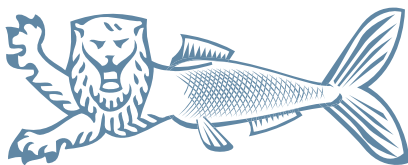




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CIVIC SOCIETY GREAT YARMOUTH



8TH ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025

www.civicsocietygy.co.uk



Introduction

Several important projects have been completed recently: The Place, the Market Place and the Sculpture Trail. The Place is a stunning transformation from the old Palmers Department store. It houses the Library, Registration for Births, Marriages and Deaths and the Citizens Advice Bureau as well as a business advice centre. On the floors above are the University of Suffolk and East Coast College which will provide courses up to degree level. The Market Place is looking much better since work has been completed there and there is much to be gained by walking around the Sculpture Trail of ten sculptures and the Portuguese Pavement in front of Christchurch.

The Ice House has been opened as a place for culture and circus. Work on the Winter Gardens and the Iron Duke Public House will be starting shortly. Traffic Flow around and into the town has much improved since the opening of the Herring Bridge. Let us hope that completion of these projects will result in more people coming into the town and that the changes in the bus station and bus routes will help in this.

Work begins shortly on building new housing on The Conge and the plans for the development of North Quay are shortly to be announced. There are plans to further improve the Town Wall and to provide a southern quay for the outer harbour. Work on the Operations and Maintenance Facility at the harbour mouth, which will provide many new jobs, is progressing well and is costing £24.8M. The government £20M grant over ten years has been confirmed and we await approval from government on how we wish to spend that money.

Gillian Harwood has bought up some buildings in Stonecutters Way and with Kaavous Clayton and Joules Devonshire, they have converted them into a cultural centre for very young children, a café and eight studios for artists. Kaavous and Julia are converting St. John's Church near the Hippodrome into a community centre.

Our litter picking team has been working every Tuesday along with spraying the weeds and council workers are now working to keep the town clean and tidy. Stealing from shops is a national problem and although more police have been drafted into the town centre when they make an arrest it takes the rest of the day to complete the paperwork so it takes them off the beat. Surely there is a better way of doing this.

All the above is really amazing news but we await the decision about devolution and how it will affect us. What is important is that we encourage people to develop pride in their town and what has been achieved in recent years. There is still much to do and it will help if you would encourage your family and friends to join the Civic Society.

HUGH STURZAKER MBE

Chairman - Civic Society of Great Yarmouth



Thank You

COMMITTEE

We are very honoured to have the High Steward of Great Yarmouth as our President and most grateful for the enthusiasm and hard work put in by our committee members

President:

Henry Cator OBE DL

High Steward of Great Yarmouth

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:

Susan Page

Former caterer, now a part-time taxi driver

.....

Peter Bondi

Retired Hotel Manager

Dr. Paul Davies

Retired GP, Author, Chair of GY Minster Preservation Trust, Chair of Local History and Archaeological Society etc.

Rob Haslam

Architect

Miriam Kikis

Retired restaurateur

Kol Kishan

Retired Head of Imaging at James Paget University Hospital

Ian McCreadie

Managing Director of SPP Digital, Ex Chair of Enterprise GY, School Governor

Ian Miller

Chartered Quantity Surveyor

Michael Muskett MBE

Retired Accountant

Bruce Sturrock

Ex Chair of Palmers & Town Centre Partnership

Chairman:

Hugh Sturzaker MBE

Retired Surgeon

Minutes Secretary:

Dr. Catherine Richards

Principal at East Norfolk Sixth Form College

SPONSORS & GRANTS

We are most grateful to the following:

Safer Streets

Fuller Foundation Trust

Owners of Pub on the Prom & Pier Hotel

Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Great Yarmouth Town Centre Partnership

Dr. Ajay Kumar

SPP Digital LTD

Cultural Connections Volunteering

.....

PROMOTION

Lewis Ashdown has maintained our website and designed our Annual Report. We could do with some help with publicity via social media etc.

Our Chair writes a weekly column in the Mercury about various aspects of the town and its people and has spoken several times on Harbour Radio about the activities of the Society.

Word of mouth is by far the best means of publicity and we hope that members will speak to their friends and colleagues about what the Society is doing and urge them to become members.



Town Centre Development

Market Place: The Market Place and covered market are now fully open and it looks as though more people are coming into the area.

University Learning Centre: The Place in the old Palmers Department store is now open and what a splendid addition it is to the Town Centre. The facade has been cleaned and repainted, the library is well set out with the bookshelves on wheels making it adaptable with a wonderful children's area. Births and deaths can be registered here, there is a splendid place for weddings and the Citizen's Advice Bureau is based here. On the upper floors there is the Learning Centre run by East Coast College and the University of Suffolk. Many more people are now using the library and let us hope that with more people using the building as the education side builds up it will bring more people into the Town Centre for the benefit of local shops, cafes etc.

Priory and Old Rectory: It is over three years since Rob Haslam bought these buildings. He has redecorated throughout, moved Kirsty's Cakery into the Old Vicarage, installed new kitchens, has let out all rooms in the Old Vicarage and installed Harbour Radio on the top floor.

Housing: Old buildings on the south side of the Conge have been cleared ready for work to start building new homes there in the next few months. A developer has been appointed for North Quay and plans will soon be revealed for the area.

Winter Gardens: The final grants for this building have been approved and formal plans are being drawn up. Kew Gardens are involved in the planning of the planting.

The Ice House: This building was built to store ice for preserving fish. With various grants it has been converted into a training, performance and storage area for circus and is one of the areas which hopes to make Great Yarmouth the national centre for circus.

Herring Bridge: Although there have been a few initial teething problems, it has proved a great success. The long queues at Gipton Roundabout are a thing of the past and it is so much easier getting into and out of the town.

Wellington and Britannia Piers: The Britannia has had a facelift and is looking so much better and the Wellington is about to have a big investment.





Town Centre Development

Greening Up: Ann Hacon, Angela Powley and Clare Southern continue to maintain the gardens they created around the Blackfriar's section of the town wall, the planters on St. George's Theatre Plaza and in other parts of the town. They look superb and are well worth a visit and if you want to help them contact annhacon@yahoo.co.uk. A new planter made by students at East Coast College has been installed at the entrance to St. George's Theatre.

We have had discussions with the Borough Council and hope to install planters in the town centre and along King Street. We would also like to re-introduce the hanging baskets in King Street and Regent Road but this will depend on obtaining a reliable system of daily watering and finances. We are keen to raise our own plants which will be cheaper than buying them and will be instructive for youngsters and older people who are helping with this initiative. Please get in touch if you are interested

Trees: The trees planted in recent years are flourishing and look especially good along South Quay. Many of these result from the tree audit the Society did several years ago.

Sculpture Trail: The Mayor opened the Sculpture Trail on Friday 13 June alongside the statue of Ernie Childs in the Market Place following which there were guided tours around the Sculpture Trail.

Town Wall: It is one of the most complete town walls in the country and yet few people are aware of its existence. Maintenance of the wall is overseen by the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust and the senior conservation officer.

The Civic Society has been involved in what can be done with it and there are plans to deal with weeds on the wall at least twice yearly,, providing lighting of the wall and instructive panels giving details about its history. There are also plans to place markers in the road to show where the wall used to be before it was pulled down. In the next few months we are meeting with Historic England to discuss the possibility of rebuilding one or more gates which were removed about two hundred years ago.

