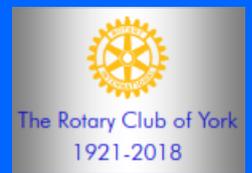


Club News Web Archive

2017-18

in reverse chronological order



Taking a 10k Hike *Nigel reports....* The June walk on **June 21st** was another venture in Nidderdale, starting from Ripley, where 8 of us set off on a 10k hike. The weather was fine, and not too hot, as we went up hill and down dale, passing through Ripley Castle Estate, a hamlet called Bedlam, crossing the Pateley Bridge Road, and completing a circuit back through Ripley village. Then a 10 minute drive to lunch at the Malt Shovel at Brearton, an old favourite, where we were joined by our temporary non-walking captain, Steve Burton (another old favourite)



Presentation to Physionet We welcomed Mike Adams, newly appointed Chair of Trustees of Physionet, to our business meeting on **June 22nd**, at which a cheque for £1100 was presented to him, this being the proceeds from the April Charity Walk organised by the Club's International Team. Mike is also Past President of the Rotary Club of Horbury & Ossett Phoenix. After thanking the Club for their donation, Mike explained the recent highlights of Physionet's operations, especially pointing out the delight of the recipients of Physionet's shipments in places such as Ghana, Zimbabwe and Belarus, to name a few – who benefit from the physiotherapy equipments donated. Club members regularly support Physionet with driving to collect surplus items from UK hospitals, and in Saturday morning loadings of containers for overseas shipment.



Popping in to Tesco's On **June 22nd** a group of 30 members and partners visited Tesco Superstore at Askham Bar, where Store manager David Clift, together with Lisa (Fresh Food manager) and Caroline (Community Projects manager) explained the background of Tesco's rise from its humble beginnings in 1919 to becoming today the no.1 retailer in the UK, with 3400 stores and 310,000 employees (called "colleagues"). The Askham Bar store employs 550 and has a turnover of £76m a year. Increasingly on-line shopping and home delivery are taking over from the traditional "shopping" in store, and David has 18 vans on constant delivery rounds – 3 times a day each. Over recent years, under the leadership of CEO Dave Lewis there has been increasing emphasis on their core business, new technology (all stock control and monitoring of sales is done remotely by head office) and improved relationship with staff. David explained that the quality of customer care and staff relations are his key performance measures, and supplier relationships have improved from what were considered to be the worst in the industry. A fascinating glimpse into Tesco's culture and operations – many thanks to Frank for his organisation of this visit.



Tea Party at Sinnington One of the highlights on the Club's Community Services calendar, the annual "outing" taking seniors to Sinnington, took place on **June 19th** when 20 clients were driven by a scenic route across the Howardian Hills and ending up at Sinnington Village Hall in Ryedale, where a delicious afternoon tea awaited them, provided by the ladies of Sinnington WI. For many of the clients, some from Abbeyfields House, some via the Salvation Army and others through other contacts, this is a highlight of their year, as many are no longer able to get out into the countryside very often. Many thanks to the Rotarian drivers and partners, and especially to the ladies of Sinnington WI who always do such a brilliant job.



Baby Register grows! Our new initiative, the *Family Tree Partnership*, has been receiving more publicity as the York City Council published a blog accompanied by this photo of some of the recent mums who had registered their babies on our website and thus will get a tree planted (in November) to commemorate their newborn. Read the CoYC article [here](#). The tree planting scheme has captured the imagination of young people across York, judged by the activity of Social Media, and already there are close to 250 registrations on our website [here](#). Rotary is projecting a modern image and communicating with younger people!



Dogs for Good Our speakers on **June 15th** were Adele Birkin-Hart and her husband Russell. They were accompanied by their Golden Retriever "Stuey", who was trained by Dogs for Good (DfG) and provides assistance to wheelchair-bound Adele with household duties during the day - for example emptying her washing machine - and of course companionship while Russell is out working. Russell explained the origins and working of Dogs for Good which was founded (as "Dogs for the Disabled") in 1988 and is based in Banbury. A puppy typically costs £1000 to buy, and DfG now have breeding bitches who can increase the numbers of suitable dogs for training for these special tasks. After assessment and training which can take 4-6 months, a "match" is sought with people such as Adele who have registered for assistance. There is a long waiting list! After a week's training "in the home", a dog such as Stuey can be an invaluable help and comfort to those with physical or mental challenges. The trainer follows up with each family, for at least 6 to 12 months. DfG receive no funding from local or government sources and are entirely dependant on donations. We thank Russell and Adele for enlightening us about this charity and the wonderful work it does.



Young Musician Launch On June 11th the Club launched the Rotary Young Musician 2018 competition in York. This national event starts with local contests organised by individual Clubs, and the York Vikings Rotary Club ran the York event for many years, until 2014. Now it has been revived in York with Russ Rollings' Youth team organising the event which will be held on November 17th at the National Centre for Early Music on Walmgate. Publicised through local schools and music teachers, entries will be administered on-line through the Club website. More details can be seen [here](#)



Meet Snowball! On June 8th our speaker was Sheila Wainwright, President of Wakefield Rotary Club, who spoke to us of her involvement with [Admiral Nurses](#). She gave a very personal account of how she lost her husband to Dementia. She knew something was wrong when he gave up his work and all of his interests but finding help from GPs and the Health Service in general was a major challenge. After 4 years of misery as her husband progressed to advance stages of the disease and not knowing where to turn she found Admiral Nurses and as Sheila put it "they saved my life". Since then Sheila has been giving talks to everyone possible and there are now 200 Admiral Nurses in the Country working in the community for the NHS and also in care homes, hospitals and hospices. Sheila through her husband identified that a cat can be a great comfort to Dementia sufferers but looking after them is not always possible so she found "Snowball" a very realistic looking and sounding artificial cat and has secured a Rotary Grant of £3,000 to purchase some more of them.



The McLaren Dragon Boat connection Every year, the programmes we sell for Dragon Boat Challenge day include a "lucky number" draw number. Despite widely publicising the winning numbers, in many years we do not get a claimant for the draw prizes. But last year, both first and second prizes were claimed, and one of these - a ride in Patrick Shepherd's McLaren 12C - was won by a member of the Samaritans Dragon Boat crew. The prize was then raffled within Samaritans, which resulted in Julie Harker, one of their volunteers, claiming the prize but immediately giving it to her husband Lee. Patrick's comment? "She must have heard about my driving!!" So a few weeks ago, Lee duly went with Patrick on a fast and exhilarating tour of the Yorkshire countryside, McLaren style.



Far from the pin! The President's Cup was held at the Fulford Golf Club on the **June 4th**. The weather was cool but dry and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the golf - despite the course being particularly challenging after recent modifications - and the evening meal where partners and other members attended. President Brian presented the prizes, following Golf Organiser David's announcement of the winners. It was a very pleasant day of fellowship. The winner was Keith Hayton, who won the Cup, a golf shirt, and two glasses engraved with golf images, presented for the occasion by the President. A close runner-up was Graham Todd, with Dennis Adamson Taking third place. Normally a "Nearest the Pin" award goes to the person hitting closest to the pin on a par-3 hole green (or two holes on this occasion). However, it was *not won* - not one golfer hit the green on either of the two qualifying holes!! Many thanks to David Sweeney for the excellent organisation and fun on the day. More photos and full results on the Golf page [here](#)



Exciting times for the Railway Museum. On **June 1st** our speaker was Judith McNicol, newly appointed Director of the [National Railway Museum](#) in York. She outlined the ambitious plans at the NRM for updating and expanding their "offering", alongside the broader vision of the [York Central](#) redevelopment over the next 7 years. Judith is unusual in having a background in engineering (something she wanted to do from an early age) and a business background, which has led her to ensure realistic but ambitious plans are in place, despite the disappointment recently of not receiving Lottery Funding aid. The visitor numbers, currently 750,000 per year, are projected to rise to 1.2million, with children visitors rising from 40k to over 100k following the establishment of the "Wonderlab" area of the museum under the plans Judith outlined. With the last update being back in 1991, a refresh is sorely needed, and improvements planned, such as cohesive stories being developed to accompany the current static locomotive displays, will ensure the NRM remains one of the top ranked museums outside London.



(Click photos to enlarge)



Tree Partnership takes root Rotary internationally are expecting to plant 1.2 million trees (one per Rotarian) worldwide this year. In York, our Club has chosen to partner with the City Register Office, the Woodland Trust, York St John University, and others in a programme to plant a tree for every baby born in York over the coming 12 months, this being managed through our Club website. Full details can be found [here](#). The launch took place on **June 1st** at the Register Office, where the Lord Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr Nigel Ayre and Rachael Maskell MP were amongst those who heard Frank Paterson explain the scheme. Following this President Brian presented the first certificate to York Registrar Amanda Sykes, and a "tree planting" was staged for the press. Considerable interest has since been taken on Social Media and the press, including the President being interviewed by Radio York. Many thanks to Frank and the team that have put the scheme together.





Friends of Rotary come forward! The Friends of York Rotary was "launched" at an evening event at the Novotel, York on **May 29th**. Around 50 attended to hear the BBC's Elly Fiorentini - who is the Patron of the new group - express her strong support for the work that Rotary does in the local community. Elly is of course an Honorary member of our Club. After an explanation of what Rotary is, and the background and aspirations of the "Friends" initiative from Club President Brian, some lively "break-out group" discussions and "brainstorming" took place, where many ideas were put forward by participants, from how they might contribute to the new venture to the benefits they are looking for from participation. Many thanks to the members of our External Relations team who worked hard to prepare and manage this event, which has definitely put Rotary more "on the map" in our community and reached out to a whole new audience - and potential Rotarians, perhaps?
More information and photos on the "friends" web page [here](#).



The John Lewis Partnership On May 18th we were treated to a great double-act presentation by the managers of two local JLP stores - Emma Greendale from John Lewis (Vanguard), and Kylie Gilson who manages Waitrose. The JLP is a visionary and successful way of doing business, boldly putting the happiness of Partners at the centre of everything it does. Founder, John Spedan Lewis' combination of commercial acumen and corporate conscience, so ahead of its time, is what makes John Lewis what it is today. It began trading in 1864 on London's Oxford Street (still there today) and has grown to become the largest Omni-channel retailer in the UK. The Group now consists of 50 John Lewis shops and 353 Waitrose supermarkets with some 85,500 permanent staff all of whom have a responsibility to "challenge the Chairman and get involved in the decision-making process". Playing an active role in the local community matters with stores having £1000 available each month to donate to worthy causes and employees are also encouraged to donate time to the community. Emma & Kylie gave us a real insight into The John Lewis approach to business.



Sinnington Walk *I wandered lonely as a cloud* Mike S reports...
We wandered, but not lonely, as there were fourteen of us.

