York Rotary News 2025-26

(click a story to view it in full)

YORK ROTARY NEWS BLOG ARCHIVE 2025-26

Nr	Date	Subject
1	08/07/2025	President's lunch
2	14/07/2025	York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge 2025
3	18/07/2025	Visit to Terry's Water Tower clock
4	05/08/2025	10K baggage handling
5	28/08/2025	More succesful Young Drivers!
6	04/09/2025	The return of Minster Gates clock
7	08/10/2025	Dragon Boat Challenge Awards Ceremony at the Mansion House
8	18/10/2025	Awards for Treemendous volunteers
9	21/10/2025	Making a Mountain out of a Marathon
10	07/11/2025	Fashion at York College
11	10/11/2025	Illuminating glass
12	29/11/2025	Mock UCAS Interviews - Tuesday 4th - Thursday 27th November
13	29/11/2025	Success! The York High School Chromebook project is complete
14	08/12/2025	Discover: Dine: Dance: - 3 Degrees of fun
15	09/12/2025	Spreading Wealth this Christmas
16	12/12/2025	Christmas afternoon tea
17	19/12/2025	Rotary Youth Leadership award wows members
18	22/12/2025	York College Awards, December 2025
19	22/12/2025	Christmas lunch, entertainment and carol;s 2025
20	22/01/2026	A University for Public Good - York university
21	12/02/2026	Salvation Army Christmas Toys Appeal
22	19/02/2026	Fun Antiques quiz evening
23	20/02/2026	York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge 2026 off to a great start
24	06/03/2026	We have done it! The York High School Chromebooks project
25	06/03/2026	Community Service Presentation
26	10/03/2026	President's dinner
27	13/03/2026	Aid for Ukraine
28	20/03/2026	York Rotart Fashion Awards update
29	20/03/2026	York Samaritans visit
30	23/03/2026	Charity coffee morning
31	23/03/2026	York KAOS
32	23/03/2026	Rotary bulds peace
33	01/05/2026	More York Rotary Construction Awards
34	13/05/2026	York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge, Captains' Briefing
35	25/05/2026	Our local Hospital Charity
36	12/06/2026	York Rotary at York Pride
37	12/06/2026	Survive
38	15/06/2026	York Rotary Fashion award presentation
39	22/06/2026	GoodGym
40	24/06/2026	Steve retires after 24 years service to the Dragon Boat team
41	25/06/2026	York Rotary International charity Walk and Social 2026
42	30/06/2026	President's lunch

York Rotary News 2025-26

(click a story to view it in full)

YORK ROTARY WEBSITE NEWS ARCHIVE REPORTS 2025 – 6

President's Lunch 27 June

Jul 8, 2025



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 other things were not innovations but have continued, in my view, from strength to strength – Dragon Boats, Fundraising, distribution of funds to many deserving charities, wide-ranging International support, Physionet and many others. And we've also had fun!



We have maintained our valuable German links with Erlangen with the visit of a number of us to Nuremberg last month where we were exceptionally well looked after, as well as an online 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 hand over to Paul. I do so with my very best wishes, and absolute certainty that he will be a very much more than an "all right" President!

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

YORK ROTARY DRAGON BOAT CHALLENGE 2025

The Webmaster
Jul 14, 2025
Updated: Jul 15, 2025



With a day of fantastic weather the 2025 Dragon Boat Challenge was held on the 13th July 2025. We had a full complement of teams and there was a great atmosphere to the day.



All of the teams arrived on time and registered for the event. The days racing went to plan.

The gala on the north bank went very well and the Rotary tea tent was another great success with a fantastic display of brightly decorated home baking. Thank you to all members of Inner Wheel, partners and friends who helped with that.



Once again there were some very imaginatively dressed teams. The prize for best dressed team was won by Dragonflies with very imaginative costumes, they are to be congratulated.

The day ended with a thrilling six boat grand final won by the Three Bears Foundation and

Ged Bell Butchers a very close second. The results of the final are below and other prize winners are below:

Final results 2025

THE FINAL

Organisation	Team Name	Boat Number	Final Time	Final Rank
Three Bears Foundation	Three Bears Foundation	4	01:03.66	1
Ged Bell Butchers	The Growlers	5	01:04.66	2
North Yorkshire Police & Fire	Good to Talk	6	01:04.88	3
Motor Neurone Disease Association	Ouse Your Daddy	2	01:07.16	4
Flowmotion Ltd	RowMotion	3	01:08.37	5
Door 84	Roar for Door 84	1	01:09.23	6

TAILENDERS TROPHY

organisation	team		time
St Leonard's Hospice	Ruby Rowers		01:38.16

CHARITY TROPHY (charity team)

organisation	team		time
MND Association	Ouse Your Daddy		01:06.63

OUSE TROPHY (commercial team)

organisation	team		time
Ged Bell Butchers	The Growlers		01:04.66

CHALLENGE TROPHY

organisation	team	
Three Bears Foundation	Three Bears Foundation	01:03.66

GED BELL TROPHY (best dressed)

organisation	team	
Team Dragonflies	The Dragonflies	

To watch a video of the Grand Final click on the link below: Not available on this archive version

Photographer Chris Shepherd took photographs of the event and a video montage of her excellent photographs can be watched by clicking on the photograph below: Not available on this archive version

Financially the day has been a great success, the amount raised already exceeds £100,000 and we are sure that this will only increase. The level of funding means that in excess of 50 charities will ultimately benefit greatly from the event.

The event is a complex one to organise, on behalf of York Rotary there were in excess of 80 people involved in staffing the event, great thanks to all of them, without that support the event could not go ahead. Also we thank our three commercial sponsors who are vital to the success of the event:

Portakabin

Reed Boardall

Simpson

For more photographs and results go to the Dragon Boat portion of our website by clicking below. Not available on this archiver version

We look forward to seeing great crowds again for the Dragon Boat Challenge on 12th July 2026.
David Fotheringham, 14th July

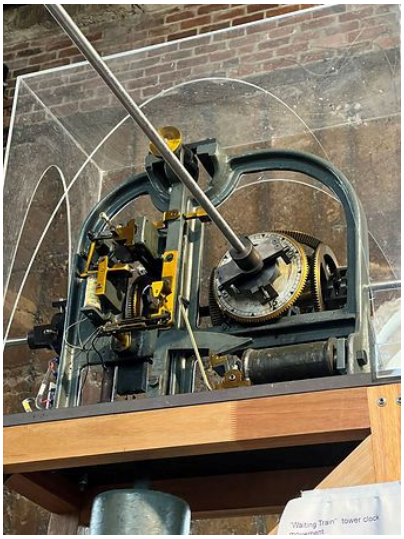


Visit to Terry's Water Tower clock 18/7/25





On Friday morning 18th July a group of 10 Rotarians enjoyed a visit to the Terry's Water Tower clock. The trip was led by John Cossins of the York Clock Group.



John took us up to the clock room which is in the place of the former water tank. John has been largely responsible for ensuring the reinstatement of the clock. After the closure of the factory and its sale in 2005 and the ultimate granting of planning permission in 2015 the restoration of the clock and creation of a small clock museum became a requirement of the planning approval. The clock project was completed in 2022. It was important that the clock was retained, when the factory closed it was one of only two similar clocks in existence.

Parts of the original clock had gone missing and many of the remaining components were in a poor state of repair. John explained that whilst the clock has a pendulum it is a “Waiting Train” clock which is controlled by an electric pulse from a master clock. John indicated the main components of the clock and explained how they work. We also looked at another pendulum clock in the tower as well as display boards and clock memorabilia .



Graham Wilford told us about the water tower based on his research from archives stored in the Borthwick and we saw photographs of the tower under construction which were fascinating. John explained that because of the Water tank access to the four dials and mechanism for maintenance is very restricted. John also explained why factors such as the wind can effect the time keeping of the clock.



There were a lot of questions which John answered and the answers to many of those questions were fascinating.

York Clock Group wind 11 clocks in York on a weekly basis as well as helping with routine maintenance of the Terry's water tower clock. As a city we must be very grateful to John and the York Clock Group for the work that they enthusiastically do in maintaining clocks in the city.



After the visit John joined the Rotary lunch and he brought with him the restored Minster Gates clock drum and we were all delighted to see the work carried out by John and also by Sam Simpson who restored the metalwork. We look forward to the clock going back in place in late August and it will also be lovely to see the clock well illuminated now at night time. York Rotary are very grateful to Sam and John for their work on the clock.

David Fotheringham





10K Baggage Handling on the Knavesmire

Aug 5, 2025



Well, the forecast was dire, and as some 15 of us headed to the Knavesmire for our annual support of the 10K event, things were not looking promising. However, apart from a few (fairly heavy) showers, the weather held up; luggage was received and, some time later, returned to the correct owners (which is of course the only aim of our exercise!). There was some queuing, caused, we think, by most competitors immediately wishing to reclaim their luggage (and importantly some warm and waterproof clothing) immediately after they crossed the finishing line, but all competitors seemed most appreciative of our efforts.

It is always a great event, supporting the raising of funds for a large number of charities, and we feel privileged to be part of it. Many thanks to my merry (well, most of the time) band of handlers!
By the way, we are still looking for a few more people to assist with the baggage at the **York Marathon on Sunday 19th October;** if you think you may be able to help and you haven't already offered, please do contact me. You can offer to do the morning or the afternoon shift.

Mike Hay

More Successful Young Drivers!

The Webmaster
Aug 28, 2025



The Summer Pathfinder Under 17 Driving Course took place from Monday 11th to Friday 15th August at Rufforth Aerodrome. As it is becoming a regular activity for the Youth Services Team and others, we were involved for a second time this year.





Rotarian David McAulay was on duty again as an Instructor, amongst other Advanced Motorists who give up their time to train young people to drive safely. They are led by organiser Ian Goring who was assisted by Course Leader Tony, Lead Instructor Janet and Course Designer ("cone man") Simon. During the week, various professionals visit – the Fire Brigade, Humberside Road Safety Team, Police Camera Van and other safety support. Vehicles such as a delivery van and a mobility scooter (!!) are available to try and a DHL lorry allows everyone to climb into the cab and share the experience. Speed trials by Instructors demonstrate braking and stopping distances.

Mary Lumley led a team of Rotarians and Partners who 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. We are all getting to know one another now. As it was hot, we were kept very busy.

Students, accompanied by an "Associate" who is usually a parent or other relative, arrive on the Monday morning looking very apprehensive and it is lovely to see the brimming confidence by Friday afternoon. This time, over two thirds of the students gained their Level 1, the top grade. The course costs just under £300 (subsidised by £100 from the Pathfinder Charity) but it is worth it - one parent said that she had brought her son last year and he had subsequently passed his Driving Test after only 3 lessons, saving her lots of money!!

The next course will be 27th - 31st October. Please put these dates in your diary if you would like to join the refreshments team. Eileen Davis will be in charge of that week's rota.

