

Club News Archive

2014-2015
in reverse chronological order



The Rotary Club of York
1921-2015

July 2014 - June 2015

The Heart of Zebra Fish On **June 26th**, Sarah Huddleston, an Ambassador with the [British Heart Foundation](#), spoke eloquently about her own cardiac issues when a young adult. Blood is pumped through the heart and travels 12,000 miles per day! The research-based Foundation is fundraising for a programme called "Mending Broken Hearts" wherein the goal is to enable hearts to mend themselves; the model is the self-regenerating Zebra Fish. The educational arm of the charity is focusing on building a nation of (call, push, rescue) lifesavers who know how to perform CPR. Host Barry Campbell reminded the meeting that only that morning, a news report about teachers who had saved the life of a boy in a PE class at Fulford School.



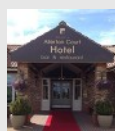
Leipzig - Fellowship and Riots The InterClub gathering at Leipzig, with our own members meeting with members of Erlangen Rotary Club, was held earlier in June. And it turned out to be an eventful couple of days, involving visits, friendship, fine dining, beer, and even the odd petrol bomb!..... [read the whole story here](#).



Club Walk June 18th, Ilkley Moor..... *Steve Burton reports:* "Eleven stalwarts - some wi' some bah'tat ventured up from Ilkley onto moor and soon found westerly wind cu'd cause death of cold! A long walk up and across and very steep down took us up and round t'moor. Followed by a good meal at The Hermit - a strenuous 7.5 miler from which we all felt gratified"



Visit to Northallerton Mowbray RC Donald Heath kindly arranged this visit to the Northallerton Club on **June 15th** *Donald reports...* "On a beautiful summer's evening and led by President John, seven intrepid members of the Club ventured into the wilds of North Yorkshire to visit the [Northallerton Mowbray Club](#). This is a relatively small Club - approximately 30 members - but they are extremely active and equally friendly. Their Speaker was a lady who had gone out on the Rotary February 2015 visit to India in connection with Polio Plus. This gave us a new perspective and one that certainly whetted some appetites for making that final push to eliminate the dreaded scourge of polio. A most enjoyable evening with a delightful drive home back in the dusk."



R.I. Citation Award for Rotaract Club During the Club's Business Meeting on **June 19th**, a special presentation was made by District Governor Rod Walmsley, to the [York Rotaract Club](#), who were represented by their President Constantin Voll and three other 2015-16 officers of their Club who attended as our guests, together with District Rotaract Chair Tony Jordan, and three members of York Ainsty Rotary Club including their President Christine True. The award, a Presidential Citation signed by RI President Gary C.K. Huang, was to recognise the work that Constantin and his team has put in this year to revitalise and expand the Rotaract Club, their fundraising efforts, personal development activities, and developing their links with our own and other York Rotary Clubs. We look forward to working with President Elect Nina as she leads York Rotaract Club into an exciting new year in 2015-16. (more photos [here](#))



Club Speaker on Bowel Cancer John Whelpton from [Bowel Cancer UK](#), who himself was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2009, was our speaker on **June 5th**. He gave a very clear and straightforward presentation about bowel cancer awareness. Bowel cancer is the second biggest cancer killer, but it shouldn't be and if diagnosed at an early stage, bowel cancer is very treatable. There are four stages in the development of bowel cancer and if diagnosed early in stage one or two the prognosis is much more favourable. John went on to advise on the risk factors, what to look out for and how to reduce the risk. Finally John explained the Bowel Screening programme available through the GP service and encouraged everyone between the age of 60 and 74 to take part in the programme. Those over 74 can opt in to the programme.



O.B.E. for Patrick Shepherd Our Honorary Life Member Patrick Shepherd has been awarded an O.B.E in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his services to business and charity in York. President John said "The honour recognises the considerable commitment Patrick and the Shepherd family have given to worthy causes especially those in York and we're particularly delighted to see a Club Member's charitable work recognised in this way." The Club's congratulations go to Patrick.



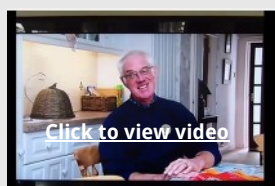
Physionet shipment arrives in Ukraine Our Club has close links with the local [Physionet](#) charity, run by Peter Thompson, and many club members frequently assist in loading trailers of surplus medical equipment that is shipped to various countries in desperate need of this help. Here is a video of the most recent shipment being unloaded at its destination, the rehabilitation centre at Ternopil, in war-torn Ukraine. Featured in the video is Volodymyr Kostyshyn, the Pastor who is helping with the distribution of equipment, and Natalia Shidlovska, head of the rehab centre, the latter speaking in Ukrainian but clearly happy with the shipment received as she is thanking all involved. She is wearing, as a shawl, the national flag which was signed by most of the those who loaded the shipment in Dunsforth, York, on **May 16th**. Click the second photo to watch the video....



Kabiro Community School, Kenya On **May 29th** Chris and Madhu Patel explained the work of the Kabiro Community School in Nairobi. Having lived in Kenya in their early years they became aware of this School in a very deprived area and vowed that they would do something to help. Their preparations were interrupted when Kenya became independent, and they were forced to immediately emigrate to Britain. Their dream never left them and the vowed to return to help the School. They saved £20,000 from their own pockets and have over the years returned to assist in the modernisation and progress of the school. The school started with just 50 students and now has a roll of over 1300, aged from 2 1/2 to 18. Several orphaned children actually live at the school and are cared for by the staff. Crime and drug use in the area has diminished by 60%. The ethos of the education offered is an emphasis of "How to make a life instead of just a living." Chris and Madhu...two people making a difference, and how!



TV Coverage of Rotary Help for Nepal A recent TV report on ITV's Calendar News featured District Assistant Governor Mike Bamford being interviewed about Rotary's response to the Nepal earthquake disaster. Mike had been in Nepal when the earthquake struck, and has a close interest in the country. The response from District 1040 Clubs, including our own, was featured in the interview, together with Mike's very personal response to the crisis. You can [see the video](#) of the interview by clicking the photo below..... and read more of Mike's observations and Rotary's response on the District website [here](#)



Ian Stockley receives PHF Award At the Business Meeting on **May 22nd**, President John presented a Paul Harris Fellowship for exceptional service to this club and the local community to **Ian Stockley**. Ian was Club President in 2009/10, and has since been an effective chair of Community Service and Fund raising Committees, raising many thousands of pounds for the club. He has also for many years organised the quarterly District 1040 Council meetings at Fulford School; and was part of the District 1040 Polio Immunisation team which visited India in 2011. President John remarked: "This man epitomes the rotary motto of 'service above self'". Many congratulations to Ian on his well-deserved Fellowship award. At the same meeting, President John presented **Diana Naish** with an RI Award (a "Blue Pin") under the New Member Sponsor Recognition Programme for her success in sponsoring and recruiting a new member to our Club.



Donation to York Young Carers York's [Young Carers Service](#) is a non profit organisation based in Priory Street, York, which supports young people 8 - 18 who are helping to look after someone at home. The service is based on the mnemonic L.A.F.F.S. - Laughs, advice, fun, friendship and support. Accepting the cheque on **May 21st** from President John and Community Service chair Graham Todd, Liz Roberts said "The generous £500 donation will go towards arranging trips, events and activities for young carers allowing them a break from daily caring and to have some fun with other young carers".



Nepal Earthquake Appeal Update Within District 1040, the Rotary Appeal for funds to help the victims of the earthquakes in Nepal continues. On **May 21st** it was reported.. "The total raised so far, including gift aid, is just over £28,000. Out of this, we have paid out £11,500 for the purchase of tents, corrugated galvanised iron sheets for roofing, blankets and mattresses; food stuffs such as rice, lentils, salt and cooking oil, as well as 800 meters of 2" PVC pipe to replace a damaged drinking water supply." The District is working directly with the Rotary Club of The Himalayan Gurkas to ensure speedy transfer of funds and help. They have responded: "*We thank every single Rotary club in your district for their outstanding response to post earthquake appeal Nepal!*"



SNAPPY Bikes President John is pictured wearing a suitable "Snappy Hat" this week as he presented a cheque to Anne Stamp, service manager of [SNAPPY](#) (*Special Needs Activities and Play Provision for York*) which is a charity that provides social and recreation opportunities for children and young people with special needs aged 5 - 25 in the York area. This scheme, which meets at Lowther Street, provides a place for children to learn and develop through a range of play activities in a safe and secure environment. Ann Stamp the service manager said. "Please thank all your members for supporting Snappy. This kind donation will allow us to purchase three specially modified cycles for use at the centre"



Supporting Harmony Once again the club is delighted to support the [Harmony Cafe](#) a university student lead project for dementia sufferers which meets once a month on a Saturday at St Aelred,s community centre in Fifth Avenue, York. President John and Fred Anderson this week presented a cheque for £300 to the project coordinator Jo Gledhill. The Harmony Cafe is a place where people experiencing memory problems and their carers can socialise with one another and with volunteers in a friendly and understanding environment.



