

Club News Web Archive

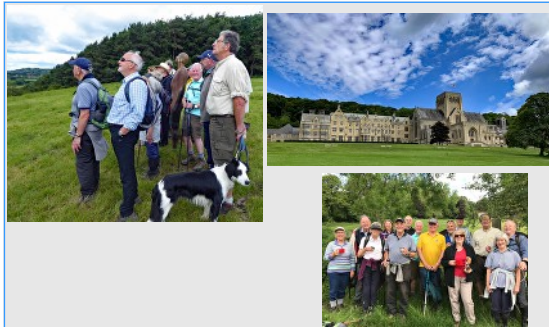
2018-19

in reverse chronological order



The Rotary Club of York
1921-2019

Gilling East and Ampleforth *David Rayner reports...* A lovely summer's day set the scene for our **June 20th** walk at Gilling East in Ryedale. 16 of us and 2 dogs headed east out of the village, following the wooded boundary of Gilling Castle park, past the well known miniature railway, as far as Little Holbeck stream. There we turned north to climb towards the village of Ampleforth, with glorious views of the Abbey framed in sunshine against the hillside. Once in the village we headed east down Back Lane, taking our coffee in the company of a inquisitive chestnut horse anxious for a share of our biscuits. Walking on we entered the Abbey's manicured grounds, barely a soul in sight, it being exam time, and traversed the front of the Abbey Church and its buildings, now with lovely views south over playing fields to the Ryedale countryside beyond. Moving on, we head back down through the meadows towards Gilling, following for a while the Holbeck stream and into the village, walking back to the Fairfax Arms for a well earned pint and an excellent lunch. Thanks to Dave Thompson for planning and leading our 6 mile tramp through a beautiful bit of North Yorkshire countryside.



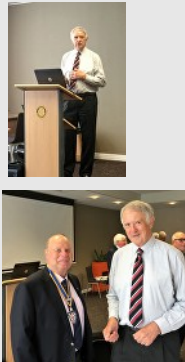
Off to Sinnington for Tea! One of our regular, and most pleasurable, contributions to our community is the outing to Sinnington, where Rotarian drivers escort elderly guests from many parts of York, including in particular Abbeyfields, on a leisurely drive across the Howardian Hills ending up at Sinnington Village Hall, where they are treated to a cup of tea, sandwiches, scones, and cakes galore, prepared and served by members of Sinnington Womens Institute. The outing on **June 18th** was in perfect sunny conditions, and much enjoyed by all. For many of our guests, it is a very rare excursion out into the countryside for them, and their gratitude and obvious pleasure, reflected the true spirit of Rotary in the community. Many thanks to the ten drivers from the Club, the additional escorts, and especially Sinnington WI. And many thanks to Keith Hayton who masterminded the arrangements - not an easy task!!



Fastnet Forty Years on Our guest on **June 14th** was Roger Sutton, from the Rotary Club of Pocklington and a long-time friend of our own Club. He spoke about the Fastnet Yacht Race, and in particular about the 1979 event (which he witnessed although not competing in it) when the Admiral's Cup Race was thrown into disarray by a vicious storm which the 303 yacht skippers were unaware of as the forecast just before they sailed did not predict the strong gale force winds. Of the 303 starters, only 85 completed the race, the remainder either finding shelter or being abandoned and/or rescued at sea. A Nimrod aircraft, helicopters and 13 lifeboats were called in and completed over 600 hours of rescue. However, in the end 13 crew died and 5 yachts were lost completely. This disastrous event became the impetus for many changes to the rules for ocean racing, and of course modern equipment, radios and GPS make a recurrence of this scenario most unlikely. Our thanks to Roger for his interesting lesson in ocean yachting history.

The Race

- Course covers 605 miles.
- Starts at Cowes Isle of Wight
- To Fastnet Rock (8 miles off County Cork Ireland)
- Via Scilly Isles – passed either side on outward passage but to south on inward.
- Finish at Plymouth, Devon.



Picnic amongst the Trees On **June 2nd** the Club hosted a Family Picnic for over 100 parents and families who had registered their baby's birth as part of the Rotary Tree Partnership project. With the rain just about holding off at the Haxby Road site, the families picniced amongst the 1250 saplings that had been planted, and did a little "weeding" around the trees to aid their growth. There was a lively, exciting atmosphere as the families heard from Cllr Keith Orrell (lately Lord Mayor of York) who unveiled the plaque explaining Rotary's project and acknowledging our many partners in the programme. Keith has been a great supporter of the Trees Project, having planted the first tree back in June 2018. Many thanks to the many local supermarkets for their generous donations of supplies of drinks and snacks, to Inner Wheel for their assistance, and to Frank and his team for making this a really successful event, and great publicity for Rotary! There are more photos of the event on a special web page [here](#).



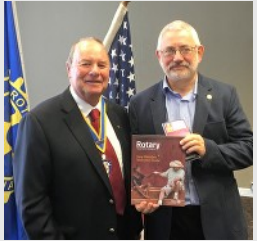
Supporting St Leonard's On May 31st Sarah Ross, the Fundraising Manager at St. Leonard's Hospice, spoke about the end of life care the Hospice provides for their patients. Their in-patient unit is about to be refurbished and converted into seven rooms which will be all single rooms with en-suite. The Sunflower Centre is a day unit offering arts and crafts as well as aromatherapy and other complementary therapies. The Hospice will celebrate their 35th anniversary next year. The cost of running the Hospice is £5.2 million per year (£595 per hour!) and only a small part of that is publicly funded. They run 13 shops which together raise £500,000 a year. The Hospice employs 209 people as well as being supported by 560 volunteers. Sarah spoke of the challenges they will face in the future in being able to raise the funds to provide a high standard of care to an ageing population. Sarah thanked Rotary most warmly for choosing St Leonard's Hospice for the third time to receive the proceeds of the Dragon Boat Race.



President's Cup Golf *David Sweeney reports...* As in previous years The President's Cup was played at Fulford Golf Club on **May 29th**. The weather was kind and despite the attendance being slightly lower than usual for a number of reasons, the quality shone through with some very good scores. President Ian presented the prizes and results which were as follows:
 Winner: Mike Sullivan 35 Pts
 2nd: Dennis Adamson 31 Pts
 Longest Drive: Dennis Adamson
 Evening meal was excellent and good fellowship, humour and fun had by all.
 A big thank you to all who came and played.



Welcome to Paul On **May 24th** we welcomed Paul Harvey into membership of the Club. Paul is transferring from the Rotary Club of Bishop's Stortford, where he has been a very active member since 2011. He and his wife Pat have been particularly supportive of Rotary's Polio elimination programme, having travelled out to India six times to help conduct immunisations, and he was also a keynote speaker on the subject at the National Rotary Conference in 2018. Now retired from his career in Further Education, his community involvement in Bishop's Stortford, both in Rotary and elsewhere, has been wide and extensive. He will undoubtedly be a significant asset to our Club as he transfers his home base up to York.



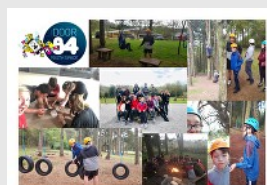
York CVS Our speaker on **May 17th** was Alison Semmence, Chief Executive of [York CVS](#) (Council for Voluntary Service) who has been in post for 6 months, having moved back to her native Yorkshire from a similar position in Southend. She explained the background of York CVS which, as Barry Campbell explained in the recent Rotagraph newsletter, was founded in the 1930's largely with the help of our own Rotary Club at the time, and was originally named York Community Council. Their aim is to work with support the voluntary and community sector in York, which includes various threads such as advice on grant funding, encouraging networking, and representing the third sector on local, Council, and national bodies. Alison described some of the key social issues locally from CVS's perspective - affordable housing, food poverty, inadequate mental health service provision, and loneliness/social isolation. The voluntary sector in York make a huge impact in these areas, but a lot more clearly needs to be done. Our Club continues to keep a close link with York CVS both directly and also through our "Friends of York Rotary" organisation.



Of Calves and Ings *Graham W reports...* **May 16th's** walk took us to Ledsham and new walking country for many of the 14 strong gathering of Rotarians and partners. Ledsham is a well-heeled village - its church has quite a history, as it claims to be the oldest extant building in West Yorkshire. The oldest part of the church dates from the year 700 - over 350 years before the Norman Conquest. We dropped down to Fairburn and entered Fairburn Ings, a very extensive RSPB Reserve, walking initially alongside a stretch of the River Aire - a river which has undergone a renaissance over the last 40 years from its heavily polluted former state. After a brief pause at the Visitor Centre, we returned to the rural countryside, where a field of spotlessly clean calves stared at us inquisitively - or was it with amazement - as we headed for Ledston, another well-heeled village dominated by Ledston Hall - a rather magnificent Elizabethan pile - home of the famous 'Lady Betty' Hastings, one of Yorkshire's most generous 18th century benefactors, supporting education and the relief of poverty. The last two miles, again through beautiful undulating rural countryside took us back to Ledsham and The Chequers Inn where we enjoyed a well-earned drink and a wide range of excellent food. A thoroughly enjoyable walk - thanks to Nigel.



Support for Youth Programme at Peat Rigg Once again this year the Club had provided financial support for the Youth Programme at [Peat Rigg](#), through Door 84 Youth Centre, that provides such valuable help to disadvantaged youngsters in our city. Heidi from [Door 84](#) has sent this "thank you" letter for our support, and some photo collages ([click to enlarge these](#)). This area of support for the local community has been a priority for Rotary for many years.



Behind the Scenes *Russ reports..* On **May 10th** we had a wonderful, behind the scenes view of what goes on in the making of TV programmes and films from our guest speaker Sally Joynson, from [Screen Yorkshire](#). Asked what sort of programmes we like, and which we don't, Victoria was cited as a drab and unattractive series by some. Sally then went on to describe how this 'jewel in the crown' (no pun intended) was the current flag ship of her company! A disused hangar at Church Fenton has been turned into the spitting image (no that wasn't one of her programmes) of Buckingham Palace. And this series is now paying back handsomely with sales to many countries. Screen Yorkshire, Sally's company, aims to "support and invest in the TV and film business to grow Yorkshire as a centre for programme production". Having aimed for Yorkshire to be in the top 5 UK locations, we are now in the top 3. Speaking about the recent film Dad's Army, she explained how from a chance conversation with a film producer on the beach at the Cannes film festival, Bridlington was the chosen location for making the film. Within days of the start of filming, hotels were full, Bridlington was buzzing and the local economy benefited enormously. As well as top-rate, home-grown Yorkshire talent such as Doncaster lad Jeremy Clarkson, Screen Yorkshire is bringing international stars to the area. In summary, Screen Yorkshire is a feel-good success story and Sally's upbeat and positive enthusiasm shone through.



At this meeting, we welcomed two visitors from California - Stacy Trevenon and her husband Doug Mallon. Stacy (pictured right with President Ian) is Past President of the [Rotary Club of Half Moon Bay](#), a small town just south of San Francisco.



We also welcomed Stephanie Sumner from the [Two Ridings Community Foundation \(TRCF\)](#) - pictured left with Sheila Weatherburn (l) and Diana Naish (r) - who was presented with a cheque for £700, the proceeds from the International Womens Day lunch last March which Diana and Sheila organised



(Click photos to enlarge)



Keep Your Pet On **May 3rd** a fascinating introduction to a project of which many of us were unaware was presented by Julia Cludery (wife of Rotary Ainsty President-Elect Steve) and then expanded on by her colleague, Ann Windus. [Keep Your Pet](#) is a collaboration between Age UK York and RSPCA York & District. They claim to be unique to York but it is so successful that it surely ought to be taken up elsewhere. The scheme marries up volunteers with the pets of owners who need help when ill or in hospital, possibly even longer term. Plans are flexible to meet owners' needs, such as support for pets in their own home until the owner is recovered (feeding, walking etc). he clients are usually dogs or cats but other animals have been registered including hamsters and even a bearded dragon. There are currently 120 registered pet owners and over 100 volunteers. They need to fund-raise a minimum of £8000 per year to meet these expenses, including emergency vet bills, publicity and equipment. Clearly KYP provide an important service in helping to relieve people from worrying about their pet, and that speeds up the recovery process.



