

Draft Minutes of the 48th Meeting of the York Group Committee, held in the Cambridge Room at the Mercure York Fairfield Manor Hotel YO30 1XW on Wednesday 7th May 2025

In Attendance:- Janis Wright (Chair), Elaine Allman (Treasurer), Janice Stace (Secretary), Karen Colbeck (Newsletter Editor), and Brian Mullen. Adele and Andrew Storr joined later.

The meeting commenced at 19:20

48.1 Apologies – received from Lynne Gray

48.2 Minutes of the 47th Meeting – corrections were made for the Sion Hall trip, the organiser is JW and the contact is Sarah Buckroyd. The minutes were then agreed and signed by JW

48.3 Matters Arising not included in the Agenda - none

48.4 Chairperson's Report –

We have had three events/talks since our last committee meeting --in February we had a talk from Arran Johnson on the subject of Archaeology on Prescription which showed how helping out at archaeological digs can be good for your mental health. This unfortunately was restricted to certain people only, locally.

In March we had our AGM, which we managed to complete in under three minutes---all the committee were willing to stand again and were voted in unanimously. Our speaker was Lizzie Strutt, who changed career from a fitness trainer to being a smallholder with various animals and how she learned to cope with looking after animals 24 hours a day. She also gave a demonstration on soap-making using goats milk and natural scents.

It was a very interesting evening.

End of April I gave talk on the History of Teddy Bears and brought along a selection of my own considerable collection of bears. I also asked the members to bring their own bears and tell us why they are important to them. I also had a few bears surplus to requirements which could be taken away and given a new home. A couple of members kindly gave me cash donations towards the charity I support which is Animals Asia.

I would like to discuss the room change and the coffee/tea consumed on the night.

After the talk at the end of May, we have the three month Summer break where we have adventures to Bar Convent in York; Sion Hill Hall near Thirsk and a canal cruise in Skipton.

Notification has been received on how the Volunteer's fund is being changed and this is going to be one of the main discussions for the meeting.

We will also look at venue charges, and discuss events for 2026!

Look forward seeing you on Wednesday.

JW also thanked Adele and Andrew S for their help with her presentation and IT.

48.5 The forms SEN have been completed and submitted for the talks up to and including June. The SENs for the trips in July and August have been prepared but require the information for the Food Hygiene rating before being submitted.

I will also be looking at the completion of the SENs for the Autumn talks, but will require full details to advertise them. I think that we should consider the possibility of another e-shot, and the September, October and November talks are a possibility. The aim is to issue the e-shot about two weeks before the first talk, and it should include details of 3-4 events to provide an indication of what the Group does. The marketing team work two months in advance, so the details should be

with them by the beginning of July. I would e-mail KC before to check that there is an e-shot slot available for the date that we want.

48.6 Treasurer's Report –

Treasurer's Report 1/01/2025 – 31/03/25

Bank/cash 31/03/25 £689.47

Bank 31/03/25 £559.03

Cash 31/03/25 £130.44

Total 31/03/25 £689.47

Balance at 31/03/25

Raffle Account £181.97

Volunteer Account £296.40

CSMA Account £211.10

There were 3 events in QBA1 with a total of 93 Members and 4 Guests . The previous year there were 104 Members & 7 Guests.

We carried forward from 2024 £1251.57. This was Raffle Funds £77.97 / Volunteer Award £399.60 / CSMA York Group £774.00

I claimed £800 Imprest against our budget of £ 4794 for 2025. Included in our Expenses for QBA1 was £50 deposit for our visit to Sion Hill Hall in July

The Raffle Income was £104 which gives a total to date of £181.97. Therefore we will be able to subsidise each of our Summer Events by £2pp for 1 Member & 1 Guest .

The Committee enjoyed the Annual pre AGM Lunch, paid from the Volunteer Award for 2025. This leaves a total of £296.40 to be used towards the cost of our Summer Events.

The Committee will discuss the venue & dates for our Monthly Meetings & Committee Meetings for 2026 at our next meeting.

