

Newsletter Number 31



FUTURE MEETINGS

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.

Tuesday 7 November. 7.30pm Christchurch, King Street, NR30 2HL

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 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.

Miriam explained that a Turkish Cypriot designed the Cypriot flag and in 1974, after invasion by the Turks, 200,000 Greek Cypriots left the country.

In 1935 Mr. Lucas and Mr. Kikis left a small village in the north of Cyprus which had 900 Greeks and 200 Turks. They set up a restaurant in London. During the Second World War Mr. Kikis returned to Cyprus working for the coastguard. Mr. Lucas moved to Great Yarmouth and established 15 restaurants around Norfolk inviting friends and relatives to come to Great Yarmouth. Mr. Lucas and Mr. Kikis were like fathers to these people and gave them accommodation and shares in the Savoy Company. Many then sold the shares to buy their own restaurants.



In 1961 St. Nicholas Church, which had been bombed in 1942, had been rebuilt and the congregation moved back from their temporary home of St. Peter's Church which the Borough Council allowed the Greeks to buy for £1 in 1967. The Greeks furnished it, paid for its priests by raising funds from jumble sales, raffles and donations from local businesses and eventually receiving a national grant for refurbishing the church. The annual Greek Dinner Dance raises a great deal of money for the church. In 1971 for Epiphany an annual procession to the jetty was started when a cross was thrown into the sea and retrieved.

The church has been the centre of the Greek community and provides a school teaching Greek to children and providing much needed social care.

The invasion of Cyprus by the Turks in 1974 resulted in more Greeks coming to Great Yarmouth and in the 1980s there were 140 families spread around Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Norwich. This figure is now about 120.

TUESDAY 5 SEPT

7:30pm at Christchurch, King Street, NR30 2HL

Update on Projects by Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust

By Darren Barker, Managing Director of Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust

Darren Barker said that the aims of the Preservation Trust were to save deteriorating buildings, to teach building skills so helping unemployment and provide uses for the buildings that made them self-sustainable. He spoke about rescuing 133 King Street which now has a flat and artist studios above an art gallery. The old Howkins Jewellery shop now provides accommodation and office space and 33 King Street has been converted into an apartment and houses the Sue Lambert Trust. 60 King Street will have a ground floor cafe and residential accommodation above.

The Trust has maintained the Town Walls for 12 years and the south east tower is successfully let as holiday accommodation. The same will happen for the north west tower.

The Cemeteries Project started in 2012 and refurbishes dilapidated tombs at the same time teaching skills to the unemployed, some of whom are now in full employment. The ruined church in Hopton has been rescued and made safe.

The trust works across Europe and especially in Bulgaria where there is an exchange of students on various projects.

St. John's Church into be restored by trainees and volunteers to provide indoor camping.

145 King Street built in 1891 as church rooms for St. George's is being renovated and part of it will be used by the theatre for rehearsals and storage.

The Iron Duke public house was listed by Caroline Jones in 2017 and was bought by the Borough Council. The plans are to make it water-tight prior to restoring it as a public house serving food.

TREES AROUND THE BOROUGH

Although it has been good to see over 250 trees being planted in the Borough over the last year it was disappointing to see that many of those on South Quay were bending over and the bark was being rubbed off on their metal cages. In addition many of the water bags were empty. Having reported this to the Chief Executive and leader of the council these matters have been rectified.

LITTER AND OTHER MATTERS

Along with Ann Hacon I had a meeting with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council about the poor state of the town having hoped that matters would improve since the Council's new company had taken over from Norse in maintaining cleanliness and refuse collection. The new company employs the old Norse employees and there has been a great deal of sickness with difficulty in recruiting new workers. Norfolk County Council is responsible for many of the areas where the weeds grow and has given the contract to killing them to a firm from Leicester! GYBC is trying to obtain the contract.

The Rows are in a poor state although the lighting has been improved following an audit by the Civic Society. The Borough Council is looking into how they could be improved.

We agreed that it would be helpful to have a grand clean up of the town and hope to arrange this for October in association with the Council.

After my meeting with Paul Wells I pointed out the poor state of the iron railings outside the Town Hall and the poor condition of its doors. I was therefore delighted to see that this is being addressed.

Best wishes,

Hugh Sturzaker