Readers can find out more from a BBC in York & North Yorkshire Report published on 26th August; Rotarians will know some of the featured people!
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cr5rl0lqql3o

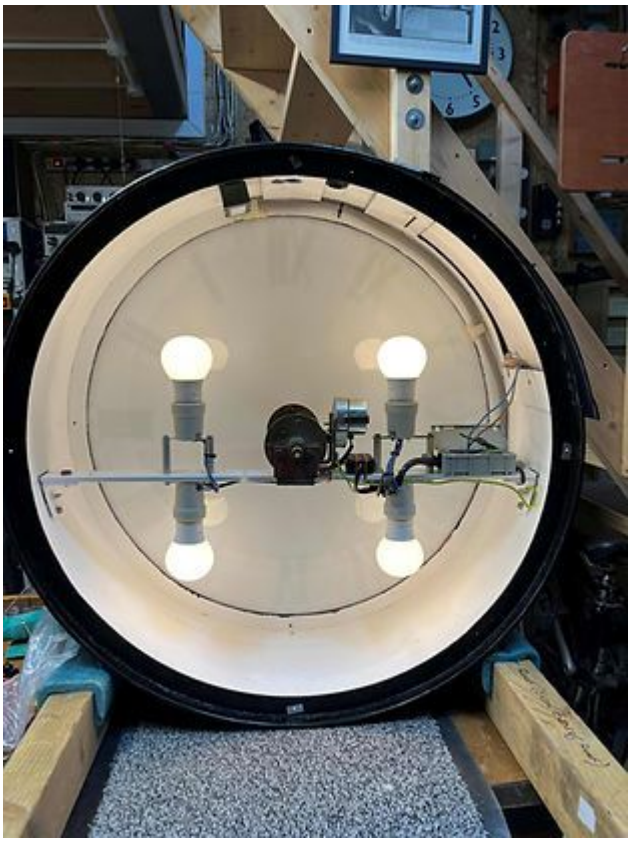
Eileen Davis

The return of Minster Gates clock

The Webmaster
Sep 4, 2025
Updated: Sep 11, 2025



Since the Minster Gates clock was taken down on Wednesday 26th February the programme of major restoration has been completed and the clock re-fixed.



The restoration has been led by John Cossins of York Clock Group. John dismantled the clock in his workshop, he arranged for restoration of the dials and obtained new mechanical and electrical components as required. Once the constituent parts of the restoration were complete John re-assembled the clock and decorated the drum, he re-wired the clock and installed of a new night time lighting system and automatic clock controller.

John Cossins organised specialist firm Robert Loomes of Stamford Lincolnshire to clean and fully re-paint the dials to the original design.



Sam Simpson metalworker from Fangfoss agreed to restore the metalwork of the clock drum. Sam's task was not an easy one, the bottom of the drum was very badly corroded and the process required replacement of approximately 80% of the metalwork. On completion of the metalwork Sam organised for the drum to be electroplated prior to painting, the electroplating will provide significantly improved corrosion protection to the metalwork.

The York Minster Works Department have provided scaffolding for the site works, they took down and re-erected the clock drum, they have also rewired the power supplies to the clock as well as cleaning down and repainting the clock bracket and gilding the finial.

The stainless steel plaques have been restored by sign Writer Rob Oldfield.

The clock was re-fixed on the sunny morning of Tuesday 2nd September and at 10.00am the clock controller was activated and the clock started working immediately. The new lighting installation was tested.











Visit to the clock, 5th September

The reinstatement of the night time illumination of the clock, which is clearly evident from the photographs below, is a great improvement.





The finished result of the clock restoration looks excellent and we are hopeful that the clock is now fit for another 50 years plus of service.

David Fotheringham

Dragon Boat Challenge Awards ceremony at the Mansion House

The Webmaster
Oct 8, 2025
Updated: Oct 10, 2025



The Awards Ceremony for the 2025 York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge was held at York Mansion House on Tuesday 7th October. We were delighted that the Lord Mayor and Sheriff of York joined us along with representatives of teams and charities benefitting from the event. We were also joined by

representatives of our event sponsors Portakabin, Reed Boardall and Simpson (York) Ltd, their support as always was vital to the running of the event.

Brian Joscelyne, joint Dragon Boat team leader, updated us about the financial success of the event. The team sponsorship raised £108,000 and with other income the total raised was £113,000, taking the total raised over 22 years to a fantastic total of £1.7m. This has been the most successful event to date in financial terms.

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 £7,566. The award for best dressed team was presented Team Dragonflies who had impressed with the very imaginative and colourful costumes they had made.







The much sought after Tailenders trophy for the slowest team was presented to St Leonard's Hospice, Ruby Rowers.



The Challenge Trophy which was presented to Three Bears Foundation who were new entrants to the Dragon Boat Challenge.



Citizens Advice York one of the York Rotary nominated charities was presented with £18,012. Fiona McCulloch, CEO of Citizens Advice explained how important the proceeds will be to their ongoing work and in particular the Tang Hall Project. For every £1 donated a multiplier indicates that £11 will be saved for local people via the work of York Citizens Advice, based on the amount raised that the benefit to the community via Citizens Advice will equate to approximately £210,000, before taking into account the added impact of debt relief.

The other nominated charity is the York Rotary charity fund who also have £18,012 and they have already started distributing that to a number of very worthy local charities.

The 24th Dragon Boat Challenge is planned for 2026 and the nominated charities were announced as being Survive and also the York Rotary Charity Fund. Mags Godderidge, CEO of Survive, spoke and she explained the importance of the funding and how the funds will be used. *Survive* are a York based charity and they provide much needed support to survivors of rape, sexual assault or child sexual abuse.

Finally a payment was presented to the Lord Mayor for the Lord Mayor and Sheriff charities, following which the Lord Mayor very enthusiastically talked about the importance of charity fundraising. The Lord Mayor had clearly enjoyed attending the Dragon Boat Challenge and considered it a highlight of the civic year so far. We thank the Lord Mayor and Civic Party for their support and hospitality in inviting us to the Mansion House for the Awards Evening.

To hear more about what the Lord Mayor and others said click on the link below to watch a short video of the evening.

Planning now starts for the 2026 event to be held on Sunday 12th July when we hope we will again have a full complement of 36 competing teams.

David Fotheringham

Awards for Treemendous volunteers

The Webmaster
Oct 18, 2025
Updated: Oct 21, 2025



Treemendous is a York based charity and on Friday 17th October President Paul Roberts had the great privilege of presenting Paul Harris awards to two of their volunteers. Paul said this is a rare occasion because in the lifetime of the Club we have made only 20 Paul Harris awards to non Rotarians. We recognise today an organisation and two individuals who meet the criteria of delivering significant contributions to our community within the Rotary ethos.



Frank Paterson said that TREEMENDOUS had a key role in getting our Rotary Family Tree Planting Partnership off the ground in 2017. They opened the door to St Johns University and we succeeded eventually in getting agreement to plant 1200 trees on their land alongside the river Fosse and adjacent to their Sports field off Haxby Road. That gave us the confidence to launch, with the City Registrar, the Rotary offer to parents to plant a tree for every baby born in York in 2018/19. And that was where Derek's contribution started. He is very well known in York as a champion for trees and he has delivered many presentations on the merits of tree planting. I recall the one he gave to our club and suggested to us, quite emotionally, that trees do talk to one another. He is also a well respected and effective Ambassador for the National Charity Woodland Trust and he assured us that he would procure from them all the native species trees needed for the project. Just as significant was his practical advice and involvement in the training of the wide range of volunteers we recruited to do the planting and ongoing maintenance. Derek has always given his time generously and passes on his incredible knowledge so willingly and in a delightful and unassuming way. It has been a privilege and pleasure to have worked with him over the last eight years and this award is very well justified.



John Lacy who introduced Barry Otley John said that Barry has been a selfless contributor to conserving the environment in York for many years. As a former Director of the Challis Garden Centre it can be said that he does know about trees. When he retired, he set about creating his own

woodland and personally planted many thousands of trees on land he owned in Knapton. Again, like Derek, he Is not an armchair conservationist, and I recall particularly his and Derek's involvement in one of our projects where on the Saturday a small group of Rotarians dug up over 200 self-seeded trees at Badger Hill and replanted them next day on the Haxby road site. They have really flourished!

John finished by quoting an old Greek proverb which reflects a sentiment appropriate to both our recipients and to everyone else involved in planting trees.***"Society grows when old men plant trees knowing that they will***
never sit under the shade"

Without the help of Derek and Barry we would not have the thriving Woodland created by the Family Tree Planting Project (See photographs at the end of this report).

To find out more about the work of TREEMENDOUS follow this link Home and to find out more about the York Rotary Family tree project follow this link Tree Partnership | York Rotary

Derek and Barry were both very worthy recipients of Paul Harris Fellowships having given a lot to the community in their work for TREEMENDOUS.

David Fotheringham and Frank Paterson







Making a mountain out of a marathon

The Webmaster
Oct 21, 2025





We came, we saw, we organized – on a still-dark Sunday morning in October, the Rotary team of baggage handlers arrived at the event village of the Yorkshire marathon on the campus of York University. The morning shift was there early – from 6.30am – and in no time the tables and numbering carefully put in place by the organisers had been re-organised based on long Rotary experience. There would be no snaking backwards and forwards in our part of the tent: numbers went from front to back only, with our responsibility encompassing those runners numbered 4500 to 7500. Easy.



Over the next couple of hours, bags and accoutrements took their places in the rows. A rucksack here, a jumper there, a full mountaineering pack with water bottle and warm clothing hung around it filling several gaps all by itself. Some experienced people had elected to bring something other than the ubiquitous ‘black rucksack’ that was the principal feature of the baggage mountain. There was a pink bag with berries on it: guess how quickly that one was found when the time came? There was a supermarket carrier bag – maybe not the latest thing on the elite runner circuit, but a delight to lay hands on amongst thousands of black bags on the table.

The only word for the final hour to the race start time was frenzied. Bags poured into the tent until the team members receiving them were walled in like skeletons in an old building. Still they took the offerings from the athletes, dumping bags behind themselves and turning back for another so as not to hold up the runners on their way to the start. Once the participants had all gone off to torture themselves for 26.2 miles - one runner had a tee-shirt that said '26.2 – just another Sunday' – we could focus on dismantling the mountain from the back.



The morning team were very glad to see the afternoon volunteers arriving just as the rush of finishers really began. With the rain now pouring down, we were able to find and hand over bags quickly and efficiently, to the great appreciation of the exhausted runners. Impressively, the winner of the race, teacher Edward Buck (2 hrs, 18 mins) asked if we would hold onto his bag for a bit longer as he was off for a 'warm down' run! Slowly the laden tables lightened and emptied and the dry area in front of our section was filled with runners changing clothes, topping up with fluids and rubbing medicaments into sore muscles. They were all very grateful for our care of their kit.
It was great fun to be part of such a huge community event, with much money being raised for charities as part of it. Many thanks to all the Rotarians and their partners and friends, and the Friends of Rotary, who made up the brilliant baggage handling team.

Rosemary Cook



Fashion at York College

The Webmaster
Nov 7, 2025



Jane Albon is helping York College with their fashion design course over the coming academic year. Jane followed being a fashion student by a very successful career in the fashion industry so Jane has a lot of invaluable experience to bring to the course.

Jane has already attended the College and talked to the students about her career, the next stage has been organising mock interviews and there will be more involvement as the academic year progresses.



One of the stages of Jane's involvement is organising mock interviews for a fictional post that Jane advertised for at the college.

Jane Albon and Mary Lumley headed off to York College for the day on 3rd November to hold "In Person" interviews with the 7 job applicants.

Based on the Youth Teams successful Mock Interview format for University Interviews, a new company and Design position were invented. The job advertisement had been placed in the Fashion Design Department some 3 weeks earlier. Giving brief details of the advertised position and invented company, Paterson & Hope, students were asked to email their CV and Covering letter in preparation for an interview. Seven 45 minute interviews were prepared, consisting of Portfolio Review, a written form to be completed, 6 intriguing Fashion Industry questions. The very nervous students were interviewed at length, but all of them did very well. Feedback forms were prepared and sent back to the college.