Operations and Maintenance Campus at mouth of the river is progressing well. This is a £24.8M development to provide storage, quay and pontoon infrastructure for a new offshore energy operation and maintenance campus and should provide 650 new jobs.





Town Centre Development

St. John's Church was originally in the care of Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust but has been transferred to Kaavous Clayton and Julia Devonshire who are converting it into a community centre.

Developments in Stonecutter's Way: Gillian Harwood has bought up several buildings on the north side of Stonecutters Way and with Kaavous Clayton and Julia Devonshire they have provided accommodation for Magic Acorns which provides cultural experiences for children up to 3 years old. In the development there is a cafe and eight artist studios.

Litter Picking: Each Tuesday morning a small group of litter pickers tackles the litter in The Rows, town centre and some other places. In addition the weeds in these areas are regularly sprayed with weed killer. The worst problems are cigarette butts, and bird droppings in The Rows. We have had a meeting with some of the Council Officers about tackling these issues as well as the road surfaces in the Rows, broken drainage pipes, blocked drains, loose wires, graffiti etc. and we hope that work can be started on tackling these problems shortly.

We usually meet on St. George's Theatre Plaza on a Tuesday ready to start work at 10am unless rain is forecast. Anyone is welcome to join us and all equipment is provided.

Christchurch closed at the end of August and we are looking at venues where we can hold our meetings.



INTERESTING BUILDINGS & PLACES WHICH ARE NOT LISTED

There are many listed buildings in the town which are of great historical and architectural merit. In addition there are many buildings and places which are of significance but not listed. We have, therefore, decided with Francesca Gallagher, the Senior Conservation Officer, to review all non-listed buildings in the town and make a list of buildings and places that merit recognition.

Each will be written up with a short history and details of why they are being recognised. If you are interested please contact hsturzaker@icloud.com.





TUES 24TH SEPT 2024

Developments and Plans for the Town

By Cllr Carl Smith, Leader of Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Carl Smith said that in recent years £300M had been invested in the town by various grants and this had led to further investment by private enterprise. He praised the leadership of Sheila Oxtoby, whom he reckoned was the best local authority CEO in the country, her team of officers and our High Steward who is the chair of the Town Board.

£121M had been spent on the Herring Bridge which had dramatically eased traffic congestion, saved businesses time and fuel bills and had encouraged new firms to move into the area. The Covered Market had cost £6.9M and all units are occupied. The landscaping of the Market Place should be completed in the Spring and the plans for the Sculpture trail are well advanced.

£20M of Levelling up funding is enabling the purchasing of properties on North Quay which hopefully will lead to £130M of private investment providing homes, businesses, leisure activities and hundreds of jobs.

During the Covid epidemic the Council handed out £68M of government grants to people and businesses.

The Winter Gardens have attracted £22M of funding and recently the chief gardener of Kew Gardens visited and gave advice on planting schemes. It is hoped it will open in Spring 2027.

The old Palmers building was bought by the Council and it will open as the University Learning Centre including the Library next spring. The James Paget University Hospital will be teaching nurses there and it is hoped that dental technicians will be taught there and there will be provision for providing dental treatment.

Footfall in the town has increased by 70% compared with last year, the Marina is a roaring success and running at a profit.

Last year the Borough Council was joint winner in the LGC National Award for Economic Support for the work on the O and M Campus at South Denes and this year won the prize of Council of the Year. An amazing achievement.

Following his talk Carl answered many questions on a whole range of issues.

This was followed by the AGM.



TUES 15TH OCT 2024

Revisiting Employment

By Sarah Flindall, General Practitioner

In a stimulating talk Dr. Flindall covered the importance of a good start in life and how to improve the chances of getting a job. Making an analogy with gardening she said that where plants grow in poor soil they become sick plants. Similarly children growing up need to feel safe and to be cared for. They need a good home, good food and to feel loved.

These impoverished childhood experiences have been made worse by the cutting of local authority services, particularly to children's services. Children are missing out in their schooling and where they leave school without qualifications and do not participate in sporting activities there is a high increase in their chances of ending up in prison.

Right to Succeed (<https://righttosucceed.org.uk>) is working in Nelson Ward to try and improve conditions for children and has received a large grant for the Youth Endowment Fund. Already there have been big improvements in literary skills in children at Great Yarmouth Charter Academy and Great Yarmouth Priory School. When asked what would they most like to see change in the town they said "For the town to be clean and safe".

Right to Succeed is looking at:

- Mental health
- Work experience
- Vulnerable groups
- Job application process

She mentioned the work of Trevor Saunders who has a sports shop under Market Gates where he is working with people who have come out of prison or who are homeless. He is linking these people with sportsmen and is helping them to get jobs.

Work on job applications has shown that many people are turned down for interviews because of the poor quality of their applications. These people are being helped to rewrite them.

During question time many people gave examples of how their businesses had helped poorly qualified people and the importance of having influential teachers was stressed. There appeared to be a shortage of apprenticeship posts many of which were poorly paid.



It was decided to hold another meeting for members who wished to discuss the matter further and see what could be done to improve the upbringing of children and helping people to get jobs.

TUES 12TH NOV 2024

The Place: The New University Learning Centre in the Old Palmers

By Natasha Hayes, Executive Director of Place of GYBC

The Conversion of the old Palmers Department Store into the The Place which will house the University Learning Centre and the Library is costing eighteen and a half million pounds and is funded by grants from the Future High Street Fund, the Town Deal, Norfolk County Council and the University of Suffolk with East Coast College. The building is composed of five main buildings with 10 different roofs. During the work several unexpected finds were made and inflation means that the building will be about £1M over budget.

The windows will be double or triple glazed and many measures are being undertaken to reduce heat loss. It will be powered completely by electricity and there will be solar panels and air heat pumps. There will be no gas.

It is planned that work will be completed on 20 February 2025 giving three weeks for fitting out. The old library will close on 17 March and staff will move into The Place along with staff from East Coast College. Education progressive pathways are being planned as well as a big launch by a prominent person.

Morgan Sindall, the builders, have taken on some recent graduates, brick layers and T level students one of whom won the national student of the year prize.

Great attention has been paid to the materials being used and colour coordination. Births, marriages and deaths will be registered here and weddings and other functions will be able to take place in the building.

There has been much discussion about having a coffee shop in the building as the restaurant in the old Palmers was such a sociable place. However, the planners do not want to be in competition with local cafes and restaurants and studies have been done which suggests that it would not be profitable. However the matter will be kept under review and there will be a small area for drinks.

This is a really great project making use of a well known and old building in the town and helping to raise the education abilities and aspirations of the local population. It will also bring more people into the town centre.



MON 2ND DEC 2024

Visit to The Place

Conducted by Adri Van Der Colff, Project Manager

Fourteen members visited the old Palmers Store to see the progress being made to turn it into the University Learning Centre. There have been dramatic changes since our last visit. The Library will be occupying the ground floor and basement with the latter being used for storage of books etc. An old Row runs the length of the store and its position will be indicated. To the left of the entrance will be a community and activities area which will be known as The Hive with facilities for drinks. The old lift shaft remains and people will be pleased to know that a new lift is being installed. There will be a large section for the children's library. To the west of the lift there is an open space for exhibitions. The floor above it has been removed showing the stained glass skylight and this allows more light into the building.

Just inside the entrance will be an area to obtain access to the university sections on the first and second floors. Here there are large and smaller rooms for lectures, meeting rooms and areas for scientific and nursing study. At the back of the building there are spaces for weddings and other functions.

