publicity for Rotary and for the event through radio interviews, press stories, website views, Elly Fiorentini's messages and tweets, and a massive coverage (15,000 views) on Twitter, co-ordinated by Rebecca. The "buzz" on social media was amazing with all the teams participating and adding photos and positive messages through the day, and afterwards.

This event only runs this well as a result of the talented group of Rotarians that are the Dragon Boat Team, and my huge thanks go to them for the collaborative and efficient way everyone did their bit, and for the hours they have put in over the past year (and more!)

Bill (from DBEL) and Elly Fiorentini



Finally, thanks to all Rotarians, Friends, Inner Wheel and others who volunteered on the day, raised lots of money, helped keep the event safe and maintained a cheery outlook despite – in many cases – working very long hours.

Lots more photos, and videos of the event (and results) can be seen on the [Dragon Boat web page](#)

Not just a walk - an ode too!

Paul Roberts waxes poetical on the September 15th walk...!



On Wednesday morning ten a.m.
The walkers gathered, eight of them,
At Welburn's Crown and Cushion pub,
Their spirits high, their peckers up.

Then off they strode through field and lea
With chatter, mirth and jollity.
They crossed Cram Beck on plastic boards
In dank Todd Wood, then climbed towards
Fair Hutton Hilltop, where they wheeled
Nor'west o'er ridged and stubbled field.

A path 'tween stalks of wheaten crop
Led swiftly up to Gaterley top.

What better place to take a break
And savour tasty Jaffa cake?

Ahead a view of awe and wonder:
Hawksmoor's mausoleum rotunda.

The feet now tramped on track and road;
Horizons opening shortly showed
Temple, pyramid and Vanbrugh's pile.
Completing just one tarmac'ed mile,
The walkers turned, this time due south,
Regained soft contact with brown earth.

East Moor Banks' green way they took
And crossed by bridge the Moorhouse brook.
A gentle slope led from the shade;
The ramblers op'd a gate and made
Their way along a grassy trail
To journey's end and right good ale.

A toast to chums on this short hike:

Eileen, Nigel, Ros and Mike,

David, Graham and his pal,

A warm salute to one and all!



The business of running a heritage railway

Paul Roberts reports.....

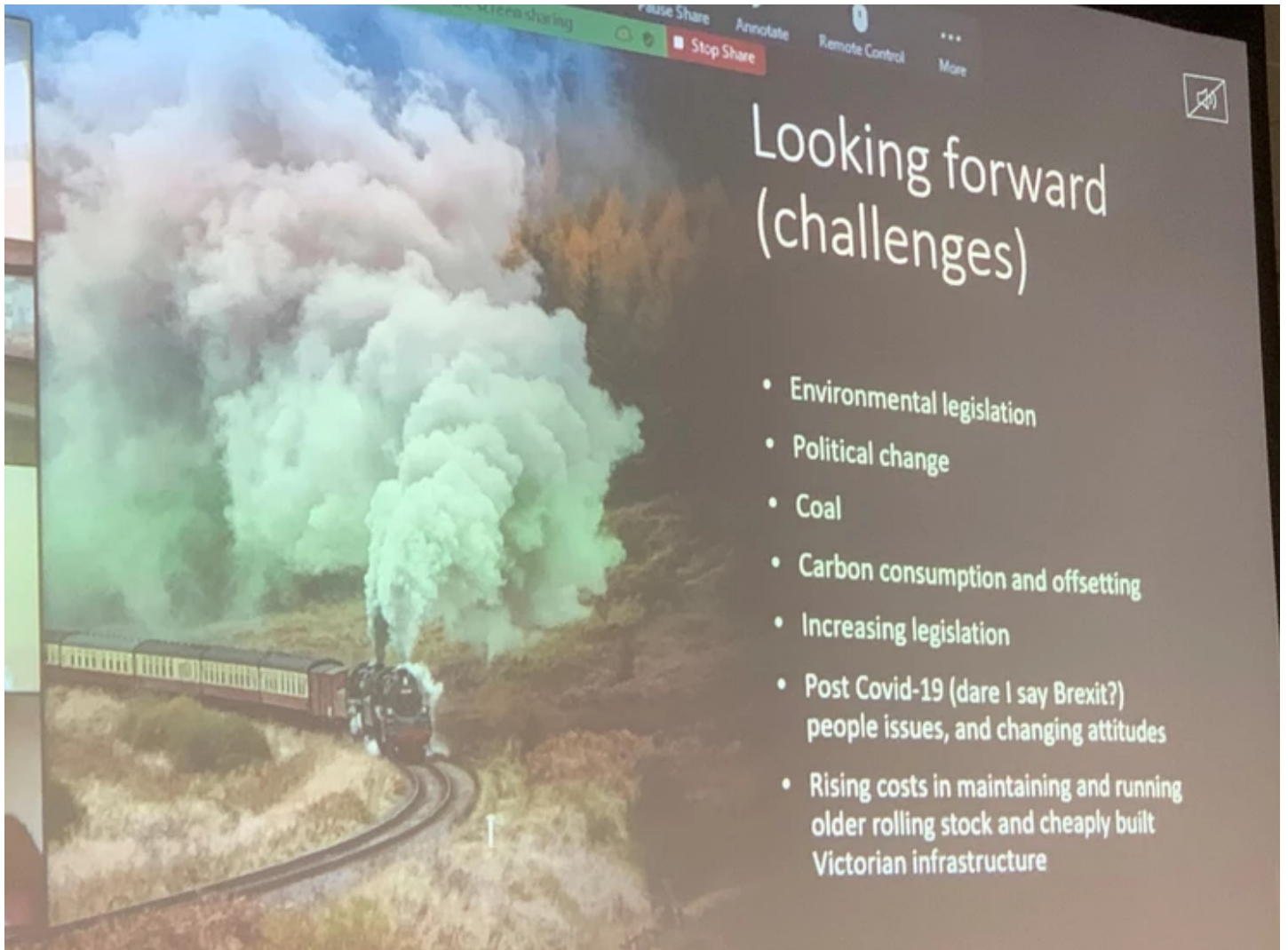


Chris Price was probably known to York Rotarians before he came along to us on 17th September. As one of the constellation of stars featuring in the recent Channel 5 series, where Chris apparently referred to himself as "The Fat Controller", his face had a certain familiarity.

He would have been even more familiar to Donald Heath, unfortunately not with us for the occasion, whom Chris said he had known since the age of fourteen, when he began the railway part of his career in central Wales, on the Talylyn Railway.



Other than a spell in the RAF, Chris has been a railwayman all his working life and came to talk to us about his current work on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway.



The backgrounds to his accompanying slides showed romantic-nostalgic scenes of locomotives shrouded in steam or idyllic summer views of the Moors, with the landscape-enhancing railway in the distance. But the foreground words on each slide, fleshed out by Chris's lively rhetoric, told a no-nonsense, up-to-date tale of adaptation, financial realities and future plans. We were reminded that you can't run a heritage railway on enthusiasm alone, that fares income does not cover running costs (even when the workforce is largely unpaid) and that, paradoxically, you have to keep moving forward in order to preserve the past.



Chris outlined how the railway had just about managed to stay afloat during and following the Covid pandemic and how, in advancing to the future, he had found himself involved in political discussions at both local and national levels.

How do you square the burning of coal with a global effort to eliminate the stuff? How do you ensure that, as a charity, you fulfil your educational and community-oriented aims? How do you use your undoubted clout as part

of the local economy to forge new links, push forward with fresh plans?

With our many individual visits to the railway, and, of course, Channel 5, we may have thought we knew a great deal about the NYMR.

Chris's talk went a lot further than filling in the gaps, leaving us with an idea of the complexities of his job and role and the far-reaching implications and entailments of keeping the railway operating.



Chris Price with "Piglet" on Channel 5

President's Cup Golf



Steve reports...

Eight golfers of varying proficiencies gathered at Fulford Golf Club on September 21st to compete in this prestigious competition and when the complexities of the new Worldwide Handicap system had been unravelled and team photograph taken, battle commenced at 1pm.

Whilst weather superbly sunny throughout, the rounds went on for in excess of 4 hours resulting in some rushing to get home, change and return with wives for the 7pm supper, where we were joined by The Fotheringhams, Helbys, Campbells and Heaths.

Keith Hayton and David Impey went head to head for the winners trophy – a magnificent cup presented by PP David Jesper some years prior. Keith accumulated some 28 points but was narrowly beaten by David with 29.



A pleasant supper partaken with much merriment being heard from all quarters [can 3 tables be quarters?] and this was followed by the prize giving.

A full report of this event, with results and more photos, is available on our Rotary Golf page [here](#)



St Crux fundraiser raises £1280

Updated: Oct 18, 2021

Sheila reports...



We had a very successful day on 22nd September at St Crux Church Hall selling delicious sandwiches, homemade cakes and scones in this lovely building which is all that remains of the original church built in 1888 which was the largest medieval church in York.

When the church was considered unsafe it was demolished and some of the stonework was used to build the existing Church Hall. Some of the monuments from the church, including an early 17th century tomb, were placed inside the hall and the Hall attracts many visitors and locals alike. It is now used by local charities as a fundraising tea room and competition is great to get slots!

There was some apprehension, as this was our return after 2 years because of Covid, and appropriate safety and hygiene procedures had been put in place. We also didn't know if people would come!!!



We had a beautiful unexpectedly sunny day with Rotarians out in force clad in yellow polo shirts and wearing hi viz tabards.

The courtyard came alive with the Rotary branded gazebo balloons and yellow bunting and stalls..... with café tables spilling out into the lovely sunshine.

A steady stream of people explored the stalls and were prompted to pop into the Hall for refreshments. They could choose from the well-stocked book stall selling novels, childrens books and DVD/CD's, move onto the traditional Bric a Brac stall offering a wide variety of goods from toys, houseware, picture frames, soft furnishings et al.



Then onto the Home Produce stall selling homemade jams and chutneys with homemade cakes and scones to take home... finally the Accessories stall selling scarves, hats, handbags, jewellery and small leather goods before ending their search for bargains on the Brand New Gifts with the star buy of the day being a very nice clock fetching £10. We were delighted.

We raised a massive £1280.... Somewhat up on our last visit by £90 from the café and stalls and the volunteers went home rather tired but rather happy with how the day went.

Families enjoy Rotary tree planting "tlc"

Frank reports...

Sunday September 26th saw a Fun Finish to York Environment Week.



Rotarians hosted a community picnic on the site where in 2019 over a thousand trees were planted by the York Rotary Family Tree Planting Partnership to commemorate babies born in York that year.

On Sunday September 26th 2021 over 130 families and friends of some of these babies met on the site and were all very satisfied to see how well the trees had flourished during the lockdown.



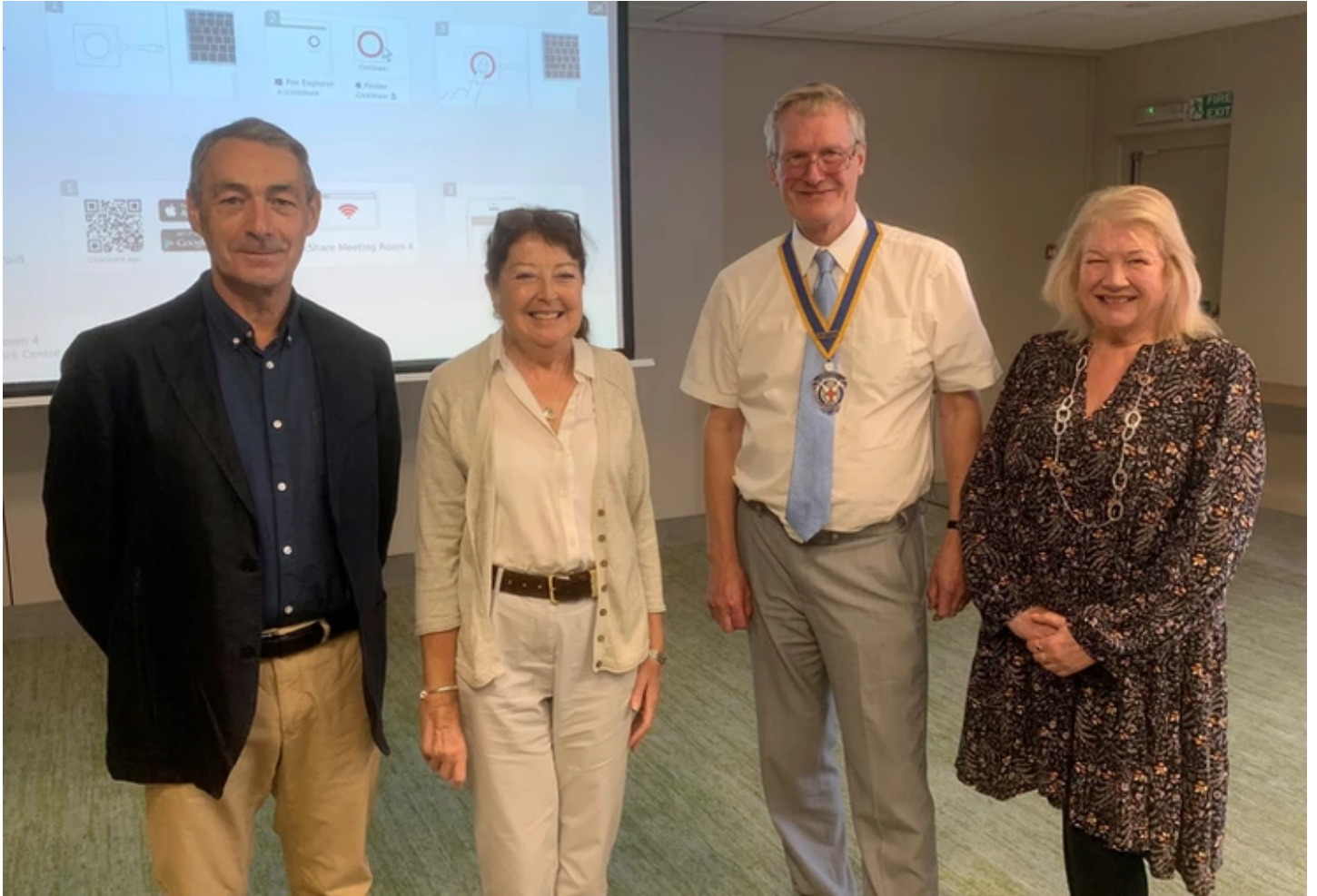
So much so that thirty families volunteered to adopt and name an individual specimen for their own baby and promised, over the coming months, to give some tender loving care to their tree.

A full report, with lots of photos of the families attending, can be seen [here](#)



Welcoming 3 new members

On October 1st we were delighted to welcome three new members to York Rotary.



Steve, Jacquie, President David, and Jane

President David welcomed Jane Albon, who has been an Associate Members during the last year's strange times meeting over Zoom. Jane decided after meeting us all in person that we were not so bad after all, and we are delighted she has become a full Rotarian member. Jane has an extensive background in manufacturing and sales, having run her own international business in the childrens' clothing sector.



Also joining us are a husband and wife team, Steve Magac and Jacquie Dean, who have recently moved back to York. Steve was a member of Bacup Rotary in Lancashire, so transferred his membership to us. His background is in the legal sector, as a solicitor.



Jacque had a career in public housing and local government, including a period as Chief Executive of a London borough council.

She describes herself as being a good organiser, very capable but being a bit bossy.... she will make a perfect Rotarian!

We welcome all three to York Rotary and wish them success as they get involved in our activities and hopefully have fun doing so.

A drive in the Country!

Keith Hayton reports.....

On September 28th, some twenty Rotarians and partners took seventeen guests to a tea party at the Cedar Barn, Pickering. Our guests were collected from their homes across the city and taken on a variety of routes across the countryside to end at the Cedar barn for afternoon tea.

I think all were revelling in the fact that they could get out and meet others after having been restricted for so long. Indeed, the level of noise of the chattering in the restaurant was a fair indication of how much enjoyment was being had by all.

Our guests were provided with an excellent tea, served in a warm and friendly atmosphere, with constant 'top-ups' as needed. Certainly, we were well catered for by the Cedar Barn.

It says much for the pleasure of the afternoon that the very poor weather, so disappointing after the last few weeks, did not seem to diminish the pleasure for our guests.

Many thanks to the Rotarians and their 'chaperones' who gave up their time but, I know, found the afternoon a few hours very well spent.



NHS Care in York - how COVID may shape our future

Mike Wilson reports...



Prof. Mike Holmes, who heads up the Nimbuscare group, spoke to us some time ago addressing the inequalities of health care and outcomes in York and the surrounding areas. On the 1st October his theme was how Covid might shape our future and how the pandemic had already made significant changes locally and globally in the way in which we have met the challenges posed by the pandemic.

Covid is a disease which discriminates on the basis of age, poverty, and ethnicity. In general practice, technology has been harnessed to enable doctors to continue providing a service without spreading the disease and without having to deploy the heroic use of personal protection equipment to the extent used in the hospital setting. The use of telephone, video, zoom, etc., in place of traditional face to face consultations, has been widely used and encouraged when deemed politic to do so but criticised when an increase in attendances at A & E departments has occurred. Staff throughout the NHS have been under intense pressure and the pandemic has highlighted that pressure and the need for additional staff.

How is the retail sector coping?

Graham Todd reports...

Our speaker on October 8th was Howard Saycell, Chief Executive of the retail body **Retra**, updating us on the retail industry's view of the impact of Covid.

Members may remember that when Howard talked to us last year he was fairly pessimistic about the whole situation. Whilst more optimistic a year on he was still sanguine in his thoughts. These thoughts were mainly based from discussions he has had on the Board of the British Retail Consortium. The members that Howard represents had not suffered in the same way that high street clothing retailers and the hospitality industry as a whole.

