



From our Patron, Elly Fiorentini....

"Who'd have thought that since I last spoke to you that we would be back in lockdown again.

It throws up many challenges for so many people but I know that there are great examples of kindness and humanity. Many of you will be working for charities who are offering support, whilst facing your own challenges.

I am always humbled by the work which continues to go on and the compassion which is shown to others who need your help and support right now.

As Christmas approaches and once again we head into the unknown, look after yourselves, each other and your family.

Sending big virtual hugs until we can meet in person again.

Elly



Raising spirits at Christmas time..

We invite all "*Friends of York Rotary*" to join in with three fun activities organised by York Rotary that are still possible in the current conditions...



SANTA FUN RUN

We're raising funds for Wilberforce Trust, the British Heart Foundation and Rotary local charities with a "do-it-yourself" Santa Fun Run on **December 12th and 13th**.

Dress up, do your own run / walk / whatever, and brighten up York and your own spirits with this fun activity.

Prizes are available for "Best Dressed" Adult, Child and Dog! when you post your photos on social media.

You can see more details and how to sign up on our RaceBest site here

[Read more here](#)

You can download the poster [here](#)

CHARITY WALK

Every year we organise a walk for Rotary members, friends and families, to raise money for a good cause. We usually include a buffet lunch too. This year of course that is not possible, but our International Team put their creative hats on and have come up with a "DIY" alternative, where we have a range of 8 walks which YOU can choose from and do in your own time and place (following current COVID regs. of course)

Can YOU join the fun?

[Read more here](#)



CHRISTMAS SAFARI SUPPER!

Ever wished you could enjoy a Safari Supper but not have the hassle of driving, or the worry about consuming too much alcohol?

Well, we now have a solution! York Rotary's very first Online Safari Supper! And a Christmas Special at that!

The date is **Tuesday 15th December at 7.15pm**, in the 'York Rotary Safari Zoom Room'

We'll share two courses "Virtually" - you can provide and display your own fabulous food, describe the aroma and taste, and enjoy the conversation around the "table" in small groups of 6-10 people

It's FREE, but you'll **need to pre-book!**

More details of this are on our website...

[Read more here](#)

....AND IN THE NEW YEAR....

The BIG QUIZ!

BIG QUIZ NIGHT

Thursday January 7th

We're organising another Charity Big Quiz Night online. Quite a few *Friends* joined us last time, so please come along again - bring family and friends too via Zoom!

This time we are raising funds for "[Hope and Aid Direct](#)"

Just £5 entry.

You can get all the details here

[Read more here](#)

CALLING ALL MEDICS AND VETS.....

One of the Community Service projects that York Rotary have been operating for many years is to provide **Interview Skills training** for young people in various schools in York, prior to their applying to University or for work.

This year, we have had an exceptionally high demand from schools, and the interview practice sessions will be done over Zoom during this month and December.

If any *Friends* would like to offer help to do this, it would be much appreciated. In particular we are looking for people in the medical or veterinary fields who could be of special value in the next few weeks. You'll be given information/guidance and will be interviewing alongside a York Rotarian.

If you are interested in volunteering in this way, please contact Eileen Davis at youthservices@yorkrotary.co.uk and she will give you more information.



Giving something back to younger people

A Christmas message from MySight York

Mike Hickman from MySight York (who are *Friends of York Rotary* members) tells us:

"We are taking part in this year's **Big Give Christmas Challenge**.

Between midday on 1st December (#GivingTuesday) and midday on 8th December, donations to MySight York (up to a total of £2000) made via the Big Give portal will be doubled. In this challenging year for all charities both locally and nationally, MySight York has successfully instituted a Keeping in Touch telephone service and a Home Connections service to support the estimated 6,000 individuals with sight loss in the York community.

The link to donate - open only between those dates - can be reached via the following address: <https://donate.thebiggive.org.uk/>.

You will need to search for us under the name MySight York in the "Find a Charity" box and then - between **1st December at midday and 8th December at midday only**, you will be able to make your donation.

Every little helps. It costs in the region of £1,000 per month for equipment and resources alone. The impact of COVID-19 on community fundraising means that we have a fundraising shortfall in the current year - your donation, potentially doubled, will make even more of a difference in 2020 than before."

VIRTUAL CAROLS AND CHRISTMAS - December 17th



Virtual Carols at Christmas

Unite with us at Christmas and enjoy a wonderful evening of virtual festivities on Thursday 17 December.



Singing for the Brain Choir at Carols at Christmas in London, 2019

Due to these unprecedented times, this year we have chosen to make our annual 'Carols at Christmas' event virtual.

We will be helping the sound of joyful voices, your favourite carols, and

Leah Bull from Alzheimer's Society reports....

Due to these unprecedented times, this year we have chosen to make our annual event Carols at Christmas virtual, bringing the sound of joyful choirs, your favourite carols, and readings from very special guests into the comfort of your own home. You can enjoy all of the festive cheer of Carols at Christmas and raise vital funds, without leaving the house.

We're delighted that the evening will be hosted by BAFTA Award winning actor and Alzheimer's Society Ambassador, Carey Mulligan, and we will also have a special performance by musician and composer Paul Harvey, who is living with dementia and recently had his work premiered by the BBC Philharmonic. We will be announcing the celebrity readers in mid-November so keep an eye out on our website and social channels.

Tickets to this year's virtual event are free and can be found [here](#) but we ask that you please consider making a donation in return for your ticket. Any gift you make will directly support the hundreds of thousands of people affected by dementia, who are facing bigger challenges than ever before in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Carols at Christmas will be a joyful celebration suitable for all ages so come and sing along with our choir, share messages with friends and family on screen and vote for your favourite carol to close the performance

Leah

You're always welcome

Finally, don't forget you, as a *Friend of York Rotary*, you are always welcome to come along to our weekly Rotary meetings - on Zoom - to meet up with us and to listen to interesting speakers - we've had a particularly excellent set of speakers in the past few months, many of national standing such as the chair of LNER. You can find a list of our speakers on our website [here](#).

If you're interested in coming along, let me know and I'll send you the Zoom link etc.

Brian

friends@yorkrotary.co.uk

We hope everyone is coping in these difficult times, and that with Christmas - and the hope of a miracle vaccine - ahead, spirits will be lifted.

York Rotary send you all our very best wishes.

Brian

Brian Joscelyne

Friends of York Rotary Co-ordinator

York Rotary

friends@yorkrotary.co.uk

<https://www.yorkrotary.co.uk/friends>

twitter: @Rotaryclubyork



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