

Airborne

Issue 6

YAA celebrates 21st birthday

Meet our first Chief Pilot

We caught up with John to see how the Charity began

Farewell Bob

Saying goodbye to our longest serving fundraiser

Shop our Christmas collection

Give a gift that keeps on giving



Operational **Stats**

368

40-65
year olds

340

17-39
year olds

211

65+

106

Children

Number of patients treated

1st JANUARY - 1st DECEMBER
2021

Welcome to the **YAA**

Welcome to our sixth issue of Airborne

Welcome to our sixth issue of Airborne. This October we celebrated 21 years of Yorkshire Air Ambulance. When the Charity first began, there were many people that questioned the need for an air ambulance across Yorkshire, but having flown more than 8,300 patients to major trauma centres over the last two decades and treated thousands more, the charity has established itself as a vital pre-hospital care service across the region. We're honoured and proud to work with many other emergency services and charities to help the people of Yorkshire and the support we receive from our donors will enable us to continue saving lives for many years to come.

Our 21st birthday celebrations came after a challenging time for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and as COVID regulations are now decreasing, we're finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. We start our 22nd year with hope for the future and a newfound spring in our step now that we're able to be back out community fundraising.

In this quarter, we're sad to be saying goodbye to Jenny Jones our Regional Fundraising Manager who has worked at the charity since 2014. We're also sadly waving off the one and only Bob Smailes, who has been with the charity since almost the very beginning. I'm sure many of you will have worked with Bob over the years as he is known all across Yorkshire for his prolific fundraising for our charity. We would like to wish him all the best in his retirement.

Staff past and present have worked very hard to get the charity where it is today, 21 years after its humble beginnings in a Portakabin at Leeds Bradford International Airport. But none of us would be able to do our jobs without the kindness and generosity of our supporters over the last 21 years. The charity could not exist without your generosity and we're truly blessed to have such wonderful donors across the region.

From our crew, staff and patients, thank you for supporting YAA.



Peter Sunderland, MBE, DL
Yorkshire Air Ambulance Chairman

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YAA *Timeline*

Take a look at how our charity has evolved over the last 21 years.

From starting out in a small Portakabin to having our very own state-of-the-art airbase and training facilities.



2000



The Yorkshire Air Ambulance was launched on October 25th 2000 and consisted of a small crew operating a leased Bolkow helicopter G-PAS-G from a Portakabin at Leeds Bradford Airport.



2006



In 2006 Peter Sunderland became our Chairman and new aircraft G-SASH joined our fleet. On the 20th September, the YAA were called to a crash at Elvington Airfield near York. The patient was Top Gear Presenter Richard Hammond who had been involved in a serious car crash.



2007



First episode of Helicopter Heroes aired on 3rd September on BBC1 and was presented by Richard Hammond. The series was comprised of 10 episodes but due to the success of the first series it was re-commissioned.



2008



We welcomed our second helicopter, G-CEMS, to our fleet, based at Sheffield Business Park. The second series of Helicopter Heroes aired in August, this time with new presenter Rav Wilding. The YAA hosted our first ever Recognition Awards ceremony. Income this year hit the £3million mark.



2012



In 2012 we moved to our new Northern Airbase at RAF Topcliffe near Thirsk. The YAA also acquired our own Air Operating Certificate, becoming one of the first air ambulances to achieve this in the UK.



2013



November 2013 saw the YAA move to a new Flagship Airbase on the Nostell Estate in Wakefield. Purpose developed especially for our operations. The charity also saw our most successful year so far, with income totalling £5million for the year.



2016



2016 will be remembered as a momentous year for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Two brand new state-of-the-art Airbus H145 helicopters were delivered and came into operation during the year. The majority of 2016 saw us make the necessary preparations at each airbase for the arrival of these new helicopters and a grand unveiling event was held at Nostell on the 7th June in front of regional dignitaries, corporate supporters and guests. G-YAAC came into operation at Nostell on Saturday 3rd September and G-YOAA followed shortly after, becoming operational from her new home at Topcliffe on Wednesday 14th December.



2017



This was the first full year of operations with the two new Airbus H145 helicopters and the benefits they have continued to bring to the people of Yorkshire and its visitors. In 2017 there were also other key medical and operational advancements for the Charity. Firstly, the commencement of NVIS (Night Vision Imaging Systems) Operations, enabling the Charity to extend its operational hours and the addition of carrying Blood on Board, enabling critically injured patients to receive transfusions at the scene of an incident or in the air.



2019



An exciting year for the training and development of our medical teams as we were proud to launch our state-of-the-art simulation training suite at Nostell. The room, which benefits from 360° pre-scene projection allows our crews to set up an endless number of incident situations, ranging from road traffic collisions, industrial accidents and inside homes. This, coupled with the life like manikins, which were generously grant funded, allow our Paramedics and Doctors to continually train on medical procedures and on-scene incident management.



