



Community Newsletter

Christmas greetings to all our members



Hard to believe we're already in December, isn't it? By this time last year Britain was under a thick blanket of snow and ice... 2011 is so far proving much gentler in moving into winter – just two or three light frosts at the time of writing.

The festive season brings some great opportunities to track down that special gift via your LETS system – why not take a look at the 'offers' page on the website; you can find everything from personal portraits to chocolate tiffin. And after all that Christmas shopping, you can always book yourself a relaxing massage!

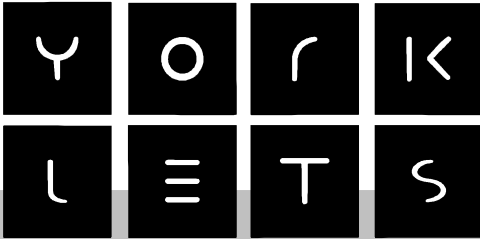
Most importantly, though, remember to leave a space in your diary for the unmissable event of the year – the YorkLETS Christmas Party! This year LETS member Maryvonne Lumley has kindly offered to hold the get-together at her home, so you are guaranteed a warm welcome. Please do take this opportunity to meet new friends, have a chat, enjoy some food and music, and trade with other LETS members.

Saturday 10th December, 2 - 7 pm, 5 Dalguise Grove YO31 7SY

Sadly, due to steps, this venue is not easily wheelchair accessible. Please bring some party food/drink to share, and a musical instrument to play, if you have one. There may also be a surprise entertainer!

Maryvonne would ideally like to know the numbers coming and what food you think you'll bring, so if you're planning on going, please drop her an email:

maryvonnelumley@hotmail.com.



www.yorklets.org.uk

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New meeting venue

Just a reminder that YorkLETS monthly meetings are now taking place at Priory Street Centre (York CVS) for the next few months. It's modern, warm, fully accessible, with free tea/ coffee and car parking, as well as being convenient for those travelling by bus. Please do come along to a meeting (dates in the 'Forthcoming events' section, below) to find out what's happening, have your say, and enjoy meeting and trading with people.



Recent events

The trip to Pocklington Canal was very much enjoyed by all those who took part. Everyone had a ride on the New Horizons barge, and some of us even tried our hand at steering it! We were all very impressed by the restoration of the boat and of the beautiful canal, which is all carried out by volunteers. After a gentle stroll up the towpath, we shared a picnic lunch (including some YorkLETS members' home grown tomatoes and apples – yum!) before making our way home, tired but happy.



Earn Yorkys!!!

Don't forget you can earn Y7 per hour for hosting an event for YorkLETS members. If you're interested in doing this yourself, why not contact one of the committee (listed this page) or drop in to the next monthly meeting?

Colin Stroud Award

YorkLETS has been honoured with the first ever Colin Stroud Award. The award, which recognises grassroots voluntary action that benefits people in York, was presented at a ceremony on 4 November, and includes a cheque for £500. It was established to mark the retirement in 2010 of Colin Stroud, who had been Chief Officer at York CVS (Council for Voluntary Service) for 23 years, making a major impact on the quantity and quality of voluntary projects in the city. Collecting the award, John Cossham said:

“What is really touching about this award is not the money – although that’s very welcome – but the fact that the fund, and nominations, come from York CVS staff and supporters, not from some big faceless organisation with lots of cash to spare.”

The award will be used to improve our publicity materials and activities over the coming year.

Membership renewals – a gentle reminder...

Annual membership renewal information went out in the summer, as usual. Although most members have now responded, there is a small number who have not yet got round to it. If this is you, please drop an email as soon as you can to melody.clarke@yahoo.co.uk to let us know:

- Whether you wish to continue your membership
- If so, how you wish to pay (cheque for £12 or automatic monthly payments of 1Y)
- Any changes to your contact details

Many thanks!

Lend us a hand!

With a couple of people standing down from the core group this year, we are looking for an extra pair of hands or two to help with running the system. The commitment is not onerous – you need to be able to attend most of the monthly meetings, and be willing to muck in with one or more tasks, such as: updating members’ information on the website, contributing articles for the newsletter, keeping a record of money paid into and out of our bank account, or writing and sharing notes of the meetings.



...and finally

A big thank you to Kay Watkins who has stood down from the core group after some excellent work helping to make YorkLETS run smoothly for us all!

Forthcoming Events

a selection of local events you may be interested in...

- **Sat 10 December** YorkLETS Christmas Party, 2 - 7pm, 5 Dalguise Grove, YO31 7SY (Heworth). Food, drink, music, fun! All welcome. Any queries, please contact Maryvonne: maryvonnelumley@hotmail.com
- **28 – 29 January** York Residents Festival - residents of York can gain free and discounted entry to many of the city's world class attractions and exhibitions as well as enjoying special rates at some superb restaurants and shops. Keep an eye on local press for more details, or call City of York Council on 01904 550099
- **Mon 6 February** YorkLETS monthly meeting at [Priory Street Centre](#) 7.30-8.00pm: committee meeting; 8.00pm onwards: social and trading evening – **all welcome**
- **Weds 8 February** The Hidden Wealth of Nations? – lecture by Dr David Halpern, Director of Behavioural Insight Team, No 10 and the Cabinet Office/Senior Fellow of the Institute for Government. Admission is free but by ticket only. Tickets available from York Minster Box office, or at www.yorks.ac.uk/eborlectures. For further information please contact Ebor Lectures Co-ordinator on 01904 876474 or email eborlectures@yorks.ac.uk
- **11 – 19 February** Jorvik Viking Festival - hundreds of Vikings will descend on the city and demonstrate battle-drills and training routines. There is a huge range of public events including lectures, arts & crafts, encampments, river events, saga-telling, and full-scale battle re-enactments. Email groups@yorkat.co.uk for more details
- **Mon 5 March** YorkLETS monthly meeting at [Priory Street Centre](#) 7.30-8.00pm: committee meeting; 8.00pm onwards: social and trading evening – **all welcome**
- **Mon 2 April** YorkLETS monthly meeting at [Priory Street Centre](#) 7.30-8.00pm: committee meeting; 8.00pm onwards: social and trading evening – **all welcome**

...hope to see you at some of them!

Remember to keep an eye open for emails about additional YorkLETS activities