

Summer 2026



From President - Aileen Minns...

Thanks to all the members who supported my President's Reception held on the 2nd of June at the The Cookery in York College.

The food was amazing, the four-course meal followed by tea and coffee was beautifully cooked and presented by the young catering staff who were all students of the college. We enjoyed a drinks reception in the foyer before the meal which gave us all a chance for a catchup before taking our seats for the meal.

A big thank you to Philippa, Jim and Alan who made the evening extra special. The tables were adorned with lovely flower arrangements by Philippa Crowther. As always Jim Sharpe, our Piper was at the door to welcome people with the sound of pipes! and Alan Kinnaird, our Treasurer was also at the door to direct people where to go. Our youngest member Samuel Barnard, Grandson of Robert Marshall wrote and gave a speech - well done to him. Frank Paterson gave his thank's on behalf of us all.

I have been a member of the St Andrew Society since 1992; proud to be President in 2009/2010 and am delighted to be President again this year. It is a great honour and a privilege to be part of such a friendly and supportive organisation. Sadly, I regret that we will be unable to attend the planned Gin Tasting & Tour event at Ellis Farm Distillery on the 9th of July - disappointingly they cancelled our booking due to changes within their business. The next event will now be the Summer Picnic & Hog Roast on the 25th of July, details of which have been sent out separately.

A little quote that I heard recently:-

"Yesterday was History, Tomorrow is a Mystery, but Today is a Gift".

Aileen



Members Update

We welcome 4 new members who have joined since the last newsletter was published in March; Malcolm Campbell, Patricia Gillies, Gillian and Samuel Barnard (aged 9 - our youngest member!).

Welcome to you all - we hope you will enjoy your time as members of the society.

This takes our total membership to 93 - not far off reaching a 3-figure total but healthy all the same.

Most subscription payments have now been received with a handful of payments still to be received. Payments can be made as follows:

Bank Transfer Payments

Pay online by bank transfer to Account No 16143779 Sort Code 60-24-62

Please use reference "SUBS – *followed by your name*"

Please also email Marlynn Holroyd to confirm your online payment @

holroyd539@btinternet.com

Cheque Payments

Cheques should be made payable to "The St Andrew Society of York" and sent to: Grant Young, Garthside, Middleton, Pickering. YO18 8PA.

AGM Update

- Key updates from the AGM were:
 - 32 members attended
 - Society finances remain healthy
 - £300 budget allocated to Ladies Circle for lunch speakers in 2026/27

ELECTION OF SOCIETY OFFICERS & COUNCIL MEMBERS

President – Aileen Minns

President Elect – Grant Young (Leeds)

Past President – Frank Paterson

Treasurer – Alan Kinnaird

Secretary – Grant Young (Middleton)

Function Organiser – Jack Marchbank

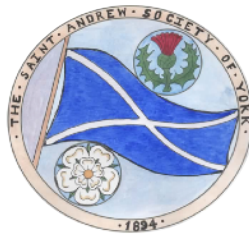
Assistant Treasurer – Marlynn Holroyd

Assistant Secretary – Janet Sharpe

Ladies Circle - Moira Deuchars

Honorary Piper - Jim Sharpe has agreed to continue as Society Piper.

Honorary Examiner - Chris Willey has agreed to continue as Honorary Examiner.



President's Reception



56 members and friends attended the President's Reception at The Cookery, York College on Tuesday 2nd June for a wonderful 4-course dinner; a perfect start to Aileen Minn's second time as President of our society. All the food preparation, cooking and table/bar service was the work of students at the college - such evenings take place every 3-weeks throughout the college year.

In addition to the lovely food, Aileen arranged for everyone to receive a welcome drink on arrival.

Just before the food service started, Aileen thanked everyone for coming to launch her 2nd time as President and after the meal, she talked about her exciting programme of events planned for the year ahead.





V is for Vikings

It may not come as much of a surprise that for centuries the Vikings had a significant influence on large areas in Scotland. For anyone lucky enough to visit Shetland during the annual Up Helly Ae festival, they will witness Viking culture being celebrated in a magnificent display of fire, horned helmets and fur trimmed cloaks. There are many misconceptions when it comes to the Vikings, for example, it wasn't all pillage and plunder, in many locations the Scandinavian visitors integrated well into society, creating an amalgamation of gaelic and viking life. Nowadays, the viking influence can even be seen in the landscape with evidence of 'viking canals' still visible across Scotland.

The Vikings, initially from Norway, arrived in Scotland in the late 8th century (around 793AD). It is believed that they were attracted by the vast wealth of the Christian monasteries and the swathes of treasure that they possessed. The Abbey at Iona, which was at the time a beacon of Christianity, was a frequent target and in 806 the entire Iona community was murdered. The Vikings followed the Pagan religion and therefore had no concerns with raiding monasteries, which they considered easy targets as they knew monks would not possess weapons to defend themselves.

