

## Newsletter Number 32



### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

to be held at Christchurch, King Street, NR30 2HL

**Tuesday 9 January, 2024. 7.30pm. Harbour Radio: Its place in Great Yarmouth and the importance of communities.**

Nevv Moore, Founder and Head of Harbour Radio

**Tuesday 6 February, 2024. 7.30pm Great Yarmouth Renaissance.**

Hugh Crossley, Lord Somerleyton

### **RECENT MEETINGS**

**Tuesday 10 October 7.30pm Christchurch, King Street, NR30 2HL**

As the speaker did not turn up for the meeting Hugh Sturzaker led a discussion of what people thought was wrong with Great Yarmouth and how it should be tackled. Among the points discussed were the following.

**A. Poor appearance of the town:** litter, weeds, poorly decorated shop and business fronts, street furniture, uneven pavements and newly planted trees not well looked after.

**Action:** HS had written to Sheila Oxtoby and Carl Smith and had a meeting with them along with Ann Hacon. Previously he had had a meeting with Paul Wells, Chair of the Environment Committee and Paul Shucksmith, Waste and Environmental Protection Manager. By the time of the meeting the trees along South Quay had been attended to and work had started on the Town Hall doors and railings which he had previously pointed out needed attention. Since then many of the watering bags need filling and some trees need supporting again. AH had noted that 4 trees on the seafront near the bowling greens had been broken.

**Further action:** HS to write to Sheila Oxtoby and Carl Smith again.  
Sheila Oxtoby was keen to have examples where workers were slacking in their duties  
Part of the latest grant of £20M should be devoted to improving the appearance of the town

A new company owned by the Council had taken over from the previous company run by Norse and the Council. New vehicles had been purchased but the sickness rate was very high and was being tackled. There were also reports of workers spending excessive times in their vehicles and not clearing rubbish before cutting the grass.

**Action.** Managers needed to be more active in policing the work being done.

**B. Weeds** are in many areas covered by Norfolk County Council who had employed a firm in Leicester to kill them. It appeared that little work had been done.

**Action:** GYBC is trying to obtain the contract at present held by the Leicester Firm.  
Would it be possible for people on probation to be used to tackle some of these problems?

#### **C. Poor state of shop and business fronts.**

**Action:** The Civic Society holds an annual competition to assess these and hopefully this will encourage more businesses to take greater pride in their appearances.  
Owners of properties to be encouraged to apply for grants to improve their frontages.

#### **D. Poorly decorated street furniture.**

**Action:** Paul Shucksmith was going to see if art students from the colleges or people on probation could help with this task.

**E. Terrible and unsafe pavements:** These looked bad and were a safety hazard.

**Action:** Many pavements needed relaying and if they are dug up the firm doing the job should be responsible for returning them to their previous good condition.

**F. Poor appearance of certain areas of the town.** Although many councillors were active in reporting problems on their patch others could do more.

**Action:** members the public can report and photograph problems they see on the GYBC app 'Report it GY'.  
Several members of the Society were willing to walk round a ward with the appropriate councillor noting the local problems.  
A combined Society and GYBC litter picking session. Unfortunately there were not many volunteers for this.  
Invite one or more of Nelson Ward councillors to address the Society.

**G. Parking around St. George's Theatre.** This is a long standing problem with many cars covering the pavement which results in pedestrians having to go into the road to get round the vehicles. This was particularly difficult for wheelchairs. HS had spoken to St. George's and the land belongs to GYBC who have given it to St. George's trustees who have no powers to enforce any action against the vehicle owners.

**Action:** St. George's and GYBC are planning a joint project to put bollards around the areas where cars have parked.  
Is it not possible for the Council and St. George's to come to some agreement to fine people who are illegally parked?

