



## Newsletter - Spring 2026



### From the President - Frank Paterson...

I can't believe I've only a few weeks left as your President - where has the year gone? The **Welcome 26** party at Poppleton on January 1st was unashamedly nostalgic and a great start to the new year. Quickly followed by our celebration of **Robert Burns** which highlighted our Scottishness to the Lord Mayor and our English friends. Next was the **St Patrick evening** at the YRBSC Bowls club which was an enjoyable amusing antidote. However the purpose in all our gatherings is fellowship and fun and the feedback, from the people who participated, confirms they got that in good measure. The bonus nowadays is that everybody can now get two bites at the cherry by looking at our excellent website. May I urge those of you who couldn't participate to log on to [www.yorkscot.org.uk](http://www.yorkscot.org.uk) and see what you've missed!! Next we have a fantastic **Awayday Coach Trip to Bradford Media Museum** - having been there recently myself, I highly recommend this trip if you can make it. Thanks again to everybody who has contributed in any way to make things work - very much appreciated.

Happy Easter to you all.  
*Yours aye,*  
*Frank*

### Members Update

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Friday 15th May 7 for 7.30pm. Following the business part of the evening, tea, coffee and biscuits will be served. Incoming President, Aileen Minns already has a number of events planned which we will hear more about at the AGM. The 2025/26 membership year has seen the society membership numbers grow to the highest for a number of years and we are keen to attract more members but also to entice existing members to join the Council to help with the running of the society. More information will be provided ahead of the AGM, however for the time being, please consider if you would be able to make such a contribution to the society. We are especially keen to attract someone to become **Functions Organiser** for our two formal annual events - St Andrew's Day Lunch in November and the Burns Supper celebration in January.



## Welcome 26 - New Years Gathering

36 members and friends got the new year off to an excellent start - first footing one another in the All Saints' Hall in Poppleton on the afternoon of the 1st January 2026. Traditional fare - shortbread, fruit cake and sweet mince pies, lubricated with sherry or ginger wine, and hosted by five lasses got the afternoon off to a relaxed beginning. A selection of old videos of Jimmy Shand, Rikki Fulton and Stanley Baxter rekindled memories for some of the company, of long past Scottish Hogmanays, and created a room full of smiles and laughter.

To get people thinking ahead to warmer weather, the theme of the brain challenges was holiday destinations.

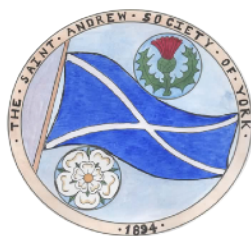
The whole room then sang along with Andy Stewart and supported Matt McGinn telling Poppleton that

"Ye canna fling a jeely piece fae a twinty storey flat".

The afternoon ended all too soon with everyone joining hands and Jim piping us for Auld Lang Syne.

The unanimous conclusion - an afternoon of good fellowship and fun - a great start to 2026!





## Burns Supper - 24th January 2026

One day before the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns in 1759, 54 members and guests attended a most enjoyable evening at The Novotel Hotel in York.

As always, Honorary Piper Jim Sharpe greeted all arriving at the hotel ahead of the proceedings.

Toastmaster for the evening Neil Hounam gathered the top table guests for the procession into the room behind piper Jim. Hazel Hanson offered Grace, and the Haggis was then piped into the room carried by the Novotel chef. Grant Young delivered a most entertaining and accomplished **Address to the Haggis** before accepting a whisky toast with Jim and the Chef.

President Frank Paterson proposed **The Immortal Memory** by sharing some facts about the life of Robert Burns, his early years as a child, growing up in Ayrshire. Frank recited extracts of Burns' works to demonstrate how his popularity soared throughout Scotland and across the globe including America and Russia! Frank also talked about how amazing it was that Auld Lang Syne has become so widely-known throughout the world - in many ways thanks to the thousands of Burns Clubs established after the death of Robert Burns.

President Elect Aileen Minns proposed the **Toast to the Toon We Bide In and Our Guests** and talked about her first visit to York in 1972 with husband David. 3 years later, they were posted to York and since then, she has been a resident of York. Aileen recalled the various floods in York, the Minster fire and the visit to York by Pope John Paul II in 1982. Aileen also noted that the society's first President in 1894 - Alderman William McKay was also the Lord Mayor of York in 1894-95!

