

Club News Archive

2012-13

in reverse chronological order

July 2012 - June 2013



The Rotary Club
of York
1921-2013

Club Speaker and New Member - On **June 28th**, our speaker was Liam Evans, who was the producer of the recent excellent York Mystery Plays and is now in rehearsal stage for a major and highly innovative piece of "street theatre" called [Blood and Chocolate](#), which will be presented in October. The audience will follow the cast and the action around various locations in York, using headsets to get clear dialogue and many sound effects as they go. The theme is a depiction of World War I seen through the Rowntree family's involvement (despite being Quaker pacifists) in supplying all troops who were from York with a chocolate box. Liam's enthusiastic description of this event got everyone's attention and there was great anticipation of being able to get tickets (and hopefully a Club group visit) soon.

Also at this meeting, we warmly welcomed a new Club member, Lukasz Druzic, who runs his own interior design and restoration company in York.

[Click here](#)
for more on
'Blood + Chocolate'



Visit to York Council "West Offices" - A large group of around 25 members visited the new Council offices on **June 28th**. In a stunning £33m redevelopment of the former 1841 railway station, the Grade II listed exterior, and many interior features, have been retained whilst and ultra-modern office facility, on 4 floors, now fills the original platform and rail track areas. 1400 employees work here using a "hot desk" system where 1100 desks are shared, as required, all open plan (including the chief executive!). The original attached 1853 hotel now houses conference rooms. The original canopy was relocated to just outside the new "footprint" and now covers a bicycle storage area, and is viewable from the City walls. The sympathetic and well-planned development impressed all the visitors very much - though a few suggested they might not personally wish to work in such an environment!!



Outing to Sinnington - The annual "Summer Outing" to Sinnington took place on **June 25th**, another very successful day which was much appreciated by our guests who attended. A wonderful tea was laid on by Sinnington WI. Many thanks to RtN Patrick Curran, organiser of the Summer Outing, and to the other Rotarians for driving our guests to Sinnington.



Club Speaker - On **June 14th**, Catriona Tait from [Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research](#), whose mother was diagnosed with leukaemia, gave a very committed and information packed talk on the work of her organisation, for which she is the North area fund-raising manager. The organisation's aims are to care for those with the disease, to cure them where possible and to prevent others getting the disease in the future. Leukaemia is the most common form of cancer in children, but gratifyingly 9 out of 10 children diagnosed survive to live normal healthy lives following treatment. The 15-35 age range is less successfully treated at present, but research continues to improve success rates. York has a designated centre of excellence for research, and a recently established "Network" tracks the treatment and progress of 3.7 million people with the disease. Hopes for further progress are high, but as ever more funding is needed to meet the organisation's mission to "Beat Blood Cancer".



Club Speaker - Question: After retirement, how will you fill your time? Answer: Go out to Mozambique to reform their customs and revenue service!! That, as least, is how Rotarian Arthur Sanderson answered this dilemma. Arthur, a member of York Ainsty Club, was our guest on **June 7th**, and kept members spellbound with his tale. After retiring from the diplomatic service he was recruited by Crown Agents/HMRC who had been awarded the contract to reform Mozambique's chaotic customs service. Members heard his account of how they dealt, through training and improved procedures, with corruption, chaotic controls and blatant smuggling; and how in the end the Mozambique government customs revenues increased from \$10m to \$25m. It was an amazing story.

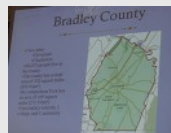
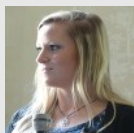
Also present at this meeting were two visitors from York Rotaract Club - Aisei Apollonio, incoming President, and Giovanni Taraboccia, this year's Treasurer. Brian Joscelyne expressed the Club's thanks to them for the excellent year just past, and wished Aisei every success for next year.



Club Golf - It was a beautiful sunny day for golf on **June 2nd**, when the Club's annual President's Cup was played at Strensall Golf Club. Fifteen Club members took part, and the winner was Dennis Adamson. Keith Hayton was runner-up, with Peter Netherwood taking third place. The "Nearest the Pin" award was taken by Kevin Grogan, while Ray Smith drove the "Longest Drive of the day". In the evening the group swelled to 45, including partners, who all enjoyed the fellowship and a fine dinner at Strensall. David Jesper, last year's President, who donated the cup, presented the trophy and prizes to the winners and we all thank him for his generosity and support to this event.



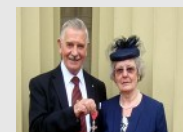
Club Speaker - Our speaker on **May 31st** was Mandi Casteel, from Cleveland, Tennessee, who is coming to the end of her Ambassadorial Scholarship at the University of York. A biochemist by training, she is studying for an M.Sc in International Public Health. Clearly impressed by York and the UK (including our NHS!) Mandi explained many of the differences between her home town and York, as she presented photographs of her hometown, Rotary's many contributions in Cleveland, her interests, and her family including her husband Jarrod. On her return to the US at the end of June, she is hoping to work in epidemiology research and aspires eventually to work for the US Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta. We wish her well.



Paul Harris Fellowships - During the Club's meeting on **May 24th** President Darrell presented two PHF awards to recognise exceptional service to Rotary and to the Club. Gillian Porter was recognised for her steadfast support, for over 10 years, of the Club's St Crux fundraising efforts which have, during this period, resulted in over £20,000 contributions for the Club's charities. Michael Wilson was apparently seen as a "young member" when he joined the club in 1978, and has since been a leading contributor in our golfing activities, the development and management of the Club's first website - a real innovation then - in 2002, and more recently his stalwart support of the Blood Pressure Testing days for the public.



Frank at the Palace - On **May 21st** Frank Paterson, accompanied by his family, was awarded his MBE by Her Majesty the Queen. The award was for Frank's services to museums in York - but in addition of course we know the much wider contributions Frank continues to make to the community through the Club and elsewhere! Congratulations, Frank.



Changes at York Rotaract - On **May 17th** the York Rotaract Club held their presidential handover meeting at the UoY campus. Incoming 2013-14 President Alisei Apollonio takes over as the Club's fourth President, from Martins Zeps who has so ably led the Club this year. Constantin Voll becomes Vice President (President Elect for 2014-15). Frank Paterson represented our Club at the meeting.



Club Speaker - On **May 17th** our speaker was Major John Mayo on "*Out of Uniform*", a most interesting, humorous and illuminating talk. John is now a reservist but served from 1988-2006 with the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He talked about army life as a "green bubble" which provides all needs for soldiers, but when they leave the forces there is an inevitable culture shock. The individual is responsible for his or her own resettlement but there is wide-ranging assistance via a programme called the "Career Transition Partnership". This is backed up by about 2,000 service charities. The individual needs to know what career they would like and this can be daunting for some! They can get a re-training grant of £2,000 which is taken up by some large employers who find good employees in former service personnel. Transition assistance comes in the form of help with employment, housing, education, health & welfare; these are the 5 pillars of transition.



May Club Walk - *Dave Thompson reports*: On **May 16th** we parked at Kirkham Abbey and 12 adults and 2 dogs had a lovely walk on the banks of the river Derwent to Howsham Mill in the sunshine. We were fortunate that a Trustee had just arrived, so we had a very informative mini tour of the mill, which is very close to being finished. Very impressive and it generates about £35,000 of electricity a year!



