

York Older People's Assembly

St Sampson's Centre

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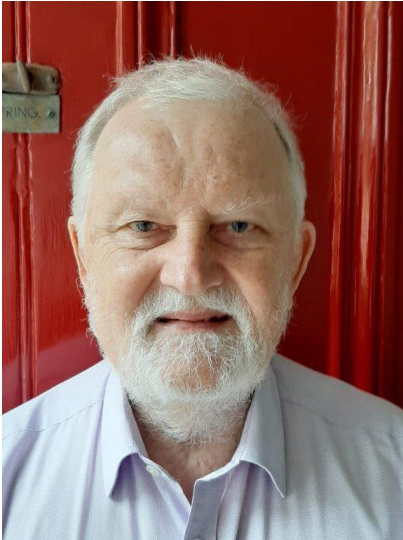
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ASSEMBLY OPPOSES TICKET OFFICE CLOSURES



Jim Cannon

Members of the Assembly joined with other groups including Disability Rights Campaigners and the Human Rights City Network to protest about the proposal of the Dept. of Transport to close the majority of Railway Ticket offices over the next 3 years.

Whilst York is not affected immediately other larger stations like Darlington and Durham will close. 133 of the 149 offices on Northern Rail will also close.

Jim Cannon, Chair of York Older People's Assembly, said "many older people are not online and don't own smart phones." Flick Williams added "as a visually impaired wheelchair user the ticket vending machines are inaccessible to me, making me dependent on ticket offices to both purchase tickets and book passenger assistance to board trains with the aid of a ramp."

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) said "the closures will have a hugely detrimental impact on blind and partially sighted people's ability to buy tickets, arrange assistance, and critically, travel independently".

NEW LODGE – NEW EARSWICK – NEW IDEAS

The Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust are celebrating after been shortlisted by the Royal Institute of British Architects for an award. The scheme of 105 homes includes a 48 bed Care Home together with a range of apartments available for rent, shared ownership and outright sale to people over 55.

The New Lodge project is the redevelopment of the central area at New Earswick Garden Village offering affordable extra care and incorporating a modernised Folk Hall to provide "a lifetime neighbourhood".



TOP OF THE POPS

The results of the NHS GP patient survey 2023 have recently been published. The highest rated surgery within the City of York was at Dalton Terrace. However, surgeries at Terrington and Stillington (outside York) ranked top at 96% overall satisfaction.

At the other end the Priory Medical Group rated only 52% satisfaction out of 25 practices included in the survey. This covered "overall experience" as well as "ease of getting through on the phone" and satisfaction with reception services.

NHS – A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Wednesday July 25th 2023 marked 75 years since the NHS was introduced in 1948. The MP for York Central, Rachael Maskell celebrated the milestone by presenting a birthday card to senior staff at York hospital. The Hospital itself was lit up in blue.

During its life the NHS has provided free health care to thousands of York residents and a few milestones are worthy of mention.

Polio Immunisation – 1956 saw the start of immunisation against polio. It has now been 99% eradicated.

Tuberculosis - new treatments and medication are available.

AIDs epidemic – introduced antiviral drugs to suppress the virus helping patients to live their lives normally.



Covid 19 – free roll out programme of vaccination, reinforced with additional injections for older people.

HEALTH MATTERS

The upgrade to the Accident and Emergency Dept. at York Hospital is now complete and opened in July. The £18 million project provides 12 new assessment and treatment rooms, including a dedicated safe room for mental health patients. Additionally, the new resuscitation area is a huge upgrade with a special area for children. Other improvements provide for infectious disease control.

But it is not all good news. Inspections from the “Care Quality Commission” - the independent body responsible for health and social care matters - has rated the hospital as “requiring improvement”. Particular attention was highlighted in maternity services, emergency care and overall leadership weaknesses.

Admissions to York hospital for those over 65 for injuries resulting from falls has risen over the previous year to 27.4 per 1000 emergency admissions. This varied across the City from 13.7 per 1000 in Heworth Without to 42.7 per 1000 in Fulford and Heslington.



York Hospital's new A&E Department

STATE OF AGEING IN YORK

The 2021 Census shows that 22% of the population of York was over 65 totalling 44,000 people. It is anticipated to rise over the next 20 years to 34% of the population.

In relation to life expectancy the Census shows 83.6 years for females 79.9 years for males. This is slightly better than for England as a whole.

In York, 2925 people were in receipt of Pension Credit in November 2021. This is 7.9% of the population over state pension age.

In York 25.7% of adults feel lonely often or always. This is higher than the average for England of 22.3%.

82% of people over 65 have access to the internet with 72% using it mainly for email. Only 15% were using the internet for online health services.

SCREENING AND VACCINATIONS

The Assembly is keen to promote a long and healthy life for all our citizens. The Ageing Well Partnership on which we are represented by Professor Dianne Willcocks received information on screening and vaccination as a major contribution to these aims.



Dianne Willcocks

Bowel Screening – offered every 2 years to men and women aged 60-74. From April 2021 the NHS has started to reduce the age of entitlement to 50. To be effective in reducing bowel cancer mortality, the uptake should be a minimum of 52%. In York it is 75.5%!!

Cervical Screening - available to women aged 25-64. Those eligible will receive an invitation automatically by post. Women aged 50-64 will receive screening every 5 years.

