

YORK ROTARY NEWS BLOG ARCHIVE 2024-25

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The Webmaster · Jul 4, 2024

York Rotary News

York Rotary President's handover lunch

Updated: Jul 31, 2024



York Rotary held the President's handover lunch on Friday 28th June. The occasion is a special one, not just because it was the handover, but because we also entertained our partners to lunch along with the partners of former Rotarians.

The lunch started with a very informative talk by Julia Spence, Governor of Askham Grange Women's prison who talked about running a Category C women's prison. Julia gave a very frank description of prison life and management of a prison, she explained how successful Askham Grange prison is, something that we do not hear about too often.

Following lunch and in one of his final acts as President Paul was very pleased to present a Paul Harris Fellowship to Sheila Weatherburn for her service to the club, but in particular to the Fundraising team and for her leadership of that team for the last three years. During the last three years under Sheila's leadership the team has raised £31,000, that includes proceeds from Riviera travel which was something that Sheila introduced to the club. Leading the Fundraising team is no easy task so Sheila was a very well deserved recipient of a Paul Harris Fellowship.

Before handing over to President Mike Hay Paul gave his reflections of the year which were as follows:



Reflections on my Presidential Year

I gave myself three objectives to achieve during my Rotary year. The first of these was to explore some social themes of interest to me, namely Education, Health and Justice and by doing so to raise awareness of some of the challenges around us.

If I was to be allowed only a few learning points from this, I would suggest that a good one to start with would be that our York, those who live here and the numerous organisations that serve and support the city, desperately need the help which we often give. Another might be that we have learnt how dysfunctional, struggling and more words like that, are many aspects of the society around us.

I am sure we will remember for a long time, the account of the running of Wetherby Young Offenders Institution but we can contrast that with the uplifting talk from Timpsons.

We will remember the impact of COVID at Haxby Road Primary and the astonishing enthusiasm of the two staff who came to talk to us. And I am sure we will always remember Rabbi Elishiva and her very frank and honest account of Judaism in York and the wider world.

The second was to talk about the Club and what it does with as many people as possible. I have been surprised at how little many of those I have spoken to, know about Rotary and the Club and then delighted with their reaction when they realise and understand what we do. One of our greatest faults is that we are a rather bashful organisation. We should learn to be otherwise !

And the third was to wear odd socks at every Rotary meeting

I did – and nobody noticed – or if they did, they were too polite to comment (See below)!

Immediate Past President Paul Harvey PHF

Putting Paul's odd socks into context or his last thought for the day prior to the lunch Paul told the story of the socks referred to above and those are shown in the photographs below.





A new Rotary Year:

Following his reflections on the year Paul handed over to President Mike Hay. Mike thanked Paul for his excellent year as President.



Mike then went on his first formal task of the year which was to present ~



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presented to the Maternal Envelope Trust. Many was another very worthy recipient of a Paul Harris Fellowship.



Finally Mike introduced the rest of his presidential team for the year, he also said that he was delighted that the occasion included Rotarians partners joining us along with partners of former Rotarians, making it a real family occasion. Mike commented that he sees Rotary as being one large family and it is important that we all come together for occasions like this and whilst we occasionally have disagreements, as families do, we all come together to carry out great work.

We all wish you the very best for your forthcoming year Mike and all Rotarians will give you their full support.

David Fotheringham

York Rotary News

Movement for the Ordination of Women (MOW)



Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the decision that women could become priests in the Church of England, and her own ordination to the priesthood at that time, Jan spoke very eloquently and movingly of her journey following her realisation that God was calling her to serve in that way.

The question "can women be priests" had been posed many times, notably by Dame Christian Howard in 1972, but it was to take 20 years before enabling legislation was passed by the General Synod by the two/thirds majority required.

In 1972, Dame Christian Howard emphasized that ordaining women is a church matter, not just a women's issue, but despite debates in 1975 and 1978, the Church of England initially rejected women priests, following which the Movement for the Ordination of Women (MOW) was established in 1979. By 1986, women could be ordained as deacons, and by 1992, the General Synod voted by the required two-thirds majority in favour of women priests, leading to the disbandment of MOW in 1994.

Women and the Church (WATCH) was then founded in 1996 to further gender justice. It wasn't until 2014 that the General Synod allowed women bishops, and in 2015, Libby Lane became the first female Bishop of Stockport.

Jan acknowledged that these decisions had upset a number of people, which she very much regretted; she was also sorry that, despite the passing of the legislation, there remain those who refuse to accept the authority of a woman priest, in some cases citing Paul's first letter to Timothy. There are also some countries where the legislation is still not accepted.

Thanking Jan for an excellent and thought provoking talk (as well as for providing the wine and cake!), Mary Lumley expressed her amazement that before 1992, despite being able to work in almost any professional and scientific role, they could not be ordained as



The Webmaster · Jul 16, 2024

York Rotary News

Visit to York the CCTV Control Room



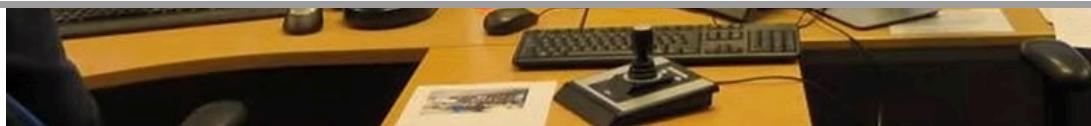
On Friday 12th July 8 Rotarians visited the CCTV Control Room in the City of York Council West Offices. Our host was Ben Davies CCTV & Compliance Manager. Ben and his staff work for Gough & Kelly, a large Leeds based security company contracted by CYC.

We would have loved to show you a picture of the fantastic 'Video Wall', but this was not permitted, so to give you an idea, this is a picture from the internet of less than half of their display. The footage from all these cameras is held for 31 days, so if you have a problem, don't leave it too long.



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This is not York, as this is just 6 small screens, York has 12 large screens each covering 6 cameras

They have 72 cameras on permanent view out of a total of an amazing 800 cameras at their disposal, reaching out as far as the ring road roundabouts. On top of this there are cameras covering all the new security barriers in the city, and from here they can control access when the barriers are closed.

Each of the cameras has a 12X zoom capability, so woe betide you if you have forgotten to put your blue badge on the dashboard. To be fair, there is another control room next door that looks after traffic, so there's another visit to be arranged hopefully!



I was on the Crime Prevention Panel, along with John Lacy, about 30 years ago when CCTV was first mooted and then served on the sub-committee that helped raise the £100,000 in 1995 so that the city could qualify for Government match-funding to set up the camera network. How things have changed since then!



Original CCTV Control Room in York police station

Dave Thompson

Further info: <https://www.york.gov.uk/CCTV>

York Rotary News

SUCCESS!! Our support for Haxby Road Primary Academy (finally!) delivers results



After many months of waiting for a District Grant to support a project at Haxby Road Primary Academy, we are at last able to witness our success! On Friday 12th and Tuesday 16th July we were able to visit the school and see for ourselves the fruits of the Youth Services Team inputs. Inputs, **plural**, they were – not just one project, but several.....

Corridor Artwork:

In the summer of 2024, York Rotary made a sizeable donation to enable artist Jess Beniston to work with the pupils and staff at the school to brighten up the corridors with paintings of York's famous landmarks and streets. The Victorian school building is the work of Walter Henry Brierley, the York architect known as "the Lutyens of the North".

Each classroom is named after a famous York street. The relevant paintings are displayed in the vicinity and brighten up and remind the pupils of their special home city.

Gillygate Classroom / Haxby Rd School / Walls / Foss / Minster / Clifford's Tower







District Grant-aided Performance Equipment:

One of the schools' strengths is performance. After visiting an assembly and seeing the limited and ageing lighting and sound equipment available to support assemblies, gatherings and productions, Mary Lumley suggested that the Youth Services Team go all out to buy some up-to-date equipment. So, a 2023-4 District Foundation Grant was sought to match what we could provide and thus derive much more benefit.

After unavoidable delays, we finally had the go-ahead in Spring 2024 and the Ebor Trust procurement system took over the purchase, so that the correct equipment could be found at the right price. It arrived just in time for the Year 6 musical in July 2024 and leading lady Millie can be seen here ready for rehearsal. As well as 8 headsets, the project provided modern lighting and amplifiers, all connected to the computerised control system. There will still be a lot to learn, but the end-of-year production was enhanced by the state-of-the-art equipment. Headteacher Laura Robinson spoke of our donation at the performance and Deputy Head, Year 6 Teacher and Producer Josh Hind spoke for everyone when he thanked us personally. Year 6 pupils were thrilled to be using the new systems, just ahead of their leaving for secondary school.