Club Speaker - On **May 10th** the Club heard from Shirley Williams (RC Driffield and former President of that Club) about the brand new Children's Air Ambulance Service (TCAA). This is not the existing, regional-based Air Ambulance Service, but a specialist nationwide provision which has taken 2 years to set up. The first patient transport is imminent. [*Ed. it was the following day, May 11th! Read about it [here](#)*] It will transport very sick youngsters from one hospital to another, via helicopter, and with specialist staff and equipment as well as one parent. This will be a very expensive service to run (£1.7 million per year), but will save lives.



Tri-Club Meeting in Limoges - A party of eight members and partners travelled to Limoges from **May 9th-12th**. and enjoyed the company of members of Aubusson and Erlangen clubs, together with Rotarians from other local French clubs.



Visit of RIBI President - At the Club Meeting of **May 3rd**, there was plenty of gold chain and bling to be seen! As part of their visit to our District and to York specifically, National RIBI President John Minihick and his wife Sheila attended our meeting, together with District Governor Keith Davison, and other guests from District and local Rotary Clubs. President John spoke about his key priorities for Rotary in the UK. This included more "joined-up" Rotary with greater exchange of ideas between Clubs and more joint activities; focus on membership, both new members and especially membership retention; club "visioning", getting the word out to local communities about what we do; and finally what he described as his "three F's" - fun, friendship and fellowship.



"Youth Speaks" National Finals - 14 teams from England Scotland and Wales competed in the Rotary Youth Speaks finals held at the University of Hull on **April 29th**. The team from Brentwood School "Raising Children without cutlery" were the winners of the senior section. The team from the Mount School York spoke eloquently and persuasively about the legislation which now criminalises squatting. Their chairperson, Alice Grierson, was judged the best in the senior group



Club Speaker - On **April 26th** we welcomed Helen Loynes, a graduate of the University of York, who gave a detailed and graphic account of the work of the charity "*Help for Heroes*", our nominated beneficiary charity this year for the Dragon Boat Challenge (aiming to raise sufficient funds to endow a room in the new centre being built at Catterick). She explained that the charity follows a personalised "Route to Recovery" programme for each of their members, and works with other charities such as ABF and SSAFA to help returning injured services personnel to be equipped and prepared for civilian life.



St George's Day Dinner - On April 23rd evening, Club members and guests gathered at Pike Hills Golf Club to celebrate St George's Day. As special guest and speaker the Rt Rev David Smith explained, legendary heroes and the not-so-heroic who had become the stuff of legends had probably been spawned by ordinary people and incidents, but had grown with the embellishment of the story-teller's imaginations and desire for maximum effect. There is no reliable evidence for the existence, let alone the heroic deeds, of St George! Truth or legend, the story of St George reflects the intrinsic beliefs and standards so admired and practiced by the English - chivalry, courtesy, self sacrifice and integrity. It was a memorable evening, enjoyed by all present.



St Crux Fundraising - On April 23rd another very successful day at St Crux raised over £900 for the Charity Fund. Thanks to the efforts of the many club members and partners who helped with the preparation of food, drink, and stalls, all the catering offering were sold together with a high quantity of bric-a-brac and books.



Stroke Awareness & Blood Pressure Testing - As in previous years, on April 20th Club members manned our "tent" in Coppergate Square to invite and encourage members of the public to get their blood pressures checked. This was the 10th year of the Stroke Association event and RCoY has always taken part. It turned out to be a bright, sunny spring day, so the stewards were happy to be outside. Particular thanks go to Mike Wilson and his medical team who took a total of 217 Blood Pressures; out of that number 46 were referred to see a doctor within a month, and 4 were referred to see a doctor within one week. Although we were not officially collecting on the day, the can placed on the reception table raised an amount of £63 in aid of the Stroke Association.



Charity Walk - On April 18th, very windy but free of all but one April shower, Rotarians, partners and friends took part in the annual Charity Walk, organised by the Foundation / International Committee. The walk was centred on Hovingham Village Hall. The energetic did a 6-mile round trip, going south towards Terrington, east to Airyholme Farm before going west over the road and towards Scackleton. The shorter, 2-mile walk remained within the Hovingham Estate, taking a loop to the west of the village and also back along the Ebor Way. 61 people sat down to a lovely buffet lunch in the Village hall, which was provided by Angela Heasman and Diana Naish, ably assisted by Marlise Heaton. The walkers would also like to thank Philip Heaton, Geoff and Edna Brown, Adrian Radford and Robin Rich for their stalwart contributions towards a most successful and enjoyable event, which raised £564 in aid of *PhysioNet*.



Safety First - Club members have welcomed the installation of new hand-rails for the front steps of Churchill Hotel. The hand rails greatly improve the safety of access to and from the hotel for all guests, and particularly for our own Club members attending our weekly meetings there. The new installation was designed following requests and input from the Club. Our thanks go to the management of Churchills for carrying out this improvement.



RIBI National Conference 2013 - *Russ Rollings reports:* Our district, 1040, was host to the annual national conference this year held at the Harrogate International Conference Centre from April 12th to 14th. Six members of York Rotary Club attended along with over 1000 other Rotarians. Presentations during plenary sessions covered a wide variety of subjects. Memorable ones include Prostate Cancer, ably delivered by three wives ("The Prostate Girls") of Mawddach Rotarians whose husbands had suffered, and survived the disease. Graphic diagrams, but luckily no actual photographs, at ten o'clock in the morning certainly kept one's attention, but the serious message was that complacency and the stiff upper lip, were not the best approach if symptoms present themselves. Other subjects included projects in central Africa and Cambodia and a very upbeat 'End Polio Now' update showing only three countries still reporting cases. The business meeting was fascinating, engaging and at times baffling (!) whilst the evening Variety Show, held in a beautiful concert hall, entertained us with a varied selection of very good acts and a full audience, rounding off an excellent event.



New Members' Talks - We have recently been pleased to welcome two new members to the Club, and both have recently gave their New Member talks in successive weeks. First up on April 5th was Peter Netherwood. Former Civil Engineer Peter's first job was with the railways in York, both building bridges and then planning freight movement timetables. He then joined Rowntrees and later, as Engineering Director for Nestle UK, he travelled globally, representing and advising on confectionery engineering.

On April 12th Tom Jackson gave us his talk. From his career as an architect, Tom related stories of work carried out around the region; of rescuing a shop front almost at breaking point under the strain of the accountancy practice above it; and of building a bridge that wasn't; all the time giving us an insight into this former Crossgates Rotarian, musician, golfer and family man.

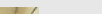
At both meetings we also welcomed Rotarian visitors from afar - Dennis Smith from Sydney Cove, Australia, and Doug Adams from Washington State, USA.

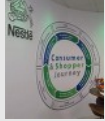


(Click photos to enlarge)

RYLA and Ocean Youth Trust - The three York Clubs held interviews last week for RYLA and Ocean Youth Trust. Some very good candidates were seen and places were offered to all of them on one scheme or the other. Selected for RYLA - Bryony Cox from All Saints School, York and a member of the York Sea Cadets. Selected for Ocean Youth Trust - Declan Markwick, recently left Joseph Rowntree school and currently on a Football Coaching course at York City.