Also during the meeting, President Ian presented a cheque for £1100 to Diane Roworth for [Hope and Aid Direct](#), the result of the recent very successful International Walk - see report below. Diane is pictured giving her thanks to the Club; she is very active with Hope and Aid organisation and joined their convoy last December to refugee camps in Lesbos, Greece. .



A Record-breaking Fundraiser The Club has been raising funds at St Crux - with a cafe and sales of bric-a-brac and other items - for very many years. More recently the format has been updated, with more "as-new" items and new categories such as Ladies Accessories and Home Produce, being added; and very smart Rotary branded polo shirts, aprons, Gazebo, and banners. On **May 1st**, with good weather but despite moderate "footfall", the resulting sales broke all records, and achieved an amazing **£1450** net for our Charity Fund. Congratulations to Diana and her team who worked so hard on the event, and to all Club members who contributed sale items and their time on the day. It was a great team effort.

A special thanks also to Marlise Heaton who baked a superb cake for the cafe, and brought it along in the morning, as she has done for many years.



International Visitors Joining us for our meeting (and AGM) on **April 26th** we were delighted to welcome Tor Berge & Vicolai Jakhelln from the Sagdalen Rotary Club of Norway; and Dietrich Wienecke from the German Rotary Club of Brunsbüttel. From this photograph, our Scandinavian friends appear to dwarf President-Elect Ian Tarbet, who ran the meeting in the absence overseas of our current President!



Supporting Community Sparks Community Service Committee Secretary Dennis Adamson recently presented a cheque for £250 to the Community Sparks management team. [Community Sparks](#) is a charity which assists adults with learning difficulties and meets at Door 84 on Tuesday and Thursday for art and craft, games and outings. Our cheque will be used to finance a bowling outing in June.



Fellowship at Doxford Hall *David Impey reports....* On **April 23rd and 24th**, 43 Rotarians and wives enjoyed a visit to this lovely hotel in Northumberland. On the Tuesday afternoon 13 of the group played nine holes golf at Seahouses and although the standard of play was not good it was very enjoyable with splendid views of the sea and the harbour. Fittingly our organiser David Sweeney was this years winner. On the Wednesday a group walked the very well know coastal path between Newton by the Sea and Craster. Some walked to Dunstanburgh, visited the castle and returned, others walked to Craster, visited the pub and returned. Others visited Holy Island, Almouth, Alwick, Warkworth and other nearby attractions. After dinner on the two evenings there was a quiz, a photo quiz from John Lacy and a George themed quiz from David Impey on the Tuesday and a general knowledge one by Janine Jackson on the Wednesday. Both were won by the "egghead team" of Janine and Tim Hinton. Thanks to David Sweeney for his excellent organisation. Overall a very enjoyable Fellowship visit.



International Charity Walk Susan de Val reports.... This annual Club event on **April 18th** was centred this year on Terrington, looking very charming in the sunshine, with daffodils and blossom. Let's start with lunch, as it's the easy bit where all 70 or so of us were in one place at once, including partners, Friends of York Rotary, and Rotarians from Knaresborough RC; and Rotary Grant Scholar Taelor Lewis and her visiting family. I hadn't been on this walk before and rather expected a nice sandwich and a slice of cake, but no, this was a wowzer of a two course buffet masterminded by Diana and the team. We did earn lunch, well, most of us did.... Two walks of 6 and 3 miles respectively, although there was a debate about the length of the 6 mile walk, which I think came out at 6.2 miles. The longer walk was ably led by Mark Sessions, and the shorter one by Nigel Naish. We stopped briefly in the beautiful hamlet of Ganthorpe, which like Terrington pre dates Domesday, before descending back through woods dappled with sunshine. And why we were all there? [Hope and Aid Direct](#) is a charity sending supplies to refugee camps in Europe, in the Balkans and currently focusing on Middle East refugee camps in Greece. It was good to know we raised around £1000 for this vital cause. Thank you to Diana, all her team, and to the whole International Committee for organising the day.



Promoting International Human Rights At the Club's meeting on **April 12th** we welcomed Rotary Grant Scholar Taelor Lewis as our speaker. Taelor, a confident Californian from Los Angeles, through her earlier career in education developed an interest and skills in teaching English to refugees in California, primarily from South & Central America. From this developed a realisation of the relatively poor protection that human rights legislation offers to refugees world wide, especially to women. She secured a Rotary Grant Scholarship to study at the Human Rights Centre of the University of York. Clearly the most memorable part of her course was time spent in Malaysia where she was part of a team attempting to bring separated refugee families together with the help of human rights lawyers who could challenge and lobby the Malaysian authorities. Taelor rounded off her talk by observing that her time in York had provided a very different, less hectic lifestyle to Southern California, but a wonderful and welcome experience making many friends. Clearly Rotary, through Foundation funding of her course, is helping her achieve a career that will make a real difference in the world



Welcome to Stuart At the Club's meeting on **April 5th** we formally welcomed Stuart Cranidge into membership. A retired barrister, Stuart recently moved to York, and has previously been a member of Round Table for over 25 years. In addition he was on the founding committee of the North Lincs Association of Governing Bodies and served as a School Governor [including the position of Chairman] for 25 years. President Ian and all members present warmly welcomed Stuart to the Club.





Award of Duke of York Community Initiative - again!

The Club has recently been granted the DOYCI award, for a second time in recent years. On **April 3rd** President Ian was presented with the Club's Certificate by the Duke of York at a ceremony at Catterick Garrison. Also present were club members Eileen Davis, Mike Hay and ADG Darrell Hind. *Darrell reports..* After the Awards Ceremony had taken place, Prince Andrew circulated amongst the 220 attendees to give his personal congratulations and everyone was given a chance to speak to him. All of the dignitaries speaking to us were very impressed, not only with the amount of monies raised by The Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge and other fundraising ventures but also by the sheer numbers of the Charities and individuals whom we had helped and the Community Service that the Club has given to the City since its Inauguration in 1921. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of East Yorkshire had a long discussion with us; he was very interested in us as a Club and asked to visit us. Also receiving DOYCI Awards were local charities Kyra, Poppleton Community Railway Nursery, The Island, SNAPPY Trust and Community Bees.



Club Centenary 2021 plans At the **March 29th** Business Meeting, members approved plans for the Club's centenary year celebrations. The plans, drawn up over the past 12 months by the Centenary Team headed by Kevin Grogan and Steve Burton, include a "gift to the city" which is to be the restoration of the historic sundial, sited on College Green (in front of the East Window of the Minster). This project is to be carried out in conjunction with York Civic Trust who will oversee all the work. A plaque will be sited next to the sundial, which will include reference to our Club's Centenary and Rotary's sponsorship of the restoration. Members also unanimously agreed plans for a Members' formal Centenary Lunch at the Mansion House in February 2021, the anniversary of the Club's inauguration, and, by a substantial majority vote, approved plans for a "Celebration Event" in May 2021, the anniversary of the Club's affiliation with the *British Association of Rotary Clubs*. The latter will be an event open to other Rotary Clubs and especially the general public, and an opportunity to celebrate Rotary, our Club's 100 years in York, and our future in a positive and upbeat way - with a dinner dance at the Racecourse featuring the "ABBA Revival" tribute band.



1260 Trees and a Mayoral visit The second planting of 420 "Rotary Family Tree Planting Partnership" trees on the Haxby Rd site, organised by Frank and overseen by Derek Utley from the Woodland Trust, was carried out on **March 27th** by a team of 10 club members assisted by two teams of volunteers from Nestlé, organised through York Cares. We are extremely grateful for the support of the 14 Nestlé helpers who made such a difference. Also present were the Lord Mayor, Cllr Keith Orrell, the Lady Mayoress Mrs Judith Orrell and local Councillor Carol Runciman, who all joined in - perhaps not quite dressed for the part, but their support was very much appreciated nonetheless! Over 650 babies have been registered by parents across York, using the website, and feedback from parents has been extremely positive. More information, including directions to the site, is on the Tree Partnership site [here](#)



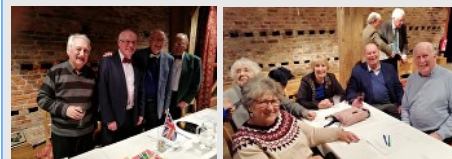
Why Trees? *Frank reports..* Woodland Trust is a key partner in the Rotary Family Tree project. Derek Utley, our speaker on **March 22nd**, is a Woodland Trust WCC - *Woodland Creation Champion* - and an enthusiastic genuine practical Tree Lover. The Trust has been in existence for 40 years. It owns or manages 22,500 hectares and has planted 31 million trees during its lifetime. The Northern Forest project aims to plant a further 50 million trees over the next 25 years, on sites between Morecambe Bay and the Wash. The UK is the least wooded country in Europe and yet over 500 of ancient woodlands are under threat from road and rail developments. The benefits of trees range from minimising flooding to absorbing the worst elements of air pollution, 4.8% of all deaths in York can be blamed on man made pollution. Trees are older than *homo sapiens* and we share 25% of their DNA. And trees talk to one another through the WWW Wood Wide Web - a network of roots. Giving the vote of thanks Frank paid tribute to Dereks commitment and contribution to the success of our Club's *Rotary Family Tree* project.



March Walk *Mike Sullivan reports..* On **March 21st**, there were 19 of us, forming a longish crocodile line and enjoying the early spring scenery along this 6 mile circular walk from Coneythorpe via Arkendale. It was a perfect day; the sun shone, the merest breeze ruffled the daffodils in the hedgerows, and the hedges wore a fuzzy halo of green as we walked out of Coneythorpe and alongside the noisy A1 for a short distance, before taking lanes and byways across the gently undulating countryside to Arkendale. The village is mentioned in Domesday, and was one of the few to survive intact the disaster that was the Harrying of the North in 1069 and is now a sleepy little village with lovely stone built cottages: we stopped for our coffee break against the wall outside the Community Centre - except for the intrepid duo who managed to lay hands on a pint from the Blue Bell pub. And then back across fields and through farmyards to Coneythorpe for an excellent lunch at The Tiger Inn.



"Call My Bluff" Wine Tasting Tom reports.. On **March 20th**, a group of our members enjoyed a convivial evening in the Tith Barn at Nether Poppleton where their taste buds were challenged to determine the label, style, country of origin, strength and price of various wines which were presented and described, but not always truthfully, by Tom Jackson and two of his golfing friends: Stephen and John. This was a Fellowship Fun Event where David Ison skillfully performed as M.C. and Donald Heath and David Sweeney served as Wine Waiters for the evening (Manuel from Fawley Towers comes to mind!) There was a great deal of laughter and friendship (Rotary Fellowship at its best) – and the "lying" must have been convincing as the "real sommeliers" amongst us were the most fooled by the presentations. President Ian presented a couple of bottles of "decent reds" to the winning team: Mike and Elizabeth Fieldhouse; Eileen and Keith Davis; Ian and Jeanne Denoon, Sheila Weatherburn and Helen Ison. Runners-up and losers were consoled with packets of wine gums!