Below is a drawing of the ground floor and running through the middle is the course of the old Row.





Photograph of the group wearing hard hats, boots and hi viz jackets. This was taken at the back of the store in the old Men's Department.

All of us were most impressed with the progress made and of the enthusiasm of Adri Van Der Colff, the Project Manager, who showed us round.





WED 15TH JAN 2025

Discussion with Franziska Callagham, Conservation Officer

Franziska said she is employed for only 28 hours weekly and most of that time is taken up by approving plans for buildings or turning them down. She mentioned that there is no council tax on empty listed buildings and many of these properties are owned by people who do not live in the borough who sit on them while they deteriorate and eventually sell them at a profit.

There was a discussion about some of the new buildings which had recently been put up and it was regretted that there was no overall plan to link them up with each other.

Rob Haslam and Brian Graves spoke of their plans to heat much of the town from under ground bore holes which would produce heat cheaply. They had some backers who were prepared to bring in £50M if the scheme could get off the ground in the near future. Some of the heating would be provided by solar panels.

All agreed the importance of providing some high class executive houses in and around the town which would encourage executives to live here and spend their money in the town. One place for this would be on North Quay facing the river.

A survey was being done on the town wall and a large cavity had been found in part of it which needed urgent attention. The Civic Society is keen to rebuild some of the town gates. Franziska was enthusiastic about this and was happy to meet with Paul Patterson. Schedule Monument Consent would be required. James Alborne is in charge of the Town Wall and the Council was looking at re-listing the Town Wall.

Many of the buildings in the central conservation areas were in a poor state. The Civic Society had done an audit of these conservation areas over four years ago and it was hoped that some members of the Society would be prepared to draw up a list with details of significant buildings which were not listed. Franziska agreed to give some training to this group of people.

Asked what help she required in her job Franziska said she needed one full time Conservation Officer aided by a more junior person.



TUES 21ST JAN 2025

Strategic Planning and Economic Development

Conducted by Daniel Candon - Bradwell North Councillor & Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Growth

Daniel Candon started off by stating that the Local Plan gave a strategy for inward investment of money and how to grow the Borough. It needed to give a better offer for housing and the opportunity to invest locally. It was sad that most high earners working in the town did not live here so spent their money elsewhere. It was necessary to provide good executive homes in pleasant surroundings to attract them to live locally.

The Plan has to show we have the land available, it has to be submitted by the end of January along with public comments before it is assessed and if this is not done developers can build anywhere. The government wants to review Local Plans every five years.

The key issues to be covered are:

- the need for housing
- the location of the developments
- the infrastructure provision
- traffic issues
- impact upon biodiversity
- flooding

Evidence has to be given for housing and business needs, open spaces, dark skies, air quality, gypsies and travellers, heritage impact, transport and viability.

There is a need for 6,400 new homes up to 2041 which is equivalent to 380 homes each year. Already 2515 have been completed or been permitted. 38 hectares of employment land have been allocated. 45% of the homes will be in Great Yarmouth, Gorleston and Bradwell, 20% in Caister and 35% in the surrounding villages.

He went on to indicate where these homes would be built.

The council is planning to extend the town centre boundary which will allow it to obtain funds for regeneration growth.

25% of the homes have to be “affordable” i.e costing less than £200,000. Homes of Multiple Occupancy have to be at least 50 metres apart and each new home has to have at least 103 square metres of open space around it. Last year the Council approved a Design Code which will apply to all new buildings. **Continued on next page.**



There will be a bio-diversity gain so that if some trees are cut down they will have to be replaced by 20% more.

Following his talk there was a great deal of discussion especially about the increased numbers of homes being built in Caister with no increase in ancillary services. He explained the council sets aside areas for GP Surgeries, shops etc. but it is up to the NHS and shops to build them.

TUES 25TH FEB 2025

Talk by Community Chaplaincy Norfolk Mentoring about their work with prison leavers in Norfolk

This was a most interesting meeting and showed the need for a mentoring service for ex-prisoners.

Abby Erwin, the manager of the scheme, explained that it was set up in 2014 and dealt with prisoners being released from Norwich prison. 63% of prisoners re-offend within a year and 83% are unemployed six weeks after release. 59% of men and 87% of women have mental health problems and 45% loose contact with their families while in prison. The average annual cost of housing a prisoner is £51,000.

Ideally a mentor is put in contact with a prisoner before release and they are met at the prison gate by two mentors. There were presentations by an ex-prisoner and a mentor.

TUES 25TH MAR 2025

St Georges Theatre: The History & Present Position

By Debbie Thompson - Artistic Director of St. Georges Theatre

St. George's Chapel was commissioned in 1714 and the building was based on St. Clement Danes in London which was designed by Sir Christopher Wren. In 1953 it was Grade 1 listed and was decommissioned in 1959. In the 1950's the Masquers and other amateur groups performed there until it was closed in 2006 because of structural problems.

Grants were obtained from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other bodies which allowed it to be made safe and turned into a proper theatre, opening in 2012. The new cafe and booking office opened a year later.

In 2016 Debbie was asked to write an Audience Development Plan and was appointed as artistic director. Over the years there have been problems with the central heating, water leaking and the consequences of the Covid pandemic. The cafe has had to close as it was losing money. **Continued on next page.**



For the last three years the pantomime has been streamed to a school audience of 350,000 and the adult pantomime has been a great success. Sophia, the manager, has arranged many tribute bands which have been very successful financially and recently the bar in the theatre has been extended which will help sales.

Fabba, a theatre group for people with learning difficulties, meets there every Thursday and the theatre is supported by 36 volunteers. For many years cars and vans parked on the theatre's land but this has been resolved by inserting bollards around the site.



TUES 22TH APR 2025

The Elizabethan House: A New Perspective

By Stuart Burgess, Historian and archaeologist who works at the Time and Tide Museum

In a very comprehensive talk Stuart covered the development of the Elizabethan House Museum from the 1500's and connected it with the people who lived there.

The present house consists of three houses which were joined together to make a single facade. Nicholas Fenn built No. 3 South Quay in 1570 and it was subsequently bought by Henry Stanton. To the south of it was No. 4. There were several buildings in this development many of which were timber framed and in-filled with bricks. Some of the buildings were smoke houses for the herring and parts of these were incorporated into the houses on the Quay. One courtyard became the main hall.

The development of no. 4 was started by Thomas Cooper who moved to Yarmouth from Suffolk. His son, Benjamin, was born in 1564 and his father died when Benjamin was aged 14. Benjamin was a merchant and decorated one of the downstairs large rooms with a very ornate ceiling and large fireplace. It was to impress his customers. From 1601 to 1603 he was Chamberlain of the town and in 1603 he was allowed to extend his home over the ruins of the priory which were to the south of his home.

In 1609 Benjamin was appointed a Bailiff and in 1620 he was the town's MP. He was involved in some scandals in 1629 and made some enemies. In 1635 he sold the house to John Carter and The National Trust took over the whole of the house in 1947 and opened it as a Museum.



TUES 13TH MAY 2025

The Development of Great Yarmouth Port

By Richard Goffin, Port Director, Great Yarmouth and Medway

In the 1950's exploration for gas and oil from Great Yarmouth started and in 1986 there was the Outer Harbour Act to allow for the building of the harbour at Great Yarmouth. In 1997 a Provision Order enabled it to be built at a cost £100M with £16M coming in grants. It was completed in 2010. 250,000 tons of wheat are exported yearly and it can take vessels up to 220 metres in length and up to 10.5 metres draught. Peel Ports took over the lease in 2015. It employs 65 people.