Vocational Visit to Nestle - On April 5th, 20 members were welcomed at Nestle Insight and Learning Centre, where they were shown round the new state-of-the-art facility which is designed to understand consumers and help retailers of the global company's many products. For it is a multi-category company - even the welcome cup of coffee came from a high-tech, machine! An IMAX theatre, domestic kitchen and lounge, professional (non-domestic) space, two well-stocked mini-markets, meeting rooms and digital customer interaction space are used to educate clients and to entertain focus groups who assist with consumer behaviour and market research. The visit ended with a choice of Nestle Confectionery snack products to satisfy any hunger pangs generated by seeing and hearing about so many food products - and to tide participants over until they got to lunch at the Churchill.





Vocational Visit - A group of members visited an old friend of the Club, the [Jack Raine Foundation](#), on **March 22nd**. Previously York Boxing Club, it was formed in 1967 and has since developed into a significant provider of alternative education in York. It became a registered charity in 2004 and moved into the Walmgate Complex in 2012. Youngsters with very severe behaviour problems are referred to them by Danesmead, the York School designated to deal with children with special educational needs. Sam Shaw the manager admitted to having been a problem adolescent himself and several 'former pupils' are now volunteer mentors. 300 to 400 youngsters pass through the complex every week. Annual running costs exceed £300,000 and less than half is funded from the Local Authority education budget.



New Member - At the Club's meeting on **March 22nd** President Darrell formally welcomed our newest member, Tom Jackson, to the Club. Tom is no stranger to Rotary, having been a previous member and Past President of Crossgates Club. Sponsor David Sweeney introduced Tom as a friend, fellow golfer and respected architect. Tom is also well know to the Club as a gifted musician, having provided, with his group, entertainment at several Club functions. Welcome, Tom!



Club (adventure) Walk - On **March 21st**, in treacherous conditions underfoot a brave group of 12 climbed over 1000 ft from Chop Gate to one of the highest spots on the moors, the aptly named Cold Moor - renamed by us *Bleedin' Cold Moor* - they were rewarded with stunning views across the snow covered hills to Roseberry Topping, Captain Cooks monument and down to the flatlands and Teeside. However with a wind chill factor of -12C, worsening conditions underfoot and the Cleveland police helicopter flying overhead, they sensibly abandoned the walk descending off the hills to the road below, and back to the Buck Inn at Chopgate to a welcoming warm fire and a hearty meal. Thanks once again to Steve Burton for arranging this expedition which together with events encountered on route gave everyone a timely reminder of the dangers of walking in challenging conditions. (*Ed: rumour has it the day was more eventful than this report suggests!*)



Technology Tournament - This year's Technology Tournament, organised by the three York Rotary Clubs on **March 19th** was another huge success. A full report will follow shortly - here are a few photos of the day at the National Railway Museum.



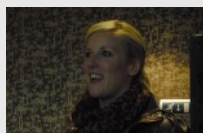
Local success in Regional Final of Youth Speaks - Alice Grierson, Holly Gardiner and Lily Howells, the team from the Mount School York, were winners of the Senior Section at the Rotary Regional Youth Speaks competition at Kettering on **March 16th**. Holly spoke eloquently and passionately on the criminalisation of squatting. The team will compete in the Rotary National Finals at the University of Hull on Sunday 28th April.



Club Speaker - The Club's speaker on **March 15th** was Superintendent Lisa Winward, who is responsible for York area policing, based in Fulford. Liverpool born, Lisa has had many positions in her career, which got off to a shaky start when she and her colleagues, newly posted to Cleethorpes, could not actually find the police station and had to ask a non-policeman!!! She moved back to York in 2008 as Chief Inspector, and had an interesting spell in the US attending an FBI Leadership Course in Virginia. Members were very interested in her views about the structure and management of the police force, and the associated Police and Crime Commissioner positions recently established (with candidates voted for by only 15% of the local population); and her experience that the UK approach of "policing by Consent" was unique in the world and contrasted with much more difficult and combative roles police face in many other countries.



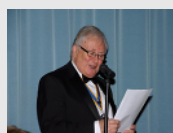
Service Award for GSE Student Jane - The members of the recent GSE team, including local Jane Crosby, have been given "The Rotary Foundation Global Alumni Service Award" for their endeavours whilst on their GSE visit to Brazil. Jane visited the Club in December to relate her exciting and inspiring experiences on the trip. Congratulations to Jane and to all the team.



Head in the Cloud - The Club's presentation on **March 8th** by member Rtn Peter King, on "Cloud Computing", was one to tickle the advanced technical synapses that are our Club membership! Amongst the fascinating, if far-reaching, facts that Peter presented on this tale of modern technological advances, were a number of tid-bits that caught everyone's attention - the possibility of switching on of our hot chocolate, and electric blankets, from our cars 20 mile away; the analysis by Transport for London of our every step (and phone call) whilst we're travelling on the tube service; and most seriously, the ability to precisely locate the mobile phone locations of Haiti earthquake victims buried deep in the rubble. It was a tour de force presentation and a real education. Thank you, Peter! - Big Brother is watching you..



President's Evening - The Club held President's Evening at the Dante Suite in the Ebor Stand at York Racecourse on **March 1st**. It was a glittering evening and the Club welcomed the Rt.Hon. The Lord Mayor of York, Councillor Keith Hyman and other distinguished guests. After a delightful meal, the Toast to The City of York was proposed by President Darrell with a response by the Lord Mayor. A new departure was the Toast to The Rotary Club of York being proposed by District Governor Keith Davison, the IPDG Willie replied in his own inimitable style. Musical Entertainment was provided by Rtn. Tom Jackson and his band with our very own Tim Hinton sitting in for the night



Youth Speaks - The East Group competition was held at Lady Lumley's School, Pickering on **February 26th**. 12 teams of three youngsters from 8 schools participated. The winners in the senior class were Alice Grierson, Holly Gardiner and Lily Howells from the Mount School York. They will go forward to the District 1040 competition at Poppleton Road School on Friday 8th March



"Big Band" Fundraising Concert - The Club's International committee organised a fundraising concert in the Salvation Army Citadel on **February 23rd**. 24 members of the concert band Generation Groove, including our Treasurer Tim, entertained the audience to a range of contemporary music and raised over £700 for the RIBI Wateraid project in Africa.



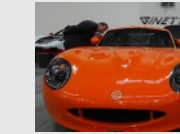
Rotaract Charter night - The York Rotaract Club celebrated their third Charter Night on **February 22nd** with a lavish dinner at the historic Grays Court, behind the Treasurer's House, which has recently established its evening dining facilities after opening as a "boutique hotel" about 18 months ago. A party of seven from our own Club were amongst the 30 attending, with Rotaract President Martins Zeps giving an upbeat assessment of the Club's progress this year. Also present at the lively dinner were Past President Aiste Rugeviciute who travelled up from London for the occasion, and next year's President Aiseal Apollonio. The dynamism and positive attitude of the Rotaractors was clear, and the future of the Club seems in very good hands!



February Walk - On **February 21st** ten intrepid walkers set out from Helmsley on a cold but thankfully still morning; those just returned from Lanzarote were particularly grateful that the bitter east wind of the previous day had more or less disappeared, but the rest of us were rather relieved too. A steady pace took us to Rievaulx via Griff Lodge and after a circuitous and rather more strenuous return to Griff, back to the Feathers for a most enjoyable meal. Many thanks to Nigel for the organisation of a very pleasant outing with congenial company.