The weather can be changeable in mid-May but we were very fortunate and caught it on the change, from very cold to very pleasant, especially when the sun broke through the clouds that floated over the hills and the vale, through which flows, the River Derwent. As we climbed along a well-trodden path, northwards towards Cropton, we entered the woods that sit at the south-eastern edge of the North York Moors. I had advertised the walk as being "floral" but the group seemed taken aback by the sea of wild flowers that grow there. There's no lake but they were certainly beneath the trees, on the hillsides and beside the river. Despite a ten-minute stop at the half-way point (at a bench commemorating a victim of the Second World War, presumably a local lad), we failed to take a group photo. As we reached Sinnington again, we past an historic and very interesting building. Attached to the hall is a wonderful old chapel that is well worth seeing if you are walking in the area. Built in the 12th century it has been a chapel and a Tythe Barn and was owned by Catherine Parr's first husband (she lived in Sinnington).



Ein freundliches Wochenende! A weekend of fellowship! in true International style. From **May 10th to 13th** we were host to a party of 29 Rotarians and partners from our "twin" Clubs in Erlangen Germany, and Aubusson France. After 18 months of planning by Nigel Naish and his team (David Jesper and Robin Rich) - to whom many thanks - everything went smoothly and even the weather was perfect! The excursions included a visit to the Jorvik Centre, a boat cruise on the Ouse, and a full day trip to Whitby across the Moors, including a wonderful "Story-Teller" bringing Whitby history to life, followed by a ride on the North York Moors Railway. Everyone enjoyed the variety of meals, from the Welcome Dinner on Thursday evening and our Club lunch meeting, both at the Novotel, an Italian supper at the Olive Tree, fish lunch at The Star Inn the Harbour in Whitby and finally our Gala Dinner in the splendid surroundings of York Racecourse. With great fun, discussion and exploration, the weekend was - judged by feedback from our visitors and the many Club members who attended - a great success. We look forward to visiting Germany (probably Coburg) in 2020!
A full report of the weekend, with lots of photos is available [here](#)



A "Friendly" Viking Invasion. On **April 27th** we welcomed members from the Bergen Rotary Club, Norway - some 39 in total including members and partners, and led by their President Audun Øisted and his wife Martha Sofie. They arrived at Manchester airport, were bused over to York and arrived at the Novotel for lunch at 1.30. What a lovely group of people they were; and with Norwegian flags showing them where to sit for lunch amongst our own Club members it made for a great conversation and exchange of ideas. Our visitors spoke excellent English - which was just as well, as our Norwegian was rather poor!! They were visiting York, with a very interesting programme, until the 1st of May. We hope to see them again soon - perhaps on their home soil.



And from Brazil.... Also joining us for this very international lunch meeting were Jair Silvério, IPP of the Rotary Club of Contagem Cidane Industriale (Brazil, District 4760) and his partner Raquel Meigeles.



Flying bombers New member David Marchant was the speaker on **April 20th**, and outlined his interesting and exciting career in the RAF, initially as a pilot, getting his wings in 1962 and flying various planes including the famous Vulcan bomber with its 100ft wingspan and very thirsty engines. Although his time in the RAF never had him "firing in anger", his anecdotes about some of his RAF colleagues, and flying with nuclear weapons under the wings, were scary enough. His description of the drawbacks of sitting tightly strapped in for over 5 hours on training flights led to various questions best left to the imagination. After six years, David trained to become a flying instructor, based eventually at Linton-on-Ouse, and after retirement for the air force, he took up psychology, gaining a degree from the Open University. He now leads a much quieter life!!



Walking for Physionet The Club's annual Charity walk was on **April 19th**, organised as usual by the International Team, and this year benefitting [Physionet](#). Nigel and Diana Naish planned the day to perfection (even including glorious sunshine!) and 80 people took part, with many from the Rotary Club of Knaresborough and other supporters of Physionet, as well as an excellent turnout of our own members and partners. The walks (short and long), from Hampsthwaite and led by Nigel and Mark Sessions were much enjoyed in warm sunshine, and the buffet lunch was terrific, thanks to Diana and her team of Club members and partners who helped prepare, set out, serve and clear up afterwards. Geoff Brown supplied the enormous and delicious apple pies. The event raised over £1000 for Physionet, appreciated especially by their new chairman Mike Adams (a member of Horbury and Ossett Phoenix Rotary Club), who was there too. Mike will be visiting our Club in the next couple of months, where a cheque will be formally presented to him. Many thanks to all who helped make such a successful day.



Charting the History of York With a record attendance of 75 members and guests on **April 13th**, we were delighted to welcome Dr Peter Addyman CBE (and a founder member of York Vikings Rotary Club in 1978) as our speaker. Peter, who founded and ran York Archeological Trust for 30 years, has held many other leading positions in the City, and is Freeman of the City of York (thus eligible, he told us, to keep a mare and foal on one of York's Strays). His talk was about his latest publication, the Historic Towns Atlas (York). This remarkable and scholarly work incorporates a detailed history of the City from Roman times through to the 1800's, accompanied by 25 beautifully illustrated maps that show the development of ecclesiastical, defensive, domestic and industrial structures, parish boundaries, and tiny details such as tree positions and topography. The first edition of 500 sold out within a few days, and the third reprint is nearly sold out as well. Peter held everyone's attention with his immense knowledge and perspective of our City's history, and his magnum opus is certain to be the reference book of choice for many years to come on this subject.



Visit to Allerton Waste Recovery Centre *Mark reports...* A group of 23 members and partners visited this facility on **April 13th**. 330,000 tons of waste per year will be processed here, thus avoiding the waste going into landfill. We heard that they use three technologies to treat 90% of our "black bin" waste that is collected from homes in York and North Yorkshire. First, Mechanical Treatment sorts the rubbish. Recyclable items such as plastic bottles, paper, and metal cans are taken out to be reprocessed elsewhere. Food and biodegradable items are separated and transferred to produce a biogas which generates renewable electricity. The rest of the waste is burnt to create steam which powers turbines to produce electricity. Some of the electricity is used to power their plant, but the rest is sold to the National Grid, enough to power 40,000 homes. The whole plant is controlled by computers and run by just 70 staff on a 24 hour basis. We were assured that the only emission from the tall chimney is steam! The most difficult waste to treat is video tapes! They have to close the plant down and operators have to go in and pull the strips of tape off the mechanical treatment sorting gear!



Mental Health Confusion We were delighted to welcome Dr Kim Bevan OBE as our speaker on **April 6th**. Kim is Director of Development at **The Retreat** in York, and her topic was the state of Mental Health Provision in York and the UK. Kim described the history of The Retreat from its early origins to today, where current treatment is centred around relationships and a positive outlook, with a continuity based on Quaker values reflecting the origins of the Retreat (founded 1796 by the Tuke family). She described the complexity of services provided for mental health in the UK with a chart extracted from an excellent video on this subject (*viewable below*) made by the Kings Fund. Different funding mechanisms and lack of co-ordination make it very difficult of GP's, and patients, to find the right path to follow to get appropriate support. Kim emphasised that recent legislation has now given everyone a right to mental health treatment equal to that of physical health – a giant step forward. And as awareness of mental health and treatment requirements grows, things are slowly improving.

An alternative g...



A Feminine Taste for Golf *Christine reports.....* "Some of our lady members had a "Taster Session Of Golf" at York Golf Club, Strensall on **March 27th**. David Sweeney had approached Mark Rogers the professional golfer at the club to see if he could encourage more ladies to take up golf. So, five ladies, myself, Eileen Davis, Hazel Hart, Val Revell and Mary Lumley were willing to give it a try! It was a cold drizzly morning, Mark rang me before we set off for Strensall to make sure we didn't want to rearrange. I said we had all got the right clothing for the weather so he praised our fortitude and said jokingly that David Sweeney would have probably cancelled!! Mark took us through the basics, the stance, the grip and then the swing, most of all not to be embarrassed if we "fluffed" a shot! He was very patient & encouraging and I think I can speak for all we really enjoyed our taster session despite the inclement weather. We finished after an hour and then met up with fellow Rotarians Diana Naish & Sheila Weatherburn for some lunch at Tykes at Sandburn Hall. We then did an analysis of our lesson over lunch, a good way to spend a very damp March morning. I have to say it gave us an idea if we wanted to progress with more lessons.....watch this space!..."



RCoY Choir at Mar...



A Charity Lunch with a difference! On **March 26th** we held a joint event with the Inner Wheel Club of York, in aid of Alzheimer's Society. 105 attended at the Novotel, including special guests District Governor Robert Morphet, Regional Fundraising Support Officer Sally Backhouse and Bernie Brown from Alzheimer's Society, members of our Club and Inner Wheel, and many guests from other Clubs in York and beyond. Following the delicious meal, the RCoY Choir, led by Mike Hay and accompanied by Ros, performed two songs – "Scarborough Fair" and "Downtown" with great gusto - resulting in a standing ovation and cries of "encore" DG Robert updated us on developments in wider Rotary, and we heard a short presentation from Bernie about the new Alzheimer's Society "Side by Side" programme now being rolled out across Yorkshire and providing real personal support to those facing, and living with, dementia. The event was very generously supported by those present, through a raffle; and an auction for a Golf Day for 4 which after a furious bidding war (!) eventually sold to Tom and Janine Jackson. The total amount raised for Alzheimer's Society was £1000. A magnificent result, which delighted our two guests from Alzheimer's.



Another New Member Joins On March 16th we were delighted to welcome our newest member Diane Roworth - recently retired as CEO of York Blind and Partially Sighted Society. Since then she's been sailing for 14 days, distributing aid in Bosnia and travelling in India for a month! Diane has been a tireless campaigner for better provision for the blind and partially sighted. She's a tower of strength who will add much to Rotary and to our Club - welcome Diane!



Rotary's Foundation On **March 16th** our speaker, District 1040 Foundation Chairman Anita Rayner, summarised the work of Foundation at both District and international levels. One of the world's leading charities, Foundation can still seem mysterious to many Rotarians. After a 3-year investment, to earn interest, Foundation uses more than 90% of our donations for sustainable, life-changing projects which support global crises and improve lives for those who need it most. It is currently engaged in trying to eliminate Polio, working with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to provide the resources to rid the world of its last few cases and to build future resilience. Internationally, it also supports Peace Fellows - young people from around the world who learn to broker peace and understanding - and Grant Scholars (two of whom we are looking after this year) who are financed to undertake postgraduate studies in subjects which will help make the World a better place. More locally, Anita reminded us of the grants we had received in the past two years, to assist work in southern Africa at Ebenezer School in Zambia and Ella Gordon Nursery in Hermanus, South Africa.