He went on to other current issues. The fuel crisis, CO2 shortages, panic buying etc. It is clear that the government are now blaming everyone but themselves for the current issues. Boris is quoted as saying at the Conservative Party conference that "the economy has been mainlining on cheap foreign labour". A lot of the food retailers are very concerned about the supply chain and believe if nothing changes soon then we will have big problems between now and Christmas.



Another topic covered was what happens at the end of March when the debt enforcement moratorium comes to an end. On Business Rates there is little change. The case has been well made that retail pays too much and we await an announcement in the budget. There are currently consultations across various government departments on new digital markets competition regulations, misleading green credential claims, international data transfers and many more.

Coping with a soggy railway

Updated: Oct 30, 2021

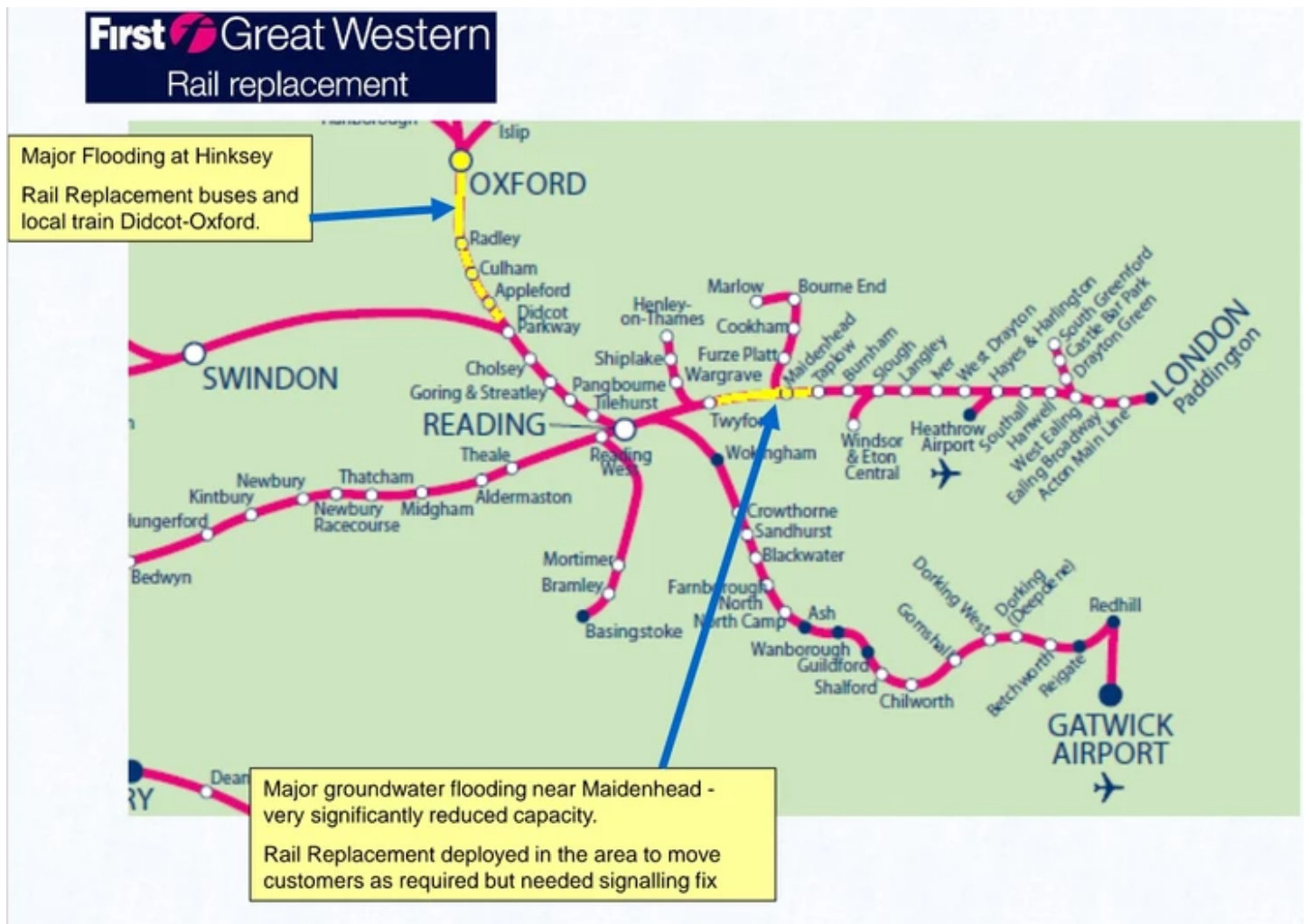
Frank reports...



Standing in on October 15th at very late notice, Mike Hogg gave us a graphic account of the impact on rail services from the severe flooding in 2014 when he was Operations Director of Great Western Railways.



Storms had washed away part of the railway at Dawlish effectively cutting off Cornwall from the national network.



He outlined the emergency arrangements implemented within 24 hours which culminated in over 160 buses providing replacement rail services. Eight high speed train units were trapped in Cornwall and 102 rail vehicles had to be transferred by road on low loaders to Bristol to operate the significantly revised timetables.

Restoration of the sea wall and track at Dawlish was achieved in two months. At the same time severe flooding also affected other parts of the GWR system including the Somerset Levels, Oxford and Maidenhead and preventative measures are still being implemented.

He paid tribute to the way the employees of all the organisations involved worked together to minimise the disruption to travellers.



Running the Marathon - Baggage Store

Mike Hay reports...



Like the 10K, this is always a most satisfying event to support, for at least two reasons. Firstly because of the appreciative comments of the runners, who are always very positive with their thanks, and secondly because of the satisfaction in storing the baggage systematically and (most importantly!) being able to find the relevant item quickly before passing it back to a usually very tired participant. This time was no exception, and the teams worked very well and very hard to provide what we feel was a first-class service.

Having to be on site at York University on October 17th at Heslington by 7.00am on a wet October morning was, perhaps, a downside, especially when some of us found it rather hard to find our allocated car park in the total darkness prevailing at that point, but that was overcome, and “a well-drilled team sprang into action”. Well, “sprang” is perhaps over-stating it – the day is inevitably a mixture of frantic activity and “hanging about”.

Nothing much happens until about 7.45am, after which a trickle of luggage begins, becoming a steady stream and finally a deluge around 9.15am. By 9.30 all is quiet, but there is then the task of storing the luggage that we didn't have time to deal with (a lot of it!), then carefully checking the order of the items,



rearranging as necessary, then making sure all the numbered labels are visible.

There is then a long lull, since the first returning runner doesn't appear until well after 12 noon. The "morning shift" remain until at least 1.00pm, to help with returning the baggage and also to reassure ourselves that our luggage arrangement is robust.

At that point, if not earlier, the "afternoon shift" arrive to take over, with total faith (perhaps) that the morning lot have done their job well. I wasn't there in the afternoon, but I'm told that, apart from a couple of misplaced items, all was well. By about 5.00pm all is done and everyone goes home with a warm glow of satisfaction and probably the intention of a warm glow of something more concrete once in the house!

It would be nice to be able to devise a shift system which reduced the amount of inactive time, but on the other hand it does give us time to have fellowship with each other while carrying out a worthwhile task - which is surely what Rotary is about. Well done, everyone, and thanks!



North York Moors walk

Graham Wilford reports...

October 20th's club walk of 5.6 miles took in the villages of Appleton le Moors, Spaunton and Lastingham, three pretty villages in the tabular hills of the North York Moors, all quite different in character, but all occupied by moorland sheep grazing freely through the villages.



Starting at Appleton le Moors, where the original village well head had been converted into an elegant war memorial, the green lane tracks provided a pleasant route to Spaunton.

En route there was an interesting view of part of the former Spaunton quarry – the source of limestone road stone until 20 or so years ago.



The sheer rock face forming the edge of the large quarried area, indicated the size and extent of the former quarrying operation. The future use of the abandoned quarry, is the subject of contested planning applications to the North York Moors Planning Authority for use in part as a caravan and holiday home site. In the meantime it is providing practice grounds for motor bike scrambling. Walking through the short and very quiet village of Spaunton, there was not a soul to be seen – no pub, no church, the only communal facilities are a Victorian post box and a good old fashioned phone box now boasting a 21st century defibrillator!

The well preserved pinfold for keeping stray animals gives a nod to the village's past. It is the highest and smallest of the three villages and yet it gives its name to the local Court Leet – one of the few surviving manorial courts, the majority having been culled in 1997. It is a little known part of the English Criminal Court system for dealing with local offences. It fiercely safeguards the surrounding common land against

encroachment and to this day meets annually in October and fines those who fall foul of the common land restrictions.

The Moors Inn proved to be a prosperous and welcoming country pub for the six of us to enjoy their excellent food and hospitality.



Requiem for a Rotary Caravan!



Photo courtesy of Chris Shepherd

The story of the York Rotary Caravan was told with some style at our meeting on October 22nd. Here are the highlights, including a video of the slideshow presented!

The Club's Caravan – 2003-21 by Graham Wilford

When it was suggested that it would be useful to have a Rotary 'Base' at the forthcoming Dragon Boat Challenge, the then President Elect Robin Rich was quick off the mark and found the Club a second-hand caravan which, although 18 years old was in good condition, and which the Club bought for £300.

It did faithful service at each of the Dragon Boat Challenges, was used at many of the Club's Blood Pressure Testing Days and various other Club occasions.

It was stored in one of Rotarian Peter Fox's barns at Dunnington.

By 2021, it was considered to have reached the end of its life and with Peter Fox's death, its 'home' was no longer available. After its final outing to the 2021 Dragon Boat Challenge, it was taken by the President David Fotheringham to a scrap yard.

During its time, it had served the Club well, had been the butt of much humour, but Club Members were sad to see it go. John Lacy gave a touching lament (see below) to the caravan's passing at the Club Lunch on 22nd Oct 2021 followed by a Powerpoint presentation - ..the best bits - made to record its 'membership' of the Club.

Gone but not forgotten

Rotarian John Lacy's lament to the Rotary caravan...

"It is with great sadness we report the loss of one of our clubs longest standing members who over many years has given a long and distinguished service to the York Rotary Club.

If I understand it correctly this member was introduced and brought along to the club over 20 years ago by Rotarian Robin Rich.

From the very early years this member played an active role in the blood testing initiative and according to our records never missed a Dragon Boat event. Despite not being in the best of health was there this year standing proud as ever promoting rotary.

I first met this member along with Frank Paterson in 2005 when as the Licensing manager for the City Council I found them standing in St Sampson's Square selling programmes with out permission.

This member was very close to the late Peter Fox and over the years has been very attached to many club members including our current president David.

The family asked at this sad time and taking into account Covid a private service of remembrance. On the clubs behalf President David and I attend a short service at Murton.

Fellow members we report the loss of Rotarian caravan.

In true strictly come dancing tradition here are Rotarian caravans best bits....."

Strictly the best bits!

▶ 0:00 / 1:19



Vaccination Volunteers are Heroes



The Vaccination Volunteers, which include several York Rotarians in their number, have just won the YorkMix Hero Awards 2021 against some stiff opposition. They won in the "People's Choice" category, at a glittering event held at the Principal Hotel, York.

See the award announcement and hear Prof. Mike Holmes's reaction on this video...

YorkMix Hero Awards 2021



As at mid-October, 400,000 vaccinations have been carried out. Very busy shifts with cars arriving non-stop and the very elderly needing a lot of support with wheelchairs etc.

One of the volunteers cooked hotdogs and pancakes in the Nursery building for everyone on Saturday.



A Farewell to Erin

On October 22nd we said our goodbyes to Erin Hartman, the international post-grad student that several of our members have been "looking after" during her past year in York.



Erin hails from New Jersey, USA and is affiliated with the Rotary Club of Medford-Vincetown NJ. She was studying at the University of York under a Marshall Scholarship, doing a Masters in International and Human Rights.

Her initiation into York last September took the form of 2 weeks quarantining at the Roomzz Hotel, due to the pandemic. But Eileen, Rebecca, Jan and others soon made her feel welcome in our city, and Erin is now going to stay a further two years study in the UK, and is moving to London shortly. We wish her every success - it has been a pleasure to get to know her, albeit briefly!

The Rotary Club of Medford-Vincetown, who provided a further scholarship to Erin, made a video message of greeting to us at York Rotary; in return **we have put together our own "greetings" video - also featuring Erin - which can be viewed below.....**

First Bus, Covid, and Climate Change

Updated: Nov 7, 2021

Russ reports...

On October 29th John Birtwistle, Head of Policy for First Bus, gave a passionate speech about how Covid had affected bus travel and then continued to detail how First Bus are addressing climate change. First Bus operate some 5000 vehicles in UK, including a fleet of 103 in York (33 electric), the purple and violet single and double deckers which operate most town services, the green and white electric vehicles and the silver bendy-bus park and ride services.

York Electric Double-deckers



Covid had a massive effect on bus usage, with many commuters and school children not travelling and people being positively encouraged not to use buses, and to get the car out. Whilst having to maintain full service schedules for essential workers, but with only a fraction, ten per cent, of the income from fares, the financial strain during the lockdowns was severe.

Since 'freedom day' in July, bus travel has recovered to some 70% of its pre-Covid levels, with leisure travel recovering fully. Special measures such as inserting little blocks to prevent passengers closing windows completely, and deep cleaning of vehicles has hopefully reduced Covid transmission, but the biggest single preventative measure, mask-wearing, is unenforceable. One positive is the use of passes and card-swipe technology so very few fares are now paid in cash, a time consuming process, which Covid has helped to eliminate.

Government funding has helped and a Bus Services Improvement Plan is about to be agreed with local authorities, leading to an enhanced partnership to improve services over the next five years. New

ticketing systems, 'apps' so people can find out how full a bus is, and predictive occupancy from past bus usage all being researched.

Moving on to climate changes, John described the various options open for adopting electric vehicles. Battery buses are fine for short urban services where the vehicle travels fewer than 200 miles on a shift, but for inter-urban routes, range is insufficient. Short bursts of recharging, around fifteen minutes, such as the pantograph system in Harrogate bus station allow a top-up, but development of battery technology to avert range-anxiety will be the only way to allow widespread adoption of battery powered vehicles. 2035 is the target for complete zero-emission buses, and First plan to buy no diesel vehicles after 2022. The national grid also insufficient to support all-electric at present, especially if home heating converts from gas to heat-pumps (which use electricity). The way to go is hydrogen.



John with Russ Rollings (l) and President David

There have been a few experiments in London using hydrogen, but the first extensive use of hydrogen is in Aberdeen where First Bus (whose HQ is in the city) is trialling fifteen hydrogen double-deckers.

Costing at least double that of a similar diesel-powered vehicle, it is a high investment strategy, especially as separate depot facilities, hydrogen storage, refuelling and servicing premises need to be built.

Hydrogen and diesel vehicles do not mix safely in the same workshop. Road space is still a problem even if many people go to electric cars. Why not invest in excellent public transport?



Russ

with one of the 15 Aberdeen hydrogen buses, introduced in 2021

John's talk stimulated a range of questions from how bus services could be improved for rural areas, why electric buses were still noisy (the diesel engine had previously masked other noises such as rattling internal Perspex panels) to why use of Royal Mail buses couldn't be extended. Sadly the last Scottish mailbus had just been withdrawn, since with the driver popping out to make deliveries, protracted journey times were no longer acceptable.

Thanking John for a speech with a very powerful message, probably made even more direct without the distraction of PowerPoint, it was noted that York could 'hold its head high' having operated buses with zero emissions at-point-of-use, on and off, for over a century.....



York battery bus recharging at Clifton Green "Electric Vehicle Charging Station" in 1915. These operated from 1915 to about 1920.



York tram approaching Lendal Bridge, pursued by its nemesis, a diesel bus. Electric trams took over from horses in 1910 and the last York tram ran in November 1935.



York trolley bus in East Parade, Heworth in 1931. Trolleybuses worked from 1920 and were withdrawn in 1929, reintroduced in 1931, closing for good in January 1935.

A (Quiz) evening meeting with a difference

Updated: Dec 22, 2021

We held our first evening meeting on the November 4th, as a trial of this format. The meeting was well attended by 52 comprising a mix of members, partners and guests. The Novotel provided an excellent buffet which was appreciated by all.

The event was a fun quiz, a photographic one and based mainly around York. There were two sections, one organised by John Lacy and the other by President David.

John's section comprised eight historic photographs of York, participants had to guess where the photographs were taken, but also and more importantly the dates on which the photographs were taken. At the end of this section the years were added up with the idea that the winning team was the one that got nearest to the total of 15.637. One team remarkably got the correct total, even though they did not get all the correct answers!

One of the photographs (Illustrated) caused the most difficulty in terms of dating and locating the photograph,

a comparison of the original and current photograph (below) gives a clue!





The sociable atmosphere of the occasion was excellent. What was also noticeable was that after the meeting everyone stayed to socialise for longer than they normally would after a Friday Rotary meeting.

Visit to York Hand Made Brick Company Ltd

Updated: Nov 12, 2021

Nigel Naish reports....

On November 3rd fourteen members visited this brick factory near Easingwold.



The company was previously *Alne Brickwork Co.* when it was bought in 1988 by David Armitage, and is located in Forest Lane, Alne. It was also formerly a pipeworks with excellent clay resources on site which had been utilised for brick-making since the 1930s. The new company applied for an extension to its quarrying area and in 1998, a 25-year operation started that would yield over 500,000 tonnes of clay from the land surrounding the works.

Pictured talking to our group in their reception area, David, the fifth generation of the Armitage brick making family, welcomed the group and gave a brief introduction before handing over to his colleague Denis Throup who took us round the factory explaining how the clay is all mined from within the 30 acre site, to a depth of 50 feet.