Two to three cruise ships a year dock here but he thought there was a great future for tourism and the port. Henry Cator agreed to act as a mediator between the Port and the Borough Council to help achieve this.

There was discussion about why ships with businesses based in Great Yarmouth rarely used the harbour and the hope that the southern section of the outer harbour could be developed.

WED 14TH MAY 2025

Visit to Great Yarmouth Gasometer

It was built in 1884 but within a year started to sink. It was dismantled and rebuilt on the present site. All of this was done in a year. It is Grade II listed and suggestions for its use are welcomed. We suggested a garden and playground.





SAT 14TH JUN 2025

20th Century Seaside Architecture

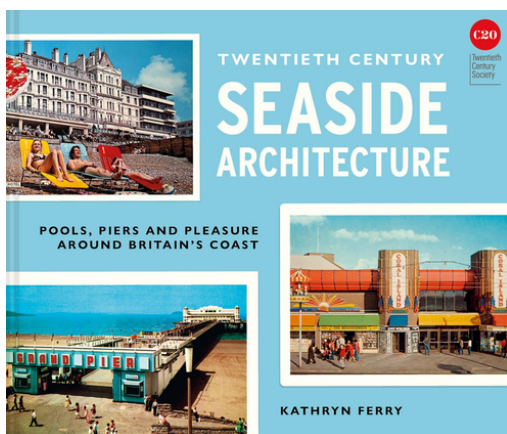
By Kathryn Ferry - Historian and author specialising in Architecture, Design and Seaside Culture

Kathryn's talk was based on her book which was published that week. She commenced by giving a quotation from the Architectural Review in January 1938: "the greatest asset a seaside town has is its character of being a seaside town." She is always telling people that the best place in the UK for a seaside holiday is Great Yarmouth.

Her talk and the book is lavishly illustrated by postcards which capture a moment in time. From the 1900's onwards more people were able to go on holiday and most escaped from the industrial towns and cities to the seaside. Victorian architecture was elaborate but buildings became plainer in the next century with a classical feel from the 1920's with columns for shelters and open air baths e.g. in Blackpool. In the 1930's there was a tendency for many buildings to look like liners after The Queen Mary was launched in 1935.

During the second world war 53 piers were requisitioned in the south and southeast and some were bombed. The Festival of Britain in 1951 had a great influence on seaside architecture e.g. the abacus screen, the domed roof of the Festival Hall and pointed roofs.

People who missed the talk should consider buying a copy of her book for £20.





Other Meetings / Events

SAT 7TH DEC 2024

Civic Voice AGM

Attended by and reported on by Gillian Harwood

Civic Voice is an umbrella organisation for civic societies throughout the country. Ian Harvey was its joint founder and is stepping down as CEO. The AGM was held in London and we are very grateful to Gillian Harwood, one of our members, who very kindly agreed to attend the AGM and here are parts of her report.

Martin Hamilton confirmed he was standing down as Chair of Civic Voice to be replaced by a duo – Robert Osborne and Andrew Jackson. This is an experiment.

Two other people standing down are David Evans and Margaret Hollins. Finally Ian Harvey, Founder and CEO was leaving after a long period of service. There were lots of thanks and congratulations to these people. Big thanks to Martin for pursuing the source of the lost funds - £93,000.00! (plus some interest) The money is now back in the coffers. Martin said the police were absolutely hopeless. Huge thanks to Ian Harvey for everything he has done for Civic Voice over 14 years. He is leaving to work internationally. He was given a special card (which I signed on your behalf). Both Martin and Ian will become Vice-Chairs.

CV is approaching The Heritage Lottery Fund to see if they can get a grant to help with funds so that a new Chief Executive can be properly paid and possibly have staff to help in the future. The organisation needs more new trustees.

The emphasis for the coming year will be:

- Re-acting to the Government's coming planning ideas
- High Streets, BIDS and Town Centres
- Heritage especially with community involvement
- Regional Forum meetings will continue
- Continue All Party Parliamentary Group

The meeting was hugely cheered up when Gryff Rys Jones got up to speak. He emphasised that he did not agree with Starmer about clearing away Nimbys etc. He said Civic Voice was all about giving citizens a voice to protect their local patch from bad and over-development etc. Now more vital than ever if free-rein is given to developers in the bid to build a million and a half homes.(I despair that we can't get permission for our offer of FOUR new homes in Great Yarmouth!)

Growth at any cost is not the answer!! (he said.) Change is inevitable but it needs to be done well. I must say, he was just great fun and held the room rapt!



Other Meetings / Events

THU 5TH DEC 2025

Improving Chances of Getting a Job in Great Yarmouth

By Dr. Catherine Richards - Principal at East Norfolk Sixth Form College

On 5 December a small group of members met with Catherine Richards, Principal of East Norfolk Sixth Form College, Mollie Ellis from the Department of Works and Pensions and Dr. Sarah Flindall.

The aim was to see how we could improve the employment prospects of people living in the Borough. We discussed the causes of why so many failed to get jobs and what were the possible solutions. We listed the advice for obtaining a successful interview and drew up a list of organisations we felt it would be helpful to liaise with.

We realised the enormity of the task but have drawn up an action plan. We decided to meet again in the new year to take the project further but after further reflection we decided that this was too big a task for us to take on and we had many other projects to do in Great Yarmouth.

WED 21ST MAY 2025

Young Community Champions Competition

This was open to all Borough secondary schools and colleges and there were five finalists who presented their projects. The winners were a group from East Coast College who have been developing a sensory garden in Caister. (See photo) The Mayor presented them with a trophy and mounted certificates to all the participants. Four other presentations came from East Norfolk Sixth Form College and Great Yarmouth Charter Academy.

We are most grateful to the Borough Council for allowing us to use the Assembly Room and to Cultural Connections, Volunteering for sponsoring the competition. We hope to run





Awards for Shops, Businesses & Market Stalls

THUR 17TH JUL 2025

Assembly Room, Great Yarmouth Town Hall

Prizes were awarded by the Civic Society to the shops, businesses and market stalls which had the best frontages. In addition three special prizes were awarded. The Society is most grateful to its sponsors: The Borough Council, the Town Centre Partnership, Dr. Ajay Kumar and Ian McCreadie of SPP. We were delighted to welcome the Mayor, Councillor Carl Annison, who presented the awards; Henry Cator, the High Steward, Chair of the Town Board and President of the Civic Society; Sheila Oxtoby, CEO of the Borough Council; Carl Smith, Leader of the Council and Trevor Wainwright, Leader of the Labour Group.

There are nearly 500 shops, businesses and market stalls within the Town Centre Partnership and each of these was visited by a pair from twelve judges who marked them for first impressions, cleanliness, general display and the cleanliness of the pavement in front of the property. This enabled a list to be drawn up of those with the highest marks in different categories and those with the top marks were awarded a poster to be displayed in their window. These 39 were assessed again by all the judges to decide the winner in each category. The winners were as follows:

- **Charity shops** – House of Hamilton, Theatre Plain
- **Retail (National Chains)** – Warren James Jewellers, Market Gates
- **Retail (Independent)** – Sew Knitty, Victoria Arcade
- **Food, Drink & Leisure (National)** – KFC, Regent Road
- **F. D & L. (Independent)** – Octopus Bar & Restaurant, King Street
- **Services** – Larkes Estate Agents, Hall Quay
- **Personal Services** – Morfose Turkish Barbers, King Street
- **Covered Market Stalls** – Soaps & Scents for All, Covered Market

The Overall Winner was SEW KNITTY of Victoria Arcade.