Vocational visit - Ginetta - On **February 19th** a large group of 25 members (all male, can't think why!!) visited the Ginetta Cars factory, technically part of the LMT Group, near Leeds. Branding themselves as "*Affordable Motor Racing*", Ginetta produce a small range of racing and road cars, and sponsor and organise their own racing championships – all drivers using identical Ginetta cars – across the world. Originally founded in 1958, the company was "re-born" in 2005 after its acquisition by local businessman and entrepreneur Lawrence Wilkinson. The visiting group were excited by all the "boys toys" and had mixed reactions – some concerns and not a little jealousy - to the news that Ginetta produce a version of their G40 race car specifically for drivers aged between 14 and 17!! Yours for around £35,000! After an excellent visit - for which many thanks to Robin Rich and his son for the organisation - we drove (sedately) in convoy (more or less) to the Gascoigne Arms in Barwick-in-Elmet for delicious bar meals and a very convivial end to the day.

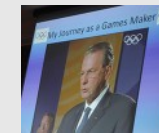


High and Dry Gentlemen members of the Club will no longer have an excuse for appearing at lunch with wet handshakes! After many years of "rumblings" amongst members about the hand dryer in the Churchill "facilities", and a recent discussion between Steve Burton and Churchill manager John about the issue, a "package" appeared on **February 15th**, wrapped with a gift tag saying '*To the Long Suffering Steve Burton and Rotary Club. A small present from the Management at The Churchill Hotel*'. The new Dyson Air-Blade dryer will no doubt be the talk of the Club for many weeks!! And the womens' facilities? Stay tuned...



Olympic Gamesmaker - Our speaker on **February 15th** was Brian Mc Neill, who related his experiences as a Gamesmaker in last year's Olympics. After an extensive selection process, he was selected - in October 2011 - to be a Sports Statistician for the Old Trafford, Manchester, football events. After a very thorough and impressive training programme, he was then responsible for "real-time" recording and compiling (using a computer tablet) the statistics that we are familiar with appearing on screen during matches and events. It was a fascinating insight into the Gamesmaker volunteer role, which went far beyond what many of had thought was just a "big smile" activity!!

Equally interesting, as part of Brian's explanation of the history of the Olympics in the UK, he informed us that the official distance of the modern Marathon (26 miles, 385 yd) was actually defined at the 1908 London Games, it being the distance from Windsor Castle to the Royal Box at the Olympic Stadium in White City. PS Members can see some fascinating vintage British Pathe footage of the 1908 Games - including the Marathon (at 5.33 min) [here](#)



Young Chef District Final - The Rotary District 1040 Young Chef final was held at Bettys Cookery School Harrogate on **February 5th**, when 8 young chefs 4 boys and 4 girls aged between 14 and 16 years took part. The total number of young people competing in the competition from club level to the final across the District was over 100. The winner was Sam Wakefield (aged 14) from Ralph Thoresby school Leeds, sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of the Leeds group, who cooked a starter of Smoked salmon pate and cheese scone, a main course of Game pot pie and vegetables and a dessert of a trio of potted desserts. All the contestants were presented with a framed certificate, cooking dishes and the winner also received a Glass Rotary Trophy.

The winner and runner up will now go forward to compete in the Regional Final to be held at the Robert Pattinson school North Hykeham Lincoln in March 2013.



Help for Heroes - Help for Heroes is the 2013 Rotary Dragon Boat Charity. The funds raised will provide a Rotary Room in the new Recovery Centre to be opened in Catterick later this year. A group of 12 Club members visited the Help for Heroes at Catterick on February 6th. It was by all accounts a memorable and moving experience.

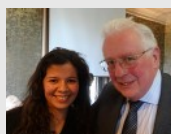
The second photo shows Frank and the Dragon, with "a Colonel and Two Majors" at Imphal Barracks



Donation to York Mind - Pictured are David Smith, CEO York Mind; President Darrell Hind; Charlotte Wylie, Intern; and Alison Moore, Counselling Manager, York Mind at the recent presentation of £560 which has been donated to MIND to fund 12 Counselling sessions.



California, Taiwan, Ripon.... On **February 1st** we were treated to a whirlwind tour (or as she described it "*Adventures and Tales of a Female Nomad*") from Ambassadorial Scholar Rebecca Mendoza. Her confident presentation took us from her home town of Salinas, California, through northern Brazil as a Youth Exchange Scholar, her move to work as an English teacher in Taiwan, through to her present studies at the University of York as an Ambassadorial Scholar. She has had close contact with Rotary throughout all these experiences, and, as if packing a normal person's lifetime's travel into just a few years was not enough, she also told us of her more unusual pastimes - motor-cycling (though now just cycling in York), skydiving, and playing rugby!! She is currently studying Public Administration in International Development (say what...??) and is sponsored through the Rotary Club of Ripon. Her talk was inspirational, showing what "new generations" can achieve; and left most of us speechless in admiration!



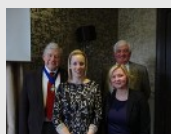
Rotary Young Chefs Culinary Climax Pictured are President Darrell and the nine young Chefs who competed in the East Area Group competition at York College on **January 21st**. Over 30 youngsters aged between 13 and 15 from four York schools took part in the preliminary heats. The winner, Zac Abbott from Archbishop Holgates School, will compete for the Yorkshire Title at Betty's Cookery School in Harrogate on 5th February.



Egyptian Dinner at York Rotaract On **January 20th** the York Rotaract Club put on a special "Egyptian Dinner" organised by Rotaractor Jenny Michel, who is from Egypt. She prepared (all day!) and presented a splendid array of dishes, a total of 10 in all, giving everyone a broad taste of genuine Egyptian cuisine - and very delicious it was too! Six of our Club members including President Elect Nigel and Diana, were amongst the 40 people attending, including Rotaractors and representatives from Vikings and Ainsty Clubs. It was another example of the enterprise and enthusiasm that exists in the Rotaract club and we look forward to similar events in future... German, Italian, Swedish, Latvian and Lithuanian dinners, perhaps? - all were requested!



Door84 - At the Club meeting on **January 18th**, members seemed impressed indeed with the presentation by Heidi Haywood, Manager of the [Door84 Youth Centre](#), and (now well-known to members) Jane Cosby. They described the development of Door84 over the past two year, in a building that was originally an orphanage and is now a thriving club for over 270 youngsters from ages 8 to 17, where activities range (amongst many!) from coaching in graphic design, boxing skills, developing a community garden, getting careers and general advice, and numerous outings. Despite having no government or local funding, and needing to be self-sufficient, they have ambitious plans for future events such as a "street closure" (ie no cars, just youth activities!), have a 5-year business plan, and have recently won several community and other awards. Their presentation indicated their professional, enthusiastic and dynamic approach that is clearly extremely successful, and was truly inspirational for everyone present.



Speaker at Rotaract meeting - The guest speaker at the recent York Rotaract Club meeting on **January 17th** was our own Janet Morley, who had been asked to address their Club about Fundraising in the Current Economic Climate, and about St Leonard's Hospice in general. The meeting, at the University of York, was well attended by about 15 members who listened attentively to Janet's excellent presentation and then presented her with a high quantity of very intelligent questions. Thanks to Janet for giving her time for the Rotaractors!



