Civic Society
Great Yarmouth



CIVICSOCIETYGY.UK

9TH ANNUAL REPORT

2025 - 2026

Introduction

Over recent years the Borough has been fortunate in attracting many large grants for big projects many of which have been completed. However, the work still continues on new projects which are in various stages of development and short details are given later in this report.

It is encouraging to see the private investment in the town. The Britannia Pier has had a facelift and further work is planned on the site. In addition, the Wellington Pier is working on a large extension and Pier Ports is investing £100 million into the outer harbour.

For eight years, with the exception of the period covering the Covid Pandemic, the Society has been carrying out weekly litter picking in the town centre and spraying weeds as and when necessary. Over recent months, the council has employed its own workmen to keep the pavements and streets clean and this has led to a great improvement in the town's appearance. In addition, the provision of police officers and wardens has greatly reduced anti-social behaviour.



We were fortunate to obtain a grant from the council to green up the town. We have concentrated on the Market Place with the provision of planters outside shops and businesses who have agreed to keep them watered. With the help of pupils from the Priory Primary School and some from the East Norfolk Sixth Form College bulbs were planted and plug plants were raised in pots prior to planting in the planters. We have also planted up the beds in front of the Priory School and worked with pupils on the grounds behind the school.

It was good to hear that the town had been short listed to be the Town of Culture and let us hope that all sections of the community will do their best in bringing this to fruition.

Mark Dyball and his wife had collected many books - some of them very ancient - about Great Yarmouth and Norfolk but did not want to take them to Yorkshire to where they were retiring and the local libraries did not want them. Very generously he has donated them to the Civic Society and we are discussing how we can store them and let out to members who would like to read them.

If you are keen to see continuing improvement in your town do consider joining the Civic Society. Annual membership is £10, which entitles you to free entry to our monthly meetings, regular newsletters and other benefits. Application for membership is on page 13.

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 commitee members.

President:
Henry Cator, OBE, DL
High Steward of Great Yarmouth

Chairman:
Hugh Sturzaker, MBE Retired
Consultant Surgeon

Treasurer & Membership Secretary:
Susan Page
Retired Caterer & Part-time taxi-driver

Minutes Secretary:
Dr. Catherine Richards
Principal of East Norfolk Sixth Form College

Peter Bondi
Retired Hotel Manager

Rob Haslam
Architect

Gavin Hetherington
Retired Civil Engineer

Miriam Kikis
Retired restauranteur

Kol Kishan
Retired Head of Imaging Department 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

Michael Zegermen
Retired Businessman

SPONSORS & GRANTS

We are most grateful to the following:

Safer Streets
Fuller Foundation Trust
Stardrop, owners of Pub on the Prom & Pier Hotel
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Town Centre Partnership
Dr. Ajay Kumar
SPP Digital Ltd.
Cultural Connections, Volunteering

PROMOTION

Lewis Ashdown has been managing the website and social media until the last few months. These tasks have now been taken over by Martin Page for the Website and Harley Bradford is producing this Annual Report and looking after our social media.

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 Developments

The **Iron Duke Public House** reconstruction on Jellicoe Road is progressing well and should open this autumn. There will be two restaurants and on the first floor there will be two flats to be let out to holiday makers.

Work on the **Winter Gardens** is progressing but it has shown that the cost of repairing it is going to be more expensive than first thought which is a great blow.

North Quay Re-Development. Exciting plans have been proposed for the development of North Quay with 70 outlet shops, a hotel, a cinema which can double up as a conference centre, entertainment facilities, restaurants, housing, a car park to take more than 900 cars along with improvements to the railway station. It is hoped to have it opened in four years time and that it will attract two million visitors yearly. The old railway bridge will also be re-vamped.

The Conge. The buildings on the south side of The Conge have been taken down, as well as most of those on the north side and the building of houses and apartments here should start soon.

The Gasometer at Barrack Road is being clad with scaffolding ready to clean and repair the metal work. Its eventual use has yet to be decided.