All Rise! Visiting our Club on **May 15th**, Erica Taylor, Chair of Magistrates, and Harry Patterson, Magistrate, explained the work of the York Magistrates. Erica spoke more generally; they are volunteers appointed by The Queen via the Lord Chancellor, are unpaid and independent of Government. Criminal Responsibility begins at age 10 years but the Youth Court deals with 10-17 year olds. 95% of all cases are completed in the Magistrates Court; only 5% reach the Crown Court. She was looking forward to modernisation into a Digital Court. Harry described the variety of offences with which they deal and the sentencing guidelines (seriousness, aggravated circumstances and mitigating factors).



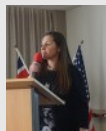
Visit to RC Weighton Wolds On **May 14th** Rtn Donald Heath organised this visit to the Bay Horse Hotel in Market Weighton. The Rotary Club of Weighton Wolds is a young club (only formed 18 months ago). It is much more informal than RCoY and provides a "snack" for £7. They are innovative, flexible and project orientated so have no committees as such. However, much is achieved and impressive was the get-up-and-go and enthusiasm witnessed.



New Member Talk On **May 8th** Rtn Ian Tarbet gave his New Member's Talk. Speaker's host for the day was Ian Helby. Interesting that both Ians hail from Harare, Zimbabwe - Salisbury & S. Rhodesia in their days! Ian T was educated in Edinburgh and has a Business & Finance degree. He gave an amusing and enlightening summary of his career which began in Edinburgh then took him to Gaborone, Botswana, London and back to Scotland with BT. During 31 years with BT he travelled widely, relocating to York in the early 1990s.



Children's Heart Surgery On **May 1st** our speaker (at very short notice) was Myriam Barker from the [Children's Heart Surgery Fund](#), based at Leeds General Infirmary but covering a region including Yorkshire, Humberside and North Lincolnshire. In this region over 400 babies have open heart surgery each year. Working in support of the NHS, they fund equipment, staff posts, resources and training for those who work on the heart wards; and support child patients with congenital heart disease, and their families. This includes provision of specialised equipment such as remote diagnostic monitors, refurbishing and decorating wards, and funding accommodation for parents and families. Personnel from the charity, particularly Myriam, were in the forefront of the recent legal battle to save the unit at Leeds from closure. Myriam's presentation was an emotional story of love, care and support in such intensely difficult family situations.



Nepal Earthquake At the **May 1st** meeting President John announced that the Club would be using funds raised recently by the triathlon marshalling, matched by funds from the Club's International Committee, to donate £1000 to Rotary's Earthquake Appeal for humanitarian relief in the stricken country of Nepal. All Rotary Clubs have been asked to provide such support - with over 32,000 clubs worldwide, this would potentially see £32m raised world-wide - a real case of Rotary in Action where it is desperately needed.



The Giving Continues.... President John and community services secretary Dennis Adamson presented a cheque for £300 to the York Sea Cadets unit at their Green Lane, Unit HQ in Clifton, York on **April 27th**. Hundred of youngsters have passed through the ranks of the York Sea Cadets unit helped by many dedicated voluntary uniform and civilian staff, parents and supports. At the conclusion of the presentation in accordance with tradition the unit gave John and Dennis their special BRAVO chant.



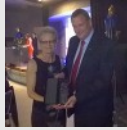
Support for 4 Corners Youth Club President John's theme during his year in office is supporting the city's youth. The club was proud to support Refugee Action York, 4 Corners Youth Club. On **April 27th** President John, Rotarians Fred Anderson and David Porter presented a cheque for £500 to the Club's coordinator Carrie Wheeler. 4 Corners is a youth club for young people of dual heritage, refugees and asylum seeker families. The club allows young people to build relationships with peers and share experiences. The club is dependant on voluntary donations. After the presentation 3 young members presented a thank you card signed by all the young people who will benefit from the donation.



Marshalling support from Rotary 17 Club members and partners helped out at the 2nd York Triathlon 2015, held at the Sports Village on York University Campus on **April 26th**, providing marshalling support for the event. Participants had to swim 400 metres, cycle 18 kilometres and then run 5 kilometres. 580 competitors participated, including some members of the Great Britain Triathlon team. A great day was had by all and £510 was added to the club's Charity Fund in lieu of 'wages' for the duties performed. On what turned out to be a gloriously sunny day, but with gusts of wind impacting the cycling section, our congratulations go to all of the athletes who competed. Many thanks to Mike Hay who co-ordinated this fundraising activity for the Club.



President presents Young Disabled Sportsperson award President John and Community Service Chair Graham Todd represented the club at the 2015 Active York Sports Awards held at the University of Yorks Roger Kirk Centre. Having sponsored the Young Disabled Sportsperson Award President John presented the award to Beverley Bunyan mother of the winner Antonia Bunyan. The winner Antonia Bunyan is a 15 year old from Bishopthorpe who plays the Paralympic sport of Goalball with the York St Johns Goalball club. The awards seek to highlight the talent, commitment and dedication of those that make sports happen in this city. Inspirational was the verdict from the organisers who publicly thanked the Rotary Club of York and other sponsors for making it happen.



Askham Bog April has been designated "Environment Month" for the Club, so it was very fitting that on **April 17th** our speaker was Louise Wilkinson, from Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT), who gave a beautifully illustrated presentation about Askham Bog, a 44 hectare Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) right on our doorstep. YWT has 38,000 members and supports 95 nature reserves with 100 staff and over 600 volunteers. Askham Bog is a historic site, its origins dating from 13,000BC, and its uses have included peat extraction in Roman times. Today it is home to a wide variety of birds, invertebrates such as dragon flies, and also water voles, Roe deer and grazing Exmoor Ponies. Louise explained the very active role that YWT have played in lobbying and mitigating the potential negative impact of developments proposed for the surrounding area near Copmanthorpe, and it is clear that she and her staff are truly helping the conservation effort.



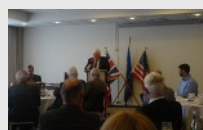
Walking for Physionet A sunny, clear but not overly hot day welcomed the Charity Walkers for Physionet on **April 16th**. 65 club members and guests and other supporters of Physionet, left the Village Hall at Coxwold, on either the longer (5 mile) or shorter (3 mile) paths. The longer route took us across the fields from Coxwold to Hushwaite, with its beautiful Norman church. Then across the Beacon Banks, a mile or so stretch with superlative views across to the White Horse, the western moors, and the Vale of York. Back in Coxwold Village Hall we all sat down to a superlative buffet prepared by Diana, Linda and Angela, and President John spoke about the great fellowship and joy of the day. Many thanks to the organisers, particularly David Heasman and the International Committee, and to the catering crew. The walk raised **over £900** for Physionet, a terrific achievement.



Theatrical Update There was a warm welcome back to Liam Evans-Ford, producer at [York Theatre Royal](#), on his third visit to Club on **April 10th** to give an update on the theatre and its forthcoming productions. It coincided with the media stories of the "find" of a medieval well this week, during the excavations under the stage, as the theatre goes through a major and exciting £4m upgrade to its stage, facilities and a new bistro which - archaeology permitting! - should be completed this year. Despite the building closure, the theatre is continuing, with innovative stagings at the National Railway Museum of "*The Railway Children*", back for a return visit after it's huge success worldwide; and a new production, "*In Fog and Falling Snow*" which tells the story of "larger than life" York railway tycoon George Hudson (the 1840's version of Frank, apparently!!) Liam's dynamic presentation, enthusiasm and description of this multi-stage show, involving the 600 audience moving around the NRM, and live locomotives, kept members rapt with attention, and keen to get tickets (26 June - 11 July)



Mayoral Visit On **March 27th** we were delighted to welcome the Lord Mayor of York, Cllr Ian Gillies, as our speaker. The club was treated to a very interesting and humorous description of the Mayor's year in office, which to date has included over 500 functions, handing out over 1,000 certificates (though none today) and a punishing daily schedule which he seems to manage with an easy style, good humour and an obvious sense of pride in his City. Cllr Gillies announced the successful awarding of Heritage Lottery Funding for the further refurbishment of the Mansion House, to his obvious delight. His two Lord Mayor charities, York Against Cancer and York Teaching Hospital Charity, have benefitted greatly from his efforts, YAC (well known to all members) being able to buy outright the new minibus they have wanted for so long. The Mayor's talk ended with the exposition of his view that volunteers were the "oxygen of York" and Cllr Gillies, a good friend of our Club and our President, received warm applause from all present.



Welcome to Don At the Club's Business Meeting on **March 20th** we were delighted to formally welcome new member Don Salter. Coming to York from Chester, where had (and still has) his own business, Don has already become very active in the Club, attending a number of events as a guest before confirming his membership. Not afraid to jump in to anything new, it is clear that Don will make an impact within the Club and participate fully - he was enthusiastically welcomed by President John, and by all members.



The Devil's Amphitheatre Local legend has it that it was formed when Wade the Giant scooped up a handful of earth to throw at his wife during an argument. But there was less drama on **March 19th** when 10 members embarked on our own circumnavigation of the Hole of Horcum on the March walk, led by the Club's new member (elect) Don and his wife Sheelagh. The conditions were dry, apart from some residual mud. The skies however were somewhat overcast. But the views were still fantastic as we made our way in a counterclockwise direction from Levisham, upstream through the valley and up the steep climb to the A169. Returning across the moor, and avoiding the flock of herded sheep, we then refreshed the soul and the body with a great lunch at the Horseshoe Inn.