The Power of Women Sheila reports.. On **March 13th**, women of the Rotary Club of York and friends came together last week to celebrate *International Women's Day* and raised over £700 in the process to support local women's organisations. The *Women helping Women* idea came about as a result of the long standing partnership between the Rotary Club of York and the Two Ridings Community Foundation. Rotarians Sheila Weatherburn and Diana Naish organised the lunch following the unprecedented demand for funding when Two Ridings Community Foundation launched the recent Tampon Tax Community Fund providing grants to groups working to support women. At the lunch Jackie McCafferty of Two Ridings Community Foundation spoke about the Fund, the groups that had been supported, and the many groups that were still seeking help. Jan Garrill, Chief Executive of Two Ridings Community Foundation said "The *Women helping Women* idea is very powerful and the funds raised will help Two Ridings Community Foundation to kick start a new Women and Girls Fund. The need is very clear and we are very grateful to Sheila and Diana, the Women of the Rotary Club of York and their like-minded friends for stepping in and helping some of those groups that are working with very vulnerable women in our area"



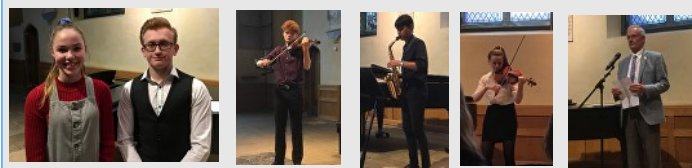
Lots of Gas at Rotary On **March 8th** David Gill outlined the role and scale of Northern Gas Networks, one of the five UK gas distribution companies. Covering 25,000 square kilometres in the North of England to the Scottish Border the 37000 Km of gas pipes delivers gas to 2.7m customers. On a cold winter day 80% of UK heat and power is transported through the gas network. Only 45% comes from UK sources. 38% comes through European pipelines, primarily from Russia, and 17% is shipped by tankers mainly from the middle East. Potential security and uncertainty issues are recognised and the industry recommended solution - Fracking. There are 300 years reserves of gas in the Bowland Shale Outcrop between Wrexham and Blackpool in the west, and Nottingham and Scarborough in the east. Energy used for heat and transport accounts for 80% of UK energy carbon footprint and the Climate Change Act requirement to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 is a huge challenge. The industry preferred solution is the development of carbon free hydrogen gas distributed by converting the existing gas distribution network.



At the **March 3rd** meeting we also welcomed Sally Hutchinson, CEO of Age UK (York) who was presented with a cheque for £1200, this resulting from our recent "Ukulele Show" fundraiser



Young Musician District Final On **March 3rd** the 1040 District Final of this Rotary competition took place at the NCEM York, in front of a packed audience including several Club members. Jo Peach (a "Friend of York Rotary") was one of the adjudicators who had the unenviable job of deciding the winners from the 14 extremely talented young people who took part, chosen by various Rotary Clubs in the District. It was a very entertaining afternoon, and congratulations are due to all the competitors. In the end the winner in the Instrumental category was violinist William Clark, a prodigious talent who is from York (Huntington School); with Xiana Harron (Halifax) a close second. Eva Scullion (Ripon) won the vocalist category with Kyai Calver (Brigg) runner up. These four, and also a brilliant Alto Saxophonist James Taylor (Brigg) will go forward to the Regional Final at the end of March.

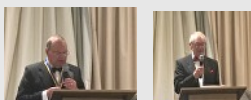


Finalist at District 10...

Hear the amazing talent of Alto Sax player James Taylor



President's Dinner We welcomed York's Civic Party, Lord Mayor Cllr Orrel and consort Judith Orrel, and Sheriff Verna Campbell with consort Prof Colin Campbell, to our annual President's Dinner at the Novotel on **March 1st**. After a superb 3-course dinner and speeches from President Ian and the Lord Mayor reflecting on the Club's place in the history of York over the past 98 years, we were entertained by guest speaker Brian Thomas who told the tale of Baroness Pannonica de Koenigswarter (known as "Nica") who although born a Rothschild with untold wealth, spent much of her life with the (mostly black) jazz players of Harlem, and in particular Thelonius Monk. His talk was accompanied by several excerpts of Monk's jazz recordings. A strange tale indeed.





Ten Ukles and a Skateboard With the "*Grand Old Uke of York*" band we were able to put together an event which appealed to a wide range of ages on **February 23rd**. The Memorial Hall at St Peters was abuzz with excitement as the group played a powerful and wide range of classic rock, folk and ballads which got everyone foot-tapping. It was hard to believe all that variety and impact came from ten ukuleles! A team of 16 Rotarians, partners and "Friends of Rotary" took control of the car parking, stewarding, raffle sales, and running the interval bar where the audience got a free wine or soft drink. The popular raffle had fantastic prizes including a Cookery Course at Betty's, worth £180 - which was won by our own Steve Barker!! The band drew all the raffle ticket winners during their second set, by what has to be said were very new and unique methods, including scattering the tickets on the floor and letting "Yorkshire Flat Cap Man" roll over them on a skateboard, picking up a ticket with a sticky glove. The photo gives a rough idea - Lewis Outing, who took the shot, narrowly missed getting run over himself! A lively, fun and brilliant show, this was a "joint venture" with Age UK (York) and in the end when the money was all counted, we raised £2400, half of which will go to Age UK (York) and the remaining £1200 is now in the Club's Charity Fund. A huge thanks to Graham, the fundraising team, all who helped on the night, St Peters School and above all to the *Grand Old Uke of York* who did us proud!



Round Rillington *Tony reports...* Good weather helps bring out record Rotary walkers this month! 23 of us joined the **February 21st** walk from the Coach & Horses pub carpark. It was glorious weather for the 5.4 mile walk which headed due south circular walk. Followed by an excellent pub lunch - the food was superb. I would certainly recommend the Coach & Horses and the walk. I am sure we will return to Rillington whether for the walk or the pub!



Tale of Two Butchers On **February 22nd** we welcomed another new member to the Club. Stephen Wilkinson is a retired butcher (second generation) who built up the business and ended up with six butcher's shops mostly in local market towns, employing about 30 staff. He was introduced to the Club by Steve Barker, himself a retired butcher and a close friend. Good job the Novotel had the foresight to avoid serving a vegetarian meal for this meeting, then! Stephen will be a real asset to the Club and members were quick to welcome him into the fold.



Young Technologists The fifteenth York Rotary Technology Tournament organised by the three York Rotary Clubs at Portakabin on February 19th challenged the creative skills of 64 young Yorkies. The all day tournament attracted an entry of 16 teams from 7 York schools. Teams of four students working against the clock designed, built and demonstrated a practical solution to a technical problem. The task, set at foundation intermediate and advanced levels conforming to elements in the National Curriculum, was to build a flashing beacon from materials provided by the three York Clubs. The VIP visitors included the Lord Mayor and civic party, Deputy Lieutenant of North Yorkshire and Patrick Shepherd Deputy Chairman of the Group who all agreed the event is a really worthwhile activity and one that will help create benefits for the wider community in years to come. Full report and photos can be seen [here](#)



The Unsung Heroes of MapAction *Diana reports...* On **February 15th** we welcomed Nigel Press, Chairman of [MapAction](#), the humanitarian mapping charity. He explained that MapAction is a non-governmental organisation that specialises in providing mapping for humanitarian emergencies. Humanitarian emergencies often strike without warning, destroying lives and livelihoods within a matter of seconds. In the immediate aftermath, the challenge for those responding is to know where to start. Information is vital: **What** has happened and which area has been worst affected? **Where** are the most vulnerable people? **What** has happened to roads, railways and communication networks? **Where** are medical supplies and where are they needed most? **Who** is available to be deployed from Map Action to the disaster scene? MapAction has the capacity to deploy a fully trained and equipped humanitarian mapping and information management team anywhere across the globe within 24-48 hours. The team gathers all the crucial data at the disaster scene, conveying it visually in the form of maps. By creating this 'shared operational picture' for aid agencies, governments and local partners, they can help them make informed decisions and deliver aid and emergency supplies to the right place, quickly. MapAction's work depends on a group of over 90 skilled and dedicated volunteer first responders, backed by a small paid staff of 5. The volunteers, from all over the UK (including York), and all of whom have day jobs, spend one weekend a month on training programmes. Nigel has thrown down the MapAction Rotary 2019/20 Challenge to aim to get 100 Clubs giving £500 each for each year.





All you wanted to know about the Organ and were afraid to ask *Sheila reports*.. 27 members attended the demonstration by Club Secretary Mike at St Edward The Confessor Church at Dringhouses on **February 8th**. We met for coffee with homemade biscuits and chocolate cake provided by Ros Hay (many thanks Ros) in the lovely new atrium and as usual when there is a group of Rotarians there was an instant buzz! We then moved into the Church for the demonstration. Mike Hay ably demonstrated the complex process, and personally having a lack of musical expertise, I had to listen very carefully! I guess that most of us would first notice the organ Pipes above the organ which Mike described as being like penny whistles all of different sizes. St Edwards Organ was produced in the late 70's by Nigel Church & Co and has around 600 such pipes. Mike thankfully produced a leaflet describing all of the Pedals and Stops and Manuals and demonstrated their use. We listened to various pieces with the Stops going in and out ad infinitum with Mike scooting along the stool. Fascinating stuff!



From small Rotary acorns.... The inspiring talk on **February 8th** was from John Miles, a member of the Rotary Club of Leatherhead. In a positive and dynamic presentation, he explained the operation of [Global Sight Solutions](#), a Rotary charity that started as a small operation run by Guildford Rotary Club, providing funding to build eyecare hospitals in India. Over the years this has now grown, principally with the aid of Rotary Global Grants, into a large and impactful charitable business which have funded 11 hospitals in its first 10 years (and plans for a further 50 in the next ten) and provide 100,000 cataract operations per year. Unlike some other charities, their approach is to provide the means to set up permanent and sustainable hospitals, run locally with oversight from local Rotary Clubs, rather than "drop-in" services for operations. John's talk was a fascinating insight into how a UK Rotary Club, working with Rotary International, on professional business lines, can make a real difference to people across the world.



Presentation to KYRA Women's Project. The Community Service Team have made a donation to [KYRA Women's Project](#), based at the Central Methodist Church in St. Saviourgate, to purchase a new locking cabinet and a flipchart stand. PP Eileen Davis presented the cheque on **January 31st** to Founder and CEO Yvonne Copley and stayed to meet both volunteer staff and members. Frances Tunstall and Sue Reece-Walker, pictured here with Eileen, are just two of the well-qualified volunteers who work with members through courses, therapies, life-skills training and other events. They support local women to make positive changes to their lives. KYRA's success is reflected by its membership of around 900 women of all ages.



Helping refugees in Lesbos On February 1st, new member Diane Roworth presented a reflection on her volunteering with a UK Humanitarian Aid charity – [Hope and Aid Direct](#). HAAD sources everyday items that we all take for granted, such as clothing for men, women and children, bedding, toiletries, children's toys, nappies, food – and just about anything else needed to keep body and soul together. This is what we call humanitarian aid. Last December, Diane went to help a 3-truck convoy taking aid to the Greek islands of Lesbos and Chios and mainland Greece. There are 50,000 refugees in Greece, and the system that is processing them is overwhelmed. Thankfully there are many small NGO's doing what they can to distribute the aid they receive from HAAD and from all over Europe. Diane helped make distribution drops and unloaded and loaded countless times, helping to move supplies where they were needed the most. Hope and Aid Direct is a charity, that in the words of its founder, Chas Stoner MBE Takes Aid – Not Sides. Diane said the work was emotionally draining, but immensely satisfying. Proceeds from our Rotary Charity Walk on 18th April will be going to HAAD to support their amazing work.