EA reported that for 2026 the cost of hiring the room is staying the same, but the cost of tea/coffee is increasing to £4.25 per cup which is thought to be expensive. EA will speak to Bethany to try and reduce this amount, and also that the previous month's talk was held in another room with the tea/coffee being placed where any of the hotel's guests could have access.

48.7 Club Council Report including the Volunteers Reward Scheme – most of the conversation was about the VR Scheme. JS gave a brief history of how we had progressed from the Honoraria to the current proposals. The Committee felt that it was a backward step from rewarding everyone on the Committee to rewarding only a few, with the various award categories not yet announced. The Committee felt very strongly that all Committee members should be invited to the event, and the photographer should photograph everyone, which had not happened at the Centenary event. JS agreed to feed back their comments.

JS also suggested that the Committee should consider the issue of an e-shot again, with the details to be included for the September, October and November talks to be included. JS gave details of the timings for this. The Committee agreed that JS should approach Member Communities to book a slot.

48.8 Accidents/Incidents - none

48.9 Past Events Review – see Chair's Report above. The Committee agreed that the talk on teddy bears given by JW was excellent and it was a genius move to ask members of the audience to bring their own teddies and say a few words about them.

48.10 - Boundless York Newsletter –the numbers of members on the mailing list remains the same as at the last Committee meeting, i.e. 109. The summer newsletter went out at the end of April and included the booking form for the summer events.

48.11 Future Events 2025 – the talk for May and the summer trips out have all been booked, as have the autumn talks.

July 17th – Self-drive trip to Sion House. The Food Hygiene rating was checked at the meeting and confirmed as 5, as was the Skipton Boat trip so the forms SEN can be finalised and submitted.

Forms SEN have to be completed for the autumn talks and JS asked for details from the organisers for the SENs and the newsletter.

December 17th - Christmas Lunch at the Pavilion. Confirmation of the booking has been received from the hotel, and they will forward the menu when finalised.

48.12 2026 Calendar – There was discussion about which talks should be booked for each month. The calendar is as follows:-

January 28th – Eric Jackson talk ‘When the saints come marching home’, booked – cost£45 including travel.

February 25th – Chris Thorpe talk ‘The work of a Magistrate’ booked – donation £70

Mar 25th – AGM and food talk. Janis to check who is available

April 29th – Maria Denkowicz talk ‘A Time of Two Halves’ booked – cost £40

May 27th – Neil Hanson talk ‘The Inn at the Top’ booked – cost £75

June 17th – EA suggested a coach trip to Ushaw House near Durham, which would comprise 1.5 hour house tour, lunch by the students in the refectory, tea/coffee and biscuits before leaving. As it belongs to the Historic Houses Association entry would be free to members. The house is built by the same people as the Houses of Parliament and there is also a large garden which is on the same level.

July – Janis to investigate Wolds Lavender and Andrew to investigate the Hooting Owl gin distillery in Rougier Street.

August - JS has found a contact at Selby Abbey and will investigate further. It was decided that the preferred venue for the lunch afterwards was the garden centre at Osgodby.

September 30th – Michael Spinoza talk on the ‘Psychology of Ageing’

October 28th – Eric Jackson talk on the ‘Gunpowder plot’, cost as for January

November – EA to check on the charity York Against Cancer.

December 17th – the Christmas lunch is booked at the Pavilion. They will send out the menus when available.

48.13 AOB – JS – the LGRs have sent out their questionnaire for the next Club Council meeting. The Committee have no issues to report.

Apologies received by JS from Liz Barlow because she has been unable to attend our recent meetings.

BM mentioned that the Leeds Group will now hold their winter meetings in the afternoon.

Pete Banks has suggested Grace Alson as a speaker.

48.14 – The date of the next Committee meeting will be Wednesday August 6th, at the Mercure Fairfield Manor Hotel in the Cambridge Room at 7:15pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:15pm.

ACTIONS

All – to continue finalising the 2026 events