The Operations and Maintenance Facility at the entrance of the River Yare into the North Sea has been completed at a cost of £24.8 million but there has been a hold up in handing it over to a firm which will run it.

The Outer Harbour. Peels Ports is investing £100 million into the further redevelopment of the Outer Harbour. Apart from supplying the offshore wind farms being built it is hoped that it will play a prominent part in supplying the new Sizewell Nuclear Plant.

South Denes Development. A vision for the development of South Denes from the Town Hall to the exit of the River Yare into the North Sea was commissioned by the Borough Council and has been produced by a firm of architects Prior and Partners. They have produced some exciting plans.



Iron Duke Public House - Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust



Winter Gardens Re-development - BFF Architects



North Quay Re-development - Willmont Dixon Developments

Town Centre Developments



New Frontage of Britannia Pier


Blackfriars Town Wall


The Rows - Market Row

St. George's Theatre has for the last few years been streaming its Pantomime to over 130,000 pupils around the country and it is trying to develop as a community theatre.

Britannia Pier has a new frontage and other new facilities costing nearly £2 million and has plans to develop a beer garden on its north side.

The **Wellington Pier** is expanding southwards with another £2 million development.

The **Pavillion Theatre** in Gorleston is celebrating its 125th Anniversary and it is good to see its increasing community activities and the increased use of the Band Stand.

The **Ocean Room's** future is still uncertain. Many romances started here and in the adjacent swimming pool. Fashions change but it is nearly two years since a firm in Kings Lynn were awarded the contract for developing it and nothing further has been heard from them.

The **Town Wall's** improvements are nearing completion along with placing signs explaining features of the wall.

The Civic Society continues with its weekly litter picking and spraying of weeds around the town centre. We are unhappy with the state of many of the Rows and have had discussions with council officers about them.

Greening Up the Town Centre. We obtained a grant from the Borough to green up parts of the town centre. We bought nearly 50 barrel shaped planters which we have planted up with bulbs and various plants. The planters have been placed outside shops and businesses in the Market Place where the owners have agreed to water them. We have also planted up some of the large planters that the council has put in the Market Place. Work on the gardens around Blackfriars Town Wall and in other parts of the town continues.

Town Centre Developments

We have been working with homeowners in the east part of Crown Road to improve their front gardens. We hope that this work may encourage surrounding roads to follow their example. We have delivered letters to homes which have attractive front gardens and asking whether they would like to join us in greening up the town and if they will encourage their neighbours to improve their gardens.

We have been working with the Priory School and have weeded and planted up the raised beds in front of the school. We obtained bark chipping from the Council and these have been placed along the paths. We have been working with some of the pupils planting up the raised beds. In addition they helped to plant up some of the planters. A large area of weeds have been sprayed in the Dissenters Graveyard. We have also been working with students at East Norfolk Sixth Form College to pot up plug plants and help them grow on in their large greenhouse.

Anti-social behaviour in the town centre is being tackled by police and wardens who have been paid for by a government grant.

Community Projects. The Borough has been awarded a grant of £20 million to be spent over 10 years on various community projects, e.g. upgrading children's playgrounds, improving St. George's Park, the Gorleston Cliffs, turning the gate houses in Gorleston and Great Yarmouth cemeteries into homes etc.

Interesting Buildings and Places which are not listed. Great Yarmouth town and the borough have a large number of listed buildings. In addition, there are many buildings and places which are not listed but merit attention. Work has already started on this project which is being led by Gavin Hetherington and Damian Eaton. If you're interested in helping with this project, please contact Gavin on twohs@hotmail.com



St Nicholas Priory - Great Yarmouth



Anti-Social Behaviour Crackdown - Nelson Walker



St George's Park

Meetings



Projection of the Gorleston Hospice Building



Hospice Summer Campaign raises over £72,000



St. Elizabeth Hospice - Garden Group

Tuesday 30th September 2025
The Place (The Old Palmers) in the Market Place at 2.30pm
Hosted by Judi Newman, CEO of St. Elizabeth Hospice.