2020



In 2020 we celebrated 20 years of saving lives across Yorkshire. The last two decades have seen us grow year on year to become a service delivering the highest possible standard of pre-hospital care to the people of Yorkshire, having flown over 8,000 patients to major trauma centres across the region.



2023



In 2023 we will replace our H-145 helicopters with a new five blade model with advanced technology.

Meet the YAA's First *Chief Pilot*



On 25th October 2000 we began saving lives across the region and John Sutherland became our first chief pilot.



Our first-ever call out was a road traffic collision in Skipton landing on the front lawn of the Skipton Building Society.

To celebrate our 21st anniversary, we caught up with John to hear how the charity began, and the challenges they faced in their early years.

John started Yorkshire Air Ambulance after a varied career flying in the Royal Air Force, Search and Rescue, the Police Force, firefighting in the Greek Islands and flying VIPs in the Middle East.

"When the Chief Pilot of Cornwall and Sussex Police and Ambulance asked me if I fancied moving up North to form a new air ambulance charity, I was delighted", said John.

"The Automobile Association were giving £1 million pounds to air ambulances across the UK and the money really helped get us started. It was really exciting starting a new charity, but very, very busy."

John's first day at the charity was September 30th 2000, a month ahead of launch day to start training seven Paramedics

to become Medical Crew Members or, as they are known now, HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medical Service) Paramedics.

"I had to train experienced Paramedics to navigate the aircraft and introduce them to working in the helicopter. In those days, we didn't have satellite navigation or a GPS and the guys had to navigate using large ordinance survey maps and A-Zs. By the time we had finished, they could navigate me to a telephone box in the middle of Batley. It's very different now with all the navigational tools they have."

He continued: *"The first week was spent surveying the landing sites, it was a very busy time. The money was coming in dribs and drabs and we had a few people question why we needed an air ambulance, but I knew long term Yorkshire people would take the charity to heart when we started saving lives."*

"It was low numbers to start with. On a shift, it was at least one incident a day, but it was daylight only. We had to educate the dispatch team on the types of incidents that our team could bring the most expertise to."

Our first aircraft was the Bolkow. Speaking of the aircraft, John explained: *"It was a very small tank helicopter made in Germany. It was a very cramped helicopter. We were very limited with space and we had to beg and borrow medical equipment. The aircraft had paramedic's and co-pilot's seats that we would have to turn around so the patient could be treated. One paramedic would fly backwards, which could be quite disorientating dealing with a patient at their feet. It was very cramped and we had to carefully think of the weight of the aircraft."*

"You can't imagine having one aircraft now. The Bolkow is so small, we only had an hour's worth of fuel to get anywhere. We also have the biggest county in England to cover, but to

land on the rooftop helipad, we had to be at a low weight for safety. We had to do a lot of balancing acts", he continued.

Being involved with the YAA from day one was not only John's YAA legacy, he said: *"When the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) decided to bring in new call signs for air ambulances across the UK, I phoned them and requested Helimed99 because I thought it sounded good. Of course, now we have Helimed99 and Helimed98."*

Celebrating our 21st birthday, John said: *"It's great to see how it's going now, it's just wonderful. I'm very pleased to see where they come from."*

YAA Fact:



YAA Helicopters are yellow because they were originally sponsored by the AA!

Staff Updates

We're incredibly sad to wave goodbye to our longest serving fundraiser Bob Smailes as he retires from Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Bob has been an integral part of the YAA from helping establish us as a charity to teaching many of past and current fundraising staff.

Many people will know Bob as 'Mr YAA', the face of our charity. Bob has shown so much passion for the charity over the last 20 years, working incredibly long hours and establishing key relationships across Yorkshire which have enabled us to grow into the charity we are today. His humble and honest fundraising approach has helped him win over the people of Yorkshire's hearts and we can truly say as a charity, we wouldn't be where we are today without him.

Helen Callear, Director of Fundraising North East, said: "Bob has been an outstanding fundraiser almost from the very



start of Charity's journey, and we have all learned a lot from him, enjoyed many happy times with him and I know that he will always hold a special place in everyone's hearts. Bob has time for people, understanding and engaging with donors and colleagues alike, with warmth, character, and energy.

We would like to wish Bob the very best for his long, healthy and happy retirement."

Congratulations Tracey, Heather and Jill!

Congratulations and a big thank you to Tracey Bull (Office Administrator), Heather Stansfield (Finance Clerk) and Jill Pukacz (Executive PA) who have all received a long service award for 10 years of working at the charity.

Tracey



Heather



Jenny



Best of luck Jenny!

We're also very sad to be saying goodbye to Jenny, our South and West Fundraising Manager who has been with the charity since 2014. In the last seven years, Jenny has progressed from Events Coordinator to Fundraising Manager for two very busy YAA regions. We would like to wish her all the best for the future.

Jill



Congratulations Helen and Vickie!

Congratulations to Vickie Bowden who has become our new YAA Regional Fundraiser (West and South) and Helen Berriman who has progressed from Community Fundraiser to Regional Fundraiser for West Yorkshire.