Hope and Aid Direct

- Proud of two decades of delivering aid.
- All those involved are volunteers – there are no paid staff.
- Supporters come from all over the UK

www.hopeandaidirect.org.uk



York Master (and Miss) Chefs Christine and Hazel report... On **January 21st** at York College, 5 Young Chefs from All Saints School, Millthorpe School and Fulford School took part in the York Rotary Young Chef District Final. Also present were Rotarians Hazel Hart the Young Chef organiser, Christine Watkinson and John Russell. The brief was to cook a healthy 2 course meal for two people for £10 in 2 hours. These youngsters, one had only turned 13 years of age that week, had already won the first heat at their school. Nothing would prepare them for cooking in an industrial size kitchen, a daunting prospect for any amateur chef! Under the careful eye of the judges these youngsters prepared, cooked & presented some outstanding food, and the winner was Joe Rook from All Saints School, who cooked Belgian Meatballs with an apple syrup sauce, homemade paprika spiced chips, lambs lettuce salad with a balsamic glazed dressing followed by profiteroles with homemade raspberry curd, fresh whipped cream and drizzled in chocolate! Quite a feast. The runner up was Evan Williams from Millthorpe School. Joe will now go through to the semi-final at Betty's in Harrogate on 5th February.



Young Womens' Counselling Service Chloe Haines, who heads the YWCS charity in York, was our speaker on **January 18th**. She explained that YWCS is a small independent unit of 6 trained volunteers providing vital face to face counselling support to women of limited financial means who are experiencing emotional or mental health difficulties and who seek out the service as a last resort from inadequate NHS and Local Authority support. Women arrive with all sorts of problems – trauma from domestic violence and sexual abuse, single parent and financial difficulties, addiction, breakdown and so on and each receives a pragmatic response based on individual need from the small team of trained women volunteers. The service dealt with over 100 enquiries in the year past and supported 35 women through 1 to 1 counselling, ranging from 6 to 40 sessions. Each counselling session costs £42, of which on average only £15 is recovered from the client. The balance comes from fundraising. The charity would like to expand its work by recruiting further counsellors, for which, Chloe stressed, funds will be needed.



Visit to Headingley Water Treatment Works *Frank reports...* On **January 15th** around 20 from the Club visited this facility which provides water to over 300,000 people in Leeds City. The 800,000 customers of Yorkshire Water each use on average 150 litres of water every day. This site on the outer edge of Leeds is one of 42 water treatment works which processes 1.24 billion litres of water every day to their stakeholders. To put this in context our very knowledgeable guides Adele and Peter proudly boasted that this was the equivalent of providing a cup of water every day to every person on the planet. 43% is sourced from reservoirs, 35% from rivers and 22% from ground wells. The facilities on the 40 acre site were built in 1995 and we followed the process from the arrival of the raw water to the exit into the 45 million litre holding reservoir where the treated final product is released to the network of distribution pipes for the City of Leeds. The whole processing cycle takes around three hours, is totally automated, with only two people supervising the computer controlled operation. Our informative visit concluded with a traditional afternoon tea in the pleasant surroundings of the adjacent Weetwood Hall Hotel.





Youth Theatre in York Our speaker on **January 11th** was Juliet Forster, Assistant Director of York Theatre Royal. She has responsibility for Community Engagement and in particular Youth Theatre. Her passionate belief in the benefits children and young people gain through having the opportunity to participate in theatre and develop a life long love of theatre, shone through. York Theatre Royal's engagement with Youth involves running groups for over 300 children and young people at the theatre (they have a waiting list of similar size!) and outreach work with schools and Pupil Referral Units. The groups include an Early Years group for pre-school children; Home School groups for children who are educated at home and are often socially isolated; school holiday clubs; LAMDA; and 14 weekly Youth Theatre groups. The groups put on a performance each year and are often used in the Theatre Royal's Community Productions eg Mystery Plays. Juliet thanked RCoY for the recent donation to the 'Pay It Forward' scheme which helped to give 200 disadvantaged children and young people the opportunity to attend a performance of The Elves and The Shoemaker, which Juliet directed. Looking to the future Juliet would like to expand the youth theatre capacity by providing additional groups, and try to reach a wider range of children especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds and those with disabilities. The biggest challenges to this expansion are finding suitable space local to the Theatre Royal and funding the costs.



Making a Difference for children On **January 4th** we welcomed Ruth Thompson the founder of York Inspirational kids a support group for families of children and young people who have a disability or special needs who live in the York area. Inspired by her own children Ruth explained how by drawing on her own experiences and understanding of what families go through with special needs -York Inspirational Kids was launched in 2011 supporting 21 families. Today through Ruth,s inspiration, leadership and the dedication of her volunteers the group now support over a 1000 families in York who have children with special needs. The group is a non-for-profit organisation were everyone involved is a volunteer .It runs many social events for young disabled people and their families. Even on the day of the talk Ruth was rushing off to take 120 children to the pantomime. Some people make a difference in our community. Ruth Thompson is one of those people.



New Year Honour for Past President David The Club offers sincere congratulations to our member and Past President, Rev David Porter on his admission as a Commander of the Order of St John (CSJ) by order of the Queen. David was previously an Officer of St John (OSJ). The Order of St John is a British royal order of chivalry first constituted in 1888 by royal charter from Queen Victoria. The Order traces its origins back to the Knights Hospitaller in the Middle Ages, which was later known as the Order of Malta. A faction of them emerged in France in the 1820s and moved to Britain in the early 1830s. The Order of St John is perhaps best known for the health organisations it founded and continues to run, including St John Ambulance and St John Eye Hospital Group. Its headquarters are in London



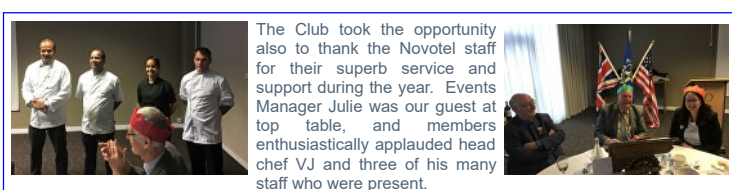
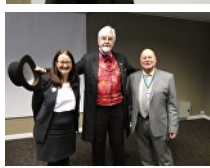
Letter of congratulations sent to David by President Ian

Christmas stockings (Socks) for Carecent York

Inner Wheel President Linda Lacy reports... Members of our Club and Inner Wheel have been donating large quantities of socks, gloves, hats, scarfs, and jackets to Carecent, at The Central Methodist Church, York. This follows Nicky Gladstone from Carecent speaking to the Club in November (see report for November 16th) explaining that Carecent is a breakfast centre for all homeless unemployed or otherwise excluded members of our community. Following Nicky's appeal, Rotary and Inner Wheel certainly delivered, donating 211 pairs of socks (many brand new) and they were much appreciated. The socks were delivered early Christmas Eve morning **December 24th** and received by Nicky who said "Your clubs have been amazingly generous and we are overwhelmed by your kindness, they could not have been delivered at a more appropriate time."



A Dickensian celebration Our Christmas lunch this year - 3 courses (thank you Novotel!) - was held on **December 21st**. Many members and several guests and partners attended and were enthralled by the presentation given by local actor Brian Oxberry of his adaptation of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" in which he brilliantly projected the voices of all the well-known characters. The book (originally published as a "serial" in weekly editions) celebrated the 175th anniversary of its publication in December. Brian's performance was much enjoyed by all.



The Club took the opportunity also to thank the Novotel staff for their superb service and support during the year. Events Manager Julie was our guest at top table, and members enthusiastically applauded head chef VJ and three of his many staff who were present.



Quick quick sloe Our traditional Christmas walk was well supported by 14 members and partners on **December 20th**, when a relatively short / quick route round the delightful Duncombe Park estate and woodlands was led by Brian Houghton - with David and Celia providing the much-appreciated sloe gin and mince pies half-way round. Some of the party then took an "extra" diversion to walk by the river Rye and enjoyed great views of Helmsley Castle. Everyone was reunited and headed into Helmsley where we were joined at the Feathers by John and Linda Lacy for a festive lunch including crackers and awful jokes (some of them from the crackers). The rain held off - as it nearly always does for Rotary walks (!) - but came after lunch, giving us a wet drive back to York!





Presentation to Squadron 110 (City of York) Air Training Corps. The Club recently made a donation to the Air Training Corps, to purchase equipment to assist with training in First Aid, namely two choke vests and a practice defibrillator. Past President Eileen dropped in to its headquarters on Burtonstone Lane during a twice-weekly parade and handed over the cheque. Officer Commanding Flt. Lt. Jo Tucker received the cheque in front of the assembled members (more than 90 Cadets belong to the Squadron) and she expressed sincere gratitude for the donation. Eileen will revisit the Squadron in the coming weeks and spend more time observing the many activities carried out by the young people who attend.



Christmas Carol Service The annual Carol Service for the three Rotary Clubs (and Inner Wheel Clubs) took place on **December 13th** at All Saints' Pavement. With a slightly lower attendance than in previous years, the service of nine lessons and carols was nevertheless an enjoyable festive occasion, and readers of the lessons included President Ian and York Inner Wheel President Linda Lacy, as well as ADG Darrell Hind. The mince pies and mulled wine served afterwards was well up to the usual standard, and our thanks to David Fatkin and his team from York Vikings Rotary who organised the event, as of course to Rtn Rev David Porter who led the service.



"I Got my Daughter Back" On **December 7th** our speakers were two girls who had this summer attended **RYLA** (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) courses - Isobel Wragg and Francesca Eaglesfield, Isobel being sponsored by our Club and Francesca by York Vikings Club. Their presentation, put over with great humour and a confidence that was a tribute to their learning at RYLA, showed the activities they had taken part in during their week, including Assault Courses, Raft building and racing, Orienteering and leadership skills training. But most impressive of all were their descriptions of how their own self-confidence, and self-belief, were enhanced by the programme. In describing her own experiences, Francesca said the impact on her self-confidence was dramatic - so much so that on returning home, her mother was amazed at the change, and confided to Francesca that, after some challenging times earlier, she now "has got my daughter back". Such is the power of RYLA in helping young people, a programme Rotary can be justly proud of.

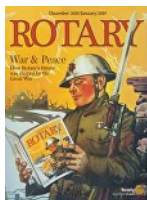
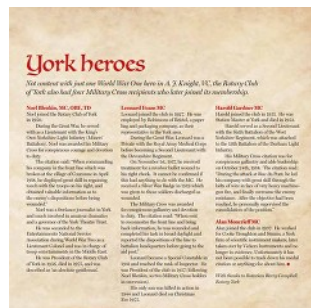
(Click photos to enlarge)



Turkey Trot Steve reports... Monday **December 2nd** was the Golf Section's Turkey Trot meaning we got a turkey dinner afterwards! Everyone's mobile indicated a sunny morning from 9am onwards - tee off of 1015 when it rained heavy drizzle 'til 11am! The golf was of no great report with some doing better than others. Lunch eventually served, after service of complimentary canapes from the kitchen and enjoyed by all and after even more time the complex draw of partners took place; with the pairing of Keith Hayton [who'd gone home by then] & Tom Jackson proving victorious and receiving their just reward from President Ian. Two couples came joint second resulting in an even more complex deciding draw, how or even who came second or third remains a mystery to most [and possibly even to them as well] Notwithstanding a good mornings golf followed by good meal and entertainment appreciated by all - with especial thanks to our leader - David S.

