

# York Older People's Assembly

165 Hull Road,  
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Registered Charity 1101018

Email: [yorkolderpeoplesassembly@outlook.com](mailto:yorkolderpeoplesassembly@outlook.com)

Autumn 2020



Tel: 01904 412832

Website: [www.yorkassembly.org.uk](http://www.yorkassembly.org.uk)

## ON THE MOVE

After 3 years occupying an office with the Wilberforce Trust in Huntington, they have sold the premises in North Moor Road and are moving to new accommodation on land they own on Tadcaster Road.

Unfortunately, there is no room for us! However, "Spark York" have kindly offered us the use of an office at their development in Parliament Street – on very generous terms.

It is hoped the move will be completed by mid September. On a temporary basis contact with the Assembly will be on 01904 412832 or by post at 165 Hull Road, York YO10 3JX. The email remains [yorkolderpeoplesassembly@outlook.com](mailto:yorkolderpeoplesassembly@outlook.com)

# SPARK\*

WELCOMES  
YORK OLDER PEOPLE'S  
ASSEMBLY

Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Get a free cup of Yorkshire tea with  
the purchase of ANY slice of cake  
from MELK.

On-site toilets available to use.



Only at Spark\*  
17-21 Piccadilly, YORK YO1 9PB

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE

The 1st October, 2020 is the International Day of Older People originally agreed in 1990 by the United Nations. The Assembly normally celebrates this day by incorporation into the 50+ Festival. Because of the virus the 50+ Festival is cancelled. Instead we are aiming to educate and inform people about the significant benefits that older people add to society.

The theme of the International Day is "do pandemics change how we address age and aging?".

There is no doubt that there have been significant changes in this country. Some 25,000 older people have died in care homes and the number of excess deaths in the UK is over 65,000, with 80% of them over 65 years of age.

One of the consequences of these deaths is that many elderly couples have been split with one of them left to mourn the death of their partner. The lifestyle of many has changed with increased isolation, feelings of loneliness and lack of face to face contact has caused even more distress. Grandparents have not been able to hug their grandchildren, and in many cases people haven't seen their grandchildren for 6 months.

All of these are big issues and we will aim to discuss them in the coming weeks so that we can plan actions to address the issues. On October 1st we are planning to have articles in the York Press, hopefully York Mix and with interviews on Radio York. We are also working on Zoom Meetings with the opportunity for discussion and debate with some of our partners.

## Zoom meetings on 1st October 2020

– Please email the relevant address if you wish to join in.

### 11am Older People's Peer Support Group

The aim is to bring together grassroots peer support groups in the York area to share how they begin and how they operate. The focus to be on the resourcefulness of older people.

Contact : Sue Lister. Email: [sueann@curlew.totalserve.co.uk](mailto:sueann@curlew.totalserve.co.uk) Phone 01904 488870

### 1pm – 2.15pm YOPA – Pandemics and Ageing

A panel of 4 speakers talking about the Coronavirus and impact on ageing including service delivery by local charities.

Contact: Jim Cannon. Email: [yorkolderpeoplesassembly@outlook.com](mailto:yorkolderpeoplesassembly@outlook.com)

### 3pm – 3.40pm Age Friendly York Citizen Group

A progress review of the Age Friendly York programme and the next steps.

Contact: Carl Wain. Email: [Agefriendlyyork@york.gov.uk](mailto:Agefriendlyyork@york.gov.uk)

## LOCKDOWN UPDATE – PANDEMIC 2020

As at the end of August 953 cases within the City of York had been identified as affected by Coronavirus. Since the beginning of the epidemic 143 deaths have been recorded. The areas within the City showing the highest number of deaths were:

Osballdwick (21), Rawcliffe and Clifton (15) Heworth (14). The lowest were Tang Hall (1) with Strensall and Clifton Without and Skelton (2).

Of the total deaths 76 have been in care homes. Covid-19 outbreaks in individual care homes are being kept secret by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in part, it is, argued to protect individual providers commercial interest and fears it would undermine the care system which relies largely on the private sector.

The Assembly believes commercial interests should play no part when people's lives are at stake. Relatives have the right to ALL relevant information when deciding which care home is most suitable for their relatives.

## TV LICENCES FOR THOSE OVER 75

The free tv licence for those over 75 ceased on the 1st August – unless you receive Pension Credit - it is understood that you should receive a letter advising you how to pay the annual fee of £157.50.

TV licencing will only ask you to pay using the following options:

- by post using the address: TV Licencing, PO box 578, Darlington, DL 98 1AN.
- On line at [tvl.co.uk/75pay](http://tvl.co.uk/75pay)
- over the phone on 0300 7906151.