Clinical Updates



Swift water rescue

This October has seen some of the crew requalify for their swift water rescue certificate in Wales. This helps us to provide the initial rescue to a patient in water, without entering the water. Helping to keep staff safe should they

fall in a body of water is so important. Thanks must go to Al Day and Darren James for their continued hard work in ensuring the HEMS team are safe and efficient.



New storage for our thoracotomy manikin

We have also built a brand new room in the hanger at our Nostell Air Support unit to store and repair our brand new thoracotomy manikin. This specialist manikin has repairable skin, enabling our crew to practice opening up a patient and suturing them back together.



Fundraising Updates



Thank you to everyone who braved the jump

A big thank you to everyone who attended our latest skydives, to all those who were able to jump and to all those who were not able to due to adverse weather, but have rebooked to jump on our next event.



Balloon Festival reaches new fundraising heights

This year's Yorkshire Balloon Fiesta reached new heights with an exceptional £19,585.67 raised over the weekend. Thank you to the organisers of Yorkshire Balloon Festival for their support and everyone who joined us over the four days.

St Leger day is a racing success

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual St Leger Day at Doncaster Racecourse. An impressive £18,586.76 was raised on the day and it was great to see so many familiar faces after last year's event was cancelled due to Covid-19. The total raised takes the partnership total to over £138,000 raised since 2010.

The total includes £6,000 match funding from HSBC with their staff helping with the bucket collection and our biggest bucket collection ever from the event at over £2,300.



YAA 2021 & 2022 Events

YAA 2022 Events

**Dec
2021**

1st Dec

Christmas at YAA

Visit <https://www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk/christmas-with-the-yaa/> for a whole host of Yorkshire Air Ambulance festive fun.



**May &
Sept
2022**

22nd May &
18th Sept

Skydive

Join us in Bridlington for one of our skydiving days and take on our skydive challenge to help save lives across Yorkshire. Experience the thrill of jumping from 10,000 feet and free-falling at over 120mph.



**Jan
2022**

31st Jan

Hot Chocolate Day

Join us for Hot Chocolate Day 2022. Why not get together with friends or colleagues and enjoy a lovely hot chocolate. Keep an eye on our social channels for more updates.



**Sept
2022**

St Leger Festival

Join us for the most highly anticipated event of the YAA calendar, the YAA St Leger Festival day at Doncaster Races. Keep an eye on our social channels for ticket launch day.



**May
2022**

2nd - 7th May

Benidorm Bangers 2022

Yorkshire Air Ambulance are delighted to be supported by the 2022 Benidorm Bangers European Road Rally. Entry to the Benidorm Bangers event is £250 per 2 crew vehicle and any additional crew members are £25 each. To sign up, please visit our events page. <https://www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk/get-involved/events/run-walk-leap-cycle-swim/benidorm-bangers-rally-2022/>



For more YAA events please visit:

<https://www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

Patient Story

Imran Choudhury

On February 23rd 2021, Imran Choudhury from Oldham, was training on Saddleworth Moor for Mt Kilimanjaro sponsored walk he was due to take part in for the NHS.

He stopped at the famous Trinnacle landmark and asked two passers-by to take his photograph. When he started climbing back down, he blacked out and fell 200ft and was left clinging to a 50 degree slope in the ravine.

Speaking of his incident, Imran said: *"I woke up that morning, had something to eat, drove to Dovestones and started walking. It was a very steep climb and I was walking against the wind that day.*

I took lots of photos and videos and went to the Trinnacle where two people took my photo. I did a live video for social media and actually said at the end of it, if someone fell from here that would be the end for them. I started to climb down and that's the last thing I remember."

Two horrified walkers Carly and Nadine saw Imran plummet down the hill and phoned the emergency services. Whilst Nadine climbed down to help Imran, another couple Caroline and Paul saw the women in distress and also offered their help.

Paul managed to brave the descent to Imran's aid and stayed with him throughout his rescue. We dispatched our Nostell aircraft with Pilot Lee Holmes, Doctor Andy Pountney and Paramedics Al Day and James Allen on board.

The weather was treacherous that day with extremely strong winds making the rescue mission one of the teams most challenging ever.

James Allen, one of our Paramedics, said: "It was blowing a gale and the ground was crumbling away in places. If any of us had lost our footing, it would have been game over."

Imran was also fortunate that day as Paramedic Al Day also has extensive Mountain Rescue Team experience so brought vital experience and knowledge to the rescue mission.

Imran had sustained a catalogue of serious injuries and it was imperative that he received urgent hospital care in order to save his life. Paul stayed with Imran, essentially to stop him rolling down the ravine, whilst the medics carried out emergency care.

Pilot Lee tried to relocate the aircraft to the bottom of the hill in hope that Mountain Rescue volunteers and our clinical staff could carry him down. However, the wind was too strong as he approached the valley. *"I was presented with a wind that was trying to kill me from both directions",* said Lee.



A Search and Rescue Helicopter was subsequently dispatched and was eventually able to winch Imran to safety where he was then flown to Sheffield Northern General Hospital by our waiting helicopter.

