

**Draft Minutes of the 47th Meeting of the York Group Committee, held in  
the Cambridge Room at the Mercure York Fairfield Manor Hotel  
Wednesday 5th February 2025 - meeting commenced at 19:20**

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

**47.1 Apologies** – received from Lynne Gray and Andrew Storr

**47.2 Minutes** of the 46th Meeting – these were agreed and signed by JW

**47.3 Matters** Arising not included in the Agenda - none

**47.4 Chairperson's Report –**

It is four months since our last meeting and four events have taken place. In October we had a wonderful talk and demonstration of not only Tiffany glass but all methods of different glass ware (except glass blowing!). The item made was offered for our raffle which was much appreciated and also there were many items for sale. I managed to purchase a couple of Christmas decorations and they certainly looked good on the tree.

In November we had a talk on the state of nature in Yorkshire, and although it was very interesting and enlightening, it was delivered by the professor as a University lecture---so for me it felt a little dry?

In December we had our Christmas meal at not only a new venue, but at a different time. We tried the Pavilion Hotel (late home of John Barry and the Prendergast family) for lunch. We were all greeted by the staff and the dining room was well set out and the meal was very good. The raffle was nearly free for the committee as we managed to use excellent gifts given by our members, so we were not out of pocket at the end of the day. Everybody seemed to enjoy the venue and the lunch and there were lots of murmurs for this to be repeated in 2025.

Just last week we had the first talk of the year given by the Reverend Cath McBride on being a chaplain at Heathrow Airport. I thoroughly appreciated an explanation of the various roles within the Anglican Church, which have quite often stumped me.

We now start thinking of 2026 and what exciting talks and venues we can come up with--variety certainly must be the spice of life!

**47.5 Secretary's Report –**

The forms SEN have been completed for January to April inclusive. The forms have been considerably simplified, but while I complete them and receive a copy of the form immediately on completion, the form is also sent to the organiser of the event to check and agree.

I have received an enquiry about our events from a Boundless member, and I sent her a copy of the last newsletter and the 2025 events card. She thanked me for my welcoming e-mail, but said that she was joining a rock choir on Wednesdays!

I have received an e-mail from Stephen Holt, a Boundless member who co-ordinated an offer from the East Lancashire Railway, for which I gather he is a volunteer. I don't know whether any of our local members have taken up the offer, but due to the fact that the general take up by Boundless members is very low, the offer has been withdrawn.

A survey is being sent to all volunteers with the intention of considering how the work for various roles may be made easier/less complicated, and also to get volunteers views on volunteering in general. You will probably have received this by the time of the Committee meeting. There is no need to discuss this as your individual views are required, but can I please ask that you all take the opportunity to complete it.

#### **47.6 Treasurer's Report – 1/10/2024 – 31/12/24**

Bank/cash 30/09/24 £1,510.95

Bank 31/12/24 £1,119.88

Cash 31/12/24 £131.69

Total 31/12/24 £1,251.57

Balance at 31/12/24

Raffle Account £ 77.97

Volunteer Account £ 399.60

CSMA Account £774.00

There were 3 events in QBA4 with a total of 124 Members & 6 Guests attending . The total over the year is 434 against 472 in 2023 . However 2023 was our Celebration Year, which raised the numbers a little . The Christmas Lunch was attended by 57 Members and 2 Guests which was 19 more than the Christmas Dinner in 2023.The feedback on the new venue ,timing and meal overall was excellent . This indicates that we consider it to be repeated in 2025. Our thanks must go to Paul Colbeck for taking & displaying all the photos. at that event & over 2024 . The Budget submission made for 2024 was £4510 of which I claimed £3945 . We also received a Volunteer Award in QBA4 of £600 for use in 2024/23025. The Raffle Income for QBA4 was £117 giving us a Total Income for 2024 of £365.21. Our expenditure for 2024 was £287.24. We subsidised the Christmas Lunch from the Raffle Income by £98 .We also paid £239.60 from the Volunteer Award for the Committee Christmas Lunch. I will be submitting an Imprest Claim to cover costs for QBA1 We carried forward £774.90 after 2024 expenses . Also £77.97 in the Raffle Account & £399.60 in the Volunteer Award Account .