"St Elizabeth Hospice: Improving palliative and end of life care in Great Yarmouth today and looking to the future."

Great Yarmouth and Waveney is thought to be the only health district in the country not to have a hospice. St. Elizabeth Hospice was founded in Ipswich in 1989 and grew to 18 beds. It has facilities for in patients and out patient care with 80% of patients being treated in their homes.

There are 200 hospices in the country and on average the NHS pays for about 30% of running costs. The rest of the money is raised by charitable activities. There is no charge to the patients.

In 2019, St. Elizabeth's won the contract to provide palliative care services for the Great Yarmouth and Waveney Health District. In March 2023, St. Elizabeth's merged with East Coast Hospice. There are 6 beds for palliative care in Beccles Hospital and there are community care teams in Beccles, Halesworth, Gorleston and Martham.

With an aging population it is expected that our population will have increased by 2040.

The new hospice has been designed by Lambert Scott and Inness and will have out patient facilities along with 16 beds. At the entrance there is an atrium containing a cafe and shop. There is a bereavement and counselling suite as well as office accommodation. There are therapeutic gardens. Full planning permission has been granted and Barnes Construction have been appointed the builders. The cost of the build is £16 million. £10 million has been raised and now the remaining £6 million is being sought from trusts, large organisations and the general public.

Construction will start in 2026 and is expected to take 18 months prior to fitting out and opening the building.

Meetings

Tuesday 14th October 2025
In the Old Priory - "Curing Energy Poverty Together"
Hosted by Rob Haslam, Architect & Owner of the Old Vicarage and Priory

Rob Haslam said that there were 12 million households in the UK with children and 1 million of those houses had energy poverty. 10% of people who were over the age of 75 suffered from energy poverty. There were 44,544 households in the Borough and 17.6% of these suffered energy poverty. Many children were going to school hungry as were some adults.

There are many forms of sustainable energy such as solar with the use of battery storage, wind, and hydrogen. There is geothermal which extracts heat from deep in the ground. He had overseen a project to combine geothermal from 34 bore holes 168 metres deep and 600 solar panels for a university of London and since they were installed they have not had to use their boilers.

Rob had suggested such as scheme for Great Yarmouth Minster which would produce excess heat which could be piped to other buildings in the area. He had also suggested similar schemes for other buildings in the town which would feed heat to adjacent buildings. Great Yarmouth had the opportunity of leading this development in the country which would enable people to have heat at cheaper than present day prices. It could be done in conjunction with reviving old and empty buildings helping to produce community heating and he had access to finances for £30-50 million to service these developments.



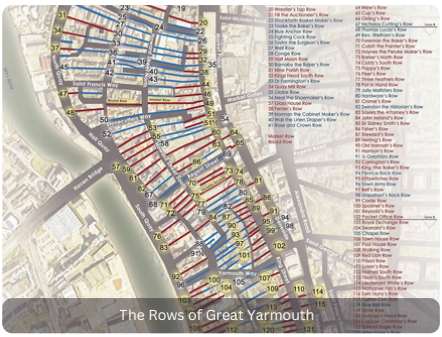
Inside The Priory 1101


Photo of Rob Haslam - James Weeds


The Old Priory, other known as The Priory 1101

The Priory 1101

Meetings


The Rows of Great Yarmouth



Victoria Arcade that had taken over the 74th Row



Tilson's South Row - Row 113

Tuesday 18th November 2025
The Old Priory - "The Rows of Great Yarmouth"
Hosted by Stuart Burgess, Archaeologist and Historian

There were over 145 Rows stretching from east to west and if they were put end to end they would measure a total of 7 miles in length. The first Rows were mentioned in 1198 and by 1391 they were encircled by a wall on three sides with the River Yare enclosing them to the west. They were long, narrow alleyways and the buildings were made of flint, stone, brick or wood. The floors of The Rows were made of cobblestones from the beach. People of many trades lived and worked here and they all helped each other.