The position was given to one student who really came across very well. Jane and Mary both hope the chosen student and the Award Leader BA (Hons) Fashion Design and Garment Technology, Lynn Wood will be able to attend York Rotary to speak one lunchtime.

This new initiative of involvement that Jane has established has the promise of giving great benefit to the College students. More reports will be published as the involvement develops during the year and progresses towards a design competition.

Jane Albon and David Fotheringham





Illuminating glass

The Webmaster
Nov 10, 2025



Visits to Barley Studio

Over two Wednesdays - 29th October and 5th November - 13 Rotarians and partners toured round one of York's many unsung centres of excellence, a 'stained' glass design studio and workshops at Dunnington.

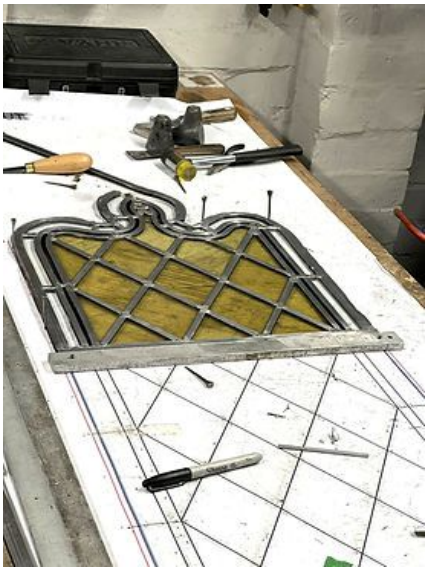


Keith Barley demonstrating the cutting of glass

Innocuous looking industrial buildings on the outskirts of Dunnington contain a 10-strong body of very skilled craftspeople and we visitors were treated to the first-hand knowledge of the two most expert in the business, Keith Barley and Helen Whittaker, the directors of the company.

Having first trained at York Minster with Peter Gibson, Keith set up Barley Studio specialising in window restoration over 52 years ago; Helen joined him in 1998, as part of her academic studies into stained glass and stayed broadening the practise's expertise into the design of modern windows.

Apart from being told of the various methods of producing 'historic' window glass, the first thing we learnt was that not all decorative windows are 'stained' glass windows, that name technically only refers to uncoloured or 'white' glass that has been treated with silver to stain it yellow. Then there are other 'enamelled' and 'painted' glasses where pigment is fired onto the surface. 'Flashed' glass is produced by applying a very thin layer of coloured glass to the surface of the white glass in the blowing process as opposed to 'coloured' glass which already contains the coloured pigment before being blown.



Re-leading glass

Ancient and modern methods of renewing windows by recording the templates, cutting the glass panes and fitting them into the ‘cames’ or lead H-section framing were demonstrated by the staff, who interestingly all learnt their craft on the job as there is no established stained glass apprenticeship course.



Protective (Isothermal) glazing detail

The conservation of historic window panels was another area of the practise’s work explained as almost an academic process using ingenious techniques developed in the Studio (See image at the end showing the comparison of a face pre- and post-conservation) ; as was the protective secondary glazing process, designed by Keith, having studied best practice from across Europe.



Panel from St Michael-le-Belfry, the beautiful stars are created by decoration on two pieces of glass sandwiched together.

Currently the Studio is conserving the windows of St Michael-le-Belfrey in York and Helen is designing and producing a large modern 3-D window, which should be stunning to see in-situ in a year's time.

Having seen how modern and historic practices have been refined and combined with innovation in this business, it is easy to see how this unassuming corner of Dunnington has gained a national reputation and that both Keith and Helen have received well deserved MBEs for their work.

Chris Birch



Face before and after conservation, note the reduced number of lead lines and the improved clarity

Mock UCAS Interviews : Tuesday 4th – Thursday 27th November

The Webmaster
Nov 29, 2025
Updated: Dec 6, 2025







Another mock interview month has come to an end. 66 mock interviews via Zoom were provided for students applying for Oxbridge, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine; they were in Year 13 at Huntington, Archbishop Holgate's, All Saints' Schools, Tadcaster Grammar School and York College.

An interesting new development this year was the requirement for students to answer 3 questions instead of producing a Personal Statement. The 3 questions were :

- ***Why do you want to study this course or subject?***
- ***How have your qualifications & studies helped prepare you for this course or subject?***

· ***What else have you done to prepare outside of education and why are these experiences useful?***

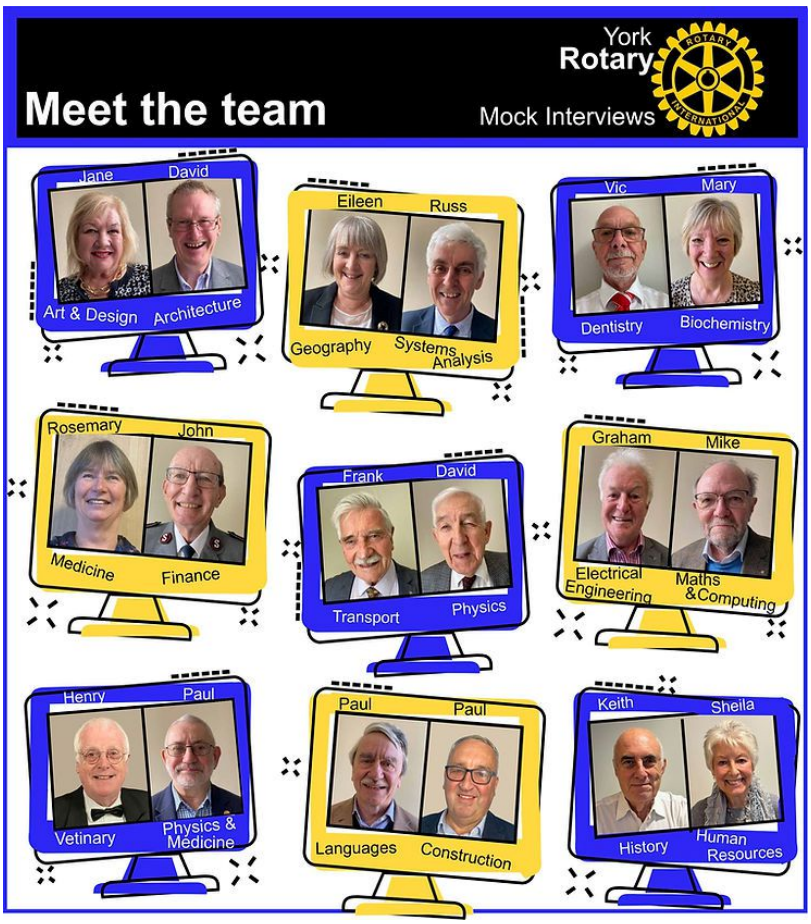
Whilst the questions elicited much relevant information, it will be interesting to hear how UCAS and universities judge this development. For us, the jury is still out as to whether they enable a better personal portrayal; the age-old mantra - *read the question!* – needed to be applied by some of the applicants!

Sincere thanks are due to the 15 York Rotarians (plus Mick Fox of Vikings and Keith Davis) who not only grilled the students but also completed a detailed feedback form for each (to meet the majority of the team see below). Hopefully, we provided a useful preparation for the real interviews, which carry such a lot of weight. Some University interviews had been scheduled whilst other students were awaiting the call; most were to be online with a few face-to-face.

As previously, Mike Hay enabled the use of the York Rotary meeting room which was opened by the session leader who then admitted a fellow interviewer and students one by one. This is a very flexible, efficient system.

We met many superb young people with great potential and really enjoyed interviewing them. We remain convinced that this is one of our best avenues of local service.

Eileen Davis
Youth Services



Success! The York High School Chromebook Project is complete.

The Webmaster
Nov 29, 2025



In December 2024, invited by the school's link teacher, Mary Lumley and Eileen Davis went along to meet the then new Headteacher, Gavin Kumar and accepted the challenge to provide a trolley and up to 36 Chromebooks for the Reflection Room.

During 2025, we have worked with the Rotary Club of York Vikings to add weight to the ambitious project. Both Clubs accepted donations from members and received a joint District 1040 Foundation Grant; with Gift Aid on the donations and a contribution from the Rotary Club of York Ainsty, the final sum of £10,015 was transferred to York High School on 26th November. This has been an ambitious project in terms of funding, but by working in partnership it has been successfully concluded.

A visit to the School will take place soon, for an official presentation and following that photographs of the completed project in use will be published.

THANK YOU to everyone. What an achievement!

Eileen Davis
Youth Services

Discover:Dine:Dance – 3 Degrees of FUN

The Webmaster
Dec 8, 2025
Updated: Dec 9, 2025



As a Fundraising Social event the fundraising team organised our branded Discover:Dine:Dance event held at the Novotel on the 26th November.



Discover: Quiz Master John Lacy organised a fun quiz covering a wide variety of topics and the individual tables competed with one another. John lead the quiz with great humour. In giving the answers the answer for one question related to the Three Wise Men and John told us with a straight face that they came from the “East Riding”, of course we all thought about Yorkshire. John then said “the bible tells us that” and he went to quote “Three Wise Men came from the east riding on a camel”. Well done John.

The winning Team, which won narrowly, were presented with 2 bottles of fine champagne to celebrate their win to the envy of the rest of us!



Dine: We were treated to an excellent buffet which we all greatly enjoyed. With many thanks to the Novotel for providing such a sumptuous feast.



Dance: After the buffet we enjoyed dancing to DJ Barry with his disco music. Barry played music that we all knew; it was played at an appropriate volume so that we could also talk with ease and just about everyone was on the dance floor at some time in the evening. It was amazing to see the whole floor filled to capacity to dance to the Proclaimers singing I would walk 500 miles and dancing and singing along – we all knew the words.....it was also great fun seeing the Twist danced with great energy by some of our slightly younger guests!!!!



There was also a colourful pop up Christmas stall at the event to raise further funds. Overall, the event raised **£990.70** for the York Rotary Charity Fund, an excellent outcome for an event that we were all able to enjoy, well done and thank you to Sheila and the fundraising team for organising such a successful event.

David Fotheringham

Spreading warmth this Christmas

The Webmaster
Dec 9, 2025





A huge thank you to all members , family and friends of the Rotary Club of York, York Inner Wheel and the St Andrew Society for collecting over 500 pairs of socks for those experiencing homelessness in York. The socks many brand new delivered to Carecent at the Central Methodist Church in St Saviourgate, York on 6th December, will provide warmth and comfort during the cold, wet winter.

Carecent supports homeless, unemployed and socially excluded members of our community and this simple gift of clean, dry socks makes a real difference. In addition the Rotary Club generously donated £300 to Carecent for a Christmas drama workshop for the homeless.

This kindness brings hope and dignity to those in need. Thank you to everyone involved for making this festive season brighter.

John and Linda lacy

Christmas afternoon tea

The Webmaster
Dec 12, 2025





On Tuesday 9th December some 25 guests were hosted to tea by members of the Community Services Team at the Novotel Hotel for a Christmas afternoon tea. Members of the team, together with partners, collected our guests from their homes and hosted them at the hotel. Amongst our guests were those referred by Age UK and who are collected weekly by taxi and taken to the University of York for the Tea and Coffee project. Students spend time in informal conversation and they joined with us together with two students from the University one of whom has now become a friend of Rotary.



An excellent Christmas buffet was supplied by the hotel at a modest cost and Mike and Ros Hay provided very enjoyable entertainment by leading seasonal Christmas songs for all to sing, Ros presenting two cello solos and Mike reading an apt Christmas poem by John Betjeman. The event was held in the Riverside Suite which was festively decorated. President Paul offered a welcome and also spoke briefly about the work of York Rotary.