The clay is then processed, mulched, squeezed and pummelled by a variety of machines. Sand is added, giving the required colour, then conveyor belts take it on to the point where it is moulded by hand; then to a drying plant to extract most of the water, and finally to be baked in kilns.







The tour ended with a look at the huge stacks of many different coloured bricks of all shapes and sizes.





We were full of admiration at what the company has achieved and how it has plans to expand production in the near future. The state of our footwear bore goeey evidence of our slip-sliding encounter with the raw materials, and had to be wiped clean as we drove off to lunch at The Blue Bell in Alne.



Additional bits and pieces.....

Press article about Denis Throup's retirement...



Denis Throup, one of York Handmade Brick Company's longest-serving employees, pictured here with David Armitage, the firm's chairman

Denis bows out after 32 years at brick-makers

A MAN who has spent more than half his life working for a well-known firm is retiring.

Denis Throup, 65, has spent half his life at brick manufacturing company York Handmade Brick who are based at Alne, near Easingwold.

He joined as a general labourer in 1989, just one year after the company

formed.

Denis, who is originally from Husthwaite but now lives in Haxby, near York, said: "This was a new departure for me at the time.

"I had spent the first part of my working life as a gamekeeper, first in Yorkshire and then in Scotland.

"But when the opportunity came up

to join a new and exciting brick-making company close to home, it was too good to miss. Little did I know that I would spend the next 32 years here. And I have enjoyed every minute."

In 1994 Denis became York Handmade's first-ever quality manager, a crucial role which was

later expanded to include Health and Safety Management.

David Armitage, founder and chairman of York Handmade, said: "Denis has carried out his duties and responsibilities in the most exemplary fashion and has been the most loyal and hard-working of employees."

Wikipedia has the following information:

Besides having its bricks used in buildings such as The Shard and London Bridge railway station, the company's London Yellow bricks are also used for housebuilding in the Greater London area, which saw York Handmade

produce over 130,000 bricks for this market. A contract in 2010 to supply 400,000 bricks for Chetham's School of Music was valued at over £500,000.

The company have also supplied bricks for repairing bridges over the River Swale in North Yorkshire, larger bricks to repair the city walls of Rostok in Germany and they have also been exported to America and Japan. One of their most expensive brick creations was for the One Molyneux Street housing complex in Marylebone in London. Each brick cost £793, with 116,000 being used in the construction. According to one property journalist, the bricks are the second most expensive ever created.

In 2014, the company was asked to supply 47,000 bricks for a restoration project at Dumfries House in Ayrshire. The bricks themselves resembled the ones used at Hampton Court Palace and were designed by Prince Charles.

Stylish Finish To 2021 Dragon Boats

Updated: Nov 18, 2021

Brian J reports...



The traditional “finish” to our Dragon Boat Challenge event is the formal presentation of the trophies and certificates, and it was a great feeling to be doing this again after last year’s “hiatus”.

Over 60 people attended the event on November 10th at the Mansion House, generously hosted by the Lord Mayor of York and his Consort. Also present was the Sheriff, Ashley Mason and his consort.

Representatives from 20 of the competing teams were there to see the 2021 Challenge Trophy received by 2 Signal Regiment, represented by Robert Hitchmough and Ryan Barker.

(pictured left)



The Lord Mayor, Rev Cllr Chris Cullwick, also presented trophies to A B Graphic International, Merchant Taylors, HQ1(UK) Division and Family Fund, the latter picking up the popular “Tailenders Trophy” as the slowest team on the river!

Jon Bell and Jim Loft (A B Graphics) - right

Peter Moody and Jo Wright (Merchant Taylors)

President David was delighted to present a certificate (and donation to their charity) to the Merchant Adventurers team, represented by Alastair Barron and Jim Richardson, who despite this being their first year in the event, topped the fundraising charts having raised over £6,000 in sponsorship – a fantastic achievement. Several other teams were noted as having raised £2,500 or over, a tremendous effort by all.



Jim Richardson (l) and Alastair Barron (3rd from left) from Merchant Adventurers

The “Best Dressed” award was then presented to York in Recovery whose team (York in Rowcovery) had dressed as bees on the day. Mark Green and Hope Matthews were visibly delighted to collect their trophy.



As well as the trophy winners, we had representatives from this year's Rotary Nominated Charities, namely SASH and The Hut. Each received a cheque for £11,000, the initial payment of their share of the sponsorship money raised by all the teams.

left: Catherine Porter and Emma Little (The Hut)

In total, this year's event will raise over **£74,000** for local charities, with 27 charities – nominated by the teams taking part – benefitting.



Jo Stevens and Linsey Trower

(SASH)

Considering the difficulties of running the event this year, particularly the impact of COVID on the teams' ability to gather teams together and the communication challenges, plus the delay from July to September, we are delighted with such a successful result.

The gathering was also the opportunity to announce the Rotary Nominated Charities for the 2022 event, taking place on Sunday July 10th.



Prof Colin Garner and Vicki Joughin

These are Antibiotic Research UK – a very topical subject for which this York-based charity supports Antibiotic Resistance research funding and promotes public awareness - and Accessible Arts and Media, who provide sensory and musical experience for the disabled, with amazing positive results and benefits.

We heard a brief summary of the work of these charities from Professor Colin Garner, who founded Antibiotic Research, and from Kirsty Halliday from AA&M.



Kirsty, Lewis, Kirstie and Rose from

AA&M

The positive and fun atmosphere of the evening was greatly enhanced by a wonderful buffet spread prepared by Hazel Hart, with assistance from her niece. Many thanks to them for the work they put in to make this happen.



Our thanks also to the Civic Party, who have been fully engaged with this year's Dragon Boats event at all stages, for their support and their generosity in providing the Mansion House location for this great

evening.

And thanks to all the Dragon Boat team members who helped make the evening run so smoothly!





"We Cannot Change History"

Eileen and Janet report...

HerStory : 100 York Women.

On November 12th, our Speaker was Kate Hignett. In 2018, inspired by the centenary of SOME women getting the vote, Kate, a Legal Aid Lawyer living in York, had the idea to hold a York Women's Conference focussing on the progress towards gender equality. She also suggested a community history project to research and celebrate "invisible women" of this city. So, Herstory was born.

This local history project had sought to identify and learn about York's women "changemakers", the main aim being "making invisible women visible". Research had proved quite tricky, but the group's full results can be found at <https://www.herstoryyork.org.uk>



RESEARCH PROJECT

- Identify 100 Women
- Active between 1918-2018
- Effected change in York
- Challenged the 'status quo'
- Story untold or not sufficiently told
- If we don't learn and understand more about what women did in the past, and why, many of their contributions and achievements will remain invisible.

Janet Morley, one of the first two women to join York Rotary in 2006 and Eileen Davis, it's first female President in 2016-17, had been almost overwhelmed when reading about the 100 in order to identify just 3 to be featured by Kate in her talk.

• **Maud Sellars 1861-1939** was the first female member of the Merchant Adventurers in 400 years. Having secured funds for the restoration of the Hall and written an authoritative history on the Company and Hall, she became a Member of the Company of Merchant Adventurers in 1913 and its Honorary Curator and Archivist in 1918. Maud must have had a formidable intellect and great determination.

• **Mary Hughes 1886-1953** was the Co-Founder of the York Refugee Committee in 1938. She was a Quaker and had a keen interest in people and events beyond York. In particular, she sought to offer help to Jews and other political refugees escaping occupied Europe. She was involved in fundraising, setting up employment bureaux and sports clubs for the refugees – and was often frustrated by inaction on the part of others.

• **Dolly Cooper 1921-2012** came from a humble background; she was bright and determined. She worked in the wages section at Rowntrees at the start of her career but qualified as a teacher in the early 1960s. An active member of the Labour Party, she had first-hand involvement with many community organisations; she was Lady Mayoress and Sheriff of York and served on the North Yorkshire Education Committee.

Telling HER Stories

- On our website herstoryyork.org.uk
- Through exhibitions and events since 2018
- In a theatre production by University of York Film and Television Department
- In media coverage e.g. York Press, BBC Radio York
- From 2021, a partnership with York Museums Trust
- In 2022 – an Exhibition at the Castle Museum

The project and presentation challenged assumptions about women's contributions and why their stories were not widely acknowledged. It is uncomfortable to realise that so many went unsung, yet we should take pride in their accomplishments.

Many try to judge the past from the perspectives of today, but this project is an interesting way to promote attitudinal change around equality and to recognise the contributions of half of the population.

Why are there so few women mentioned in history books?

- Not important enough? lack of status (voting), power, money
- They were having children and looking after them/the home
- Lack of education, girls often poorly educated compared to their brothers. Women barred from the professions, careers.
- Patriarchal attitudes, sanctioned by law, religion and custom
- Language, men/man used as the default for people/person
- 'Unconscious' bias, assumptions, expectations
- Some were 'erased'. Men took the credit (Curie, Bell)
- Gender stereotypes 'girls can't do that'

The Humble Kit Kat Story

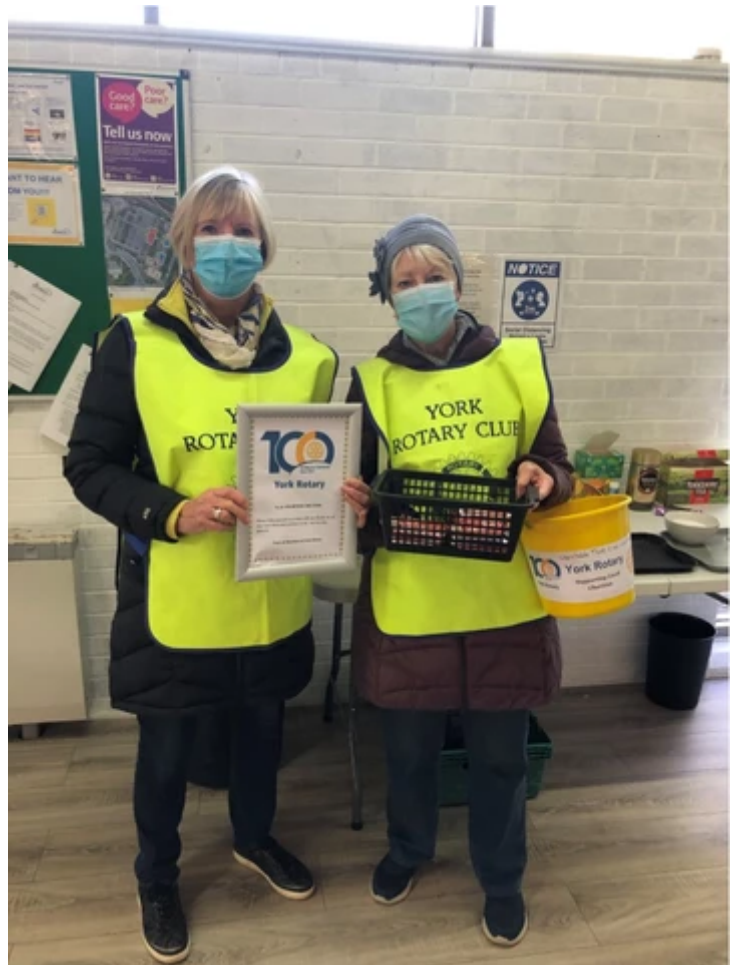
Sheila reports..

Since early November we have been distributing Kitkats at the Vaccination Hub as a small *thank you* and treat to as many Volunteers and Staff at the Hub as we can by hand. We were advised by the Volunteer Coordinator, Hannah Linaker, on their busiest days and times and have tweaked that as vaccine demand has waxed and waned. Sunday is their busiest day and we have been able to do a 'Kitkat Drop' each Sunday during November plus weekdays.

So who are the Volunteers helping the Volunteers.....

We are a small (but beautifully formed group – you may disagree!) of 4 Rotarians who all live very near to the Hub. The distribution is mainly in the open air and we wrap up warm, topped by Rotary tabards so we stand out. We get a very small taste of what it's like to be outside on a rotten day and it's fair to say that we have even more respect for all those Volunteers who do 4 hour shifts in all weathers.

As we are not allowed in the Clinical areas, we leave what Kitkats remain in the café/rest area for staff -Parking Marshalls, Office staff and Clinical staff with a sign saying who they are from.



At first people thought we were collecting but were delighted to receive such an unexpected small treat – we have had some fantastic greetings and smiles of surprise and delight and we soon became known as the **Rotary Kitkats** (whoever knew Rotary Buckets would come in so handy!). We are now allowed to use the service road between the new Askham Bar Park & Ride and the Vaccination Hub on the old Park and Ride site and our arrival is announced by Walkie Talkie!!!! Feels rather famous for such a small thing but these small treats go down an absolute storm.

So where did the Kitkats come from?Nestle kindly donated 360 then Tesco 105 and we have recently purchased another 105 with Members donations remaining from the earlier successful RaVE initiative.

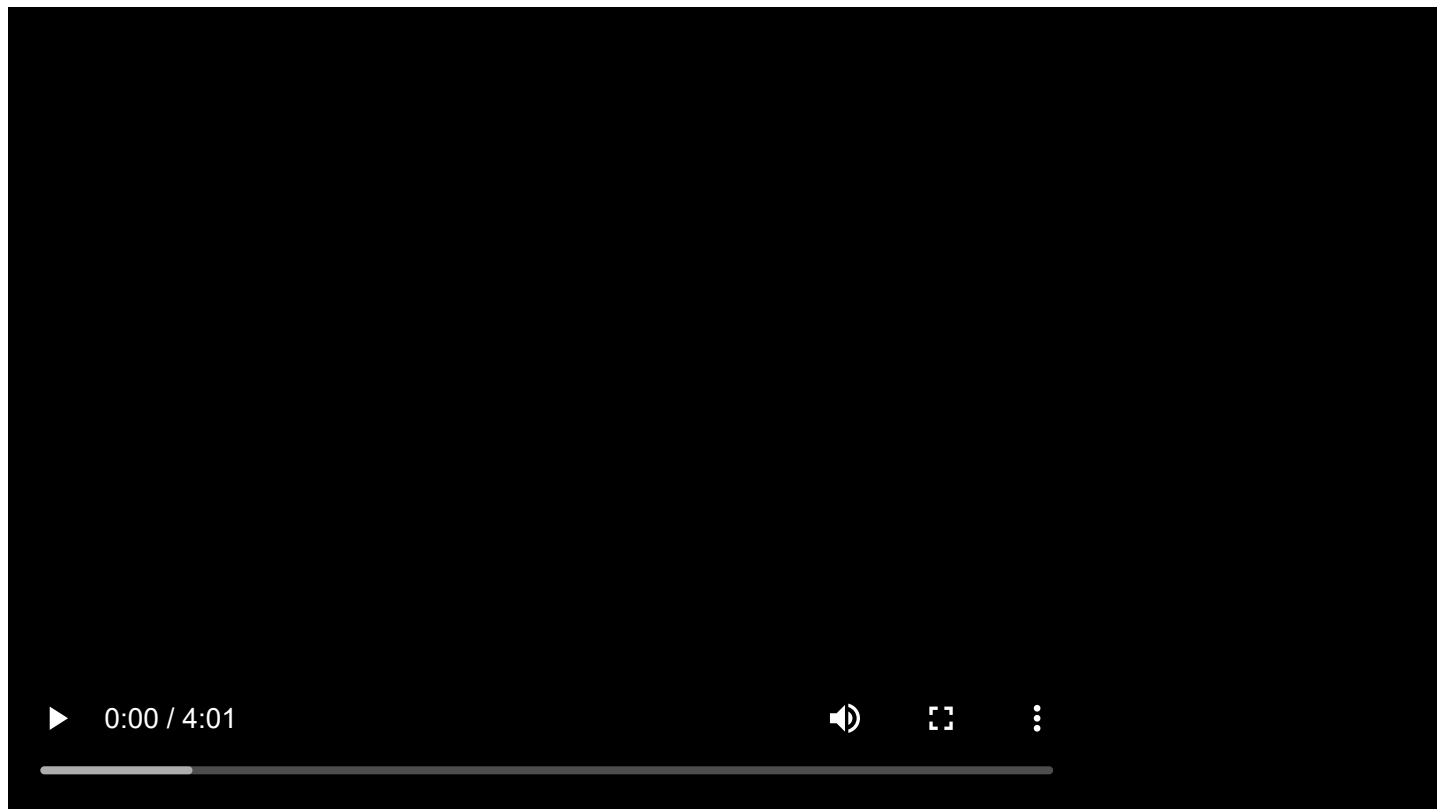
In all we will have delivered some 570 of these 'wee treats' between 3rd November and 5th December which is what we hoped to be able to do.



An ABBA-solutely memorable Centenary Dinner

Updated: Nov 28, 2021

President David reports on the November 19th event...



Compilation video ***There are lots more photos and videos on our Centenary page [here](#)***

In 2018 the Centenary team presented the plans for the centenary to the club and those included the Centenary Celebration dinner with Abba Revival. At the time this caused great debate amongst members regarding the choice of event, the cost of the event and ticket sales and also dress code. A decision was made to proceed and then the event that should have taken place in May this year had to be deferred due to lockdown.

The Centenary team have worked very hard with the event planning and that included a lot of debate about the implications of Covid on the event. Ticket sales were launched in June via the website, and within about four weeks the event was sold out, that was a fantastic first step and meant that the event finances were secure. We did not need to undertake a large public promotion of the event, which we thought might be necessary.

The Racecourse is always a fantastic venue and we wanted to make it look its best. Mary Lumley took charge of the room decorations and organised fantastic balloon decorations, a colour scheme for table linen and chocolate presentation boxes. Brian Joscelyne designed and organised the printing of a very attractive menu card. The combined effect of these really set off the room.