Great Yarmouth was a front line town against the French, Spanish and Dutch and because of the narrowness of The Rows one man could have defended a Row. Most of the wealth came from the herring and at one time there were 200 smoke houses in the Rows. It was not until the mid 1800s that houses were allowed to be built on the sands outside the town wall.

Because of the narrowness of The Rows the Trollcart was designed which had its wheels beneath it and it could be stood upright. Sanitation was not good with the passage ways acting as open sewers and at one time it was recorded that 44 people shared one toilet.

Many of the town councillors were wealthy merchants and as they became more wealthy they built large houses at either end of The Rows. There was no space for gardens and most vegetable were bought in the very large Market Place. At one time there were 655 traders in the town and 52 ice cream men, most of whom came from Italy.

Around the start of the 19th century some of the Rows were condemned and were pulled down and others were replaced by roads such as Regent Street. During the Second World War much of the town was bombed and afterwards the council pulled down many of the remaining Rows which were thought to be not fit for living in.

Meetings

In the Old Priory - Tuesday 27th January 2026
“Re-development of North Quay and Other Matters”
Hosted by Carl Smith, Leader of GYBC

The Borough Council has been working with Willmott Dixon for a number of years to re-develop the North Quay site. There are 64 different landowners on site and 50% of the site has been secured. It is hoped that building consent will be obtained in May 2026 with construction starting in 2028 and for the site to be functioning two years later. It is a unique site with easy access to the railway and the Market Place via The Conge which is about to be developed for housing. The work on the Bridge across the River Bure will also be completed. Greater Anglia is planning to improve the station and train services.

There will be a 100-120 bedded hotel, a multi-storied carpark for 915 vehicles, a Retail Outlet of 70 units, an IMAX cinema which can also be used for conferences, up to 120 residential units and green spaces with a river walk. There will be various leisure facilities. There will be no banks nor charity shops.

It is estimated that it will draw in an extra 2 million visitors yearly and should increase footfall and purchasing in the rest of the town. It is likely that passengers from cruise ships will be keen to visit the site.

500 jobs will be created during construction and 400 when the site is functioning. Goods sold in the outlet shops are usually sold at least 30% cheaper than elsewhere and on average people spend £200 per visit.

There will be an agreement with the construction firms that local people should get priority in working on the site.



Current State of North Quay



Willmott Dixon Projections of the Development



Willmott Dixon Projections of the Development

Meetings

The Old Priory - Tuesday 24th February 2026
"Improving the Environment in Great Yarmouth"
Hosted by James Wilson, Head of Environment and Sustainability, Environmental Services, GYBC

James Wilson said that the Council was keen for people to develop a sense of pride in their town. Great Yarmouth was the only place in Norfolk enforcing a Public Space Protection Order which it is hoped will curb antisocial behaviour such as alcoholic drinking in public spaces, urinating, defecating and spitting in public places. People committing these offences could be given temporary exclusion order or be fined up to £1,000. So far, 40 fixed Penalty Notices have been issued, there had been 12 prosecutions, 9 successful fines of over £1,000 and one person ended up in prison for 16 weeks.

A task force of 4 Council Enforcement Officers, 3 dedicated Police Officers and 3 Cleansing Officers are being recruited. They will be tackling fly tipping, speaking to people who have dirty front gardens and dealing with Caravans which are illegally parked. They will be liaising with the Homeless Outreach Team and Mental Health Workers.