January Club walk - Brian Houghton reports.... "On **January 17th** 12 walkers 2 dogs braved the sunny but cold delights around the Dunnington farms. Bacon Butties on board to start followed by 5.5 miles flat walking surrounded by snow covered fields. Pub lunch in Dunnington then 2.5 miles back to Balloon Tree. One faller, several deer, birds galore and some scary crows!
Good exercise, good food, good company, good day had by all."



Listening to children reading - At the Club meeting on **January 11th**, Keith Pogson, who has previously been a member, and President, of a number of Rotary Clubs including York Ainsty, stepped in at short notice as our speaker, and gave a moving description of his voluntary work with local primary schools, assisting teachers by giving one-to-one time to listen to, and help develop, reading skills for the lesser able pupils, and - in equal measure - provide counselling to these youngsters. It was clearly a significant, and often emotional experience for Keith, who devotes two 3-hour sessions of time each week. The tales of deprivation and lack of basic skills that have become evident from this experience, are a warning siren in terms of the potential adult illiteracy that exists in our society, and looks like may be increasing.



Youth adventures - Getting the New Year off to a really positive start, on **January 4th** we heard from three outstanding young men who recounted their experiences and learnings from Rotary-sponsored activities. Richard Gaertner and Danny Bates spoke about their time at RYLA and the challenging tasks which stretched and developed their abilities and especially their leadership skills. Jack Cregan then talked, with a selection of photographs, about his trip with Ocean Youth Trust aboard the "James Cook" from North Shields to St Andrews and back. Catching mackerel was exciting, but then finding out what the "big stick" was used for was more of a shock! He also recounted how he was glad to get back to land and to a "stable bed". Three excellent presentations (first time in front of a large group of "oldies") which were appreciated by all.



New Years Honour.. - Many congratulations to Frank Paterson, chair of Vocational and New Generations committees, who was awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours List. *The Press* makes the following notes about Frank..... "Frank Paterson, 82, of Askham Bryan, has been made an MBE for services to museums. Mr Paterson, former general manager of British Rail's eastern region in York, said he had chaired the Friends of the National Railway Museum for ten years until earlier this year and had also been on the museum's advisory board since 1978. He has also chaired the York Civic Trust's Fairfax House Board and was a former President of the Rotary Club of York, with the annual Dragon Boat Race on the Ouse launched during his year in office." Yes, and lots more besides... Well done Frank - richly deserved.



New Member and Christmas Celebrations - The Club was delighted to officially welcome and induct new member Peter Netherwood on **December 21st**. After gaining a mechanical engineering degree from Cambridge, Peter followed a career in railways (sounds familiar!), then worked for Rowntree - subsequently Nestle - for many years in York and Croydon. Welcome, Peter. After lunch, our Christmas entertainment of jovial festive songs and carols was ably led by the jazz trio namely Tom, Ken and Alan. Tom Jackson is a Rotarian lately of Crossgates Club, who we hope will soon be joining our own Club - and bringing his musical talents with him.



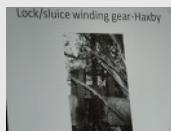
Young Chef - The nine pupils from Archbishop Holgate School who were awarded certificates by President Darrell for participating in the School Young Chef competition on **December 19th**. Three were selected by the professional judges to represent the school at the York Area finals at York College on Monday 21st January.



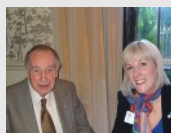
Presentation to Salvation Army - On **December 17th** President Darrell presented a cheque for £300 to the York Salvation Army at their premises, the Citadel on Gillygate. Over the Christmas period the Salvation Army will provide food hampers to about 80 deserving families, gifts to over 200 boys and girls, and at the Citadel on Christmas Day meals to around 100 local people who would otherwise be alone on this special day. This donation will help make a difference and give many people a Happy Christmas. Club member Andrew Dunkinson is commanding officer of the Salvation Army in York, and is pictured receiving the cheque from President Darrell.



Local Water Conservation! - Our Club speaker on **December 14th** was John Millett, who provided us with a most interesting presentation about the River Foss Society, which incorporates conservation development of the 27-mile stretch of the river from the 'Blue Bridge' in York to Easingwold, maintenance of footpaths, improvement of water quality, and also the Foss Navigation Society with focuses on history of the canal system from Castle Mill Lock to Sheriff Hutton which, in its heyday in 1806 carried 10,000 tons of freight, was closed in 1852 after the huge expansion of railways in the area, and is now a site for some fascinating industrial archaeology. Of particular interest to members was John's description of the bridge now named "Leethams Bridge" (opposite the Morrison's site) which was named after Leetham's Flour Mill, founded in 1860 and located in the Hungate area. The founder's son, Mr Ernest Leetham, then chairman of Leetham's Flour Mill, was one of the founding members of our Club in 1921.



Nuts about Brazil - Our Club speaker on **December 7th** was Jane Crosby, recently returned from her Group Study Exchange visit to Brazil. She spoke enthusiastically about her trip to the state of Parana, in the south of the country, which she was surprised to find had a cold climate, rather than the sun-drenched Rio beach weather she was expecting! A region of largely European ethnicity, following many years of immigration, Parana and its capital Curitiba were described by Jane as having very diverse architecture, very little health and safety building control, and a population with an amazing work ethic with many people studying late into the evening after a hard day's work. Rotary in the region was widespread and was especially supportive of youth programmes. Having visited 14 Rotary Clubs, Jane described her main impressions of extremely welcoming people, excellent food, great natural beauty and diversity across the country. It was a fascinating insight.



2013 Dragon Boat Challenge - The Club has announced that Help for Heroes will be our selected charity for the 2013 *Dragon Boat Challenge*. The charity is in the process of developing a new recovery unit at Catterick Garrison, and it is hoped to raise sufficient funds to sponsor the provision of a custom designed specialist recovery room in the new building. The Dragon Boat date is Sunday July 14th 2013. Tony Eaton (second from left) and other Help for Heroes staff are pictured here, with their mascot, Hero Bear, with President Darrell accompanied by PE Nigel, and Frank Paterson (with dragon).



Young Chef - Pictured here are the winners of the **December 4th** Fulford School heat of the Rotary Young Chef Competition, Issie Foster, Alex Racey and Izzie Renard. The Judges, food writer Elaine Lemm and our very own Rotarian Eileen Davis, were certainly challenged to choose winners from the 12 contestants, all of whom produced food to be proud of - no pressure then! President Darrell came along to present the Certificates and, with organiser Frank Paterson, commended the group and their rightly proud teacher, Mrs. Sarah Urnston, for their enthusiasm and high-quality cooking. We and the three winners can now look forward to the local Final at York College on Monday 21st January.



President's Lunch - On a cold, bright day on **November 30th**, Club Members and their Guests gathered in the Dante Suite at York Racecourse for the annual President's Luncheon. The Guest Speaker was the BBC North of England Correspondent, Danny Savage, who was accompanied by his wife, Catherine. Danny had made a short film for us about his work and then he talked of the triumphs and pitfalls of TV reporting. The warmth of the welcome, the fellowship, the hospitality and the excellence of the presentation by the Guest Speaker made the event a real treat for everyone present. President-Elect Nigel spoke for everyone when he thanked Danny most warmly. Inner Wheel President, Margaret Robinson gave a resounding thanks on behalf of the Guests. Many plaudits to the Fellowship Committee for again setting up a very special event in such a lovely venue.



