

Newsletter Number 30



FUTURE MEETINGS

Tuesday 8 August 7.30pm Christchurch, King Street, NR30 2HL
The Greek Orthodox Community of Saint Spyridon's of Great Yarmouth.
By Miriam Kikis, ex owner with her husband Chris, of the Fish Restaurant.

She will explain the reasons for the arrival of Greek Cypriots in Great Yarmouth, the opening of so many Greek restaurants and the struggles they had to find and establish their own church.

Tuesday 5 September 7.30pm Christchurch, King Street, NR30 2HL
Update on Projects by Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust
By Darren Barker, Managing Director of Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust

He will cover recent projects of the Trust including The Iron Duke, 145 King Street and North West Tower.

This will be followed by the **Annual General Meeting**

Tuesday 10 October 7.30pm Christchurch, King street, NR30 2HL
Somerleyton Estate and ReWilding
By Hugh Crossley, Lord Somerleyton

He will cover recent changes in the Somerleyton Estate and plans for ReWilding on his estate and elsewhere.

November. Date to be confirmed.
Report on Hansa Conference in Poland and the benefits for Great Yarmouth
By Catherine Richards and Carolina Vettes



They will report on the conference they attended in Torun, Poland and it will be followed by a discussion on how Great Yarmouth could benefit from its membership of the new Hanseatic League.

RECENT EVENTS:

Tuesday 6 June 7.30 at Christchurch, King Street.

Great Yarmouth Regeneration: 2023 Update

By Steve Logan from Greyfriars Project Management

This was a roundup of the many projects taking place in Great Yarmouth and overseen by Greyfriars Project Management.

Six Day Covered Market was nearing completion of the third stage. The first stage was delayed by 5 months due to supply problems and having to divert some electric cables. It is hoped the work will be completed by August. Construction Inflation is running at 15% resulting in a £4M shortfall in the various projects being carried out in the town. The Council is able to juggle some of the funding between different projects which means that some will be delayed in starting. Some towns and cities have put all their grants into one large project where it is not possible to move money around and if it is not spent by 2025 it will have to be returned to government.

Landscaping of Market Place. This should start in the autumn. It will produce a multi-use public space for events plus trees and flower beds costing nearly £5M.

Entrance into town from railway station. There will be a bus terminus at the rail station and plans are being drawn up of a grand vision for the area including Vauxhall Bridge, North Quay and the Conge.

Trees for Cities. 250 have been planted and they are being maintained and watered for the next 5 years. Another 250 will be planted this winter.

Midlegate Estate. Green spaces have been developed and play equipment installed at a cost of £880,000. The areas are being well used with great social benefit.

Business Incubator Unit Project at South Denes. This is to attract new businesses and to help people run a business. It has reached the planning stage but further work is on hold for 6-12 months as the £4M cost has been transferred to other projects. Steve was confident that other grants will come forward for this project.

Operations and Maintenance Campus at South Denes. Costing £20M it is due for completion in early to mid 2025. This will facilitate work on renewable energy projects.

Thursday 15 June 11am : Guided Tour of Waterways and Boating Lake

By Ian Guest, Head Gardener.

Having met at the cafe by the Boating Lake nine of us had a very pleasant tour of the Boating Lake and Waterways by Ian Guest who told us about the history of their construction, their decline



in recent decades and their restoration and replanting following funding of £1.7 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund, plus further support from the Borough Council, New Anglia LEP and the Department for Communities and Local Government. We were impressed with the planting schemes, the abundance of wildlife and how well the whole area was maintained.

CIVIC DAY Saturday 17 June

Promoting Civic Pride is one of the aims of the Civic Society and we are very grateful to Terry Mills, Miriam Kikis, Michael Zegerman, Gavin Hetherington, Ann Hacon, Angie Powley, Chris Stanley and Ajay Kumar for manning our stand in the Market Place on Saturday 17 June.

VISIT TO THE OLD PALMERS BUILDING

On 26 June ten member sinister the old Palmers building, the inside of which has been gutted revealing some rather good stained glass. The plan is for the library to use the ground floor and basement. There will be a space for weddings and receptions. The first and second floors will be for the University of Suffolk, East Coast College and the University of East Anglia. It is hoped that one building could be used as a dental training school. It is hoped to complete the work in the next 12 months.

TREES AROUND THE BOROUGH

It has been good to see so many trees planted around the borough along South Quay after we had campaigned for so many years to have the trees replanted.

HANSEATIC LEAGUE

The Hanseatic League was set up in the 13th century to promote and protect trade from north German ports to other parts of Europe including Britain. It was restarted in 1980 with the aim of improving tourism, cultural exchange and business links and has a thriving youth section. It consists of about 200 towns and cities in northern Europe from 17 different countries.

Catherine Richards, Principal of East North Sixth Form College and a member of the Civic Society committee, and Carolina Vettese attended the Hansa Conference in Torun, Poland on 23 to 26 June and will be giving a report on their visit in November.

VICTORIA ARCADE

The Arcade was up for auction again but did not reach its reserve of £650,000. Talking to various people it was felt that with proper management it could have a promising future and it was necessary for the future success of Great Yarmouth. The government has established a Community Ownership Fund giving grants of up to one million pounds and needing 10% match funding. I thought it would be one way of purchasing it and offering £1,000 shares to obtain match funding. Along with Bruce Sturrock, previous owner of Palmers, we approached several other people but in the end we found that we could not guarantee obtaining the grant before the next auction day so reluctantly decided not to pursue the matter further.

LITTER AND OTHER MATTERS

On 22 June I had a meeting with Paul Wells, Chair of the GYBC Environment Committee, and Paul Shucksmith, Waste and Environmental Protection Manager. I pointed out the disappointment at seeing weeds growing throughout the town in spite of the Council setting up its own company to take over from Norse. Apparently this is the responsibility of Norfolk County Council who has subcontracted the business to a company in Leicester who had yet to start work. GYBC had tried to take over the contract and Paul Wells will try again to see if this can be arranged.

The poor state of the Rows was discussed. In spite of receiving a grant to improve them they were very run down and Paul Wells will investigate. I mentioned the poor state of many of the rubbish bins which needed painting and Paul Wells said he would approach probation services and colleges to see if they would like to take on this project.

On leaving the Town Hall I pointed out the poor state of the main doors and iron railings and Paul Wells was going to see if they could be attended to.

Although outside the remit of the Society I said that the flower beds on Gorleston Cliffs had not been attended to this year. This was due to shortage of staff and Paul Shucksmith has since been able to get the Green Gym to do some work on them.

GREAT YARMOUTH AND GORLESTON IN BLOOM

Following the news that GYBC was not renewing its grant to Great Yarmouth and Gorleston in Bloom I contacted the new chair and vice chair of the organisation and I hope we can work together along with other organisations. The presence of well maintained flowerbeds, planters and hanging baskets is so important to the general appearance of a town and we need to work on the great work done by the In Bloom group in the past.

Best wishes,

Hugh Sturzaker
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