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Art Competition Prizes:

Whilst on the premises, we also took the opportunity to present the prizes from an Art competition run earlier in the year. President Paul Harvey had been donated a very large art box and the Youth Services Team decided to run a competition within Haxby Road Academy. Jess Beniston oversaw the competition and explained it at a whole-school assembly; all entrants would produce a poster called "Peace" and what it meant to them. The quantity and quality of the entries was impressive, so we decided to allocate the 'big' prize for Key Stage 2 pupils and to provide a second art box for the Key Stage 1 winner. We added two smaller packs of art materials for the runners-up in each category. It was a great pleasure to present 3 thrilled winners with their prizes on 12th July.

Winners were : Key Stage 2 Winner Evelyn (Year 5 Micklegate)

Runner-up Karalee (Year 5 Micklegate)

and Key Stage 1 Winner William (Year 3 Gillygate)

Runner-up (in absentia) Olive (Year 2 Whimpawhompagate)

The photograph says it all.....!!



We look forward to further links with Haxby Road Community Primary Academy.

Eileen Davis

The Webmaster · Jul 19, 2024

York Rotary News

York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge 2024



The 22nd York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge was held on Sunday 14th July. Unfortunately the day was the coldest that we could remember compared with the last twenty one years of Dragon Boat Challenges and it rained light drizzle rain most of the day, in spite of that the atmosphere at the event was very good.



We had a full compliment of 36 teams who each competed in three heats of three boats racing, the day finished with the impressive six boat grand final.



The event is a big logistical challenge involving a team of approximately 100 overall from Dragon Boat Events Ltd, York City Rowing Club, York Rotary, Inner Wheel, Friends of York Rotary and friends of Rotarians. Thank you to everyone for their fantastic efforts.

The of the event was greatly assisted by our three sponsors, Shepherd Group, Simpson and a new sponsor this year Reed Boardall. We are very grateful to those sponsors for their invaluable support.

In parallel with the racing from the team bases on south bank of the river a gala was held on the north bank, that was attended by twenty stall holders, including the Rotary tea tent. For the Rotary tea tent 400 home made cup cakes were made and creatively iced by many members of Inner Wheel and Rotarians or their partners. All of the cup cakes were sold. The tea tent was mainly staffed by members of Inner Wheel and we give them our thanks. The tea tent was sponsored by BA Coates and Sons Ltd Electrical Services Electrical, we are very grateful for that support. The total raised by the Tea Tent was a very impressive £1,520.

As part of the racing to add colour and variety the teams were encouraged to wear fancy dress, there were many very creative outfits. The Ged Bell trophy for the best dressed team was won by Kyra Women's Project, The Kyra Crew.



The race commentary was provided by Bill from Dragon Boat Events along with Elly Fiorentini of BBC Radio York. Both Bill and Elly have been commentating for twenty years and that lively commentary adds much to the event. Elly was trying to persuade teams to race fast in spite of the weather conditions.

Turning to the race prizes the Tailenders trophy, for the slowest team time, was won by York in Recovery (YIR), Recovery Knights with a time of 01.19.38. The Charity trophy for the fastest Charity team not winning the grand final was Door 84, team Roar for Door 84 with a time of 00.56.79. The Ouse trophy for the fastest commercial team not winning the grand final was YO1 Radio, team YO1 Radio Rules the Waves with a time of 00.55.86.



The Grand Final was won by Ged Bell Butchers and their team The Growlers with a time of 00:54.65. Ged Bell Butchers have competed in many of the Dragon Boat Challenges since the first one and they have won before so it was nice to see them winning again.



The overall results of the Grand Final were as follows:

Organisation	Team Name	Boat Number	Final Time	Final Rank
Ged Bell Butchers	The Growlers	2	00:54.65	1
YO1 Radio	YO1 Radio Rules the Waves	5	00:55.93	2
North Yorkshire Police/Fire Service	Good to Talk	4	00:55.99	3
Matthias Garn Master Mason and Partner	Stone Age	3	00:56.22	4
Door 84	Roar for Door 84	6	00:58.16	5
Portakabin	Portakabin Paddlers	1	01:00.56	6

A video of the Grand Final and some of the behind the scenes activities that you are probably not aware of is available to watch:



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Also for the first time the Dragon Boat Challenge appeared on a BBC Look North late on the evening of the event, click on the image below to watch the video.

Turning to the fundraising we will not know the final total for several weeks, but currently the total raised is £84,000 and we confidently expect that to increase. The funds will be shared 2/3 to the charities selected by individual teams and one Third shared equally between York Samaritans and York Rotary Charity Fund which will support other local charities.

For more information click [here](#) to go to the York Rotary Dragon Boat website pages.

David Fotheringham

The Webmaster · Aug 3, 2024

York Rotary News

Alan Morrison, My life in big bands



As the start of President Mike Hay's chosen theme of music, York Rotary were very privileged to have a talk by Alan Morrison covering his life in big bands, during which he performed three numbers (see below).

Alan started playing in 1966. His instrument was the cornet and he has played in brass bands for 57 years. When asked why he played the cornet he said it was because that was chosen for him by his father. Alan explained that when you become the first cornet player you



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After his time with the Grimethorpe band Alan worked as a professional musician until he retired in 2017. More recently Alan has joined the Hammonds band.

In the course of his talk, Alan performed three pieces:

- "Things"
- "You raise me up"
- "My Way"

Extracts from the three pieces are in the video below.

David Fotheringham

The Webmaster · Aug 23, 2024

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Susan Rogers, DG Nominee District 1040



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On Friday 16th August, we welcomed Susan, a founder member of The Rotary Club of Adventurers, District 1040 Learning Facilitator and District Governor Nominee 2026-7. Adventurers says it "does Rotary differently" and Susan demonstrated that in a light-hearted but serious presentation using her own life as the story to illustrate her theme of "The 5 Fs".

FOCUS : a clear focus is needed to inform and direct action

FORWARD : the world is changing fast and we need to be ready, even one step ahead

FLEXIBILITY : we should try new ways and adapt nimbly if required

FEARLESS : we should not be afraid to experiment and change

FUN : Rotary should be enjoyable rather than a chore

This theme, which Susan shared first at the District Assembly is likely to feature in planning and development as we follow the Rotary North Star path.



Marketing Executive Susan lived in Buckinghamshire; she came to a point where she had to create a second life for herself. During some serious self-reflection, she identified 2 main successes of which she was most proud – the nature reserve she had created on the non-working farm where she lived and the jazz band in which she played. There were many things she did not want to do with her life but travel, experiences and writing came to the fore. Having retired to Pately Bridge, she has since relocated twice and worked through a range of ideas, remaining flexible and agile as circumstances changed. She now runs a gardening business and plays in a jazz band as well as honouring her many commitments. She is an energetic and determined Rotarian who will push boundaries and do things differently. I, for one, will watch with great interest.

Eileen Davis



The Webmaster · Aug 23, 2024

York Rotary News

Pathfinder Driving Course - York Rotary have done it again!!



We supported another extremely successful week of the Under 17 Driving Course run by Pathfinders, at Rufforth Airfield, by manning their refreshments stall for the 5 days from Monday 12th August to Friday 16th August. We made hundreds of hot drinks for the students, their 'associate driver' and the volunteer staff. During the week we witnessed how the young people gained confidence as they were given first class driving tuition, opportunity to practise their skills in a safe encouraging environment and even the added bonuses of driving a police car, an articulated lorry and witnessing demonstrations of breaking at speed. All we had to do was keep the boiler filled and ensure hot drinks were on hand whenever needed – Rotary providing service to the community!!



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Mary Lumley
Youth Services Team

The Webmaster · Aug 28, 2024

York Rotary News

Haven't they grown!



Haven't they grown was the comment passed by many of the parents and friends of the children who had trees planted by Rotary in 2018/19 to commemorate their birth and who came to the annual family gathering at the Foss River Rotary planting site off Haxby Road on Sunday 25th August.

They were of course referring to the hundreds of native species trees now starting to look like a woodland. But the small group of committed Rotarians and partners, who meet and greet the visitors, said the same about the children they have seen develop annually over the last five years.

This annual reunion has become a well established, three generational family gathering and now many have adopted specific individual specimens, cleared the long grass from the area, applied some TLC and attached colourful name labels to a tree.





The weather was kind and a great bonus was the introduction, for many of the children, to the pleasures of picking from the prolific crop of luscious wild blackberries on the site. A lot of purple fingers and faces!!