A Bay Horse Tale *Graham T reports...* This month's walk on **March 15th** was going to be centred on The Goodmanham Arms, that serves excellent Beer and Food at prices not seen in York. When I carried out a 'recce' the day before, mine host at the GA warned that we would be joined by a bus load of 50 attending the Kiplingcotes Derby. I thanked him for the info and bowed out, after an excellent pint of Ossett Blonde, warning that we would be back on another occasion, very soon. I called in at the Bay Horse, in Market Weighton, and booked us in for our after walk repast. The walk itself, although a little muddy, appeared to be enjoyed by all, [see smiles in photograph], featured the 'Hudson Way' towards Kiplingcotes, then up the hill to join the 'Wolds Way' back to Goodmanham. Fortunately, the biting cold wind, on the recce, had relented to a stiff breeze. Unfortunately, the many interesting views were 'drizzled out' although we did witness some of the harshest clearance hedging you will ever see. Back to the Bay Horse for a wonderful Steamed Steak, Kidney and Oyster suet pudding. I weighed in a little heavier this morning!



International Women's Day Rotary isn't just for men! On International Womens Day on **March 8th** we celebrated all the women in our club and worldwide. Here's to the millions of Rotarian women and friends of Rotary across the world who are out there working hard and making a difference.



Celebrating International Rotary Our guests on **March 9th** were Yu Ogawa and Nicole Neiman, two Rotary International Grant Scholars who are connected with our Club whilst they are studying at the University of York. Yu, from Kobe, Japan, has a Law degree from Soka University and has been sponsored by Rotary Foundation in her Global and International Citizenship masters degree at York. She explained she is hoping to work with Youth Development internationally after graduating. Nicole is from California USA, where she studied at Redlands University. Her focus now is on Public Health, particularly relating to mothers and childbirth issues, and she is completing a Masters in Public Health at York. The power of Rotary, through its Foundation, to further the development of these scholars' careers and to give back to the international community as a result, was evident. We wish them both well in their future careers - and also as future Rotarians, we hope!



President's Dinner One hundred members, partners and special guests gathered at the Novotel on **March 2nd** for our annual President's Dinner, the formal event during the Club's year when we celebrate the Club's relationship with our City and community. After a superb dinner prepared and served with their usual brilliance by chef VJ and Julie's great Novotel team, President Brian outlined the changing nature of our local community and how Rotary works with it increasingly in new ways; District Governor Robert Morphet responded with some lavish praise for how the Club was going from strength to strength and was successfully modernising its image. Our main speaker David Wiseman then captivated his audience with his story of Army service, injury and trauma in Helmand, Afghanistan, recovery through services "Walking Wounded" programmes that included amazing mountaineering feats, and then a meeting with Prince Harry that resulted in David being part of the team that set up the Invictus Games in 2014. He explained that he went on to captain the UK team at the 2016 Games in Orlando, and personally won several medals in the swimming events. His message of the power of sport to re-invigorate and provide wounded servicemen with new self-worth - "*We are international athletes now*" - was inspirational.



Supporting The Hut The Club has been further supporting the local mental health charity "The Hut" as President Brian and Chair of Community Service, Keith Hayton, visited their premises (a "hut", previously a bowling green clubhouse, opposite York Hospital) on **February 28th**, to present a donation cheque for £1200 to their managers Emma and Jonny, and a gathering of some of their "members". The Hut provides ongoing help, skills and life training and social interaction for over 160 people (their "members") on a shoestring and it was a moving experience to see this wonderful charity in action. We wish them well.



Building tomorrow's engineers The Rotary Clubs of York "Technology Tournament" took place on **February 27th** at the Portakabin premises in Huntington, with a "full house" of 26 teams of 4 children, from nine schools in York and North Yorkshire. Teams from Ampleforth College were competing for the first time, and they, like the others, braved the snowy conditions to ensure the event started on time. The positive and excited atmosphere continued throughout the day as the teams planned, designed and then built their "cranes" - needing to be capable of lifting a magnetic container ("High explosive") and retrieving the load back under a bridge without touching its top or sides. The ingenuity and skills that were used, and the learnings throughout the day, were evident and impressed both the judges and the VIP's present - the Mayoral party and our District Governor Robert Morphet. Eventually the judges chose the winners in each of the three age categories. But in truth everyone was a winner in this amazing event. Congratulations to the organisers including our own club's co-ordinator Russ Rollings. **More photos and details are on the Technology Tournament page [here](#)**



Under the Mango Tree An unusual name for a small charity, and its founder Gordon Atkinson, our speaker on **February 23rd**, explained its origins and the work it does in supporting the Kamba Timboni school in Kenya, where he first visited and saw children in the village getting "education" sitting under this tree. 500,000 children in Kenya do not go to school. Whilst village elders are often not educated, they do value the importance of education, and as long as the Kenyan government can not fully support schooling financially, charities such as Gordon's make an invaluable contribution, both in building and equipping schools such as this, and providing meals for the children whilst they attend. Gordon explained that while much has been done, there is still much to do to improve sanitation, handwashing and additional classroom facilities at Kamba Timbone. Clearly "Under the Mango Tree" is a labour of love for Gordon and his wife Angela



Banging the drum for York Against Cancer The fundraiser on February 10th by Kaminari UK Taiko drummers was a great success, as reported earlier. The concert raised over £2600, and this has been shared between York Against Cancer, who worked with us on the organisation, marketing and ticket sales, and our own Club charity fund. The photo taken on **February 20th** shows Francine Clee (YAC marketing), Julie Russell (YAC General Manager) with President Brian, accepting a cheque from the Club. Keith Hayton, our Community Services Chair and also a Trustee of York Against Cancer, was also present - and took the photo!





February march *Steve reports...* OC Sullivan assembled his troops for 0930 assault in Crown & Cushion Car Park; Lance Corporal Paterson then lined everyone up against a high wall for a team shoot, all facing the sun - so no background and every-one blinking, but was his camera primed? With a warning of a 'little bit of mud' en route we were off; 21 in total soon spread out over a few hundred yards, possibly to avoid ambush or just for animated conversation. Brisk cross country followed and an unknown route found for many who thought they knew all the paths in the Castle Howard area - we never seen the estate sewage works before! A brief stop at aptly named Bog Hall, a deserted sprawl of building, for which Tom Jackson quickly drew an redevelopment scheme, only to find it was actually inhabited. At this stage our leader casually mentioned the route back took us back through the valley of mud bringing on murmurs of desertion in the ranks. A sharp shower of sleet threatened to spoil the good day but was over before it began and so back down and up the mud again, resulting in a extremely long straggle sliding back to a halt at the pub. Refreshment as ever imbibed. Mike thanked and parade dismissed.

Kaminari Feb 10 Show snip...



Drumming up support for Charities In a new initiative for the Club, a fundraising show was held on **February 10th** organised in partnership with York Against Cancer. A show with a difference – featuring Japanese drumming and instrumental music, performed by local group Kaminari UK Taiko Drumming. Taiko drumming is powerful, energetic and is very much a “performance” involving synchronised movements with martial arts, theatrical and dance elements. These were interspersed with some beautiful lyrical playing of the Koto and other Japanese stringed instruments. With around 200 attending at St Peters School, the atmosphere was exciting and positive. Best of all, the show raised over £2500 for charity – this being split between York Against Cancer and our Club’s charity Fund. Many thanks to the Fundraising Team, and to YAC, for their excellent organisation of the event - and the Kaminari team who provided such a professional and enjoyable evening. Click below for a 2-minute “snippet” video..



Operation of Hope Our speaker on **February 9th** was Jo Curl, who as well as having a career as BA Cabin Crew, is a UK volunteer with Operation of Hope. This is a US-based not-for-profit, all-volunteer surgical team that provides free-of-charge surgeries to children in developing countries who are born with or suffering from facial deformities. Founded in 1988, by retired ear, nose and throat physician Dr. JP Clawson, the all-volunteer team has impacted the lives of over 5,000 children. One unique case involves a young boy from Zimbabwe, Africa who suffered a facial deformity as a result of blast injury to his face. The boy is named Blessing and at the age of 10 picked up a land-mine thinking the shiny object was a transistor radio. The land-mine detonated and removed most of Blessing’s mouth, teeth, lips and tongue. 4 years later, Operation of Hope Volunteer surgeons came together to help this young boy and his incredible journey was illustrated in a moving (if hard-to-watch) video that Jo shared with us. (*you can view it [here](#)*) A remarkable international charity which is truly “service above self” and worth of Rotary’s support.



Local school winner in Rotary Yorkshire Cooking Final *Frank reports..* Amy Bettles, from Archbishop Holgates School, York became Yorkshire’s Chef of the year in the annual Rotary Young Chef competition **February 6th** at Betty’s Cookery School in Harrogate. The event was the culmination of a series of competitions held in schools throughout Yorkshire during the last three months. Over 100 youngsters participated in the challenge to produce in 90 minutes a healthy three course meal for two people within a budget of £15.00. The many professional chefs who have judged the events in schools throughout the County are invariably impressed with the standards achieved and the variety of menus. Amy now goes forward to the Northern Regional competition in Leeds on 10th March.



Shelterbox live demonstration Rtn. Stephen Woodcock from our District 1040 co-ordinator for the International and well renowned ShelterBox project, came on **February 2nd** to tell us about this vital work. ShelterBox, based in Cornwall, provides humanitarian relief across the globe in the wake of crises and natural disasters. Having become Rotary International’s first official Project Partner back in 2012, the collaboration will now continue until at least 2019. A Shelter Box is a plastic container, which includes, amongst other items, a tent, thermal blanket cooking pots and a water filtration kit to provide shelter, warmth and comfort for a displaced family. Each fully-equipped Shelter Box costs £590, which includes the distribution costs needed to respond immediately to crises or disasters from one of their 21 locations around the world. After lunch, Stephen demonstrated and trained us in how to erect a Shelterbox tent - not a straightforward task. The Club plans to use our Shelterbox demo box and tent in future displays where the Club has a presence in local events, shows etc.



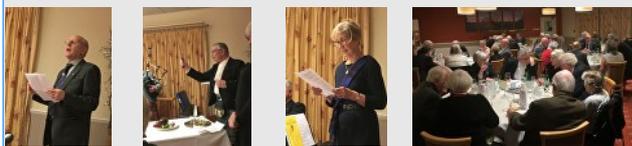
Watching them watching us A group of 12 members gathered at the West Offices of York Council on **February 2nd** to visit York’s CCTV Control Centre. With 280 cameras across the City, 10% of them in high-definition colour that seem able to pick out the details of your eyelashes, the 48 monitor screens are scanned 24 hours a day and give an eerie sense of “all-knowing” whilst at the same time increasing a feeling of security for York’s residents; and they have reduced crime levels in the city. Operations Manager James Watson explained that large trees seem to provoke problems for some cameras in the summer - who did not think about that beforehand? - as does direct sunlight. But generally, this operation, with its links to traffic, bus and police control centres, providing 30-days of recorded tape for subsequent examination if needed, appeared to the group to justify the £300,000 of residents’ cash spent on it.

