

Draft Minutes of the 50th Meeting of the York Group Committee, held in the Library at the Mercure York Fairfield Manor Hotel YO30 1XW on Wednesday 8th October 2025

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

The meeting commenced at 19.30

50.1 Apologies – None

50.2 Minutes of the 49th Meeting – The minutes were agreed and signed by JW

50.3 Matters Arising not included in the Agenda - none

50.4 Chairperson's Report

We have had two events since our last meeting:- a coach trip to Skipton for a canal lunch cruise. The slow movement down the canal gave time to see some of the wild life (a heron or two), have time to relax and have a very good lunch. Everybody seemed to enjoy the experience and this was followed by free time in Skipton. I met up with two people and their dog who had recently moved to Otley from the midlands and we exchanged notes on the local area; I then did a tour of the museum and would have liked a longer visit and finally whilst having a welcome cold drink I met a young London stage designer who lived near to where I did in London---small world and long chat!

In September we had the joy of Sam Shipman, gardener for the National Trust around York who gave an excellent talk on the designing and making of the Mediterranean garden at Beningbrough Hall.

Coming up this month we have a talk on "when the Queen came to tea", and hopefully in November we have the manager from the York RSPCA giving us a talk and finally to end the year we have our Christmas lunch at the Pavilion Hotel.

We are hopefully fully booked for 2026 and can commence 2026 with ideas for 2027!

Raffle prizes for the lunch are sorted and will be brought to the meeting this week.

50.5 Secretary's Report – There is not much to report. The forms SEN have all been completed for this year - the last for the Christmas Social was delayed because I couldn't access the Volunteers Hub, but this problem has been sorted. I will start the SEN's for 2026 shortly, using the details in the newsletter.

The last e-shot seems to have been successful in that we have had a new person attend one of our talks - small steps and all that. The decision has to be made as to whether we do this again, and if so which events we choose to include.

In the past, it has been suggested by Member Communities that the Group could borrow a memory stick of one of the on-line evening talks, on a short time basis. We have never taken up this offer because the time we would make use of this would be as an emergency substitute if a speaker didn't turn up, and the idea of transferring

the talk on the memory stick to a memory stick of our own seems to be beyond our IT capabilities. However, at a recent meeting, it was suggested that Member Communities could supply a copy of a talk on a memory stick which we could keep. I will make further enquiries to check, but I would need a guide as to which one(s) we would choose. There is a list of these events on the website, because they are all available to view by members. Can we discuss this at the Committee meeting.

50.6 Treasurer's Report –

There were 2 Summer events and 1 Monthly Event in QBA3. The visit to Sion Hill Hall attracted 20 Members & 1 Guest. The Skipton Canal visit attracted 30 Members & 2 Guests. Both were fully appreciated & enjoyed by all. The excellent talk by Sam Shipman in September was attended by 25 Members, including 1 New Member from the Eshot & 3 Guests. September is usually a fewer attendance number due to holidays. The 2 Summer events were subsidised by £100 from the Raffle account. I booked the Wensleydale Railway Event for 2026 & paid a deposit of £300. This will be repaid back into the Boundless Account from ticket sales in 2026. We received an Imprest of £980 to cover costs in QBA3 & the Railway deposit. To date in 2025, we have claimed £3510 against the budget forecast of £4794. This includes 2 deposits, totalling £1050 for both the Christmas Lunch & the Railway Event. There will be a further Imprest in QBA4 to cover costs plus £160 Volunteer Award 2025. The Raffle Income for QBA 3 was £25 from the September meeting. After subsidies for Events & Raffle prize payments, the balance is £62.97. There is £296.40 in the Volunteer Award fund from 2024. This will be used for the Committee Christmas Lunch & gift vouchers to clear the Account.

50.7 Club Council Report

JS reported on the latest change in personnel. Pete Worster has left, the Chief Financial Officer Lisa Parrott will be leaving at the end of the month, and their roles will be replaced with a slightly different remit to reflect the different requirements needed by Boundless since they were first employed. Clair McMahon has been successful in the recruitment of the post of Head of Member and Business Operations. The Member Communities team is under her remit and she is working with Kadie to finalise the Club Strategy, which amongst other things is looking at the recruitment and retention of new members.

50.8 - Boundless York Newsletter – KC reported that she will bring the Autumn newsletters and 2026 Events Cards to the next meeting to distribute as many as possible. There is no change to the numbers on the mailing list.

50.9 – Volunteers Awards. This item was included in case there were any further issues to discuss. There were none so that it will not be included in future agendas.

50.10 Accidents/Incidents - none

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

50.12 - Future Events 2025

November – JW reported on the difficulties in trying to get the RSPCA to reply to her requests for information about the talk for this month. The RSPCA is now responding so it seems that the talk will be going ahead as planned.

December – the SEN has been submitted for the Christmas lunch at the Pavilion hotel. EA reported that while it had been agreed for the numbers to be reported to the hotel at a later date than was required by them, she had already received a reminder. JW handed out the raffle prizes to members of the Committee to wrap and take to the Christmas lunch.

50.13 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 talk. JW has booked a speaker from Herd and Hive Ltd, who have a stall at Acomb once a month. Duncan Burnett will talk on “The Natural Flavours of Yorkshire Honey” with samples to try - £70 with travel included.

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 13th (Saturday) – this is a coach trip leaving York at 10’ish, stopping at Thirsk Garden Centre for coffee etc. and then arriving at Leeming Bar in time to catch the train leaving at 1:00pm. A fish and chip lunch will be served and the trip will take about 1.5 – 2 hours. The total cost will be in the region of £46 but this may have to be adjusted if there are any price increases in 2026. There is also a museum to look round if time allows. EA

July 15th– PM - Hooting Owl gin distillery in Rougier Street. The basic tour has been booked, which includes a small amount of alcohol - £20pp. Andrew Storr

August 19th- the lunch at Selby Bowling Club has been booked. The cost of this may change in 2026. An e-mail has been sent to the Abbey to confirm the final details, but no reply has been received. JS will ring the Abbey office.

September 30th – a talk by Peter Slater on sports personalities. The cost is £50 plus £25 expenses. BM.

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 TBC

50.14 Details in the Secretary's Report

50.15 AOB

Neither the Storrs or LG will be at the next talk. Paul Colbeck will look after the microphone etc. and JS will help with the meet and greet.

50.16 – The date of the next Committee meeting will be Wednesday February 4th 2026, at the Mercure Fairfield Manor Hotel in the Cambridge Room at 7:15pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:50pm.

ACTIONS

JS to finalise the details of the Abbey Trip