Added to the complexity a number of balloon decorations had to be moved from 1st to 4th floor and the crack removal team are shown in a lift with balloons!

After the initial debate about dress code people attended in black tie, smart casual and Abba dress, the result was a real eclectic mix of dress, that added to the fun atmosphere.

We were joined by representatives of nine other Rotary clubs for the event. One guest who was present was Robert Coates, an honorary member of Moors Gateway Rotary club. Robert is the

great great grandson of our founder President Edward Walker, it was fantastic to be able to refer to that long family connection. We are hoping that Robert might have some archive material of the period that he can copy for Graham Wilford to put in our digital archive.



The logistics of the event were complex and had to work to a strict timescale, as the drinks reception was being held on the 1st floor and the dinner and performance on the 4th floor, meant that within a short timescale we had to get 280 from first floor to fourth floor.





Robert Coates (l) with Graham

The Dinner was excellent and much complemented by our guests. At the end of the dinner we awarded a number of spot prizes, two for lucky seats and two for Abba dress. Mary and I concluded that the best dressed individual should be awarded to Trish Joscelyne, she had a fantastic

costume and put a lot of work into its looks. Brian also had a fantastic wig, we asked them both onto the stage to receive their prize.

We also awarded a prize to Kevin's table as we judged them to be the table who had put the most combined effort into Abba dress.

We noticed that we had 100% attendance by the lady members of the club, quite an achievement, the photograph below was taken to record that.



We got Abba Revival on stage on time at 21.45 and their performance had a very dramatic start, following which they performed for 90 minutes, without an interval, quite an achievement.

After the first song the dance floor was never empty at any time and often there were 100+ people enjoying themselves dancing. At the end of the spot prize ceremony I had mentioned that we had a lot of male Rotarians really looking forward to doing a bit of Dad Dancing, they did not disappoint!



The feedback from those attending the event

was that they really enjoyed themselves, that was evident in their faces, but also from the many emails of thanks that we have received.

I would like to thank all of the Centenary team for their work, but in particular I want to mention Brian, all of the bookings were managed by him on line, that process included, menu requests, dietary requests, drawing up a complex table plan and also minute changes to bookings, no easy task.



Brian's task included naming all 28 tables with different Abba song titles researched by Mary and Sheila.

Thankfully the success of the event has swept away all those concerns that were expressed in 2018.

There are lots more photos and videos on our Centenary page [here](#)

The "New Normal" at the DWP

Sheila and Eileen report...



Wendy Mangan from the Dept of Work and Pensions in York was talking to us at the same time last year on Zoom about her role as School and Employer Advisor with her main focus at that time being on 16 - 24 year olds seeking employment.

We welcomed her again, meeting her face to face, on December 3rd , to update us on the current situation regarding the various Government initiatives put in place at that time, to support these young people. To quote Wendy from last year, she expected "A new normal to emerge from the changing situation" - and she was right!!!!

Her own role has changed and she is now York and North Yorkshire Employer and Partnership Manager. Before telling us about her new role, she updated us on the current situation including some of the initiatives implemented in 2020/21

The first priority is to get customers back into the Job Centres. Rather unexpectedly York now has so many vacancies and there are challenges filling these vacancies and the Unemployment Register is lower than pre-Covid. She frankly said that the DWP did not see this coming.

There are a myriad of reasons for this:-

Some people have taken stock of their work life balance and are choosing to do different things or in a different way, some taking early retirement: much of the International workforce has been lost (because of Brexit?) with many workers returning to their homeland; a surge of people wanting to start their own business. The unemployment Register consists of a good percentage of people needing specific support to overcome barriers and are therefore not yet work ready. On a positive note, many employers are actually asking candidates at interview what hours they would like to work - they are learning to manage staff differently and care for the well-being of staff.



Wendy (second left) with Eileen, Sheila and President David

The Kickstart Programme has had 100,00 young people through it nationally and in York has had great support from companies such as LNER and Portakabin; it has been extended to March 2022. External contractors such as Recruitment Consultancies have been contracted to offer CV prep and mock interviews and there are a number of other initiatives with the DWP working alongside employers to prepare candidates for the workplace. Many are short sharp programmes ranging from half day to 3 weeks depending on the sector.

Wendy very honestly said that young people don't read newspapers/ limited use of Twitter now/don't use LinkedIn and that the DWP is not allowed to use social media such as Facebook, but this was being reviewed and it is hoped will become a medium to contact young people in due course.

What is clear is that the DWP has had to think on its feet, within Government parameters, in a very diverse and challenging way to respond to the needs of employers and employees. This certainly appears to be the 'New Normal'.

Further support for York's Vaccination Volunteers

Sheila reports.....

After the Kitkat story (see earlier news item - Nov 22nd) our next initiative was a Free Christmas Raffle for the Volunteers....*'Volunteers helping Volunteers'*



We had 3 fantastic prizes as shown on Jane Albon's excellent poster.

(We are now known as the Kitkat Girls! (unsure what Nigel gets called!))

The Draw for the Free Christmas Raffle took place on December 3rd. President David, Nigel and myself met Hannah Linaker, the Volunteer Coordinator, to draw the prizes. David drew the first prize out, Nigel the second and Sheila the third.

Hannah has been delighted with both the Kitkat initiative and now the raffle and said that she was sure the lucky volunteers would also be delighted.



Nigel then went off suitably glad to do his usual litter pick at the site which he has been doing since the Hub opened.

Volunteers and Staff... is to deliver Santa and Snowmen chocolate tree baubles on the two Sundays before Christmas - what we will become known as then ...suggestions welcomed???????

And our final "Christmas Gift" to all



He's behind You!

Oh yes he is!! Our very own Mike Fieldsend got us in the mood for pantomime season at our meeting on December 10th



Mike started proceedings by proving, once again, there is no fool like an old fool, by miming to a singing hat! He did then go on to explain how the roots of pantomime went way back to the classical Greek and Roman worlds with their festivals of mayhem and confusion. Medieval Mystery plays also influenced the expectations of 'good' and 'evil' in pantomime – (Good Fairy; Demon King). The Italian Commedia dell'arte was another major precursor, which in England metamorphosed into Harlequinade in the 17th century.

Pantomime really took off in the Georgian period when actors such as Joseph Grimaldi (pictured) made traditionally minor roles, in his case Clown, into star figures that they played for their entire careers. 'Extravaganzas' and 'Burlesque' introduced elaborate scenery, transformation scenes, and cross-dressing. Gradually the 'fairy story' element superseded the harlequinade, so that by the latter part of the 19th century pantomime had taken on the form familiar to us to this day.





Principal Boy



Girls played 'Principal Boy, men played 'Dame'; there were spectacularly evil 'Villains', simpering 'Good Fairies', and lovable 'Animals'.

In the intervening 150 years, Pantomime has had its ups and downs. Until the 1950s every town would have had at least one, often more, pantomimes playing. Major stars took on the leading roles – frequently with mixed success! – but, gradually the number of shows staged each year has reduced.

However, Pantomime, this peculiarly British tradition, soldiers on. Provincial theatres are dependent on revenues generated by their pantomime to finance the rest of their programme.

York has a special place in the history of pantomime, with Berwick Kaler and 'the gang' entertaining audiences for over 40 years and still going strong.

Mike concluded his talk in a traditional way. His cry "Pantomime is still going strong – Oh yes it is!" elicited the anticipated response from the floor of "Oh no it isn't!" He rested his case.



I, Special correspondent Mike (F) can confidently speculated that aspiring thespian Mike (F) has a great future in front of him cleaning up discarded popcorn and sweet wrappers between pantomime performances!

What is a Mock Interview?

One of the many community service activities that York Rotary provides locally is the provision of "mock interviews" for students who are applying to colleges, or for work. These interviews provide useful practice for students most of whom have never been in an interview situation before, and they provide feedback to the students on how to improve their interview preparations and presentation.

Here, Eileen outlines some aspects of the process and her experience of providing this much sought-after service for local schools....

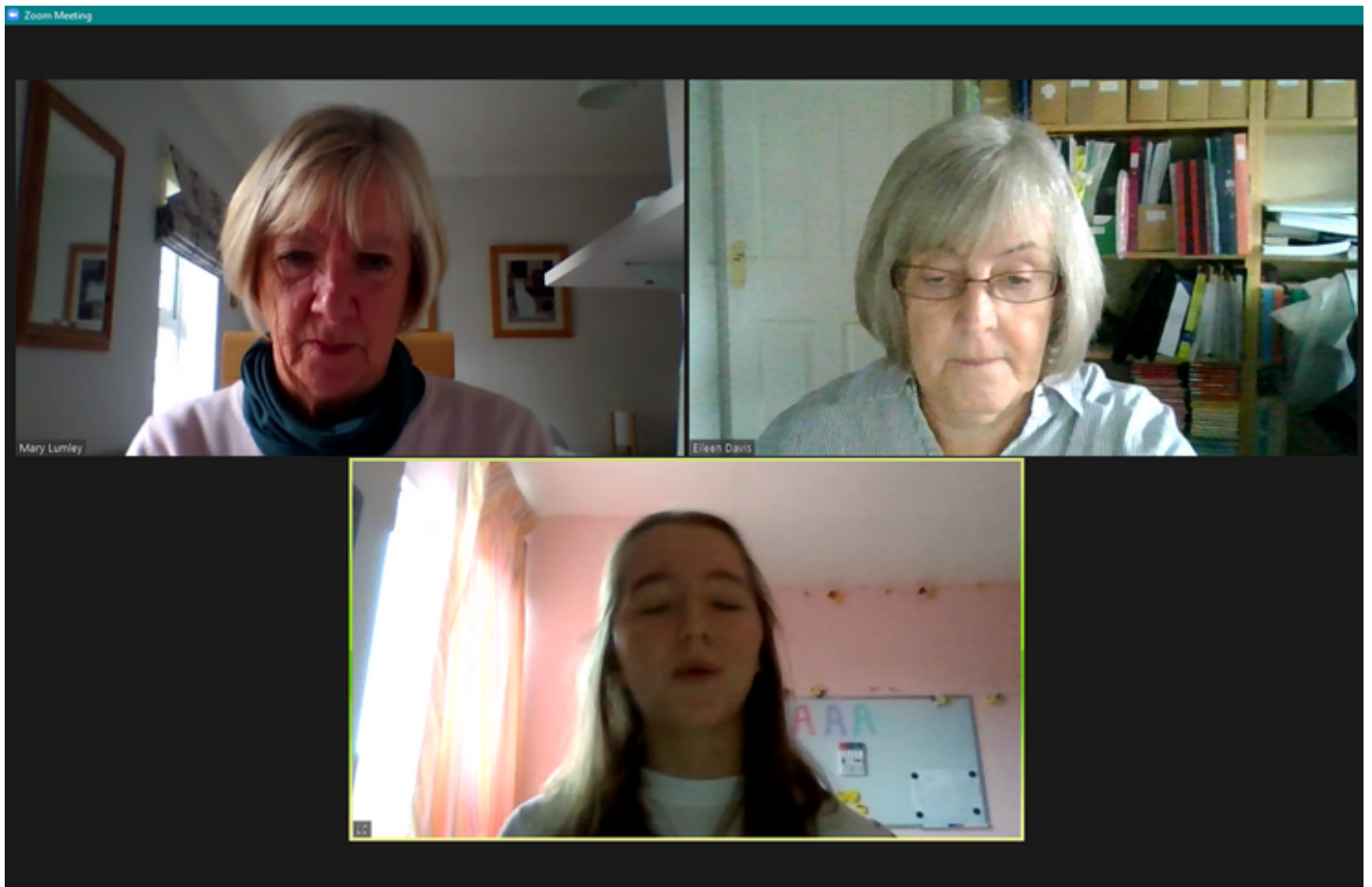


"We only have your personal Statement, so tell us a bit about yourself..."

This was our starter question. The Youth Services Team once again offered late Autumn mock interviews for university applicants. For 5 weeks from 16th November, we held 56 30-minute mock interviews via Zoom with students from 6 schools. Rotary School Ambassadors had been involved in distributing our 2021-2 programme to their school contacts and requests came in from All Saints, Archbishop Holgates, Huntington, Joseph Rowntree, Tadcaster Grammar and York College.

Where have you applied, what will you study and why? Justify your choices.....

It was my job to timetable the requests. All had applied for Medicine, Veterinary Medicine or Oxbridge as these tend to be the only subjects / universities requiring interviews nowadays. Schools made available a room, sometimes with a chaperone for safeguarding purposes, with a computer set up in front of some boring, even bizarre, backgrounds.



A Zoom "mock interview" with a student in progress, with Mary and Eileen

Now specific questions about your subject choice.....

As far as possible, I matched interviewer expertise and availability to student subject choices so that students could be challenged about specifics. The match was not always ideal but that said, we used online lists of sample questions and asked fellow Rotarians with such expertise where necessary. All of us can manage the general, attitudinal and engagement aspects of an interview.

-

Tell us about a time when you were part of a team / when you led a team.....

What an interview team! We used the York Rotary Zoom link as we could not go into schools and anyway the real ones were/will be online too. Paul Harvey, Mike Hay, Mary Lumley, Paul Roberts or I led each session and we were joined at various times by Jane Albon, Vic Brookes, Stuart Cranidge, Jan Dash, Erin Hartman, Dave Marchant, Russ Rollings, Sheila Weatherburn and Philip Wiltshire. President David joined one group to observe. I would like to register my thanks to the whole team, including Graham Todd and David Walkden whose expertise was not called upon this time.

Do you have questions for us?

This floored many a student but we explained why it is important to show an interest in the people interviewing and the university of choice. .

-

Here is some brief feedback; we will send you a detailed feedback form asap.

Conscious that they would not remember everything about the interview, each student received a short summary to end the interview and later a detailed form giving specific feedback on their engagement and quality of responses. Sometimes we were able to offer advice about the subject and careers in their chosen field.

What is my early evaluation?

We provided a useful service. We met some outstanding students who have obviously worked very hard to get where they are and who have coped with the additional challenges caused by Covid. There were a few more glitches this year, caused by school IT, illness and occasional forgetfulness, as well as Oxbridge interviews coming in earlier than expected and thus clashing with our timetable.

I have asked for more detailed evaluation from the interviewers and school contacts; this will be considered by the Youth Services Team when it meets early in the New Year."

The Christmas Spirit of Santa Paws

Updated: Dec 22, 2021

Diana reports...

"Collaboration, Community and Friendship"

On December 5th York Rotary brought together The Wilberforce Trust and York & Harrogate District RSPCA to run a jointly organised fundraiser - **Santa Paws**.



87 people and nearly as many dogs walked the 3.3k running track of the Knavesmire with many dogs decked out like Christmas Trees!

The collaborations did not end there. Andrew Wordie from Rotary York Ainsty joined us with Ainsty's Santa Sleigh in which our very own Father Christmas, aka John Lacy, ho-ho-hoed throughout the event.

We received sponsorship from The Shepherd



John Lacy a.k.a. Santa!

Group and Vet Partners plus goods-in-kind being donated by Morrisons and several of our own members. Prizes were generously donated by Christina Gabbitas (children's books) and K9 Keiki Bakes of York (doggie hamper).





Although the day dawned cold and blustery, this did not detract from the festive atmosphere – even when the tents suddenly blew over in an early gust of wind! They were soon righted and registration continued.

York Mix gave us huge radio and social media coverage and generously sent reporter Laura Castle, together with her dog Digby, to comper the walk and provide music throughout.



At the end of the walk William Wilberforce, 4 x great grandson of *the* William Wilberforce, together with Christina Gabbitas, the award-winning children's author, judged the Best Dressed Dog competition. In a hotly fought contest they judged that Bear the Whippet (pictured) carried the day.

The whole event was rounded off with hot chocolate, mulled wine and mince pies.

A total of £722 was raised for the three charities which will support our community in a range of different ways

December's Walk with the President!

President David reports...

The walk on December 15th started at The Fleece in the lovely Wolds village of Bishop Wilton. We had a group of 16 plus 4 dogs and we were blessed with very good weather.

We walked down the village street and at the end of the village started to follow the path next to the stream leading towards Yapham. Part way to Yapham we turned across the fields, we then had a short section on the road before starting the gentle climb up to Givendale.



There was only one member unlucky enough to slip in the mud, but fortunately there was no injury caused. In spite of having requests for an early coffee stop those were resisted until we reached Givendale church where we were able to sit in the sun and enjoy a well earned rest.

Givendale is a lovely little church dating back to 1849 when it was rebuilt. The church was open so we were able to look inside. Whilst

we were there John Lacy told us about once talking to a local who once told him about the view in the distance that looked like his mother. John was very sceptical before looking in the distance and seeing how the form of the trees looked like a woman lying down, we all had to agree with John regarding the interpretation of this view.



After our break we walked through the hamlet of Givendale to the top of the Wolds and we enjoyed a splendid view, we could see Drax Power Station, York Minster Central tower, Full Sutton prison and even the radar domes at Menwith hill at the extreme. From the vantage point we debated on which route to take back to bishop Wilton, we decided to avoid the path across fields as it involved muddy paths and a traverse which meant slipping would be easy, we therefore descended down on the road from Givendale and returned to The Fleece.

A lunch was enjoyed at The Fleece where there were two real fires burning to give us a welcome. When we finished our lunch and left The Fleece the light made the view up Bishop Wilton village very impressive.



President's 6-month review

(And we welcome another new member!)

President David has written this review for Rotagraph of his "first 6 months" and the range of activities undertaken by York Rotary despite the pandemic!

"When we started the Rotary year, we were coming out of Covid restrictions, but the relaxations were delayed by four weeks, therefore rather than starting the year with the handover lunch at the Racecourse we started with a Zoom meeting from the sofa.