Budding Brunels build bridges! The annual York Rotary Clubs' Technology Tournament took place at the National Railway Museum on **March 17th**, where teams from schools from York and outlying districts competed by rising to the challenge of building a Bascule Bridge (better known as a "Tower Bridge") using the basic materials provided. The teams were fully engaged in this task and excitement mounted as testing was completed and the winners announced (see "Rotagraph for details of the winners") A large number of Club members were present as stewards, and also as judges. Three York Rotaract members, all engineering students, were also judges. They were delighted to be involved in helping the day be so successful. Isambard would have been proud!



Uganda shipment from Physionet Several members helped load up another container on **March 14th**, full of medical aids, wheelchairs and the like, and destined this time for Uganda. Last January, Physionet despatched another loaded to The Gambia which included, in addition to the usual range of equipment, 700+ artificial limbs on behalf of the charity 'Legs 4 Africa' The second photo below shows a cheerful group of very grateful recipients, many waving the aforementioned limbs!



Archaeologist digs up his history On **March 13th** new member Peter Nicholson gave a talk to the Club about his background and career. An accountant by training, after spending time with Rowntree, Hepworth Plastics and York Waterworks, Peter eventually joined Yorkshire Archaeological Trust in 2001. He outlined to the Club the success of enterprises such as the DIG and Jorvik, who make sufficient returns to cover the other work that YAT need to do to help preserve York's history and develop places such as Micklegate Bar museum and the Richard III museum, both of which have had recent refurbishments. Peter also mentioned his other interests which include Jam making and walking - though presumably not at the same time....





Outreach Programme Donation President John and Graham Todd, chair of community services, this week presented a cheque for £1000 to Haxby and Wigginton youth and community group. Met by committee members Rtn Mike Miller and Pat Wilford (wife of Graham) the donation will allow their youth workers to reach out to young people in the area. The aim of the project is to provide equipment which will enable young people to develop their potential and be aware of such issues such as substance misuse, and develop in-depth understanding of the local community.



President's Evening In the splendid setting of The Dante Suite at York Racecourse on **March 6th** President John and Linda Lacy hosted the President's Dinner, with special guests the Lord Mayor and Mayoress, the Sherriff of York John Kenny and Jill Kenny, President of Inner Wheel Pat Anderson, with Fred Anderson, and the Presidents of Ainsty and Vikings Clubs. We also especially welcomed, as our speaker, Ely Fiorentini, or Radio York, with her partner Michael Speak. The food was excellent, the atmosphere extremely convivial, and humour abounded in the speeches of our President - on the general theme of "history" - followed by the Lord Mayor Cllr Ian Gillies, whose descriptions of his year of office and associated anecdotes proved to be hilarious. Ely followed suit by describing "bloopers" from Radio York on-air which she played to us from a cd, and describing her background and the special events in history that she had covered over the years. All in all it was another great example of Rotary fellowship for the 110 members, partners and guests that attended.



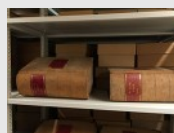
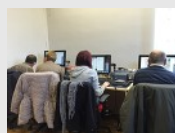
"Running a business" presentation On **March 5th** two of our club members, Brian Joscelyne and Lukasz Druzic, gave a talk to the York Rotaract Club at the University of York, about "Running a business" Sharing their differing experiences of setting up a business from scratch, developing it and (in Brian's case) selling it, their presentation gave rise to a lot of discussion and questions from the eager young Rotaractors, several of whom are already thinking about setting up their own businesses.



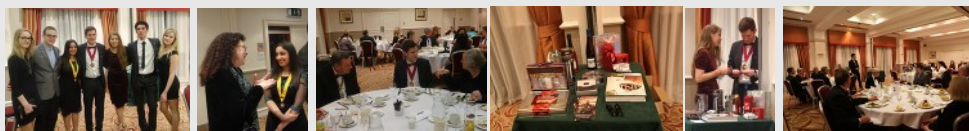
York Mind At the Club meeting on **February 27th** Vicky Blakey and Holly Pollard, from [York Mind](#), explained to the members the activities and work of this charity which has been closely associated with our Club for many years. Providing assistance for over 40 young people a year, recovering from mental health problems and re-assimilating back into work or training, York Mind helps with vocational skills training (such as computer skills), Young People's projects, support groups, and "Wellbeing exercises", including what was described as "Green Exercise" - probably better known to most of us as walking! Members were especially interested to hear about the three-year Young People's project, which has recently been supported with a Community Services grant from the Club. This provides football coaching and skills development for over 20 youngsters.



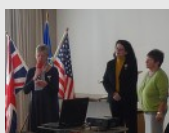
Visit to City Archives *Frank reports..* The newly restored [City of York Explore Library](#) was a real eye opener for the 17 members who enjoyed a conducted tour on **February 27th**. Many didn't realise that the Library and Archive services separated from the local authority and are now a mutual benefit society with charitable status. This resulted in a Heritage Lottery grant and £1.6m has been spent on producing a state of the art depository for 800 years of documented York History starting with the original 1155 York charter. The archive vault has been built above the existing childrens library. The new facilities were opened in January and it is evident from the number of people using the whole range of activities that this investment is very worthwhile.



Rotaract Charter Night Dinner About twenty members of our Club, and partners, attended the York Rotaract Club's 5th Charter Night Dinner on **February 25th**, held at the Hilton Hotel. Rotaract President Constantin Voll welcomed everyone to the evening and ensured everything went smoothly, including a well-stocked raffle which raised further funds for their chosen charity "Young Minds". Many of our Club members present remarked on the upbeat and intelligent conversations we all had with the Rotaractors present. It was a joy to see Rotaract thriving again in York! More photos can be seen on our Rotaract page [here](#)

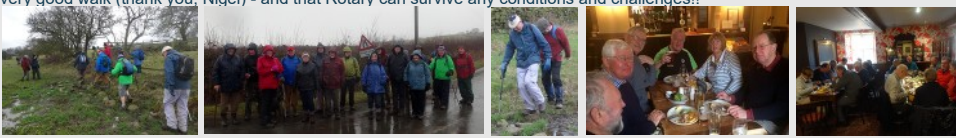


We welcome another New Member We were delighted to welcome **Hazel Hart** to membership of the Club at the business meeting on **February 20th**. President John, during the formal proceedings, mentioned that Hazel is the 10th new member that Club has welcomed in the past twelve months (seven of them women) which is an indication of the continuing vibrancy of our Club as we look forward positively to the future. Hazel owns a local hotel in York, and has wide experience of catering and hotel management. She is involved in the development of local tourism, being a board member / governor of several York bodies such as York College, Visit York, York Food Festival, and many others. Welcome, Hazel!

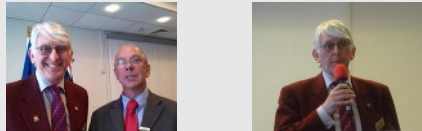


There she blows! *"Some people feel the rain. Others just get wet."*
Attr. Bob Marley

Despite the weather forecast, a record turnout of 20 members and partners arrived at Kirkby Overblow, just south of Harrogate on **February 19th** for our walk. And despite the rain starting - then pouring - not long after setting off, the group found the positive "feel the rain" spirit. Graham decided to cover up his shorts (!?) with waterproofs, and we all (well, nearly all) remained smiling. Cheerfully carried on, with just a minor shortening of the planned route, we complete 5.1 miles back to the welcome, warm and dry Shoulder of Mutton. With its open fires and terrific food, the pub warmed us inside and out and the party agreed it had actually been a very good walk (thank you, Nigel) - and that Rotary can survive any conditions and challenges!!



Hope and Homes for Children [Hope and Homes for Children](#) (H&HC) was founded after the 1994 Bosnia conflict by Col. Mark Cook. In his presentation to the Club on **February 13th**, Rotarian Graham Jackson, from the Irlam Club and past DG of District 1280, who speaks all over the UK on behalf of H&HC, described their work and their main objective of closing down "Institutions" for children and enabling them to move to real homes with, ideally, members of the own family, or at least with loving foster homes (adoption), or sometime into H&HC homes. Their work is carried out in 9 countries across Eastern Europe and Africa, and has had some dramatic positive results, with the number of children in institutions there being reduced from 120,000 to 8000 (and in future to zero). Graham described some of the physical and mental conditions he had found in Romania, Moldova and other places which were quite harrowing and it was clear that H&HC, which our Club have supported for many years, is making a real difference to these deprived children across the world.



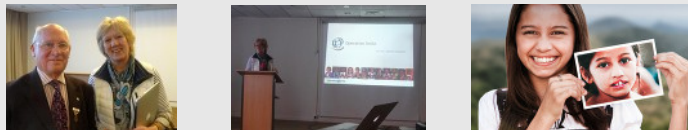
Helping our Community with Service Grants In addition to the presentation to York Theatre Royal, reported below, the Club has recently also given financial help to several other local community initiatives. These include £1000 to Haxby and Wigginton Youth and Community Group, for outreach work; £500 to the National Centre for Early Music, York towards their *Music for Life* project; and £500 to York Blind & Partially Sighted Society, to purchase a special keyboard and associated percussion equipment.