More golf reports, and photos, can be seen on [here](#)

2018 Xmas Turkey Trot presentation to joint winner Tom Jackson



York's War Heroes In further commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice, the Club's internal magazine "Rotagraph" recently carried some details researched by Barry Campbell about several members of the Club who were decorated during World War One, including one, Alfred Knight, who was awarded the Victoria Cross and later joined our Club in 1932. Barry's article has now been picked up and published in the UK Rotary Magazine, just issued. The December/January edition of the magazine focusses on how Rotary's future was shaped by the events of the Great War. You can access the magazine on-line [here](#)



President's Lunch The annual lunch where we celebrate the support of members' partners, including Inner Wheel members, and thank them for their support of the Club and its ideals, took place on **November 30th** at the Dante Suite, York Racecourse. After a fine meal which was enjoyed by all, President Ian lead a toast to our guests, and introduced the speaker, Geoff Druett. Geoff is known to many from his regular appearances in ITV's "Calendar" programme until his retirement in 2003, and his long career in television broadcasting both as a presenter and subsequently a documentary producer. He regaled us with many anecdotes, both serious and funny, of his interaction with famous political figures of the past, and was an excellent presenter - as one would expect! A very successful Club event, and many thanks to the Fellowship Committee for their thorough planning and organisation

(If you interested in seeing again Geoff's final 2003 appearance on *Calendar*, click [here](#))




Mock Interviews at the Mount School. *Eileen reports..* Eleven members of the Club gave up a morning on **November 26th** to interview the students who were going through the process of applying for university, college or apprenticeships. It was an interesting and uplifting experience, meeting young women of calibre with positive, outward-looking attitudes. We were able to get some useful feedback on the recent interview workshop which Sheila and Eileen had delivered. Thank you to everyone who took part, not least those who stepped in to cover unexpected absence and to Dave Marchant who did two sessions. The School and the students are ever grateful for our input.




Rotary wood help Moving forward with the *York Rotary Family Tree Partnership programme*, the first planting took place on **November 28th and 29th**. The first site is on the Haxby Road, **just** North of the York St John University Sports Park Grounds (East side of the road). The site includes the path that runs from Haxby Road eastwards to Huntington Road. In total, 840 saplings were planted, a mixture of native broadland species including oak, birch, hawthorn and hazel. The planting was overseen by Derek Utley, from the Woodland Trust (who supplied the saplings) and was carried out by a team of our Club Rotarians and a large team of volunteers from Portakabin and from Benenden Healthcare, organised through *York Cares*. A second planting is planned for early 2019. More details, location directions, and photos can be seen [here](#)









Dawn Watts Members have been saddened to hear that Dawn Watts, 53, a former York Hospital A&E nurse, has lost her five year battle with cancer. In 2015 Dawn was presented with a Paul Harris Fellowship by our Club, in recognition of her charity fundraising; she raised more than £37,500 for charities including York Against Cancer and St Leonard's Hospice since throwing herself into charity work after being diagnosed with breast cancer in 2013. Her husband, Stuart, said another £1,000 had been raised in the past few weeks, which he expected to increase in the weeks ahead. Dawn, who was a finalist in the charity fundraiser of the year category of the 2016 York Community Pride Awards, was involved in events including several rock gigs called Dawnfest, a sponsored head shave, a skydive and a 100mph zip wire challenge. Despite her illness, Dawn had continued to enjoy life to the full, always believing that laughter was the best medicine.



Rotary in the Community As reported earlier, the Community Services team held a presentation event on November 16th where cheques were personally handed out to several local charities. On **November 23rd** at our Business Meeting, Keith gave a short presentation to the Club illustrating the event and allowing members to see exactly how some of the money raised, by members, was being used for the benefit of our local community.





Golf Awards Also at the business meeting, Golf Organiser David Sweeney and President Ian presented the awards from this summer's challenge Trophies - the Shouksmith Trophy going to Keith Hayton, with runner-up David Impey. The winner of the Thompson Plate (the competition for 1st round losers in the Shouksmith) was won by Dennis Adamson. Well done all! and thanks, as always to David S for organising this event.



25000 poppies to remember the fallen - post-script As reported earlier, many of our members, partners and Inner Wheelers contributed knitted, crocheted, cut out felt poppies and provided buttons over the last year supporting Linda's Inner Wheel Community Project, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War. About 25,000 poppies have been produced, of which our group contributed over 7,000. These were displayed outside All Saint's Church. Members may have wondered what happened next. They have just been moved to the National Railway Museum and they're actually being draped over a locomotive which took men to the south coast during World War One.

A fuller report can be read in the Minster Fm report [here](#)






Young Musician in York *Christine reports..* We held the first Rotary Young Musician Competition for 3 years at the National Centre for Early Music on **November 17th**. Performers came from Bootham, Fulford, York College, All Saints RC, The Mount School, Huntington, Ampleforth College, Manor School, St Peter's and Hallgate Primary School out at Cottingley near Hull. Gillian Baldwin a "Friend of Rotary" and Christine Watkinson with very helpful staff from the NCEM greeted our performers as they arrived from 10.30am. In all 13 students performing 16 pieces of music, a very difficult contest to judge for our adjudicators Josephine Peach and Heather Hammond. The performances were so good they decided to have joint winners, Emily Watson playing the flute and William Clark playing the violin. All contestants were handed a certificate & congratulated by Ian Helby. Our two winners won £50 each and they go forward to the Rotary District Competition on the 3rd March 2019 again at the NCEM.

A fuller report and more photos can be read [here](#)

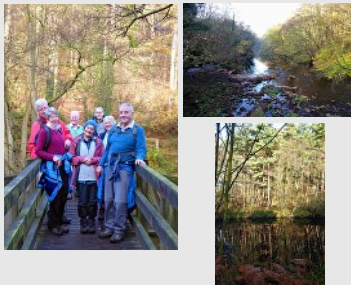



Carecent Our speaker on **November 16th** was Nicky Gladstone, who explained the background and operation of Carecent, a local charity which, from its centre at the Central Methodist Church in St Saviourgate, provides meals and support for the homeless, disadvantaged or socially excluded in York. In addition to serving breakfasts 6 mornings a week, Carecent also provide tea and coffees, a clothing store, and a "wet room" that allows their customers (the term they prefer for the users of their services) to take a shower. They have around 50 customers a day. Nicky mentioned that donations of food, mostly tinned and non-perishable, comes from a variety of sources but principally from two supermarkets in the City - Marks and Spencer and the Co-op. Whilst Nicky is the only paid member of staff, Carecent also have 70 volunteers helping them throughout the week. They rely 100% on donations, either cash or clothing (Jeans, trainers and socks are especially welcomed, apparently).

Supporting Local Charities - Rotary in the Community Organised by Keith Hayton and the Community Services team, on **November 16th** cheques totalling in excess of £8,500 were presented to thirteen different, York based, charities. The work of these charities encompasses a wide range of needs from the very young to the very old. Without the support of such organisations, many children and young people in York would be unable to participate in artistic and adventurous activities. Yorchestra, for example, runs five orchestras during school holidays. Some 150/200 children and young people take part, ranging in age from 6 to 21. The grant from Rotary goes into a bursary fund to help those who otherwise would not be able to afford the fees. York Citizen's Theatre Trust will use its grant towards its 'Pay It Forward' scheme that provides 200 tickets for a Christmas show to enable children who otherwise couldn't attend to experience the magic of live theatre. Other recipients include York Sea Cadets, Door 84, and York Young Carers Centre. 'Young Carers' can be children as young as six years old who taking on a caring role in their family. Many of them miss out on normal childhood experiences. This year Rotary's money will be used to give them a Christmas party and a trip to the ice-skating rink. This gathering was a celebration of how our Club's fundraising is truly "making a difference"

Nidd Gorge walk *Nigel reports...* After spending 8.5 hours on trains and only 5 minutes in Berwick-upon-Tweed due to a train brake failure, the writer was pleased to get out into the open at Knaresborough, the next day. On **November 15th** eight walkers set off in the fog along the Beryl Burton Way, named after the seven times world cycling champion and the sun soon burnt through, resulting in a glorious day. Arriving at Old Bilton and The Gardener's Arms the trail then crossed farmland and descended into the Nidd Gorge. For the next hour we trekked alongside the winding river enjoying the superb autumn tints from the overhanging woodland. On the way home we stopped off at The Tiger Inn, Coneythorpe for refreshment.
(The beautiful setting is illustrated in Dave T's excellent photos.... Ed)



Shelterbox on Show On **November 8th** Nigel Naish and Brian Joscelyne visited Stillington Primary School, at the invitation of head teacher Charlotte, to do a "Show and Tell" for the children about the work of Shelterbox, Rotary's partner in the provision of immediate charity relief at disaster areas across the globe. The children were fascinated by the collection of equipment in a shelterbox - particularly the water filtration and cooking provisions - asked lots of good questions, and were most excited to go inside the Shelterbox tent that was erected in their playground. A sign of the times - one of the dozens of questions asked by the children was "Does Shelterbox provide them with replacements for their i-phones?!" The school will run a fundraising event in their village to assist Shelterbox in the provision of further boxes. This was the first of what we hope will be many such demonstrations to spread the word of what Shelterbox (and Rotary) do around the world. Many thanks to Suzanne Thompson for helping and for facilitating the visit.



The Yorkshire Regiments' VC's On **November 9th** we welcomed Aline Staes, who is Collections Manager at the York Army Museum, as our speaker. With the 100th anniversary of the WW1 Armistice in everyone's thoughts, it was appropriate that her talk was about the Victoria Cross medal and the men from the Yorkshire Regiments who were awarded the VC during World War One. Aline explained very well the background to the origin of the Victoria Cross. Introduced by Queen Victoria in 1856, it was the first medal for to awarded to any rank for gallantry, and was sparked by events in the Crimean War. The metal is cut from cannons captured from the Russians at Sebastopol during this War and they are made exclusively by Hancocks of London. There is enough metal remaining today to make an additional 85 medals. The VC was, and still is, awarded for outstanding valour in the face of the enemy, self-sacrifice and changing the course of the action; all three requirements need to be met, and recommendations by officers are passed up the hierarchy until final approval by the monarch. The Yorkshire Army Museum houses a collection of five VC's won by men from the East and West Yorkshire Regiments, donated by their families; four of which were awarded during World War 1. Aline told the stories of four awardees, all aged 21 or younger, and the descriptions of their actions and the amazing bravery of such young men were outstanding.



Visitors from Wakefield Joining us for this meeting we welcomed a party of six Rotarians and partners from the Rotary Club of Wakefield, led by their President Sheila Wainwright. Sheila visited our Club last June when she spoke to us about Admiral Nurses programme, and is remembered for her "talking cat"!



25,000 Poppies to Remember the Fallen A Big thank you from Linda Lacy (President of York Inner Wheel) to all Rotarians, family and friends, who have knitted, crocheted, cut out felt poppies and provided buttons over the last year supporting Linda's Inner Wheel Community Project, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Armistice which ended the First World War. About 25,000 poppies have been produced, of which our group contributed over 7,000. Many Inner Wheel members, Rotarians and friends spent a day attaching some of the 25,000 poppies to lightweight but strong garden netting. This will cascade down the outside walls of All Saints Church, Pavement, York, from **November 3rd to 19th**. Rotary has a strong link with this church as we hold the annual Inner Wheel and Rotary carol service there. After coming down from the church the poppies will be draped over a steam loco at the National Railway Museum, later in November.