All the guests received a Christmas present carefully sourced and wrapped by Jane Albon.

This was a new venture planned to replace the annual trip to the Pantomime, and the occasion provided a more relaxed opportunity for guests and Rotarians to enjoy good food and good conversation not to mention the hearty singing with several members of the Rotary Choir present giving solid support to the carols and Christmas songs.

The healthy 'buzz' at the conclusion seemed to indicate that this was an experiment worthy trying and something to be considered in future years.

John Wainwright



ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDEE WOWS MEMBERS!!

The Webmaster
Dec 19, 2025



At our meeting on 14th November members were treated to a truly inspirational talk by 2025 RYLA Awardee Evelyn Plowright. Evelyn was one of two Awardees our Youth Services Team supported on the course this year. She presented as a very mature, engaging young lady with a very positive attitude to life and one who takes up all challenges she meets with enthusiasm and commitment. She talked us through the five days of the course leaving no stones unturned! She had seized every opportunity offered to develop her leadership skills and had not only listened to the constructive criticism of her peers but acted on it. President Paul even allowed her to continue her talk longer than usual because everyone present was so enraptured!

It was no surprise to us to learn that Evelyn's team had been the overall winners at the end of the course and she had made some lasting friendships.

Evelyn's father Jon also joined us and chatted around the table during lunch. He became quite emotional as he watched Evelyn make her presentation and expressed tremendous gratitude to York Rotary for giving her the opportunity to attend the RYLA Course.

Evelyn's RYLA Mentor Alex Healey also attended and it was very apparent that he was also very proud of what Evelyn had both contributed and achieved.

Evelyn's final comment was that attending the RYLA Course had been one of the best experiences of her life and she thanked York Rotary for everything!!

The future of the District 1040 RYLA Course is uncertain due to the difficulty of finding a Rotarian to lead it. However I am delighted to inform members that the 2026 Course will go ahead for one week in July. Lucy Hodgson RC Halifax has kindly agreed to act as Course Leader again and she will be assisted by Jayne Manley from RC Stainborough. Our Youth Services Team have agreed to support it and will be providing funds for at least one participant.

Mary Lumley

York College Awards, December 25

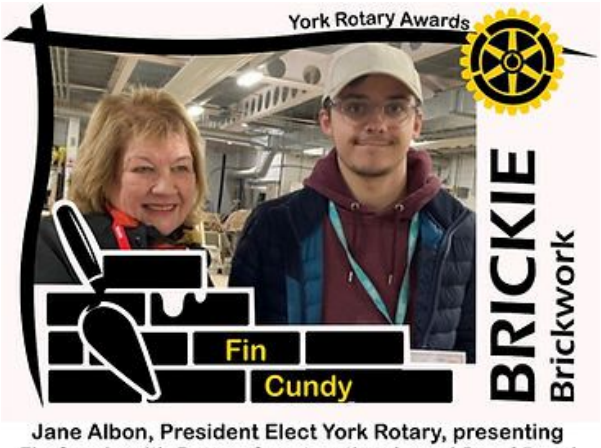
The Webmaster
Dec 22, 2025



Jane Albon, President Elect York Rotary, presenting Harry Butler with Rotary Construction Award Dec 25 and £50 gift voucher.



On Wednesday December 17th, three members from the Rotary Youth Team met at York College to present the first Construction Awards of this academic year. We were warmly welcomed by Course leaders Ashley Stokes and Mike Burdett who expressed how well these awards were working and meant so much to the students.



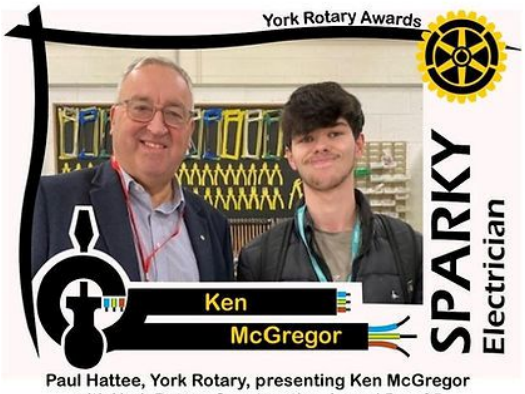
Jane Albon, President Elect York Rotary, presenting Fin Cundy with Rotary Construction Award Dec 25 and £50 gift voucher.

Six awards were presented to the winning students in the different construction areas as shown in the photographs.

Vic Brookes was chief photographer with Paul Hattee and Jane Albon presenting the awards. All 6 students were really surprised and happy with their awards and as usual, were quite shy at this first term stage. The team visited all 6 departments to do the presentations.

York College really do an amazing job with these young adults helping so many into apprenticeships and the Rotary Awards really appear to boost confidence in the young students. Both York College and the Rotary youth team are looking forward to the next set of awards which will be presented at Easter.

Jane Albon



Paul Hattee, York Rotary, presenting Ken McGregor with York Rotary Construction Award Dec 25 and £50 Gift Voucher.



Paul Hattee, York Rotary, presenting Sophia Knox with York Rotary Construction Award Dec 25 and £50 Gift Voucher.



Noah's Tutor and Course Leader proudly presenting Noah Goforth with Rotary Construction Award Dec 25 and £50 gift voucher.



Jane Albon, President Elect York Rotary, presenting Jamie Ellis with Rotary Construction Award Dec 25 and £50 Gift Voucher.

Christmas lunch, entertainment and carols 2025

The Webmaster
Dec 22, 2025
Updated: Dec 23, 2025



The York Rotary Christmas lunch was held at the Novotel on Friday 19th December. It was a very joyous occasion attended by over 100 Rotarians, partners and friends.



The lunch started with Tom Jackson's band which this year comprised Allan Morrison and Alan Tonks, president Paul Roberts on guitar, Paul's son Henry on violin and of course Tom Jackson, they performed in the hotel foyer before lunch.

After an excellent lunch served by the Novotel team. This was also our opportunity to thank the Novotel for their service during the year.



Following lunch we were first entertained by Tom Jackson's band who performed several numbers, including some excellent solo singing by President Paul accompanied by Henry and Tom. The York Rotary choir conducted by Mike Hay then performed a number of Christmas songs comprising Christmas is Coming - a round for 4 voices, Old Christmas, While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks to the old tune of Ilkley Moor, When a child is born and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.



To see the video of the Christmas performance click below – not available on archive version



After a lovely occasion we all left with a lovely Christmas spirit. For the choir and fundraisers there was still more work to do. On Saturday 20th December we were collecting at Morrisons for the York Rotary charity fund and the choir performed in the beer section of the store for an hour whilst the collection took place. The collection raised a fantastic £410.00, so thank you to all those who contributed, to Morrisons for permitting the collection and to the choir and collectors. The Rotary choir appealed to shoppers and are likely to be asked to perform again in 2026.

To see the choir in action in Morrisons click on the image below – video not available on archive version

Happy Christmas and new year to everyone, you can look forward to more news reports in 2026.

David Fotheringham

A University for Public Good - York University

The Webmaster
Jan 22





On January 16th we were delighted and honoured to receive, as our guest, Professor Charlie Jeffery, Vice-Chancellor of the University of York. With formalities quickly dropped, Charlie, rather than Professor Jeffery, spoke to us about the past history, current ethos and future prospects of his university, which was founded in 1963, when its first Vice Chancellor, Baron (John) James of Rusholme, made it clear from the outset that things would be different here from other 'new' universities. The University of York, Charlie explained, was founded as part of the 1960s expansion of the sector and would promote 'Scientific studies which tend … to the amelioration of human life and conditions', would seek to expand opportunity for people from all walks of life and would envisage its students as citizens of the world.

The framework was set, then, in 1963 for a University existing for public good: Charlie emphasised that the underlying and overriding ethos of the University has not changed, despite significant economic difficulties and evolving expectations. The financial problems ridden out by the University in the 1970s seemed pale compared to the situation now, when thousands of university jobs nationally have been cut and where two universities have failed completely. But Charlie insisted that the values and principles established by Lord James must be upheld and, indeed, continue to be upheld.

In order to persist in its mission to progress public good, Charlie told us that the University has entered into partnerships with local businesses and institutions which support the development of life-enhancing scientific studies. To maintain and build on the principle of expanded access, the University has set up local learning centres in Bridlington, Hull and Grimsby, where young people are

inspired to achieve; it has also, with help from local companies, set up 'The Place', a community learning centre in Acomb, running a large range of activities for all ages and aimed at bringing forward abilities in English and Maths, as well as creative and communication skills. Lord James' cosmopolitan aspirations are also being realised: with the national decline in overseas student enrolments, the University of York is maintaining its international ethos by opening a campus in Mumbai. Charlie was very pleased to inform us that this new campus replicates the two campuses in Heslington by being centred on a lake!

Charlie's presentation was characterised by a strong spirit of hope, a practical and determined orientation to the future and an emphasis on strong, ethical, social values: a perfect alignment, in this Rotary International Vocational month, with our own principles. Thank you Charlie!

President Paul Roberts

Salvation Army Christmas Toys Appeal

The Webmaster
Feb 12





Major Andrew Vertigan, Commanding Officer, at York Salvation Army, spoke to York Rotary on the 6th February informing the club of the First Christmas Annual Toy Appeal, under his leadership. He was involved at Christmas 2024 before officially being appointed in January. He made a number of changes for Christmas 2025, to streamline much of the process leading up to a record amount of families and children, having gifts at Christmas.

In total, The Salvation Army provided record amounts of gifts for just over 500 families, 900 children, and in total 3500 gifts and presents, and Major Andrew showed appreciation for the donation of £1750 from our club. Usual Salvation Army volunteers were joined by additional people from the Community, totalling just over 25, to collect donated toys from schools, churches and local businesses, and also purchased by The Salvation Army, to sort, including both boys and girls in various age groups whose names had been received by referrals from local Social Workers, before they came to collect just prior to Christmas, to distribute to families. Toys and presents were all packed in Red plastic sacks and clearly labelled for each child to broaden the Christmas morning experience. A total of 12 Christmas Hampers were also given to families in particular need.

Major Andrew also gave some detail of how he is bringing two sides of the Salvation Army in York together. The SA Church and Homelessness Services, and rough sleepers care. 25 Hampers were

handed out to rough sleepers in York over Christmas. Through donations and practical help from local businesses, work is well underway to build a Boxing Club and fitness centre for daytime activities, and four overnight sleeping Nap Pads are being refurbished.

Major Andrew has offered to come and speak to the Club in the future to update us on The Salvation Army work in York.

Dennis Adamson

Fun Antiques quiz evening

The Webmaster
Feb 19



On Wednesday 18th February we enjoyed a Fun Antiques Quiz evening organised by the Fundraising team led by Sheila Weatherburn. This was our annual fundraiser gifted by the Novotel who provided a fantastic buffet supper.



After the supper we started with an introduction from Angus Ashworth The Yorkshire Auctioneer. Angus told us about his very interesting life and how he came to set up Ryedale Auctioneers in Kirkbymoorside and how more recently he has also has a very interesting television career which he clearly enjoys. Angus answered questions about the management of auctions on line and in person. Angus clearly has a great interest in his work.

After his introduction Angus introduced us to ten small auction lots that he had brought with him. The auction lots raised in date from 1770 to 2000 and had estimated auction values of between £15 and £1,400. The ten tables had to examine each lot and decide what it was, its date and its value. For the lots

there were a great range of answers, particularly in respect of the descriptions. The ten lots and answers are as follows:



1. Silver wine filter/funnel dated at 1789 with a value of £350 to £450. This item could be accurately dated because it was hallmarked.