Grant to York Theatre Royal In July YTR (York Theatre Royal), in conjunction with the National Railway Museum, will be presenting a newly written play about the history of the railways in York. This play, "[In Fog and Falling Snow](#)", will be a 'community production' involving some 200 actors. The YTR has a number of thriving Young Person's Theatre Groups. During the last year it has been working with a group of 15-20 young people from disadvantaged areas of the City who have not previously had any involvement in theatre. Several have been referred to the Theatre by local agencies. The work they have been undertaking includes both acting and backstage activities. YTR hoped to be able to involve this particular group of young people in the new Railway project. Our Club has provided a grant of £1,250 to cover the costs of providing the group with a Facilitator for the rehearsal period, plus costs associated with them progressing their Arts Award work. On **January 27th** President John and President-Elect Mike presented the grant cheque at the NRM, where the young people were auditioning for their involvement in the production.



Lighting Up.... We take "lighting up our face with a smile" for granted. But in her talk to the Club on **February 6th** Di Leal, representing the US-based charity [Operation Smile](#), showed us how thousands of children in third-world countries who suffer from cleft lip or cleft palate (one born every 3 minutes), are unable to smile until the international team from their charity arrives to perform simple (45-minute) operations to correct these birth defects, using equipment and clinical standards that match those commonly used in the UK - though the facilities are often more challenging! She described the twelve-day missions, illustrated with poignant photographs, which help around 120 children (selected from 300 who ask for the treatment) on each mission. Di, who practices nursing in Leeds, has recently volunteered on missions to Peru, Morocco and Cambodia amongst many others. Funds raised in the UK are used to support *Operation Smile's* UK volunteers' expenses. Her talk was heart-warming and a true example of "making a difference" in young peoples' lives.



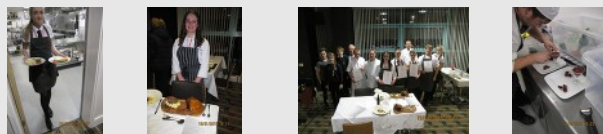
Family Fund On **January 30th** our speaker was David Fergus, who has recently joined Family Fund as their fundraiser (or "professional beggar" as he described it!). David explained the charity's role, in helping families with severely disabled children or under 17's, who are already on benefits but need that little extra help. 99% government funded, Family Fund provide equipment (kitchen appliances, laptop computers etc), books, short breaks away, and increasingly, help for siblings who are carers. They helped 180 families in York in 2014, out of an estimated 4000 eligible families in this area.



Visit from DG Rod District Governor Rod Walmsley joined us on **January 23rd** and addressed the members on his views on Rotary's role and development world-wide, and within the UK. He stressed the focus on Youth and the fight against Polio, and he commented on the global reach of Rotary as evidenced in the San Diego conference he had recently attended. With 79 clubs in our District 1040, he places a strong emphasis on communications, and his final message was that we should enjoy Rotary "with a smile" and keep up the good work the Club is evidently doing.



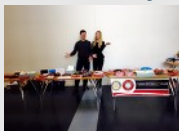
East Yorks Young Chefs excel again On **January 19th** nine budding Young Chefs from Scarborough and York battled it out in the heat of the York College kitchens for the East Yorks finalist of Young Chefs, who will go forward to the next heat at Betty's Cookery School in Harrogate. Scarborough Cavaliers Rotary Club brought three contestants who were up against 'locals' from Joseph Rowntree, Fulford and Archbishop Holgates Schools. The Judges had a difficult time choosing a winner from nine very high quality two-course meals served up by the contestants prepared with a budget of £10 each. After some considerable time deliberating, the winner was announced - Rebecca Palmer from Scarborough.



It's official for Eileen! During the Club's business meeting on **January 16th** President John presented the Vice-President badge of office to Eileen Davis. Eileen will take over as Club President in our 2016-17 year - the first time a woman has held this office in the Club..



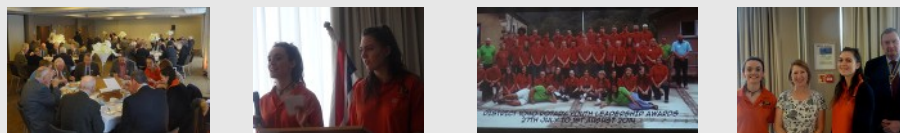
Rotaract bake for charity On **January 15th** York Rotaractors organised a Cake and Bake sale (mostly made by their members) at the University, raising over £150 for their chosen charity this year, Young Minds. This is their first fundraiser of 2015, and the Club is planning several additional events, including their Charter Dinner in February.



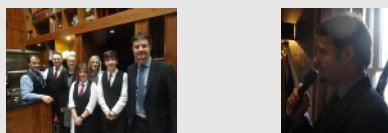
Sunshine and beef for Rotary Walkers! The 15 members and partners who took part in the January walk on **January 15th** were blessed with sunshine, in between two days of storms! Setting off from The Chequers at Bilton-in-Ainsty, the party enjoyed cool but pleasant weather across fields and tracks past Nova Scotia Wood, Healaugh and Wighill, and past some very inquisitive sheep! Then, as the wind really picked up, a record was probably attained for the Rotary one-mile sprint, as, wind-assisted, we sped back to the Chequers for lunch, including what was described by one of the group as the "Best Beef Pie in Yorkshire, bah none!".



Bravely tackling a new environment! There was record turnout of 77 at the Club's first meeting in our new "home" at the Novotel on **January 9th**. It was universally agreed that our new environment, the service and particularly the food, were excellent! Then, describing their own new environment challenges were our two speaker, Poppy Rodriguez and Niamh Devlin, from The Mount School, who had recently returned from their D1040 RYLA week at Hebden Hey. In a very polished and interesting presentation, they explained how their RYLA experience taught them leadership skills, increased confidence, communication skills and the ability to take on responsibility. It also demonstrated they really could go for a whole week without Facebook!! They had two mentors on the programme, one being our own Associate member Rebecca Mendoza, the other Rtn Linda Parker from Halifax RC, who also spoke to members about her experience. It was clearly a brilliant and impactful week - and a great example of Rotary making a real difference in the lives of young people.



This was their finest hour!! The Club bade a fond farewell to the staff at the Churchill Hotel on **January 2nd**, after a 12-year period of holding our weekly meetings there. To mark the occasion, the Churchill put on a special 3-course lunch, including Duck, and manager John gave quite an emotional few words. Three days later the work will start on converting the hotel to add further bedrooms and facilities as the hotel moves on to its new future. And we move on, to the Novotel! Thank you, Churchill for 12 great years.



Yorchestra The Club made a cheque presentation to Yorchestra on **December 29th** at York University Music Centre. President John, accompanied by Graham Todd and Fred Anderson, presented the cheque for £1150. President John said "We are delighted to support young people and the arts in this city". Yorchestra is a registered charity run by volunteers which gives young people the opportunity to play instruments in a symphony orchestra. The money will be held in a bursary to provide financial support and instruments to young people.





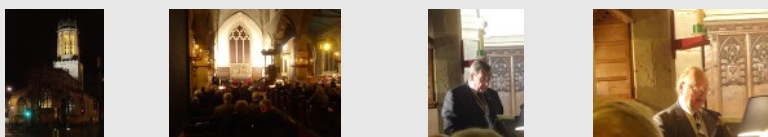
Christmas Meeting It was a "full house" for the Club's Christmas Entertainment meeting on **December 19th**, our final meeting of 2014. We were ably led by Tom Jackson and Tim Hinton with their additional instrumentalists Ken Iles on keyboard and Alan Morrison on cornet. Members and guests were thoroughly entertained, with the music being interspersed with hilarious readings and stories from IPP Nigel, reciting the "Dinderella" story (where she "slopped her dripper"); then from Jeremy Valentine with the "Twelve Days of Turkey", an unusual foray for Jeremy in to the world of food (!). Later Andrew Dunkinson told us the story of Ebenezer and the figurine, and David Porter illustrating a masterly West Country brogue with his tale of the Carol Singers. Whether it was tapping spoons on glasses to encourage Jingle bells, or perhaps hearing Jeremy's jokes (Q: "What do mice do in the daytime"? A: *Mousework*) there was something in the air that lifted everyone's spirits so that we all parted with happy hearts, and hearty wishes for a good Christmas.



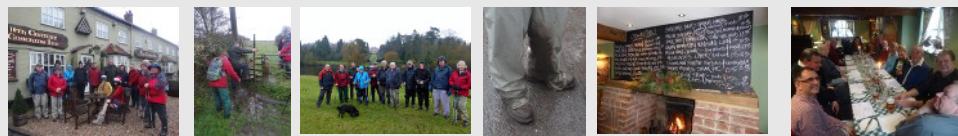
Thanks to Churchill During the Christmas festivities lunch (reported above) President Nigel presented Rachel, from the Churchill Hotel, with their staff gratuity and the grateful thanks of the Club for the excellent service the hotel has provided throughout the year. Rachel expressed her thanks and her regret that this was the last year we will be with the Churchill. The response from one of the members was very simple - "Then why don't you get a job at the Novotel?!!!" *Hotel management please note: he was only joking!*



Carol Service There was a record attendance of close to 130 at the All Saints' Church in Pavement on **December 18th**, as Rotarians, Inner Wheelers and guests from all three York Clubs joined in the annual Carol Service, led by David Porter. The nine lessons were read by representatives of all three clubs, including the Senior Member of our own club, Bill Stubbs, and AG Darrell Hind. The story of the Nativity from Genesis through the prophets and finally to Bethlehem was told chronologically through the lessons and accompanied by eight associated Carols. The choir of All Saints' provided stirring leadership for the carols, and two lovely a cappella Anthems as well. Finally, a chance to sample delicious mulled wine and mince pies, rounded off by coffee, provided the opportunity for fellowship and reminiscing amongst the membership of the three Clubs, and a fitting start to the Christmas season.