Ancient and Modern Streets On **November 5th** a group of around 50 members and partners enjoyed a private viewing of an exhibition of paintings, prints, drawings and photographs, all depicting various streets of York, dating from the mid 18th century through to today - with current photographs taken by Chris Shepherd (well known to members for her photography at our Dragon Boat events). Chris introduced the exhibition, held at St Williams College, and she gave us a conducted tour. Seeing old and new images side by side gave a fascinating insight into the development of the Cityscapes - not always improving over the years, many felt! Many thanks to David Minns and the Fellowship team for arranging this fascinating visit.



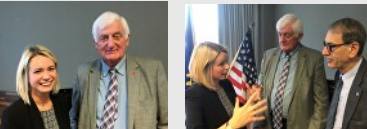
York Central Update Our speaker at our **November 2nd** meeting was Tasmin Hart-Jones, from Homes England, one of the partners developing plans for "York Central". She gave an update on progress where planning permission is currently being sought for the project which will include 2500 homes, 1000sq m of commercial space and parkland ("the biggest park in York for 100 years"), new station approach and infrastructure, all on this prime 45 Hectare site. With luck (?) the work on the infrastructure should start next April and by 2021 this should be complete and within the next 15 years the project will take shape. It's an ambitious plan, well thought through, and seemed popular with members. It is hoped that politicians and funders will feel the same!

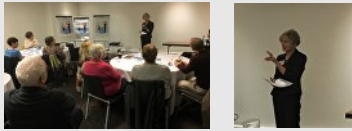
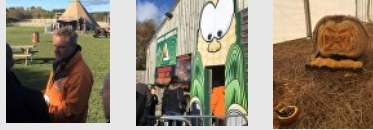


Joining us at our meeting on **November 2nd**, we welcome Sasa Simendic, from the Rotary Club of Nijmegen, Holland. He is keen to further links between his Club, which has 60 members, and our own. More international visits, perhaps?



A maze-ing but with Corny Jokes Frank had arranged a visit to York Maze for members and partners on **November 2nd**, and owner/entrepreneur Tom Piercy, who had spoken to the Club last year about his project, was our host. With the current Halloween theme (Hallowscream!) the site was buzzing as families enjoyed the rides, haunted houses and numerous activities available - all themed on Maize or Corn. These included the House of Cornfusion, which some of us tried out. With pumpkin carving and costumed "hosts" the ingenuity and drive emanating from Tom was evident. He sets very high standards for his attractions, food and staff, and his success (100,000 visitors a year) is not surprising - but is well deserved.





Friends of Rotary Networking Event On **November 1st** the first "networking" event for FoYR members ("*Current Challenges for Charities*") was held, at the Novotel. Close to 20 members attended, and our guest speaker, Jane Hustwit (Chair of York CVS) got things off to a lively start with her observations about what the sector needs to consider in order to thrive in the current difficult climate. There followed a lively discussion, in small groups, about a number of topics such as volunteer recruitment, fundraising, grant application, social media and marketing. Those present included representatives from charities both large, with multi £M budgets, to very small where running costs are a very large part of their budgets and are difficult to support. It was an interesting exchange of ideas. It was a great social occasion for FoYR members to meet up, but also stimulated lots of ideas and thoughts. Further such events will now be planned. More on the FoYR page [here](#)



Rotary presents Interviewing Workshop Rotary York's Ambassador to The Mount School, Eileen Davis, was asked by the new Head of Senior College if she could source an interview techniques presentation for Upper and Lower Sixth forms. Eileen and Sheila Weatherburn put together an interactive workshop lasting 1.5 hours on just that. They covered not only actual interview techniques but, most importantly, the work needed in securing the interview in the first place! With different backgrounds, they used their own experiences from Education and Business. With 45 students, about 35% of them being from overseas, many were in the process of completing their UCAS forms and applying for Apprenticeships; others were looking to Work Shadowing, Holiday or Part-Time jobs and Volunteering. Eileen and Sheila hit the mark with the title "Making an Impact to 'Stand out from the Crowd'" and helped the students gain an understanding of the overall World of Work



October Walk *Mike S reports..* On **October 18th** 13 walkers met at Fountains Abbey/Studley Royal Visitors' Centre. As we entered the park we were greeted with the spectacular views which make this area so well loved and well visited. The views were enhanced by the colours of the trees; beautiful autumn shades of gold, red, yellow, purple, black, orange, magenta, and brown. Passing St Mary's Church, a Victorian Gothic Revival church, built in the Early English style by William Burges, the group dropped into the Seven Bridges Valley (now only five bridges). Following the valley path, the remnants of a Hydro-electric generator installed by the Marquis of Ripon in 1891, could be seen on the left. At the third bridge, we were treated to a sighting of lots of young deer, charging across the valley and up the steep side and also of a lone stag, having fun in a mud bath. Someone mentioned that a friend had been to the Deer Park, on a deer spotting tour and hadn't seen any – we couldn't move for them..... very lucky. A very good walk was followed by scrumptious lunch for 16 in the Black-A-Moor Inn, near Ripon Racecourse.



Dragon Boat Challenge Awards Ceremony The 2018 awards ceremony was held, on **October 9th**, in its traditional venue, the Mansion House. The newly refurbished Mansion House suited the event very well. The event was well attended by team representatives, the nominated charities, corporate sponsors, together with the full civic party and Rotary representatives. The Lord Mayor remembered that he attended the first Dragon Boat Challenge when he was in the office of Sheriff. As well as presenting the awards, we announced that so far £68,715 has been raised this year, and we're expecting more funds still to come in, hopefully taking the total up to £80,000, potentially a record year. This year seven teams exceeded £3,000, with the highest team (Industrial Textiles and Plastics Ltd) at £5,761. Overall the total raised now reaches £1.1m. Based on the proceeds to date, initial cheques for £10,000 each were presented to *Citizens Advice York* and *York Mind*. Both charities talked about their work and how the funds will be used, they also expressed their gratitude and thanks for the support that they have received from the event.

A cheque for £250 was presented to the Lord Mayor in support of the Lord Mayor's fund as a token of thanks to the civic party and for the input of the City of York Council. It was interesting to hear from her that two of the Mayor's charities being supported this year include *The Island* and *York Blind and Partially Sighted Society*, both charities previously supported by the Dragon Boat Challenge. Finally we announced that the 2019 event will be held on the 14th July and that the Rotary nominated charity will be *St Leonard's Hospice*.



Ensuring a continuous flow We enjoyed a very informative presentation by Granville Davies, Manager Asset Strategy for Yorkshire Water Services Ltd at our **October 26th** meeting. Every day the company provides 5 million customers in Yorkshire and Humberside with 1.3 billion litres of high quality water, recovers and treats 1 billion litres of waste water, processed through 62,000 miles of pipeworks and 671 water treatment works. Granville outlined the planning processes and pricing regimes required to meet the stringent requirements of the Water Industry Regulator OFWAT. Currently 23% of the available water supply is lost through leaks and key elements in the five year plan are initiatives to achieve a 40% reduction in the 320 million litres lost every day. Another desirable option is to increase meters to individual properties from the existing 55% - a win win solution to Yorkshire Water and the customer. An extremely interesting overview of the scale of activities and the forward planning processes needed in this essential industry to guarantee the continual supply of water for us all.



Success of District Shop At the same meeting President Ian congratulated David and Celia Impey, and John and Linda Lacy, for their time and efforts in running the Rotary Shop on behalf of our District (also Don and Sheelagh Salter who helped at the most recent event) This year the shop has raised £1000 for our Club's Charity Fund - a record amount and a great achievement. In addition, a further amount of £200 has been donated to Inner Wheel for Choose2Youth, the charity supported by its president, Linda. David Impey is pictured presenting the £200 cheque to Linda. Well done to all!



Happy Chappies and Leis! *Diana reports...* More than a few Rotarian gentlemen arrived at the Caribbean Night fundraiser on **October 23rd** wearing their best flowery shirts and one, who shall be nameless Russ, even had a swanky Rastafarian Hat and sunglasses (but without the dreadlocks). It took most of us a long time to recognize him! The ladies were a little less floral, although several misguidedly wore leis (from Hawaii, not The Caribbean!) around their necks. The mood was definitely set when the calypso jazz band, The Happy Chappies, played whilst people had their pre-dinner drinks. Veejay excelled himself with the likes of Jerk Chicken, Curried Goat, Ackee and Fish and Fried Plantain – and so much more – all absolutely delicious. When the band returned to play after the meal a number of intrepid souls even got up to dance – it must have been a good night! The Caribbean themed food raffle raised a record breaking £373 which, added to the 80 ticket sales and Barclays' generous donation (and after expenses) raised a very healthy net figure of £2,461 for our Charity Fund. Our heartfelt thanks go to manager Kai and the Novotel for their generosity in giving us this evening and to Hannah and the team for looking after us so well.



Welcome to Tony At the Club's meeting on **October 19th**, we welcomed another new member to the Club. Tony Gillman's working life has been in the property industry, initially in estate agency until 1991. From that time he ran a property development company buying land to sell off for self-builders and those who wished to have their home designed and built for them. In the last 4 years or so Tony established a York-based estate agency called Austin Brooks with around 12 consultants. He sold and transferred this last year to another local agency to focus on other things in his life. Tony has already engaged in many Club activities and is clearly going to be a very active member. President Ian welcomed Tony to Rotary, as do we all.



District Conference *Eileen reports...* The Club was represented by 10 members and partners at this year's conference in Scarborough on **October 12-14th**, which had a different style to previous years. Most of us just went for the Saturday and stayed overnight. David & Celia Impey and Don & Sheelagh Salter ran a very successful District Shop in the main Showcase area. There were some excellent presentations, including inspirational and amusing features from ski jumper Eddie (The Eagle) Edwards and former UN Intern Lydia Slack. Rotary GBI President Debbie Hodge spoke of the triangle of people & projects which bring publicity and added Polio and Peace to make the 5 Ps which Rotary will keep promoting. Our contingent treated itself to a superb meal at La Lanterna. The end of an informative and enjoyable day amongst friends.



Some Challenging Baggage With a very early (7am) Sunday morning start on **October 14th**, our team, made up of Rotarians and a good turnout of "Friends of York Rotary," as well, arrived at the University of York campus and prepared the Baggage Store at the Yorkshire Marathon to receive the runners' bags for safe keeping - all to be tagged in numerical order! The weather was atrocious, raining all day, so being under cover of the marquee was a blessing. Despite a few challenges (not enough space, and a somewhat chaotic numbering system provided by the organisers) the team managed the job - just! and it was pleasure once again to be involved with the community in this way. The organisers also contributed £440 to our Club's Charity Fund, so it was a worthwhile effort!

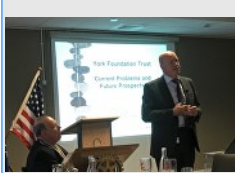
(Click photos to enlarge)

Rt Hon Julian Sturdy MP On **October 12th** the club welcomed Julian Sturdy MP, Conservative Member for York Outer, as our guest speaker. His visit followed the recent visit from Rachael Maskell, the Labour Member for York Central. Julian started by telling us how he came into politics. His intended career pattern was to go into the family business of farming and he had attended College to that purpose. Soon after he had started farming he was approached to be the conservative candidate in the local Harrogate elections. This was the start of the route that then led to him becoming the parliamentary candidate for the new constituency of York Outer in 2010 and winning the first of three elections. He steered his talk carefully around the confrontational politics that makes our news headlines nearly every day and told us something of the day to day work of a back bench MP. It was interesting to hear how colleagues from across the political spectrum discussed matters both positively and co-operatively in the select committees in which he participated. After his talk, Julian answered several questions, skilfully avoiding being too drawn on the burning Brexit issue of the moment, describing his weekly workload and his constituency duties.