Golf Presentations - At recent Club meeting, President Darrell is pictured making the trophy presentations for this year's competitions. The Shouksmith Trophy has been played annually since 1933, with a break only 1937-46. This year, it was won by David Impey. The Thompson Plate is the supporting trophy, which this year, had gone to the 22nd hole. It was (eventually!) won by Ray Smith.



Mock Interviews (Vocational Service) - The Rotaract Club organised on **November 29th** a morning of mock interviews at York University and 12 university students participated. Frank Paterson led the team of Club members who provided this experience to the students. The previous week 27 students at the Mount School also benefitted from this project which gives students experience of being interviewed by people they don't know and getting advice on their performance by Rotarians.



Monthly Club Walk - 10 stalwarts and two dogs enjoyed their 8 mile walk, on **November 15th**, through the Yorkshire Wolds starting and finishing at the Wolds Inn Huggate.



Book-bound! - On **November 14th**, 23 members and partners visited the British Library, Boston Spa. They were all very impressed with the scale of the operation. The British Library serves business and industry, researchers, academics and students in the UK and world wide. Core funded by the Dept of Culture Media and Sport the search services are provided at cost to users. Access to reading rooms is free. A satellite of the main British Library in London St Pancras, the Boston Spa unit operates the world's largest document delivery service to customers all over the world. Over 7 million books, magazines, documents and maps are archived in state of the art storage and retrieval equipment on the site.



Club Speaker - On **November 9th** Penelope Worsley gave a superbly colourful presentation about the work in NW Thailand that started in 12 years ago as a tribute to her son Richard, who was killed in a car crash. The [Karen Hilltribes Trust](#) is set up as a business and is now a sustainable charity, focussed on the Karen Tribes in the Chiang Mai area of Thailand (although many more of them live in NE Burma). The Karen people lead the Trust's activities, so that they can not only be supported, but learn to help themselves. The Trust concentrates on health via water & sanitation projects, education (as 70% of the young people do not complete their education) and income generation via irrigation, cooperatives and other support such as the sales to Club members of silver jewellery made in one of the Karen villages.



Dragon Boat Presentations - The Lord Mayor of York, Cllr Keith Hyman, Matthew Todd, captain of the Challenge Trophy winners Todds Torpedos and Club President Darrell Hind are pictured at the **November 6th** presentation, at the Mansion House, of trophies for the 2012 event. Over 150 charities have now benefitted from the £677,000 raised by the participants in the ten years of the York Rotary Dragon Boat events



Club Golf - The Club's newest golf competition, the President's Cup, was finally played at York Golf Club on **November 5th**. The trophy, so kindly donated by Past President David Jesper, was won by Keith Hayton with 37 points and was presented by Club President Darrell, in second place was Dennis Adamson with 33 and third David Sweeney with 31. The longest drive by a mere foot was also won by Keith, with Steve Burton winning nearest the pin on the 7th hole. The event was well supported considering the earlier postponement, but an earlier date, offering longer daylight hours, and the inclusion of partners in the evening is being considered for 2013.

Club Speaker - Dave Bruce, Director of Nestle Business Services was our speaker on **November 2nd**. York born and bred, Dave leads Nestle Business Services for the whole company; having worked in Switzerland, he was asked to come back to York to lead this team. He gave us a brief history of Nestle and summarised the global business which makes and distributes confectionery, coffee, dairy, cereals, pet foods, water and clinical nutrition products - and it has just acquired infant food brand SMA. Dave spoke about the company's drive to "create shared values" through compliance (eg. fairtrade in raw material supplies such as cocoa & coffee, assisting farming communities and treading a fine line in amongst the complexities of world issues) and sustainability (reducing waste, emissions etc.).



St Crux - On **November 1st**. Another good day at St Crux raised over £600. The weather was kind and business was brisk. Books and toys were the items on sale outside and the cafe provided the usual array of home-made cakes and scones.

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Visit to Coca Cola Enterprises - On **October 31st** Frank Paterson organised a superb trip to Coca Cola Wakefield, for a mixed group of Rotarians, Partners and Rotaractors. CCE is a licensed manufacturer of the world-famous beverage and other soft drinks including Schweppes brands - it is the biggest bottling plant in UK. Its' size surprised everyone - the plant covers the equivalent of 32 football pitches and is connected by a conveyor to the can manufacturer next door. The electricity bill is £60 million per year and their production rate is 6,000 cans/bottles **per minute**, with 520 workers on a 24-hours operation. Plastic bottles are made on-site through injection-moulding. The Coke recipe must be followed exactly. Watching the production lines cleaning, filling, sealing, stamping, packing and wrapping the drinks was mesmerising. After the visit, a very good lunch was had at the Chequers in Ledsham.



Club Walk October 18th - Having chased heavy rain clouds North, the October Walk, for 8 plus 2 dogs, turned out to be one of the best ever; in glorious autumn weather and with the trees turning to splendid colours. Whilst stated to be 'undulating' it proved to have some steep ups and downs as we moved from steep valley to valley, through pastures, woods and moorland we progressed round the very picturesque Hawnby area of North Yorkshire - including past the most impressive Arden Hall - a forgotten corner of the county, which many of us had never visited before. An excellent lunch [as ever] in 'The Inn at Hawnby' where we were made most welcome and enjoyed a very varied menu. Many thanks to Nigel for his organisation.



Group Study Exchange Visitors from Venezuela. On **October 17th**, members of the Venezuela Group Study Exchange team, hosted by the Rotary Club of Pontefract, were introduced to York and given a guided tour of the National Railway Museum by Frank Paterson.



District 1040 Conference at Scarborough On the weekend of **October 12th-14th** seven Rotarians plus five wives/partners headed east to Scarborough for the District Conference. In addition, John and David manned the Rotary Sales stand for the weekend and Mo Hayward was on a stand in the 'House of Friendship', so a good showing from our Club. For something like the twenty sixth year, we stayed at the Park Manor Hotel in the North Bay and were treated like old friends. The Friday evening black-tie dinner was attended by some 500 guests. Saturday was filled with many interesting speeches. Cllr Helen Mallory, Mayor of Scarborough welcomed us and Hazel Haas (Conference Co-ordinator) kept proceedings on time throughout. An excellent Saturday evening dinner was held at our hotel, with twelve members and partners from the Rotary Club of Pocklington and Market Weighton. This is another tradition going back several years. A full report on the Conference hotel can be found in Rotagraph.



Club Speakers - On **October 12th** Councillor Sonja Crisp and Sally Burns, Executive Director of Communities & Neighbourhoods both spoke about their wide-ranging work and roles in respect of York's provision and development of leisure, culture, tourism and inclusion. With big portfolios, they work together closely and effectively to promote and improve provision, not least within the current financial constraints. Local Government is evolving and some tough decisions have been and will be necessary.



Club Speaker - On **October 5th** Nick Brown, current MD of Browns of York, spoke to the Club. Nick is the son of Member Geoff Brown, and grandson of founder Rhodes. In 1896, Rhodes Brown opened his shop in Nessgate and relocated to the corner of Davygate and St.Saviour's Square in 1906. Nick explained how the many ways they work to increase the footfall in the shops and how the store has adapted to changing customer expectations and shopping habits, particularly in recent constrained economic conditions. The potential impact on City Centre businesses of the extension to Monks Cross was of great interest to members and Nick accepted the need to compete, not so much with the type of businesses that will be there, but with the more than 1,000 free car parking spaces.