Special Awards were given to:

- **Sainsbury's** for the support it has given to the Town Centre Partnership and the Civic Society over the years.
- **Lisa Smart at River Island** whose store is closing after over 25 years in the town.
- **The Place** which has been transformed from Palmer Department Store to the Library and University Learning Centre. It also houses the Births, Marriages and Death Centre and the Citizen Advice Bureau.

Let us hope that these awards will encourage other shops and businesses to improve their appearances and encourage more people into the Town Centre.



Awards for Shops, Businesses & Market Stalls



Mayor Presenting special award for The Place to Sheila Oxtoby, CEO of the Borough Council, Carl Smith, Leader of the Council, Chief Librarian, and Trevor Wainwright, leader of Labour Group. With the microphone is Bruce Sturrock previous owner of Palmers. Photo by Dr. Ajay Kumar



Mayor with award winners.
Photo by Jonathan Newman



HISTORY FAIR

Saturday 14th September 2024. 10-4 in The Minster

We participated in this last September. It was held in the Minster as part of the Great Yarmouth Arts Festival and it enables various societies and organisations to show what they do. this year it is again being organised by the Great Yarmouth Local History and Archaeological Society and will be held in the Minster on Saturday 13 September from 10am to 3pm. It is an opportunity for organisations to show the work they are doing. If you would like to help us on our stall please let us know.



GREAT YARMOUTH PRODUCTIVITY WORKSHOP

Friday 16th May 2025 in Great Yarmouth Town Hall



This workshop aimed to look at ways in which Great Yarmouth could be more productive and prosperous. It was run by Manchester University's Productivity Institute and brought together people from a wide range of occupations:

- Human capital: representatives from the education sector, healthcare or business
- Social capital: representatives from the third sector, charities, social enterprises or cultural activities
- Physical capital: representatives from the housing sector, transport sector or planning
- Intangible capital: representatives from a Sixth form/FE College, innovation centre or Catapult
- Institutional capital: representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, County and District Councils.
- Financial capital: representatives from credit unions, bank, business finance or institutional investors

Our chair attended the workshop.



Long Term Plans For the Town

The Town Board is one of 51 towns and cities which has been successful in obtaining £20M to be spent over 10 years. The money is to be spent on the following:

- Making use of empty buildings e.g. for accommodation.
- Making the town feel safer, tackling anti-social behaviour and encouraging the improvements of business and shop fronts.
- Improving the cleanliness of the town and giving greater publicity to our great heritage.
- Improving access to health services, training dental technicians and providing five NHS dental chairs in The Place.
- Improving facilities for youngsters.

THE IRON DUKE

All the funding is in for this project and we have received a letter of thanks from Historic England for writing a letter of support in helping the Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust obtain a grant of £136,500. More than £2M has been obtained for bringing The Iron Duke back to life and it is hoped it will re-open in the early summer of next year. Apart from the bars it will have two restaurants with two flats on the first floor for hiring out to holiday makers.

LITTER PICKING

Each Tuesday a group of us meets on St. George's Theatre Plaza ready to start work at 10am unless rain is forecast. This involves litter picking, sweeping and spraying weeds. We finish with a drink to discuss what else we can do and would love more people to join us. Just turn up and we will provide the equipment.

GREENING UP THE TOWN

Now that work on the Market Place and The Place has been completed we need to address Greening Up of the Town. A small group of us has been talking about this and have discussed our thoughts with the Borough Council. We aim to link up with several other groups and to start in the Town Centre and working along King Street providing planters and filling them with bulbs and then plants. We would like to have a greenhouse and/or poly tunnel in which to cultivate plants. It would be cheaper to do this rather than buying plants and would give the opportunity of teaching youngsters about plants. In addition it would be beneficial to volunteers helping with the scheme. If you are interested do get in touch





Improving Great Yarmouth

Hugh Sturzaker presented the following paper about improving the town for discussion with members of the Borough Council.

Factors to Consider

Great Yarmouth has a thousand years of history, a great heritage and enormous potential. In recent years the town has been very successful in obtaining many grants and as a result has built or refurbished many buildings and many more are in the pipeline. However, they are scattered throughout the town and need to be linked together. We also have large areas of severe deprivation, poor health and low levels of education in certain parts of the town. If the town is to be successful and attract businesses and visitors then these deficits need to be tackled. This report makes some suggestions about the important issues which need to be addressed.

1. Health & Housing

Most poor health is preventable and the average life expectancy in Nelson Ward is 8-10 years lower than for people living in some of the surrounding villages. The causes of this are poor housing, poor diets, increased smoking and lack of exercise. The council is starting to improve its housing stock but there are too many people living in poorly maintained homes of multiple occupation and privately rented homes.

Possible solutions

- Programme to upgrade all council homes to much more than minimum standards
- All privately rented properties to be licensed and to maintain certain standards
- Children to be taught cooking and important health issues at school
- Provide education about health and cooking for adults in community centres and colleges
- Discourage the habit of take away foods and Ultra-processed foods
- Encourage exercise, games and walks

2. Education

Success in life depends on a good education and it is vital that our children have the very best education. Many teachers prefer to work in large towns and cities although we are fortunate to have some very good ones here. An excellent head or teacher can have a dramatic influence on pupils and we need to do all we can to attract high quality teachers.

Possible solutions

- Attracting the best teachers
- Providing the best facilities in the schools and colleges



Improving Great Yarmouth

3. Opportunities for Jobs

There are many good jobs available in the local area but many are unfilled by local people due to lack of qualifications and aspirations.

Possible solutions:

- Presence of Job Advisor in all senior schools and colleges.
- All pupils to participate in work experience with local firms.
- Pupils to develop their curriculum vitae from an early age.
- Pupils to practice interview techniques.
- Actively encourage firms to the area.

4. State of Buildings

Run down buildings do not create a good impression and although much of the centre of Great Yarmouth is covered by several conservation areas most are not in a good state. We have probably the most complete mediaeval town wall in the country yet many people living here and visitors know little about it.

Possible solutions

- Encourage neighbourhood watch schemes to develop and improve community spirit and pride.
- Extend the awards scheme for shops, businesses and market traders run annually by the Civic Society to other areas in the town.
- Enlarge the Conservation Officer's department.

5. State of Roads, Pavements and Rows

Many of these are in a very poor state, are a trip hazard and create a very poor impression. The roads leading into the town are a disgrace with weeds growing along the edges which have not been treated for over two years. Similarly the roundabouts are bland. It is interesting comparing them with those in Europe.

Possible solutions

- Develop a plan with Norfolk County Council to repair the roads, pavements and Rows starting with the town centre and working outwards.
- If roads or pavements need to be dug up it must be the responsibility of the organisation doing it to return them to their pristine state.
- Reach agreement with NCC and the Highways Authorities to tackle weeds along the roads and improve the roundabouts.
- Have further discussions with the Highways Authority about building the Herring of the East over or near the Vauxhall Roundabout designed by Paul Patterson.



Improving Great Yarmouth

6. Visitor Centre

The town needs a visitor centre to publicise its great heritage, to help visitors to obtain accommodation and to publicise events. Admittedly much of this information is now available on the internet but there is still a place for the more traditional visitor centre.

- Establishing a visitor centre in the town centre perhaps in The Place.

7. Greening Up

Trees and plants improve the appearance of a town and are very good for the environment. In recent years several hundred trees have been planted but this number is about half of what was planned.