We continued meetings by Zoom for two weeks before we held our return to the Novotel meeting with Zoom hybrid, it was just lovely to have a face to face meeting with those members who were happy to attend face to face. I

appreciate that there were members who were unfortunately unable to join us in person due to health restrictions and decisions regarding isolation.



Very soon our meetings adopted a regular face to face pattern and other normal activities got underway. In August we resumed the BBQ at Sutton on Derwent village hall, which was the first real event with partners, and it was a lovely occasion, held in memory of Peter Fox.

The walking group got underway, and the golfers held the Shouksmith Plate and President's cup competitions.

August BBQ - eating indoors due the chill!

We provided baggage handling services for the 5K in August and the Yorkshire marathon in October.



September saw the resumption of two events, the Dragon Boat Challenge and a St Crux fundraiser. The atmosphere on the day of the Dragon Boat Challenge was lovely, people were enjoying being out participating and spectating, we had 31 rather than our normal 36, but they raised a fantastic amount of £74,000.



St Crux , September 2021

Other activities continued including the resumption of the summer outing for elderly guests. During December the Youth Services team have been very conducting mock interviews by Zoom for University applicants. These interviews take a lot of organising, but they provide massive benefits to the pupils concerned.



We continued our centenary celebrations holding the celebration dinner with Abba Revival. The event had been a long time in the planning and required a massive amount of organisation.



275 Rotarians and guests enjoyed an excellent dinner followed by dancing to Abba Revival. We had very positive feedback after the event. The event made a small surplus.

In December the SantaPaws event was held at the Racecourse. This was a partnership event organised in conjunction with the RSPCA and the Wilberforce Trust. Whilst the event did not raise a large amount for charity funds it was worthwhile to forge links with the two charities and it was also a fun public event to hold in the run up to Christmas.



I was pleased that in spite of the Omicron variant of Covid we were able to hold our Christmas lunch meeting on the 17th December. Rotarians were encouraged to bring partners with them, which many did, and the meeting was enjoyed by 75 people.



Tom Jackson and his group of musicians, known as The Jackson Four, provided musical entertainment both before lunch and as part of the post-lunch entertainment. Mike Hay organised the Rotary choir with eleven other participants.

The choir were seasonally dressed, and the performance was excellent. Dennis Adamson sung solos as part of Little Donkey, he last sung those solo parts sixty one years ago.

Desmond joined us by Zoom from Jamaica and gave us a brief presentation about Christmas activities in Jamaica which contrast with Christmas in the UK.

After a seasonal lunch we inducted **new member John Wainwright**.

It was lovely that we could close our half year with a fun Christmas lunch.

I reflect on what we have achieved over the last six months in getting back to a New Normal and I think that as a club we have done really well and we have resumed a wide range of activities that were not possible under earlier restrictions, I think all of this has been a great achievement. The other thing that we have achieved is the use of Zoom hybrid from the Novotel. The numbers joining the meetings by Zoom have varied between three and twelve.

John Wainwright (r) is welcomed by President David

It does not really matter that the numbers joining by Zoom are sometimes low, but if a few members join by Zoom and benefit from that it has achieved something very worthwhile. Zoom hybrid also allows members to keep in touch if they wish whilst they are away. Several members have contributed to hybrid meetings by remote reporting, that has worked well. We have also had three speakers remotely by Zoom, again that has worked well and has meant that we have had speakers who we otherwise would not have had. There are also benefits of members being able to catch up by watching the recording of meetings."



Charity fundraising is in good heart..

Nigel Everard presented the York Rotary club accounts to the SGM on the 26th September. As always the accounts were very thorough and detailed.

What is perhaps of interest for the record is the **charity account income and expenditure** section. The graphic shows that for the year ended 30th June 2021 the total income amounted to **£68,711** and whilst that compares with £103,610 for the previous year, but given that the year ended 30th June 2021 has all been during a lock down period that is an absolutely fantastic result.

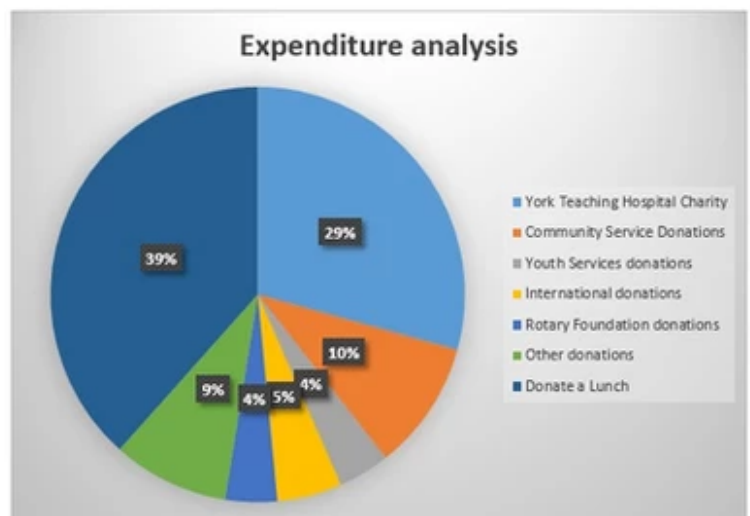
Income analysis	%	
Virtual Dragon Boat Challenge	29	20,168
Fundraising Activities	14	9,455
Donate a Lunch	39	26,555
Other Donations	13	9,077
Foundation	4	2,817
International	1	635
Miscellaneous	0	3
		68,711
2019-20 total		103,610



The analysis of the income shows that £20,168 or 29% resulted from the **Virtual Dragon Boat Challenge**, that was the initiative of Immediate Past President Kevin and we should congratulate him on that. The other large figure was **Donate a lunch** at £26,555 or 39%, we should remember that was a suggestion from Steve Burton at the start of the first lockdown, that has been incredibly successful, we thank Steve for suggesting that and all the members who contributed so generously.

The expenditure analysis shows the wide range of ways in which the funds were used, with

Expenditure analysis	%	
York Teaching Hospital Charity	29	20,168
Community Service Donations	10	7,240
Youth Services donations	4	2,625
International donations	5	3,785
Rotary Foundation donations	4	2,817
Other donations	9	6,612
Donate a Lunch	38	26,555
		69,802



£20,168 or 29% presented to York Teaching Hospital charity as the proceeds from the Virtual Dragon Boat Challenge and £26,550 or 39% donated to the twelve charities supported by Donate a Lunch, plus other support to a variety of charities.

President David remarked "I think the above summary demonstrates a very successful year that the club had, in what were very difficult circumstances, well done to everyone."

Congratulations to Hannah Mills OBE and Yvonne Copley MBE

Updated: Jan 8

Eileen reports...

In the 2022 New Year's Honours Lists, it was pleasing to read of the success of two women well known to York Rotary.

Hannah Mills was awarded an OBE (which overtakes her MBE), recognising her service to sailing and the environment. The Officer of the British Empire is awarded to an individual who has made major contributions at local level, or whose work has gained a national profile.

Hannah is the Grand-daughter of Ewen Cameron, the former President of York Rotary and 1040 District Governor. Winner of three Olympic Sailing Gold Medals, in London, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo, Hannah was the Guest Speaker at my President's Dinner in March 2017.



In the presence of Ewen and her Grandmother, Sylvia, she gave an inspiring account of her hard road to what were then her two Gold successes; at the same time, she alluded to her disgust of the pollution in the seas upon which she sails.

Since her third Gold success and her retirement from Olympic sailing, she has become the International Olympic Committee Sustainability Ambassador and has recently launched "The Big Plastic Pledge", an athlete movement to change the way single use plastic is used in and beyond sport.

There is more about Hannah's new "Sustainability" role in this BBC article <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-59136715>

The Founder of KYRA, **Yvonne Copley** was awarded an MBE in recognition of her services to women and the community of York. The Member of the British Empire is awarded to an individual for outstanding achievement or service to the community which has had a long-term, significant impact.

Yvonne initially determined to run a drop-in centre twice per week. She had identified a significant gap between crisis medical intervention and services to help patients return to normal lives. She then



extended her remit to any women needing help and support.

She was determined to create a safe space for women to rebuild their lives, connect with others, learn new skills and increase their confidence and self-esteem. Her vision and powers of persuasion built KYRA into the successful charity it is today, staffed mainly by volunteers and having a membership of over 1,300.

Yvonne retired in September 2020, after 7 years at the helm of her "baby".

We have written to both women, congratulating them on behalf of York Rotary.



Archaeology for Everyone – New Ideas to Engage People in our Past

Graham W reports..

On January 7th, we heard Sarah Maltby's zoom presentation on the ways in which the York Archaeological Trust was bringing archaeology into the community.



Sarah's 35 years in the attractions business, ranged from being an enabler at the Eureka Museum in Halifax, through to her present role as Director of Attractions for the Trust. When the Trust's Jorvik Viking Centre and its other attractions were closed due to the Covid pandemic, her width of experience gave her the opportunity to be innovative in the ways that archaeology's educational message could be delivered - an opportunity she grabbed with both hands.

Virtual Vikings

THE JORVIK GROUP



Delivering over 400 online presentations – "*Virtual Vikings*" – to schools throughout the UK and beyond, at a time when she and her staff were themselves coping with the pandemic, was remarkable. The need to run the popular annual Viking Festival on-line was a challenge but was met with Sarah's usual enthusiasm and can-do approach to bringing archaeology to a wider audience.

24-Hour Museum



Taking over an empty city-centre shop and shop window to provide a museum quality display, available to passers-by 24 hours a day - showed great initiative and has potential for pop-up displays elsewhere.

Who would have thought of *Archaeology on Prescription* - but the therapeutic effect for some, from getting involved in archaeological investigations is proving to be of great benefit to those in need of stimulation.



Expanding the range of the Trust's touring exhibitions to meet increased demand across the UK and offering archaeological walks were further examples of how to turn the restrictions imposed by the pandemic into new opportunities.

Ebenezer's hatchery hatches thanks to Rotary

Mary reports...



EBENEZER
CHILD CARE TRUST

NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 21

WWW.EBENEZERZAMBIA.ORG

In early November 2021 York Rotary's International Team donated £800 to Ebenezer Childcare Trust Farm in Livingstone Zambia for them to purchase a 1000 egg capacity Egg Incubator.

Extracted from EbenezerTrusts' latest newsletter, this article and photograph show the Incubator they purchased which is now in use producing healthy hatched birds to both rear for food, and to sell, as a further means of increasing self sufficiency.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION



ECCT management would like to thank the Rotary Club– UK through Mary Lumley for the donation of funds towards the purchase of the egg incubator. This will help the organization to increase its hatching rate and produce healthy hatched birds.

Members will recall that over the past six years York Rotary has also provided funds for re-decoration of the school buildings, refurbishment of the school kitchen, treats at Christmas for the children and the conversion of an old building to a Piggery on the farm.

It is hoped that, through the miracle that is Zoom, the Director of Ebenezer Childcare Trust, Owen Lisulo, pictured here, will be our speaker at a meeting during International month in March 2022.



York Rotary donates a Centenary Bench

Updated: Jan 26



Sheila reports...

At last I am delighted to tell you that the long awaited bench is now on the Knavesmire. It's position is on the Sustrans cycle track route 65 (which was part of the trackbed of the old East Coast Railway) part of which ran from the back of the Knavesmire stands toward Selby and is part of the TransPennine Trail.

The original bench was given to the City by TransPennine and was made out of railway sleepers in a very unusual design, but sadly fell into decline....and then along came Rotary!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Well actually, it was Marlise Heaton and myself whilst out for a short walk and breath of fresh air, and looking for a place to sit during a Covid lockdown, who spotted the state of the Transpennine bench and contacted the City Council to say how dangerous it was – followed swiftly by its removal. *The "original" bench in a sorry state*

The chosen spot for Our Bench is a delightful and peaceful place and has a vantage view of the Knavesmire itself. The inscription on the plaque is as follows:-

“Donated to the People of York by York Rotary in Celebration of their Centenary year in 2021”



The bench itself has been kindly funded by an anonymous Rotary donor.



Marlise was invited to a Bench Ceremony on Sunday 23rd January where she duly cut the yellow ribbon and read a ditty she had penned

Bridge Walking

Graham W reports....

A great start for the walking year with an interesting 5 mile walk around York on a beautiful sunny morning, January 19th. The route designed by Steve Burton to take in as many bridges as possible (large and small), started from Marygate Car Park and took us via Scarborough Bridge, Marble Arch and the Cinder Path to Wilton Rise passing much of York's historic 'Railway Quarter'.



We then ventured into the parts of Holgate where Steve passed much of his mis-spent youth - the parts of York that few residents of York find and certainly no visitors get to see.

The most impressive being St Paul's Square (*pictured*), a square of Georgian/Victorian houses tucked away in a corner of Holgate, and now a very desirable residential area.

After the snickets and byways of Holgate, we emerged onto Hob Moor, where victims of the plague were isolated, to inspect the Hob Stone where food was left for them to collect. In later times, Hob Moor was the site of York's first golf course and rugby club.

On to the Knavesmire to inspect the Tyburn where Dick Turpin met his demise and then a slow canter around the Racecourse to inspect the seat which Rotary had recently donated to the People of York - referred to affectionately as *Sheila's Seat* - as its provision was masterminded by Sheila Weatherburn. It

enabled one or two walkers to rest their weary legs.

Finally, on past the former Terry's factory, now the interesting Chocolate Works development and down to the riverside. We took in the elegant Millennium Bridge, Rowntree Park, the streets of Clementhorpe and back to the Star Inn the City where my old office made a convivial setting for a very enjoyable lunch.



About the BFF

Updated: Feb 6



Steve Burton reports.... **BIG FUTURES FOUNDATION** or **BFF** was the theme of our speaker **Claire Douglas** on January 28th – a big title for a small relatively unknown entity started at her kitchen table some 4 years ago, whose passion and dedication was so plain to see.

Childhood deprivations, in its many forms, are identified throughout the country and York is no exception, despite its overall appearance and can be found at its most prevalent in identifiable post code areas.

Apparent in 5 year olds, year 1 children at primary school these children, parents, carers and siblings are identified for special mentoring, tutoring and self esteem raising, which will be available to them throughout their school life, helping them achieve the best for them selves, not only academically, but in life choices into the adult work or further education.

The charity is growing slowly, with initial intake now approaching Year 4, with some 38 children directly involved. This which will grow exponentially as further year groups added and more post code areas brought in.



I'm sure all agreed a superb 'from little acorns' story and if any of these most unfortunate children can reach their school ending with the satisfaction of knowing they've achieved their best academically and socially, then society will benefit greatly.

We believe that:

- Every child should have the support they need to make the most of their school career.
- We want Big Futures Foundation children to be their best.
- To grow into adults that are happy in their personal and work lives and are proud to be themselves.



York Rotary thanked profusely for our recent donation enabling most participants, including families, to attend the panto; an experience most would not have had the chance to do in the past.

Why, How, Where?

- Why?
 - Close the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children.
 - Hope for a good future and social justice
- How?
 - Support for the family, parent/carer and child.
 - Support for emotional wellbeing, resilience and life skills.
 - Long term commitment – 5 years old to 18 or 21
- Where and when?
 - Tang Hall, Hob Moor, Haxby Road areas – School partnerships, communities, when parents/carers are available, school holidays.



Joe James - Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar

Updated: Feb 27

Diana reports....

We were delighted to welcome Joe James to our meeting on February 18th.

His local Rotary Club had put up a poster at the University where Joe's Father worked advertising Ambassadorial Scholarships just at the point when he had received his offer from York University and was looking for funding.



After a year's delay because of Covid, Joe is now an English Literature Masters Student at York, particularly focusing on "Contemporary American Literature after 2000". His Dissertation is "Literature on the Iraq war by serving soldiers and veterans". His hobbies include reading and Netflix (such as watching series like Peaky Blinders and The Crown)

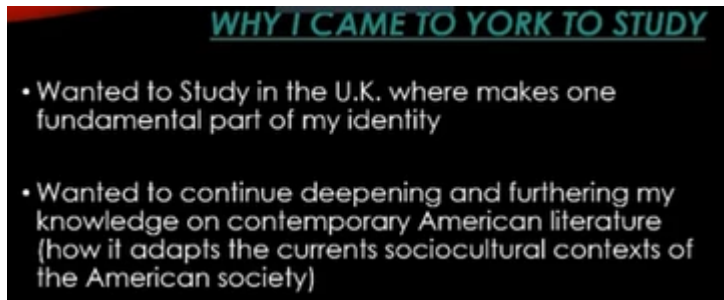
Joe was born in 1998 in Hiroshima which is in South Western Honshu, the largest island of Japan. He showed us slides of the two Unesco World Heritage Sites for which Hiroshima is famous:



- The Torii Gate of the Itsukushima Shrine which was built at the entrance of this Divine Shinto Island in the 12th Century (although the first shrine buildings were probably erected in the 6th Century) .

- The A Bomb Dome (or Genbaku Dome), part of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. Joe went on to explain that every year on 6th August, when he was at elementary school they would have to go into school to listen to stories from survivors or listen to lectures from peace scholars

Joe came to York because of one fundamental part of his identity – his mother is from Japan but his Father is British from Stoke and he has dual nationality. He always had to speak English when at home in Japan but went to normal Japanese public school where he would speak in Japanese. Naturally, his English is excellent!



He chose his dissertation topic because he wanted to deepen and further his undergraduate work on American literature, particularly after November 2000.

He wanted to increase his knowledge of the structural and social cultural concepts of the

Presidency of Donald Trump and the representation of racial and sexual minorities.

After graduation from York, he will continue his studies for his PhD, hopefully somewhere in England, but will take a year off before doing so.

Curiously, when questioned by a member, Joe said that the thing that most surprised him about the UK was how complicated dealing with our post office is!