Tests revealed that Imran had broken two skull bones, one of which penetrated his brain and caused serious internal bleeding. He also broke his shoulder, shoulder blade, spinal bone, a small bone in his left leg and badly damaged his right leg in six places. Imran spent three weeks in an induced coma.

"When I woke up from the coma I didn't know where I was or what had happened. I thought that I was in Bangladesh. It took some time to realise the extent of my injuries", said Imran. He has since made a good recovery, but still undergoing treatment for his injuries.

"Without the members of the public, the emergency services wouldn't have come to my rescue as they called them and without the emergency services, I wouldn't be here today.

They are my angels who saved me. I'm so grateful for their help. It was a very challenging rescue and it's amazing what they did to save me."

Imran has remained friends with Carly, Nadine, Caroline and Paul who stayed with him during his accident and has since met up with the Mountain Rescue team who helped him and the YAA crew. Imran has thanked those involved by providing them with a huge curry meal from their family takeaway, The New Polash, in Chadderton which was enjoyed by the YAA at their airbases a few weeks ago.

YAA Doctor Andy Pountney, said: *"I'm really proud to have been part of the team at the beginning of Imran's journey, to be part of that team who gave him the initial treatment and helped get him off the hillside. I feel privileged to be in a position to help someone like that."*

YAA Paramedic Al Day, said: *"Whilst raising money for charity, Imran has had an accident which has resulted in being rescued by three organisations, two of which are charities – Mountain Rescue and Yorkshire Air Ambulance. He doesn't owe anything to Mountain Rescue or Yorkshire Air Ambulance, the people that have really saved Imran's life are the people who put 50p in a collection box or organised a bake sale. They saved Imran's life."*

To read more of our patient stories please visit:

<https://www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk/news-patient-stories/patient-stories/>

The Dangers of Lasers

Over the last few months, we have noticed a rise in laser attacks towards not only our aircraft but many air ambulances across the country.

Pointing a laser at a helicopter can cause great danger not only to our crew by temporarily causing blindness and headaches during pivotal parts of a flight, but our patients whose trip to the hospital could be lengthened should we need to divert, along with civilians too if our aircraft crashed in a public place.

Owen McTeggart, Yorkshire Air Ambulance Chief Pilot, said: "If we get a laser attack while trying to land at a HEMS site, it means we cannot land and the injured person on the ground doesn't get the care that we are there to provide."

It doesn't take much for the eyes to be permanently damaged by a laser and while the laser itself might not be a danger if it doesn't make contact with the eyes, it is a massive distraction for the crew during a critical stage of flight", he continued.



A law passed in 2016 made it illegal for a shining light to be pointed towards an aircraft in flight.

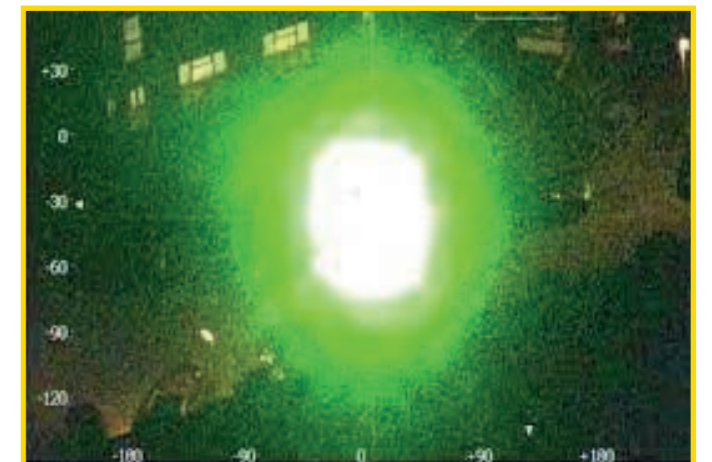
The law states that a person must not, in the United Kingdom, direct or shine any light at any aircraft in flight so as to dazzle or distract the pilot of the aircraft.

A successful prosecution could lead to jail time or a hefty fine or in some cases, both.

Unfortunately, laser pens are very easy to access and buy, and not many people are aware of the dangers they may cause.

Owen continued: "A lot of it is ignorance of the implications to our operations. And I'm sure most people that point a laser at a helicopter think it's just a laugh and no harm is caused."

But it can in some cases, have life-changing consequences for the pilot, the crew and if it's an air ambulance, the patient in the back they are trying to save".



Did you know that 7th October was Gift Aid Awareness Day?

Did you also know that you can make your charitable donation go further with no extra cost to you if you are a UK tax payer? If you decide to tick the gift aid option on your donation form, Yorkshire Air Ambulance can get an additional 25% tax relief on the money received from the government.

Donors must be UK Tax payers and the money gifted must be a personal donation and cannot be a collection (such as a funeral collection or sponsorship collection) or money from events or businesses. The money must have been donated to Yorkshire Air Ambulance during the last four years.