Thanks again to the staff at St Johns Sports ground for the special access arrangements and to the community champions at ASDA, Marks& Spencer, Morrisons and Tesco for their generous donations of 'goodies' for the children . All very much appreciated.

Frank Paterson



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Song recital by Hazel Read (Rotary Young Musician National Finalist)



Ros and I first came across Hazel at the Regional Final in Ripon of the Rotary Young Musicians contest last March. She was the clear winner in the Vocal class, and such was the quality of her singing that I had no hesitation in asking her to come and sing to the club as part of the "Music Theme" for my Presidential Year.

Hazel's recital did not disappoint, neither in her beautiful singing, nor in her positive and confident personality when she told us all about her previous musical experience and her future aspirations. Her nicely varied programme was:

"Summertime" from "Porgy and Bess" (George Gershwin)



"I could have danced all night" from "My Fair Lady" (Lerner and Loewe)
"La Speranza E Guinta In Porto" from Handel's opera "Ottone"
"Somewhere". From "West Side Story" (Leonard Bernstein)



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Hazel sang with great commitment, expression and sincerity, and her voice carried very well in the dry acoustic of the Function Room. Although only 17 years old, she is already, in my view, singing with a maturity beyond her years, and I am sure we will hear much more of her in the future. Many thanks indeed, Hazel!

Thanks too, to Hazel's mum Lucy, who managed the pre-recorded accompaniment - no easy task under pressure as anyone who's tried it will know!

As far as I'm aware, this type of musical event at a "normal" Friday meeting is a first for the club. On 27 September, Alannah Saphir, an excellent young flautist, will be joining us, and I'm in the process of arranging a few more musical delights from aspiring young musicians during the rest of my "reign".

President Mike.

The Webmaster · Sep 8, 2024

York Rotary News

Visit to York Minster Centre of Excellence



As a follow up to his previous talk regarding the Minster Precinct, Alex McAllion Director of Works and Precinct, showed a party of 15 members of York Rotary around the Minster Precinct and particularly the elements of the Centre of Excellence that are nearing completion.

The visit started in the courtyard of St Williams College with Alex explaining about the factors that are driving the precinct developments. In order to progress the plans the Minster went through an unusual process of consultation and agreement of a neighbourhood plan; that has greatly assisted the planning and consent issues of the development. Alex also explained that deterioration of the Minster continues at an increasing rate and one of the things the Centre of Excellence seeks to achieve is improved craft training, with an associated reduction costs such that output can be increased by 40%, thereby enabling more conservation to be carried out for a given sum of money.

From St William's College we went to the new Centre of Excellence hub that is due for completion in October. The hub provides admin accommodation along with a large workshop for masons and accommodation for six first year apprentices to live. Providing living accommodation is a radical initiative and, of the six, two will be for overseas mason's visiting from partnering craft centres. The design of

the building incorporates a curved roof, glazed screens that achieve a light area and provide a view into the workshop for those standing on the bar walls. The building is centred around what will be a lovely courtyard area.





We walked back through Deans Park and Alex explained the long term vision for development of the Minster library, the creation of an improved archive store and an accredited museum. The centre will also link with the bar walls via a link bridge with lift access from the museum, that will be a fantastic facility for the disabled who cannot normally appreciate the views that offers. As we walked from Deans Park to the former stoneyard area Alex stopped to show is a sample of the PV installation that it is planned to place on the Nave roof. The Minster are trying to maximise the use of PV installations on roofs where appropriate to reduce their carbon footprint and to reduce energy costs.

Finally we saw how the former stoneyard area has been altered to create a new technology centre housing a new computer controlled saw and milling machine. These items are linked with a digital scanning system that scans existing stone and prepares the information needed to work new stone. The output from the digital scanning equipment form the basis for programming the saw and milling machine.



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The redeveloped hub area incorporates a stone storage facility and within that the stone will all be tracked electronically from the quarry, into store then through the sawing and milling process prior to going to the Centre of Excellence for working. The whole process will greatly reduce labour input. The design of the technology space is again really imaginative with curved roofs and northlight glazing. Once again the roof incorporates a PV installation.



It was a real privilege to be among one of the first groups to tour the Centre of Excellence complex prior to its completion. We thank Alex for being with us before he needed to get away to go to London on the train for project meetings. We all hope that the Centre of Excellence and ongoing developments will all be very successful.

Thanks to Mike Fieldsend for organising the visit.

David Fotheringham

York Rotary News

St Crux August 29th 2024



As usual everything was immaculately organised before the day, which was just as well as our gallant leader Sheila was taken poorly and was unable to be there!! Whilst she coughed and spluttered through the day York Rotary responded to the cry and everyone performed exactly as they had been trained!



At 8.00am the 'team' arrived and by 9.30am everything including gazebos, tables, chairs and signage, stalls and cafe was up and ready for the punters! The Café looked really inviting thanks to the generous donations from Rotarians and partners. The Home Produce Stall was stunning with lots of homemade delicacies including the ever popular jars of jam and chutney. We had some rather 'posh' bric-a-brac which, along with the more usual items was all displayed attractively. The Ladies Accessories and As New Gifts stall, which had all been prepared and priced earlier by Sheila and her 'ladies', was as eye catching as ever ready to attract the punters in. Books were laid out in the boxes in alphabetical order and collection buckets were at the ready to receive donations!! AMAZING!!



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goods to and from Sheila's and my garages. Many Rotarians and partners provided home made cakes and goods for the Café and Home Produce Stall and many people also provided items to



sell on the other stalls. Others had been involved before the event in sorting and pricing items to sell. A great example of Rotary working together!

I would like to thank everyone who supported the event and me as temporary Leader in Sheila's absence - we did good folks!!

The Webmaster · Sep 18, 2024

York Rotary News

Millington walk

Updated: Sep 19, 2024



Wednesday 18th September was a lovely sunny morning when a group of 10 walkers met at Kilnwick Percy Golf Course (KP Club) and set out on a walk onto the wolds above Millington.



The first section of the walk was by road and for a small rural road we were surprised by the number of online shopping delivery vans delivering to rural areas, along with other vehicles. From the road we then continued up on farm track with a gentle climb, following which we crossed fields until we reached a lovely seat overlooking Millington. It is not often that you find an interesting seat with a lovely view and one that will comfortably accommodate eight people.

Adjacent to the seat was an honesty box full of goodies, run by local girls.



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The view from the seat looking down into Millington is a lovely one, we debated walking down into Millington and then back along the roads, but with the steep drop into Millington we decided against that option and we retraced our rout back to the KP Club. Walking the same route back did not matter because we were able to enjoy the views down across the countryside. We thought that we could see York Minster and the Nestle factory in the distance, we could also easily spot Drax Power station.

We returned to the KP club after walking four miles and enjoyed an excellent lunch and conversation. Whilst the walk was relatively short we made the most of the weather, views and company and it was nice to have as many as we had on the walk, we only hope that will continue.

David Fotheringham



York Rotary News

Dragon Boat Challenge Awards Ceremony



The awards ceremony for the 23rd York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge was held at York Mansion House on Wednesday 2nd October. We were delighted that the Lord Mayor of York and civic party joined us along with representatives of teams and charities benefitting from the event. We were also joined by representatives of our event sponsors Shepherd Group, Simpson and Reed Boardall, their support as always was vital to the running of the event.

Brian Joscelyne joint Dragon Boat team leader updated us about the best ever financial success of the event. We targeted raising £100,000 from the event, that total was smashed, the event raised a fantastic £104,000 the highest amount ever raised, taking the total raised over 22

years to nearly £1.6m.

Several teams raised over £4,000 and an award was presented to Hunters and their team Canoe Believe It who were the highest fundraisers raising £6,245. The award for best dressed team was presented to The Kyra Crew who had impressed with the bunny themed costumes they had made themselves.



slowest team was presented to York In Recovery.

The
much
sought
after
Tailend
ers
trophy
for the



The awards for the fastest charity and commercial teams were presented, along with the Challenge Trophy which was presented to Ged Bell Butchers. Ged Bell butchers took part in the first Dragon Boat Challenge and in many subsequent Dragon Boat Challenges and they have also one the Challenge trophy several times previously, so well done to them once again.

York Samaritans one of the York Rotary nominated charities was presented

with £16,000, Hannah Mason and Tim Ensor of Samaritans both explained how important the proceeds will be to their ongoing work. The other nominated charity is the York Rotary charity fund who also have £16,000 and they have already started distributing that to a number of very worthy local charities.