2. Penny black stamp, 1841 with a value of £30 to £40. Angus noted that Penny Blacks can vary greatly in value. The corner had been snipped off this particular stamp.



3. Sunday stick, 1880 to 1900 with a value of £60 to £80. These were called Sunday sticks, but were not walking sticks, they could be used either as a small golf club or billiard cue. It was not a swagger stick as some of us thought.




4. Flintlock four barrel pistol, 1770 to 1800, value £1200 to £1400, the most valuable of the items.



5. Sommeliers cup for wine tasting, this was the most modern item dated at around 2000, with a value of £20 to £30.

6. Napoleonic prisoner of war carved item, either an apple corer or bone marrow scoop, 1790 to 1815, value £50 to £80.





7. Powder horn, 1780 to 1810, value £80 - £120.



8. Mouseman cheese or bread board, 1940 to 1950, value £300 to £400. The ranges of value suggested for this item varied significantly.

9. Pewter Tudric, Archibald Knox and manufactured for Libertys, 1900 to 1905, value £60 to £100. This jug had an interesting face image on it.



10. Brass hub cap for builders cart, 1870 to 1900, value £15 to £25.



There was a lovely enthusiastic atmosphere during the quiz. After marking out of a maximum mark of 30 the winning team scored 18, the lowest marks were three teams scoring 7, there was a tie breaker to select the losing team that won the booby prize!

The evening raised in excess of £2,800 for our charity fund which was a fantastic result thanks to the Novotel gifting the supper and also to Steve Burton who arranged a large donation from the Barclays Community Fund. We were also very grateful to Angus Ashworth for giving his time and facilitating a fantastic evening of fun.

Finally if anyone would like to see Angus Ashworth on television he is in a new 8 part TV series Yorkshire Heritage Hero on the Discovery Channel.

David Fotheringham, Fundraising team

York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge 2026 off to a great start

The Webmaster
Feb 20



Within fourteen days of launching the team application process York Rotary are delighted that we have a full compliment of 36 teams with reserves. Some of the teams have already started fundraising so we are off to a great start and we are looking forward to the event on Sunday 12th July.

We are very grateful to our three corporate sponsors, this year Portakabin, Ramsay Health Care and Simpson. The corporate sponsorship enables 100% of the funds raised by teams going to charities supported by the event.

This year the York Rotary nominated charities supported by the event are Survive and the York Rotary Charity Fund who share 1/3 of the funds raised. The remaining 2/3 of funds raised go to charities nominated by the teams. The final outcome of the event is that approximately 50 charities will receive support. In 2025 £113,000 was raised for charities, mainly local and we hope that can be bettered with the 2026 event.



The process of booking for the North bank gala is open and so far we are well on with bookings for the 22 available pitches.

Finally we are looking for volunteers to help with the event so if you can help please contact davidf@yorkrotary.co.uk

We look forward to seeing as many people as possible on the 12th July.

David Fotheringham

We have done it! The York High School Chromebooks project is Complete!

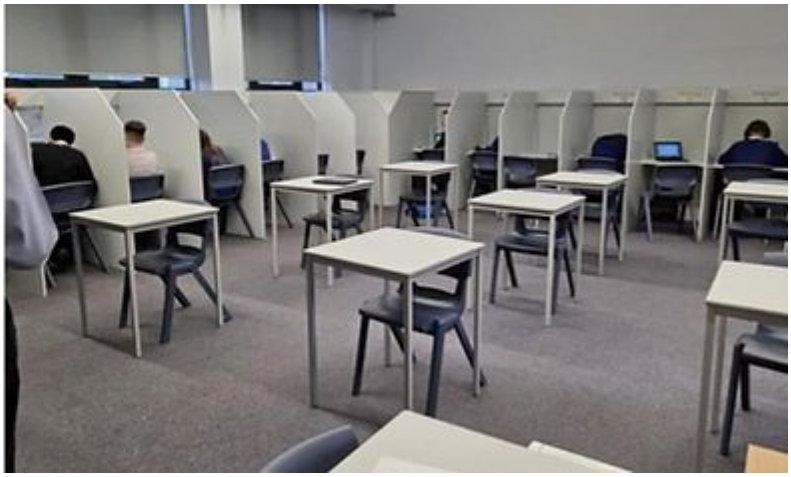
The Webmaster
Mar 6





Inspiring and educational in more ways than one. It was a fascinating visit to York High School on Thursday 26th February, when two groups of Rotarians from RC York Vikings and York were welcomed into York High School by Headteacher Gavin Kumar, to officially hand over the new Chromebooks we had funded and to make arrangements for their labelling. The visits were much more than a handover as we were treated to a full tour of the School, felt the tangible energy, walked along clean and bright corridors, met various members of Staff and saw the refurbished Reflection Room with its docking stations and Chromebooks - and students using them. Wow!





It seemed no time at all since Mary Lumley and I visited York High School in November 2024 and accepted the challenge to fund a set of Chromebooks, headphones and a charging station to enable meaningful learning in “Reflection”, the School’s space for those who have committed misdemeanours. **Phase 1**, completed in September 2025, had involved York Rotarians’ generous donations and a sum from the Youth Services budget, as well as £500 from each of RCs York Ainsty & Vikings. **Phase 2** commenced with a joint District Grant application between York and Vikings Youth Services Teams and there was significant input from Vikings Rotarians. With Grant success and further donations, we suddenly found ourselves able to ask Treasurer Nigel to send over the final sum in late November 2025. Unimaginable success!



Having received the donations, the School had to go to tender for such a big purchase. Three tenders were considered and the winner has supplied 30 Chromebooks with 3 docking / charging stations and a contract to repair each device up to 5 times per year for the next 5 years. A win: win.

The School has a dynamic Headteacher and very able, creative staff who are determined to meet the needs of the pupils (educational and practical) and to earn respect from the local and wider communities. Do not be surprised to see York High School’s League Table position improve in the coming years.

Eileen Davis

Community Service Presentation

The Webmaster
Mar 6



For the last of the speaker presentations for the Community Services Month members of the Community Services Team gave an account of the teams work over the last year.

The Team Leader, John Wainwright, began by noting that to date in the current Rotary **year twenty-three charities** had received financial support and a sum **£24,700** had been distributed. The team considers grant requests received from local charities and also charities referred to it from the Dragon Boat team.

Three members of the team gave an update of the work of the charities that they are the Rotary link person. This gives emphasis to the fact that York Rotary, although hugely successful at raising funds, also seeks to engage with those it supports by coming alongside to encourage and foster partnership. Each presentation highlighted how the funds received had been used.

Jane Albon gave an update on the work of three inspiring charities supported, **Riding for Rehab, Chocolate and Co,** and **Xmas Prescence**. Dennis Adamson presented an update resume of the work of **Door 84**, a long-standing partner with York Rotary, highlighting the new aspects of work commenced but also the financial challenges currently being faced. Keith Hayton then updated on the drama workshops that had been funded by York Rotary at **Carecent,** a breakfast centre for the homeless and unemployed. He also spoke of the hospital transport scheme operated by **Age UK**, with support from York Rotary, which is much more than transport to the hospital. Volunteers seek to ensure that the out patients they transport have sufficient provisions at home and keep in touch with them between hospital visits so that they are not alone once the front door has closed.

A further presentation was given by Alex Brown, a student from York University who, although not a member of Rotary had recently become a friend of Rotary.



Alex was passing a Rotary fundraising event at St Crux and called in to ask if Rotary might help the Tea and Coffee Project at the University. This is a weekly activity where students engage with the elderly over tea and coffee and just share conversation. Those attending are referred by Age UK and taxis transport people to the University. Other events are also held including outings and a Christmas dinner and members joined York Rotary at the Seniors Christmas afternoon tea. Financial support received from York Rotary, plus a very successful fundraising drive at the university now enabled numbers attending to double and for a second day a week being offered at another university campus involving more students. Alex finished with a testimonial from Jim , for whom it is his highlight of the week:



John Wainwright

President's dinner

The Webmaster
Mar 10



The York Rotary President's dinner was held at the Novotel on Friday 6th March and was attended by 90+ Rotarians, partners and guests including the York Civic Party. We enjoyed an excellent dinner prior to speeches and entertainment.



After dinner President Paul proposed a toast to the city of York. In proposing his toast Paul talked about his reflections and thoughts about York since moving here with Gianna about fifteen years ago. Paul's thoughts were presented in a humorous way and clearly picked on many highlights of the city and it was clear why Paul and Gianna enjoy living in York.



On behalf of the Civic party Lord Mayor Martin Rowley responded to Paul's toast. Martin also talked about moving to York, but also about the civic party life and the 700+ events that the Civic party will be attending in the year. It is inspiring to hear about the many and varied activities taking place in the city.

The final speaker was David Hartley Rotary District 1040 Governor Elect who commented in a very encouraging way on the many activities being undertaken by York Rotary.



The evening finished with a Meandering Musical Kaleidoscope performance by David Powling who was returning to our President's evening for a second year, once again David's very accomplished piano entertainment did not disappoint and by the end of his performance David had the audience humming along to the music. It is fascinating to watch the speed with which David's fingers fly across the piano keys.

As part of the menus that were on our dinner tables President Paul prepared the following thoughts about Rotary to serve as being informative and providing conversation stimuli:

Good evening guests, good evening fellow Rotarians. While you wait for your exquisite dinner to be served, or while you are enjoying your tasty dishes, here are some possible conversation stimuli. I offer these in good faith, just in case you have no recent or upcoming holidays to talk about or if the weather is too normal for words.

Did you know why Rotary is called Rotary? It's because, when it was first set up, members didn't meet consistently in the same place. They went to each other's houses according to, you've got it, a rota. Just a little later, the meeting arrangements changed, but the name stayed the same. Because it emphasized equality among members, it reinforced the idea of active participation rather than passive membership (the wheel keeps turning) and suggested the circulation of service, ideas, and goodwill.

The York Rotary President's Evening was once called The Annual President's Dinner and Dance and, in the early years, The President's Night. Night was Right in 1932: carriages were summoned at 2. a.m. after a six course dinner, entertainment, dancing, bridge and whist. The cost of the evening was ten shillings per head; that's fifty pence, of course, but, back then, ten bob represented one tenth of a senior clerk's weekly wages. So about 70 pounds today.

A report of the 1965 President's Dinner and Dance expressed relief that the dance music was not provided by 'a skiffle group or other guitar-twanging set-up' and that dancers did not, consequently, 'jump up and down'. Waltz and Fox-Trot were the order of the evening. At our club's most recent evening social event (November 2025), members and guests were seen twisting, and shimmying, and even jumping up and down, to all sorts of twanging!

With Rotarians and guests a conversation stimuli was probably not essential, but it did provide interesting information to think about.

Overall the President's dinner was a very enjoyable evening, well done Paul in planning that and putting your thoughts into it.

David Fotheringham

Aid for Ukraine

The Webmaster
Mar 13

Updated: Mar 20



York Rotary has been sending humanitarian aid to displaced people in Ukraine since the war started four years ago. Over the four years York Rotary has collected food, toiletries, warm winter coats, blankets, towels and sleeping bags has been transported to Kiev, Ukraine via Hope and Aid Direct. To date over 350 banana boxes of food aid has been sent along with other one of specific items of aid such as funding for portable generators. The need for aid continues as more and more people are having to live in temporary accommodation and they desperately need day to day supplies (see the video below – not available on this archive version).

Our collections have been halted for a few months, but they are re-commencing and members are encouraged to bring aid donations to our monthly business meetings. We need non perishable food, adult and baby hygiene products, all types of toiletries as well as sleeping bags and blankets. If you have friends or a social group who would be willing to collect items that will go directly to families in Kiev, please get in touch.

