

Newsletter Number 37



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER at 7.30pm

DEVELOPMENTS AND PLANS FOR THE TOWN

By Carl Smith, Leader of the Council.

This will be followed by the **AGM**. Anyone wishing to stand for the committee please let me know.

TUESDAY, 15 OCTOBER at 7.30pm

REVISITING EMPLOYMENT

By Sarah Flindall, General Practitioner.

Her talk will cover how it is possible to improve children's education and the chances of obtaining jobs.

RECENT MEETINGS

Tuesday 25 June at 7.30pm

Gardline, our challenges and our amazing opportunities.

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

Sam Massingham reminded us that at the world's population was increasing which meant that more energy was needed but because of climate change this should come from renewable sources rather than from fossil fuels and wind farms would play an important part in this. Gardline was found by George Darling in 1969 and a year later bought three survey vessels. The firm was bought out by Boskalis - a Dutch firm - in 2017 which apart from dealing with offshore energy is involved with dredging and salvage.

Gardline now has over 500 employees and a fleet of eleven survey vessels which work in many parts of the world surveying sea-beds for clients prior to them building wind farms. Although Gardline's headquarters remain in Great Yarmouth its vessels tend to be serviced in Hull as the fees there are much cheaper although both Hull and Great Yarmouth ports are owned by Peel Ports. Consequently, Great Yarmouth is missing out on all the servicing contracts for these vessels and the supply of materials required by them. In addition local people do not see these vessels here so are less aware of Gardline's activities.

Gardline offers work experience, internships, trainee positions and apprenticeships yet have difficulty in obtaining local people to take up these posts which is very disappointing. Sam found the response from schools to take up work experience had been poor. A recent email to 50 schools and colleges offering work experience had produced only one reply.

Gardline is planning to have an open day when it opens its new offices and it was suggested that fairs put on by offshore businesses would help to publicise jobs in this sector.

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

All four of the hospitals in East Anglia built in the late 1970's and early 1980's were built with Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete which deteriorates with time and we have seen pictures of the thousands of props holding up the roofs at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kings Lynn. The government promised to rebuild these hospitals and James Paget University Hospital has purchased land from the Borough Council at the back of the present site to allow for the development.

The population is growing as are the needs of an ageing population. In the meantime to the north of the present hospital a concept ward has been built and a Diagnostic Assessment Centre should be opening in July with a further Diagnostic Centre at Northgate Hospital. An Elective Centre, mainly for orthopaedic surgery, will be opening in October or November.

The present hospital covers 60,336 square metres and it is planned that the new building will cover 118,000 square metres as the present 5-6 bed bays will be replaced by 100% single rooms which should reduce the incidence of infection although it makes it more difficult to nurse. It is planned to improve operational patient flow and staff well-being in the hope of retaining staff.

It is hoped to have automatic guided vehicles on site and to get to energy net zero by 2050 if not by 2030. Construction is expected to start in late 2026 with the hospital opening in December 2030. Work has started building a new carpark which will increase spaces from 1,800 to 2,200.

The hospital will be up to six stories high with solar panels providing 6-8% of its energy and ground source heating may be used.

Comment by Hugh Sturzaker. Since this talk the new government has put a hold on all new hospital building and for the situation to be reviewed. This is a terrible retrograde step. We have seen the poor state of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. All these hospitals were built with cheap materials and the cheapest single glazed windows which made them very energy inefficient. This cannot be allowed to happen again and it is a false economy to delay the rebuilding of these hospitals.

WEEDS AND RUBBISH

Each Tuesday morning a small group of volunteers meet outside St. George's Theatre and commence cleaning many of the Rows and some of the Alleys in the southern part of the town. Early on we sprayed the weeds in these locations and along King Street, Deneside and around St. George's Theatre and have needed to respray as new weeds grow. We are encouraging the owners of properties to look after the areas in front of their premises and we are beginning to see results. Anyone wishing to join us please let me



know at hsturzaker@icloud.com as sometimes we start at a different site. We normally finish soon after 11.30am with a coffee or tea and a discussion.

AWARDS FOR SHOPS, BUSINESSES AND MARKET STALLS

These were presented by the Mayor in the Town Hall on Thursday 11 July. The results were as follows:

Sector winners:

Retail for National Chains - Warren James

Independent Retail - Reef Gems

Food and Drink National Chains - The Troll Cart

Food and Drink Independent - Market Row Kitchen;

Services – Specsavers

Personal services – Stattoos

Market Stalls - Jacks Flower Stall

Overall Winner - Warren James

Special Award - Great Yarmouth Borough Council for the Covered Market.



Prize winners with the Mayor in the Town Hall

COMMUNITY PAYBACK

On 1st August I met with the head of Norfolk and Suffolk Restorative Justice Hub to see if we could provide opportunities for people who have committed minor crimes. I made some suggestions and mentioned some other organisations which might be able to help and with one exception all are supportive of the idea.

YOUNG COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

To encourage young people to take an interest in their community we have set up a competition for schoolchildren. The competition is open to all secondary schools in Great Yarmouth Borough and invites them to submit one or two projects that they are doing to help the local community. The project will be presented by up to six pupils and will be held in the Town Hall between 1 pm and 3 pm on Tuesday 15 October. Each team will receive a certificate and the winning team and runner up will receive a trophy. If you would like to attend please let me know.

HISTORY FAIR

This takes place on Saturday 14 September in the Minster as part of the Great Yarmouth Arts Festival. We have a stall there and you might find it interesting seeing what other societies promoting Great Yarmouth and its heritage are doing. Art in the Minster is also on until Saturday, 21 September.

Hugh Sturzaker
hsturzaker@icloud.com