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spoke briefly. We thank the Lord Mayor for the hospitality in inviting us

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With the 2024 event completed planning continues for the 2025 event to be held on Sunday 13th July when we hope we will again have a full complement of 36 competing teams.

David Fotheringham



York Rotary News

Flute recital by Alannah Saphir



At our meeting on 27th September, members were treated to a delightful and strikingly virtuosic recital by teenager Alannah Saphir. The first half of her programme consisted of possibly rather less known pieces which she told us she was going to play in her forthcoming auditions for a number of UK Conservatoires. They showed off very effectively both her dexterity and her sensitivity in her playing. The pieces were: "Ballade for Flute", op.288 by Carl Reinecke (1824 - 1910), and "Fantaisie for Flute", op.79 by Gabriel Fauré (1845 -1924).

Alannah's remaining two pieces were, I'm sure, much better known: the delightful Sicilienne, op. 78 (from the opera "Pélleas et Mélisande") also by Fauré, and the foot-tapping "Tambourin" by François-Joseph Gossec (1734 - 1829) with what looked like some horrendously difficult fingerwork, but in which Alannah succeeded in making it all look so easy!

We must not overlook the very sensitive and accomplished accompaniment by Alannah's mother, Nichola. The accompaniments were far from easy but appeared to cause Nichola no difficulty whatsoever; mother and daughter were in complete harmony throughout. Thank you, mum!



This was a thoroughly enjoyable 25 minutes, and I'm sure the audience were left wanting more. It has been my aim in these musical sessions to give a platform to "up and coming" young musicians. It is clear to me, and I'm sure to the audience, that Alannah, as with Hazel last month, is very much "up and coming" and we wish both of them every success in their musical futures.

If you would like to watch the videos of Alannah's performances, taken by Vic Brookes, click on the links below.



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The Webmaster · Oct 16, 2024

York Rotary News

Sustainability - What does it mean



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The Club was privileged to have Cheryl Allen, Head of Sustainability - Co... News archive le explaining what the term 'sustainability' actually means in the context of business decisions. Cheryl started off by explaining that 'sustainability' wasn't some altruistic, fashionable sop. Whilst it was essential to take steps to combat climate change, loss of biodiversity, and all the other environmental problems that face the world today, actions taken to ameliorate these had to make business sense.

She then went on to demonstrate some of the ways in which Nestle was approaching the issue. Firstly it was important that organizations started at the end point and then worked back down the supply chain to ensure that incremental improvements were made at every stage.

In York, for example, at the manufacturing stage, work was being done to move away from fossil fuels and into renewables. Much research was going into packaging to improve recycling and reduce excess material. As an example Cheryl explained that in shifting from a 2-layer paper wrapper for Kit-Kat to a thin-film plastic one, 1 billion pieces of packaging had been saved.

Turning to suppliers, Cheryl showed two case studies; one in West Africa with cocoa farmers, and the other with milk producers in South-West Scotland. In the former, farmers were being encouraged to avoid clearing new areas of forest for crop production by improving the techniques used on their existing land and ensuring that there was traceability from source to manufacture. Alongside this Nestle was investing in social change through education, and by empowering women to diversify family income streams.

In Ayrshire Nestle has been working with a dairy farming cooperative for the last 21 years. More recently incentives have included planting hedgerows, reducing waste run-off into rivers, and encouraging no-tilling of pasture land. New monitoring techniques are improving animal welfare. Socially, farmers are encouraged to run educational visits for school children so that the next generation will start to become aware of sustainability issues.

Cheryl's talk was most stimulating and extremely informative on a subject of global concern. The interest generated was well demonstrated by the number of Rotarians who wished to carry on the conversation with Cheryl after the meeting.

Mike Fieldsend

York Rotary News

Baggage handlers supreme!



Once again, an intrepid Group of Rotarians and friends provided person power at the York marathon on Sunday 20th October. We were charged with receiving, and more importantly returning, some 5000 items of baggage from and to the marathon runners despite the vagaries of wind weather and other impediments. The morning shift received the packages and arranged them in as accurate order as possible; by midday when the first runners returned, we got an early test of our accuracy when we tried to find their specific packs. Thankfully, the first indications were positive, and so it turned out to be throughout the rest of the day. The afternoon shift depend very much on the accuracy of the morning people; if packages are misplaced, then a considerable amount of embarrassment and annoyance can ensue. I'm very happy to report that there were very few misplaced items and my title used above was indeed very appropriate.



There are other factors which make the task less than trivial: although some packages were very light, that was the exception, and it seemed for some competitors that they had planned for a six weeks holiday rather than a few running necessities. Some items weighed, or appeared to weigh, several tons! Some come with other attachments, a change of shoes, another similarly heavy bag, a large jacket looped round the rucksack straps and various other appendages designed to make storage a challenge. Also, although each item is carefully numbered with the runner's race number, it does help to locate it if we know the colour. However being told that it is a "black rucksack" doesn't really help to distinguish it from several hundred identical looking items 😞. We are considering offering a bonus if the package is red, pink, yellow or some other eye-catching colour 😊.

Probably the most overwhelming time of the day is around 9 am, when the vast majority of runners hand in their baggage. The pile of packages grows very quickly to



above shoulder height; this year the doughty Kevin was trapped on the outside of the baggage tent in the pouring rain, but undeterred continued to receive baggage, and even seemed to remain cheerful.



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The runners were always appreciative and friendly, which really is what makes the whole day worthwhile, as well as the experience of again working with a friendly committed and very hard-working Rotary and Friends team. This year, I feel that everything worked particularly well, a view backed up by various team comments, and the "supreme" epithet was indeed fully justified. As well as the thanks of the runners, we also receive a donation to our Charity Fund, so definitely a day well spent! Very well done, teams and thank you 😊

Pres Mike Hay

The Webmaster · Nov 12, 2024

York Rotary News

The Big Quiz, November 2024

Updated: Nov 13, 2024



York Rotary held our 4th Big Quiz at Stockton on the Forrest Village Hall on Wednesday 6th November.

We had lots of Helpers (thank you) putting out chairs and tables/setting up the bar, kitchen, and raffle in readiness for some 88 people who had signed up and in all we had 14 Teams participating.

To keep everyone on their toes **funny face** 4 different "Brains" devised the questions to ensure we got a good variety of styles and topics (See if you can guess who devised which topic (no prizes for this).



Our able Quizmaster as usual was Frank Paterson (of the booming voice) and our IT expert recording the team scores was none other than 'Past Master' Mary Lumley who has earned this accolade after many years as Tockwith School's Quiz Maestro. Prizes were awarded for the winning and losing teams together with a prize for the Best Team Name.

We had some super Raffle Prizes all of which were donated and included 2 prizes from Tesco, a Voucher for Champagne Afternoon Tea from Middlethorpe Hall and a Spa Experience from The Bothy alongside a number of other gifts donated by Rotarians (thank you). The Raffle raised a massive **£394.55**. Many thanks to Sheelagh Salter and Janet Fotheringham for

manning the raffle.

The Bar was ably manned by Rotarians David Fotheringham and Graham Todd who also sourced the beer and wine and the Bar made a profit of **£242**.

At roughly half time the supper was served. **The Kitchen Team** was lead by Hazel Hart ably supported by a friend of hers, Louise, and Steve Wilkinson who supplied yummy steak pies and helped serve up alongside Hazel and Louise...to say nothing of the dreaded washing up at the end.

At the end of the event, an abundance of helpers collected rubbish and bottles and took everything away for disposal.

Overall we raised the fantastic sum of **£1,935.50** which has kindly been levelled up to **£2,000** from the International team's budget to support Physionet in the transport of medical equipment to the Ukraine. As part of the evening Russ Rollings told us about the incredible work of Physionet, and the following statistics give details of what they have done.



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154 containers sent, reaching

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115 assignments sent via third parties

87k items supplied, including:

18k wheelchairs & **10k** items of therapy kit

36k new wheelchairs supplied to **30** countries by Wheelchair Foundation UK prior to merger with PhysioNet

£15m+ value of items sent if new & **700+** tonnes of equipment saved from scrap yards

A great Evening thanks to so many helpers and good- natured competitors with some very tired people locking up at the end.

York Rotary News

Kings Cross of the North in York



At a talk to York Rotary on 14th November Leon Guyett, Regeneration Director of Homes England outlined the statutory role of this government agency to work with the private sector to deliver the challenging housing targets. The agency priorities are sustainable affordable housing on previously developed sites. York Central is an excellent example of this in practice. It will deliver over the next 12 years 2500 new homes, (20% affordable) 1 million sq ft of commercial and retail space, create 6500 jobs all on redundant railway land.