**Any other contact or different phone number or different website will be a scam.**

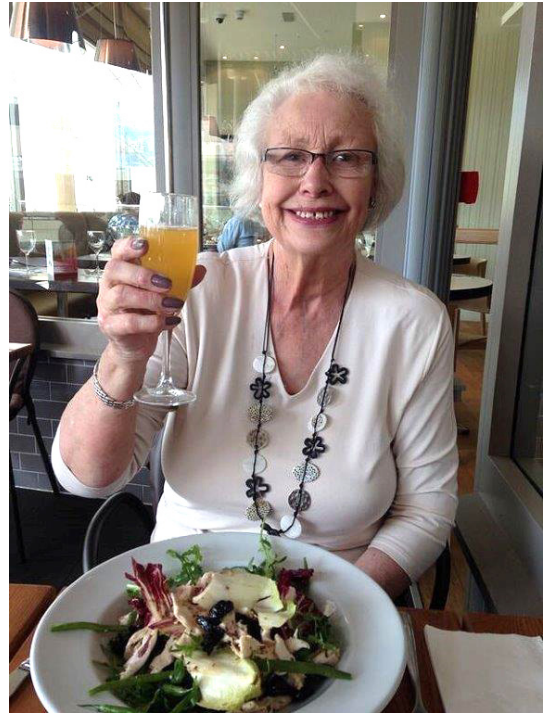


## JEAN WALLACE – LAST WORD

It is with great sadness the Assembly heard of the death of Jean Wallace at the age of 82 who had worked with the assembly for 12 years providing administrative support.

Bob Towner, chair during Jean's period with YOPA, attended the funeral in Harrogate following her death at a nursing home in Knaresborough. For those who knew her she kept her accent having been born in North Shields before moving to York. She worked for 20 years in a senior administrative role with the City of York Council and was much respected for her total commitment to the job which was similarly evidenced in her work for the Assembly.

In her earlier years she was an accomplished pianist and a big concert fan particularly of Frank Sinatra. She was deeply involved in the Church at Wigginton and bore her illness with complete stoicism. She will be sadly missed.



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## A NEW SOCIAL CARE STUDY IN YORK

Many older people paying privately for social or nursing care, when trying to find appropriate services for the first time, often find it to be a stressful and confusing process. The local council are expected to provide help and information to assist but often the individual and their families are left to “go it alone”.

The University of York are partnering with Home Instead Senior Care to enable local people to contribute to this important study. If you would be interested to receive further information or act as a volunteer please contact:

Rowan Jasper at the University on 07385-341573 or email [rowan.jasper@york.ac.uk](mailto:rowan.jasper@york.ac.uk).

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## NEW CARE HOME FOR STRENSALL

The care worn Moorlands Nursing Home in Strensall (now empty), is to be replaced by a brand new 62 bedroomed care home on the same site. Despite reservations expressed by the Parish Council, City of York planning Committee have given the go ahead to the scheme submitted by Crown Care Homes who have similar developments in Selby and Beverley.





# PRIVATE PATIENTS CHARGED EXTRA

It has been revealed that patients receiving treatment from private dentists are being charged an extra fee to cover the cost of personal protective equipment (PPE). The charge appears to vary from a £25 one off cost at the Clifton Moor Dental Centre, irrespective of the number of visits, rising to £7 extra for a non-aerosol generating procedure to £40 extra if drilling and water is involved, at BUPA Dental Care.

Thankfully for those registered with an NHS dentist they will pay no additional charge for the enhanced level of equipment in use.

## THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT – TOTAL COMMITMENT FROM THE TOP



What a difference a day makes!! Both Jim Cannon, Chair of the Assembly (*left*) and George Wood, Chair of the Executive Committee (*right*) struggled through the “lockdown” by depriving their respective hairdressers of the chance to “smarten them up.” The evidence is set out here.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

York Older People's Assembly Monday 16th November, 2pm

Because of the current restrictions on people gathering together, the Annual General Meeting of the Assembly will be a “Virtual” one. Papers will be sent out to members in the normal way – those on email will receive them electronically. The meeting will be accessible on Zoom with those wishing to participate needing to contact the Assembly at our usual email address. Nominations for members of the Executive need to be advised to Trisha Smith on 01904 412832 or via email by the 28th September.

## UPLIFTING

Residents and staff at two care homes brought colour and light relief in these dark days by organising parties with a holiday theme. At Ivy Lodge in Haxby, Spain was the focus of a staycation party. All dressed up with flags, appropriate head gear, dancing and of course Sangria for refreshment.



Not to be outdone residents at Rosevale Care Home in Wigginton, organised a “beach party” with real sand and a donkey. In addition, residents listened to a singer, Paula Marie, who sang a range of seaside songs.