Club Walk - September 20th It will not fail to be noticed that the photo below, rather than showing the delights of an amble through verdant woodlands in brilliant sunshine, displays our intrepid walkers gathered round a table in a pub. The explanation is simple - there may have been verdant woodlands, but there was certainly a great lack of brilliant sunshine, and any enthusiasm for taking photos whilst on the walk was noticeably absent. By an inspired but of course unintentional bit of planning, the walk was scheduled for the only wet day of the week, and the assembled company had the doubtful satisfaction of slithering over many glutenous and muddy paths and puddles as we lurched the 8 miles from Carlton Husthwaite to Kilburn via Coxwold and thence back to the Carlton Inn pub.



Dragon Boat Challenge 2012 - After the flooding in July, it was a welcome sight indeed to see the sun shine brightly on the re-scheduled Dragon Boat Challenge on **September 22nd**. Positive atmosphere abounded as the 30 teams battled it out, with ever-increasing fervour as the rounds progressed, until the final 12 teams took part in the two finals towards the end of the afternoon. Proving once again the motivational force of Rotary, Graham's company team "Todd's Torpedoes" won the Challenge Cup for the second year running - by a very small margin. It was a wonderful day, and raised, provisionally, over £50,000 for local charities (plus gift-aid) which is a great tribute to the efforts of the Dragon Boats Committee, headed by the indefatigable Mike Fieldsend, who had hastily rearranged and run the day with seemingly effortless ease (though it was in fact a swan-event; underwater padding had been intense!!)



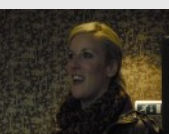
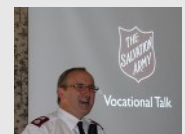
York 50+ Festival - On **September 13th** the Club took part in the York 50+ Festival's "Information Fair" with a joint display shared with York Ainsty Rotary. This was an initiative by Kevin Grogan to improve our Club's marketing presence and especially to promote Rotary membership in the 50+ age group. The photo shows Kevin with Jim Murison of Ainsty at the stand being visited by the Sheriff of York Cllr Paul Firth.



Hotel's beer sales plummet - The Churchill Hotel had a shock on **September 7th** when their bar takings suddenly dropped. It appears club members had heard that the lunch speaker, Bob Watson, was to address us about the "Sobriety Project". Many glasses of tonic water and orange juice suddenly made proud appearances at the lunch tables. Later it transpired that the Sobriety is actually the name of a Humber Keel barge - which was the foundation of what is now the Waterways Museum and Adventure Centre in Goole. With funding from a total of 35 sources, the Sobriety Project is a charity offering opportunities for personal development and growth to young people (and others) through classes, and adventure trips, on "Sobriety" and increasingly other ships too. After 37 years of existence, Bob declared that the Sobriety Project was "very much alive and looking to the future". Thus suitably impressed, and relieved, several groups of members apparently retired to the pub to contemplate this further!



"Window on my World" - New member Andrew Dunkinson chose this as the title of his talk to the Club on **August 31st**, and cleverly illustrated his life journey in the Salvation Army through slides "taken" through a variety of windows! He said he has seen through many windows a wide variety of scenes from opulent palaces to high security prisons, in his extensive postings throughout the UK and overseas (including Stirling, Scotland where he met and married Sheila - but only after she had trained and become a Salvation Army officer as well!) Now a Captain and Commanding Officer of the Salvation Army in York, his work and ministry is carried out from the 130 year old Citadel building in Gillygate, whose foundation stone was laid by none other than William Booth himself. Also at this meeting was Jane Crosby who has recently returned from Brazil where she was on a GSE Exchange. Jane thanked the Club for their support and described her experience as "life-changing".



All aboard! - Rotary was on display in the "Festival of the Rivers" on York's River Ouse on **August 25th**. Club member David Walkden's Sunseeker "Maltezer" is pictured passing under Lendal Bridge. It was one of the 200 boats taking part in the York 800 Flotilla, which had been postponed from July due to the floods. The boat was skippered by David and ably assisted by John and Linda Lacy and Graham and Judith Todd.



York Mystery Plays - On **August 21st**, a large group of members and guests attended the magnificent production of York Mystery Plays presented in the Museum Gardens, in the shadow of (and cleverly using as part of the set) St Mary's Abbey. This was preceded by a very good meal at ASK restaurant in the Assembly Rooms, the majority of us sitting round one table. We came out into another heavy shower and went into St Mary's Abbey to take our places for what was a tour de force....highly dramatic with much visual, musical and sound effects. The whole event was impressive. It was a great pity that a really heavy downpour stopped the performance for about 15 minutes just before the interval; the actors then carried on bravely in inclement conditions, much to the appreciation of the largely dry audience who were sat under cover! It was so late when it finished (11.10pm) that no-one hung around to discuss the performance!

Thanks to David Rayner for the organisation and to Stuart Briggs for taking on the leadership on the night



Golf Tournament and Dinner - The Bill Mann Golf Tournament, for golfers from the three York Rotary Clubs, took place on **August 19th** at Forest Park Golf Club. The weather was generally good, the golf was somewhat more "patchy but with sunny intervals"! The overall winner of the Bill Mann Trophy was our own Brian Houghton, who was presented with the cup at an excellent dinner at the Clubhouse for the golfers and many additional members and their partners. We were delighted again to welcome Sheila Royce, Bill Mann's daughter, who presented the prizes. The Club's new golf supremo David Sweeney did a great job of 'mc'-ing the evening, despite prizes being awarded in no particularly logical sequence, and then trying to hide his own glory (he won the 'longest drive of the day'). Full results, and photos, are on our Golf page [here](#)



Club Speaker - At our meeting on **Aug 17th**, the curator of the Kohima Museum, Bob Cook, enlightened us all as to the background and detail of the Battle of Kohima, in northern India, one of the crucial, and bloodiest, battles of WWII against the Japanese. The 2nd Infantry Division, numbering 15,000 men, were finally victorious, helped considerably by the local Naga people, but not before the town of Kohima had been completely destroyed. Our prior lack of knowledge about this battle (now corrected) was surpassed only by most members' lack of knowledge that a museum existed in York (Imphal Barracks on Fulford Rd). More information about: Kohima [here](#) and the Museum [here](#)



Club Walk - With the attraction of returning to The Triton Arms Sledmere for lunch, John Lacy led our intrepid band of eleven plus 2 dogs on a pleasant six and a bit miles of wonderful Wolds walking on **August 16th**. We enjoyed fabulous views of quintessential English countryside on a lovely summer morning, highlighted by close examination of 2 huge parked combine harvesters; prompting the hope 'the keys may be in' and 'lets have a race'!



Silver Medal Connection! - After watching the wonderfully successful Olympics which has just ended, members might like to know that Ewen Cameron's granddaughter, Hannah Mills, was one of the medallists. She won a Silver in the Sailing - Womens 470 class. Congratulations to Hannah and to all the inspirational athletes.



