

Newsletter Number 13



FUTURE EVENTS. These will be held in Christchurch, King Street, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2HL at 7.30pm.

February 25 Lady Agnew, High Sheriff of Norfolk. “Reflections on my year as High Sheriff”.

April, 14 Sheila Oxtoby the Borough’s CEO and **Darren Barker,** Principal Conservation Officer. Vision and Plans for the development of Great Yarmouth.

RECENT MEETINGS AND VISITS

November 26. Nevv Moore. Harbour Radio and My views of Great Yarmouth

Nevv moved to Great Yarmouth in 1989 to support the setting up of the ASDA store in the town. It was a terrible time as for the first 6 months none of the staff would stay for more than five minutes. However, his first visit was many years earlier with a party of family and friends. He fell in love with the town and they enjoyed it so much that the coach left without them.

He said that there is great talent here, much of it unrecognised, and many people living here have come from outside. People need to talk to each other and if they do not like it here they should just leave.

There are so many positive news stories here with massive investments in the off shore industry and in the arts and heritage. There is the wonderful sea, large skies and great walks. It was important to look up to see the great sites and not to look down. His passion and love for the town was obvious.

He worked for Radio Orwell in the 1980s in Ipswich and did not like it. In 1994 he started work to develop community radio in Great Yarmouth and eventually obtained the broadcasting licence two years ago. Harbour Radio is now the most popular community radio in the east.

In answering many questions he said that finance for Harbour Radio comes from advertising, grants and donations. It is reliant on many good volunteers and the station supports many activities in the town by outside broadcasts.

January 7 Andrew Fitchett spoke about his work as Coastal Editor for Archant overseeing the Great Yarmouth Mercury, Lowestoft Journal and Beccles and Bungay Journal. Recently he had been appointed District Editor overseeing at least another seven papers including North Norfolk News, and Thetford and Brandon Times. The Mercury is the branch office for the Eastern Daily Press, has three reporters and has total editorial independence. The Mercury’s job is to highlight key issues, promoting the positive, scrutinising the work of the borough council, the MP, local services, schools etc.

He said that there is an increasing focus on digital reporting with a decline in print advertising as well as a change in readers’ habits. The Mercury produces 10,000 copies weekly and there are 17,000 hits on the website daily compared with 100,000 daily for the EDP.

Following his presentation he answered many questions and agreed to look again at providing a monthly column for the Civic Society.

Development of Town Centre.

Sheila Oxtoby and colleagues gave a presentation of the progress being made in the development of the Town Centre on 14 January. The plans for the 6 day market were shown and although the internal design looked good I pointed out that the external appearance looked more like an industrial unit. I was reassured that the final design was still being worked on. The Town had received £1.9M from the Heritage Action Zone for the repair and preservation of heritage assets and to engage the community about its heritage and culture.

On Friday 24 January the Town Deal Board held its first meeting and I was delighted to attend as chair of the Civic Society to represent the community. A bid for up to £25M had been submitted to the High Street Fund. Great Yarmouth is one of 51 towns in England to be short listed for this Fund. We have also been selected as one of 101 towns for the Town Deal with the opportunity to bid for £25M to help regeneration and communication. Many suggestions were put forward and work on progressing these ideas will be presented at the next meeting on 17 April.

St. George's Theatre. This is one of only ten Grade 1 listed theatres in the country and it needs greater support. On Wednesday 4 March at 7.30 pm the **London Mozart Players** are performing a selection of popular classical pieces and thanks to support from Orchestras Live seats are only £12 and £11 for Friends of the Theatre. Children will be admitted free. This concert deserves a full house.

Further history and heritage can be heard at the Minster on Saturday 21 March at 7.30pm when Norman Balls speaks about his 30 years in the Police and Dr. Paul Davies outlines some of the history of St. Nicholas Church. Fish and chips are included in the entrance fee of £10.

North Quay Development

The Society submitted its comments in November 2019 following an open meeting and the report is given in Newsletter 12. Great Yarmouth Borough Council has produced its Supplementary Planning Document which may be seen at www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk/planning-consultations. Hard copies may be obtained from the Town Hall. Comments need to be submitted by Sunday 23 February.

TREES. We are very keen to plant more trees in the town and if you have any suggestions please let me know. Some of us are doing a walk with Graeme Watson, who is in charge of trees in the Borough, to discuss where they could be planted. We are meeting outside the Town Hall on Wednesday 4 March at 10am if you would like to join us.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

These are due for the year starting in October 2019. You may pay your £10 annual subscription at forthcoming meetings. An application form is available at www.civicsocietyGY.co.uk.

At £10 a year it means that each meeting or event costs you less than £1 a time - assuming you attend all of them! - and I do urge you to do your best at encouraging new members to join the Society.

Hugh Sturzaker (hugh@sturzaker.plus.com)

GYM
Great Yarmouth Minster Preservation Trust
www.sncpt.co.uk
Saving the Fabric

Two TALKS with FISH and CHIPS
Saturday 21st March 7.30pm

On the Police Beat in Yarmouth 1966 - 1996
Norman Balls

Old St. Nicholas Church
Paul Davies

Tickets: £10 from Minster Café or at the door

In aid of the Minster Organ