Cameras were not allowed in the Control Room. This "stock" photo is of a similar operational centre.

Burns Night 2018 at ...



Not so serious Burns The Club’s Burns Supper on **January 30th** celebrated in a more relaxed manner than some such events. After the traditional meal - with piping and addressing the haggis - the 60 members and guests at the Pike Hills Golf Club were entertained with Burns’ music, short speeches and a Scottish Quiz. It was a great night and thanks go to the Fellowship team who organised the event, and Frank who masterminded the evening in his inimitable style. We’re grateful to Secretary and fine baritone Mike, Ros, Steve, Christine, and John for their wonderful entertainment. **Watch the 2-minutes “highlights” video**



Young Chefs in York On **January 26th** the East Yorkshire heat of the Young Chefs 2018 competition was held at York College, Tadcaster Road. Judges Graham Fyffe and Sue Leach had difficult task. In the 90 minutes allocated to cooking a two-course meal for two people within a budget of £10, students were making their own pastry, their own pasta and even their own ice cream. Nine students from York area schools, Whitby and Market Weighton competed on the night. The winner was Amy Bettles from Archbishop Holgates School who now goes forward to the Yorkshire Area finals at Betty’s Cookery School, Harrogate on Monday 5th February. Club members Frank Paterson (project champion for the Young Chefs event), Russ Rollings (Youth Services Chair) and Christine Watkinson attended the event. Frank thanked judges, students, parents and teachers for supporting the event whilst Russ finished off a couple of the puds! *Footnote:* the winner of the York heat five years ago, Zak Abbot also from Archbishop Holgates, is now a chef at prestigious Middlethorpe Hall.

Refugee Action in York On January 26th we welcomed John Williamson, a volunteer co-ordinator at RAY ([Refugee Action York](#)). RAY were set up in 2002 and aim are to assist the integration of refugees or asylum seekers into our local community and further to educate the wider local society to understand the problems and challenges these people face. Their "service users" number 116 (53 adults and 63 children) and are supported by just 4 regular part time staff and a further 50 part time volunteers. A Holistic approach is provided for each family via The Hub where a full range of help and activities can be found such as – Language classes (English & native tongue), shared meals, child care, youth club, in-home support, projects tailored for the men of the family together with educational maths/art/drama/craft making. John thanked the Club for providing funding for their project programme. The photo on the left is of John receiving the cheque at a RAY Hub session last November.



Kudos from KYRA On January 17th Sheila Weatherburn and Jan Dash visited [KYRA](#), the Women's Support charity in York, and behalf of the Club presented them with a cheque for £500 from our Community Service charity fund. They responded with a thank you "Tweet" via their twitter feed.. The Club is looking at a number of other ways we might support the important work KYRA do in the community to help women in need.



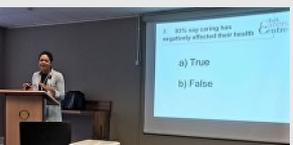
January Walk Steve reports.. Some 13 intrepid souls braved the elements on **January 18th** and took to The Wolds for the first of the 2018 walks on a circular route from Sledmere; regrettably 6 cried off at the last moment possibly wondering if Garrowby Hill was passable. The Wolds were a perfect winter scene as we trudged through a smattering on new snow without too much clarty mud to slow progress. Whilst just above freezing we all warmed to the challenge expect for a stretch into a strong freezing blast for a couple of miles. Seven and a half miles covered before thawing out and enjoying an, as ever, excellent lunch in The Triton Arms



Two Ridings Community Foundation We have been associated with [Two Ridings Community Foundation](#) for a number of years, having contributed two years ago over £10,000 to the York Flood Appeal administered by TRCF. On **January 12th** their Development Manager Ian Savage gave us an update on the work of TRCF, one of 46 community foundations in the UK. They operate in York, North Yorkshire, Hull and East Riding. They receive money from individuals, families, businesses, charitable trusts and public sector bodies, and have given grants of over £7m to charities and community groups. Across the UK their national organisation has raised and distributed over £1Bn to good causes. Ian described a number of TRCF's specific appeals, including Surviving Winter which several of our members have supported, and gave an update on the Floods Appeal, where the majority of funds have now been distributed, and the residual balance is being transferred to their general Emergency Fund.



Supporting SASH On **January 12th**, President Brian and David Porter - who was a founding trustee of "Nightstop" - visited [SASH](#) ("Safe and Secure Housing") in Walmgate and chatted with staff about their work in providing emergency homes (with host families; termed Nightstop) for young people aged 16-25 who find themselves homeless, and also arranging longer-term supported lodging for those who need it - up to one year, again with host families. Across York and North/East Yorkshire they deal with around 300 such cases a year, quite a shocking number. Their staff of 23 are clearly dedicated and the need for their services appears to be increasing. Although partly funded by Local Authorities they need funding from donations, and we were pleased to present Adele Coupe and Steven Malcolm with a £500 cheque from our Community Service funds to support SASH's excellent work.



Young Adult Carers in York On **January 5th**, Jess Tomori was our speaker and told us about [York Young Adult Carers Centre](#), who provide support, advice and practical help in many ways to young people aged 18-25 who are carers for family members and others. The extent and dedication of unpaid carers' time is huge – there are estimated to be 1000 young adult carers in York alone (130 getting help from the YAC Centre) and the impact on their lives is not always fully appreciated. For example, 45% report having their own mental health problems as a result of the stress of being a carer, and their work absenteeism rates, or university drop-out rates, are far higher than normal. And they make a huge financial contribution to society too. Across the UK, unpaid carers save the state over £130Bn. As well as Jess's excellent presentation, we also heard from Imogen Heaven, who has just graduated herself and is a carer for her mother who is a cancer patient. She eloquently described the real impact of her carer role and the immense help she has received from YAC Centre. Although partially supported by York Council, the York Carers Centre is a charity which does rely on donations to provide specific programmes, and our Club has recently provided help to the Young Adult programme in particular.

RCoY Choir Decemb...



A Choral Club Christmas! The Club ended the year with an extended Christmas Lunch on **December 22nd** when the Novotel pulled out all the stops with a superb meal, mulled wine, pastries and chocolates. Stylish background music was provided by Tom Jackson with his "combo". With 19 guests present, we had a total of 89 enjoying a true Rotary family atmosphere, as the "main event" arrived - entertainment from the Club's new Choir - all 20 of them - led by Secretary Mike and accompanied on piano by President Brian. Following several rehearsals, the choir was in fine voice and delighted the audience with 5 carols including one in ambitious 4-part "a-cappella" style. Interspersed with community carols, a hilarious "Politically Correct Christmas" reading from Nigel Naish and a wonderful cornet solo from Alan Morrison (with Tom's combo) it was a happy, festive and fitting end to our year - well done to all concerned, with a restful Christmas to follow, hopefully!

Thanks to the Novotel After lunch, President Brian thanked Julie Parkin of the Novotel for the excellent meal and for all the Novotel staff's superlative support throughout the year- "We think of you as friends" he said; and presented the staff with our Christmas gratuity.



And from Japan and the USA.... Amongst our visitors were Yo Ogawa and Nicole Neiman, two Rotary Grant Scholars at the University of York whom the Club are supporting this year. They are pictured here with IPP Eileen, our Foundation Chair



Supporting Mental Health charities On **18th December** President Brian and Chair of Community Service Keith visited two local charities doing amazing work in supporting people in the York community with ongoing long-term mental health problems. They presented each with a cheque to support their vital work.

The Hut is a relatively new charity who support 150 "members" with a variety of skills and life training programmes and a wonderful warm, secure setting in a little hut opposite the York Hospital. They operate on a shoestring budget and we are delighted to be able to help them.



Brunswick Organic Nurseries is well-known to the Club, having received financial help from us for many years. The charity have expanded recently and they offer purposeful work and skills development to people with learning disabilities ("Workers") who are often excluded from having these chances.



Round Beningborough and carriages.. Steve reports... Our walk on **14th December** saw Don Salter [ably assisted by Sheelagh] leading 14 other Rotarians, wives and the usual 2 dogs on a walk from The Dawnay Arms at Newton-on-Ouse along the river bank then around Beningborough Hall and back for a great lunch. The weather had been organised to be just above freezing with no breeze but occasional shower - so excellent walking without too many slippages. Seasonal festive cheer of sloe gin from Celia & David to wash down mince pies taken to fortify at the half way stop. Many were surprised to take time, at the end, to examine an extremely fine, fully restored, Victorian railway carriage, in its very own brick built garage in the carpark on our return. A good, if shorter walk. enjoyed by all.



The Cooking continues.. *Frank reports...* Six girls from **All Saints School** competed for the Rotary Young Chef award. Grace Marshall was selected to represent All Saints school in the Rotary East Group cook off at York College on **15th January**. Judges Hazel Hart and Graeme Robertson were impressed with the wide range of flavours on offer. Grace's menu of potato rosti ,bacon and poached egg followed by a dark chocolate mousse with profiteroles was the winner .

A record entry of 17 youngsters ,9 boys and 8 girls, for the Young Chef competition at **Fulford School on 13th December**

The two selected to represent the school in the York Area competition at York College were Ella Batty and Timothy Mills. Timothy's main course of salmon with noodles was as tasty as it looks on the photo. Chief judge Steph Moon the celebrity food writer reckoned it was the best of the five competitions she has assessed at the school and congratulated teacher Sarah Urmston on enthusing so many young people.



Salvation Army's Xmas Appeal Under the leadership of Rotarian Andrew Dunkinson, the local Salvation Army in York is ready to start distribution of the thousands of toys and dry foods stocks that have been donated by local residents, schools, supermarkets and others (including a donation from our own Club) since September. Around 650 children from nearly 200 needy families will have a brighter Christmas as a result. Distribution will start on **December 13th**, mostly through Social workers.



RYLA Reports At our meeting on **December 8th** we were delighted to welcome Phoebe Delamere and Charlotte Foster-Lill, both final-year students at the Mount School, and both recent participants in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award programme at Hebdon Hey during the summer. Their entertaining presentation, slickly narrated by both of them in turn, gave members a good idea of the benefits, the challenges and the nightmare early-morning starts that were part of their experience. They both clearly developed skills and particularly confidence through this programme, as was evident from their presentation (their first ever). Congratulations to them both for their achievement and their excellent talk.



