

Draft Minutes of the 44th Meeting of the York Group Committee, held in the Cambridge Room at the Mercure York Fairfield Manor Hotel on Wednesday 1st May 2024

In Attendance:- Janis Wright (Chair), Elaine Allman (Treasurer), Janice Stace (Secretary), Karen Colbeck (Newsletter Editor), Lynne Gray, Brian Mullen, Andrew Storr

The meeting commenced at 19:20

44.1 Apologies – received from Adele Storr

44.2 Minutes of the 43rd Meeting – these were agreed and signed by JW

44.3 Matters Arising not included in the Agenda – None

44.4 Chairperson's Report - We have had three events since our last meeting and all of them had their interest.

In February we had a talk by Jeffrey Holland on Cyber Crime and although many of us thought we knew virtually everything, we still had much to learn, and it certainly opened my eyes to some tactics.

In March we had our AGM and I broke my record for the AGM at 2 minutes 58 seconds! This was followed by a Truffle making and tasting by Andy Lloyd. We certainly found out how to make truffles (using half a cup or a full cup), but as the speaker thought that just talking about chocolate was boring he entertained us with anecdotes of his life. I don't think I have laughed so much in a long time. The tasting went well and I don't think you could buy cheaper boxes of truffles. He said he had not put his prices up for years!

In April our talk was from Barry Symonds on his work with the Eggheads and other quizzing groups. It gave a good insight into television quizzes and also the knowledge that each quiz expert needed. He was knowledgeable and amusing, and two off our audience had travelled down from Durham to hear his talk.

We are coming towards our Summer season and we have our final talk at the end of this month on Powder, Paint and Corsets and then in June we are off to Hawes Creamery; July to Renishaw Hall and the Stillingfleet Nursery after our next meeting.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to John Allman. I worked with him for some years and it is hoped that we always found each other agreeable and friendly. My thoughts are with Elaine and their daughters at this time.

Brian's wife Elsie has gone through a very serious operation and has now returned home and I wish her a speedy recovery.

44.5 Treasurer's Report – There were 3 events in QBA 1 with 104 members & 7 guests . The AGM numbers were a little low, but I understand that it was an excellent talk.

I claimed £1470 Imprest for the expenditure in QBA 1. Balance of £1267.03 at the end of QBA 1 included Raffle Balance £155.71 and Volunteer Award £386.70 (after expenditure of £93.30 for Committee Lunch) These amounts will be used to subsidise the 3 Summer Events.

I sent a cheque to the Thin Blue Line Charity as a donation for the February talk . To date this has not been submitted to the bank despite a reminder to them . Therefore have carried this outstanding into QBA 2 .

There is £373.20 of the Volunteer's Reward Fund remaining, i.e. £46 pp, after the subsidy for the Committee members on the Renishaw Hall trip.

Bank Balance @ 1/1/24 £ 960.38

Bank Balance @ 31/3/24 £1166.96

Cash Balance @31/3/24 £100.07

Total £1267.03

Raffle £155.71

CSMA £724.62

Volunteer £ 386.70

Total £1267.03

44.6 Secretary's Report – There have been three talks since the last Committee meeting, February's talk on Cyber Crime had an attendance of 44 - 40 members and 4 guests including the speaker and his wife, for the March AGM and Truffle Making speaker there were 30 - 29 members and 1 guest - the speaker, and for the April talk on Eggheads it was 31 - 30 members and 1 guest - the speaker. The attendance seems to have fallen somewhat, but at present this can be accounted for.

On Tuesday 26th March I had been invited to Defra to speak to the Civil Service Retirement Fellowship about the history of the CSMA. There were five members and I discovered that they expected me to speak for 10 to 20 minutes, so I had to leave a lot out! I had been sent various promotional items by Brighton, so I left some posters to be put up and some leaflets and quite a few pens.

I completed the SENs for the three summer trips on the 8th and 9th March. I noticed yesterday however that they have not been entered in the website. I am presuming that the problem is that when I completed the form's, I could not confirm that each venue would have Public Liability Insurance at the time of our event. I have sent details for the Hawes and Stillingfleet trips and have received an acknowledgment from Benita, so I will see what happens. I have also e-mailed Nick Hoath to check.

