



Walnut Cottage  
Thornton Dale  
29<sup>th</sup> May 2014

2014 Youth Debate

Did you turn out to vote in the elections last week? Well as there was only a 33.2% turn out in Yorkshire and the Humber, the chances are that you didn't and to any self-respecting politician, this should have been more of a kick up the back side than any which Mr Farage dealt us all.

Driving home, I was casually listening to the radio and heard that "turnout was very low at 78%" I nearly drove off the road, but quickly realised it was an archive programme! My intention is not to analyse the reasons for this decline, but to look to the future, which has to be in the hands of our young people.

In my role as "Young People's Champion" for the county, it's my job to ensure that our young people are heard where it matters. Believe me, they are the masters of communication, but with today's new technology, I feel that some of us need an aid to hearing them along with our hearing aids.

So, where does old school meet new school? Well attached is a picture taken at the final of the NYCC youth debates. They say a picture speaks a thousand words, so I am going to allow it to do its job and move on to my final point.

We have just appointed the youngest chairman nationally to a district council and this should be celebrated. Like all young people Councillor Luke Ives is eager to embrace change and bring us into the twenty first century. If we want to encourage young people to stand for council, but moreover, retain them once they have gained experience, then surely it is beneficial to stream line our meetings because no in their right mind wants to sit in a meeting from 6.30 in the evening until one o' clock in the morning. To continue in the old way is not democracy, it's an endurance test!

Janet Sanderson

Thornton Dale and The Wolds Division