Visit to The Retreat A group of 20 members and partners were welcomed by the staff at The Retreat, a residential facility for particular mental health conditions in York, on **December 8th**. With about 50 beds, this charity was started originally in 1796, founded by Quaker William Tuke to provide humane and caring treatment of mental health patients, using principles of gainful activity and fresh air and exercise, rather than restraint as had been favoured prior to this time. Dr Kim Bevan, Director of Development explained that today about half the patients are older adults with dementia challenges, and other units cater for conditions such as eating disorders, personality disorders and the effects of trauma. There is a high ratio of staff to patients, and the caring environment was very evident. As part of her presentation, Kim included a video produced by the King's Fund which explained some of the complexities of mental health treatment options available today in the UK - not all of which are well co-ordinated or understood. The video can be seen by clicking [here](#). Many thanks to Kim and to Jo Skinner for giving us their time and such a good insight into the wonderful work of The Retreat.



Young Chefs in action at Millthorpe School *Frank reports...* Saturday afternoon **December 2nd** at Millthorpe School produced some excellent dishes from the five students who entered the Rotary Young Chef competition for the first time. The winner was Taylan Peacock with the beautifully presented menu shown below. Special thanks to the two judges Diane Naish and Graeme Robertson and to the committed, enthusiastic teacher Greg Dunn. Taylan will now compete in the York Area cook-off at York College on **15th January**



A future for Rotaract in York? Following the recent closure of the York Rotaract Club at the University of York, Rebecca Mendoza has been looking at way we could support a new Club based in the City rather than on campus. She engaged a pro bono consulting group, YCC (York Community Consulting), who are made up of students at the University, to do some research and make recommendations. On **November 29th** at the Ron Cooke Hub, Rebecca, together with President Brian and Rotarians from other York Clubs and from RIBI, attended a very professional presentation by YCC of their findings. The outcome was a positive one, with excellent ideas and food for thought for us to move forward. For such young and inexperienced people, the YCC consultants were tremendously impressive in their maturity, depth of knowledge and grasp of the project - well done to them - and our thanks!





President's Lunch The annual lunch to celebrate and appreciate the support given to Rotarians by their partners took place at the York Racecourse on **November 24th**. The sunlight and warmth streaming through the windows of the Dante Suite was matched by the fellowship and atmosphere inside, as 110 members and guests enjoyed a delicious lunch, followed by a surprise feature to celebrate the Club's Dragon Boat success over the past 15 years, culminating in the raising of over £1.02m for local charities over that period. President Brian thanked all those who had helped in this achievement, both members, Inner Wheel, partners and friends; and mentioning in particular the original members of the organising committee, five of whom still serve in that capacity. Following this, two previous plus one current chairmen of the Dragon Boat committee, all of whom have also given exceptional service to the Club in other areas, were presented with Paul Harris Fellowships – David Impey, for his service also as 2005 President, Fellowship Committee Chair and Joint District Shop organiser; Mike Fieldsend for service also as 2015 President, project leader of Fundraising events, and Media Officer for the Club; and current chair David Fotheringham for 32 years service including acting as Club Secretary and his outstanding role in our special £1m year. Three members who, closely supported by their wives, have been exceptional examples of "Service above Self".



The speaker at President's Lunch was **Wendy Mitchell**. Wendy's remarkable story started when she was diagnosed with Early Onset Alzheimer's three years ago. She set out on a remarkable mission to educate others about this condition and seek improvements in how it is dealt with, supported and understood by the public and particularly by housing and community planners. She is now an advisor to many government and local groups, is writing a book and is in the middle of preparing her second documentary [film](#). She also writes a daily blog. whichmeamitoday.wordpress.com A remarkable lady. Her inspirational talk emphasised the positive and educated us all.



Novotel celebrates their 50th year On **November 19th**, as Novotel across the world celebrated their 50th trading year "simultaneously", our Club were invited to join in and invite some of our charity partners and other guests along to a buffet lunch in their restaurant. President Brian, Community Service Chair Keith Hayton, Dragon Boat Treasurer Steve, and their wives, were joined by Ashley Jones from Door 84, Jim Wallace and Ashley Mason (respectively Chairman and Interim CEO of York Blind and Partially Sighted Society) and Hannah Jackson, recently of RNLI and now Fundraising Manager with English Heritage. It was an informal and relaxed affair, with lots of discussion about Rotary's work, objectives and "reaching out" plans thrown in too! Many thanks and congratulations to Kai, Julie and all at the York Novotel for the opportunity to help celebrate their achievement.



l-r Ashley Jones (Door 84), Hannah Jackson (RNLI) President Brian and Trish Joscelyne, Jim Wallace (YBPSS), Judy Burton, Ashley Mason (YBPSS), Janet and Keith Hayton, Steve Burton at the Novotel celebration

Golf Presentations During our meeting on **November 17th** Golf organiser David Sweeney did a review of the summer's Golf activity in the Club, and particularly the two annual tournaments that took place between May and October, the Shouksmith Trophy and the associated Thompson Plate. The winners and runners-up were presented with their silverware, win and golf balls by President Brian. A tribute was paid to David for his many years of service in organising these and many other golf events for the Club over the last few years.



Welcome to Dave Also at this meeting, we were very pleased to welcome Dave Marchant into membership of the Club. Dave served in the RAF flying Vulcans and then becoming a flying instructor. He moved to York recently and will be a great addition to the Club.



Moors and Cornets Nineteen of us (plus Winnie) set off from Lastingham on the Club walk on **November 16th**, the "Lastingham Round" across the North York Moors Hutton-le-Hole and back. After initial rain, it turned into a glorious day, so good that Graham, donned in his ubiquitous shorts, must have decided ice cream was the only way to stave off the heat at the rest-stop in Hutton. Just under 5 miles through woods and lovely moorland led us back at the Blacksmith's Arms in Lastingham for a welcome and delicious lunch.



Theatre Outing *Keith reports...* On **November 4th** the Community Service committee members and partners took 28 guests to see the matinee performance of the musical, "Barnum", at the Joseph Rowntree Theatre. This has been done for many years by the committee and aims to take as many as possible, of those who do not find it easy to go out, to an entertainment. As many of our guests do not really like being out after dark then the matinee performance is ideal. This year we were treated to a superb performance by the young cast showing their ability, not only to sing and dance, but also to perform some circus tricks like juggling and even walking the tightrope. Altogether a lively and entertaining afternoon and one which was enjoyed by both Rotarians and their guests. It was also very heart-warming to receive many thanks of appreciation afterwards. A real "thank you" to all those Rotarians and partners who helped by contacting our guests beforehand and transporting them to and from the theatre and generally made them feel welcome, even providing ice-creams at the interval in many cases.



Many thanks to Lewis Outing who was our special guest, and who took these photos.



Dragon Boat 2017 Presentations A large attendance of over 50 gathered in the historic Merchant Adventurers' Hall on **November 14th** for the awarding of trophies and cheques resulting from July's highly successful event, including this year a special celebration of surpassing the £1m target for local charitable donations resulting from 15 years of the Club running the Dragon Boat Challenge in York. In the company of the Lord Mayor Barbara Boyce, and her Civic Party, Dragon Boat Chair David Fotheringham and President Brian thanked the four Sponsors of the event, the Rotarians who had made the day such a success, and especially the teams who had raised a near-record £80k sponsorship, resulting in the 5-year total exceeding £1.02m. The Mayor presented the trophies and charity cheques to the winners, and to two teams – Tom Rhodes & Sons, and William Birch & Sons - who had raised the most sponsorship (over £5k each). "First instalment" cheques of £12,500 each were presented to Alzheimer's Society and Macmillan Cancer Support, the Rotary 2017 beneficiaries, and their representatives thanked the teams, and the Club, for their achievement. It was announced that the **2018 beneficiaries** would be [Citizens' Advice York](#), and [York Mind](#). With wine and nibbles and a wonderful positive atmosphere, it was an evening to remember.



Supporting Refugees in York On the face of it, York may not seem much impacted by the refugee crises that afflict the world. But York is in fact a designated City of Sanctuary and has seen a modest but significant influx of refugees in recent years, particularly Turkish Kurds and other refugees from Kurdistan, Syria and Afghanistan. Refugee Action York (RAY), a charity set up 15 years ago to assist refugees, provides a weekly "Hub" each Sunday in Clifton Moor where over 80 refugees and asylum seekers have a safe sanctuary where they can receive advice, practical help, fellowship and free language tuition. RAY also run events and work to provide information for the public. On **November 12th** President Brian, Community Services Chair Keith Hayton, and Fred Anderson visited the "Hub" session led by RAY manager Carrie Wheeler, spoke with trustees Sally Bourton and Daryl Walsh, and met many of the people being helped by RAY (known as "Service Users"). We were made very welcome. President Brian presented a cheque from the Club Charity Fund for £1000 to John Williamson who runs the RAY Men's Club, a weekly get-together to provide support and relaxation for heads of household who often find it most difficult to re-adjust to their new cultural environment in the UK. Our contribution will support the Men's Club's activities for a year. This is a new area where our club Community Service team have decided to help in the City, since incoming refugees are part of our local community and thus part of our focus. Indeed it was both enlightening and humbling to see the help provided to these needy families.



York Mind On **November 10th** Holly Bilton and Vicky Blakey-Archer from York Mind gave us a most professional talk about this very important organization and the great things they provide for our local community and wider afield. York Mind was formed in 2011 through the merger of the local mental health charities York & District Mind and Our Celebration. They are an independent local mental health charity which aims to empower individuals experiencing mental ill health to start on the pathway to recovery. Their mission is to empower individuals to recover from mental health issues - just as important as recovering from physical health issues; and they provide a wide range of services including Young People's project, Mentoring, Befriending and Advocacy. They also focus on stress related problems and through education try to help individuals and organisations deal with this proactively. Great work from passionate people who do make a difference.



Spanish Fiesta Maravilloso ! This year's fundraiser courtesy of the generosity of the Novotel, was on a Spanish theme. On **November 7th** eighty members, partners and guests assembled for a wonderful evening reminiscent of a balmy night on Barcelona's shores, or in Madrid's city cafes (depending on your political preference) as, accompanied by a rolling musical slide-show of Spanish icons, people and places, a huge feast of Gazpacho, Chorizo, Tortilla, Paella and Spanish Chicken, amongst others, prepared by VJ and his chefs, was served and devoured with pleasure... *El deleite era nuestro!* We were then serenaded by our guest Mark Gaultier who played some sublime classical guitar pieces from Spanish composers. Finally the raffle organised by Janet Morley, with all Spanish items as prizes, was drawn. It was a memorable evening, and huge thanks go to Diana Naish and her hardworking team for making it such a success. And again our thanks go to the manager Kai, Julie, VJ and all the staff at Novotel for their generosity and superb service and friendliness. Best of all, the total amount raised for our Charity Fund on the night was **£2500**. Bravo!!!