Rotary Grant Scholar in York We welcome Grant Scholar Taelor Lewis whom our Club will be hosting until September 2019. She will be studying a Post-graduate course at the University of York in International Human Rights Law with a focus on Women, Citizenship and Conflict. Taelor's Scholarship is sponsored by Rotary Club of Pleasanton North in California. She has spent the last two years teaching 7th Grade children in a low-income neighbourhood in her home city of Oakland. Taelor is interested in visiting our own Club, and other local clubs, and in taking part in some of our activities. We welcome her to York and wish her well with her studies!





(Click photos to enlarge)

A Positive outlook for the NHS We were delighted to welcome Mike Proctor, Chief Executive of York Teaching Hospital NHS Trust as our speaker on **October 5th**. Mike started in the NHS as a Critical Care Nurse in Sheffield before moving to York in 1993. With his deep knowledge of the workings of the care system, he rose quickly to become Chief Executive, and his down-to-earth, and often humorous, descriptions of the current state of the NHS were clearly based on a pragmatic and deeply caring view of what needs to be done. Despite huge challenges at the moment, it was refreshing, to many who listened, how positive Mike was about the overall future of the service, and he put over clear views of his priorities. With 9% of the Yorkshire area being over 75 years of age, and 800,000 people to cover in a local area of 3500 square miles, the NHS budget (currently £120Bn nationwide) will be further stretched and although huge cost savings have been made since 2010, to effectively counter the "new pressures" that Mike described, the "pips are squeaking" and there needs to be structural change and new attitudes, as well as additional funding, if medical and social care is to meet the challenges. Mike described his own role's challenges and targets, and he felt that a joint, local, approach to medical, mental health and social care budgets and management are essential. It is on this point that Mike was optimistic that – eventually – this change will come, and the NHS – which he described as the most efficient and cost-effective service in the world in delivering consistent care to all its population – will be able to meet the challenges of the future. Mike himself is approaching his retirement, and told us that the average "tenure expectancy" of an NHS CEO was 18 months! But as Speakers Host Mike Wilson said in his vote of thanks, many of us would hope he (Mike Proctor) would stay on longer and help lead the changes he proposes.

A visitor from Iowa – and the Paul Harris connection Listening to Mike Proctor's fascinating talk about the NHS on **October 5th** we were joined by a visitor from Iowa, USA. Mary Ellen Lewis is a member of [Iowa City Noon Rotary Club](#), who have 300 members (and there are two other clubs in the city as well!). She explained to us that Iowa City is the home of the University of Iowa where Paul Harris studied law; and her Rotary Club was formed in 1915, recently celebrating its centenary in 2015. Another fact - Iowa City is also a UNESCO City of Literature.



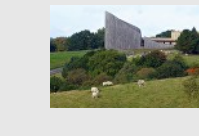
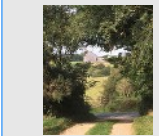
(right) Archive photo of Paul Harris just after he graduated from Iowa University in 1891



The changing role of Yorkshire Cancer Research On **September 28th** we welcomed Andy Wilson, Research Engagement Manager for [Yorkshire Cancer Research \(YCR\)](#), as our speaker. His clear and professional presentation very obviously held members attention as he explained some of the shocking statistics about cancer in the Yorkshire region, and how YCR is striving to improve the situation. Founded in 1925, YCR was originally called the Yorkshire Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign (a bit of a mouthful, as he admitted!) before taking its current persona in 1998. Initially set up as a body to fund local research, it had many successes particularly through Leeds University, in the development of cancer treatment drugs, most notably Tamoxifen, developed in the 1960's and still one of the most commonly used breast cancer drugs across the world. Whilst justly proud of such developments, in 2014 YCR changed its approach and role in fighting cancer. They realised that Yorkshire people were not benefitting as much as they should from cancer research treatment, and statistics were alarming. 575 people per week are diagnosed with cancer across Yorkshire – one of the highest rates in the country. YCR challenged itself to reduce this rate (aiming to have 2000 fewer people dying from cancer by 2015) not by focussing on drug development but more by promoting awareness and striving to improve cancer mortality rates. Their focus now is on increasing prevention awareness (40% of cancers are actually preventable; e.g. smoking); by increasing the uptake of national screening programmes to catch cancers earlier; accessing clinical trials for patients in Yorkshire; and research partnerships.



Ambling round Ampleforth Nigel reports... On **September 20th** 11 walkers gathered in Wass on a sunny autumn morning, and once kitted up, they were "shuttled" up Wass Bank in two cars, in order to avoid a steep slog up the road. The walk began at the top, opposite Stanbrook Abbey, a Benedictine Convent opened in 2009. The group followed a route for 6 miles along steeply undulating hills, passing Studfold Ring, a bronze age settlement, down into Ampleforth, then along the valley towards Byland Abbey, and back to Wass. Lunch was enjoyed in the delightful Stapylton Arms.



"Friends" Barbeque The recently-formed "Friends of York Rotary" group (FoYR) had a social barbeque event on **September 16th** very generously provided by Don and Sheelagh Salter. 20 attended including Elly Fiorentini, who is Patron of the FoYR. More info and photos can be seen on the "Friends" web page [here](#). Further networking events are planned for later this year, and several *Friends* have volunteered to help out at the Marathon baggage handling event in support of the Club in a few weeks' time.



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Glorious Northumberland! Around 40 members and partners travelled up to glorious Northumberland on September 11th for the Autumn Fellowship Break, organised by David Sweeney. Doxford Hall was a lovely building with comfortable accommodation and excellent food which was enjoyed by all; though the hotel service was sometimes a little "under-trained"! But nothing spoilt the great fellowship enjoyed at various points during the 3 days – including a windy 9-hole round of links golf at Seahouses course, and a lovely walk along the coast from Craster, past the dramatic ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle and the serene beach of Embleton Bay, to Newton-by-the-sea, a walk rated in the top 10 in the country apparently. Then two excellent dinners, with fiendishly tricky quizzes thanks to Steve Burton and John Lacy where we failed to recognise most of our fellow diners (admittedly photographed many years ago!) and the three station stops beginning with "D" on the line to Edinburgh – though Tom thought he had his own unique solution to this one... Coupled with independent visits to local sights such as Alnwick Gardens, the amazing Barter Books shop in the old Alnwick railway station building, Bamburgh Castle and Lindisfarne, it was an action-packed but most enjoyable break which everyone enjoyed. Many thanks to David for all his work in getting this organised. President Ian acknowledged the three years David has been organising these fellowship breaks with a card (signed by all) and a bottle of malt whisky backed by much applause from all.

There are more photos of the break on a special web page [here](#)



Rotarian in Borstal! On **September 7th** new member Jan Dash spoke to the Club. Jan is not really a new member, having been with us for over a year and having previously been a member of two other clubs, as well as a past president and a district assistant governor! Jan starting working as a 17 year old in the royal Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps and finished when she retired as a priest in the village of Darent, in Kent, with many years as a civilian nurse in between. She was called to the church first as a lay reader and then to be ordained as a priest in 1993. There followed a number of interesting postings, not least of them to Borstal, the village near Rochester in Kent, which is the site of the original youth custody centre. Here she was the chaplain to HMP Cookham Wood. Jan joined Rotary in Darent Valley as its first female member and completed a very varied career by becoming its first female president and eventually the local district's assistant governor. She will undoubtedly be a great asset to our own Club.

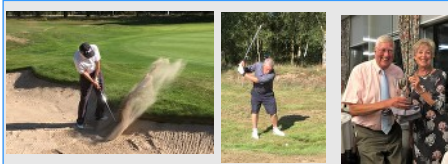


Horticultural experience Vic Brookes reports...Ten green fingered enthusiasts joined organiser Frank at Johnson's of Whixley at their wholesale horticultural nursery September 7th. We were ably guided by production manager Ian. As the largest nursery in the UK employing between 70-100 people in the offices and production areas, the company needs to keep that edge to maintain their position as the leading British plant producer. The answer is, apparently, robotics. A new area will be developed adjacent to the current production sites to fulfil this novel approach. The most profitable line? Holly bushes. Plants are grown for landscaping car parks, public spaces on building developments and motorway embankments. Brexit and biosecurity are two of the leading headaches for the company. A lot of the production staff are from the European mainland and are good workers on flexible work patterns. Johnsons export virtually no plants but will import stock to fulfil orders from customers. After too short a time we had to terminate the visit with still so much to see and ask questions on. Thanks to Frank for arranging such an excellent visit.

St Crux Fundraising After a year's absence whilst their hall was being refurbished, we are back at St Crux with our fundraising stalls and cafe! Club members, partners and friends made **September 4th** a very successful fundraising event despite some chilly weather (but no rain!) Sales of "higher-quality" bric-a-brac and books were good, and the ladies' accessories especially successful from the handsome stall set up under the Rotary gazebo. Inside, the cafe did good business - mostly indoors, where it was warm! -under the eye of Diana and the crew all splendidly clad in yellow shirts and Rotary aprons. After much hard work in preparation beforehand and on the day, it was a fun day, and raised **£1330** for the Club's Charity Fund. A brilliant result! Well done and thanks to Diana, Sheila and their teams and all who helped to make it happen.



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Bill Mann Trophy Golf This annual Golf event, which has been taking place between the three York Rotary Clubs for 23 years, was played at York Golf Club Strensall on September 2nd. 17 golfers, from all three York Clubs, took part in hot sunny weather. The course in excellent condition. The overall trophy winner was Stewart Gilbert (Ainsty) with Mike Sullivan runner-up and Keith Hayton in 3rd place. The Guest of Honour at the evening dinner was Sheila Royce, Bill Mann's daughter with husband Brian. The Fellowship evening meal followed with a total of 43 Guests and both the food and service were excellent a good time was had by all. Many thanks - once again - to organiser David Sweeney. Full results and lots more photos can be seen [here](#)



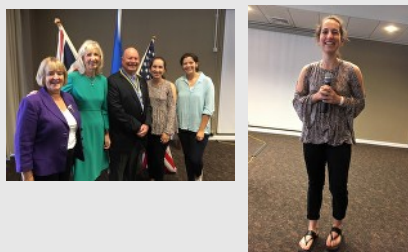
Visit from local MP At our Club meeting on **August 31st** we welcomed Rachel Maskell MP who spoke about her work as an MP and her views about the priorities for York, and for the UK, focussing on housing, transport, social welfare and healthcare provision. Taking questions from members, Rachel shared concerns about care home shortages, the possibility of a Yorkshire Mayor, and integrated transport needs. A few more pointed questions were also raised by some members with her privately after the talk, all of which she handled with grace and concern. Whilst not all our members may have agreed with her political views, there was definitely consensus that Rachel is a hard-working, dedicated MP for York Central (as well as being Shadow Transport Minister) and we appreciated her taking time to spend with us.



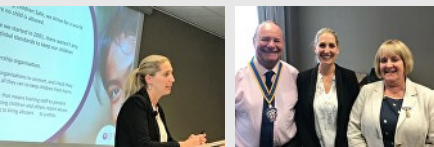
Bowls Evening Our annual Bowls Evening was held on **August 28th** at the RI Bowls Club, where the facilities and hospitality were as great as ever this year. Mike Miller had taken over the responsibility this year for arranging the teams of three, and ten teams were accounted for, the rules were – approximately enough – made clear to everyone, and the bowling commenced. There was serious competition in certain quarters, involving millimetre measurement of who had “shot” on occasion and strict adherence to the etiquettes and rules of the game! But most of us just had a good time in the sunshine and, win or lose, enjoyed the company of the members and partners who were there. Mike presented bottles of wine to the winning team of Tom Jackson, Molly Wragg and Peter Netherwood (a team clearly destined to win, having both jack and wood in their names!!). As always, the catering team at the RI Club provided a delicious steak pie, chip and peas supper, followed by apple pie. Our thanks to all at the RI Club, to Mike, and to David and Celia Impey for their organisation of this excellent event.