The Lord Mayor of York, Councillor Martin Rowley responded to Aileen's toast and explained that being from Northumberland, he would be pleased to find out that some part of his DNA had Scottish ancestry!

After some very entertaining life experiences involving friends, colleagues and even Sir Alex Ferguson!, he concluded his message "**Strive for Better**" - an attribute that he often sees in Scots!

Invited guest, Lance Clarke proposed the **Toast to the Lassies** and gave some fine examples of the relationship between the two sexes, often using rhymes to great effect. Lance quoted Rex Harrison from the film My Fair Lady - "Why Can't a Woman Be More Like a Man?"

Diane Roworth replied to her partner Lance by also using rhymes to make the point - "Why Would a Woman Want to be Like a Man"!

The evening concluded by President Frank Paterson asking everyone to join hands (at the start of the 2nd verse!) for a rousing rendition of **Auld Lang Syne** as always accompanied by Piper Jim Sharpe.



## Paddy's Night Celebration

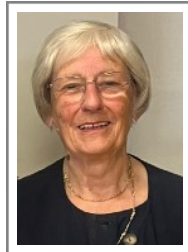
38 members and friends enjoyed a fun evening at one of the society's favourite social locations - The York Railway Bowls & Social Club. We enjoyed a game of bingo followed by a quiz on all things related to Leprechauns. Who knew there's was so much to know about these little characters and their history. We also heard some humorous limericks from various members - who knew we had so many creative folks amongst our membership?

After a fabulous Pie, Mash & Peas supper, Glaswegian-born but now York-based musician Ish Herd entertained us with a great set of songs from Scotland, Ireland and the odd one from Victoria Wood's back catalogue!





## Ladies Circle



*Hello Ladies,*

*Where has the time gone? October to May nearly here already.  
I have enjoyed my time as Chairman of the Ladies Circle.*

*All our speakers have been very good and through some of them, our members have given generously to the food bank at Door 84 and socks to Carecent - supporting the local community where needed. Thank you to all who contributed.*

*Thank you to my committee who have helped and supported me all the way and to all our lunch ladies for supporting our group.*

*Soon it is over to Aileen Minns and I wish her a happy and successful time as Chairman of the Ladies Circle when she takes over at our AGM in May.*

*Happy Easter to you all.*

*Helen.*

### **2025/26 Programme**

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9th April - Stuart Priest, Circus Skills

14th May - Ladies Circle AGM

18th June - Ladies Afternoon Tea



## Forthcoming Events!

Key dates to note in the coming months are:

Wednesday 22nd April - Day Trip by Coach to Bradford Media Museum  
Departing from Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church Hall, The Village, Haxby, YO32 2JJ  
10am to 4.30pm

Details already sent by email & also available on the society website

Saturday 2nd May - RBWF Yorkshire District - Annual Tartan Ball  
Details sent out by email on 29th March

Friday 15th May - Annual General Meeting

Haxby & Wigginton Methodist Church Hall  
The Village  
Haxby  
YO32 2JJ

7 for 7.30pm

Agenda to be sent 2 weeks prior to meeting

### **SAVE THE DATE - Tuesday 2nd June**

#### **President's Reception**

More details soon....

## Spotlight on Edinburgh-“The Festival” City (also known as “You’ll have had your tea!” City)

Winning “*Best of the Fringe*” Jokes (as found on the BBC website)

- “I heard a rumour Cadbury is bringing out an oriental chocolate bar, could be a Chinese Wispa.”
- “I decided to sell my Hoover. Well it was just collecting dust.”
- “My Dad suggested I register for a donor card - He is a man after my own heart”
- “I tried to steal spaghetti from a shop, but the female guard saw me and I couldn't get pasta.”
- “I keep randomly shouting out “broccoli’ & ‘cauliflower’ - I think I might have florets.”
- “I've just been on a once-in-a-lifetime holiday - Tell you what, never again!”



## Next Newsletter

Our Summer Newsletter will be published in late June just ahead of the summer holiday period.

If you have any articles or information you wish to share with the membership in the next newsletter, please do not hesitate to send this to me at the email address below.

Finally please let me have any feedback you wish to give by emailing me at:  
[standrewyork@gmail.com](mailto:standrewyork@gmail.com)

Grant Young - Secretary