The delivery of aid is not always easy. Truck 94 shown in the video below took four hours to unload by hand because it was too icy to use a forklift truck safely. Fortunately the team were able to enlist the support of 15 locals to help. In the background sound to the video you can hear the air raid sirens.
Another video that can be accessed via the Facebook link below talks about the lack of power and heating and the problems that residents in Kiev are encountering. Even simple tasks like charging mobile phones have become problematic.
https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1GHnARY5ia/
Continued support would be appreciated.

York Rotary International team

York Rotary Fashion awards update

The Webmaster
Mar 20
Updated: Mar 23

It was time to set the competition for the 1st York Rotary Fashion Award. Jane had been aware of the growing K-POP music and fashion trends over the last 4 years and knew if she had still been working in fashion, the demand in the teenage market for these clothes and accessories would be huge. Aimed at 8 to 18 year old girls the Boy Band BTS lead the global Market. The release in 2025 of the animated Film, K-POP Demon Hunters, became No1 in 42 countries and top 10 in 93 countries. It truly was a Global craze. Shown here the original girl band, who did the sound track, and an image from the film.



Jane set the design project using 2 examples of girl groups. The trend spans from very grungy denim to sparkly top end Vogue. The groups all dress in a very similar way, but changed enough to give each model a unique look. For the competition the students have to illustrate a group of 4 designs and then pick 1 to cut patterns and make a sample. Each garment to retail at no more than £30. They were given 2 examples of girl bands as shown below.



On March 9th Jane Albon and Mary Lumley, visited the fashion Department at York School of Art to view the students toiles. Using cheap calico fabric, the students make a mock-up of their chosen design. This gives them the opportunity to make any final changes to the pattern before they cut out the design using the expensive fabrics they have chosen. Jane and Mary were shown all the fabrics the students have bought, in preparation for the final piece. Shown are some of the toiles.



Jane will visit the students again in 4 weeks to look at their research. The students research showed how K-POP culture had influenced all areas of fashion, even M&S had women's ranges in store with cargo pants and excessive use of lace and frills on shirts. Research showed use of PVC, LACE and TIES and add on accessories of chains, fringing, diamanté. The basic under garments were cropped tops, shorts, skirts and trousers. Every brand of clothing had matching torches and microphones to complete to look. Images show the trends that will influence the final design.



A Photo shoot for the final garments is booked for April 24th in the Photography department and final judging will be on line ONLY on 28th April. Jane and Mary will be joined by two local fashion designers to make up the final judging panel.

Jane Albon

York Samaritans visit

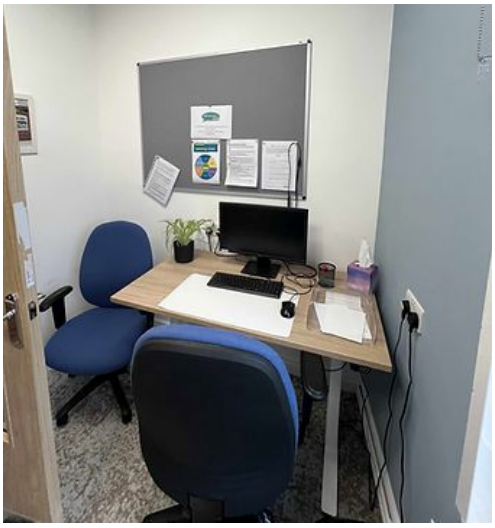
The Webmaster
Mar 20



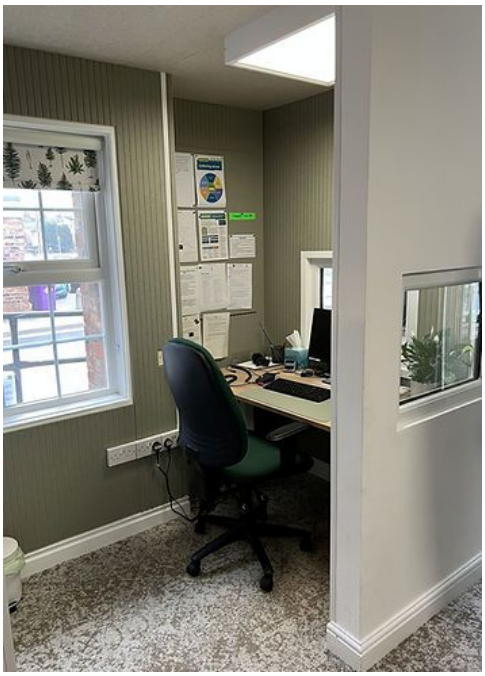
In 2024 York Samaritans were the York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge nominated charity and as a result we were able to donate £16,000 to York Samaritans for refurbishment of their premises. In the same year York Inner Wheel also raised funds for York Samaritans. With the refurbishment complete four representatives of York Rotary visited York Samaritans on 20th March as part of a small group to see their refurbished premises.



From the visit we were very impressed to see how well the money had been spent. The aim of the project had been to increase the number of call kiosks from two to three and to generally improve the appearance of the calling room and to improve comfort of the spaces. The kiosks are well lit and set out, they are carefully sound proofed, but they are interlinked so that volunteers can relate to each other whilst on calls. The room includes a comfortable break out area.



In addition the refurbishment included the refurbishment of a room to provide a base for counselling using online chat which is an increasingly important aspect of the Samaritans work. During the refurbishment work continuity of service from the York branch was maintained.



During the visit we heard more about the work of Samaritans. In York there are 120 volunteers who provide what is mainly 24 7 service and in 2025 the York branch handled 19,654 calls, equivalent to 54 calls a day or 178 calls per volunteer year. This represented 1,054 day shists and 413 night shifts (22.00 to 07.00) and 99 online chat shifts (on line chat is a developing new service). Volunteers typically work for a minimum of 12 hours a month, but many do more. One volunteer at York Samaritans is in their 55th year of service.

Samaritans carry out outreach work at events during the year attending approximately 40 events and making approximately 40 visits to the local prisons.

The increase in stations from 2 to 3 means that more calls can be handled and that helps to reduce the waiting time for callers when nationally at 04.00 there might be 30 calls waiting.



Rachel Maskell MP who joined the visit talked about her admiration for the work of York Samaritans and the importance of mental health as an illness.

The York Samaritans volunteers need to raise approximately £50,000 a year to keep the service going and the fact that they do that as well as providing the service as no small task.

In Britain there were 6,000 suicides in the last year, that number emphasises the importance of the work that the Samaritans carry out to help in minimising the number of suicides and the obvious ongoing effects those have on families and friends. On behalf of York Rotary the four of us who visited considered that the support of York Samaritans had been a very worthwhile project and we were delighted to see the finished results and talk about the work that had been carried out.

David Fotheringham

Charity Coffee Morning

The Webmaster
Mar 23



Ian Donaghy Xmas Presence, Jane Albon President Elect, Keith Hayton York Rotary

On Monday 16rh March the Community Services Team hosted the annual Charity Coffee morning at the Novotel Hotel. Twenty-two charities, who had been supported by York Rotary, accept the invitation to attend. They were hosted by ten members of York Rotary.



Maureen, Hearing Dogs. Emma Poole, IDAS

President Paul Roberts welcomed the participants thanking them for their service during the past year and confirming again York Rotaries pleasure and privilege in being able to offer support.



Rosemary Cook York Rotary, Lisa Kerry Chocolate & Co

Not only is the occasion an opportunity for York Rotary to encourage local charities in their highly valued work but it is also a unique opportunity for charities to network with each other. Charity representatives also use the opportunity to inform Rotarians of their current and future needs which is helpful to the ongoing work of the Community Services Team.



Ian Donaghy Xmas Prescence, John Wainwright Team Leader Community Service

YorKAOS

The Webmaster Mar 23



I went to YorKAOS, York Kids Open Studio, last year. Ada, the 9 year old organiser, had asked her family if she could enter York Open Studios. The answer was “NO” you have to be 18. Thinking that was very unfair Ada went on to create Kids Open Studio.

My grandaughter sent her artwork in. As a devoted grandparent and family, we needed to secretly buy Tallula’s exhibited “Work of Art”….BUT IT WAS ALREADY SOLD! It was a fabulous exhibition, all run by kids.



When I saw the advert, YorKAOS 2, I hoped the Youth Team could help fund the project.

York Rotary were welcomed with open arms and invited to help each day of the February half term 2026. The register to volunteer form, even had a York Rotary select button! The project encourages over 200 children age 5 to 11 to make and exhibit a “work of art” that can be sold for charity.

Today, the project leader, 10 year old Ada gave a full 20 minute presentation. What a star she is. Ada and her team started marketing the 2026 project on BBC Radio York, inviting all York children to prepare and sent their art work to Library collection points all over York. All Primary schools were notified and 260 pieces of art were collected.

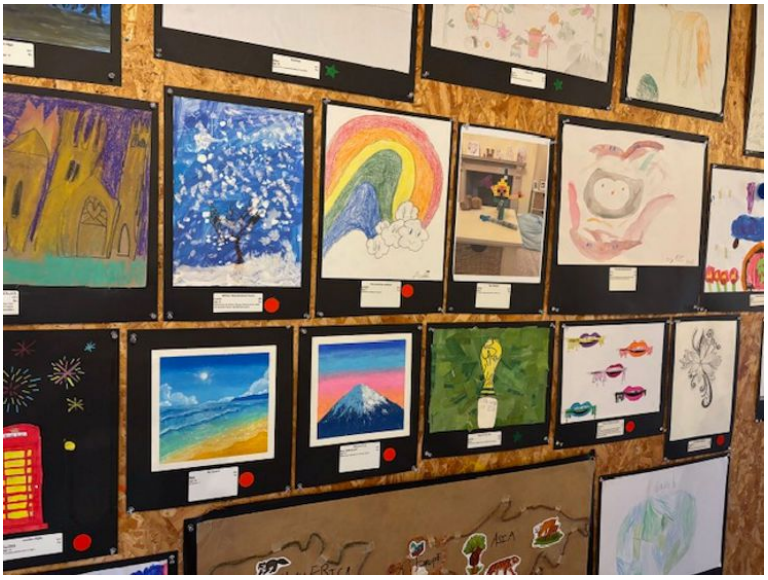




Ada negotiated free exhibition space at York Spark, and used our funding to mount and label each piece ready for sale. Art workshops were arranged for each afternoon session and the YorKAOS team raised £2,150 for local charities.

It is fabulous to support children in this way, and in the vote of thanks, we promised to help again next year. Well done YorKAOS

Jane Albon, Youth Services



ROTARY BUILDS PEACE

The Webmaster
Mar 23

Rotary believes that when concerned citizens work together to create peace locally, we can create lasting change globally





On March 7th we took part in York's International Women's Week by turning our attention to the effects of war on Women and Children. Ever desirous of adding new approaches to developing our Rotarian commitment to world peace and to our local community, we decided to shine a light on the ways in which women have coped with being forced to abandon their homes and their way of life and to resettle in unfamiliar surroundings. Our event was entitled 'Women's Journeys from War to Peace' and the morning started with Shamin Eimaan, Director of Eimaan Culture & Community Services, relating her childhood experience of being evicted from Uganda in the 1970s and coming to live, first in Birmingham and later here in York. We then heard how human rights defenders, Farah Abou El Sel from Lebanon and Nour Khalifa from Libya endeavour, amidst great personal danger, to provide support for innocent families caught up in conflict in the Middle East and North Africa. Rotarian Isabelle McKay-Smith, UNICEF Partnerships Specialist, gave a brief but powerful picture of the extreme difficulties faced by members of her organisation in trying to help mothers and children amid falling bombs, death and destruction. And we ended the morning with four women from Refugee Action York talking about their experiences in our city, their fears, their losses and their aspirations. All of the morning's interventions were ably and professionally conducted by our Honorary Rotarian, Elly Fiorentini.