Muddy Boots! The conditions underfoot were the challenge on **December 18th** as twelve members and partners (plus visiting Rotarian guest David Greenalls from Melbourne, Australia) slipped and skidded along the muddy path by the River Ure after setting off from Roeccliffe, near Boroughbridge. We progressed along the beautiful riverside through fine but persistent rain, and finally onto more terra firma, passing the splendid Newby Hall and its grounds, before meeting up with Celia Impey who came like a Magi bearing wonderful gifts of Sloe Gin and mince pies! After returning to Roeccliffe the atmospheric Crown Inn at Roeccliffe provided a wonderful lunch – from a huge menu choice – and the day was deemed a great success by all concerned. Thanks to David Impey for the excellent walk, and to Celia for the even more excellent refreshments!



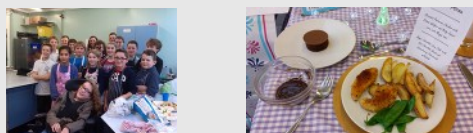
John Wardale Members were very saddened to hear of the death this week of John Wardale, a Rotarian for over 15 years, initially with Church Stretton Club, then as a very popular member of our Club since 2008. John had been in poor health for some time, but had continued, in his inimitable way, to continue with his activities and commitments as usual. He had been an active sportsman and adventurer all his life, and his extraordinary energy, particularly evidenced in his contributions to Dragon Boats day and his indefatigable and happy participation in Clubs walks - his last being just three months ago - will be fondly remembered by all of us. A full obituary will be published in "Rotagraph"



Age UK On **December 12th** we welcomed Sally Hutchinson as our speaker. Sally is Chief Executive Officer of Age UK, and organisation derived from a merger of Age Concern and Help the Aged with a £1m turnover and over 100 staff, of whom 6 are full-time. Sally explained the main service provisions of Age UK, which include the largest UK "Befriending" service, with over 6000 visits per year to lonely people who have problems getting out and about; check visiting, an internet shopping service, a Tradespeople referral booklet, interim carers service, and the very popular "Keep your Pet" service to support pets when their owners need to go to hospital. The Age UK services are provided with a "light touch" to be non-intrusive but extremely flexible to meet individual needs, and Sally talked about a number of very unusual, not to say strange, requests they sometimes receive. One call for help about "Cybersex" turned out to be a need to interpret "Side Effects" of a prescription!



Rotary Young Chef - Fulford School A festive atmosphere prevailed as fifteen young people from Years 7 to 9 took part in the Fulford School Heat of the Rotary Young Chef competition on **December 5th**. They prepared ingredients bought for under £10, then served up a healthy, two-course meal for two. The results were judged by Stephanie Moon, the Chef Consultant for "All Things Food". She and RCoY representative Eileen Davis were very impressed with the menu choices, demonstrable skills, flavours and presentation. In the younger group, Emily Sneasby and Minnie Riley were proclaimed the winners. The senior group was won by Theo Lockett and Alex Bewsher, both of whom will go on to represent Fulford at the York Area Finals on January 19th at York College.



Physionet to Bhutan On **November 29th** several Club members joined the Physionet team packing a container that then headed out to Bhutan with the latest collection of wheelchairs and other surplus NHS equipment.



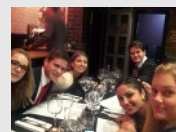
Archaeology Live! Our speaker on **December 5th** was Arran Johnson, from York Archaeological Trust, who explained the background and current work of "[Archaeology Live](#)" ([click here for more details](#)), a training programme and dig which is currently centred on the All Saints' Church site in North Street (near the Park Inn Hotel). This is one of a number of complex urban archaeological digs which offer trainees the chance to work with professional archaeologists and to learn and practice the various techniques of archaeological excavation. All Saints' offers a rare chance to investigate a central site South of the Ouse. The site is rich in finds that have been discovered from pre-Roman times, Roman, Vikings and later eras. Members were fascinated by the presentation, especially, as host David Jesper put it, since it concerned "things that are even older than we are"!!



President's Lunch There was a "full house" for the President's Lunch held on **November 28th** at York Racecourse, as 120 members and their guests gathered for a splendid meal, wine and good fellowship! The after-lunch speaker was Fiona Williams, Chief Executive of "[Explore York](#)", the new umbrella organisation for York Libraries and Archives, which was set up last May. Fiona explained that the exciting job of refurbishment, and the relocation of the York Archives into the central library building, would be completed by early January. The organisation was owned by its staff, and local community members, and the resulting enthusiasm was clear. They were receiving funds from Friends groups and donations – people seem to love their libraries! The Archives are a key historical record for York - and the UK - and were last catalogued in the early 20th century. Now they are being made available on-line, and will be constantly updated. Fiona explained that this "[Gateway to History](#)" project had been mostly funded by Heritage Lottery Grant, with help from the City Council. It will reach out to local archive groups (which will include our "Inner Wheel" Club's archive, as requested by their President Pat Anderson during questions) and communities to draw them more into the city's project.



Rotaract Club Celebrate The York Rotaract Club, which is sponsored by the three Rotary Clubs in York, have been very active in recent months, with growing membership, fundraising activities and events. On **November 24th** they held an informal Christmas Dinner where Rotaract President Constantin Voll and the group discussed their plans for 2015.



Notable Day in Our Club's History The Business meeting (and SGM) of the Club on **November 21st** was a special one in the Club's history. During the meeting we welcomed **four** new members into Rotary membership - three of them women. In addition, the Club chose its first woman President, as **Eileen Davies** was elected to lead the club in our 2016-17 year. The Club also elected Brian Joscelyne (*Webmaster*) to be Vice President in 2015-16. The **new members** welcomed included **Diana Naish**, (wife of Past President Nigel, and thus creating the first husband and wife Rotarian team in the club's history) who is already well-known to members for her assistance in fundraising and fellowship events, and is a retired professional caterer and hotelier. Also 'inducted' were **Mary Lumley**, a retired head teacher and previously research scientist; **Ian Tarbert**, an accountant by training who was most recently Vice President responsible for sales and business development for BT until his recent retirement; and **Sheila Wetherburn**, who was most recently a training professional with General Accident Insurance. Members made all four very welcome and we look forward to their contribution to the club going forward.



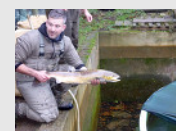
Golf Presentations Over the summer, many Members have enjoyed their golf and the fellowship evenings which followed. Somewhat later than planned, Coordinator David Sweeney organised the presentations on **November 21st** of the two significant Club awards : The **Shouksmith Trophy**, which was first awarded in 1933. This was presented to David Impey. The Runner-up was David Sweeney who is pictured (right) at the second presentation. The **Thompson Plate** was awarded to Tom Jackson, winner of a knockout competition held throughout the summer. The Runner-up was Barry Campbell (who was not present for a photograph). Thanks were extended to David for his sterling work in coordinating the various golf events.



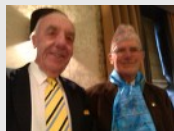
Cheque presentation to "York Mind" On **November 19th** President John accompanied by Graham Todd and Darrell Hind presented a cheque from the Club for £500 to Alyson Scott, Chief Executive Officer of York Mind. Alyson said that this donation was very welcome and would go to funding a young persons group and aiding their recovery from mental ill health; and noted that 1 in 4 people will be affected by Mental Illness.



Club November Walk *Eileen reports...* The November walk on **November 20th** was somewhat different, in that it included a visit to the Ure Salmon Trust Hatchery, the subject of a recent talk given by David Bamford to the Club. A typical misty, even foggy November morning saw 13 walkers assemble at Ellington Firth near Jervaux. The hatchery is not easy to find and there were a few detours caused by uncertainty about its' exact location. However, we were not daunted and made it, if a little later than anticipated. David and a colleague explained their work; at this time of year, salmon have returned to spawn and several were being held in a tank prior to treatment for fungal infections and egg removal to replenish stocks. One large, healthy female had been caught that morning and her transfer to the tank was keenly observed. A slightly late lunch at The Blue Lion at East Witton was very well received.