Possible solutions

- Organisations keen on greening up the town e.g. Great Yarmouth and Gorleston in Bloom, the Civic Society and others to work together on plans to gradually increase the number of planters, hanging baskets etc.
- Obtain a greenhouse in the town where plants may be raised prior to planting them out in the town. This would be beneficial not only for the town but also for the “gardeners” involved.
- All schools to be encouraged to develop gardens run by the pupils.

8. Cleanliness of the Town

Dropping litter and depositing furniture and other items around the town gives a very poor impression about its inhabitants. Fortunately the town is beginning to look much tidier thanks to the work down by council workers, the Civic Society and other organisations. The worst offenders are cigarette butts, bird droppings and chewing gum. The other problem is the weeds growing throughout the town. Much of the responsibility for dealing with the weeds is down to Norfolk County Council who employ a firm in Leicester who does not come here until halfway through the summer. The Civic Society has been spraying the weeds in many of the Rows and along the roads in the centre of town to good effect.

Possible solutions

- Fine more of the people dropping litter and leaving large items of furniture in the town.
- Get NCC to employ a local firm to do the weed spraying and to start earlier in the year.
- Repaint the litter bins. Could this be done by artists or student artist volunteers?



Improving Great Yarmouth

9. Light up Important Buildings and the Bridges Leading into the Town

The town looks particularly bleak at night and many people are frightened about coming into it in the evenings. Lighting up important buildings would improve the night time economy and make people feel safer.

- Develop a plan to gradually floodlight important buildings in the town centre and the bridges leading into the town.

10. Developing Community Spirit and Civic Pride

For any organisation to succeed it is important for its members to come together and work to improve it. This applies to any community and if Great Yarmouth is to be successful it must do all it can to foster these aims. It is easier to do this in small organisations and in villages e.g. Filby, but if we can bring communities together it will have enormous advantages. Too often we hear negative comments about anything the council tries to do. If individuals feel they can help and be listened to then they will encourage others to participate.

Possible solutions

- Encourage streets to become neighbourhood watch areas.
- Help establish community centres, possibly based on schools, libraries and churches.

11. Promoting Culture

Great Yarmouth has a number of theatres and cinemas along with the Hippodrome and Empire but the number is much smaller than several decades ago. Gorleston Ocean Room has closed and nationally it is reported that fewer people are going out being more content to stay at home watching television. Part of this could be for financial reasons but it is well known that sitting at home is bad for you both physically and mentally. Out There Arts puts on a successful weekend each year and provides entertainment and training throughout the year. The Arts Festival provides a variety of entertainment annually and a Carnival but attendances were down last year. There are several art and photographic societies locally. Two art galleries in the town have closed due to lack of interest yet Primeyarc remains open and art studios are being opened.

Possible solutions

- Better advertising of facilities.
- Developing theatre and cinema clubs
- Stressing the importance of getting out of the home and mixing with other people
- Increasing the number of attractions throughout the year



Improving Great Yarmouth

HOW TO PAY FOR ALL OF THIS?

What is suggested here is a large collection of long term plans which will be costly. How can they be paid for?

Possible solutions

- Obtaining grants.
- Setting up a town charity and seeing whether people might consider giving 1% of their income to it.
- Setting up a lottery where 50% of the ticket price goes to the Town Charity.

Conclusion

This paper presents some important issues to improve Great Yarmouth. It is by no means complete but I would like to think it is a starting point in the continued rejuvenation of Great Yarmouth.

MEETING WITH GYBC CEO, LEADER OF COUNCIL AND LEADER OF THE LABOUR GROUP. Tuesday 18 February in the Town Hall

Following the publication the above paper some members of the Civic Society committee met with the above to discuss a number of issues and the notes of the meeting are below.

Present: Carl Smith, Leader of the Council, Sheila Oxtoby, CEO of GYBC, Trevor Wainwright, Leader of the Labour Group, Bruce Sturrock, Miriam Kikis, Michael Zegerman, Peter Bondi, Rob Haslam, Hugh Sturzaker

The initial talks were about the government's plans for devolution and how it might affect the working of Great Yarmouth Borough Council. Draft suggestions had to be submitted within the next month.

1a. Health: Life expectancy for a man living in Nelson Ward was 10 years less than a for man living in Ormesby and Nelson Ward had one of the highest prescription rates for opioids.

Action:

- The Council was working with the James Paget University Hospital and with the East Coast Community Health cic to find ways of preventing ill health.
- An application for a grant from Sport England had been made to increase exercise for young people.
- Encourage pupils to learn cooking and the importance of good eating habits and taking exercise.



Improving Great Yarmouth

1b. Housing: The Council had a 10 year plan to improve its housing stock and private landlords had to maintain their properties to certain guidelines. Rob Haslam outlined his plans for installing geothermal heating in certain buildings and that once he had the goahead it could proceed quickly. He had access to £50M for the project.

Action: Rob is to discuss his plans with Council officials next week.

2. Education: All agreed on the importance of a good education. Most schools in the area are academies and are doing a good job.

3. Jobs: The Civic Society had recently held a meeting to look at ways to improve job opportunities.

Action: Civic Society members to attend the meeting on 26 February in St. George's Theatre entitled "Get Britain Working".

4. Buildings: All were disappointed at the state of many buildings in the town. Some years ago the Civic Society had done an audit of them and suggested that there should be minimal standards for them. The Preservation Trust had drawn up a list of suggestions but in the end it is up to the owners to look after their buildings. Franziska Callaghan, the Chief Conservation Officer, is doing a good job but the Council could not afford to employ more staff to support her. The Council had set aside £100,000 for legal expenses and security for the Star Hotel.

5. Roads, Roundabouts and Rows: After 2 years the weeds along the A47 appear to have been sprayed but they have not been cleared away. This is the responsibility of Highways. Funding for the Vauxhall Roundabout has been taken away.

6. Visitor Centre: It was disappointing that there was no visitor centre in the town.

Action: See if material can be displayed in the main entrance of The Place.

7. Greening up: All agreed for the need for more planters, hanging baskets etc. in the town centre.

Action: Civic Society to liaise with the successor of Great Yarmouth and Gorleston in Bloom and other organisations to green up the town.

8. Cleanliness: The Council was congratulated on the recent work to improve the sweeping of the roads and pavements in the town centre. Cigarette butts and bird droppings in the Rows were the most frequent litter. At least weekly large items such as mattresses, sofas and TVs are found. The wardens are very good at clearing these items away when we inform them and it is a pity that CCTV does not pick up the culprits.



Improving Great Yarmouth

9. Lighting up: It was agreed that lighting up of important buildings would improve the town but unfortunately, at present there is minimal night time economy and money for funding this is not available.

10. Community Spirit and Pride: This was so important to improving a positive feeling for the town and the Council has been looking at ways to help. Unfortunately often good news on social media is followed by negative comments. Suggested slogan was “Together we can do more”.

Action: Council and Civic Society look at ways of tackling this issue.

11. Culture and Catering: There is a trend nationally for people to be reluctant to leave their homes and this has a deleterious affect on societies, cafes, restaurants, theatres etc. No solutions put forward for trying to reverse this trend.

12. Other projects: Beach events: In the past concerts on the beach had drawn large crowds. Action: BID should consider this. Provision of Basket Ball and gym equipment on the beach would be appreciated.

Volunteering: It was very difficult to get reliable volunteers in spite of the work of Cultural Connections: volunteering.