Farewell to Nicole Our Club meeting on **August 24th** was Grant Scholar Nicole Neiman's last visit to us as she leaves for her California home in a few days. She has been doing a post-graduate course in Public Health @ Univ. of York, one of the Grant Scholarships which are fully funded by The Rotary Foundation. Nicole has joined in many of RCoY's activities and managed to take up a part-time job and volunteer at St. Leonard's Hospice as well. She has travelled widely and with all of these activities has more benefited greatly from her Scholarship. She hopes to apply for Medical School in 2019 and to find employment in the interim. It has been a pleasure to host her and we all sent her off with very best wishes for a happy and fulfilling future.



Keeping Children Safe On **August 17th** Club members and guests were treated to an excellent talk by Lucy Lowthian about her charity Keeping Children Safe, which endeavours to raise funds to help keep children safe from all types of abuse, both in the UK and in many countries throughout the world. Lucy explained that every five minutes, a child dies from violence. Every day, in every country, children are abused, beaten, raped, and more. Too often, the abuser is someone the child knows and trusts. They may even work for an organisation that's meant to help children. Children are abused in all types of organisations: in relief and development programmes, by peacekeepers, in detention centres, in institutional care, in refugee's camps, schools and sporting organisations amongst others. Keeping Children Safe strive for a world where no child is abused. They hold organisations to account, and check they are doing all they can to keep children from harm. Put simply, that means training staff to prevent abuse. Helping children and others report abuse and helping to bring abusers to justice. It was a heart wrenching explanation of how one charity is doing what it can, with limited resources, to rectify a terrible global problem.



Club Walk Don reports.. The Club walk on **August 16th** was organised by Don Salter with 10 walkers made up of members and partners. We met at the village green in North Newbald for a 5 mile Wolds walk with extensive views across the Wolds and Vale of York., through a dry valley over the Wold and Swindale before returning to the village. We then had a short drive to The Star at Sancton for a hearty lunch .



A Man on a Mission Rotarian Phil Godfrey is a man on a mission in his endeavour to raise awareness of antiphospholipid syndrome (APS), otherwise known as Hughes syndrome. He is doing so by travelling the length and breadth of the country, speaking to Rotary clubs about the disorder of the immune system. At our **August 10th** meeting He certainly increased our knowledge of the subject in his very personal and moving account of the misdiagnosis and subsequent suffering of his wife, prior to her death in 2015. As he explained “if Christine had been correctly diagnosed in 1985, she would still be alive today and I wouldn't be standing here.” However, rather than blame the medical profession, whose understanding of sticky blood syndrome was very limited at the time, he is determined to raise funds, while educating as many people as possible in the danger posed by APS.



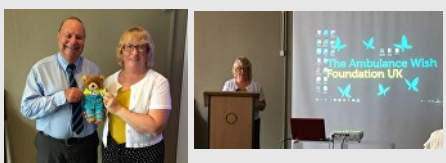
Handling Bags at Dawn It was an early start on **August 5th** as sixteen members, partners and "Friends" all reported for duty at 7.15am at the Knavesmire. For the third year running (no pun intended) we were providing the Baggage Store service for the York 10K, where over 800 runners who had bags with them deposited them for safe keeping, in one of the three trailers that we were managing, then collected them after the race. With immaculate organisation and discipline the team managed to get all the bags returned with no "waiting time" for the runners as they came exhausted looking for their belongings. It was especially good this year to have a number of partners helping, and also four "Friends of York Rotary" who all joined in the fun. Thank you all.



Club Barbeque Our annual Club Barbeque took place on **August 4th** at Sutton upon Derwent, brilliantly organised as ever by Peter Fox, Donald Heath and others on the Fellowship Team. With the two Davids (Thompson and Walkden) doing the hot stuff, perfect steaks sausages and huge chicken pieces were accompanied by wonderful salads, desserts, with Donald and his helpers, including our President, dispensing the drinks. In glorious sunshine we enjoyed great fellowship and fun, augmented by John Lacy's excellent quiz (who knew that Bergamon was an orange??) and David Sweeney's golf pitching contest – won after a close-fought final by Robin – it was a memorable afternoon. Many thanks to the Fellowship team and especially to Peter.



Ambulance Wish Foundation Our speaker on **August 3rd** was Beverley Harvey, an ambassador for the Ambulance Wish Foundation, a charity originating in 2006 in Holland and now in five other European countries, with a branch in York. With 230 volunteers and six ambulances in all, this organisation fulfilled the "final wishes" of 10,000 non-mobile terminally ill people over the years by transporting them, accompanied by qualified medical staff and volunteer drivers, to special places that will give them special memories. Beverley's description, and stories were heartwarming and this small charity deserves support. They organise local fundraising and events in York to help maintain their two ambulances in this region, which cost £38k to maintain each year.



The modern YHA *Chris Birch reports..* We're all familiar with the "basic accommodation" of old, provided by the Youth Hostel Association. But our speakers on **July 27th**, Lauren James and Jean Kelly, came to tell us about the YHA Breaks scheme whereby the Association provides free holidays in their hostels for disadvantaged youngsters and their families. Despite a recent major programme of hostel modernisation, the YHA has not forgotten its roots and objectives from when it was set up in the midst of the 1930s depression in that it is once again focusing on helping the disadvantaged young. Lauren and Jean explained how the Breaks scheme addresses a variety of situations the young find themselves trying to cope with: poverty, health/disablement, bereavement and social deprivation. This is achieved by funding vacations in their hostels for children and also often their families. Applications for this programme far out weigh the YHA's current level of resources and the Association is seeking funds and partnerships to help them satisfy this overwhelming need.



We welcomed a visiting Rotarian from the Netherlands at this meeting.

Petra Lunsche, from the Rotary Club of Pekela, near Groningen in Northern Netherlands, was in York as part of a choir that was performing in the Minster.



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July walk *David Impey reports..* On **July 19th** 8 Rotarians and partners met at the Horseshoe Inn, Levisham for the monthly Club walk. The weather was as usual for this summer hot with plenty of sunshine. The walk took us out over Levisham moor, too early in the year for the heather to be in bloom but still wide ranging views over the moor. We rested briefly at the Hole of Horcum before descending into the valley. At the now very small stream we took a group decision to return via the wooded area to the village. We were back by 12.45 after a nearly 7 mile walk. We enjoyed a very good lunch at the Horseshoe Inn before returning home.



Dragon Boat success **July 15th** was our annual Dragon Boat Challenge, and despite changing the starting time to accommodate the World Cup Final, everyone turned up, the sun shone brightly, and over 3000 people enjoyed a wonderful day of excitement, fun and great racing. With over £60000 raised on the day (and more to come) many local charities will benefit, including the two Club nominated charities, York Mind and Citizens Advice York. President Ian expressed his gratitude to all members, Inner Wheel, and members of Friends of York Rotary, who all dedicated their time in the hot weather to make this day such a success, including running the Rotary branded Tea Tent, ably managed by Diana. The full results, and lots more photos of the day, are on our Dragon Boat page [here](#) (look out for the photo of Novotel's Julie!)





A man out standing in his own field!

Tree site visit On **July 13th** Frank Paterson led a group of members on a conducted tour of a field - well, two actually! The visit was to the two sites selected for the tree planting later this year, on either side of Haxby Road between the Nestle factory and New Earswick - part of the [Rotary Tree Planting Partnership](#) initiative currently under way, where nearly 300 parents have already registered their baby in order to have a commemorative tree planted. Volunteers from various organisations will plant the trees during the best planting season, November, including several local companies who release their employees for a day to support local charities and events. Rotarians are also encouraged to wield a spade and come and plant a few too!

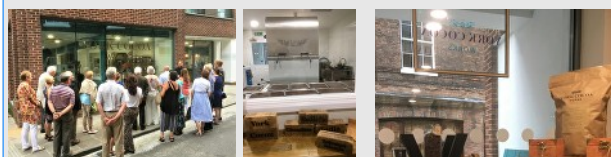
The current register of babies is available [here](#)

Ready, set.... All is set fair for the "GO" for our flagship fundraising event, **The York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge**, on **Sunday July 15th**. This morning's inspection of the course on the River Ouse confirmed that the river level is high enough and preparations have started to set up the river banks for the crew stations on the South Bank, and the Gala Day on the North Bank. Responding to requests from crews to set an earlier finish - in light of the World Cup Final - the timing of the day has been amended.

Racing will now start at 9.00am, and the Grand Final will be at 2.30pm.

Full details available [here](#)

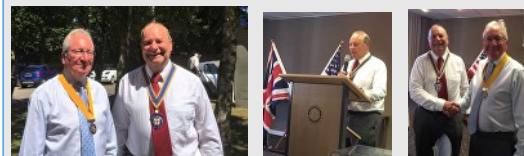
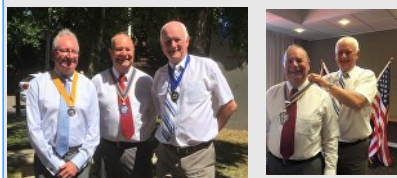
You've got a Friend in Chocolate A visit to the [York Cocoa Works](#) on **July 6th** was the first event organised for members of the newly formed "[Friends of York Rotary](#)" (FoYR) Group. They were joined by several Club members and partners too, as a total of 24 were entertained by the Founder and Managing Director of York Cocoa House Sophie Jewett – herself a FoYR member – and her staff. Sophie took us through the history of Chocolate making in York, dating from 1785 in Castlegate where her Cocoa Works operation is now based, and her passion for creating authentic chocolate using a variety of cocoa beans from various countries in South America (from many farms which she has personally visited) and her interest in the social and political impact of cocoa growing in these countries, were evident. We were treated to a variety of chocolate samples with subtle taste differences, and finally some very unusual canapé creations – for example chocolate with goats cheese (actually delicious!) Many thanks to Sophie and also to Diana and Nigel Naish who had "donated" this evening, having won it in an "auction" bid earlier. As well as being a very enjoyable event, the evening raised **£330** for our Club's Charity Fund.



Understanding Citizens' Advice Our speakers on **July 6th** were Simon Topham and Janet Thompson from [Citizens' Advice York](#) (CAY). Simon, who is CEO of the organisation, explained that the concept of Citizens Advice Bureaux was developed just as World War 2 was beginning. Citizens Advice in York was established in 1941 in Priory Street, moving later to Micklegate Bar and then, in 2014, to West Offices where they rent space from the Council. Training to be a voluntary advisor takes 6 months, and the range of topics covered is vast. 60% of advice requests relate to benefits, tax credits and debt problems. With 35 volunteers (aged 18 to 80) and a small number of part-time paid staff, their services are increasingly needed, and Simon and Janet expressed their thanks for the fact that CAY will be one of the two Rotary-nominated beneficiaries of the Dragon Boat Challenge event on July 15th.



Presidents' Handover The Club Presidency was formally handed over at the Club meeting on **June 29th** when Ian Helby took over the office from outgoing President Brian Joscelyne; and incoming President-Elect Ian Tarbet received his badge of office. IPP Brian thanked members for their support during his year, and outlined a few of the highlights of the year, then President Ian set out his main themes and ideas for the coming year. Ian will continue the focus on Mental Health that was theme of PP Eileen and IPP Brian, but with particular emphasis on young people's mental health, especially Autism. Ian also explained he will look to continue to support new initiatives in the past year such as the Friends of Rotary group, which will be invaluable to the Club as time goes on.



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