Rotary Changing Young Lives in Nepal A Member of the Rotary Club of Harrogate Brigantes, Barry Pollard spoke to the Club on **November 14th** about a project which his Club is leading, which has been supported by 4 Matching Grants from RI Foundation. The project's Nepalese partner is the Himalayan Gurkhas Rotary Club in Kathmandu and an ex-Gurka Major is the local leader, with former soldiers providing links to the villages. The project began in 2010 with a single idea - to put computers into schools in the remote Panchamul Valley which is in the Annapurna Range 50 kms west of Pokhara, Nepal's 3rd largest urban area. From small beginnings have come great benefits, some unexpected. The project now supports 9 schools in quite scattered villages which are ex-Ghurkha home links. Literacy and numeracy have improved in order to use the internet and IT has provided the building blocks for modernised education, and several other major benefits for the local community have resulted. It was an inspirational presentation about the power of Rotary for good..



Foundation Update. District 1040 Foundation Chairman Roger Percival is well known to the Club as he has been involved with the District for many years and is a former District Governor. He spoke to the Club on **November 7th** about RI Foundation grants (Global Grants and District Grants).. Whilst RI Foundation was once prescriptive about grant decisions, it now delegates them to Districts and by extension, to individual Rotary clubs – we have to ask and make a good case! Roger explained that the District has a 2014-15 allocation of \$35,000 to be distributed to partnership projects as requested by Clubs. And this year, District has received 8 Global Grants which are used for projects undertaken with other Rotary Clubs.



60's Night at York College *Darrell Hind reports..* On **November 6th** a good number of Rotarians, families and friends turned up for what promised to be an excellent evening...we were not disappointed. From meeting David Impey and Jim Wragg at the door dressed as the Beatles in formative and latter years. To all that had made the effort to dress in their period costumes including miniskirts and 'kinky boots' went our admiration and congratulations, a particular person of note, although slightly out of period, was a Hippie with a form suspiciously that of Pat Frankerson. The menu was excellent and appropriate being the York College's take on the Berni Inns Menu. The entertainment was continued with not one, but two of President John's Quizzes. Thanks to the Organising Team led by David Impey, to John for his quizzes and to the Staff and Students. Altogether an evening to remember!



On the Move! During the Club's Business Meeting on **October 31st**, the final tally of votes amongst members was concluded, regarding the choice of location of our meetings in 2015 when we are moving from the Churchill Hotel after 12 happy years. The final choice, announced later by Steve Burton, was the **Novotel in Fishergate**. A new era begins as we transfer there from January 9th. Many thanks to Steve and the Sub-committee who worked so hard to research, then prepare and co-ordinate the excellent short-list of hotels - in the end it was a hard choice but the Novotel came out a clear winner!



Remembering Jim Rosemary DeLittle was the Club's guest on **October 31st**. During the meeting, she formally returned Jim's Past President's Jewel to President John. She, and members, shared many warm memories of Jim, with a number of members referring particularly to his kindness and sense of humour.



Supporting Physionet Our Club supports the Physionet project in a number of ways. To date £3500 has been donated to Physionet. Providing more physical support, a group of happy labourers are pictured at Lower Dunsforth on **October 25th** taking a breather from loading an Artic trailer with wheelchairs, zimmers etc bound for East London S Africa. The gang included Nigel Naish (accompanied by Sheila Weatherburn and Mary Lumley) Nigel Everard, Vic Brookes, Chris Birch, and David (and Anne) Jesper. David reports... "A short, sharp, socially enjoyable, coffee and cake fed, very worthwhile interlude!"



An East Coast Journey A former print journalist and BBC Radio Cleveland presenter, John Gelson spoke to the Club (at very short notice) on **October 24th** about the ups and downs of the Rail franchise operations on the East Coast Route. In December 2007, National Express took over the franchise, but subsequent reduced ticket sales, increasing fuel costs and recession lead to the default in 2009 and the Department of Transport setting up East Coast under its arm called Directly Operated Railways. Improvements followed, and now 20 million passengers per year with 44 train sets is good business and between 2018 and 2021, new trains built in Newton Aycliffe will upgrade the fleet. On the communications front, Social media is proving to be a good resource, especially photograph postings which show causes and thus explain any major holdups.



A Duke of York's Community Award 2014 for the Jack Raine Foundation. It has been announced that Dragon Boat 2014 recipient The Jack Raine Foundation, has won a Duke of York's Community Award. We congratulate them on this achievement. The Foundation's chief executive, Lewis Gell, also received The Henry Wood Outstanding Leadership award for his work with vulnerable and exploited children. He is pictured here, receiving the Award from HRH The Duke of York.



DBC Presentation The 2014 Dragon Boat Award Presentations took place on **October 21st** at the Mansion House. The photo shows The Civic Party together with the winners, beneficiaries and President John and President Elect Mike on the staircase at the Mansion House.



District Conference *Russ reports..* 13 members and partners attended the 81st District 1040 Conference at Scarborough on **October 17th/19th**. This year's conference theme was - *Making Change Work*. The varied keynote speakers - especially Roy Lilley on the NHS, John Craven on his BBC career and the breakout sessions together with a black tie dinner and a high quality West End Show production - Beyond the Barricades - ensured everyone left the conference inspired, invigorated, informed and well entertained.



October Club Walk *Rebecca Mendoza reports...* **October 16th**. On a hazy, mild and somewhat soggy Yorkshire morning 15 walkers set out on 6.5 mile wander around Westow. We were told it would be slippery underfoot, but we weren't warned of the rickety stiles that we would eventually have to hurl ourselves over. To most of you reader's delight, and perhaps to the dismay of others, nobody fell—although there were quite a few wobbling Rotarians and a few close calls. After initial stile challenges and slippery mud, the remaining few miles were danger free and we walked in peace along the countryside on what turned out to be a sunny and warm day. Graham was an excellent tour guide and had prepared a detailed description about the local church where we stopped for a break and a group picture. Then it was off for food and drink for the hungry walkers at the lovely 300-year-old country pub, The Blacksmith's Arms.



Everyone deserves a chance Rob Walker, our speaker on **October 16th**, is Television Sports Commentator. During his travels, he presented a programme from Southern Africa on long-distance running and this led to an opportunity to work with the Prince's Trust to take several young people to Africa to give them an experience outside their normal environment and to demonstrate the values which were unknown to them in their normal lifestyles. He has now set up the African Adventure Charitable Trust, aiming to take about 12 local young people potentially at risk of falling into crime, drugs etc. to Southern Africa on a 12 day trip around Kenya and Uganda. There they undertake many activities such as painting schools and playing football matches against local teams to develop their interactive social skills and citizenship. Rob summarised by saying that *'Everyone deserves a chance'*.



FERA Visit *Frank Paterson reports..* 34 members and partners had a very informative vocational visit to Sand Hutton on **October 14th**, to mark the centenary of the formation of the first organisations that have evolved into what is known today as The Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA). The site at Sand Hutton extends over 88 acres, including the Central Science Laboratory and more than 800 people work on a wide range of activities. Food Quality & Safety provide effective research solutions, advice, training, and testing services to the food and drink industry using state-of-the-art DNA sequencing methods to help trace the origin of foodborne illness outbreaks. They are a centre of excellence for diagnostics and analytical science and a global leader in the identification of new and previously uncharacterised threats. They are recognised as the leading UK centre for sustainable agriculture and plant protection research, providing interdisciplinary applied research for commercial and government customers. The UK's largest Plant Clinic handles in excess of 8,500 samples a year and offers the most comprehensive range of testing services for all sectors throughout the supply chain. The mental overload created by absorbing all the fascinating data from the range of practical examples of the work was followed by food and fellowship at the Sandburn Golf club just across the road.



Water Communications At our meeting on **October 17th** Dafydd Williams, Stakeholder Engagement Manager for Yorkshire Water, outlined the scale of the company's operations. Yorkshire Water manages the collection, treatment and distribution of water in Yorkshire, supplying around 1.24 billion litres of drinking water each day. At the same time they also collect, treat and dispose of about one billion litres of waste water safely back into the environment operating more than 700 water and sewage treatment works and 120 reservoirs. They look after 62,000 miles of water and sewerage mains - enough pipework to circle the earth. They own approximately 32,000 hectares of land (80,000 acres) covering the whole of Yorkshire but predominantly located on the eastern flanks of the Pennines and in Nidderdale. 45% of the raw water treated for drinking is sourced from reservoirs 32% from rivers and 23% from underground deposits. They have over four million customers and he outlined the different uses of social media for communication. The company's telephone helpline is based in Bradford but the website and Twitter are becoming the preferred means of dealing with service deficiencies and complaints.



Rotaractors "Meet and Greet" Starting off the new academic year in a very positive vein, the York Rotaract Club held a "meet and greet" evening for prospective members on **October 8th** at the University of York. Kevin Grogan represented our Club at the event, and reports: "Around sixteen students were present with several more unable to make it but who have expressed a firm interest. Constantin (Rotaract's President this year) believes that a regular group of fifteen or so is viable and with his leadership I don't see why not."



Polo Shirts for Oaken Grove Back in May, the Club's Community Service Committee donated £300 towards the Oaken Grove Youth Drama Group (Haxby & Wigginton Youth & Community Association), to put towards the purchase of polo shirts to mark the re-launching of the group as "Take A Bow" (TAB). The shirts have a new logo, and the photo shows the youngsters celebrating receiving them last week from leaders Ellie, Adrian, Sophie, and Emily. The new group will develop their skills further through workshops and themed exercises, and learn how to apply these skills in their everyday lives.