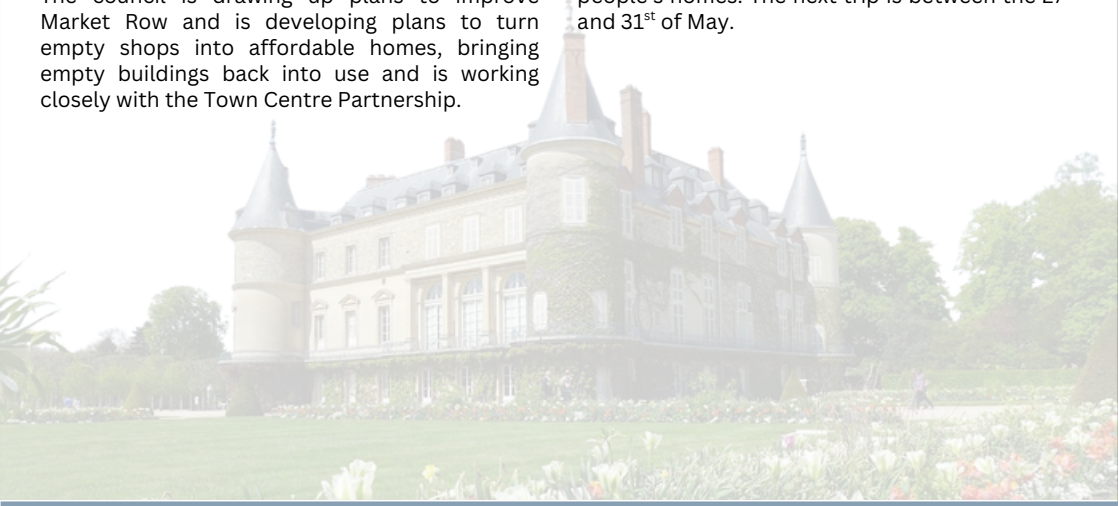
The council is drawing up plans to improve Market Row and is developing plans to turn empty shops into affordable homes, bringing empty buildings back into use and is working closely with the Town Centre Partnership.

The Old Priory - Tuesday 21st March 2026
"Great Yarmouth and Rambouillet Twinned for 70 years."
Hosted by John Stephens, Organist and Conductor, Musical Director of the Inspiration Trust.

This year marks the 70th year since Great Yarmouth and Rambouillet were twinned. Rambouillet is a wealthy small town 35 miles southwest of Paris with a population of 27,000. It lies on the edge of a forest which houses an ancient chateau which until recently was the summer residence of the French President.

In the early days many school children were involved in the yearly exchange between the two towns and sports clubs were often involved. This year part of the Dusmagrik group will be performing in Rambouillet.

John first went to Rambouillet when he was 14 years old and has made many friends there. He has also played the organ for the weddings of his hosts children. Most people travel to Rambouillet in a coach which costs £200 per adult and £100 for children. People stay in the homes of their French hosts who speak good English and when the French come to Great Yarmouth they stay in people's homes. The next trip is between the 27th and 31st of May.



The Place (The Old Palmers) - Thursday 16th April 2026
"Non Designated Heritage Assets in Great Yarmouth"
Hosted by Gavin Hetherington, Retired Engineer

Gavin has an interest in heritage and history and has been concentrating on interesting buildings and places in the area around his home i.e. north of St. George's Park as part of a study by the society to record this data in the 8 conservation areas in the town. There are over 800 listed buildings in the Borough and 217 of them are in the town.

Grounds for inclusion of interesting buildings and places depends on asset type, age, rarity, architectural and aesthetic value, group value and architectural interest. He illustrated this with some examples.

St. George's Park which was laid out in 1866 and contains the two war memorials which are listed. Since then several features have been added to the entrances to the Park.

43 York Road used to be a Baptish Church which was built in 1841 and ended its life as a chapel in 1965. It was then taken over as a Pentecostal Church in 1973 and is now a house. It has some elements of Gothic Revival architecture.

The Artillery Drill Hall was built in 1880 and a two storey extension was added in 1906. Its military life ended in 1950 and it then became a furniture store. It is now up for sale.

The Columbia Tavern at the bottom of Crown Road was built in 1859 and was bought by Lacons in the 1930s. It has a fascinating totem pole which is topped by the Lacons falcon.

37 Albion Road is where St. Mary's School had originally been and previously there had been a windmill here. The striking features are the very impressive brick walls and gate.