The national target is 80% - York performs below that level.

AAA screening - Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm. The aorta is the main blood vessel from the heart to the stomach. The screening is offered to men over 65 who are most at risk. The purpose is to check for any bulge or swelling.

Breast Screening - Available every 3 years for women aged 50 to 71. Above that age screening is available by request only. York at 71.7% is above the target of 70%.

Shingles Vaccination – There are 5823 patients unvaccinated in the age group 69 – 79. The largest areas for unvaccinated people are Bishopthorpe, Fulford, Haxby, Heslington and New Earswick.

Covid 19 Booster - From Spring 2023 available for those over 75, those with a weakened immune system and residents of care homes.



EMPTY SITES COSTING MILLIONS



*Bootham (top photo)
Oakhaven (below)*

The MP for York Central – Rachael Maskell has echoed our concerns about the cost of the former hospital at Bootham remaining empty for over 8 years. The cost now stands at over £2.6 million. The previous plans, supported by the Assembly, for an Extra Care Scheme have fallen through because of rising costs.

Similar reasons have been given for the replacement of Oakhaven older persons' home, both schemes are subject to re tendering.

In the meantime, the Oakhaven site looks unkempt and abandoned.



ALL ELECTRIC BY NOVEMBER

Tom Bridge, Regional Operations Director for First York confirmed at the Assembly meeting in August, that all single and double decker buses run by First York will be electrically powered from November. The reductions in exhaust emissions will make a significant contribution to clean air in the city.

Michael Howard from the Council told the meeting that a Government grant of £17.5 million has been awarded as part of the “Bus Service Improvement Programme.” In addition to the new buses will have cloth seating, replacing the synthetic material, currently used. Incentives for greater bus usage included the new “Family Fares” and proposed discounts for young people.

At a more modest level, money has been allocated for enhancing “real time” information at bus stops and improvements to bus shelters, but regrettably there are no plans to double the number of wheelchair locations on the buses.

First are happy to receive comments from the general public at buses@york.gov.uk

The York Bus Forum, which meets regularly with all bus operators can be a useful way of campaigning for better buses. Contact them on www.yorkbusforum.org or phone 07970 923346.

DEMENTIA TOGETHER

Come along to a special event to mark the first year of York's dementia strategy. Monday 25th September, 10-4pm at New Earswick Folk Hall

Anyone living with dementia, their carers, family, professionals and interested members of the public are invited to this special anniversary event.

Staff from local health and social care, community and voluntary organisations will offer a wide range of information, advise and support including:

- stalls from different services
- training sessions for both carers and professionals
- seated dance and stretch class taster
- music therapy, arts and crafts
- iMUSE therapeutic sensory experience

For those that cannot attend, please join us online on Thursday 28th September, with updates from Dementia Forward, York Alzheimer Society and "community spotlight" on dementia involving other services who offer support. For more information visit www.livewellyork.co.uk/dementia or call Helen Rowan on 07747568107.



TRIPLE LOCK ON PENSIONS GUARANTEED

The Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has told ITV that the current arrangements for protecting pensions will remain in 2024.

Under the triple lock pensions increase in April to whichever is the highest out of pay growth, inflation, or 2.5%. The increase in April 2023 was 10.1% because inflation was the highest. It is now likely that the rise of earnings to 8% will dictate the announcement to be made in September.

SOCIAL CLUBS

York Cares, in partnership with the Council has arranged a number of social clubs for older and younger neighbours to share time and new experiences. All are free of charge:



Sunday 24th September

South Bank foraging walk, East side of Millennium Bridge at 10am

Tuesday 26th September

Paint and Prosecco at York Food Festival 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Monday 2nd October

Whittling campfire session, Homestead Park, 10.30am – 2.30pm

Tuesday 17th October

Games Night at York St. John's University, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Wednesday 1st November

Nature wildflower planting on Scarcroft Green orchid
10.30am – 12.30pm

Contact Megan Wilkinson on 07385538771 for more information or to book a place.

RESTORING BLUE BADGE ACCESS TO YORK CITY CENTRE

The new Council is committed to ensuring full access to the city centre by reversing the Blue Badge ban.

An initial consultation is taking place on the ways of achieving this. You can access this online and email it to restoring.BBaccess@york.gov.uk or obtaining a copy of the form from any Library or at West Offices. The initial consultation will close on the 18th September.

It would be useful if, at the same time, the current application form for a Blue Badge was reviewed. It is 20 pages long and will put off many who could be entitled.



NOTICE OF AGM

The annual meeting of York Older People's Assembly will be held at 2.30pm on Monday 16th October at The Friends Meeting House, Friargate. The guest speaker will be Cllr. Pete Kilbane, Deputy Leader of the Council.

A buffet lunch will be available from 1.30pm in the Penn Room.

Nominations for elections to the Executive Committee should be sent to The Secretary, by post or e-mail, using the above addresses by 25th September 2023.

50+ FESTIVAL

This year's festival takes place from 23rd September – 8th October. Programmes are available from local libraries, community hubs, St Sampson's and Visit York. Full programme details at www.yorkassembly.org.uk/50-festival-2023/ including a summary by themes, such as socials, advice and information, workshops, walks, talks, sports and active leisure.