Fill out a gift aid form

If you are a tax payer and your donation is eligible for gift aid, please ask for a gift aid form if you haven't already been offered one. You can download one of these on the website [yorkshireairambulance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/yaa-gift-aid-form-a4.pdf](https://www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/yaa-gift-aid-form-a4.pdf) or contact our office on 01422 237900 and then send it back to us in the post.

Tick the box

When you are filling out an online donation, all you need to do is tick the box saying that you're happy for us to claim gift aid. We can then claim the gift aid on your behalf with the details submitted.

Tell our staff

If you're unsure whether your donation qualifies for gift aid or if you would like further information, please do not hesitate to ask our team of friendly administrators or your local fundraiser for advice.

It costs £12,000 a day to keep both of Yorkshire's Air Ambulance's in the air and your additional 25% for every pound donated could make a big difference to our charity. For more information about donations and gift aid, please visit: <https://www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk/support-us/gift-aid-declaration/>

Rupert Day

In February 2021, nine year old Rupert Day sustained a nasty eye injury due to grit in his eyeball.

He had been on eye drops for two days when his dad accidentally picked up super glue instead of the drops when giving him his treatment.



Rupert's dad Kevin said: "Rupert scratched his eye a few days ago and we were given some eye drops. I went to put it in and then realised I had put super glue in his eye instead.

"I had a massive fear that I had blinded my son and ruined his life", said Rupert's Dad.

Speaking of his incident, Rupert said: "I was worried if my eye would open again."

Rupert spent a few hours in the hospital and couldn't open his eye for four scary days. But thankfully no glue had gone into his eye and his vision has been completely fine following his traumatic ordeal.

Rupert's story appeared on Helicopter ER earlier this year. Missed an episode? Catch up on Sky or Discovery+



I phoned 999 who advised us to keep flushing it and they said an ambulance was on its way. I wasn't expecting the air ambulance." Due to the close proximity of their airbase to the incident, Yorkshire Air Ambulance dispatched their Topcliffe aircraft and were first on scene.

Our Paramedics bathed Rupert's eye and administered pain relief until the land ambulance were able to take him to Harrogate Hospital for further treatment.



Read our patient stories here:

<https://www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk/news-patient-stories/patient-stories/>

Meet the Trustees



Trustees Week is an annual event that takes place 1st – 5th November and celebrates the hard work and key decisions that Trustees do for charities across the UK. Our Trustees use their wealth of expertise derived from varying backgrounds to govern our charity and ensure everything we do is aligned with our mission statement and core values.



Peter Sunderland MBE, DL Chairman

Peter first joined the Yorkshire Air Ambulance (YAA) as a Trustee back in 2004 after retiring as a UK director from a major PLC in the construction products industry.

Peter brings to the YAA a wealth of experience in senior management, monitoring & delivering of business targets, workshops, strategic development, financial & budgetary control and project implementation.

In 2016 Peter was awarded an MBE by Her Majesty the Queen, at Buckingham Palace, for 'Voluntary Service to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and the Community in West Yorkshire'.



Brian Chapman, Vice Chairman

Brian retired professionally in summer 2021 after working for the healthcare company B.Braun Medical Ltd since 1989, and the prior 10 years working in the NHS.

He was responsible for the development of strategic marketing, media relations, branding, advertising, and website, as well as their education function which provides continued learning for healthcare professionals. In his latter time at B.Braun, Brian oversaw professional & clinical relationship management for the company as well as engaging with medical & surgical professionals of the next generation.

Brian became involved with the Yorkshire Air Ambulance in 2000 through initial contact by B.Braun to become a corporate partner and support the charity. He then became a Trustee of the YAA in October 2005 offering invaluable marketing expertise to assist with the growth of the charitable organisation. He was appointed as Vice-Chairman towards the end of 2016 and now focuses his time on overseeing the marketing, communications, and North & East Fundraising functions.



Richard Marsh

Richard is a Chartered Accountant with over 35 years' experience of professional practice in South Yorkshire. He has been a Trustee for a number of charities since 1993 and joined YAA in 2020.



Judith Parker

Judith became a Trustee for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance in 2016 and is a retired GP, having worked in General Practice in Huddersfield for 26 years. During this time she also had a variety of senior clinical management roles and was active in delivering post-graduate education to all grades of frontline health professionals. Judith was born and educated in York before attending Leeds Medical School where she met her husband, who was also a GP.



Mike Harrop

Mike joined the Yorkshire Air Ambulance initially as a volunteer in 2017 and, due to his extensive background in the military, was subsequently invited to become a Trustee in 2019.

Prior to joining the YAA, Mike served in the Royal Air Force for 30 years fulfilling a wide variety of posts including: crisis management operations in Whitehall, counter-narcotics law enforcement and immediately prior to his retirement as the Station Commander of RAF Scampton – the home of the Red Arrows.



John Samuel

John is a Chartered Accountant and qualified with Deloitte & Co in 1981. He has served as finance director of a number of public companies and in 2018 he joined Hargreaves PLC where he is currently their Group Finance Director & Company Secretary.