44.7 Club Council Report – JS had not been able to take part in the February Club Council meeting as it was by Zoom and there had been a problem with the sound. She explained the details required for the One Trust SEN forms for the coach trips, and said that she intended bringing this up at the next CC meeting later this month. There have also been difficulties with the Public Liability Insurance details required for our trips, but this is not restricted to the York Group and improvements are being sought. The details are included with the events as below. There is also an initiative to get more of the local Boundless members to engage with the Local Groups and York is one of the Local Groups who will take part in this. Final details have to be worked out, but it is intended that e-mails will be issued to local members, and Committee members will be asked to help, as was the case for Harlow Carr, but members who normally attend our events will be asked not to book a place on this event as it is aimed purely at those who do not attend the Local Group already.

44.8 Past Events Review – see JW's report above

44.9 Future Events 2024

29th May – the talk on Powder, Paint Corsets has been cancelled as the speaker is now unable to come. This has been replaced by a talk on brass bands by Chris Helme.

13th June – Coach trip to Hawes Creamery and Brymor Ice Cream – public liability insurance has been settled. The cost of the trip is £17pp for the member and one guest, and £19.50pp for additional guests.

10th July – Coach trip to Renishaw Hall – JW has e-mailed the venue for details. The cost of the event is £33.50pp for the member and one guest, and £36pp for additional guests.

15th August – Stillingfleet Lodge Nurseries – Vanessa has confirmed that she is fully insured. The cost is £10.50pp for the member and one guest, and £12pp for additional guests. The event has been moved from ‘In Progress’ to ‘Under Review’ on the One Trust system.

Christmas Social – this will be a lunch this year on a trial basis. The proposed venue is the Pavilion Hotel, with the actual cost to be determined.

All the other events for 2024 are booked.

KC asked for the descriptions of the summer trips so that they could be entered in the next newsletter.

44.10 Boundless York Newsletter – KC reported that there are currently 110 names on the mailing list. The next newsletter will be issued later this month

44.11 Volunteers Reward Fund – JS explained the possible changes to the Volunteers Reward Fund, but further discussion will take place over the coming months. This year’s Fund will be in the same format as before

44.12 2025 Calendar –

January 29th – this was meant to be a talk on Beningborough Gardens by the Head Gardener, arranged by AS, but the speaker is unavailable on this date, so AS will look at a talk on Chaplaincy at Heathrow Airport. February 26th – talk on archaeology organised by LG

March 26th – AGM and a talk on cheese arranged by Andrew S

April 30th – talk on teddy bears by Elizabeth Edwards

May 28th – a talk on ‘The Vanishing Coastline’ was suggested by a member, but there is no information on-line. As nothing has been booked, the January talk can be slotted in here. JW will ask members at the next talk for further details.

June 26th – self drive trip for an afternoon tea with a tour of the Bar Convent. The date has to be confirmed.

July 27th – a booking has been made for Sion House. The cost of £24 includes a flying display by the birds of prey, a tour of the house and gardens with a talk given by the owner, and tea, coffee and biscuits. The times for the flying display are 11:30, 1:30 and 3:30, and this has not been booked. The Groups are limited to 20, but if there are more than this then two groups can be accommodated if one of them does the tours etc. in reverse order. There is a snack bar only for food, but people will be able to take their own picnic.

August – a canal trip from Skipton has been suggested, the date has to be determined. AS will make enquiries.

September 24 – a talk by Maggie Poppa on the ‘The Real Marigold Hotel’

October 29th – a talk on either the gardens at Beningborough Hall or the Heathrow Chaplaincy, see above.

November 26th – RSPCA talk under enquiry with JW, with the Cinnamon Trust as a plan B.

December TBC

The Committee meetings will all be on the first Wednesday of the month – i.e. 5th February, 7th May, 6th August and 1st October.

44.13 Accidents/Incidents – none since the last report.

44.14 AOB – EA has received details of the hotel costs for 2025, and asked if they were acceptable. The room hire has gone up to £170, with £70 for the Committee meeting room. The cost of the tea/coffee has risen and will rise from approximately £100 to £130 per night. It was agreed that Elaine should agree the 2025 contract based on these figures.

Andrew S said that the speaker system was not working at it’s best and that he is currently trying to trace the problem.

44.15 – the date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 7th August

There being no further items, the meeting closed at 21:45.

ACTIONS

JS – forward details of the summer trios to KC

Check SEN progress

EA – Check Pavilion Christmas Lunch details when available

Andrew S – deal with the speaker system