It was a pleasure to meet and chat to this interesting and eloquent young man and we wish him well in his studies.

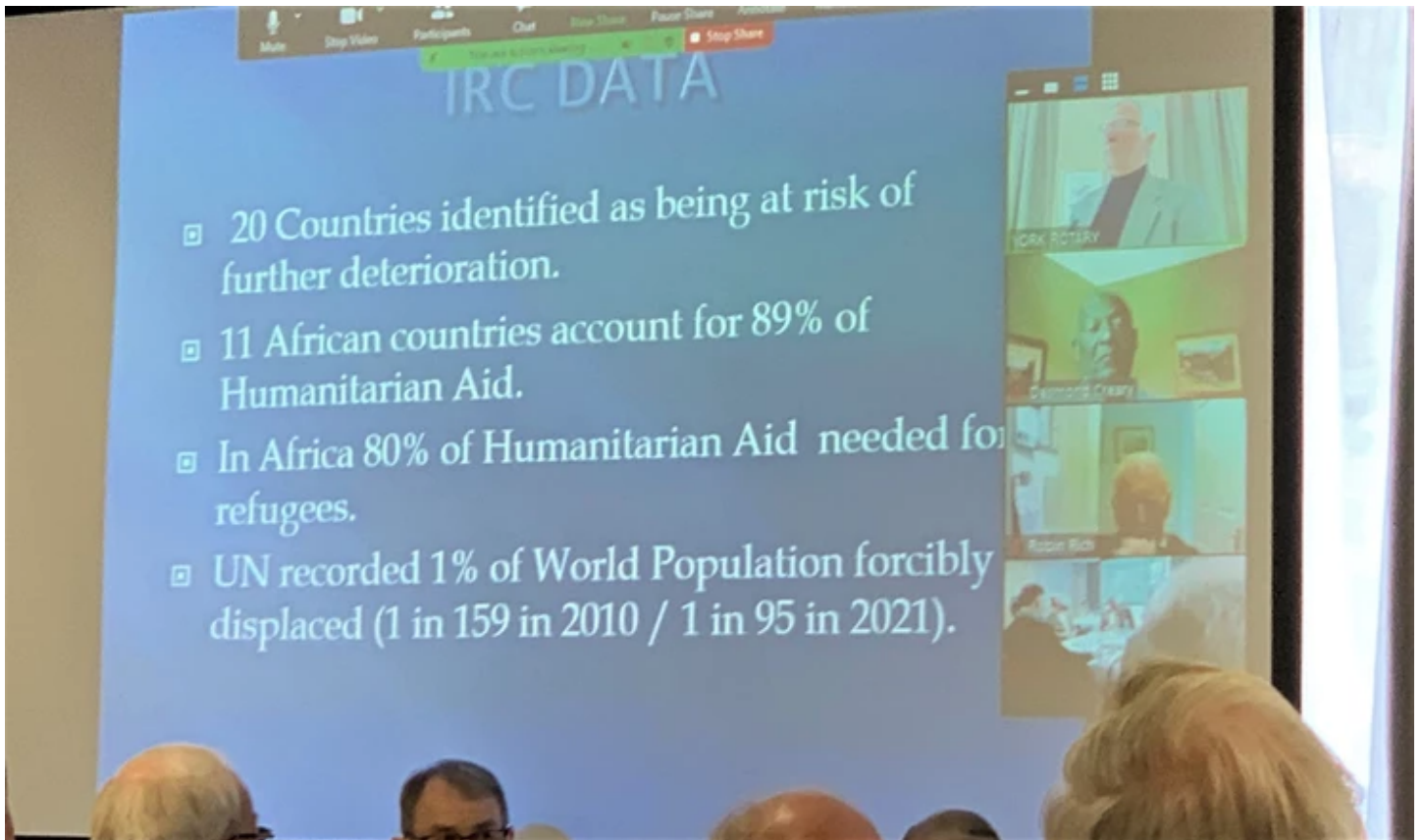
Rotary in the Field of Humanitarian Aid

Eileen reports.... On February 11th, our Foundation Team Leader Roger Sutton gave a spirited talk



about Rotary's global role through the work of its' own charity The Rotary Foundation (TRF). He reminded us that there are many humanitarian crises in today's troubled World and gave us a salutary reminder of why Rotary is needed.

Roger began by reminding us that there is a humanitarian crisis and he demonstrated that via statistics and data which illustrated the size and locations of the problem.



- 274 million people need aid - **that figure has gone up 63% in the past 2 years** - unsurprisingly, the Covid Pandemic and associated lockdowns have affected countries and the aid programmes
- 80 million people have been forced to flee their homes
- 40 million are on the brink of starvation
- Women and girls suffer the most
- 11 African countries account for 90% of the World's humanitarian aid
- Afghanistan alone needs \$9.4 billion in aid

We might well ask “what about United Nations?” Rotary helped to set up the UN but its effectiveness is hampered by the richer countries not delivering on their promises of aid / cash and by the vetoes in the Security Council. In Roger’s view, the powerful countries are competing rather than contributing and use the veto to control aid; therefore aid is a weapon.



So what does Rotary do?

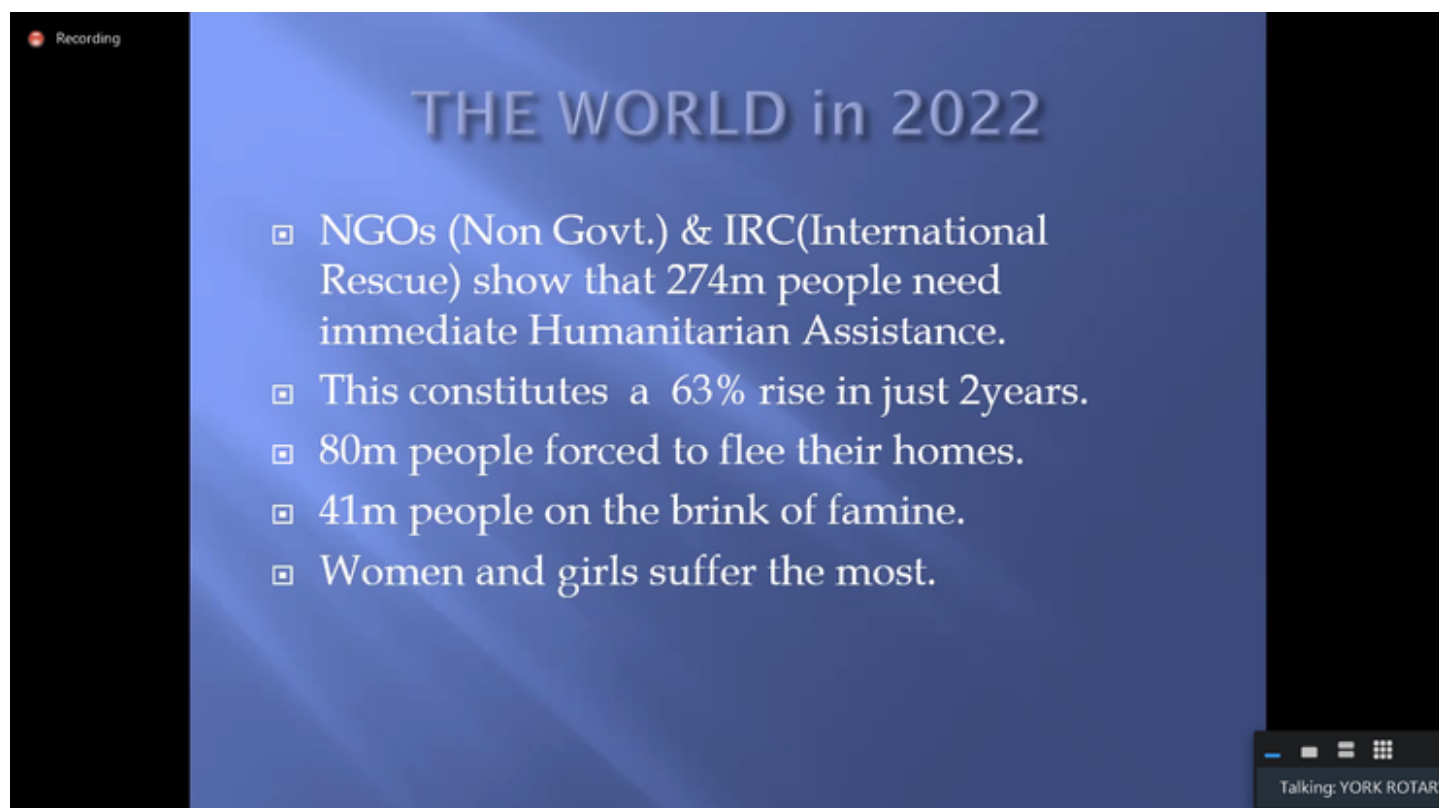
TRF is well respected able to act amid crises. Rotary has retained its values and professional standards and keeps its promises. It finishes what it starts and delivers.

TRF gives Global Grants, initiated and supported by Clubs and Districts, to pay for development projects. It also offers District Grants, usually for more local projects, and Disaster Response Grants.

Rotary works with the UN and other global groups to respond and help those in need.

Rotary continues to seek the end of Polio, working with the World Health Organisation. There are 5 Wild Polio cases at present - 1 in Pakistan and 4 in Afghanistan and the Taliban has said it will allow vaccination work to continue.

Shelterbox is a Rotary initiative which continues to help, giving relief rather than aid.



Roger concluded that it is necessary to reassert the moral compass. The rich countries need to set aside their self-interest and open the door to free-flowing, generous aid which can provide short and long term solutions. Migrations, for environmental, economic and political reasons, will add to the humanitarian crisis in the coming years. Rotary is needed more than ever.

Charity meet-up at York Rotary

Updated: Mar 9

Keith H reports.....



On March 7th, York Rotary hosted a range of charity representatives from groups within the city of York. Previously this event has been used as a 'Presentation Occasion' but this time it was an opportunity both to meet, and in particular show our appreciation of the work done by so many agencies.

All our guests used the chance to network with others, often finding points of contact where mutual support could be helpful and making new contacts. The overwhelming feeling from the occasion was the simple pleasure all felt to be able to talk to each other 'face-to-face' without the hindrance of Zoom - or indeed masks - preventing 'normal' communication.

There was no formality at all but President David and Team Leader Keith took the opportunity to express the thanks and appreciation for the work done over the last two years in the most challenging of circumstances.

Charities represented included: AgeUK, Big Futures, Door84, IDAS, Homestart, KYRA, Salvation Army, Yorchestra, Ebor Vale RDA.

Home
START

Support and friendship
for families

Home-Start York



kyra

women's project



The club was represented by the President, President Elect and Vice-president with four members of the Community Service Team.

*There is more on this story in the April edition of **Rotagraph***

Rotary supports local Youth Centre

Eileen reports.....

In Spring 2020 with the country in lockdown, **Door 84 Youth Centre** learned that many of its young members were struggling, not least with food poverty and limited home-based activities. Family member redundancy and furlough exacerbated existing challenges in the home. Door 84 began helping families via a small food bank, obtaining food from supermarkets, donors and working with other local agencies.



York Rotary Community Service Team had already donated £1,000 to Door 84 to assist with this Food Poverty Project.

In May 2020, President Kevin Grogan learned that as part of Rotary's response to the Covid Pandemic, the District 1040 Foundation Team had further funds to allocate.

York Rotary had an ongoing Grant project with Brunswick Organic Nursery, but now clubs could apply for "extra" District Grants; it seemed too good an opportunity to miss.

Our (second!) 2020-1 District Grant application was coordinated by Eileen Davis whose interests and experience matched the situation. District Grants match up to £1,000 of Club funding, giving the recipients £2,000 of support for sustainable developments. Projects come under at least one of the Rotary Area of Focus – in this case *Community Economic Development*. York Rotarians were actively involved with Door 84 and Door 84's Executive Manager Heidi Heywood and Youth Manager Julie Arrowsmith worked with Eileen to make the Grant case. The application was successful.

So, how was the £2,000 District Grant money spent?

The Food Poverty project evolved rapidly in 2020 and 2021 and the following allocations were agreed :

- £600 purchased 250 Activity Packs to distribute to households. Packs contained colouring books and pencils, glitter gem packs, paint-your-own mug kits and assorted craft materials.
- £510 trained 2 members of Door 84 staff in Welfare Benefit claims. Coming in to collect food supplies, it emerged that many families were not claiming benefits to which they were perfectly entitled.
- £900 contributed to the purchase of a gazebo, the remaining cash coming from another funding stream. The gazebo was not only to provide shelter for the food bank, but can be used for many other purposes. The York Rotary logo is printed on the canvas.



Physionet - 15,000 wheelchairs and counting...

On March 11th our very own Russ Rollings gave us an update on what Physionet is all about. Although York Rotary have supported this charity for many years, newer members might have not been fully aware of what the organisation does.



Rotarian Peter Thompson, who now lives near Boroughbridge, used to be in the agricultural business and travelled widely.

On visits to Fiji he noticed the effects of diabetes precipitated by the sugar plantation industry. Sufferers lost limbs through the disease, and there was very little rehabilitation available. On retiring, he set up Physionet in 2005 with the aim of sending redundant medical equipment, especially wheelchairs and walking aids, to Fiji. A wheelchair would give someone the independence they needed.



The business model of Physionet is very simple – gather redundant or written off medical equipment from hospitals, Care homes, etc. in UK; refurbish as required; through contacts such as Rotary clubs abroad, identify countries where such equipment would be of use and send it to them.

Physionet is supported by several Rotary clubs in Yorkshire, and Physionet operates from a huge barn near Green Hammerton at Gelsthorpe Farm on the A59. Satellite Physionet centres have also now been set up in the south east, south west and Scotland.



Physionet is supported by various patrons, plus many Rotary clubs and has no paid employees. With their trusty old vans, equipment is collected and brought to collection hubs, with most equipment then coming to Gelsthorpe Farm. Volunteers gather every Monday (and occasionally on other days) to refurbish and repair, and then loading sessions are held every few weeks to pack 40ft containers to send abroad. The recipient organisations are responsible for funding shipping and any import duties and onward transportation once the container has reached the home port.



With a colourful and energetic PowerPoint pace, Russ showed us round the Gelsthorpe Farm barn and described countries so far supported with some 115 container loads now despatched totalling over 15000 wheelchairs despatched plus many thousand other items such as Zimmer frames, walking aids, paediatric equipment, specialist beds and much else....in fact anything which doesn't need a 24 hour electricity supply and which fits in a Ford Transit van! 24 hour power is obviously not guaranteed in many areas where equipment is sent.



Although not a 'sales' talk, Russ appealed for members to help with collections (if you're under 80 and can drive and are reasonably fit), with refurbishment tasks (if you know how a spanner works and can use a hammer) and with container loading on Saturdays every four to six weeks (again, needing to be reasonably fit).



**PhysioNet may not be able to
make a difference to everyone in
the world, but we can make a
world of difference to one
person**

As seen with recent events, the demand for all sorts of equipment in third-world and war-torn countries continues to grow. Physionet hopes that it can continue to do such work wherever aid is needed.

Tools With a Mission

Trevor reports.....

On March 4th we had a very interesting presentation - over Zoom - from Paul Daley about the the work of the Christian Charity "Tools With a Mission" (TWAM), based in Ipswich.

The charity was set up over thirty years ago and collects and refurbishes unwanted usable tools, sorts them into trade toolkits, refurbishes them, and sends them abroad.



TWAM
Tools with a Mission

What we do and why we do it

We collect donated tools, refurbish them, sort them into trade kits and send them to the developing world for livelihood creation.

Two wooden bowls are shown. The bowl on the left is filled with walnuts, while the bowl on the right is empty. This visual metaphor represents the charity's mission of providing tools for livelihood creation in the developing world.

5. Refurbished by volunteers in our centres



In many countries people have few skills little education and no means of earning a living. TWAM works across Sub-Saharan East Africa setting up approved training workshops to teach skills in tailoring, carpentry, mechanics and other trades.

Mindset and Patricia in Uganda



In this way people are able to find productive work and earn a living.

Based in Ipswich the Charity collects, refurbishes and sends around twenty containers filled with over 300 tonnes of tools a year to East Africa.

On the Zoom conference call we were joined by member Ian Helby from South Africa, who knows TAWM well; and by two Rotarians from Zimbabwe who had been involved in distributing TWAM products across their country. A real International meeting!

We need to recruit between 150-200 additional collectors or collection points, particularly in the North of England and the Midlands but anywhere is appreciated. What does being a Collector or Collection Point involve?

You need space to store tools awaiting collection from the TWAM van

- We ask that one person enrolls through our volunteer process as an official point of contact
- We allocate you a TWAM email address which appears on our Website postcode checker meaning that people can identify you as the nearest point to them
- You arrange with them a suitable time to collect or drop off. You can do either. Some groups open their collection point at a set time each week
- You will be added to the schedule for a collection from one of our 5 TWAM vans, approximately every 2 months
- You will receive full support and any literature required from our TWAM Head Office.
- We will try to promote the club wherever we are able

A new partnership for tree planting

John Lacy reports...

Much is said in the city about local organisations and charities coming together to make York a better place to live. A fine example of this is the York **Rotary Tree Planting** project which brings together Rotary, Tremendous and the Woodland Trust.



We were joined this Sunday March 27th by twelve volunteers from **GoodGym**

<https://www.goodgym.org/v3/areas/york> who joined with friends from Tremendous to plant 220 saplings on the project site between Haxby Road and the River Foss.

Saturday also saw a first for Tremendous and York Rotary. The 1200 trees for the original planting commemorated 1160 children born in York in 2018/19, had been slips grown in Woodland Trust nurseries.



Around 70% of the trees had survived and the project leader rotarian Frank Paterson decided that they should source some replacements.