Park Run: Organisers of the Gorleston Park Run had agreed to encourage pupils in the schools to join the run.

Rebuilding one or more gates in Town Wall. Some encouragement from Historic England and Conservation Officer is interested.

Action: Paul Patterson and Hugh Sturzaker are meeting with Conservation Officer in two weeks.

Tower in Town Wall adjacent to Priory School. Rob Haslam has had talks about heating the tower and a greenhouse in the grounds for the pupils to grow vegetables.

Outer Harbour: It is disappointing that the outer harbour appears to be under-used and firms, such as Great Yarmouth based Gardline, have to have their boats serviced in Hull as it is cheaper there.

Action: Take up with Peel Ports Headquarters



Improving Great Yarmouth

13. Other points not discussed: Transport around the town: Robotic electric or hydrogen powered vehicles to take people round the town. Warwick University is doing work on this means of transport. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes which help bring communities together and reduce crime should be encouraged.

14. Hugh Sturzaker thanked the Council members for seeing members of the Civic Society and congratulated them for their many achievements in recent years.



Photo by H. Sturzaker



Cleanliness of the Borough

Tuesday 22ns April in the Town Hall (11am)

Present: : Paul Shucksmith, James Wilson, Clare Duble, Lisa Cook, Michael Zegerman, Robert Lovick, Kol Kishan, Damian Eaton, Jamie White, Miriam Kikis, Susan Page, Hugh Sturzaker

The meeting was called to report on the findings of the Civic Society in cleaning various Rows and alleyways in the town during the last year.

1. Introduction Hugh Sturzaker congratulated the teams which had improved the appearance and cleanliness of the town in recent months.

2. Weeds. Paul confirmed that NCC would spray the weeds twice this year. Hugh said that although the Civic Society's contract with the council had ended they were prepared to continue their weekly work of litter picking and weed spraying and were already doing so.

Action: Society to continue dealing with weeds in the town centre and other areas as well as dealing with litter.

3. Awards for shops, businesses and market traders. For the last few years the Civic Society has been presenting awards to shops, businesses and stall holders for the appearance of their premises. The cleanliness of the front of the premises, including the pavement down to and including the gutter are assessed as are the lack of clutter on the windows and doors. It is done in association with the Town Centre Partnership and includes all those premises covered by the TCP. The awards this year will be given in the Town Hall on Thursday 17 July.

Action: Hugh to inform Clare of these details so that she can help with the publicity.

4. Empty properties. These are a great problem. There is a small team dealing with them but their task is made difficult by many of the owners being absent landlords. Some are having compulsory purchases served on them. Some need change of use and others need to be pulled down.

Action: Society to inform Council of poorly looked after premises.

5. Poorly kept properties and gardens. The education officer does have some money to improve them and it has been suggested that a library of tools which could be hired would be useful.

Action: Discuss with Lisa how this could be put into effect



Improving Great Yarmouth

6. Homes of Multiple Occupation: Although all HMO's are supposed to be registered it is thought that only a quarter to a third are registered.

Action: Need a campaign to get them all registered.

7. Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. These are a very good way of bringing communities together, improving the appearance of the area and helping to reduce crime. The Council is trying to increase the number and activity of them.

Action: Increase the number and activity of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

8. Litter Picking. Voluntary groups are very keen to do litter picking on the beaches but there is very little rubbish there and they need to be directed to other places e.g. Victoria Park. Schools should be encouraged to get the school children to do regular litter picking. This would be very educational for them.

Action: School children to do regular litter picking. Suggest this to them via Enjoy - Great Yarmouth's Cultural Education Partnership.

9. Road cleaners. We frequently see council workers litter picking but this leaves behind all the cigarette butts and dirt. It was suggested that they had a bin into which they could put recyclable items and that they should use the brush they had.

Action: Road sweepers to use their brush and dustpan.

10. Rows. The worst part are the bird droppings which are a health hazard and slippery when wet. There is a gel which can be placed on the places the birds perch and is effective for up to 9 years. Cigarette butts are a constant problem. Other problems are lack of drain covers, broken drainage pipes, loose wires, some graffiti, poor condition of some of the walls and pavements. Although the lighting has improved it is still inadequate in many areas. There is not the money to deal with all these issues and it was agreed to tackle a few Rows first. It was suggested that seagulls do not like yellow and could refuse bags be made of yellow plastic if that is the case.

Action: Make a list of the Rows which have the worst bird droppings and concentrate on improving these Rows first. Gel to be applied to perching areas.



Cleanliness of the Borough

11. Greening up the Town. Great Yarmouth and Gorleston in Bloom had ceased to exist after the council funding was withdrawn two years ago. A successor organisation had arranged a garden competition and provided some flowers outside the Town Hall and Gorleston Library but Hugh had been unable to make contact with them this year. Prior to Covid the Society had got together several groups and the In Bloom group to look at greening up the town but it did not progress because of the pandemic. One or more greenhouses would be necessary to grow the plants which would be educational for children and therapeutic for others. Could a grant from the Council's £2M a year for 10 years help in this?

The Council was considering doing up Market Row and a suburban street.

Action: Bring together various organisations interested in greening up the town and find some land and one or more greenhouses or poly tunnels in which to grow the plants. Apply to the council for a grant.

12. Litter Bins. There are about 800 bins in the borough and a budget of £500 per year for repairing them. Some new ones will be placed around the Market Place.

Action: See if artists and other volunteers would take on the task of cleaning the present ones and repainting them.

13. Publicity. Both the council and the society are pointing out how much cleaner the town is looking and it was felt that Publicity by leaflets and social media would be helpful as well as publicising Love Clean Streets.

Action: Continue publicising the importance of keeping the town clean and tidy by the use of leaflets, social media and drawing people's attention to Love Clean Streets.

Hugh thanked everyone for their attendance and the work they were doing to improve the appearance of the town.



PROMOTING THE CIVIC SOCIETY

We had stalls at the following:

Saturday 31 May 11.30am to 6pm. Up Our Street Transformation put on by Out There Arts. Our stall was near the Drill House, NR30 2LZ.

Saturday 14 June In the Market Place 9am-1pm. This was part of Civic Day to show the work done by Civic Societies throughout the country.

CATALOGUING BUILDINGS IN THE TOWN WHICH ARE NOT LISTED

There are many fine buildings in the town which are not listed Grade 1 or 2 and we feel it would be worthwhile making a record of them and pointing out their important features.

On Monday 14 July Franziska Callaghan, the Head Conservation Officer, led a small group of members around Northgate Street discussing how the project could be carried out. We are planning for groups of 3-4 people to take on one of the 7 conservation areas in the town and make their recordings. In many areas there are large numbers of listed buildings so the number to be reviewed are not as many as first appears.

If you are interested please contact hsturzaker@icloud.com as soon as possible with your phone number.

FUTURE MEETINGS

With the closure of Christchurch we are looking at possible new venues so please check the place and timing for future meetings.

Tuesday 30 September at The Place at 2.30PM

ST. ELIZABETH HOSPICE: IMPROVING PALLIATIVE AND END OF LIFE CARE IN GREAT YARMOUTH TODAY AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

This includes details of the new hospice to be built in Gorleston.

This will be followed by the AGM.