Choice Anxiety, anyone? We welcomed Rebecca Ryan and Laura Mills, from Aviva Insurance's marketing department, to our meeting on **October 3rd**, who gave a presentation about the extremely rapid change in methods of communication with customers, and their company's philosophy in this area. As the UK's largest insurer, with 31 million customers, they clearly feel the need to be at the forefront of the trends. The pace of change is amazing – just six years ago we had not heard of iPads, BBC iPlayer, EE, or Instagram (some members have still not heard of some of these!!) and Laura's description of customer trends, including "self-directed decisions" empowering customers, instant information and targeted advertising, was somewhat overwhelming. Apparently modern customers suffer from "choice anxiety" – reminding us perhaps of our own pending decision about the Club's 2015 venue!!



Rotary Youth Challenge In unfamiliar surroundings at the Hilton Hotel - the first of our "Trials" of a potential new venues - on **September 26th** Club members heard a presentation by Frank Paterson and Linda Lacy about the recent "Snowball" event, sponsored by the three York Clubs. Showing a short video and some slides which illustrated the activities that were arranged for the young people on the Challenge, Frank and Linda gave an excellent and moving account of the successes, learnings, and issues of the weekend. Linda held members spellbound as she described some of the turnarounds from negative, threatening behaviour encountered initially from some of the participants to their actively helping in group activities, giving positive feedback, and even sending a card expressing thanks to the organisers. There was no doubt that this event had made positive, and potentially deep, impacts on the lives of many of the young people who participated



New Member Also at the **September 19th** business meeting, Club members welcomed new member Peter Nicholson, who has transferred from the York Ainsty Club. A Chartered Management Accountant by training, Peter is currently Director of Finance at York Archaeological Trust where he has worked since 2001. Prior to that he was with York Waterworks for over 20 years having started his working career at Rowntrees. Peter joins a long list of members who have been involved with York Waterworks Company – one of whom WH (Henry) Humphries the then Engineer and Manager was a Founder Member of the Club – the list includes Cy Read, Dick Stanley, Graham Wilford and now Peter. We are delighted to welcome Peter to the Club.



New Home wanted! During the **September 19th** business meeting, Club members were shown a presentation by Steve Burton, on behalf of the subcommittee tracking down a new venue for Club meetings in 2015. A short-list of five York hotels were presented and the Club will now visit each of these in turn during the coming weeks, to sample each venue. Please see the [Diary Page](#) for details of locations for Club Lunch Meetings - if members turn up at the Churchill in the coming 6 weeks (*apart from October 10th*) they will be having a very quiet lonely lunch!!



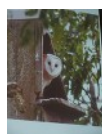
Rotary checks out public rights of way The Club walk on **September 18th** was led by Frank, so the unexpected can of course be expected. A record turnout of 17 members and partners set off from Nunnington for a very pleasant ramble through lanes, past hedgrows and taking in fine (if slightly misty) distant views. Frank's route then took us to a river and through a gate marked "No Public Right of Way" - or it would have done were it not for the farmer shouting vigorously at the group to keep out!! On the other side of the river (*ie the footpath*) the group then rested, out of rifle range, by a somewhat derelict but beautiful Elizabethan Water Mill, accompanied by two very friendly, curious, and obviously hungry, horses. Finally, after passing Nunnington Hall (NT) we arrived back at the Royal Oak pub in Nunnington, where a superb lunch was served "al fresco" in the sunshine that now welcomed our adventurous party.



Bowls and mushy peas! On **September 16th** 32 members and partners arrived at the Railway Institute Bowls Club premises, off Holgate, for what had been billed as a "Fun Bowls Evening". The competition was fierce (albeit fun) as teams of three battled it out on the green, and hotly debated the rules of play which most did not understand and fewer cared about! After 12 "ends" which comprised the 4 play-offs for each team, bad light stopped play and everyone retired to the Clubhouse for much-needed fluid replenishment! The Bowls Club volunteers then laid on a superb supper of pie, chips and mushy peas which were rapidly finished off allowing the really nimble to rush to the server for plentiful second helpings. Finally, the winners of the "competition" (rules unknown) were announced and Team D1 (comprising John Wardale, Molly Wragg and David Rayner) were presented with their prizes – more liquid! Many thanks to the organisers Frank Paterson and David Minns for organising such a successful event.



Barn Owls In the third of the excellent "Nature Talks" arranged by Trevor Phillips, the Club was addressed on **September 12th** by Lizzie Dealey, a Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Officer with particular expertise around Barn Owls and their habitat. Whilst most owls seen around our houses are Tawny Owls, Debbie explained that Barn Owls don't "hoot", though they do "screech"; can have an 85cm wingspan, and devour their prey whole. Their plumage is also not waterproof, surprisingly, which has rendered them prone to serious problems in wet or snowy conditions such as those in past two winters. 2104 was a good breeding season, however, and YWT are working to help replace lost habitats, provide nesting boxes, and assist farmers in providing richer landscapes for these lovely birds. Members were interested in the mechanics of how to build nesting boxes (see their website www.ywt.org.uk) and provided Lizzie with a wide range of questions which she expertly answered.



Salmon for lunch! At our meeting on **September 5th** we were served an excellent smoked salmon starter. After the main course our speaker, David Bamford, served up a fascinating salmon discourse, relating the history and revival of the presence of Atlantic Salmon in the River Ure/Ouse. David, the River Manager for the Ure Salmon Trust, explained that from the heady days when, in 1898, 16 tons of salmon were fished commercially, through the 1930's where they were still in abundance, the population of salmon reduced significantly, largely due to water quality problems, until relatively recently. In the last 20 years things have dramatically improved and, aided by initiatives such as altering weirs, hatcheries (20,000 at Masham Hatchery), rearing ponds, and fencing off banks to keep cattle out of the river, salmon numbers are increasing rapidly. More information is available on David's website <http://www.uresalmon.org.uk/>. David showed several photographs of what he said were "happy" fish. We never quite got to bottom of how he knew for sure they were happy, but no-one wanted to disagree!



International Arms Dealer Visit Members were treated to a talk with a difference on **August 29th** when Geoff Sherwin (son of our own Geoff) introduced himself as an "International Arms Dealer at the age of 63"! His excellent presentation about antique UK military swords, their history and development was of great interest, as was Geoff's explanation of how he got into and developed his specialist business (in his retirement) which now has customers from across the world, including several museums. More information is on his website <http://www.antiqueswordtrader.co.uk>. Geoff related several interesting anecdotes and facts about these weapons, the difference between "thrust" and "slashing" styles – not for the faint-hearted digestions, this – the latter being very often curved blade designs and only usable from horseback. It transpired during Geoff's talk that four Club members owned their own swords. It is likely that all will now be given positions of high rank and due respect in the club by those of us who remain unarmed!



District Shop At the **August 22nd** business meeting, a cheque for £1500 for the Club's charity account was presented by David Impey to club president John. This was the net proceeds from the District Shop that has been managed over the past year by David and John - a notably successful year which was the result of a lot of effort and dedication. Many thanks to both!



August Club Walk Ten Club members and partners turned out on an overcast but not-too-chilly morning on **August 21st**, meeting at Sinnington Village Green then setting off towards Appleton-Le-Moors. Lunch had been ordered at the New Inn at Cropton before resuming the walk back to Sinnington. This was a break with the usual tradition of ending Club walks at the pub! As can be imagined, this deviation from the norm caused considerable 'debate' amongst Rotarians present!! Worse, Steve realised that we were to arrive at the lunch location too early, so discreetly added a detour – later reckoned as at least a mile – to the route to Cropton. Duly arriving at the appointed hour, everyone enjoyed a splendid lunch – together with carefully regulated draughts of Cropton Brewery ale in order to be able to complete the journey. A stop was made at a Beckhouse Farm, Cropton, owned by Ian Smith (yes, really) where he has amassed an amazing collection of historic horse-drawn carriages, fire-engines and hearses. The party returned to Sinnington – just as rain began to fall! A very enjoyable walk – thank you Steve – which was reckoned to be 9.5 miles (by GPS) or only 7.5 miles according to Frank's brand new pedometer! This investigation will continue in September!



Bill Mann Trophy This annual golf event was held at Pike Hills Golf Club on **August 17th**. The event was challenging, with gale force winds, making standing upright difficult, let alone playing a decent golf shot!! But despite this 20 golfers, representing all three Rotary Clubs in the York area, took part in a keenly fought contest during the afternoon. In the evening, at a delicious dinner at Pike Hills attended by over 60 Rotarians, partners and friends, Bill Mann's son-in-law Brian Royce presented the prizes (as his wife Sheila was unfortunately indisposed). Overall winner was David Impey, with Brian Houghton taking second place and Steve Cluderay (Ainsty RC) third. Longest Drive of the day (albeit wind-assisted!) was won by Lukasz Druzic, a great achievement as he has been playing golf for only a few months! It was an excellent day of sport, fellowship and fun, expertly organised again by David Sweeney, to whom many thanks.