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Quoting Leon - they have talked the talk - my job is to ensure they walk the walk and deliver and from what we heard that is likely to be the case.

Frank Paterson



York Rotary News

Bulb-Planting at Haxby Road Primary Academy



York Rotary

Having purchased 200 Foundation Purple Crocus bulbs, the Youth Services Team was determined to plant them with pupils at Haxby Road Primary Academy.



On Monday 2nd December, armed with compost and tools, Mary Lumley, Jane Albon and Eileen Davis visited the school, hoping to improve the grounds whilst teaching the pupils about the bulbs and what they symbolise. Even the rain could not dampen spirits as we were allocated locations in the Early Years and Junior playgrounds. Willing Year 5 helpers and Mrs Caroline Unwin, the Early Years Phase Leader, assisted us to clear vegetation from inside pots, old tyres and raised beds and to plant the bulbs, learning about how to place them properly.

After planting, we went inside the school to talk with the pupils about Rotary's work to eradicate Polio and to give those who wished a purple pinkie to mark the occasion. Soon, they will deliver an assembly about the whole exercise and its background.

We look forward to seeing purple crocus bulbs blooming in Haxby Road Primary Academy next Spring.

Eileen Davis
Youth Services Team Leader



The Webmaster · Dec 21, 2024

York Rotary News

York Rotary Christmas lunch and entertainment 2024



York Rotary held its Christmas lunch at the Novotel on Friday 21st December, it was attended by 90 Rotarians, partners and friends.



As we mingled before lunch the Jackson 5 – 2 entertained us in the foyer, amongst the numbers they played was Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.

A Christmas Stocking Filler stall was available, that was a popular feature and it raised in excess of £100 for the charity fund.



After lunch
President Elect Paul
and deputy master
of music thanked
the Novotel team for
looking after us over
the last year and he
presented a gift to
them on our behalf.



President Mike and Ros who are in Perth Australia joined us by Zoom to give us their Christmas greetings. Mike said the temperature in Perth was 40C, we were not really sure whether that was preferable to the rather colder weather in York?



Continuing President Mike's theme of music it was entirely appropriate that we were then entertained by the York Rotary choir, also known as the Mike Hay singers, but this year with guest conductor Paul Roberts. The choir gave an excellent performance of four carols/Christmas songs – Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly, Ding Dong, Rocking around the Christmas Tree and finally We wish you a Merry Christmas. The choir had clearly enjoyed all of their rehearsals and the audience really enjoyed their performance. To hear the choir as well as extracts from the Jackson 5 – 2 music click on the video link below.

The

Christmas entertainment was then opened by The Jackson 5 – 2, this year represented by accomplished cornet player Alan Morrison, keyboard player Alan Tonks and of course our own Tom Jackson. The two Alans have vast musical experience and as well as Alan Morrison having played for several very respected bands they have both played on cruises around the world.

Cont





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The choir was followed by a Christmas reading of Cooking the Turkey with Wine by Darrell Hind. The reading was delivered in a very accomplished way. Darrell has clearly followed this recipe many times before, when I asked him did the turkey taste nice he said "I don't know, I was far too drunk to eat it"!

The lunch was clearly enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to everyone involved in organising it and performing. Particular thanks go to Jan Dash who had the unenviable task of organising who was attending and their varied menu choices, liaising with the hotel and preparing all of the name/menu cards – these sort of things do not just happen. Thank you also to the choir for coping in the absence of Mike Hay, we look forward to hearing them again in 2025.

David Fotheringham



On 10th January York Rotary were treated to a great double act presentation by Jackie and Lisa two volunteers of York Street Angels.

In 2009 church groups across York teamed up to launch Street Angels in York with the aim of patrolling the city centre in high viz jackets to make York a safer city.

Each Friday and Saturday nights teams of volunteers head out onto the streets of York until the early hours caring for, practically helping and listening to people, especially those who are vulnerable or effected by drink or drugs. Working along side the emergency services, and door staff they hand out bottled water and flip flops to prevent dehydration and broken ankles. The simple act of helping people get home safely or back to their hotels is very much appreciated.

Clearly Street Angels are now a well established addition to York's night time guardianship and contribute to making York one of the safest cities in the country and York Rotary are pleased to support them.

John Lacy

The Webmaster · Feb 14

York Rotary News

ROTARY CHAMPIONS YORK CHARITIES

Updated: Feb 19



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site and during the last two years over 700 native species trees have been planted and are flourishing. The three York Rotary Clubs provided benches, to Forest England specifications, and these have been located to optimise the potentially beautiful views and peaceful environment. Each of the three solid oak seats has, carved on the back,

Celebrating Charities Contribution to the Community

Speaking on behalf of the three York Rotary Clubs Mike Hay, said :-

As individuals, we acknowledge the worth of any charity by supporting them financially or with our time. However, there are very few ways of acknowledging the overall positive contributions charities make to the well-being of our Society. Our VISION was for York Community Woodland to



design an area within the project specifically to honour all local charities. During the last 25 years, the three York Rotary Clubs have supported in cash or kind over 200 local charities and are proud to be Champions for such a group of dedicated people.

We thank the City and Forest England for everything they have done to make it happen.

Cllr Margaret Wells, The Lord Mayor of York said: -

Recognising Charities' contributions to the community has been one of my aims during my year of office and I must thank Rotary for the initiative and congratulate all who have been involved in creating such a tangible and sustainable way of acknowledging the value of so many of the mainly volunteers who give their time and commitment to helping others.

Further details from:- Frank Paterson, 07894338205 email :- fpater30@gmail.com

The Webmaster · Feb 28

York Rotary News

Where has the Minster Gates clock gone?

Updated: Mar 11



You could reasonably ask where has the Minster Gates clock gone?

The Minster Gates clock was a gift to the City of York in 1971 to recognise 50 years of York Rotary and also the City of York 1900 celebrations. After over 50 years of service the condition of the clock has deteriorated in recent years so York Rotary considered it would be a sensible time for it to be restored.

More information regarding the history of the clock extracted by Graham Wilford from the *Golden Wheel* in York is available at the end of this news report (*The Golden Wheel in York is a History of York Rotary Club 1921 to 1992 researched and written by Cy Read*).

After discussions with York Minster it was agreed that the work could proceed. The costs of restoring the drum funded by a surplus from the York Rotary centenary celebrations in 2021/2. The project in partnership with York Minster. The restoration of the drum is being



carried out by John Cossins of York Clock Group, along with specialist contractor input. The York clock group wind and help to look after many of the public clocks in and around York.

The clock drum was successfully taken down on Wednesday 26th February and it has now been taken to John's workshop for restoration.



It is anticipated that the works will include metalwork repairs and redecoration, specialist restoration and renewal of the clock dials and renewal of the clock mechanism and lighting including the installation of a means of automatic clock control whenever it is necessary to change the time seasonally or after power cuts. Initial examination of the clock in John's workshop did not identify any surprises, but some parts of the metalwork are badly corroded and will require repair.





York Minster are going to treat and repaint the metalwork of the clock bracket in-situ, hopefully including regilding the final and restoring the stainless steel plaques.



Since having been taken down swift progress has been made on the restoration. The clock has been dismantled and John has worked on the mechanism, that is now cleaned and has a new motor and gear box, those are working well.

The dials have had an initial clean and they are now being sent to Loomes of Stamford, they are specialist clock restorers and they will repaint the dials to match the original numbering, that will be a very important feature of the restoration.

We have arranged for an experienced metalworker Sam to examine the drum, that has identified a number of areas of corrosion that require repair, including the area in the base of the drum that was completely corroded and which had a plating repair at that time.

The bottom of the drum will be cut out and replaced as part of the works and other areas that are damaged due to rust jacking will also be repaired. Sam now has the drum and he is going to carry out some trial work in advance of the repairs. Sam did identify that the clock drum had been really well made fifty years ago, but unfortunately some poor original detailing has resulted in the amount of corrosion that has happened, these points will be addressed in repair so as to try to minimise future corrosion risks.



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will be away for between four and five months and we look forward to the re-erection of the restored clock later

in the year, with a target for it to be re-erected in July.

Regular updates regarding the clock restoration will be provided via the news pages of the York Rotary website and also via articles in Rotagraph.

David Fotheringham
(Updated 11th March 2025)

The Rotary Clock References in the Golden Wheel Club History Books

Page 257 – Feb 1971

An important decision was made by Council at this meeting, following a report by the Golden Jubilee Committee, which had recommended that the Club should go ahead with the installation of a public clock in the City, subject to the approval of the City Council and receipt of the necessary planning permission. It was also decided that an electric clock would be more suitable than a mechanical one and that Stafford House and David Leckenby should be asked to help in submitting a suitable design. A draft letter of appeal to Members for contributions to cover the full cost of the presentation to the City was considered and approved.

