

York Older People's Assembly

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ON THE BUSES

York Older People's Assembly joined forces with the York Bus Forum and Arriva to celebrate the launch of audio and visual announcements on their buses.

Members of the Assembly who are visually impaired were at the event to experience the benefits of the enhanced service which will inform passengers when the bus is coming to the next stop.

Whilst the Government passed a law in 2017 requiring all bus operators to provide information which is audible and visually displayed some two years later a start date has yet to be announced! Instead bus operators have been encouraged to introduce improvements on a voluntary basis.



TICKET TO RIDE: Pearl Robinson and Judy Shaw with Jim Cannon and Bob Towner of York Older People's Assembly, with Graham Collett, of York Bus Forum.

Bob Towner of the Assembly said "these announcements are essential for people with sight or hearing difficulties, as well as helping visitors to the City who are not familiar with our bus stops. All residents of York will reap the benefits, particularly at night, as when darkness falls, bus stops are not easily seen".

This new equipment is installed on Arriva bus routes 15, 25 and 26. It follows the provision on all Coastliner routes. First York the largest operator in York has yet to modernise its fleet. What a pity!!

Most recently in partnership with the City of York Council and a York Hospital Charity a Park and Ride Service from Rawcliffe Bar will arrive at a designated bus stop within the grounds of the hospital. The service will begin at 6am running every 20 minutes with the last return bus at 8.30pm from the hospital. The service however will only be available from Monday to Friday. It is hoped this will reduce the number people bringing their cars directly into the hospital.

HOME SHARE COMES TO YORK

Home Share York is a new service that matches an older home owner with a younger person in a home sharing arrangement. The home sharer will supply 10 hours of support per week to the householder in exchange for a room in their home.

Home share gives an older person the opportunity to living independently with the support and companionship of a sharer, whilst also providing a solution to young professionals or mature students in need of affordable accommodation.

In similar services across the UK participants have experienced reduced isolation, increased wellbeing and the opportunity to learn new skills.

Home Share York is a not for profit service and more details can be obtained from Toria Morris on 01904 552898 or email homeshareyork@york.gov.uk.



NEW FOR OLD

A new Residential Care Home has recently been opened on the site of the Handley Page RAF Aircraft repair station in Green Lane, Clifton. Appropriately it is named Handley House and is a sister scheme to Ebor Court in Poppleton provided by Ideal Care Homes.

The scheme offers 24 hours Residential and Dementia care with 66 bedrooms all en suite. In addition to a dining room on all three floors an informal café is also included. Services to residents also provide a hairdressing salon, a cinema, a fully licenced bar, a library and a garden room.

Handley House will meet all day to day needs including all meals, wine and snacks as well as a full laundry and housekeeping services.

The quality of all furnishings is to a very high standard. Unsuprisingly it doesn't come cheap, the inclusive charge is £1050 per week.

For more enquiries and a brochure contact the Scheme Manager on 01904 221040.



Jim Cannon and Bob Towner at Handley House

Fine Dining



CHANGES IN POLITICAL MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL

Following the local elections in May for the City of York Council, the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition has changed to the Liberal Democrats now joining up with the Green Party in another coalition. The results of the election were as follows:

Liberal Democrats	21 seats
Labour party	17 seats
Green party	4 seats
Independents	3 seats
Conservative party	2 seats

A number of senior citizens were elected with long serving members Cllr Janet Looker (Labour), Cllr John Galvin (Independent) being well known to the Assembly.

It is often said "Age and experience will outdo youth and enthusiasm" so the interests of older people will be well looked after.

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT



The Assembly joined forces with the Wilberforce Trust and Rotary (York Ainsty) to organise a "Coffee and Cake Day" on Wednesday April 10th.

The Open Day in Huntington provided an opportunity for local residents to learn more about the work undertaken by the three organisations.

In addition Steve Clouderay President Elect of Rotary presented a cheque for £200 to Jim Cannon Chair of the Assembly to allow the purchase of a loud speaker for use at our Open Meetings. Many thanks to "Mysight" for allowing us to borrow their equipment in the past.

Steve Clouderay presenting the cheque to Jim Cannon

OLDER PEOPLE'S CHAMPION

With the Council newly elected in York, the Assembly will be approaching key individuals to seek their agreement to appoint an Older Persons Champion for the City.

For a number of years the Council had such a Champion, with ex. Councillors Ruth Potter and Keith Hyman providing a key link with the Assembly in developing policies and practices within the Council of direct relevance to older people.

Regrettably the last administration discontinued these arrangements which we believe to be to the direct benefit to the Assembly and the Council. In an "unofficial" capacity up to May 2019 Mary Cannon has continued the past practice - it has been invaluable. Let's get it onto a proper footing again.

LINKS WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF YORK

What are the links between vision and the brain in an ageing population?

The Neuroimaging Centre at the University are investigating. They are seeking our help. If you are a healthy individual aged 65 or over they would like to hear from you. Full information on what's involved can be obtained from Heidi Baseler on 01904 322862.

LIFTING THE LID ON THE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE SERVICE

The May Assembly meeting received a joint presentation from Fiona Williams (York Explore) and Laura Yeoman (Archivist) regarding what is on offer to us all but for many is often hidden. Entitled "A Gateway to History" for which money has been obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund £1.5m covering 88% of the costs with the remainder met by the Council. Its objectives:

- To create a programme of activities and events to make it easier for everyone to explore the Archives.
- Build a new vault for the City Archive at York Explore
- Refurbish the 1st floor of York Explore Library to create a new suite of Public Spaces for many more people to use the Archive.
- Create partnerships with the community groups across the City to help them to create or develop their own Archives.

In addition the Wellcome Trust have provided funding to catalogue York's Health Care and Poor Law Archives. Together these comprise nearly 2000 volumes in over 400 boxes!!

A range of workshops is being developed to give you skills in different areas.

- Introduction to Local History
- Moving on with Family History
- Caring for Historic Documents
- Caring for old photographs
- Reading old hand writing.

Contact the Archive section on 01904 553325 for more information.



Fiona Williams (York Explore)



Laura Yeoman (Archivist)