The name 'viking' is Old Norse for 'a pirate raid', people who went off raiding in ships were said to be 'going viking'. But not all Vikings were bloodthirsty warriors, although some did come to fight, others came peacefully to settle and became farmers who kept animals and grew crops. They were also heavily involved in trade and commerce, selling goods to buy silver, silks, spices, wine, jewellery, glass and pottery to take back home. Vikings were skilful at crafting and made beautiful metalwork and wooden carvings, many of which still survive today. A fine example of Viking craftsmanship can be seen in the Lewis Chess pieces which date from the mid 12th century. The 93 chess pieces are elaborately made from walrus ivory and whales' teeth. They were discovered in 1831 and are considered as evidence of the Vikings as both raiders and traders, as it is believed that they were buried by a merchant for safe-keeping while they were on route to be traded in Ireland. Eleven of the chess pieces can be viewed at the National Museum of Scotland.



V is for Vikings

Of course, Scotland in this period was not how we know it now. The Outer Hebrides and Inner Hebrides were predominantly Pictish, whereas the southern Inner Hebrides formed part of the Gaelic kingdom of Dal Riata, neither of which managed to avoid the wrath of the vikings. There are several reasons why historians have speculated as to why so many Viking's fled Scandinavia, many believe it was due to a lack of quality farmland, others believe it was due to overpopulation in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Unfortunately, we don't really know the reason. The Picts living in the Outer Hebrides during the period of the Viking arrival were gradually dispossessed. Historians and archeologists disagree on how this transition occurred, with theories ranging from peaceful integration to enslavement and genocide. Either way, Vikings arrived in droves, bringing their families and establishing a way of life on the islands, until eventually Norwegian ruler Harald Fairhair made Orkney and Shetland part of his kingdom in 875. This remained the case until 1472, when King Christian I of Denmark gave the islands back to Scotland as a dowry payment for his daughter, Margaret of Denmark, who married King James III of Scotland.

Viking influence in Shetland remained an ever-present factor in island life for centuries despite the island returning to Scottish rule. For instance, the language commonly spoken on the island evolved under Viking rule into the West Nordic language 'Norn', which survived in Shetland into the 19th century. Today, Up Helly Ae is not the only festival dedicated to Viking culture on the island, as Shetlanders put on several smaller fire festivals throughout the year, showcasing their pride in their Viking heritage.

The legacy of the Vikings is not confined to Scotland's northern isles. York itself was once the thriving Norse city of Jórvík, where Scandinavian settlers left an enduring mark on language, culture and trade. Today, that shared heritage links communities from Shetland to northern England, reminding us that the Viking world was one of movement, exchange and connection as much as conflict.



V is for Vikings



Up Helly Ae Festival



Lewis Chessmen on display in the National Museum of Scotland



Viking Canal on Skye



Ladies Circle



Hello Ladies,

It was lovely to see 28 ladies enjoy afternoon tea at York Marina for our last meeting until October. We were blessed with a lovely day and a view over the river and of course, the afternoon tea was excellent.

We have had a very successful year and I'm sure the following year will be as good. Look forward to seeing you all again.

In the meantime, I hope you all have a great summer.

Moira Deuchars, Secretary.

2026/27 Programme

8th October - Butterflies Chocolates

11th November - Marilyn Teale - Baubles, Bangles & Beads

10th December - Ladies Circle Christmas Celebrations

14th January 2027 - Hobbies

11th February - John Clitheroe - The Life & Musicals of Andrew Lloyd Webber

11th March - Glynnis Whyte - Treasurers House - Ghosts

8th April - Malcolm Campbell - The Callanish Tartan

13th May - Ladies Circle AGM



Forthcoming Society Events!

Key dates to note in the coming months are:

Saturday 25th July - Hog Roast & Summer Party

President Aileen Minn's home at 21 Temple Lane, Copmanthorpe, York, YO23 3TB
Booking Form sent out previously

19th- 23rd August Scottish Holiday & Edinburgh Tattoo

Contact President Aileen Minns for further details on 01904 704014.

Friday 4th September - Bowls & Bingo Evening

York Railway Bowls & Social Club, Ashton lane, Holgate, York, YO24 4HX
More details published nearer the time.

Friday 16th October - Nicolla Mills Entertains

WI Hall, 6 Station Road, Copmanthorpe, York, YO23 3SX
More details published nearer the time.

Football/World Cup Quips (as found on't tinternet!)

Where do football fans go to buy their football strips? - New Jersey!

What do England fans do when they win the FIFA World Cup? - They turn off their playstations!

We were all hoping for a good clean World Cup - but so far it's been a Messi one!

What do you call an American in the World Cup Final - Ref!

Which team do pirate's support - Aaharr- gentina!

Next Newsletter

Our Autumn Newsletter will be published in late October.

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

Grant Young - Secretary