He also spoke about the Empire Theatre, Arcade designed by Cockrill which is now Leisure Land, 72 and 72a Albion Road which is a three storey building erected in Victorian Times and a Pillar Postbox designed by John Penfold (1828-1909) which is now near St. George's Theatre Plaza.



Meetings

In the Old Priory - Tuesday 22nd June 2026
"Rejuvenation and Regeneration"
Hosted by Brian Graves, Producer of G&S Productions

Brian Graves gave a very upbeat presentation of his plans for the Beauty and the Beast pantomime this Christmas with Gareth Gates taking the lead at Britannia Pier. There are plans to encourage people from various parts of East Anglia to attend. A community sponsorship programme is being publicised to allow underprivileged children to see it.

There are plans to establish a Gates Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Great Yarmouth. The vision is to "Rejuvenate and Regenerate" by creating a professional performing arts and music school in Great Yarmouth, repurposed from local buildings, at a standard comparable to the BRIT School in London, which trains pupils in Performance and Creative Arts and the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts.

It is expected that these activities will have major economic and social impact in Great Yarmouth, improving education, increasing leisure activities, assisting the hospitality industry and ultimately improving property prices.

Sunday 19th July 2026
Visit to Beccles Civic Society

A small group of members spent the afternoon in Beccles hosted by the Beccles Society. We started off in the Museum learning about some of the history of the town and its people and then walked through parts of the lovely old town. We then did a more detailed trip along Puddingmoor learning about the history of some of its buildings. We ended at the Waveney House Hotel for tea.

In the Town Hall - Friday 10th July 2026
"Presentation of latest Masterplan of the North Quay Development"
Hosted by Simon Smith, Managing Director of Dunk Ink Ltd

Simon Smith gave an update on the re-development of the North Quay. The area will be called Quayside and the planning application will be submitted in the next 10 days. The land assembly will be completed by 2028 and the site will be opened in 2030. By that time, the development of flats and houses on The Conge will be well advanced and there will be signs encouraging visitors to the Quayside to visit the Market and other parts of the town. In other parts of the country the existing shops have benefited from having a shopping outlet being built nearby.

There will be 70 Oulet shops and all will have a minimum discount of 30%. There will be some restaurants but no fast food outlets. There will be a hotel, a carpark taking nearly 1,000 cars and an IMAX cinema which can function as a conference centre. In addition, there will be some leisure facilities and some housing. The three listed buildings will probably have a community function.

This is a £150 million investment taking two years to build. 600 people will be involved in its construction and 500 will be employed when it is opened. The shops will be open from 10am to 8pm and leisure facilities will stay open longer.

Future Meetings

The Old Priory - Tuesday 22nd September 2026
"Talk on Great Yarmouth's Railways"
Hosted by Richard Gallard

Richard Gallard will be talking about the Great Yarmouth Railways. The network is a single surviving central station linked to Norwich via the Wherry Lines, alongside a rich history of former town lines and multiple historic stations.

Following this meeting the Annual General Meeting of the civic society will be held.

Become A Member Today

The Civic Society of Great Yarmouth is a society which cares about Great Yarmouth - its buildings, its streets, its story and the place it is becoming.

The society was founded to develop civic pride in the town. Our aims are not just about pride in the town's buildings and architecture, but also in its environment, its cleanliness, the first impressions visitors have and its new developments.

We want to hear about the town's good and bad points from the people who live and work here. What does it do well? Where could improvements be made? How can we make it a more welcoming place and give the local economy a boost?

By bringing people together to help improve our town, we believe that potential can be achieved.

To become a member, you should visit https://civicsocietygy.uk/contact/ and requesting for membership enquiries and our Treasurer & Memberships Secretary, Susan Page will get in contact with you!

The Old Priory - Tuesday 27nd October 2026
"Conservation"
Hosted by Lorraine Finch, BA Hons, MA, ACR, CF, FRSA

Lorraine Finch has an national and international reputation for sustainability and cultural heritage conservation especially of archives and photographic material. She was recently awarded the Plowden Medal which was endowed by the Royal Warrant Holders Association. She will talk about her work.