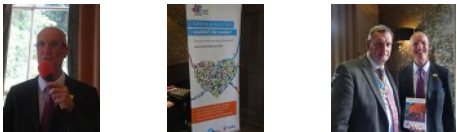
Youth Development The three York Rotary Clubs organised administered and financed a 3-day 2 night personal development course for 32 disadvantaged young York people at Snowball Plantation, Stockton on Forest from **August 10th to 12th**. The programme contained a mix of physical and mental challenges developed and managed by Awesome Adventure, a professional company which has run the very successful District 1040 Rotary Youth Leadership courses at Hebden Bridge for many years. The objectives were to emphasise the importance of competition, health, fitness, character and tolerance as inputs to their quality of life, encourage teamwork and communication and generate self esteem. Despite some "learnings" from this first venture of its kind for the Club, there were two unanimous conclusions from the team – that the project was worthwhile and the money well spent; and that problem youngsters could be prevented from becoming problem adults by such positive intervention. Many thanks to Frank and his team, and to the Rotary mentors who took part.



New Member's Talk On **August 15th** Darren Housley spoke to the Club in his 'new' (nearly) members talk. In a very varied career he initially studied to be a fabrication welder, and worked in the Confectionery industry, Financial Services and Recruitment. He then bought a Puncture Repair Franchise (this went flat...)... went to live in France, venturing into worm farming; and finally Darren returned to UK and settled in North Yorkshire. His present occupation is advising companies and individuals on 'Chip and Pin' technology. He also spends much of his time enthusiastically fundraising and clearly will be a great asset to the Club. Welcome, Darren



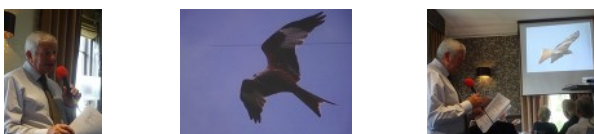
On yer bike! At our meeting on **August 8th**, Club members heard from David Short, programme manager for [iTravel York](#), about "*Sustainable Transport*". iTravel (the i stands for "intelligent") is a government-funded programme aimed at carbon reducing measures in transport, derived from the 1995 UN Protocol which set tough targets (34% reduction by 2020) for all countries of the world. York has successfully introduced several initiatives and has recently won an additional £1m funding for further development. David, a keen cyclist, mentioned the growth of off-road cycle paths (100Km) and cycle lanes (80Km) helping to make York the 3rd highest cycle-use city in the country. Park and Ride bus expansion, electric buses, and cycle lockers at P/R stations are other initiatives, together with the City Car Club rental scheme. Whilst traffic congestion is still rife in York, as evidenced in members' questions to David ("Will we end up with a congestion charge?") iTravel is at least being pro-active in reducing the need for car journeys, especially short journeys which make up most car usage.



Summer BBQ With warm but somewhat "iffy" weather on **August 2nd**, Peter Fox and his team decided to set up the tables inside the Village Hall at Sutton-upon-Derwent. This was probably the best idea as there were a few short showers at first. After a brief "chicken crisis" - waiting for the portions to be cooked in the ovens before being finished on the barbeque - the Chefs, Daves Thompson & Walkden, kept the sausages, steaks & chicken pieces coming, to the great satisfaction of the 70 or so guests. Salads and other accompaniments filled plates, drinks were plentiful and delicious sweets followed. The sun came out after lunch and most people went outside, some to enjoy the putting set up by David Sweeney (and won by Darren Housley & Steve Burton); some took this more seriously than others! Grateful thanks are due to organisers Peter Fox and Donald Heath and the many others involved in the organisation.



Red Kites Nigel Puckrin, our speaker on **August 1st**, enlightened members regarding the history, truths and myths about the Red Kite (or *Milvus milvus*), one of the country's rarest birds of prey. Historically they were nature's scavengers and cleaners before the invention of dustbins and rubbish removal! Weighing around 1Kg, with a huge 5ft wingspan, the Red Kite's biggest prey are animals half the size of a rabbit, so news reports of them swooping down and carrying off Fido the family pet are almost certainly very wide of the mark! Visitors to the Wharfe Valley around the Harewood Estate are most likely to see Red Kites. There are about 100 breeding pairs in Yorkshire, who create huge nests about a metre wide using various materials including, apparently, soft socks and underpants whose origins can only be speculated upon. Members can read more about these amazing birds at www.yorkshireredkites.net



Treasure Hunt On a glorious summer evening on **July 24th**, 30 Club members, partners and friends walked through York and were encouraged to really look around them by an interesting and, at times, demanding questionnaire provided by Jim Wragg. Figureheads recycled into shop fronts, memorials, dates in Roman numerals, and plaques never read before taught participants yet more about their City. The Dringhouses Racers (aka David & Celia Impey with their friends Marie & Tony) and PAD (aka Peter Netherwood, David & Aileen Minns) took the honours for gaining the most points, then took a tie-break question about the size of York's population at the last Census. (198,000). PAD got closest to this figure and were thus declared the winners! The Hilton Hotel hosted the start and finish and provided refreshing post-walk drinks and a two-course meal which was enjoyed by all. Many thanks are due to Jim and Molly Wragg for another super evening.



"Un panache chanceux" is how Tony Loffill described his *"New Member Talk"* on **July 18th**. As a former lecturer, now happily retired, he says he never even bothered to listen to himself, which was always embarrassing when asked to repeat anything he had just said! Without notes, Tony spoke about his childhood in Staffordshire, railways (which suited many in the audience), education (which pleased others), life in Strasbourg and encouraging people to learn strange tongues. He easily filled his slot with anecdotes and reflections; indeed, he had to be reminded that his time was up! Tony himself feels that the time limit was to everyone's relief, but his audience regretted not hearing more about his interesting career.



July Club Walk Mike Hay reports... **July 17th**. An ideal outing : the weather was fine, the scenery just north of Thirsk was varied and interesting. The group was somewhat diminished in numbers due to other commitments and holidays. John Wardale took the shorter route, but caused some concern when his map was found along the path.....he had dropped it as he negotiated a rather overgrown section! Everyone enjoyed the classic British food provided by the Carpenter's Arms in Felixkirk. Sincere thanks to IPP Nigel who led the walk.



St Sampson's Celebrate York's St Sampson's Centre is 40 later this year, and President John was there last week for the celebration and thanksgiving service. During this service, the Centre acknowledged the work of the Civic Trust and with help of £67,000 from the Haywood Foundation and a further £7000 from the cities 3 Rotary Clubs to pay for furnishings - the St Sampson Centre as we know it was born. We do *make a difference* with over 600 over 60's now using the centre each day. Below is a photo of how it had fallen into disrepair in the early 70's, before the refurbishment began. The centre was formally opened by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in November 1974 – and proved an instant hit with the city's retired people. An interesting Press feature article on the Centre's 40 years can be seen [here](#)



Dragon Boat Challenge success On **July 13th**, an early start and some morning rain did not dampen the spirits of members, or of the 34 crews, with their supporters and spectators, as the 12th DBC got under way. As the sun shone and the competition also heated up, the atmosphere on both banks of the Ouse was electric, and the Grand Final proved to be one of the most exciting and closely-fought in many years. The victors in the Final were The Growlers, from Ged Bell and Co, Family Butchers. Many teams exceeded their fund-raising targets, and programme sales - which directly benefit the Club's charity account - were also at a high level. In the end, the total raised for the various charities, including the Jack Raine Foundation, will certainly exceed £50,000. It was an excellent, well-run day (thanks to Mike Fieldsend and his DB committee for all their hard work) which, despite the distraction of the imminent Tour de France event, was a huge success for York, the teams, and the Club.



Carl strips off for charity Although not apparent to his fellow Club members at lunchtime meetings, Carl Crossfield is in fact less hairy than before!! Carl recently underwent a full "Leg and Chest Wax", urged on by his wife Charlie ("to see me in pain" he says) to raise funds for Pancreatic Cancer UK. These are a few photos we have obtained... ouch, that DOES looks painful!!



President John sets the theme At the Club Meeting on **July 4th**, at a suitably bedecked Churchill Hotel (for the Tour de France event on Sunday) incoming President John Lacy thanked IPP Nigel for the excellent leadership he had provided for the Club during the past year, and outlined some of his hopes and ambitions for the year ahead. Incoming President-Elect Mike Fieldsend was also presented with his badge of office.

During his remarks, President John mentioned he had been working on a "theme" for the Club's new year. By acclamation, members seemed to agree that "The Rotary Club of York has upped its standards - now up yours" would be a memorable theme (or perhaps John's second choice "Rotary Club of York serves you right") However, as an upright ex-Police Superintendent, it appears John feels that *"An Active Club is an Attractive Club"* would be more "PC" !!



PHF Awards and handovers Before handing over his badge of office on **July 4th**, President Nigel said he had pleasure in presenting two Paul Harris Fellowships to Club members for their service to the Club. **Robin Rich** was recognised for his contributions in various roles including as editor of Rotagraph for many years, and more recently as chair of International Committee and particularly of his organisation of the inter-club meetings including the hugely successful May 2014 meeting with Elangen RC in Stratford. **Brian Joscelyne** was recognised for his development and management of the Club's award-winning website, for organising the York 90 international fundraiser in 2011 and for his role with re-energising and developing the York Rotaract Club.

President Nigel also thanked the outgoing officers Ian Helby (Secretary) and Tim Hinton (Treasurer) for their unstinting work over many years, and welcomed incoming Secretary Mike Hay and Treasurer Nigel Everard.