John joined the Yorkshire Air Ambulance Trustee board in 2012 and is our Trustee responsible for finance matters. He works very closely with our finance team, our auditors and investment partner organisations.

Meet the Trustees



Kevin Hynes

Kevin has been a Trustee since 2004 and now has responsibility for oversight of the Charity's Aviation and Operational activities, working closely with Steve Waudby (Director of Aviation) and Neale Jacobs (Director of Operations).

Professionally, Kevin is now retired but his early career was in the motor industry and subsequently the banking sector, specialising in business delivery methods, regulatory risk, and colleague engagement. Before retiring to focus on Yorkshire Air Ambulance and being a Parish Councillor, Kevin owned a property management and sales business in Leeds.



James Eastwood

From a background in engineering, James has been the Group IT Director of Renew Holdings since 2002, responsible for the provision of IT/IS throughout the transformation of the holding company from YJL/Montpellier (construction/property/investments) to Renew Holdings (providing multi discipline engineering services).

James initially became involved with the Yorkshire Air Ambulance in 2016 advising on the upgrade of the charity's computer systems. He then became a Trustee in 2017 and provides advice to the charity on Information Technology.



Mark Jones

Mark is a solicitor and partner at Yorkshire law firm Gordons LLP. He leads the food and drink sector at the firm and specialises in commercial disputes, data, and rare asset disputes.

He joined the Yorkshire Air Ambulance board of trustees in July 2021 to provide support, primarily on legal matters.



Amarjit Singh

Amarjit Singh joined the charity as a Trustee in 2006 and he has an extensive background in sales and investments. He is also Chairman of Yorkshire Asian Business Association.

To find out more about our Trustees and YAA staff visit:
<https://www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk/about/meet-our-team/>

YAA Christmas

Join the Yorkshire Air Ambulance for a month of festive fun and help us continue saving lives across Yorkshire. Below you can find a few ideas of how you can support the YAA this December and a sneaky look at some of our festive campaigns coming soon.

Share the love with our new dedication baubles



Download one of our dedication bauble templates from our website and send your wishes or dedication in the post for us to hang on our Nostell Air Base Christmas Tree.

<https://www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/YAA-Christmas-Dedication-Heart.pdf>

Decorate our virtual Christmas tree



Our virtual Christmas trees will be back again this festive season. Help us decorate our virtual trees by leaving a donation and selecting a bauble, topping the tree with a star, choosing a Christmas present or light with a message for a loved one or our crew.

YAA Christmas

Christmas Recycling

If you're having a pre-Christmas clear-out to make space for your Christmas gifts or to start a fresh in the New Year, consider donating your unwanted clothing and shoes to a Yorkshire Air Ambulance recycling bank. By recycling your unwanted clothing and shoes, you can help save the planet and support the Yorkshire Air Ambulance at the same time.

Find your local textile bank using our bank locator tool:
<https://www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk/get-involved/recycling/recycling-bank-locator/>



YAA Christmas Calendar of Fun

Join in our festive fun with activities, downloadable decorations and challenges set on our advent calendar to win prizes. Don't forget to share photos of your finished activities with us, the best photos will be showcased on our website and social media channels.



We will be launching our festive fun on our Christmas at the YAA special web page, keep your eyes peeled on our website for more details. <https://www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk/>

YAA Christmas Gift Guide

YAA PAINT YOUR OWN HELICOPTER



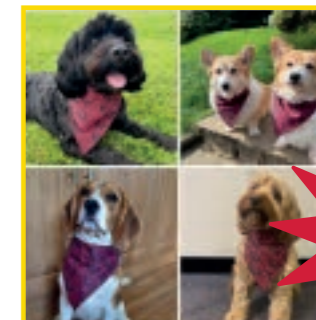
£8.50

YAA SNOOD



£13.00

DOG BANDANA



£10.00

2022 DIARY



£6.00

SHEEP IN WOOLLIES CHRISTMAS CARD



£5.00

YAA BOBBLE HAT



£10.00

YORKSHIRE SHEPHERDESS 2 CHRISTMAS CARD



£5.00

YAA THERMAL MUG



£9.00

TOG24 PREMIUM POLO SHIRT



£20.00

YAA CYCLING JERSEY



£40.00

Give a gift that keeps on giving with our YAA Christmas gift guide items. We have something for everyone to enjoy from diaries to soft toys, tea towels to thermal mugs. Every item sold contributes towards the vital funding of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance and ensures that our service is readily available for those who may need us this Christmas and in the future.

REMEMBER:

The last postage date before Christmas will be Saturday 18th December.

To shop our collection please visit:
<https://www.yorkshireairambulance.org.uk/shop/>

YAA Celebrate Diwali



Each year, Yorkshire Air Ambulance responds to more than 1,300 incidents across the county and the charity provides a life-saving rapid response treatment for everyone, regardless of their age, gender or background.

