

Newsletter Number 36



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Tuesday 25 June at 7.30pm

Gardline: Gardline, our challenges and our amazing opportunities.

Samantha Massingham, MBA, Chartered MCIPD, CMgr MCMI., Head of Human Resources at Gardline.

Tuesday 9 July at 7.30pm

Future Paget Programme - New Hospital

Mark Flynn FCCA MAAT, Director of Strategic Projects, James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

RECENT MEETING

Thursday 28 March, at 7.30pm. Talk by Sir Brandon Lewis, CBE, MP based on his 14 years as MP for Great Yarmouth and his various government posts.

Sir Brandon said that he had applied to be the conservative candidate for Great Yarmouth as he had been coming here on holidays as a teenager since his father bought the Docwra Rock Shop. His application to be the MP here in 20001 failed but he was successful in 2006 and moved to Hemsby in 2007. He was elected MP in 2010 and had been the longest serving Minister since then and had been in the cabinet for 5 years.

In 2012 he was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and subsequently held positions as Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Policing and Fire Service and eventually for Immigration. In 2018 he was Chair of the Conservative Party and in 2019 was appointed Secretary of State for Northern Ireland resigning in July 2022. In September he was appointed Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor and oversaw the accession of King Charles. He resigned on 25 October 2022.

He gave an insight into how ministerial appointments were made and how, as a Cabinet Minister, he had the ear of colleagues in putting forward Great Yarmouth's case for new projects and grants.

Tuesday, 21 May. at 7.30pm.

Crimestoppers by Jim Carter.

Jim Carter, a member of the Civic Society and previous manager of Woolworth in the town, gave his account of Crimestoppers which originated in the United Kingdom in Great Yarmouth. It resulted from a trip to America by detective inspector Michael Cole. In Peoria, Illinois he noted a

police sergeant taking information anonymously from the public about crimes and where this led to an arrest the member of the public was given some money for the information. The scheme was based on one started in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1976 which solved the murder of a young man. On his return to this country Inspector Cole prepared a report about the scheme which was approved by Norfolk police.

A meeting was convened with local businessmen and Peter Ware, Editor of the Mercury. Money was raised and then local businesses donated £10 monthly for the scheme which was officially started on 24 June 1983. Many anonymous calls came in about crimes which were then investigated by the police and, if found to be true, Jim Carter and others met the informer who had been given a password to hand over the monetary award.

The scheme was a resounding success and was taken up by many police forces around the country. In 1988 it became a national scheme which continues to this day. Speaking in Parliament in 2008 on the 25th Anniversary of the scheme being started, Tony Wright, MP said that since the scheme went national 84,000 arrests and charges had been made, nearly 1 million actionable calls had been received and, as a result, more than £100 million worth of goods had been recovered and more than £145 million worth of drugs been seized. This works out at 17 arrests every day and one person being charged with murder every five days.

In 2013 a blue plaque was unveiled on the old Mercury offices in Regent Street recording the ground breaking work done by Peter Ware, the Mercury editor, and Michael Cole and Jim Carter.

John Hemsworth was in the audience and he had served as East Anglia Director for Crimestoppers for five years. He mentioned the great work of Jim Wilson, head of programming at Anglia Television, who was later chairman of Norfolk Police Authority and of Anglia Crimestoppers.

Crimestoppers has been a great success internationally and we should be very grateful for the initiative shown by Michael Cole, Jim Carter and Peter Ware in setting it up in Great Yarmouth.

GREAT YARMOUTH IS INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF OUR BOROUGH.

We want to find out what matters to people that live, work, study, create, visit or do business in the borough.
Be part of designing the Great Yarmouth of the future by sharing your views.

Come along and have your say at a public event:

Thursday 13th June 2-5pm / Cobholm Community Centre
 St Luke's Terrace, Cobholm Rd, Great Yarmouth NR31 0AP

Wednesday 19th June 1-4pm / 6 Day Market
 70 Market Pl, Great Yarmouth NR30 1LX

Friday 21st June 10-1pm / Marina Leisure Centre
 Marine Parade, Great Yarmouth NR30 2ER

Tuesday 25th June 10:30-1:30pm / Shrublands Youth and Adult Centre, Gorleston
 Magdalen Way, Gorleston Norfolk, NR31 7BP

You can tell us what you think by completing our digital survey.



 **GREAT YARMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Find out more at www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk
enquiries@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT GREAT YARMOUTH

The borough has been awarded a grant of £20M to be spent over the next 10 years and in the next few months we are seeking opinions as to how best this money could be spent. No doubt you will have many ideas and here are details of how you can express your views, either by filling in a questionnaire or by attending a meeting. Here are details.

WEEDS AND RUBBISH

Last year the town had never looked so bad with weeds growing everywhere and some of the litter bins overflowing. Apparently Norfolk County Council has awarded a contract to a firm to kill the weeds yet they will not be starting work for several weeks. The town would look so much better if shops, businesses and home owners would deal with weeds around their properties and in the adjacent gutter. If we are going to attract visitors and feel better about our town we need to put in some effort.

AWARDS FOR SHOPS, BUSINESSES AND MARKET STALLS

A small group of people has been assessing shops, businesses and market stalls in the town. A short list of finalists has been drawn up and in the next few weeks all these premises will be marked by all the judges. Each of the finalists have been given a sticker to put in their window showing that they are a finalist. The awards will be given at a ceremony in the Town Hall on Thursday 11 July in the Town Hall. If you would like to attend do come along from 5.30pm and RSVP Bruce Sturrock at bgsturrock@gmail.com. The awards ceremony will start at 6pm.

CIVIC DAY

Saturday 15 June is national civic day and we had planned to have a gazebo in the Market Place giving details about the Civic Society and what we have done and plan to do. Unfortunately the weather forecast said that Saturday was going to be very wet and as a result we made the decision not to go ahead with the gazebo in the Market Place.

GREAT YARMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL IS LGC COUNCIL OF THE YEAR

On Wednesday 12 June the Borough Council was named the best in the country by the Local Council Chronicle. This is an amazing achievement and so well deserved. It beat Dorset Council, Gravesham Borough Council, Knowsley Council and Oxford City Council who were the other finalists.

The judges said "Through foresight and vision for its place and people this council has delivered tangible regeneration and impressive economic development whilst also leaning into every area that could improve lives for its population, even if not its direct responsibility.

"The judges were unanimous in their view that the kindness, energy and commitment on show from staff, members and partners is infectious and a beacon for the sector. This council is a perfectly timed example of how a small local authority with a relatively modest budget can punch well above its weight through leveraging significant financial investment but also partnership capital."

NEW TREASURER and MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We are delighted and most grateful to Susan Page who has agreed to take on the post of treasurer from Michael Muskett as well as the position of membership secretary from Peter Bondi. Michael has been treasurer since we started and Peter very kindly took over the post of membership secretary from John Burroughs. We are very grateful to Michael and Peter for their conscientious work.

Hugh Sturzaker
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