Tuesday 14 October at The Old Priory at 7PM

CURING ENERGY POVERTY TOGETHER

By Rob Haslam RIBA MSCD MBA and owner of the Prior and Old Vicarage

Tuesday 18 November 2025 at the Salvation Army Hall at 7.30PM

NORTH QUAY REDEVELOPMENT AND OTHER MATTERS

By Carl Smith, Leader of Great Yarmouth Borough Council



AWARDS

Make annual awards to encourage shops, businesses, market traders and individuals to take pride in their properties.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Review planning applications and make our views known to the Council. Ensure that the Council revokes licences where Homes of Multiple Occupancy are not kept up to standard.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE IN TOWN CENTRE

Continue to press for the establishment of a Tourist Information Centre in the Town Centre. e.g in The Place

PUBLICISE THE TOWN WALL

Remove some of the 1960 buildings on the east side of the Market Place to show the town wall and develop gardens between the Market Place and the Town Wall. Place information notices at strategic places and remove weeds from the wall.

REBUILD NEW GATE

This will enable people to see what one of the town wall gates looked like. The construction will be educational for school children and will help to bring the community together.

ROUNDBABOUTS AND ROADS

Work with the Borough Council, Norfolk County Council and Highways England to improve their appearance. Install a prominent sculpture on Vauxhall roundabout designed by Paul Patterson. Treat the weeds along the A47 effectively and clear the litter.

PAVEMENTS

Work with the Borough Council and Norfolk County Council to develop decent pavement surfaces which are well maintained and that utility services which dig them up are responsible for returning them to how they were.

GREENING UP THE TOWN

Work with GYBC and other organisations to green up the town and increase the number trees in the Borough.

TOILETS

Press for better signage to toilets in town centre



Our Priorities

LIGHTING UP THE TOWN

Work to achieve illumination of all historic buildings, the town wall and all the bridges leading into the town.

TOWN CENTRE MASTER PLAN

Work with the Town Board and the Council on the development of this plan.

IMPROVING THE ROWS

Continue to press for the establishment of a Tourist Information Centre in the Town Centre. e.g in The Place

REGENERATION OF GREAT YARMOUTH REPORT

Publicise this report and obtain the support of the community for it so that many of its suggestions may be implemented and civic pride is generated. Report is available on our website.

ATTRACTING YOUNGSTERS

Work with Schools and Colleges to encourage students to get involved with our various projects.

MOTIVATING COMMUNITIES

Work with community workers and the community to develop civic pride.

EXTEND THE SEASON

Great Yarmouth is a summer seaside resort. However, it is necessary to extend the season into the spring, autumn and winter months. There is much more than the seaside and we need to give more publicity to our heritage, museums, art galleries, theatres, the Broads, the surrounding villages and develop more Festivals. We need to promote short breaks which include tickets to museums, theatres etc.

GREENING UP THE TOWN

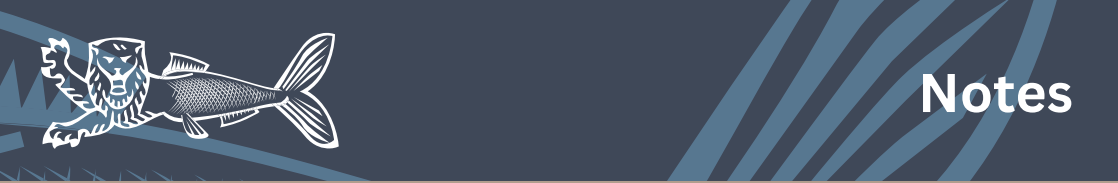
Work with GYBC and other organisations to green up the town and increase the number trees in the Borough.

LITTER

Encourage people and businesses to look after the area in front of their properties.

HANSEATIC LEAGUE

Work with other New Hanse towns to encourage visitors to the town.



Notes



The Prom Hotel, Great Yarmouth, Golden Mile

One of only two four-star hotels in Great Yarmouth, the 50-bedroom Prom Hotel sits on the Golden Mile, directly opposite Britannia Pier.

Facilities

- Great bedrooms • 24-hour room service • Strollers Restaurant
- Private dining available • Function suite • Games room
- Popular public bar with fantastic selection of drinks from real ales to cocktails • Food served all day • Parking
- Lift to all main floors • Free wifi

www.promhotel.co.uk • info@promhotel.co.uk
01493 842308



The Pier Hotel, Gorleston-on-Sea

The Pier Hotel sits beside the entrance to Great Yarmouth's historic port and looks out over one of Norfolk's most magnificent beaches, with a view all the way to Ness Point, Britain's most easterly point.

Facilities

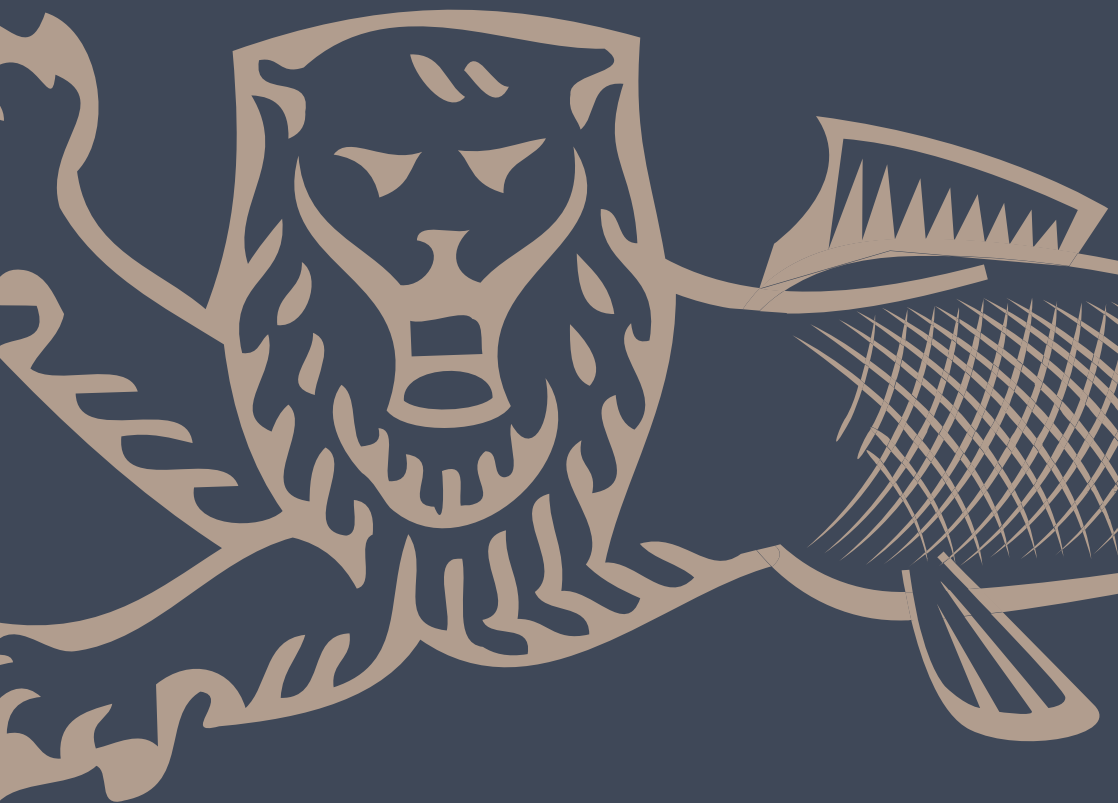
- 20 en suite bedrooms
- Food served all day
- Popular bar with real ales • Wine bar
- Parking • Free wifi

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bookings@pierhotelgorleston.co.uk
01493 662631

★★★★
Proud
members of the
Great Yarmouth
Civic Society

★★★

This Annual Report was designed by
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