According to the 2011 Census, Yorkshire is the most ethnically diverse region in England. Diwali, or Deepavali which it is also known, is India's biggest and most important festival of the year, celebrated by millions of people worldwide, including thousands of people across Yorkshire.

Diwali takes place annually and lasts for five days, marking the start of the Hindu New Year. The exact dates change each year and is determined by the position of the moon and usually falls between October and November.

Diwali isn't just celebrated by Hindus, it is also celebrated by Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists. The form of the celebration will vary across India and around the world too. In today's society, people from various backgrounds and cultures get together and celebrate Diwali with their friends, families and colleagues. The word Diwali (or Deepavali as it's sometimes called) means "row of lights" in Sanskrit, which is an ancient language used and is still used in India.

During the festival, people decorate their homes with lights and oil lamps, called diyas. Diwali is a time filled with light and love; a time when Indians all over the world rejoice. It is the darkest night of the darkest period, yet it is a celebration of light!

Many families spend the festivities enjoying the company and sharing meals with friends and family, performing acts of Dana (charitable giving) and seva (selfless service), cleaning their homes and exchanging small gifts. Gifts are often sweets and dried fruits as well as other small but meaningful presents.

To learn more about the festival which is celebrated by many of our donors and patients, one of our Community Fundraisers, Angela Vyas, who celebrated Diwali this year with her friends and family, put together a small presentation for staff. Alongside this, Walk the Plant, a National Portfolio of Arts Council England, who have successfully organised Diwali events across the North West, kindly provided lantern kits for the staff to get involved in the festivities and produce their own Diwali lanterns.

Each lantern has been hand decorated by our fundraising, administrative and marketing staff in their spare time to learn the meaning of Diwali.

Angela said: *"This project has been a great chance for us to celebrate the diversity across our region and learn more about our supporters and their religions such as the Bradford and Leeds Gurdwaras who have been incredibly supportive for our charity and have provided vital assistance for our Building Bridges campaign which aims to celebrate diversity, encourage integration and help break down barriers, whilst increasing understanding and develop long-lasting partnerships with communities across the region. It was also a fantastic opportunity for me to share one of the main festivals that I celebrate each year and to show my colleagues how much it means to me and many people across Yorkshire".*

Fundraising *Shout Outs*

In memory of Ian Roberts

We would like to say a thank you to all the family, staff and supporters at Roundhegians Rugby Club. Recently, we were informed that life-long member and volunteer of the club Ian Roberts, 64 had sadly passed away. We attended Ian's incident and his widow Gill asked if the club could raise some money for ourselves. Sadly in the same week Club President Pete Maila also passed away and the club decided to host a memorial match in their memory. Amazingly the club raised £1053.13 on the day and we met Gill Roberts (Ian's Widow) and Jim Malia (Pete's eldest son) recently to gratefully receive their donation. At Ian's funeral we also received a donation of £702.00 which we are very grateful for.

