

## Newsletter Number 8



**FUTURE MEETINGS:** Held at Christchurch, King Street, NR30 2HL at 7.30pm

**Tuesday, 22 January.** **Sheila Oxtoby, CEO Great Yarmouth Borough** on her Vision for Great Yarmouth

**Tuesday February 19 Talk by Charles Watt, High Sheriff of Norfolk**

On Tuesday 6 November **Joe Mackintosh, Chief Executive of SeaChange Arts and Artistic Director of the Out There Festival** spoke about his involvement with SeaChange over the last 20 years and being in charge for 14 years. SeaChange Arts is based at the Drill House and is now one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations and a major player on the UK and international circus and street arts scene. It runs the Coasters Programme which links 7-8 coastal towns and in recent years has been increasing its input into activities in Great Yarmouth

### VARIOUS SUBGROUPS

If you would like to sign up to any of the subgroups below you may do so at our meetings. Alternatively, let me know by email. [hugh@sturzaker.plus.com](mailto:hugh@sturzaker.plus.com). Many hands make light work!

**LITTER GROUP** This group met with Carl Smith, Chair of the Environment Committee, on Tuesday 20 November to discuss our findings and our views about tackling litter and the seagulls.

**Roundabouts and bypass.** We were full of praise for the landscaping done on the remodelled Fullers Hill roundabout and we suggested that perhaps some trees and/or shrubs could be planted on the roundabouts at the Gorleston end of the bypass. All were appalled at the neglect of the large roundabout south of the hospital and the weeds along the bypass but realised that this was the responsibility of the Highways Authority. I had spoken to Brandon Lewis MP about this a few weeks previously to see if he could do anything about this.

We expressed our concern about the **weeds in the town** which are not sprayed until late in the summer. This was up to GYBC Services run by NORSE and Carl was working on the issue. The Council is planning to be more proactive about fining people who drop litter or feed the birds. We asked whether the Town Centre Wardens could help in this.

**Dog Litter.** 24 people have been taken to court in the last two years for not picking up their dog's excrement and all have been successfully sentenced.

**Cigarette butts and dust** are difficult to deal with in the gutters and the mechanised sweepers are ineffective as most streets have cars parked down both sides of the road so the sweepers clean the centre of the road which is a waste of time and money. He agreed to provide brushes, shovels and bins for the litter group. All agreed that the aim was for owners of homes and businesses to look after the pavement and gutter outside their properties.

All agreed that **uneven pavements** were a serious problem and chewing gum on them looked bad but it was very expensive to remove the gum. We were pleased to learn that the toilets at the Waterways were being refurbished.

We learnt that 22% of rubbish is food and the council is signing up to a scheme which will help to reduce this wastage.

**GREENING UP GROUP.** Of the six planters we provided on St. George's Plaza, one has been stolen, another was destroyed and a third was severely cracked. We are about to plant up the remaining four with bulbs.

In discussing future plans we realised that there are other groups in the town who are trying to make it look better with plants so we arranged to bring these various groups together on Thursday 13 December to see how we can work together and share experiences and resources. The meeting proved very successful and we are meeting again in January.

**Middlegate Estate.** We would like to help improve the appearance of the Middlegate Estate and are planning a survey to obtain the residents' opinions before working with them in improving the individual gardens and public areas.

**CONSERVATION AREAS** are "areas of special architectural and historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". On 20 November a group of us met with Darren Barker, Chief Conservation Officer, and did an audit on part of the King Street area. By the time we meet on 20 December the whole area will have been surveyed and we will develop an action plan and will arrange audits on the Market Place and Seafront areas.

**AWARDS.** We have agreed that there will be three categories:

- Retail
- Services (to include banks, estate agents, businesses, bookmakers etc.)
- Food and Drink to include cafes, pubs, restaurants)

Plans are under way to assess the whole town with up to 10 finalists being announced for each group by the end of March with an awards ceremony at the beginning of May.

**APPLYING FOR GRANTS.** An application is being put together for a grant to help support our various activities and I have just submitted another to GYBC for our greening up and work on the Middlegate Estate.

## **TWO MONTHLY DINNERS.**

A very successful dinner was organised by Ann Hacon on Thursday 15 November at Ambitions Restaurant, East Coast College. The next dinner will be on Thursday 24 January at 7pm at the Plaza, South Quay. It will cost £20 and if you would like to go please contact Angie Powley at [angelapowley10@gmail.com](mailto:angelapowley10@gmail.com). as soon as possible.

**MEMBERSHIP.** Over half the members have signed up for this coming year. You may do this at our meetings. Alternatively you may do so through our membership secretary, Ann Hamilton. She no longer works at St. George's on Fridays but you may send the completed membership form below to her. Details are on the form. If you pay income tax please fill in the Gift Aid Form as we can claim £2.50 for each £10 paid.

Lastly, may I wish all of you a very happy Christmas and hope that some of you will consider joining one or more of the above groups which are helping to improve our town. Your help would be much appreciated as would getting more people to join the Society.

Hugh Sturzaker

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Name (Please print).....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Home telephone number.....Mobile number.....

Email address.....

I enclose my cheque/cash for £10.00

(please make payable to Civic Society of Great Yarmouth)

This form may be handed in at one of the Society's events or sent to:

Ann Hamilton,  
Membership Secretary,  
1 Webster Way,  
Caister, NR30 5XA

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Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate  
Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.  
Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £10 to the Civic Society of Great Yarmouth.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Please tick box if you wish future donations to be Gift Aided

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Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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