Rodney Dew - Members were very saddened this week to hear of the death of Rodney Dew, a member of the Club from 1984 until he resigned due to increased mobility problems in 2011. He will be remembered for his enthusiasm as Chairman of the Club's Community Service Committee, in particular in helping to establish the Open Door Club - a counselling service for young people in 1987. This was a Club initiative and Rodney became one of the founder Trustees. He will also be remembered for his many year's as the Club's first Almoner - a position he filled with great dedication and compassion until 2010.

Speakers from York Citizens Advice Bureau - On **August 10th**, Connie Cullen, a Trustee, and George Vickers, the Manager, came along to speak about the Citizens' Advice Bureau. Clients have many issues upon which they need advice - even in York! They often find bureaucracy baffling, feel bullied by demands and are mistrustful of authority..... Many of them have more than one issue to be resolved, hence the need for knowledge and assistance. Currently, debt is the biggest concern.

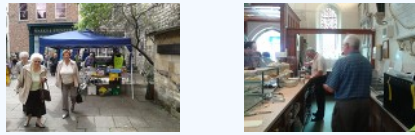


Vocational Visit - On **August 10th**, a group of 12 members enjoyed a guided tour of the Windmill built in 1740 on Holgate Hill within the York City boundaries. It remained a working windmill until the 1930's and has been restored during the last 5 years by a group of enthusiasts. The five sails operates two sets of grinding stones to produce genuine stoneground flour. It also displays a range of artefacts and a fascinating history of windmills in York.





St Crux Fundraiser - Once again on **August 7th** members and partners manned the stands and squeezed the teas at St Crux. With good weather and persuasive sales methods (!), a total of over £846 was raised for the Club's charity fund for good causes. Thanks especially to Gillian Porter and Diana Impey for co-ordinating the refreshments.



Annual Barbeque - The Club BBQ took place on **August 4th**, with the weather being kind - for a change! At least for a while...David Thompson and David Walkden donned their fireproof clothes and manned the ranges at Sutton-on-Derwent, and apparently Peter Fox did a sterling job of dispensing wine from bottles he had not paid for! It was a great event, even after the heavens did finally open and everyone scurried indoors to finish the afternoon!



Member's Talk - New member David Minns entertained the Club on **August 3rd** with his description of his background and how he had entered a varied career in the Army, followed by 15 years running a guest house in York. He used some amusing anecdotes to illustrate how one must adapt to life's changes. His busy life in retirement - when not entertaining as a magician (he was once a member of the Magic Circle) is supported by strong family ties and a large garden!



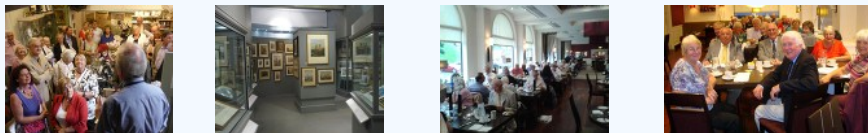
Marketing to the Over-50's - As part of the Club's drive to recruit more members, Kevin has organised a Club display stand this year at the York 50+ Festival Information Fair, being held on **September 13th** at the Guildhall. The Festival itself runs from September 29 to October 9, and is organised by YOPA (York Older People's Assembly).



Club Speaker - The speaker at our **July 27th** meeting was Michael Cruchley, who spoke about the role and activities of the **RSPB**, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The RSPB has over 1 million members in the UK, including nearly 200,000 youth members. They have over 200 nature reserves, the nearest to York being **Fairburn Ings**. The RSPB is a charity whose mission is to conserve and protect birds and the environment. The main issues facing the organisation are Birds under Threat, including the house sparrow, red kite, and skylark; environmental issues; and working internationally on concerns such as the threats to albatross across the world. After his talk, Mike answered questions which included the RSPB's views regarding the over population of unwelcome birds such as seagulls and Canada Geese. Of course, it is also possible that meetings of seagulls may be taking place right now to discuss the overpopulation of humans who encroach on their habitats!!



Vocational Visit to Fairfax House - On **July 25th** a large group of 36 members and partners visited Fairfax House in York for a private viewing of the **"Views of York"** exhibition, a wonderful collection of paintings and objects representing the period from 1610 to the present day. The exhibition contained over one hundred paintings, watercolours and photographs focusing primarily on the setting of York, the rivers, the medieval streets and famous walls of the city, plus panoramic views of York revealing the ways in which the city has inspired artists over the last four centuries. This included two paintings by J. M. W. Turner, and a copy of a well-known modern painting by David Hockney. Peter Brown, the Director of York Civic Trust, was our host and was assisted by a number of very knowledgeable guides as we toured the rooms of Fairfax House where the exhibition was displayed. Finally, a dinner at the Hilton Hotel rounded off a memorable evening. A second visiting group from the Club enjoyed the same tour on **August 1st**.



Inner Wheel Party - On **July 22nd**, incoming President of Inner Wheel, Margaret Robinson, held a Welcome Party at her home in Welburn, for members of Inner Wheel and their Rotarian partners. The newly discovered English summer sunshine helped to make this a most enjoyable afternoon for all.



Club Walk - Five stalwart walkers plus Willow (and later two additional walkers) started early from Rosedale Abbey on **July 19th**. After a couple of slight deviations, and Steve not knowing locked gates from adjacent stiles, the dis-used old iron-ore rail track was reached with the length of the Dale stretching ahead. Next, nice and flat past old smelting furnaces, and on exceptional Victorian embankments and cuttings, to the first objective - The Lion at Blakey Ridge. As ever a splendid meal, then the long trek back to Rosedale Abbey finishing with a steep descent of The Chimney road. All in all a very steady 11.2 miles!



Eric Henderson - Club members are very saddened to hear the news of the death this week of former President Eric Henderson. Eric joined the club in 1974 and was President in 1982 - 83. He resigned due to ill health in 2011. A fuller tribute to Eric is to be found in "Rotagraph".

Flooded out! - The **York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge**, the Club's showpiece fundraising event scheduled for **July 8th**, has, for the first time in ten years, been cancelled due to flooding on the River Ouse after the torrential downpour of the past few days. The organising committee took the decision, with great regret, on Friday after receiving advice from the environmental agency and local authorities. The condition of the river on the Sunday (see photos) clearly vindicated this decision! After due consultation, a revised date has now been agreed for the event which will now be held on **Saturday 22nd September 2012**.



Outing to Sinnington - The annual "Summer (*sic*) Outing" to Sinnington took place on **July 5th**, another very succesful day which was much appreciated by our guests who attended. Rtn Patrick Curran, organiser of the Summer Outing, is pictured (left) welcoming the guests and thanking the Sinnington WI for the excellent tea, as well as thanking the Rotarians for driving the guests to Sinnington.



Selling Dragon Boat Programmes - Pictured here are some of the stalwart crew of members and friends who gave up part of their Saturday to sell progammes to the public around York on **June 30th**. Many thanks to those who helped in this (sometimes thankless) task and got our programme sales off to such a good start, raising money for our Club charities fund.



Presidential Handover - At the Club meeting on 29th June the badge of office of President was passed from David Jesper to Darrell Hind who will lead our Club through the forthcoming 2012-13 year. Also at the meeting was Ambassadorial Scholar Luigi Nicoletti, who thanked the Club for their support and received the good wishes of the Club as he heads off now to join a Humanitarian Relief Team working in the Congo.