#### **H. Extending the season.**

**Action:** targeting the elderly with good pensions to visit Great Yarmouth and putting on some Festivals during the Winter e.g. Literary and Music Festivals

Updates were given and there was discussion on:

- Market Place
- University Learning Centre
- Railway Station
- Conge and North Quay developments
- Second part of Vauxhall Bridge
- Lack of progress on Bank Plain and Star Hotel
- Greening up the town

**Tuesday 14 November 7.30pm Christchurch, King Street, NR30 2HL**

**By Catherine Richards and Michael Boon.**

Michael Boon said that the Hanseatic League was set up in the Middle Ages by German merchants to protect their ships against pirates and to promote trade among the Baltic States. It continued for several centuries with trade extending from Russia to Portugal and from Finland to the Mediterranean. The Cog was the main ship of the day.

The first convention of the new Hansa was in 1989 and was in the Netherlands. Hansa means crowd. 50 port cities took part and they chose Lubeck as their headquarters. There are now 200 port cities as members in 16 countries. There are now six English members of the Hansa: Beverley in Yorkshire, Hull, Boston, Kings Lynn, Ipswich and Great Yarmouth.

He saw the advantages of membership being better cooperation between the members, promoting each others cultural heritage and commercial opportunities.

Catherine Richards went to the meeting in Turin, Poland for the meeting on 23 to 25 June along with Carolin Vittess. Prior to the meeting students from East Norfolk Sixth Form College had written an article about Great Yarmouth in a booklet published in six languages which was distributed at the conference. The Mayors of many of the towns were present, there were parades through the streets, a concert and Lech Walesa - who led the pro-democratic movement to replace communism in Poland - gave a talk.

She thought that the new Hansa was a great opportunity to increase ties with Europe and it is planned that 20 students will visit Gdansk in June 2024 for work experience and promoting Great Yarmouth.

In the discussion that followed it was agreed that this was a great opportunity for students to broaden their horizons, to mix with students from other countries, to improve their foreign languages and to learn about European history, food and drink.

The Civic Society is very keen to encourage a few adults from Great Yarmouth to attend the next meeting in Gdansk, Poland between 13 and 16 June 2024. The total cost including flight from Norwich, accommodation and food will be in the region of £1500. Anyone interested please contact me.

## **CLEANING UP THE TOWN**

For some time we have been complaining about the weeds and rubbish in the town and we have been asked by the Borough Council to oversee a project to improve the Rows. This would involve overseeing some volunteers to clean up some of the Rows and periodically to have a discussion about how to make the streets safer. We would also need a person to coordinate the whole project. This is a great opportunity to improve the town's appearance so please contact me on [hsturzaker@icloud.com](mailto:hsturzaker@icloud.com) if interested in helping out.

**LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT** Please consider supporting our local theatres and cinemas e.g.

### **Pantomines**

St. George's Theatre, Great Yarmouth: Robin Hood. Friday 15 - Sunday 31 December  
Pavilion Theatre, Gorleston: Dick Whittington. Saturday 9 - Saturday 6 January

### **Adult Pantomines**

St. George's Theatre, Great Yarmouth: Rubbin Good Friday 5 - Monday 8 January 8pm  
Pavilion Theatre, Gorleston: Dirty Dick. Saturday 9 - Saturday 23 December 9.30pm

**Hippodrome Theatre:** Christmas Spectacular. Saturday 9 December - Sunday 7 January

**St. George's Theatre.** 'Season's Greetings' Thursday 11 - Friday 12 January. A very funny farce by Alan Ayckbourn. To get a special discount please click: <https://stgeorgetheatre.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873654130> and use the code 'SherGuest'

**GET BACK THE HIGH STREET**

Civic Voice is the umbrella organisation for Civic Societies and as a member you can book free of charge through Eventbrite for the following report on how to improve the High Street

|                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Community Improvement Districts with Power to Change</b> |
|                                                             |
| <b>Thursday, 18 January 2024 at 11:00</b>                   |
|                                                             |
| <a href="#"><b>Get Tickets</b></a>                          |

I do hope you will have a great Christmas and will support our local theatres and cinemas. Perhaps you would encourage some friends to join the Civic Society and consider helping us to clean up the town.

Hugh Sturzaker  
hsturzaker@icloud.com