Tuesday 3rd November 2026
Visit to Sizewell B Nuclear Power Station
Starting at 1pm

The tour will last up to three hours and involves a distance of one and a half miles. Please ensure that you have valid photographic ID that you can bring with you on the day - a UK issued Driving License or a passport of any country. You must also wear sensible clothing which covers all exposed skin on your arms and legs - so no short sleeves or sports.

There are 15 places. If you wish to go contact hsturzaker@icloud.com

Our Priorities

The Civic Society of Great Yarmouth's Priorities:

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 licenses 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's 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 and shrubs 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.

Roundabouts and Roads
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.

Litter & Toilets
Encourage people and businesses to look after the area in front of their properties. Press for better signage to toilets in the town centre.

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

Our Priorities

Greening Up The Town
Work with GYBC and other organisations to green up the town and increase the number of trees in the Borough

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

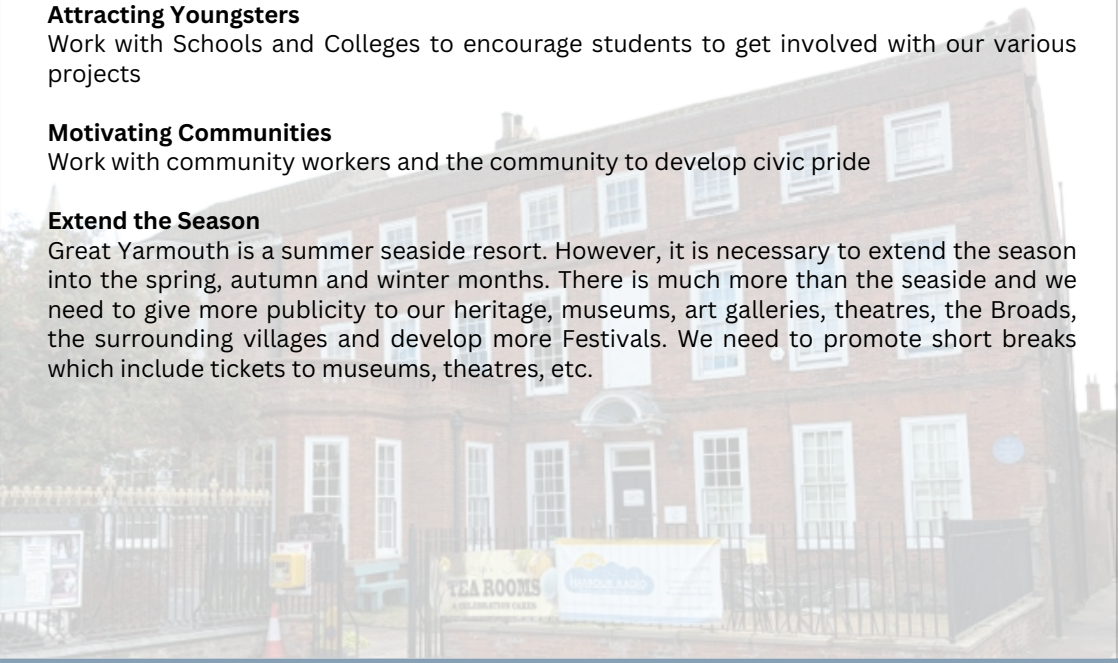
Improving the Rows
Make sure the Rows are properly lit and kept clean and tidy. Broken drain pipes, blocked drains and loose wires need to be dealt with and applying special glues to bird perches would reduce the amount of bird poo on the Rows

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.



Accounts

Our Civic Society of Great Yarmouth's accounts have been meticulously kept by our Treasurer & Memberships Secretary, Susan Page and are shown below.

