

Draft Minutes of the 49th Meeting of the York Group Committee, held in the Library at the Mercure York Fairfield Manor Hotel YO30 1XW on Wednesday 6th August 2025

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

The meeting commenced at 19:20

49.1 Apologies – received from Lynne Gray

49.2 Minutes of the 48th Meeting – The minutes were agreed and signed by JW

49.3 Matters Arising not included in the Agenda - none

49.4 Chairperson's Report

We have had one talk and two visits since the last meeting. Maggie Popper gave a talk on the real Marigold Hotel in India and it certainly shows that films are all smoke and mirrors! It was interesting to see the actual locations and how the film pulled together places that did not exist together.

In June we had an afternoon at the Bar Convent in York, where we had an educational talk from the curator in the chapel; we then went around the exhibition before having an excellent cream scone and tea. It was a hot day and most of us were beginning to flag!

In July we had a visit to Sion Hill House (near Thirsk). Beforehand I went to the Birds of Prey centre next door and thoroughly enjoyed going around and seeing all the birds. I managed to see part of the demonstration and it was exciting----I could not stay for the whole demonstration as I needed to be at the house. We had a lovely greeting from the resident of the house who also took us around and brought to our attention the interesting bits of each room. We also were able to ask questions and the answers were readily there. We enjoyed a lovely sandwich; scone and cake lunch with copious cups of tea/coffee. Unfortunately after we had been around the garden, we did not have the promised tea and biscuits ---there were no complaints as I believe people were quite tired, but in my thank you letter to the administrator, I did mention the latter fact.

This month we have a coach trip to Skipton where we have the chance to look around the town and a river trip with ploughmans lunch. Let us hope the weather stays fine.

In September we are back at Fairfield for a talk by Sam Shipman on Beningbrough Halls' mediterranean garden.

We hopefully all received the nomination papers for the awards and hopefully you all feel free to complete, or not complete as you wish before this Friday. We will be discussing who would like to go to the awards ceremony in October.

49.5 Secretary's Report – JS reported that all of the SEN's had been completed for the e-shot which is scheduled for issue on 3rd September. There is now only the SEN for the Christmas lunch outstanding. JS thanked AS for completing the risk assessment for the coach for the Skipton boat trip. JS gave details of the up to date procedure for the completion of the SEN forms, explaining that as she completed the forms but was not the main organiser, then the details would be sent to the main organiser for confirmation.

JS also pointed out that the latest information on who could be considered to be a Boundless member, was that those who lived at the same address as the paid up member were to be treated as

a member. JS asked for consideration to be given to amending the wording on the Group's attendance sheets to clarify the matter for attendees.

49.6 Treasurer's Report –

There were 3 events in QBA2 with a total of 97 Members & 4 Guests. The numbers include 34 who attended the Bar Convent Summer visit.

At the end of June we carried forward £296.40 in the Volunteer Fund (to be used towards the Christmas Lunch 2025), £2305.84 in

CSMA Account & £178.97 in the Raffle Account, after subsidising £68 for the Bar Convent Visit

In QBA2 I claimed £1750 Imprest against our budget of £4794 for 2025 . Therefore £2530 claimed to the end of QBA2. This includes

£750 for the deposit for our Christmas Lunch 2025. This will be repaid out of sales of tickets .

The Event Income for the Summer events was £1427.00 at the end of QBA2 with more to be added in QBA3

The Raffle Income was £65 in QBA2 & £68 was paid out of the Account as subsidy. This leaves a total of £178.97 . I will be using this as subsidy for Sion Hill & Skipton Canal events in QBA3

I will be submitting the budget for 2026 by Sept 3rd after approval by the Committee.

There is a new criteria for the Volunteer Award which will be discussed as a separate item in the Agenda .

Budget Bid – The figures produced by EA were agreed. EA will submit this to Member Communities

49.7 Club Council Report including the Volunteers Reward Scheme – JS updated the Committee with the various changes in staff since the last Communique. The LGR role is also being considered for development. The LGR to replace Jeff Kenyon is Phil Pallent who is helping to develop a new Group for the people being transferred from London into the new Darlington Hub.