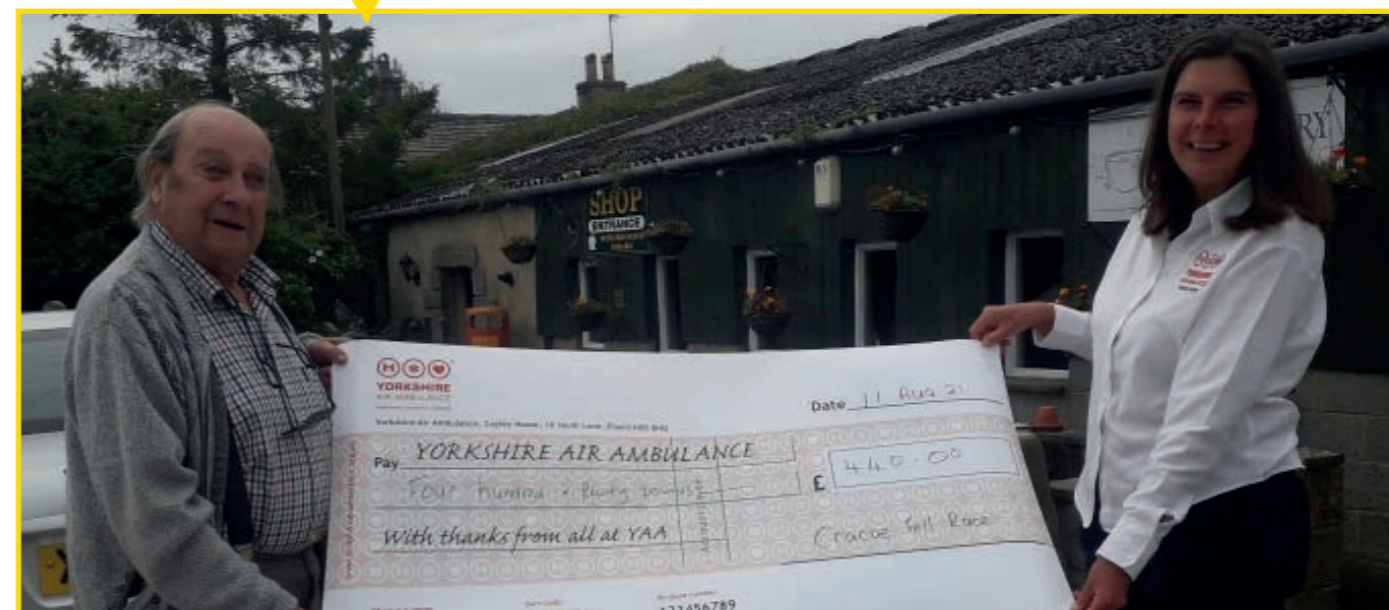


Mrs Walsh

A big thank you to Mrs Walsh who has been knitting toys for us for many years. We use these as prizes, in tombola's and we also sell them at our St Johns Centre shop in Leeds.

Cracoe Fell Race raise £400 for YAA

Clare Deacon was delighted to meet Mr Jackson at Jacksons Farm Shop in Cracoe. Mr Jackson and his son have raised funds through their store for many years and have also organised and promoted the Cracoe Fell Race. The event this year raised £440. They have now raised over £3000 for Yorkshire Air Ambulance.



Fundraising *Shout Outs*



Julie and Carole took to the skies and raised over £4k for YAA

A big thank you to Knaresborough Golf Club members Julie and Carole who have raised an amazing £4,074.43 taking part in one of our YAA skydives. Knaresborough Golf Club have chosen Yorkshire Air Ambulance as their charity of the year for the second year running and have been proud supporters of our charity.



Beadlam Tractor Run

A big thank you to long-standing supports The Beadlam Charity Tractor Run for presenting us with £10,723.78 raised from this year's event.



George's sponsored walk

A big thank you to nine year old George who recently completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks in 9 hours and 58 minutes and raised £3,751 for YAA.

Corporate in the spotlight **ARCO**



In each issue, we shine the spotlight on one of our corporate partners. Organisations large and small play a critical role in raising vital funds and awareness for our life-saving Charity, through charitable funding, providing support and encouraging and inspiring people across Yorkshire to get involved.

Arco has been a long-standing supporter of Yorkshire Air Ambulance, providing the charity with the provision of specialist clothing for the staff and crew to wear, alongside credit to spend on health and safety items and donations. Arco's contribution to the charity since the partnership began has exceeded £300,000 and earlier this year, they renewed their commitment with £75,000 worth of support pledged over the next three years.

David Evison, Managing Director of Arco, says, "Yorkshire Air Ambulance places the wellbeing and safety of people at the forefront of everything it does to save human life across the county and the surrounding area.

As a business with its roots in Yorkshire and a dedication to safety, we are extremely proud to support a mission so closely aligned to our own; keeping communities and people safer."

Katie Collinson, Corporate & Partnerships Manager at Yorkshire Air Ambulance, says,

"We have been overwhelmed by Arco's generosity since 2012 and we're extremely grateful for the continued support."



Like many charities and businesses across the UK, Yorkshire Air Ambulance has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Restrictions affected our ability to hold fundraising events last year, resulting in a significant fundraising deficit. However, with support from organisations like Arco, we were able to continue our vital work."

Business *Shout Outs*



Primark Leeds

Primark Leeds have generously donated £2,250 to kick-start their fundraising and to honour Percy the Pilot popping by to collect the cheque the staff dressed up in Yellow! We look forward to working with Primark Leeds for the rest of the year.



Pierbridge Wisetech Global Group

Thank you Pierbridge Wisetech Global Group, for your donation of 13 monitors for use by our Charity staff.

Louise Shorrock, Yorkshire Air Ambulance Office Manager, said: "We would like to say a huge thank you to the Pierbridge Wisetech Global Group for donating computer screens to our charity office in Elland, West Yorkshire. Support from businesses like Pierbridge is the life-blood of Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Their generous donation will enable our staff to run the administrative side of our charitable operations more efficiently so that we can focus on raising the £12,000 a day to keep both of our helicopters maintained and flying over Yorkshire."



Mills & Reeve LLP

A big YAA Thank You to Mills & Reeve LLP who have been supporting Yorkshire Air Ambulance for over 12 months and recently presented YAA Mascot, Percy Pilot with a cheque for £5198.95.

We honestly could not do what we do without the continued support from the people and businesses of Yorkshire. The vital funds raised by you keep us flying over Yorkshire, saving lives every day.

To find out more about how your business can support Yorkshire Air Ambulance, visit: yaa.org.uk/support-us/corporate-business-partnerships/

View from the Crew



Thank *You*



It costs £12,000 a day to keep the Yorkshire Air Ambulance helicopters maintained and in the air, thank you for supporting our Charity and keeping us flying over Yorkshire

You can support the YAA by:

- Becoming a Volunteer
- Hosting an event
- Playing our weekly lottery
- Leaving a gift in your will

For more information or to make a donation:

Phone: 01422 237900

Visit: yaa.org.uk



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Saving Lives Across Yorkshire