Derek Utley from Tremendous got permission from York University for Rotary to have access to self seeded trees within their Jubilee Forest. So on Saturday a group of

Rotarians and friends of Tremendous dug up 220 saplings at Grimston Hill.

The trees are mainly four to five year old and like the trees they are replacing are all native species such as alder, birch, hawthorn and willow.

The hope is that because the roots are taken with soil and only out of the ground for such a short period that the majority of the transplants will flourish .

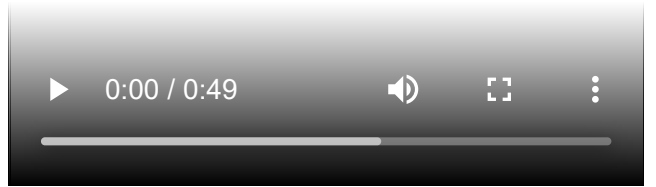
So if the experiment is a success then Rotary can assure parents that there will be a tree for every one of the 1160 children registered for the project.

Finally a big thank you for all the volunteers who turned up especially those from GoodGym who are a group of local people who get fit by doing good helping community organisations.





Many thanks also to Reuben who shot this footage using his drone.....



Update from Zambia

Updated: Apr 16

Mary Lumley reports....

On Friday March 18th our speaker through the power of Zoom was Owen Lisulo, the Executive Director of Ebenezer Childcare Trust (ECCT) in Livingstone Zambia.

Owen gave us a delightful and informative talk on the progress made recently towards making the organisation self-sufficient and self-sustaining. This was music to my ears as it had been the dream of Ranji Chara, the Founder of ECCT, who Sheila and I had the pleasure of meeting in 2015 and who sadly died in 2016.

Owen enlightened and entertained us with information on what is happening currently on the Ebenezer Farm and thanked York Rotary sincerely for our funding contributions over the past few years which have played a significant part in the progress made to date and will continue to help further into the future.



As well as showing us a number of food crops they grow on the farm for the children to eat at the school and orphan village he showed us videos of healthy pigs and piglets in the refurbished Piggery funded by York Rotary in 2019. The pigs not only provide food for the children but are also sold for profit.



Owen then proudly showed the Egg Incubator York Rotary have recently purchased which will allow them to raise 1000 chicks at a time which they will sell as a prosperous business venture.



Looking to the future they are hoping to raise and sell fish commercially and have already dug out 3 ponds on the farm. They also hope to be able to butcher and sell meat. In order to do this they are going to need a large cold room facility.

Maybe York Rotary could support them in this venture which will take them ever closer to self-sustainability?



Fish Ponds

Ann and Keith Olford also joined us on Zoom from Par in Cornwall. Ann and Keith and I became involved with ECCT following a holiday at Victoria Falls in 2005. We had a very persuasive Courier who told us of this new charitable organisation whose aim was to 'provide a home, someone to call Mother, an education and a future' for some of the most needy children in Africa. Ann and Keith Founded, and are still Trustees of, the charity Friends of Ebenezer Childcare Trust (UK). All funds York Rotary have provided have gone to ECCT through this charity.



Having heard Owen speak I am confident that the future for the children at Ebenezer School and Orphan Village is secure. I am proud that York Rotary has played a part in this path to this success.

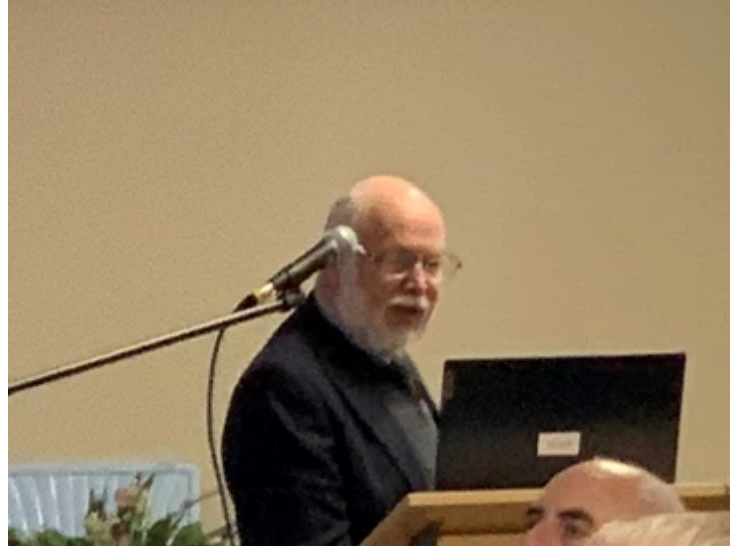
Ed: You can see a pre-recorded version of Owen's talk here <https://youtu.be/wHJ4Dm43RFQ>.

Historic photos of York 100 years ago

Graham reports.....

As we approach the end of the Club's Centenary Year, Ian Drake's presentation on April 8th about **York 100 years ago**, was very appropriate.

Having spent 20 years as Custodian of the Yorkshire Architectural & York Archaeological Society's (YAYAS) extensive archive of old photographic images, Ian was well qualified to do so.



Ian Drake

Not only had Ian been the custodian of the collections, but he had personally scanned many of the 4000 glass plate images to preserve them in digital form.



Ian's presentation concentrated on the photographic archive of **Thomas Hanstock**, a commercial photographer, who captured images of life in York in the early days of the last century, many of which were used for postcards – the 'in-method' of communication at the time.

His presentation included not just images of York itself, but images of important events and celebrations, of royal proclamations, military parades, visits by royalty and many fascinating civic and street scenes.

One interesting shot was of the Grand Yorkshire Gala in 1909, at which a tethered helium balloon allowed paying customers to see York from above, but it broke free and

Thomas Hanstock 1871-1942 self-portrait photo

took ten astonished passengers on a frightening ride before coming down at Elvington – one of the passengers was David Rayner's grandfather !



Minster's "Great Peter" Bell cast in 1927

Leak & Thorpe's store on fire 1933





Ian concluded with four shots of York taken from the top of the old gasometer close to Foss Bank, which between them provide a wonderfully detailed 360 degree panoramic view over the City. Taken in wartime for fire wardens to identify the locations of fires from incendiary raids - one could only sympathise with the warden sitting on top of a gasometer, with enemy aircraft in the vicinity.

Thomas Hanstock was also one of the founders of York County Hospital Radio, having set to and built the equipment himself - a man of many talents.



Au Revoir to Julie

Joining us at our lunch meeting on April 8th was Julie Parkin, who has been "looking after us" for the past 7 years as Novotel's Events Manager.

Now heading off on maternity leave, Julie has become a friend to all York Rotary members, knowing us all by name (and our dietary requirements!!) and providing a friendly, efficient and professional service which has been hugely appreciated.

President David presented Julie - who is also an honorary member of York Rotary - with a gift cheque from members, and Pres.-Elect Mary then thanked Julie and gave her a lovely arrangement of flowers.



Julie was a bit too overwhelmed to speak, but thanked all members for their kindness.

We wish her all the best for the birth, and of course we are hoping she will be with us again before long after her leave. We will miss her!!

À bientôt !

David also showed a photo of this earlier story in Rotagraph - dated January 2015 - of our first meeting held at the Novotel; the article featuring both Julie and Max.



developments.

So, as one chapter ends, another begins.....



Beginning at The Novotel : Friday 9th January.

Meet the Novotel Events Manager Julie Parkin shown on the right of this photograph, with Food & Beverage Manager Maxime Dupont on the left; they are the key people responsible for our warm welcome and continuing comfort at the Novotel in Fishergate.

A record attendance of 78 Members and guests demonstrated how significant was the relocation. The car park (an important factor in the choice of venue) was full and the large bar and reception areas provided plenty of space for fellowship. Philip Heaton and Janet Morley were conveniently located to register attendance and take the £16 per head. The room easily held the 9 tables, each of which was decorated with a large "floral" display - see below - and staff could easily manoeuvre around the room. The hearty meal was of a high standard - salmon with roast potatoes and a variety of vegetables followed by apple crumble and crème anglaise; coffee / tea and petit fours completed the repast. If anyone was cynical enough to think that this meal was designed to give a good first impression, the succeeding weeks will prove them wrong.

We hope that the Club will be able to enjoy a prolonged good relationship with the Novotel.A great start!



**Details : The Novotel Central, Fishergate, YORK, YO10 4FD.
Tel. 01904 611660**

President's Dinner is back!

Brian J reports...



It's been a while! In fact the last President's Dinner, held on March 6th 2020, was the final face-to-face event we held before we went into the first Covid lockdown which changed everything. So it was particularly pleasurable, on April 1st, to be able to revive again the one formal dinner that York Rotary holds in the year, and celebrate in particular our relationship with the City of York in our centenary year.

A formal event? Well yes, it was black-tie and a somewhat more formal structure than our weekly lunches have nowadays.

But there was a distinctly informal and friendly atmosphere around the room which put Rotarians and guests alike at ease, and light-touch speeches from President David and our guest of honour Rev Councillor David Cullwick, York's Lord Mayor.

Our guest speaker was Ron Hutchinson, with a talk entitled "Life through the rear-view mirror".

This featured his experiences through an interesting career which started in the British Army, where he drove an orange cement



mixer (he was working undercover in Belfast - don't ask!) and culminated in 1974 in his becoming the chauffeur to the third Viscount Leverhulme, the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire from 1949 to 1990 and the son of the 2nd Viscount Leverhulme who founded Lever Brothers (Unilever).

Ron's anecdotes about his rubbing shoulders with the aristocracy and members of the Royal Family – particularly Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother – were fascinating.

A further selection of photos is shown below....

NOTE: A fuller report of the dinner can be read, by York Rotary members, in the May edition of *Rotagraph*







The Civic Party with President David and President-Elect Mary



Ron Hutchinson with his wife

St Crux goes digital!

Sheila reports...

We were fundraising on April 27th with our stalls and cafe at St Crux in York.



In spite of the lower customer footfall – we did very well indeed much to our surprise and delight.



The overall total was a massive £1448.66 coming in in front of last September when we raised £1276.77 (increased by £171.79) and slightly behind our previous record of £1451.88 in May 2019 which was pre covid. Clearly the availability of Contactless payments had a huge impact on this final sum which is great news. It confirmed that digital cash is the future!

The Team will be looking at the takings of each stall to determine if we need to make some changes for our next St Crux in September.

What is clear, I feel, is that people were focussing on the basics – the Café and Home Produce rather than the stalls – this may be an indication of the current financial climate.

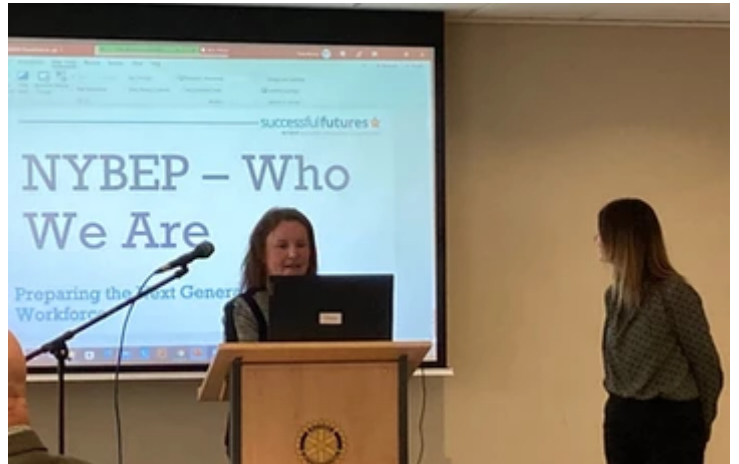


Bridging the schools to work gap

Frank reports...

At our meeting on May 6th, Laura Mason CEO and Sharon Maddison, Programme Lead Adviser outlined the role and activities of the **North Yorkshire Business and Educational Partnership**. (NYBEP Ltd)

Originally established in 1992 NYBEP now employ a staff of 25 located in Heslington Science Park who work in partnership with Local Authorities , Employers, and various fund partners to support schools and students to enrich their learning, develop new skills for the workplace and inspire learners to have a successful future.



Each year they provide work-related activities that focus on career exploration, employer engagement, information advice and guidance, developing employability skills and knowledge, understanding the value of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) and raising aspirations.



Last year they worked with over 40,000 students in 170 schools and around 3,600 businesses in North Yorkshire.

They outlined the increasing pressures schools and teachers face and their emphasis is to tailor the programmes to fit the needs of their learners and achieve a better fit between what is offered to young people and the needs of the labour market.

Sharon Maddison (l) and Laura Mason

Questions and subsequent discussions established that there is a degree of overlap with some long established Rotary youth projects and there is scope for Rotary to develop a much closer working relationship with the partnership.



Memorable events to round off our Centenary Celebrations

Extracts of a report by President David and Graham Wilford..... (full report can be found in the June Rotagraph magazine)

May 13th saw two significant events to mark York Rotary's Centenary and round off 18 months of celebrations of this milestone.



Sundial Dedication - our Gift to the City

In the morning, about 30 Members gathered on College Green to see the beautifully restored Sundial dedicated by the Acting Dean of York, Canon Michael Smith. Our guests included

- The Sheriff of York, Councillor Ashley Mason and the Sheriff's Lady, Danielle Mason
- The Acting Dean of York, Canon Michael Smith
- York Civic Trust Chairman, Stephen Lusty
- Apprentice Stonemason, Charlie Gee

Although the Sundial, which is Grade 2 listed, had been on College Green since 1951, it dated back to 1730. The restoration work was undertaken by conservator Alaina Schmisser with the stool for the ball

carved by apprentice mason Charlie Gee.

Once the ongoing enhancement of the College Green area of the York Minster precinct has been completed with new stone benches and paving, the Sundial will be at the centre of a lovely area for the public to meet, rest and just congregate.



The Acting Dean led a short service of dedication and blessing for the Sundial and the newly planted tree and plaque in the corner of College Green.

Members were interested to hear Canon Michael say that on completion of the re-landscaping of College Green, the area would be dedicated as an area of Remembrance for those who suffered and lost their lives in the pandemic.

Stephen Lusty followed by expressing his and the York Civic Trust's pleasure at having been involved in promoting the restoration work.



More photos and a video of the Sundial ceremony can be seen in our Centenary section [here](#)



Centenary Lunch

Following the established tradition, Club Members then assembled for the normal Friday lunchtime meeting, but on this occasion in the grand surroundings of the State Room of the Mansion House, a privilege which the Club had enjoyed to mark its 10 yearly Anniversaries since 1971.

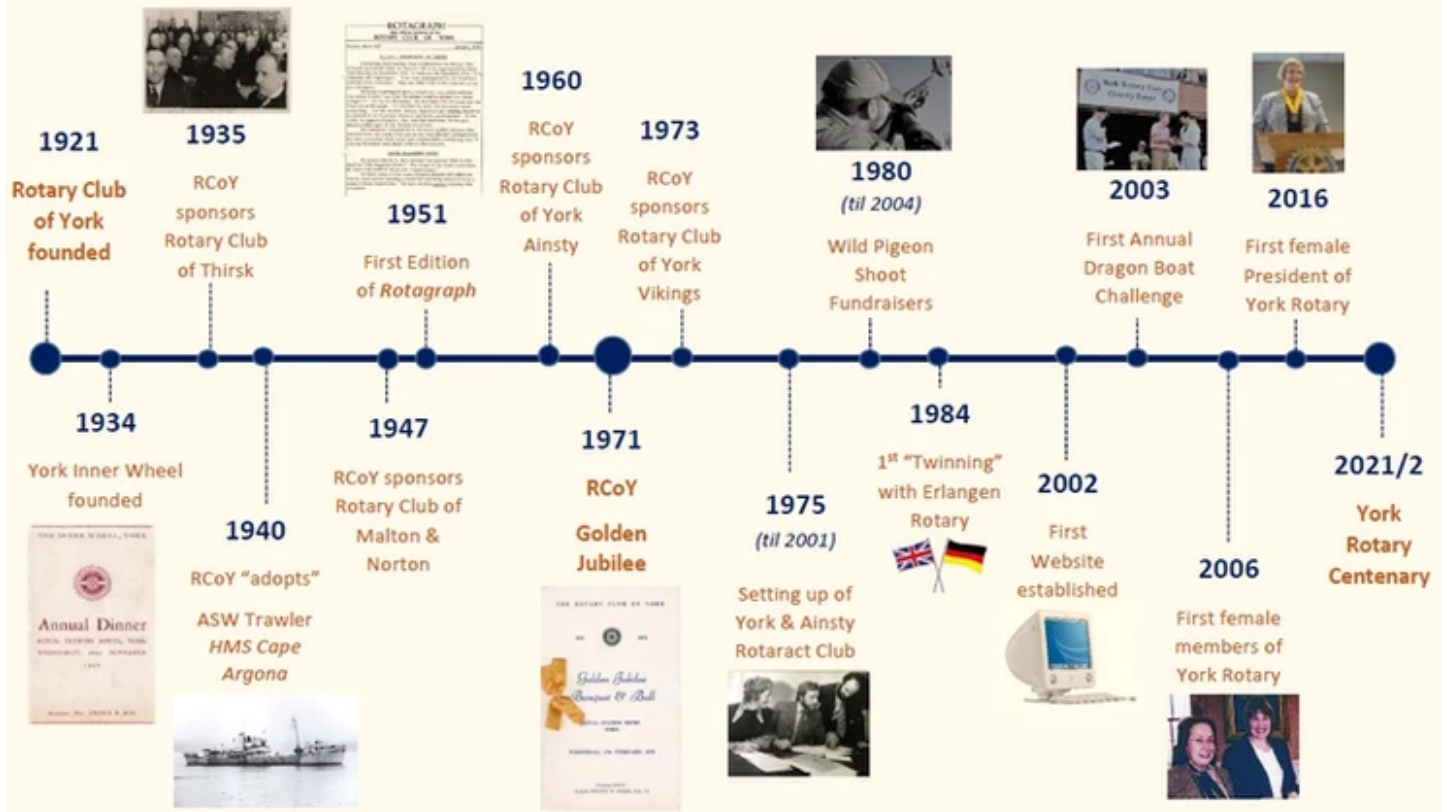


58 Members and Guests were present, including

- The Sheriff, Councilor Ashley Mason and Sheriff's Lady, Danielle Mason
- Janine Jackson, the President of York Inner Wheel, and
- Robert Coates the great great grandson of the Club's Founder President Alderman Edward Walker.