Page 263 – Feb 1972

There was welcome news given to Members at the February meeting of the Club Council, when the Secretary reported that the Dean and Chapter had formally consented to the erection of the bracket and clock on their premises at Minster Gates and had suggested that the Club should also write to the tenant of the property, a Mr Stone. It seemed that David Leckenby was in a position to proceed, at last, with the obtaining of quotations with a view to the clock being erected as soon as possible.

Page 264 – March 1972

Jack Keighley attended the March meeting of the Club Council to report on progress in connection with the Club's 1900th Anniversary presentation to the City.

Jack said that he had approached C.J. Taylor and Son and one of the Directors, Bill Mann, revealed that the firm would be prepared to supply a suitable bracket for the clock at a reduced price which would give a saving of £90.

This brought the basic cost down to £534, but it was thought that the fixing costs and electrical wiring would bring the total cost up to £600. As the fund stood at £402 it was decided to refer the matter of raising the £200 to the Club as a whole.

Page 264 – April 1972

The Treasurer reported that the 1900th Anniversary Clock Fund had increased to £518 from the extra subscriptions of 27 Members. Some good news and help in connection with the installation of the clock came from the District Manager of the N.E.E.B. Rotarian Bob Turner, who indicated that the Board's Public Lighting Section could readily erect the bracket and clock by using a tower wagon instead of having to use scaffolding, as was originally envisaged. Bob also explained that the clock could be connected by means of a public lighting cable, which would enable it to be illuminated and the energy costs to be charged to the Corporation under the Public Lighting agreement.

Page 265 – June 1972. Outgoing President's Message

As I hand over to the new President our "clock" has still to be completed

Page 266-7

The public clock donated by the Club to the City of York to mark the Club's 50th Anniversary and York's 1900th Anniversary Celebrations was officially presented by President Cy Read to the Lord Mayor, Councillor Vic Boulton, on the afternoon of Wednesday, 27th September, 1972. Quite a large crowd witnessed the ceremony and heard the President say:

"It was a happy coincidence that the Golden Jubilee of the Rotary Club of York occurred during the City's 1900th Anniversary Year, and the Members of the Club felt that the occasion should be marked in some lasting form."

"As Golden Jubilees are usually accompanied by the exchanging of gifts, it was proposed by Vincent Fisher, our President during that year, that a fund be created open to contributions by all Members of the Club - and only to Club Members - to be applied in a gift to the City."

"Our fair city has been provided with so much by nature and by our forefathers that it was not easy to decide on what form the gift should take. We hope that our choice will be of some practical use and that its form is appropriate to these lovely surroundings."

"My Lord Mayor, I ask you to accept this clock as an acknowledgement by each Member of the Rotary Club of York of the happiness he has derived in fellowship and service and in the pride and privilege we feel in our citizenship of this great city."

The Lord Mayor, in acknowledging the gift, described it "as most sensible, most useful and a reminder of our ancient heritage".

The front cover of the next Volume of Rotary in the Ridings was taken over by a photograph of the clock, which clearly showed the inscription on the bracket:

This clock was given to the City of York in its 1900th year by the Rotary Club of York in its 50th year - 1971

The Webmaster · Mar 10

York Rotary News

President's Dinner, March 2025

Updated: Mar 11



York Rotary held its annual President's Dinner at the Novotel on Friday 7th March. The dinner was attended by over ninety people including the York Civic party, representatives of four other Rotary clubs, together with members of York Rotary and their partners.

As always the food and welcome from the Novotel were excellent.

Following the dinner President Mike Hay had the privilege of making a Paul Harris award to Chris Shepherd who has been known to York Rotary for many years.

Some 40 or more years ago, Chris turned her eye for a good photograph into a serious hobby, which has been put to good use in supporting a very worthwhile local charity.

For many years it was Chris's photographs of local York scenes, which set the high standard for York Against Cancer's Christmas cards with their delightful snowy scenes appropriate to the season and which provided a serious annual contribution to the charity's finances.

In 2004, when York Against Cancer was the principal beneficiary of the York Rotary's second Dragon Boat Challenge, Chris started to capture a high-quality photographic record of the event, capturing the excitement, the sheer blaze of colour, and the endless variety of the Teams' fancy dress outfits. The thousands of photographs have provided the Club with a wonderful pictorial record of the Dragon Boat events over the last 20 years.



Chris also put her expertise to good use a few years ago, when she collaborated with others to provide a wonderful glossy book portraying York past and present – showing old photographs of York scenes, with each one accompanied by an up-to-date photo of the same scene. Apart from being a superb record of York, it made a very handsome profit for York Against Cancer.

Anyone who has witnessed Chris in action, or heard her talk about her hobby, will have experienced the flair, skill and enthusiasm of her work, but also the time and effort she takes in getting just the right light and weather conditions for a good photograph.



Following a break Mike Hay proposed a toast to the City of York. In proposing his toast Mike talked about how he had moved from Edinburgh another great historic city and how he has enjoyed the welcome that he and Ros had in York and the pleasure of working with York Rotary. Mike suggested that York Rotary and the Council shared similar aims: "to make things better for people", and he reinforced this idea with a short musical rendition (!). He emphasised, and expressed the club's appreciation for, the high degree of cooperation between the two organisations, not least in support of the Dragon Boat Challenge.

The Lord Mayor Councillor Margaret Wells responded to Mike's toast and spoke warmly about York, she also said that reflecting on Mikes comments she always loves to visit Edinburgh, but she is always happy to come back to York which as far less hilly than Edinburgh. Margaret Wells also acknowledged, and was grateful for, the importance of cooperation between the two organisations"



Following dinner David Powling concert pianist performed for us and his



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by a musician. Not abandoned, only modified: David Powling, concert pianist and fellow Rotarian, entertained us with an inspiring and witty

performance. David's choice of excerpts and, more importantly, his execution of them, brought, by turns, smiles and warm nostalgic feelings, and then deeper, inspirational stirrings. And the combination of pieces (I almost dare say 'bits and pieces'!), moving from

Beethoven to Lloyd-Webber and back to Beethoven via Chopin, was often startlingly witty. A wonderful, new twist to a time-honoured tradition and a perfect way to round off the evening."

We can end by saying that we had a great evening enjoyed by all.



The Webmaster · Mar 10

York Rotary News

York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge 2025, a full complement of teams

Updated: Mar 11



York Rotary have now confirmed a full complement of teams for the York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge to be held on the 13th July. This year the application process was launched late January and within three weeks we had a full complement of 36 teams plus two reserves. We are delighted to have many returning teams along with 12 new teams competing for the first time.



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2025 the York Rotary nominated charities who will receive one third of the funds raised are Citizens Advice York and the York Rotary Charity Fund who in turn support a number of local charities.

York Rotary are very grateful to the event sponsors Portakabin, Simpson, and Reed Boardall for their sponsorship. The combination of team entry fees and event sponsorship ensures that every penny raised by the Teams goes to very worthy and mainly local charities, that is so important.



The Dragon Boat teams will all come together for the team Captains' briefing on the 13th May when they will learn more about the event. We look forward to welcoming the teams spectators to the Dragon Boat Challenge on the 13th July when we hope that we will have another great days racing in a carnival atmosphere.

For more information about the event click [here](#) to go to the Dragon Boat pages of our website.

David Fotheringham and Brian Joscelyne
Joint Dragon Boat team leaders



The Webmaster · Apr 15

York Rotary News

Another Successful Under-17 Car Club (Pathfinder) Week at Rufforth Aerodrome



The Easter 2025 course took place from Monday 7th to Friday 11th April at Rufforth Aerodrome and York Rotarians were involved in several ways.

Vic Brookes and David McAulay have been Instructors for many years. They are Advanced Motorists who give up their time to train young people to drive safely and to buck the trend of more accidents in the Under 25s. Don Salter agreed to become an "Associate" which meant spending the week as a surrogate parent in a borrowed car, mentoring student Jack; Don learned a lot too (see photograph below)! Don commented that it is quite something being driven by the student along the course at over 60, but that level of driving indicates how much is achieved by the students in a week.



The police support the event by providing training regarding speed awareness and



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manned the refreshments area in morning or afternoon shifts, providing teas and coffees on demand, sorting out food orders for the Instructors and clearing up after everyone.