RCoY Spanish Night...



[Click to hear an extract of Mark Gaultier's playing](#)



What's in The Hut? Founded in 2011, and sited in a brick building opposite York Hospital that was converted from a Bowling Club Clubhouse ("The Hut" was the name chosen by its members) The Hut is a small but amazing charity led by Emma Harris, who was our speaker on **November 3rd**. The Hut offers support, creative crafts, skills training and non-judgemental fellowship to 160 "members" who have varying degrees of enduring mental health challenges. Emma has been Manager there for over 2 years, and seen huge growth in the demand for their services which are provided from 10am until 3.30pm five days a week on a "drop-in" basis. There are now 3 staff and about 25 volunteers who provide a warm, safe space which enables their members to relax and have some "normality" in their lives - a critical function for them since they are often very lonely. Emma exuded compassion, empathy and a real emotional commitment to her work, which was heart-warming and held everyone's attention. We hope to be able support "The Hut" in the future, a great example of a small local charity really making a difference to people's lives. Members interested in visiting "The Hut" may like to note that they are having a Christmas Fair on **Saturday November 25th** (11- 1pm) where items made by their members are on sale. Details [here](#)

Also at this meeting, President Brian handed over two cheques to local charities to support their critical work in the community.

Home Start, who provide help to struggling local families in York with small children, were represented by our guest Deborah Hilton.

Rotarian Andrew Dunkinson a Salvation Army Major, collected the cheque for from the Club to help purchase toys for the Xmas Presents Appeal run by the Salvation Army in York.





York's Amazing Maze On **October 27th** we welcomed Tom Piercey the owner of York Maze who told us the fantastic story of how from little seeds on a small farm with 2 employees he has built a multi-million pound business now employing some 120 staff. On a farm above what is now a Park & Ride site he designed his first maze and opened in 2002 and attracted 9,000 visitors. The following year with a more advanced design he saw more than 25,000 people through the gate. In 2004 he met and employed a Partners Leisure consultant to assist with marketing the attraction, put up his prices by £1 and doubled his visitor numbers. Created from over 1 million living, growing maize plants York Maze is the largest in the UK and each new season brings with it a new maze design ready to baffle visitors. This together with a wide range of rides and other attractions saw more than 100,000 visitors this past summer. A great talk from an inspirational and energetic business man.





Young Adult Carers On **October 27th** President Brian and Community Services Chair Keith Hayton visited York Carers Centre in Priory Street, to present a cheque for £800 to assist them in running their Young Adult Carers programme, led by Jess Tomori (pictured). This scheme provides vital support and advice to unpaid carers who are themselves aged 16 to 25, who are looking after siblings, parents or even grandparents. The programme provides one-to-one support, advice, projects, events and residential weekends to give the young carers the back-up they need in their difficult situation.



Supporting Youth and Disadvantaged services in the City On **October 26th** Club representatives met with three independent providers of invaluable services for young people and disadvantaged in York, and presented each of them with cheques to support their work. All three are co-located at the Door 84 premises in Lowther Street. **Door 84**, a youth club for ages 8-25, received funding to help their 16-23 year old project; **SNAPPY** (Special Needs Activities & Play Provision For York) who work with children and young people with wide ranging disabilities, from learning difficulties to profound physical disabilities; and **Community Sparks**, who provide social and skills development for adults with learning and mental health challenges, together with their carers, all received Charity Fund cheques from President Brian and our Community Services Chair Keith Hayton.



Productivity in action There have been recent news articles decrying the relative lack of productivity growth in the North of England. Not so at Nissan at Sunderland, visited by a party of 22 Club members and partners on **October 25th**. On a site of 800 acres and employing over 7000 people, the factory is the very essence of automation and efficiency, and we were overwhelmed by the technological innovation, intricacy of the control systems, and their care in dealing with their employees. Rated as the most efficient car assembly plant in Europe (if not the world) the Nissan factory produces one car per minute on each of its two main production lines – that is a lot of Qashqais, Jukes and Leafs (their three main models) We were taken on a tour in two groups – one doing the “long” tour with used over 4 miles worth of shoe-leather and took over 3 hours, including the Press Shop (steel presses using 400 tonnes of steel per day), the Body Shop where an orchestra of over 500 robots dance and spot-weld all day, every day; and the Trim and Chassis final finishing lines. Over 80% of the output is for export, the rest distributed throughout the UK in a joint venture with Renault, who own part of Nissan (and vice versa). Thanks to Frank Paterson for organising this amazing visit and for restoring our faith by witnessing Northern UK/Japanese manufacturing that is truly world class.



Welcome back to Rotary At our meeting on **October 20th** we were delighted to welcome new member Jan Dash to the Club. She has recently moved to York, but is no stranger to Rotary, having been a previous member, President, Paul Harris Fellow and an Assistant District Governor in earlier years when she lived in the South of England. We are therefore certain she will be making a great contribution to our own Club, and Jan was warmly welcomed by all members



At the same meeting we were very pleased to present a cheque for £800 to **Age UK York**, who were represented by our guests Sally Hutchinson and Beth Ward. The donation is to help Age UK York run their "Hospital Services Scheme" which offers help to anyone over the age of 60 who lives in the City of York Area and needs support on discharge from hospital or intermediate care - including transport, shopping, general care and companionship.



Ups and Downs for Rotarians *Steve reports..* On **October 19th** a motley gathering of members, relatives, spouses and friends met at the Grantley Arms near Ripon for what was described as a five mile stroll. Despite a short-cut been taken to avoid eight stiles, after what seemed dozens more, some serious ups and downs and a lost bridge, the consensus was that nearly seven miles were covered. Highlights included the splendid views (obscured by low cloud!), a medieval lake dug by monks from Fountains Abbey, stretches of challenging slippery slopes both up and down, and an excellent lunch at the Grantley to finish. Yet again a great walk ably led by Nigel Naish.



District Conference A party of 12 members and partners attended the District Conference in Scarborough on **October 14th**, some staying the Friday and Saturday nights and attending on Sunday as well. The “plenary sessions”, and the associated display area “Rotary Showcase” highlighted the wide range of activities and partnerships that Rotary has both locally, in the UK and world-wide, and that range is truly astonishing. Highlights were a presentation by Irish A-level student Mollie Cornish who started a drive to supply “Dignity Packs” to the homeless in her native town of Dublin, excellent and interesting talks by the Yorkshire Rows (“4 mums in a boat”) and about Cyber Crime Prevention, the latter being an area we may look at bringing to York as part of a more modern Community Service initiative. There was entertainment including a dance to an excellent ABBA revival tribute band, which for those of us who rocked through the 70’s was a real highlight. However, younger Rotary Grant Scholar Nicole Neiman, who was part of our group, seemed more bemused about ABBA! but seemed to enjoy her day regardless. On Sunday, the highlight was a talk by Chris Lubbe about “Never Give up Hope”. This amazing 6ft 4in tall gentleman was an activist in South Africa during the Apartheid years and became Nelson Mandela’s body guard immediately after the latter’s release from Robin Island prison. He was with Mandela until his death, and accompanied him through his rise to being President of South Africa, his travels worldwide and his amazing journey. It was a remarkable presentation, and a fitting end to an inspiring Conference.



Also at Conference, our amazing team of David, Celia, John and Linda, manning the District shop which did a roaring trade on the Saturday.





Rotary at the Marathon Once again, the skills of 20 Club members and partners was called upon on **October 8th** to run the Baggage Store at the Yorkshire Marathon. In two shifts, starting at 7am (!!) the team ran the three tent that were set up to collect runners' bags and belongings before the race, then retrieve them after they returned exhausted three hours (or more) later! With many hundreds of bags, the organisational challenge was great, but Rotarians rose to the challenge, getting plaudits from the organisers and an invitation to be available in 2018, same time, same place. The organisers, Run 4 All, are making a donation to the Club in appreciation of the team's efforts. Many thanks to all who took part – it was a fun, albeit exhausting, day, with the sunny weather adding to the enjoyment.



Proposals for Langwith Garden Village Our speaker on **October 13th** was landscape architect and former Dragon Boat competitor, Patrick James who has been commissioned by a consortium of Halifax Land and Oakgate Developments to design a Garden Village on the southeast outskirts of the City York. The proposed site is partially on the current Elvington Airfield and the remainder is on Halifax Estate land. Langwith Farm is in the middle of the proposed Garden Village, hence the name; a similar proposal in the 2014 Draft Plan was called Whinthorpe Village, but this lapsed with the change of City political leadership in 2015. The proposal is to build a new community (eventually) of 5,000 new homes, with 3 Primary and one Secondary Schools, a Doctor's Surgery, a bustling central high street, a care home, public transport by electric bus, access via a new junction on the A64 and from Elvington Lane, nature reserves and plenty of other green space. It is hoped that local jobs will be provided in the Elvington Business Park and at the University of York. After his talk Patrick took many questions from members and guests who quizzed him on the details of the plan and the political chance of success in bringing his proposals to reality.



Volunteering is good for your (mental) health Reflecting President Brian's theme for this year (!), **October 10th** is **World Mental Health Day**, and Rebecca Mendoza found an interesting article on social media (which she subsequently posted on our own Twitter account) about the effect of Volunteering on one's own mental health, and the positive effects it can have. So being an active Rotarian in our community is not only fun and rewarding, it can also be good for you! That's welcome news... Read the article [here](#)



Not just watching whales! Members will be aware that President-Elect Ian Helby is still away at his house in South Africa. Lest we feel he is just lazing around, he submitted this photograph and description of being "on Rotary Duty" with the local Clubs in Hermanus. *"I spent a long, exhausting and rewarding day yesterday helping with the combined Rotary Clubs of Hermanus and Stanford Health Day. We gathered at Stanford Hall early in the morning and during the day welcomed over 300 local people who came for free testing. On offer was HIV testing, Blood Testing, TB testing, Eye testing, Teeth examination, Hearing test and General Medical Examination. I thought I should let you know that I am not just idly sitting on the balcony watching the whales!"*



Tourism in York There was a "full house", including a large number of guests of members, for our speaker on **October 6th**. Jane, Lady Gibson (who prefers just to be called "Jane") is the Chair of [Make It York](#), and spoke about the growth of tourism in York. She delivered a lively and positive talk, full of interesting facts and figures, which held everyone's attention. 7 million visitors come annually to York, up from 1 million in 1970, and representing and annual spend of £564million. Jane's plan and ambition is to raise this figure to £1Bn by 2020. Jobs related to tourism are now the bedrock of employment in the city, described as the Visitor Economy. Whilst growing visitor numbers are not a problem, productivity is a challenge, she said. Some interesting facts: Of international visitors to York, Americans make up the most visitors, followed by Chinese (rapidly increasing) then Australians. Tourism needs to adapt to new cultural needs – for example, Chinese visitors spend a maximum of just 45 minutes on any activity/visit, and eat their evening meal between 4pm and 6pm. This is so they can send photos and comments of their meal on social media back to their relatives in China whilst it is still evening in China! A fascinating talk much appreciated by all present.