CIVIC SOCIETY OF GREAT YARMOUTH
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2026

INCOME	**2026**	**2025**
Subscriptions	£620.00	£640.00
GYBC Grants re Greening up	£10,000.00	£0.00
GYBC re Blackfriars	£1,000.00	£0.00
Talk Income	£58.00	£12.00
Donations	£5.00	£0.00
The Scott Family Brochure Printing Donation	£200.00	£0.00
Donation from Dr Kumar	£0.00	£100.00
Towncentre Awards Donations towards costs	£0.00	£150.00
Norfolk Community Foundation Donation Michael & June Fuller	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
GYBC Grant re Safer Streets used to date	£0.00	£765.61
GYBC Grant re Children Awards	£0.00	£400.00
Gift Aid	£157.56	£160.65
TOTAL INCOME	**£13,040.56**	**£3,228.26**

EXPENDITURE	**2026**	**2025**
Civic Voice	£0.00	£99.20
Hall Hire	£390.00	£320.00
Greening Up payments	£2,348.94	£0.00
Blackfriars payments	£296.55	£0.00
Speakers costs	£178.00	£316.10
Printing & Brochure Design	£590.06	£260.88
Postage & stationery	£13.99	£0.00
Insurance	£177.53	£161.19
General	£35.00	£0.00
Award costs	£0.00	£163.45
Childrens Awards costs	£0.00	£195.12
Bank charges	£67.88	£18.04
Web site costs	£105.00	£255.00
Safer Street payments	£0.00	£765.61
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**£4,202.95**	**£2,554.59**

Excess income over expenditure	**£8,837.61**	**£673.67**

Accounts

Shown below is the Civic Society of Great Yarmouth's Balance Sheet ending 30th June 2026, certified by Michael Muskett MBE to show a true and correct record:

CIVIC SOCIETY OF GREAT YARMOUTH
BALANCE SHEET
30TH JUNE 2026

		2026		2025
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at Bank	**15,526.88**		7,326.96	
Petty Cash	**20.00**		20.00	
Insurance Prepayment	**128.68**		151.79	
Debtor Gift Aid	**156.00**	**15,831.56**	160.00	7,658.75
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
GYBC Grant re Safer Streets not yet used	**2,755.29**		3,520.09	
Donations re September 2026 Awards	**250.00**	**3,005.29**	150.00	3,670.09
		12,826.27		3,988.66
Balance 1 July 2025		**3,988.66**		3,314.97
Excess income over expenditure		**8,837.61**		673.69
30th June 2026		**12,826.27**		3,988.66

I certify that the Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet
show a true and correct record of the transactions of the Society
for the yesr ended 30th June 2026

Michael Muskett MBE
9th September 2026

AWARDS

Freedom of the Borough

Great Yarmouth's historic tradition of granting Freedom of the Borough—dating back to 1208—continues as the council unanimously honoured four new recipients on November 6: Cecil Page, Hugh Sturzaker, Jayne Biggs, and Great Yarmouth Samaritans.

- Cecil Page, 87, has dedicated six decades to Kingfisher ABC boxing club as a competitor, mentor and volunteer, inspiring generations and supporting countless community causes.
- Hugh Sturzaker MBE, a long-serving surgeon and major figure in local heritage and culture, founded the Great Yarmouth Arts Festival, introduced the town carnival, and established the Civic Society.
- Jayne Biggs, founder of Heart 2 Heart Norfolk, launched the charity after her daughter's life was saved by CPR. She has since installed 400+ public defibrillators, including 32 in Great Yarmouth, with dozens activated weekly.
- Great Yarmouth Samaritans, active since 1968, support around 10,000 callers each year, run outreach sessions, and provide free training to local organisations.

The article also outlines the history of the freemen tradition, once tied to birth or apprenticeship and carrying privileges such as voting and exemption from customs duties. These rights faded by the late 19th century. The first freeman was John Fraunceys in 1312, and the first woman granted the honour in Yarmouth was Cora Batley in 1997.



Freemen of the Borough Recipients



Our Chairman, Hugh Sturzaker receiving the award



HMS Dauntless receiving the award

NOTES

NOTES

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GREAT YARMOUTH






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