Lunch was served by the not-for-profit social enterprise Yahala Mataam. Over lunch, the one hundred or so participants in the event were able to connect with each other, to ponder and discuss what they had heard during the morning. Many of them have reported back to us on how they had felt moved by what they had heard and how they had sensed solidarity with each other and with the speakers.

Following lunch, the afternoon was lighter in touch with three vocal performances, introduced, again, by our own Elly, turned compère. Marwa Karoui, originally from Tunisia, sang three unaccompanied, lyrical pieces and was followed by Yeseniia Honcharova, whose equally beautiful, youthful voice rang out around the hall raising many a tear, and many goose pimples.

The performances were completed by several rousing choruses delivered by the York Ukraine choir. Uplifting and inspirational, this delightful choral singing hit, perfectly, the right emotional spot to round off the day's theme.



'Women's Journey from War to Peace' was the brainchild of Diana Naish, who conceived of the whole event, who was instrumental in organising speakers and lunch provision, and who headed up a committee of York Rotary International Team members, joined by Honorary York Rotarian Elly Fiorentini and by Sayed Hashmi from Refugee Action York. Through the generosity of a handful of private and corporate donors, we were able to hold a magnificent raffle: the proceeds, added to a surplus from event ticket sales, meant that nearly £1,300.00 was raised to benefit both UNICEF and RAY.

Paul Roberts, York Rotary President

More York Rotary Construction Awards

The Webmaster
May 1



In March 2026 another round of York Rotary Construction awards were presented.

After nearly 3 years of the York Rotary Construction Awards at York College, I am happy to announce sponsorship has been found for 3 of the 6 courses we give awards to. Paul Hattee has managed to find funding for Painting and Decorating by Brewers and MKM are sponsoring Building and Plumbing. These sponsorship's will ensure the awards continue for the next 2 years. We are still looking for companies to sponsor Electrical, Professional and Carpentry courses. do get in touch if anyone can help. It is £150 per year per course and means so much to the students.



As indicated on the email below from York College the awards are clearly appreciated:

I just wanted to say thank you once again for the continued support that you and Rotary Club of York provide to the Construction Department here at York College.

We are very grateful, and gestures like this really mean a lot to our students. The awards and prizes you kindly provide have created real momentum within the department, and it is something the students genuinely value.

Long may it continue.

Thank you again for all your support.

Jane Albon.



York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge, Captains' briefing

The Webmaster
May 13



With just under nine weeks to go until the 24th York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge on the 12th July the Captains' briefing was held on the 11th May at the Novotel. We again have a full compliment of 36 teams along with reserves and all teams were represented at the briefing.

The briefing is a very important event, team captains and representatives are fully briefed on the programme for the day, the site layout and management of the event, security and health and safety matters, racing instructions and the setting up of fundraising pages for the event, along with fundraising tips. In 2025 the Dragon Boat teams raised £109,000, this year we have set a target of £120,000 for teams to aim for. If that total is achieved it will take the total raised since 2023 to above £1.8m, a fantastic achievement.

As part of the meeting we heard from Mags Godderidge CEO of Survive. Survive are the York Rotary nominated charity for 2026 along with the York Rotary charity fund. Mags told us about the importance of the work that Survive undertake and the very high demand for their services.

SURVIVE

In staging the Dragon Boat Challenge we are very grateful to the support of our three corporate sponsors, their support is so important and enables us to ensure that all fundraising by teams goes to the charities that they are supporting along with the York Rotary nominated charities.

Portakabin

Clifton Park Hospital
Part of Ramsay Health Care

Simpson

There was a very positive response from teams at the briefing and much note taking took place. In the coming nine weeks leading up to the event the pace of activity and fundraising will rapidly increase. We look forward to seeing all of the teams and supporters down by the river on Sunday 12th July.

David Fotheringham,
Joint Dragon Boat team leader



Our local Hospital Charity

York Rotary

May 25



Natalie

On May 22nd we welcomed Natalie Marriott, from York and Scarborough Hospitals Charity, as our speaker.

Nat explained the broad scope of the work this charity does, and the need for funding for a variety of projects which enhance patients' (and sometimes staff's) experience in ways that the NHS does not currently provide.

Most of the projects are "ring-fenced" and receive donations from people who want to support a specific project, often for very personal reasons.



The most recent idea which Nat wanted to highlight is the Autumn Project which aims to provide a more comfortable and private environment for hospital patients in the last stages of life, and for their families.

This includes special rooms – or screens where more appropriate in wards – and other "comforts of home".

The Autumn Project

The Autumn Project is centred around the end-of-life care for patients and their families.



"It is important people get a good experience - we only get one chance to get it right"



A photo of the cuddle bed (above) recently purchased for Scarborough Hospital.
A photo of a private room for end-of-life care (right).
These upgrades will create a calm and comforting space that supports families during a difficult time.

Specifically, they wish to acquire "cuddle beds" for York Hospital which are fully functional hospital beds but designed so two people can be together. These can cost £15,000 each. Specialist screens in wards would cost around £3500 each. Nat hoped that members might help with publicising this new project and support it.

The hospital charity are taking part in this year's Dragon Boat Challenge event.

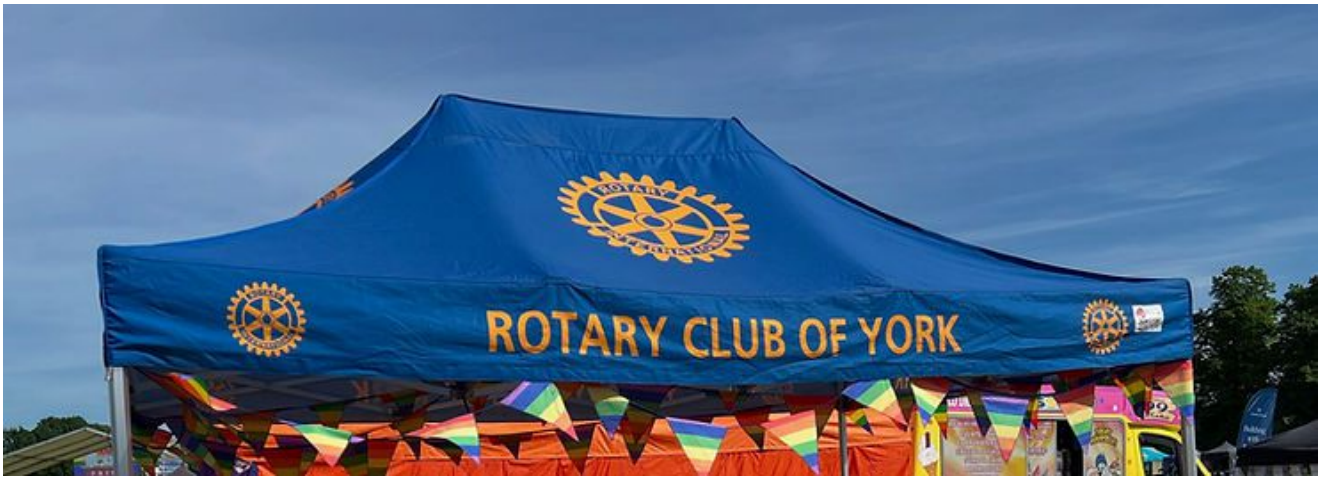
Nat also took the opportunity to thank the Club again for the funding we raised back in 2020, when we ran a virtual Dragon Boat event, a very unusual but successful initiative which raised over £20,000 towards refurbishing internal gardens in York Hospital. She explained that the garden spaces are highly valued and used by patients and staff alike.



If you want to revisit the 2020 "Virtual" event, including a video explaining how it came about, click here.. Virtual Dragon Boat 2020 | York Rotary – Not available on this archive version

York Rotary at York Pride

The Webmaster
Jun 12



York Pride was an exciting move for York Rotary. Daring to be different, Mary Lumley and Jane Albon took the Tea Tent to a grass plot with no services at all. York Pride is now the biggest event in North Yorkshire and as an External Relationship exercise we had a stall at this years event.



It was a three team event to try this out. External Relations funded the stall and Pride decorations, Fundraising provided set up and staff and Community Service provided funds to support a local charity, Time to Be Out.



It was an amazing event for us to be at, and exceeded any expectation of External Relations. Claire Douglas, Leader of York Council, who we met at International Women's Day, wanted to introduce Richard Webb, New Chief Executive of York Council to York Rotary. They spent 30 minutes at our stall getting to know everyone and look forward to supporting all we do.

We then had a full Civic visit, all ready for a sit down with Tea and cake. It was great to meet the whole new team ahead of the Dragon Boat Challenge, and we all look forward to working together throughout the year. We were also joined by Ex Sheriff Paul Doughty and David Smith who were so happy to catch up with York Rotary too.

The interest from young people to know what is York Rotary? It was great to tell our story and one young lady wants to start a group with us.

External Relations at its best, Fundraising did well, supporting local charities was exceptional. Meeting who we support on the day was what it is all about. In terms of Fundraising the event raised in excess of £850 of which £250 was donated to Time to be out leaving £600 raised for the York Rotary charity fund.

To see a video of the York Rotary stall click on the image below. – Not available on this archive version

Mary Lumley and Jane Albon

Survive

The Webmaster
Jun 12



Mags Godderidge CEO of Survive talked to York Rotary on 12th June. Survive are the York Rotary nominated charity for the 2026 Dragon Boat Challenge. Mags started with thanks, not just for the anticipated support, but for getting her out of the office for a couple of hours where enabling to avoid having to plate spinning and fire fighting for a couple of hours.

Mags shared powerful imagery from an Art Installation called Shame Ends Here Make Your Mark - which really brought home the prevalence and reality of sexual violence in our local community. On the image every stamp represents incidences of sexual violence in North Yorkshire.



She also shared results from a recent Independent Evaluation of *Survive* data by The University of York which shows *Survive* significantly reduces psychological distress and trauma symptoms and ability to cope with everyday life and significantly reduces future reliance on NHS Mental Health Services. This means Rotary's support of *Survive* is not only helping survivors heal, rebuild and thrive but is also

contributing to local Public Health outcomes. Mag's advised that with the help of the Dragon Boat Challenge an additional amount of between £15,000 and £20,000 will enable an additional 15 to 20 hours of counselling for a year.

The work of Survive helped individuals and as a result it has a great impact in terms of reducing the call on NHS mental health services and overall providing many savings to society as well as improving individuals well being.

The work of Survive York costs approximately £700,000 a year and of that Survive have to undertake traditional fundraising for approximately 40% of the required funds. For the balance of 60% Survive have to make funding applications via a number of statutory bodies who provide funding, though it is noted that Survive do not receive any funding from either the local authority or the NHS. The lack of NHS funding is somewhat surprising given that the work they do addresses a real health issue. As well as undertaking their invaluable and necessary work Survive clearly need to devote a lot of time to their fundraising needs.

Whilst people requiring support often come from deprived areas the work of Survive covers all sectors of society.