PHF for Diane During this week's meeting, Diane Roworth, recently retired Chief Executive of [York Blind and Partially Sighted Society](#) was a guest of the Club. President Brian formally presented her with a Paul Harris Fellowship award, in recognition of her amazing achievements in contributing to the York community (and beyond) in her work for people with sight problems. You can read the citation [here](#).



Fancy a bit of "Champing"? On September 29th, we were treated to a very interesting talk by a youthful Medieval Historian Ed van der Molden, who is the Site Co-ordinator for [Churches Conservation Trust](#) (CCT) in York and is based at Holy Trinity Church, Goodramgate. CCT is a national charity which protects historic church buildings now at risk; every year more are added to its current estate of 352 churches. Its 70 staff and 2,000 volunteers work in 3 core activities: *Conservation* - 40-80 projects each year use local tradespeople and traditional skills to preserve the buildings; for example St. Michael's, Cowthorpe (near Wetherby) is soon to be rejuvenated as a multi-purpose community space.; *Visitor Enterprise (Tourism)* - for example Holy Trinity Church in Goodramgate is a CCT "Gateway Church" visited by 70,000 in 2016; and *Regeneration and Development* - bringing new life to some old and special buildings which is a key activity. Included in this, according to Ed, is "Champing", the idea of camping in churches - promoted by CCT. People sleep in the church and CCT arrange / organise food, locally.. maybe in a pub, other services etc. Apparently, an increasingly popular option and a new, interesting way to use these old buildings. Please form an orderly queue....



Rotary PHF Award for Diane.. Our Club has had a supportive relationship for many years with [York Blind and Partially Sighted Society](#), which has been led throughout that time by Diane Roworth. On **September 12th** Diane retired, and in conjunction with their AGM, YBPSS held a celebration at York CVS building at which many members, friends and supporters of YBPSS (and of Diane) were present. Steve Burton and President Brian were invited to pop in, and just after lunch they made a surprise presentation to Diane, on behalf of the Club, awarding her a **Paul Harris Fellowship** for her outstanding contribution to the community in York and in particular to the many blind and partially sighted members of that community (and indeed further afield across the UK). Diane was taken aback by the presentation and expressed her grateful thanks to Rotary for the honour, to warm applause from everyone present. The PHF award will be made to Diane a second time, in front of our members, at a Club meeting in October. Diane is a very special individual with a big heart and huge energy, and we congratulate her on this award and wish a her a very happy retirement.



Goathland Revisited Steve reports.. Following the "trial by boulders" at our Goathland walk in July, Steve's proposed return to the area for the September foray was greeted with some scepticism - especially from those not present on the first occasion. Nevertheless on **September 21st** Nigel, Frank, John and Chris joined up on a dreerish morning at the Mallyon Hotel. Not surprisingly, too much talking meant the first turn onto the moor was missed meaning an off road excursion across moorland ensued in true Steve navigation style.. However, correct path indentified and up and across we went. Cornering before a descent, the sound of The Battle of the Little Big Horn re-enactment, filled our ears as small birds were being driven into a hail of lead across our path. Whilst Frank had the urge to charge the guns we felt our 5, some what short of the original 600 charging, would have had even less odds of survival, so were glad when Chris with his local knowledge took us on a most enjoyable alternative route, across the valley, through pleasant farmland, lovely woods and very slippery descents to Beck Hole and thence back to the hotel. A good 8 miler in 3 hours, before the rain came, to enjoy a pleasant lunch, in which Sue and Dave T joined us.



Support for Shelterbox With the recent hurricanes in the Caribbean and the earthquakes in Mexico, the UK-based Shelterbox organisation is currently under enormous pressure to get relief to the affected areas. They had 2000 Shelter Boxes stored in Panama, but now of course will need these to be replaced with fresh supplied. Our Club has agreed a donation of approx £600, the cost of a Shelterbox. In a recent BBC One Show production on **September 19th**, Shelterbox's CEO Chris Warham was interviewed and provided a very good, clear description of Shelter Boxes and the role they are currently playing in that region. And gave a credit to Rotary's role!



Insight into Neighbourhood Planning On **September 15th** Kat Salter (daughter of our own Rotarian Don Salter), a Chartered Town Planner, delivered a presentation on the neighbourhood planning journey. Kat passed on her experience and provided an overview of the process, lessons learned to date and a series of top tips. Those attending gained an awareness of the wider planning issues, actors and influences which may affect plan preparation." This is a power allowing local communities to shape development in their area - prepared by Parish Councils or Neighbourhood forums. To produce a statutory land use planning document against which planning applications will be assessed. Preparation must follow statutory process pass examination and receive a "yes" vote at referendum. So far over 2500 groups are preparing plans – 300+ have already been made and the average time taken to complete such a plan is 27 months. Overall it is about effective community engagement and a robust evidence base which forms the pillars on which a good Neighbourhood plan will be built.



HMP Wealston - the inside story *Jim Wragg reports.* Our guest speaker on **September 8th** was Marie Ledgeway who is the Roman Catholic Lay Chaplain at HMP Wealston, a Category C Prison for adults housing some 850 persons. Marie informed us that there are 85,000 prisoners throughout the UK and 200,000 children have someone in prison at any one time and 39% of prisoners re-offend. Among Marie's duties include giving and explaining to new prisoners general day to day information, taking Mass every Saturday and also Sunday service, helping with any personal problems they may have i.e: making telephone calls home and dealing with vulnerable prisoners who are on constant watch. She felt that some prisoners were like revolving doors - in out and back in again. But she clearly found her day to day experiences humbling, emotional, happy and sad but most of all very rewarding. In Marie's own words "Throughout my life faith had been very important to me and ultimately that is what has brought me to where I am at the moment of my life."



St Crux Fundraising With an early start to set up the stalls, gazebo, and the food in the cafe, Club members, partners and friends all played their part in making **September 7th** another very successful fundraising event at St Crux. With good weather during the morning, sales of "higher-quality" bric-a-brac and books were good, and the ladies' accessories were flying off the handsome stall set up under the Rotary gazebo. Inside, the cafe did good business under the eye of Diana and the crew all splendidly clad in yellow shirts and Rotary aprons. The Rotary public image was shown at its best. At lunchtime the rain came and the customers left, but in the end the day raised a staggering **£1300** nonetheless. A fantastic achievement, after much hard work in preparation beforehand and on the day. Well done and thanks to Diana, Sheila and their teams and all who helped on the day.



Golf - Bill Mann Trophy *David Sweeney reports.* "The Bill Mann Trophy took place on **September 3rd** at The York Golf Club Strensall York. The Guest of Honour was Sheila Royce Bill Mann's daughter with husband Brian. The event ran smoothly and the weather was kind with the course in excellent condition. There were some notable stories on the day but the cake went to our President Brian for playing approximately 15 bunker shots (probably more but we were starting to run out of fingers) however thank you Brian for taking part but we have had to donate some new rakes as some are shorter than others now. The Results and winner of the Bill Mann Trophy Were as follows: Winner - Keith Hayton 38 pts; 2nd - Steve Cluderay 34pts; 3rd - Steve Burton 30pts. Nearest/Pin David Sweeney. Longest/Drive Keith Hayton. The Fellowship evening meal followed with a total of 44 Guests and both the food and service were excellent a good time was had by all." Many thanks to David for organising the day.
More photos are on the [Golf Results page](#)



S.O.S Responders Those watching the current BBC series "Saving Lives at Sea" have been in awe of the skills and bravery of lifeboat volunteers. Our speaker on **September 1st** was Hannah Jackson, who is the Community Fundraising Manager for the Yorkshire area of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution ([R.N.L.I.](#)) With over 350 lifeboats across 19,000 miles of coastline, their fleet are both sturdy and fast and include inshore as well as "all-weather" boats. In addition, the RNLi provide Lifeguard patrols on over 240 beaches in the UK, and also an extensive Flood Rescue and Inland Rescue team of volunteers. They have been called in to York in the past, but strangely were not called upon during the most recent December 2015 floods. The RNLi needs £175million annually to keep running, and just one lifeboat station demands £85,000 a year to maintain. Fundraising is carried out all over the country. Hannah's presentation created a lot of interest, and she bravely magaed to carry on despite technical gremlins which meant she was unable to show three videos that were embedded as part of her talk. Well done, Hannah, and thank you for enlightening us about this amazing charity.



More bias after fifteen ends A great turnout of 28 members and partners took part in the Bowls evening organised at the RI Bowls Club on **August 23rd**. In teams of three, playing two bowls each in three "ends" against another team then rotating to play a different team, with five such rotations, we ended up with fifteen "ends" (*I hope you are following this!*) Learning to master- to more or less greater degrees - the art of using the "bias" on the bowl, everyone had a fun evening without too many arguments ("So which bowl holds shot?" being a common cry from the "professionals" amongst us...). As the sun set and the evening chill set in, we were joined by a further 10 members and partners and all sat down for a scrumptious hot pie, mushy peas and chips; followed by a selection of three hot desserts, all prepared by the wonderful volunteers at the Bowls Club. Our thanks to them, and especially to David Impey, assisted by Celia, who organised the evening in friendly and efficient style. Having helped his own team to come in last, it was with some relief that President Brian was able to congratulate the winning team and present their prize bottles of wine to Carolyn Sweeney, Tom Jackson and Tony Cox, the latter being a member of the RI Bowls Club. [*no disadvantage to the team, we are sure!! Ed*] A great evening of fellowship and fun.



Hedgehogs and Hedge pigs We were fortunate to have Pat Mather as our guest speaker after lunch on **August 18th**. The loves of her life are Hedgehogs and donkeys (apart from her husband!). *Erinaceus Europaeus* (their Latin name) are basically found everywhere except North & South America and the Arctic regions and at best live to be around just 2 years old. Hedgehogs (meaning "hedge pigs") are good swimmers and great climbers, like to live in compost heaps or bonfire stacks and often walk along set paths or corridors for up to 2 miles each night. Given the change in global warming they now often only hibernate between December and January and the most common reasons they are killed are cars and garden strimmer's. Whilst they are lactose and wheat intolerant they love worms, slugs, insects and other forms of meat. Pat has a fantastic >50% success rate in rescuing and freeing them back to the wild and emphasised that vets must treat them for free - so important since they are due to go on the red list of endangered species this year. A very interesting talk from a very passionate and committed lady.