President David expressed the Club's thanks to the Sheriff and the Mansion House team for the privilege of having the newly installed plaque in the entrance hall of the Mansion House to record the Club's first meeting there in 1921.



He went on to refer to the many activities that York Rotary has been involved with in the City over the past 100 years and many international projects as well. *(These are detailed in the Rotagraph report)*

In addition to the above, the Club's fund-raising activities have been hugely successful, not least the annual Dragon Boat Challenge, in enabling it to provide very substantial financial support for an incredibly wide range of very deserving charities.

Sheriff's Response

In replying to the President's Toast to *York Rotary and the City of York*, the Sheriff of York, Councillor Ashley Mason, began by thanking the Club for restoring the Sundial on College Green, as its gift to the City to mark the Club's Centenary. Consideration is also being given to the Green becoming the City's area of remembrance for those who died in the pandemic.



He was fascinated to know of the Club's links to the Mansion House over the last 100 years and was pleased that the tradition of holding their lunch there to mark each successive ten year anniversary, was being continued.

He closed by expressing his, and the Sheriff's Lady's pleasure, at being present to celebrate the Club's Centenary.

More photos and a video of the Centenary Lunch can be seen in our Centenary section [here](#)



Honours for two Rotarians

Updated: Jun 7

In the unusual but splendid setting of York Mansion House, as part of the Centenary Lunch celebrations, President David announced that two Paul Harris Fellowship awards, for outstanding service to Rotary and to the community, were to be presented.

The presentations were made by the Sheriff of York, Cllr Ashley Mason JP

Tom Jackson, who has been in York Rotary since 2013 and was a Rotarian in other clubs for 26 years before that, is currently the Club's secretary.



Nigel Everard has served in York Rotary for 20 years, and is currently Treasurer, an arduous role he somehow manages to combine with a full-time job.



Both awards were met with warm applause from all Rotarians present as they are well deserved. More details of this story can be found in the June edition of *Rotagraph*.

Annual Charity Walk benefits Physionet

Nigel reports.....



On May 18th, 18 "long" walkers, topped and tailed by Paul Roberts and Steve Burton, headed East to Slingsby and then took the easy climb to Slingsby Heights and the Centenary Way to Hollin Hill.

The six miles were concluded via the Ebor Way.



25 "short" walkers followed Nigel Naish along a flat path across lush green fields for a gentle 3 miler. As each group re-entered picturesque Hovingham from opposite ends, they converged on the village hall.

A sumptuous buffet, lovingly prepared by Diana and her helpers awaited them.

Amidst much conviviality, the tired walkers ate heartily while meeting up with old and new friends.





The two Sheilas organised a brilliant raffle which defrayed most of the costs and the beneficiary Physionet's founder Peter Thompson was present to draw out the winning tickets.

The success of the event resulted in a net figure of **£1,234** donated to Physionet.





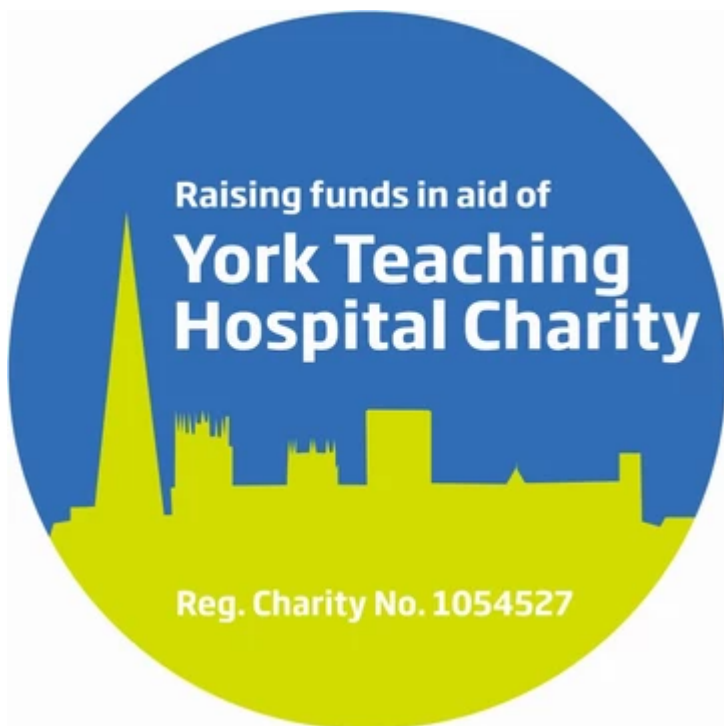
Ground Breaking at York Hospital

In 2020, York Rotary were unable to run the annual Dragon Boat Challenge event due to COVID restrictions.

Instead, a VIRTUAL Dragon Boat event was organised where crazy stunts such as rowing in a bathtub, rowing on chairs in the back garden, or riding on a tractor, were set up by members and videos made. Each pound raised from these antics moved a "virtual" dragon boat - on our website - further down the Ouse, and in the end the whole course from Newton on Ouse to the Humber Estuary was completed!



A record of the event, and the videos made, can be seen at <https://www.yorkrotary.co.uk/virtual-dragon>



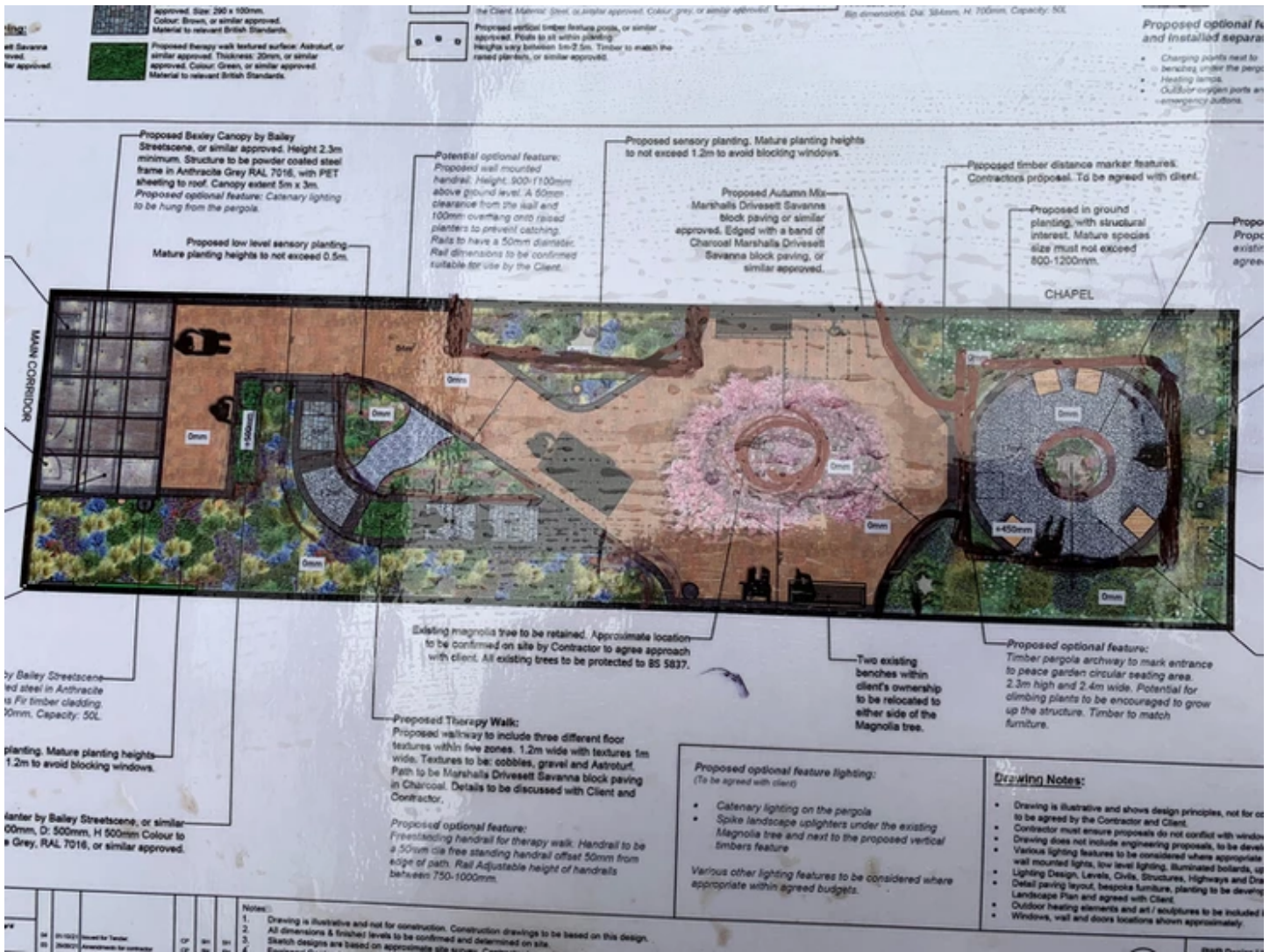
The event far exceeded our expectations, and a total of **£20,150** was raised for York Hospital Charity.

The money was raised to help fund a refurbishment of one of the outdoor spaces at York Hospital, a garden which is to be transformed into a "Rotary Peace and Reflection Garden" space.

It took a while to get the project approved, fully funded and set up, but on May 31st the ground-breaking ceremony took place at the Hospital, attended by four York Rotarians all of whom had participated in the Virtual Dragon Boat event.



The garden should be completed in the next couple of months, when York Rotarians will be invited to an opening ceremony to see the final results of our donation coming to fruition.



Plan of the new garden



Providing Toys for Sick Children at CATH

Eileen reports.....

The Covid Vaccination Centre at Askham Bar has developed additional community medicine facilities and now houses a **Children's Amber Treatment Hub** (CATH). Its specialist paediatric teams assess, treat and refer on children who have been sent there following 111 calls or other advice.

York Rotarian Paul Harvey is a member of the staff team and had identified that waiting children and their siblings needed toys and activities to keep them busy. He asked if the Youth Services Team would consider a donation specifically for this purpose and £350 was allocated as a first step.

We have received positive feedback.



The items were bought by staff who knew what would be most suitable and the items are much appreciated. For example, when Paul was assessing 4 young patients at the same time, he was able to

look into a difficult child's ear only because he was so distracted by the toy!!

A pleasing result all round.

Dragon Boat Charities

Each year, York Rotary chooses one, or two, charities to be their "Nominated Charity" for the annual Dragon Boat Challenge event in July. They receive a total of 1/3 of all the money raised by teams competing in the event.

For 2022 two charities are being supported - **Accessible Arts and Media**, and **Antibiotic Research UK**. On June 17th we welcomed representatives from both charities who told us more about their work.

First up was Rose Kent, Creative Director of Accessible Arts & Media, who joined us via Zoom. AA&M have been in York for 40 years and provide opportunities through music to support people with learning difficulties,

social isolation and other mental health issues. Their aim is to be inclusive and show that everyone can be creative and everyone can connect with and contribute to their local community. Everyone gets a chance to shine.



Through activities and projects such as their "Hands and Voices Choir" (which has been operating for 25 years), inclusive music projects, and most recently iMuse - Interactive MultiSensory Environment, a

therapeutic space whose set-up costs around £2000, where people can make music and visuals through motion/sensors.



Most recently this concept has been expanded to include "home" IMuse kits for those who are unable to come in to AA&M premises. This project is what is being helped through funds raised by Dragon Boats.

Professor Colin Garner, is founder and CEO of Antibiotic Research UK (ANTRUK) set up in 2014 to

support research, education and publicity regarding the problem of antibiotic resistance (including MRSA and other "superbugs"), which causes and estimated 5000-6000 deaths each year in the UK and is getting worse.

The WHO estimate that by 2050 over 10 million people per year will die from antibiotic resistant infections.



ANTRUK believe that through research and especially by reducing our reliance on antibiotics - which are often prescribed when they are not really necessary - this can be reduced to zero, and their work in three main areas:

- Research, driving innovative solutions to drug-free infections
- Patient Services, to help existing patients; and
- Education, to raise awareness of this problem and the risks to the future of global health.

World's first publicly funded charity tackling drug-resistant infections



Founded in 2014 by
CEO **Professor
Colin Garner**



A young, virtual charity
which has **raised over
£2.5 million to date**

The World Health
Organisation predicts that
by 2050, more than 10
million people will die
from antibiotic-resistant
infections each year

Our vision - a world **free
from deaths caused by
drug-resistant infections**

Drive forward innovative solutions
to drug-resistant infections

Improve the lives of patients with
drug-resistant infections and their
families

Raise awareness about the impact
of drug-resistant infections

Colin appealed to members to consider the impact of this issue and to resist asking GP's for antibiotics which are often not needed since the body itself will fight bacterial infections. This is a "hidden" problem for many of us, where 10% of people already have an antibiotic resistant bacteria residing their body but are not aware of it.

Members were very appreciative of learning more about the work of both these two local charities - with difficult-to-remember names but doing amazing work in both mental health and physical health fields.

More information is available on their websites:

<https://www.aamedia.org.uk/>

<https://www.antibioticresearch.org.uk/>

A Day at the Seaside



Organised by Paul Harvey and the Social Team, a day with a difference on June 20th saw a party of 22 Rotarians and partners board the North York Moors Railway at Pickering for a day out to Whitby.



With lively conversation topped up by snacks and prosecco which Hazel magically brought to us en route, we enjoyed a beautiful warm sunny day as we passed through the Moors scenery and the famous "Olde" stations en route before arriving 1.5 hours later at Whitby.



There everyone did their own thing, be it a leisurely lunch (fish and chips, or scampi, surely?), a long walk on the beach - the record being counted in in modern fashion by fitbit at 17,000 steps - a visit to the Captain Cook Museum, or consuming ice cream whilst mooching round the shops and back alleys in this fascinating and historic town.



Approaching Whitby, with a view of the Abbey in the distance

The return journey was more adventurous since, as a result of a lineside fire, the train went from Whitby only as far as Grosmont, where coaches eventually took all the passengers across to Pickering. Four of us decided it was easier to simply take the Coastliner bus all the way from Whitby, which was felt to be a less stressful a proposition!

A great day, much enjoyed by all and capped by the best weather possible for a day at the seaside!

Visiting Erlangen

A party of eight Rotarians some accompanied by partners, making a total of eleven visited our "Sister Club" in Erlangen, Germany from the 26th to 29th May.



President David, who led the party to Germany, reports:

We all agreed that it had been a fantastic weekend. We were really well looked after by the Erlangen Rotarians and the friendship was something special to enjoy.



We saw and experienced some great things over the weekend. One thing for certain was that we were exceptionally well fed over the weekend and we were never short of something to drink. The weekend emphasised the place for great international friendship.

After two and a half years it was nice to be abroad again, even though we were a bit rusty on airport procedures and had to go through the slow lane to get our passports stamped.

The planning for their visit to York next year now starts so as to ensure that we give them a very memorable experience.

A FULL REPORT of the visit, with lots of photos, can be read on our International page [here](#)



Presentation to Physionet

York Rotary has a close relationship with local charity Physionet who organise collection of surplus HNS equipment and shipments to developing countries worldwide who have a deperate need of mobility and other equipment.

Following the annual Charity Walk in May (see report [here](#)) we were pleased to welcome Physionet chairman David Kaye to our meeting on June 24th, where he was presented with a cheque for £1200 by President David.

The funds are helping the funding of a "new" van for Physionet to make collections across the country.

As you can see from the photograph it's not actually a NEW van, very much second-hand - at over 100,000 miles - but it known to be reliable and fits Physionet's needs - and budget - just fine! We are delighted to have helped make this purchase possible.



RYLA candidates announced

Updated: 6 days ago

Eileen reports...

RYLA is a leadership development course, a rare opportunity to experience challenges and learn things about yourself, about working in a team but more importantly about leading and supervising other people.

This is how we began advertising the 2022 RYLA course to York's secondary schools and youth groups. The **Rotary Youth Leadership Award** has long been recognised as an excellent training opportunity for young



people who must be aged 16 or 17 years at the time of participating.

We interviewed 9 applicants from whom 6 were chosen and then allocated in 2s to each Rotary in York group; they will all attend the course at Hebden Hey from Sunday 24th until Friday 29th July.

York Rotary is sponsoring 2 students from All Saints School and on Friday 17th we welcomed **Henry Blatchford** to lunch so that he could meet his sponsors and learn more about us. In the coming weeks we will welcome Laura Gatus, also from All Saints School.

Henry Blatchford with Eileen

A Country Drive and Tea Party



Keith Hayton reports...

On the afternoon of June 22nd Rotarians entertained some 14 guests to a drive in the country followed by a tea at the café at Yorkshire Lavender.

Sitting in the café, with a splendid view overlooking the Vale of York we were all entertained to a magnificent tea and were very well looked after by the young people at Yorkshire Lavender.

Our guests were all transported there by a variety of meandering routes through the countryside and the whole experience was blessed with a warm and sunny summer day.

For those who are not familiar with the venue, the café looks right across the vale and the images of the Minster and Drax power station are clearly visible in the distance.

My thanks to those Rotarians and partners who gave up the afternoon to give a lot of pleasure to our guests.