Every adult "working" on the course is a volunteer and the tangible benefits for the young people are visible in their increasing confidence and honed driving skills. This is a fine example of Rotarians as "People of Action".

At the end of the course students are presented with Certificates recording their achievements in the week.



The remaining 2025 courses will be 11th - 15th August and 27th - 31st October and York Rotary will be helping with those by providing instructors and serving refreshments.



York Rotary News

The York Rotary Awards at York College : April 2025



After a short postponement, some of the Spring Term York College Awards were handed out at the Construction Centre on Wednesday 23rd April. President Mike Hay kindly presented the Awards; he was accompanied Project Leader Brian Houghton and acting photographer Eileen Davis. As on previous occasions, we were welcomed by Ashley Stokes, Head of Curriculum for Construction.



3 of the winners were not in College that day and we had a bit of an unplanned tour trying to locate each of the 3 who were not always in the expected "work" areas! However, we were able to meet them and some of the teaching staff who explained why each student had been nominated. Mike presented each winner with a "Student of the Term" Certificate and our Award, a £50 "One4all" voucher. This has replaced the original Barnitt's voucher as it enables online purchases.



York Rotary



Rhys in
Professional &
Technical
Toby in
Plumbing
Ben in
Electrical



The other winners were presented informally on Friday 25th April.

Kaela in Painting & Decorating

Liam in Carpentry & Joinery

Jacob in Brickwork

A lovely occasion – young people at their best!



The Webmaster · May 14

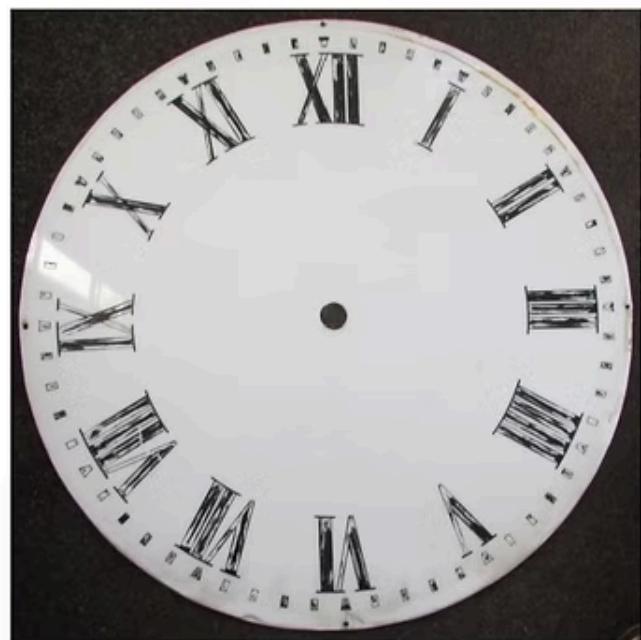
York Rotary News

MINSTER GATES CLOCK UPDATE



Following the removal of the Minster Gates clock on the 26th February excellent progress has been made with the restoration as indicated by this update.

The restoration of the dials by Robert Loomes has been completed and the dials are ready for return to us, comparison of the two images below shows the great improvement associated with restoring the dials back to their original condition.



Good progress has been made with the work to the drum. The stripping down of the drum identified that the metalwork was in very poor condition as indicated in the photographs below.



The metalwork of the drum has now been restored by Sam Simpson. The frame had to be reinforced by adding laser cut curved steel to the corroded angles. Following that a new outer casing to the drum has been fabricated and fixed as shown below.



The formation of the curve on the steel casing to the drum required the use of a metal bending machine which gradually curves the metalwork to the required process, the video below shows Sam using the bending machine.

The drum metalwork has now gone to a specialist for electro plating prior to painting and then the clock will be reassembled and tested prior to refixing on the restored bracket. We remain on target for the clock to be reinstated in July.

The Webmaster · May 14

York Rotary News

Dragon Boat Challenge team briefing

Updated: May 15



As the 23rd Dragon Boat Challenge to be held on Sunday 13th July draws ever closer the team briefing was held at the Novotel on Tuesday 13th. The briefing is a very important event that all teams are required to be represented, the briefing was attended by over 80 people.



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briefing gives the team detailed information about the event, including the planning of the day, what they can expect and the various health and safety requirements of the event. The briefing also talks about the all important fundraising aspects of the event.

We are delighted that nearly all of the teams have already set up fundraising using the required Enthuse fundraising platform and some of the teams have already made a good start with their fundraising. Last year the event raised £105,000, the first time that the fundraising has exceeded £100,000. For the 2025 we have suggested a target of £110,000, which we hope is not too optimistic.

To run the event we get invaluable support from our three corporate sponsors, Portakabin, Reed Boardall and Simpson, without their support we could not ensure that all of the sponsorship raised by the teams go to charity. This year the event is raising funds 2/3 for the Teams' own charities and 1/3 split between Citizens Advice York and for the York Rotary Charity fund to distribute to local charities.



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best for the fundraising activities over the next two months running up to the event.

David Fotheringham



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York Rotary News

Fundraising events

Updated: May 16



York Rotary have recently held two successful fundraising events:

Morrisons Foss Islands Collection 12th April 2025:



We had a very successful collection at the Morrisons. Members of the Fundraising Team were suitably kitted out in Rotary branded clothing and there was a fairly steady trade. We had a great spot to collect in the Foyer so were able to greet customers both on the way in and out

Jane also designed a small leaflet for donors should they be interested alongside leaflets on Rotary Membership and Friends of York Rotary.

We raised the great sum of £331.19 and have 2 further collections booked at the same store on Saturday August 9th and on Saturday 20th December.

St Crux, 24th April:

We had a lovely sunny day for our recent St Crux on Thursday 24th April. The footfall initially was rather slower than expected as it was the Easter holidays, but things started to pick up around 11.00ish, thanks to our



Ace greeters/bucket collectors on the gate extolling the virtues of our fab café with homemade cakes and sandwiches etc ...and suddenly we were OFF...almost rushed off our feet.

Peo



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remained steadily busy until the end of the event. Unfortunately, we now have to be packed up and fully loaded and off the premises before 4.00pm as there is now a loading and unloading ban in place with cameras nearby so it's become a very hectic time at the end taking down and loading the gazebo etc.



The surplus home made baking was all sold at the Friday meeting following the event, raising further funds towards the event. A discussion at Rotary commented on the excellent quality of the baking so a big thanks to our volunteer bakers, without their help the funds raised would be much depleted.

Overall we raised the great sum of **£1,418.76** a bit down on previous St Crux events, but still successful.

A huge thank you is expressed to everyone for your support whether providing goods to sell on the stalls or provisions for the café or your help on the day.

Sheila Weatherburn
Joint Team Leader Fundraising Team

The Webmaster · May 16

York Rotary News

Aquabox talk by Gordon McGlone



York Rotary International Team decided some months ago we would like to support people affected by the current conflict in Lebanon. Diana Naish made enquiries at District 1040 (as a link had been established a few years ago following the explosion in the docks area of Beirut). Gordon who is the current District 1040 International Chairman responded



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by a team of volunteers and all parts, except the filters themselves are made in the UK (the filters are made in China). These small 'magic' filters are shipped in a large box (which also contains other life-saving equipment) to people affected by natural disaster, extreme weather and conflict across the globe. They will produce gallons of clean water for months on end and only cost £75!!! A larger filter is also produced which can be used by a large community, school or hospital at a cost of only £250!!!

Gordon was a member of RC Wirksworth shortly after they launched Aquabox and has stayed passionately involved ever since. He demonstrated how the filter works – members even drank the pure water it produced! Gordon was able to confirm that Aquabox have sent many filters out to Beirut already. This was just what International Team needed to know as we were ready with a donation of £500 – enough to supply 2 large community filters!!

York Rotary funds very well spent!!

Mary Lumley



The Webmaster · May 27

York Rotary News

Visit to Nuremberg with Erlangen Rotary

Updated: Jun 2



A group of 10 representing York Rotary (7 members and 3 partners) have visited Nuremberg to meet members of Erlangen Rotary as part of our exchange programme with Erlangen.

The visit was from the 22nd to 25th May, though most of us arrived on the 21st May. The group travelled by a variety of routes, plane, car and train.



Thursday - The visit started on the Thursday evening with a welcome meal at the Alte Kuche which is a typical German beer cellar. We enjoyed local food, wine and beer served from a beer tower. We had welcomes from Wilfried and Gerhart of Erlangen Rotary and President Mike responded in German, with written English translations for the York Rotary members.

