

Housing bonanza



WELCOME: How the entrance to Auden House will look when it is completed

Scheme to benefit older people

THREE housing sites in York occupied by Discus prefab bungalows, built in the 1970s, are being replaced by modern housing at Richmond Street, Regent Street and St Anne's Court.

The 196 affordable homes are being developed as a partnership with York Housing Association, Tees Valley Housing Association and the City Council and are due for final completion in 2012. A total of 27 residents have already moved in.

A major feature of the scheme is the first purpose-built extra care housing development in York for those aged

over 55, offering 41 two bedroom self contained flats with a range of additional facilities. This type of housing provides independent living with 24-hour support if and when needed.

The scheme at in St Anne's Court, called Auden House, will provide a hairdressing salon, a café and shop together with a private lounge and health care room along with assisted bathing for those who need it.

A personal care service will be available for all residents and the services on offer in the scheme will be available to the local community.

ALL WELCOME

YORK OLDER PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OPEN MEETING AT FRIENDS' MEETING HOUSE FRIARGATE, YORK

on Monday, July 19, 2pm features presentations on

Crime, Safety and Security for Older People

by Jane Mowatt,
Safer York Partnership

Community Watch and Volunteering

by Sergeant Ian Wilkinson

Question and answer sessions

50+



Working for the
50+ in York
Charity No 1101018

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Telehealth is coming to York

THE development of technology to assist older people, in particular, to cope with long term illnesses is set to take off in York.

In future those suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Diabetes or Heart Diseases can use equipment at home to monitor their blood pressure, pulse rate, respiration rate, blood oxygen levels and temperature.

If any of the above vary beyond the limits set by your doctor or consultant the monitoring equipment automatically alerts the Control Centre who can take the appropriate action.

Extensive experience elsewhere in the country and pilot schemes in North Yorkshire including 31 patients in York have proved how effective Telehealth can be.

It offers:

- Patients independence in their own home
- Reduces the need for regular hospital visits by patients
- Allows shorter stays in hospital
- Reassures patients, their friends and families and reduces anxiety
- Allows carers to go out with confidence

More than 2,000 older people will benefit in North Yorkshire when the scheme is extended from the Autumn 2010.

A demonstration of the equipment will be held at the Assembly's Information Fair in the Guildhall on September 14, 10am-4pm.



TIME TO DISMOUNT: Cyclists heading towards the Blake Street pedestrian zone

Get off your bike

THE results of the "Footstreets Review" affecting York city centre has been published.

The report to City of York Council highlights the level of abuse by cyclists in the areas designated as pedestrian only.

However, the report states: "Cycling groups have for some time campaigned for a designated route to be established through the footstreets zone to cater for cross-city centre trips".

This has been extensively opposed by the Assembly and York Blind and Partially Sighted Society because of the dangers to pedestrians by mixing cyclists and those on foot.

If it is the intention to make the city centre a more pleasant place – it begs a simple question – why not require cyclists to dismount and walk like everybody else? Councillors have agreed to a trial scheme which can be withdrawn if it does not work. Another £10,000 down the drain.

York's election results

THE General Election in York resulted in two MPs representing the City of York area - Julian Sturdy for York Outer and Hugh Bayley for York Central.

York Central - Hugh Bayley (Labour) majority 6,451 turnout 62.1%. The constituency covers the following wards in York: Acomb, Clifton, Fisher-gate, Guildhall, Heworth, Hol-gate, Hull Road, Micklegate, Westfield.

To contact your MP tele- phone 01904 623713

York Outer - Julian Sturdy



Hugh Bayley

(Conservative) majority 3688 turnout 71.1%. The constituen- cy covers the following wards: Bishopthorpe, Derwent, Dring- houses, Woodthorpe, Fulford, Haxby & Wigginton, Hesling- ton, Heworth Without, Hunting- ton & New Earswick, Osbald- wick, Rural West York, Skel- ton, Rawcliffe & Clifton Without, Strensall, Elvington



Julian Sturdy

and Wheldrake.

To contact your MP tele- phone 01904 788355.

The Assembly held an elec- tion hustings meeting in April for the four main candidates in York Central with more than 115 members attending. It was chaired by Harry Gratton and a brief report appeared on "Look North" the following week.

Hospital on target

THE performance at York Hospital in meeting government targets goes from strength to strength.

More than 97% of all patients referred to the hospital for an operation were admitted within 18 weeks. The focus on cancer services meant that 96% referred saw a consultant within 14 days.

For those attending Accident & Emergency 99% were seen within the four-hour target - what a dramatic change from those pictures on television only a few years ago with patients "parked" on trolleys for ages.

The policies at the hospital are increasingly to provide healthcare at outpatients and, where appropriate, for minor surgery to be carried out as "day cases" thus avoiding over night stays. The number of out patient appointments last year rose to more than 300,000, 5,800 each week. Day surgery was provided for more than 30,000 patients.

AGE CONCERN NAIL CUTTING SERVICE

Age Concern has been offering a nail cutting service from January 2010 and is available to people who are unable to cut their own nails.

- We aim to help you remain mobile and active
- Our toe nail trimmers are trained in correct techniques by professional podiatrists
- To help cover the cost there is an initial registration fee and a charge is made each time you have your nails trimmed
- The service is provided by appointment at fully accessible venues or by home visits
- For an appointment please telephone 01904 790447 Monday-Friday 9.30am-2pm
- We are unable to help people with diabetes, some circularity disorders or in-growing toe nails. In those circumstances contact the Podiatry Services on 01904 724222.

Coalition Government

What does it mean for you?

THE government published its initial proposals in a thirty page document on May 22.

The key messages affecting older people are set out below.

Pensions and Older People

"The government believes that people deserve dignity and respect in old age, and that they should be provided with the support they need.

"This means safeguarding key benefits and pensions and taking action making it easier for older people to work or volunteer".

Specifically this means:

- We will protect key benefits for older people such as the winter fuel allowance, free TV licenses, free bus travel, and free eye tests and prescription
- We will restore the earnings link to the basic state pension from April 2011 so that pensions are raised by the higher of earnings, prices or 2.5%.
- We will phase out the compulsory retirement age and hold a review to set the date at which the state pension age starts to rise to 66, although it will not be sooner than 2016 for men and 2020 for women.

Social Care and Disability

- We will establish a Commission on long term care, to report within a year.
- We will break down barriers



IN CHARGE: Prime Minister David Cameron, left, and Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg

between health and social care funding.

- We will extend the greater roll out of personal budgets to give people and their Carers more control and purchasing power.

York Older People's Assembly welcomes the assurances, particularly on protecting existing benefits. It is disappointing that yet another Commission is to be set up in looking at the way long term care is to be funded.

Service for Jack

YORK Minster have agreed to hold a memorial service for the late Jack Archer who was a key figure in the city in advancing the cause of older people and who died earlier this year.

In recognition of Jack's service to the city, twice as Lord Mayor, the service will be held in York Minster on Thursday, July 8 at 2pm. All friends and colleagues of Jack will be most welcome.