**47.7** Club Council Report – JS reported on the latest membership numbers and the retention percentages. The numbers were below those expected for December onwards, and it seems that similar organisations are also effected and the reason for this is thought to be the current economic situation. JS also gave the visitor numbers for the attractions included in the basic membership fee. The website is undergoing development to make it easier to follow, and research shows that there is greater public knowledge of the brand following TV advertising.

**47.8** Accidents/Incidents - none

**47.9** Past Events Review – see Chair’s Report

**47.10** - Boundless York Newsletter – there are 109 members currently on the mailing list. The next newsletter will probably go out next week.

**47.11 Future Events 2025 –**

February 26th – Archaeology on Prescription Aaron Johnson £60

March 26th – AGM and talk by Lizzie Strutt £70. Lizzie will bring own laptop and materials to make soap. EA needs her bank details

April 30th – Janis Wright, talk on teddy bears, donation to charity. AS to help JW with the IT, EA asked if people could bring their own teddies, which they can and tell their own stories about them.

May 28th – Talk by Maggie Poppa ‘Staying at the Real Marigold Hotel’, £70 donation to a charity to be notified, plus £15 travel expenses.

June 11th –self guided tour of the Bar Convent Gold Package. Arrive at 1:00pm for self-guided tour of the exhibition, followed by a talk in the chapel at 2:00 and a cream tea at 3:00pm. The cost is £20pp, but there will probably be enough raffle funds to subsidise this. Arranged by EA

July 17th – Self-drive trip to Sion House. The house tour has been booked for 2:00pm. A £50 deposit is required. The cost is £24pp for a one hour guided tour of the house and a one hour tour of the garden with a break in the middle for tea and coffee. Lunch can be provided with a selection of sandwiches, scone and drink for £34.50. It was decided not to book the Birds of Prey tour, but to give details to members if they wanted to make their own arrangements. EA is arranging, the contact is Michael Mallaby.

August 20th – Skipton Boat trip. Adele S is arranging. The cost for the two hour trip including a Ploughman’s Lunch is £27.95 with desserts costing £2.50. The cost of a coach will be checked nearer the time, but there is probably also a £2 subsidy.

September 24th – talk on the National Trust at Beningbrough by Sam Shipman. Cost £50, arranged by Adele S.

October 29th – talk by Mary Murray ‘When the Queen came to tea’ EA arranging.

November 26th – talk by Peter from the RSPCA. Full details still required.

December 17th - Christmas Lunch at the Pavilion

#### **47.12 2026 Calendar –**

January 28th – JS to enquire about a talk by retired policeman Eric Jackson

February 25th – talk ‘Idiot’s Guide to Yorkshire’ EA to investigate

Mar 25th – AGM and food talk. Committee to research food producers

April 29th – talk ‘A Time of Two Halves’ Adele S to find out more.

May 27th – talk by Neil Hanson ‘The Inn at the Top’ about the inn at Tan Hill Andrew S to investigate

June)

July ) possibilities are a self drive trip to a Lavender farm (JW), and a coach trip to Ushaw House (EA)

August JS to enquire about a guided tour around Selby Abbey together with a venue for lunch

September 30th – a talk by Hilary Lawrenson of the Pinnacle Club (BM)

October 28th – talk by a magistrate EA to enquire

November 25th talk by/about a charity, charity to be determined

December TBC

The Committee meetings will all be on the first Wednesday of the month – i.e. 4th February, 6th May, 5th August and 7th October.

BM will also look into a speaker who talks about Advanced Motorists and Michael Spinoza

**47.13 AOB** – Adele stated that Andrew would continue to be a Committee member for 2025/26, but would leave the Committee at the 2026 AGM.

BM asked about the annual Committee lunch at Maxi’s. JW will arrange this for March 14th.

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

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

## ACTIONS

All – to continue finalising the 2026 events