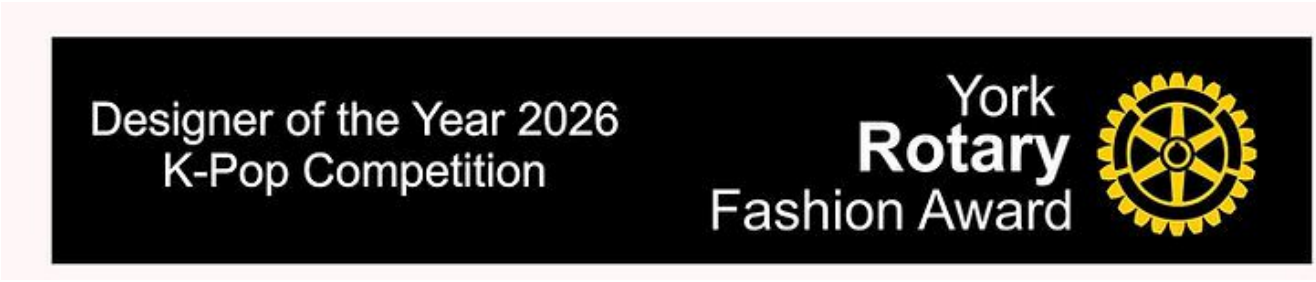


We were very impressed with the work of Survive and the explanation of that by Survive and the explanation reinforced the validity of our decision to support them via the 2026 Dragon Boat Challenge. We also wish Survive every success for their paddling efforts in the Dragon Boat Challenge.

David Fotheringham

York Rotary Fashion Award Presentation

The Webmaster
Jun 15



It was a new event for York Rotary putting us firmly on the map for helping and encouraging Fashion Students in the City. It was a well attended exhibition at the Spurriergate Centre with four award presentations, and an excellent end to the academic year York Rotary have spent with the students.



When the York Rotary Fashion Award was announced we were welcomed with a great big cheer from both Lecturers and Students who really appreciated our year visiting the York Art school.

The Highly Commended Award went to Jenny Ackroyd. The judges couldn't forget her approach to a very commercial design, an amazing underskirt, great photography and an added line of a "K-Pop Hoodie" as the UK weather needs to be considered in these ranges.













The Winner of the First Rotary Fashion Award went to Beth Warriner. The judges were so impressed with her skilled approach to the award brief. Nothing was left out. Her illustration of a K-Pop Band, her excellent design and production of Top, Skirt and Shorts, showing excellent pattern cutting and manufacturing skills. Great branding, with range name, swing tickets and QR codes with brand name, made Beth an outstanding winner of this years award.



Head of Fashion Lynn Wood and both students are Speakers for the Youth Team on the 11th of September and I really hope we get a huge attendance for our first Rotary Fashion Award. This award has brought us into a younger age group who really appreciate our presence and contribution.

Gosh, it was a really good evening at the Spurriergate Centre. Full of amazing Talent and Hope. Here's to next year…

Jane Albon and Mary Lumley for the Youth Team

GoodGym

The Webmaster
Jun 22



GoodGym is a unique and dynamic charity that encourages people of all ages to combine fitness training with doing good in the community.



On June 19th Ed Woollard and Vicky Hearson gave us an insight into their work. Set up in York in 2017 (by Egg Cameron, who was for many years also a "Friend of York Rotary" before she moved away from the area) they meet up regularly for a run, walk or cycle, ending up at a location where help has been requested in the community – President Paul mentioned one occasion where they dug a 70-metre trench for drainage at his local allotments.

GoodGym's range of activities is very broad; they have recently been asked to test the battery resilience of motability scooters by riding them around York for hours! They also help older people with friendship visits to relieve loneliness, and they deliver leaflets around the city, paint walls, repair fences and do litter-picking. The list is endless.



Their enthusiasm and commitment to the local community was clearly very much in tune with Rotary's ethos and prompted thoughts about how we might work more closely together…. Helping at future Dragon Boat events is one obvious avenue that will be pursued and there might be other similar events where help can be provided!

Brian Joscelyne

Steve retires after 24 years service to the Dragon Boat Team

The Webmaster
Jun 24



Steve Burton attended his final Dragon Boat Team meeting on Monday 22nd June before retiring from the Dragon Boat team. Steve was one of the 9 Founder Members of the Dragon Boat Com (including the then Pres and Pres Elect) and has played a major part in the arrangements ever since

Having said that it was an inauspicious start as at the first 2 meetings in April and May 2002, he sent his apologies – those were the days when we met in Com Members homes at 9.00am in the morning and started with bacon butties! However Steve has certainly made up for those absences since by being not just a regular attender but very much a do-er

He received the team sponsorship money from Day 1 mainly in cash – tales of bags of cash being put through his letterbox - until replaced with on-line fundraising in 2021.

Steve took over as DBC Treasurer in about 2008 – keeping the finances on track - and continued until succeeded by Mike Sullivan in March 2021. Produced multicoloured income/expenditure tables recording the annual outcomes and analysing hundreds of pages of payment reports.

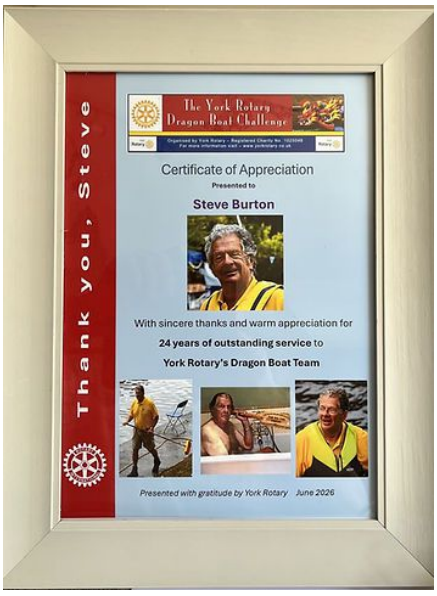
He was Minute Secretary on and off for many years until Jan took over a few years ago and he had is own style of minutes!

He chaired the Dragon Boat Committee for the 2007, 2008 & 2009 Challenges.

From 2007 Steve liaised with DBEL until this year when he has been handing over to Tim Duffy.



He looked after South Bank early morning set up for many years and when the lower tow path needed cleaning he could always be seen with a big brush - clearing all the debris and goose droppings.



To say that Steve has played a major part in both the organisation of the Challenges and the action on the day, right from Day 1 – is no exaggeration – so many thanks Steve!

On behalf of the Dragon Boat team Brian Joscelyne presented Steve with a certificate of appreciation for all of his hard work.

Graham Wilford



York Rotary International Charity Walk and Social 2026

The Webmaster
Jun 25



This annual event was held on Tuesday 16th June at the beautiful village of Nunnington. As has proved popular in past years there were options for either a 4.5 mile or a shorter 2 mile walk and/or a



1 mile Treasure Trail around the village, all followed by a Cream Tea in the listed village hall.

Twenty walkers, ably led by David Fotheringham, gathered at 12.00noon sharp to set off on a circular walk starting from the village hall. Starting by walking gently uphill through the lovely village of Nunnington, from the top of the village the walk continued upwards to the ridge to enjoy the splendid view towards Hovingham. Our less adventurous 'short walkers' then retraced their steps to the village hall where a welcome cuppa awaited them! Once revived some of them continued on to join the 'Treasure Trailers' who were just setting off to solve the clues as they strolled round the village.



The 'long walkers' then followed the line of the ridge to West Ness. From the ridge they enjoyed another fabulous view south across the Howardian Hills and north up to Helmsley and the north York Moors (the views would have been more spectacular if the day had been clearer!). Following the stream from West Ness along the edge of the fields back to Nunnington, they passed the grounds of Nunnington Hall and then returned to the village hall.



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 before 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 the usual tense scoring session the winners of the Treasure Trail were declared as our visitors Joe Postill and his three friends who had returned for a second year. They won a tin of biscuits and the booby prize of a Dwarf Bean Plant was won by Dave and Jane Marchant.



Everyone donated generously to the raffle which raised a massive £187.50 itself!

I would like to thank everyone who supported the event, there were 14 people involved in one or more ways. Many hands make light work!



The day raised just over £700 which International Team will make up to £1000 so that we are able to reach our goal of pledging the funds to Smile Kenya to purchase 10 Goats!

Mary Lumley
York Rotary International Team

President's lunch

The Webmaster
Jun 30



On Friday June 26th we had our annual President's Lunch and Handover event. The main purpose of the lunch is to celebrate and thank all those who help us in our endeavours: spouses, partners and friends, who get roped into helping out, or who support Rotarians in less obvious ways.



The lunch started with drinks and plenty of conversation on Novotel's riverside terrace, in searing heat. Ladies sporting racegoing hats added a delightfully formal touch. Following a thought for the day from President Elect Jane Albon, our three-course lunch was, by all accounts and, significantly by the foodies among us, highly rated: it turned out that the chef had been newly recruited to the post, an appointment which we entirely endorse!





Our after-lunch speaker was Professor Shaunna Burke, an academic in Exercise and Health Psychology at the University of Leeds. Shaunna presented herself as a seasoned climber with two successful ascents to the summit of Everest. This in itself would be a phenomenal achievement, but Shaunna's second climb, which took place in April and May of this year, was accomplished against the background of her incurable stage-four cancer. Shaunna told us that, having, of course, not chosen to contract cancer, she had indeed chosen to continue climbing in order to test her ability to manage challenge, fear and uncertainty. Having already once reached the summit of Everest, she decided to retrace her steps, rather than go for a different peak, because in this way she would have more impact. She needed to create impact, given her desire to keep cancer-related conversations going and, crucially, to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. You can read about Shaunna in a recent BBC article at https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cyv22ry3mn0o and make a donation at https://givestar.io/gs/dying-to-climb-shaunna-burkes-return-to-everest

And then… in a reprise of last year's successful musical contribution to the President's lunch, we were entertained again by the York Rotary Choir under the batons of Rotarian Mike Hay and his wife Ros. The choir's three numbers included a specially-rewritten (by Mike) version of the sixties' Scaffold hit "Thank you Very Much", bringing home the all-important theme of the day. To watch a short video of the choir click on the image below – not available on this archive version



After the applause had died down, we were able to move on to the second, and much shorter event, the official handing over of the office of President. President Paul gave a brief speech outlining the club's achievements since July 2025 and thanking club officers and team leaders for their hard work and support. Then, with due ceremony, he passed the presidential badge of office to Jane Albon, wishing her well for 2026-7 and naming her club officers for the year.

All in all, the event was very successful, an excellent combination of good food, drink and company, a stimulating, thought-provoking and at times deeply moving presentation, jolly singing and tradition-led ceremonial.

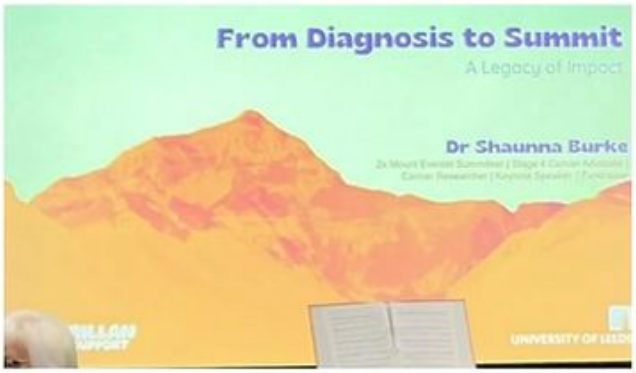
Paul Roberts













The President's lunch marked the end of another very successful year for York Rotary

York Rotary

Interested in joining York Rotary?
to submit an enquiry and obtain more information click here

Home | Members | About Us | York Rotary Projects | Diary | News | Fundraising | Dragon Boats | Friends | Contact

York Rotary News 2025-26

(click a story to view it in full)

See also our external Press and Social Media coverage here