A Tremendous Talk! On **August 11th**, Alan Hunton gave a passionate and interesting talk about the work of the conservation charity Woodland Trust. The Trust, with 210,000 members, has 3 aims: to protect existing native woodland species such as oak, alder, birch, yew; to restore ancient woodland, some having been in place for at least 400 years; and to create new woodlands. Just 13% of UK is covered with trees, a small percentage compared to the rest of Europe. Many planting schemes exist (eg. Tremendous in York); well documented evidence of the benefit of trees to the landscape, air quality and recreation (to name but a few) supports this aim. The Woodland Trust is doing its best, but the battle is far from won. Alan explained that an ancient tree, in the last stages of its life, goes thin on top, has broken branches, may be holed, has a large girth and hollow trunk and is covered in moss, lichen and fungi - does this seem familiar?



Annual Barbeque The weather was kind to us (until almost the end!) for the Club Barbeque on **August 6th** held as usual at Sutton-Upon-Derwent. The 70 members and guests were treated to wonderful cooking from super-chefs Dave, David and Graham, accompanied by salads and cold items courtesy of the Sutton Hall staff. With drinks dispensed with aplomb by Donald and Fred, a challenging quiz organised by John, and an even more challenging golf "chip" competition from David Sweeney, the whole event went by in a flash, and just as the rain started, everyone went home with happy memories. Our huge thanks, once again, to Peter Fox for his superb organisation of this popular event on our Club calendar.



Baggage Handlers par excellence.... A team of 17 Rotarians and partners were on hand (from 7.30am!) for the York 10K race on **August 6th** to provide the "baggage handling" service for the 6000 or so runners who took part. The team received the runners' bags and belongings, sorted them carefully by number, and then handed them back to the exhausted competitors after their race. It was smooth as clockwork, and the organisers commented that this was the best bit of baggage handling they had ever seen. What an accolade for Rotary!! Our new branded "flags" and shirts were much in evidence, and the organisers are making a donation to Club funds for our efforts. Many thanks to all who helped out - it was a fun experience!



Marie Curie On **August 4th** we welcomed Jennifer Carmichael as our guest speaker to talk about the work of this great charity and importantly explain the difference between Marie Curie and Macmillan Cancer Support. Marie Curie are there for people living with ANY terminal illness (33% is other than cancer), and their families. They offer expert care, guidance and support to help them get the most from the time they have left. They provide hands on care and emotional support often overnight for the patient, family member or carer - in 2015/16 over 50,000 people were helped by their services and in 2016/17 over 8000 hours of care and over 900 visits were provided in the Vale of York alone and the average cost per person is some £500 lower than in the NHS. Each hour of each day they need £10,000 to carry on their tremendous work and whilst they are a National charity they are also very local (based at the Elvington Airfield York) our Club will look for ways in which we can provide support.



KYRA Women's Project Ali Bolton spoke to us after lunch on **July 28th** about this fantastic charity KYRA whose focus is "Supporting Women to Make Change Since 2013", which has no central funding and no full time paid staff. Their aim is to empower women to make informed choices, achieve their goals and become stronger and more independent. They started with 5 members and now have some 550 supported by some 50 volunteers and provide a safe space and non-judgemental support where women can simply "talk about things" without being offered solutions. On offer (free) is encouragement and support, a range of specialist courses and therapy together with strong links to many organisations and partners working in this field. A very thought provoking presentation.



Farewell to Lisa Joining us at our Club meeting on **July 28th** was Lisa Schalk, the Rotary Global Grant Scholar whom we have been "hosting" for the past year whilst she has been studying for a Masters degree in Public Health at the University of York. Lisa expressed her appreciation to the Club, and especially to Christine Watkinson who has been her main contact, along with IPP Eileen, whilst she has been in York with her two boys. Lisa said she had enjoyed her stay in the City very much and was sorry to leave. We wish her well as she and her family travel back to California.



Also during this meeting, President Brian presented Julie Parkin, Novotel's Business Manager, with the Club's gratuity for Novotel staff. He expressed the Club's gratitude for the superb service, help and support provided by the hotel. It is a great relationship, and long may it continue!



Rotarians hunting for treasure *Tim's (edited) report...* "Heading to the Novotel for the start of this year's Treasure Hunt on July 20th there was a certain sense of trepidation, the last time we took part we won it with a maximum score. Would we be able to match this achievement, did we want to match it? Only time would tell.... Along the Foss, with David and Gillian, and three opportunities to get the first clue, an eyesight test for the second and a very strange street name for the third – we were doing well.On into George Hudson Street, "Stairway to Heaven"? Didn't know Jim was a Led Zeppelin fan!into Castlegate, a load of Rotarians here, find the next answer on the pillar box, pretend not to have seen it, keep walking and looking, whisper Derby to Gillian and move on. Back to the Novotel for the buffet. A magnificent spread duly appeared and our thanks must once again go to the catering staff at the Novotel. Then on to the results, Jim Wragg on his feet giving the scores, 26, 27, 28, 29 still no mention of Trouble and Strife x 2. There was a tie for first place! Yes we had done it, maximum score again. Many thanks to Jim for his organisation of a super evening."



Walking by the Ure *Eileen reports...* The Club Walk on **July 20th** was more of a stroll; a shorter-than-usual route was selected so that walkers would have sufficient energy left to tackle that evening's Treasure Hunt. The group met at The Ship in Aldborough and walked from the village towards Boroughbridge, along the banks of the River Ure and back via Aldborough Hall. The heavy rain before the walk thankfully abated (mostly!) and the group was relieved that the heavens only opened again after their return. Several walkers had not been to Aldborough before and were impressed with the interesting and pretty location, with an excellent pub meal. Many would like to return - for a longer walk (!) and maybe the chance to visit the Roman Museum, which was closed!



Visit from Action Man DG On **July 14th**, we were pleased to welcome our new District Governor and "action man", Robert Morphet, to our meeting. Robert is definitely a "new breed" of Rotary DG, with forward-looking ideas, and his talk to the Club was full of humour, self-deprecation and wise advice. He is leading from the front, as his recent Edinburgh Marathon run (raising £26k for Polio Plus) and his taking an active part in Dragon Boat Races both in Wakefield and then the following day with ourselves, indicate. Robert recounted his experience with us from his **blog**, which can be found [here](#). His strong belief that the important things about Rotary are the local Clubs, and that being involved is more important than just attending meetings, fit well with our own Club's philosophies. He is exhorting all Clubs in the District to seek ways to find new members, and challenged each of us to speak to a friend or acquaintance to persuade them to consider membership - "if they are not asked, they may not come forward". We look forward to supporting Robert in his year of office.

(Click photos to enlarge)



Club Receives Award from DBEL At the same meeting, David Fotheringham (Dragon Boat committee chair) and President Brian accepted an award presented to the Club on July 9th by Dragon Boat Events Ltd, our partners in running the Dragon Boat Challenge, to recognise the Club's achievement of raising over £1m for local charities through the event, over the past 15 years.



Dragon Boat Challenge 2017 "The best ever" some have said. Certainly everything seemed to work in our favour for this year's Challenge on **July 9th**. The sun shone and the 36 competing teams were in great spirits. The highlight was of course the fact that as a result of having four great sponsors, excellent fundraising and donations from the teams, and the best ever programme sales result on the day, the Club **did** meet its "**Let's make it a £1M!**" target and were able to announce that well over £1m has now been raised for local charities, big and small, over the past 15 years. Thanks for this magnificent result go to a very large number of people, from the Dragon Boat Committee who planned it over the past 12 months, members, friends, partners, Inner Wheel members and Rotaractors who helped on the day, organisers of the North Bank Gala including the very successful Rotary Tea Tent in aid of Foundation Polio Plus; and to many others. DBEL presented the Club with a trophy to mark the £1m. The Club should be proud of this success, the resulting extensive publicity in press, radio and particularly social media, and the positive projection of "Rotary in the Community" that resulted. Onward, to next year! More info and photos [here](#)



Our new branding was much in evidence.. (Click photos to enlarge)



BBC Radio York @BBCYork

Nothing like a green wig to get you fired up for a dragon boat race 🇬🇧🇨🇦🇪



15 6:28 PM - Jul 9, 2017 · York, England

Dragon Boat BBC video As our Club reaches and actually exceeds our goal of raising £1m over the past 15 years from our Dragon Boat events, this year's Challenge on **July 9th** attracted a lot of local publicity.

This fun video was posted on Twitter by **BBC Radio York**, who compiled it. They have 42,000 followers on Twitter. Unfortunately, they forgot to add "Rotary" to the title!! However, the Club's Twitter, and Facebook, feeds were very active throughout the day, (and before and after), with lots of interactive postings, photos and videos with competing teams, the BBC, Elly Fiorentini and many others, raising Rotary's profile in a modern and energetic way.



Rotary Marshalls The York Triathlon took place on **July 2nd** at the University of York Sports Village, and our Club were out in force at 8am to provide the Marshalling for the event. 35 members, partners and friends were all briefed and then took station at various parts of the course - swimming, cycling and running - to guide, encourage and support the athletes, both "Elite" and "fun" varieties, and to ensure everything went off safely. With sun on our backs (and a stiff breeze which did not help the bike riders on that section) it was a fun day, well organised by Mike Hay and his sub-team leaders who ensured we all had rest periods during the day, to enjoy the "snacks" given to us by the organisers. Triathlon UK are making a sizeable donation to the Club for our efforts, so a BIG thank you to Mike, and to all who helped out on the day.





President's Handover On **June 30th** the presidential "baton" was passed as incoming President Brian Joscelyne took on the role of leading the Club from Past President Eileen Davis. Eileen, in her remarks, reflected on her very busy year, as the Club's first female president, and the support and warmth she and Keith had received from all members. Her direction in moving the Club forward in its many activities, and particularly leading our support of various Foundation initiatives and with improving our Public Image, are things she can be justly proud of. Brian, in turn, thanked Eileen for the tremendous energy and thought she had demonstrated in her role. He went on to outline his key priorities for the coming year, and ended with a comparison with the handover 25 years ago where there were numerous comparisons to be made and many amazing similarities, showing that as our Club grows and develops, it still has very deep roots and a strong continuing culture of "Service before Self".

Thanks to new Club Photographer Vic Brookes for these photos



Celebrating Geoff's 50 years - Cheers! Before the "President's Handover" on **June 30th** President Eileen had the great pleasure of presenting Geoff Brown with a certificate to recognise his 50 years of membership of our Club, and his "elevation" to being an Honorary Life Member. Accompanied by his wife Edna, Geoff was clearly delighted with the presentation and had provided champagne for all, to celebrate this amazing milestone. He then gave a touching talk to the Club about his memories and his reflections on the changes that have come about in the Club over the past half-century. We wish him and Edna every happiness and hope to see Geoff at Club meetings and events for many many more years....