Beer tower being demonstrated by Wilfried



Friday – We spent the day on cultural activities, in the morning with guided tours through Nuremberg starting at the castle view point then visiting many areas of Nuremberg looking at many very interesting historical buildings.

After the morning visit and a lunch we were treated to a behind the scenes tour of the Opera House and state theatre. The scale of the opera house impressed us greatly from the sheer size of the back stage area, seeing the wardrobe areas and the costume, wig and mask workshops. The opera employs over 600 staff and it takes about two years to develop a show into production. We were very privileged to have had this tour.



In the evening we had dinner at a lovely restaurant that spanned over the river Pegnitz. After dinner both clubs tested their choral skills, that was great fun.

Saturday – We went on a tour by bus through lovely countryside to the village of Volkach where we were met by the town mayor prior to having guided tours around the lovely village.



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village tour we visited a vineyard where we enjoyed two Franconian wines and heard about wine production, we then headed back to the winery where we tasted four more wines and enjoyed a buffet lunch of local meats, sausages and cheeses. After lunch we returned to Nuremberg.



In the evening a gala dinner was held at the Alta Post in the village of Kraftshof. On arrival in the village we were able to enjoy a visit to the local church before enjoying a lovely dinner, followed by speeches. During the speeches President Mike invited Erlangen Rotary to visit York in 2027. The evening was rounded off by joining hands and singing Auld Lang Syne, led by Frank Paterson.



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was 16 hours compared with 10 hours flying to Leeds via Schiphol.

We look forward to the two clubs meeting up again in 2027.

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York Rotary News

Piano recital, Gerard and Manna Tam



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Manna then played two delightful pieces, the first movement of a Mozart Sonata in F, and an Impromptu by Schubert. Both were beautifully executed and showed a maturity well beyond her years.

This was a most enjoyable 20 minutes of excellent playing – concluding the opportunities we have given this year to young musicians to play to an unfamiliar but clearly receptive audience. So a huge “well done” to the Tams, and to all others who have performed for us this



year!

But in fact, not quite the last – I've invited Alannah Saphir, the excellent flautist who played for us in the autumn, to play a couple more pieces at the President's Lunch (not to mention the Rotary Choir, of course, although it might be a bit of a stretch to call ourselves "promising young musicians"!).

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recital [click on the image on the left](#).

Pres Mike

The Webmaster · Jun 16

York Rotary News

International Charity Walk and Social 2025



This annual event was held on Tuesday 10th June at the beautiful village of Welburn.

This year there were options for either a 6 mile or a shorter 3 mile walk in the Castle Howard area and/or a 1 mile Treasure Trail around the village, all followed by a Cream Tea in the delightful village hall.



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Arriving back at the village hall for a well-earned cuppa, many of them continued on to join the eleven 'Treasure Trailers' who were just setting off to solve the clues as they strolled round the village.



who have already promised to return next year!

Everyone donated generously to the raffle which raised a massive £220 itself!

I would like to thank everyone who supported the event.

The day raised over £700 which International Team have pledged to our friends at Ebenezer Childcare Trust in Zambia to provide educational resources for the children in Early Years in the school.

Mary Lumley
15.6.25

Once everyone was safely back at the village hall we all dug in to a delicious Cream Tea of homemade scones and cakes which looked absolutely fabulous ready laid out for us. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all who came and some even added the extra luxury of a glass of fizz with their tea!

Following a tense scoring session and a clever Tie Breaker the winners of the Treasure Trail were declared as Steve Magac and Jackie Dean. They won a box of Roses Chocolates and donated it back for a future raffle prize. The booby prize of a Yellow Courgette Plant was won by newcomers Joe Postill and his team

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York Rotary News

A Goat Farm Visit - no ifs or butts!



St Helen's Farm goat milk products are now firmly established in the dairy aisles of all UK supermarkets . On June 19th, a dozen members and partners - having lunched together at the nearby Oaks Golf Club - had the privilege of a conducted tour of the operation at Seaton Ross by Angus who with his wife Kathleen founded the business in 1986.

The development of the fully automated , computer controlled pasteurising and packaging process has been truly international with machinery sourced from Japan, Germany Italy and most recently, Turkey .

It was fascinating to see through the windows of a totally enclosed sterile environment machine cartons being filled at the rate of 60 every minute , packaged and stacked by robots onto pallets without human intervention.



But the best part of the visit was seeing the care applied to the well-being of the goats as we followed them through the stages from birth to motherhood and then to milk production. Each goat has an embedded chip enabling the development of an individual record of its ancestry, development, health and output.



This had led to the creation of their own hybrid breed internationally designated in 2017 as The Yorkshire Dairy Goat now very much in demand all over the world.

The final stage in the visit was the milking parlour where scores of goats with full udders were queuing anxiously to get into individual locations on a 76 pen carousel needing only one person to attach the automatic milking device. A memorable conclusion to a visit to this family owned very successful Yorkshire business that daily provides dairy products to supermarkets throughout the UK





by Frank Paterson

Their range of Goats Milk - and cheeses and yoghurts - were all delicious and we went away with plenty of samples!!

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The Webmaster · Jul 8

York Rotary News

President's Lunch 27 June



This annual event is an important landmark in our Rotary year, when we have the opportunity to express our appreciation of, and thanks to, our partners and, importantly our invited guests – partners of former and much missed members. This year's event, in the Novotel, was much enjoyed by those present, with excellent company and high-quality food, efficiently served by the always friendly Novotel staff.



After lunch, I concluded my "music" theme by dispensing with a speaker and instead having a number of musical items as the "entertainment". We were absolutely delighted to welcome back young flautist Alannah Saphir, accompanied most skilfully by her mother Nichola. Alannah has won a place at the Royal Scottish Conservatoire in Glasgow to continue her musical studies, and it isn't hard to see why. She gave a wonderful performance of the hauntingly beautiful (but very hard – including the accompaniment!) Concertino by Cecile Chaminade, and also, with minimal rehearsal, accompanied one of the choir pieces most effectively and sensitively. High quality playing, indeed! Click on the image below to see a short video clip of Alannah playing.



Turning to the choir this fine body of singers have been rehearsing hard since early May, and "you did really great, folks!". We sang "Fings ain't what they used to be", "Come follow me to the greenwood tree" by the 17th century composer John Hilton (as a 3 part round), "The Wild Mountain Thyme" (with Alannah on flute) and "Summer Holiday" (complete with "ba-doom, ba-dooms"). A short video of the choir can be watched by clicking on the image below.

The final part of the event was the "Handover", at which the new President Paul was installed with the Presidential jewel, and various regalia were exchanged for the other officers. It would probably be optimistic to claim that I did that "smoothly", but I think everyone did eventually get the correct item to wear. I do feel it is important that our wider Rotary family at the event have the opportunity to see the new President installed and offer him their support.

In the handover President Mike reflected on the Rotary year:

I'm reminded of an episode of "Yes Minister" where Jim Hacker was asking Sir Humphrey and Bernard "how am I doing", and kept on asking "Am I doing all right?". Even when told he was doing "all right" he didn't really believe it and kept asking the same question.

Well, looking back over the year I do feel that on balance I've probably done "all right", but that has been mainly due to all the amazing work and support of many wonderful Rotary colleagues, to whom my very grateful thanks. I couldn't have done it without you.



Some of the things I hoped to introduce have, I think, gone well – particularly the musical items, not least the wonderful playing of Alannah and many others over the year (as well as today), and including David Powling's first rate recital at the President's Dinner. The "Long Standing Members' talks" have been very successful – many members were amazed to hear of the skills, experience and past activities of a number of colleagues who have been members of the club for many years. Many



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Halloween Evening with the Germans last October.

We're delighted to have recruited a good number of new members, but sadly lost some much loved ones, and we remember with great affection at this point Philip Wiltshire, John Russell and Jim Wragg, and a little earlier, David Heasman.

So many people have helped and encouraged me this year and I'm really grateful to each and every one of you, but I'm going to mention just three. Our stalwart secretary Tom whose commitment to the day to day and week to week running of the club is outstanding and our Treasurer Nigel (ably assisted by Tim) for all his careful stewardship of the substantial club funds, despite the pressures of a more than fulltime job. Thirdly, Jan Dash who has had the unenviable task of trying to get the lunch numbers right each week for a considerable number of years, is handing over to Mary Lumley, so many thanks to you, Jan, for a job very well done. Too many others to mention individually, sadly, but thank you all.



So, finally. I do feel that the club is in good heart, and in a strong position to



I do wish President Paul every success in what I'm sure will be an excellent year.

Immediate Past President Mike

Edited and collated by Webmaster David