

## u3a Summer Programme visit to York organised by our Voyagers Group Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Who knew merchant adventurers were the 14<sup>th</sup> Century equivalents of today's Alan Sugar?!

This was one of the many interesting nuggets of info shared on the 'Voyagers Trial' day trip to York this month, as part of the Ilkley & District Summer Programme.

The director of the Merchant Adventurers' Hall proved to be a most excellent and engaging guide, sharing further details around how the hall was built (like a giant IKEA flatpack!), its various uses (Almshouse and home for the Court room bar at which the famous Dick Turpin was tried) and how it is being cared for today.







A pleasant riverside stop at a hostelry just outside York then set us up for our second visit of the day – to Stockbridge Technology Centre, where we were warmly welcomed by one of the directors, again able to offer insight into how this commercial operation supports the food and farming industry.





We learnt how 'big bugs being used to devour little bugs' was both a viable and environmentally friendly alternative to pesticides and how data was captured from a geranium growing trail.

The Centre has strong links with education and offers opportunities for children to be part of the lifecycle of plants including growing their own vegetables.

Edible produce is normally donated to local foodbanks however on the day we visited there were surplus cucumbers and tomatoes to be had which was an added bonus at the end of a thoroughly enjoyable day.



Our thanks to Pam Harris (Voyagers Leader) and Sue Butler (Summer Programme organiser) for a successful and well planned trip.

Anyone interested in understanding more about the Voyagers Group should [select this link](#)

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Pictures : Pam Harris & Samantha Hill