A list of people who would like to volunteer for Boundless was compiled before Covid but no further action has been taken with it. Consideration will be taken at a Club Strategy meeting on how to update and use this information.

JS reminded about the nominations and other information for the Volunteers reward event in October.

JS also confirmed that she intends to nominate herself to continue in the role of Club Treasurer. The e-mail requesting nominations will be issued at the beginning of September.

It had previously been decided to include a request in the September e-shot for Committee members, but JS took part in a discussion session with a trainer about how volunteering has changed since Covid, with volunteers now wishing to take part when and where they want to, rather than taking on specific roles. It may be better to consider another way of persuading people to take on Committee roles.

The new rules for the Volunteers Recognition Awards, are that all Committee members will be given an amount of £20, with instructions on how this can be used. **

48.8 - Boundless York Newsletter – KC will send out the next newsletter in early September. She asked for photos of the York Group events so that these could be included in the next newsletter, and she will need these by the end of August. She also asked JS for details of the October and November events to include in the newsletter. There is no change to the numbers on the mailing list.

49.9 – Volunteers Awards. These are by individual nominations. JW has nominated York for the Group of the Year Award and encouraged others to make nominations. All the Committee members have commitments on the day of the award event.

49.10 Accidents/Incidents - none

49.11 - Past Events Review – see Chair’s Report above.

49.12 - Future Events 2025

August – Skipton Boat Trip. Adele will confirm with dietary requirements

September, October and November. All events are settled.

December – the SEN is required for the Christmas lunch. The cost is £30pp. The Pavilion has asked for the final numbers etc. to be provided six weeks prior the lunch which will cause problems with the date of the issue of the newsletter which includes details of the lunch and the booking form, together with the cut off date for booking. EA will ask for one month’s notice.

48.13 2026 Calendar – The calendar is as follows:-

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

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

Mar 25th – AGM and food talk. JW will ask relevant stallholders at the next Acomb Market if they will do a talk.

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

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

June – Trip on the Wensleydale railway to be considered. It was thought that a Saturday would be best as food is provided.

July – Hooting Owl gin distillery in Rougier Street. Andrew Storr provided further details of the costs. The basic tour which includes a small amount of alcohol is £20pp.

August - JS provided further information. The date considered is Wednesday 19th August, because the normal meeting date would be the Wednesday before the August BH week. JS will ask for further information from the Selby Bowling Club, because a lunch at the Selby Garden Centre would incur a £150 room hire charge.

September 30th – BM has had difficulty in finding contact details for Michael Spinoza, and therefore suggested Peter Slater as substitute, to deliver a talk on sports personalities. The cost is £50 plus expenses. BM to book.

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

November 25th – EA. Talk on the charity York Against Cancer – confirmed

December – Christmas meal TBD

49.14 Forms SEN and Risk Assessments – discussed above

49.15 AOB

Adele mentioned that the tea and coffee provided by the hotel was placed where other residents of the hotel had access, and in fact she had found that one person was not actually a member of Boundless. After discussion, it was decided that the tea and coffee could actually be placed in the room we use, so that people could be guided to sign in before they accessed the tea and coffee. EA will mention this to Beth.

Andrew also said that the cables provided by the hotel for IT equipment were quite short and restricted where our speakers could place themselves. He asked that he could purchase some longer cables for the Group, and this was accepted.

49.16 – The date of the next Committee meeting will be Wednesday October 8th, at the Mercure Fairfield Manor Hotel in the Cambridge Room at 7:15pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:45pm.

** I have since been told that the Volunteers Reward payments had been reduced to nil on the basis that there is to be the event at Stratford on Avon. I am not sure how this was conveyed to the various Committees, but the amount of £20 was a later decision to make sure that all Committees were rewarded in the case of their not attending the above event.

ACTIONS

EA to finalise the Christmas Lunch at the Pavilion.

Committee members to finalise 2026 events for March, June , July, August and September