

Newsletter Number 48



FUTURE MEETINGS

Tuesday 30 September 2025. The Place (The old Palmers) in the Market Place. 2.30pm
Judi Norman, CEO of St. Elizabeth Hospice.

“St Elizabeth Hospice: improving palliative and end of life care in Great Yarmouth today and looking to the future.” The talk will give details of the hospice which is to be built here.

The AGM will follow this meeting. Please let us know if you have any proposals, or if you would like to be considered to be a committee member of the Society.

Tuesday 14 October in the Priory (behind the old Vicarage next to the Minster, NR30 1NW.)
7.30pm

Rob Haslam, Architect and owner of Old Vicarage and Priory.

“Curing Energy Poverty Together”

RECENT MEETINGS

YOUNG COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS COMPETITION

Wednesday 21 May at 1.30pm in the Town Hall’s Assembly Room.



This was open to all Borough secondary schools and colleges and there were five finalists who presented their projects. The winners were a group from East Coast College who have been developing a sensory garden in Caister. (See photo) The Mayor presented them with a trophy and mounted certificates to all the participants. Four other presentations came from East Norfolk Sixth Form College and Great Yarmouth Charter Academy.

We are most grateful to the Borough Council for allowing us to use the Assembly Room and to Cultural Connections, Volunteering for sponsoring the competition. We hope to run the competition on an annual basis.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO SHOPS, BUSINESSES AND MARKET STALLS

Thursday 17 July at 5.30pm for 6pm. Assembly Room of Town Hall.

This was a very well attended meeting with the trophy and certificates handed out by the Mayor. Also in attendance were Henry Cator, the High Steward; Sheila Oxtoby, CEO of the Borough; Carl Smith, Leader of the Council and Trevor Wainwright, leader of the Labour Group.

The winners were as follows:

Charity shops – House of Hamilton, Theatre Plain

Retail (National Chains) – Warren James Jewellers, Market Gates

Retail (Independent) – Sew Knitty, Victoria Arcade

Food, Drink & Leisure (National) – KFC, Regent Road

F. D & L. (Independent) – Octopus Bar & Restaurant, King Street

Services – Larkes Estate Agents, Hall Quay

Personal Services – Morfoso Turkish Barbers, King Street

Covered Market Stalls – Soaps & Scents for All, Covered Market

The Overall Winner was **SEW KNITTY of Victoria Arcade**



Special Awards were given to:

- **Sainsbury's** for the support it has given to the Town Centre Partnership and the Civic Society over the years
- **Lisa Smart at River Island** whose store is closing after over 25 years in the town.
- **The Place** which has been transformed from Palmer Department Store to the Library and University Learning Centre. It also houses the Births, Marriages and Death Centre and the Citizen Advice Bureau.



The Mayor presenting the special award for The Place to Council leaders and the chief librarian with Bruce Sturrock, previous owner of Palmers, at the microphone.

Let us hope that these awards will encourage other shops and businesses to improve their appearances and encourage more people into the Town Centre.

Tuesday 29 July at 2pm in the Town Hall Council Chamber
Carl Smith, Leader of the Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Devolution

The government has proposed that there will be an election of a mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk taking place in May 2026 to be responsible for transport and other matters. In addition there will be local government reorganisation which will affect the 960,00 people living in Norfolk. Norfolk County Council would like to have just one unitary authority. South Norfolk would like two and the six other authorities would like to have three authorities based in Kings Lynn, Norwich and Great Yarmouth. They suggest that Great Yarmouth should team up with North Norfolk, Broadland and part of South Norfolk. Rupert Lowe, MP supports the idea. This scheme aligns with the three hospitals we have in Norfolk and the police arrangements. The final decision will be taken by Angela Rayner and the Chancellor.

Great Yarmouth Council Tax was £21M in 2010 and is now £14M yearly. The bulk goes on social care, highways and £78M annually goes on taxis taking children to schools.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council employs 400 staff and the figure for Norfolk is 8,000. It has 800 properties and owns 5,000 homes which are let to people.

Carl felt that three authorities would be more efficient than eight and would maintain a sense of place, identity and heritage. Great Yarmouth shares an interest in seaside tourism with North Norfolk.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Litter Picking. Each Tuesday morning a small group of us meet on St. George's Plaza ready to start litter picking and spraying weeds from 10am unless rain is forecast. We normally finish

around 11.30am and retire for coffee and a discussion. If you would like to join us all equipment is provided

Greening up. We are keen to introduce plants into the town in planters, window boxes and hanging baskets and have had discussions with the Council who are considering giving us a grant to be used by the end of March 2026. We are drawing up plans for sites and getting shops and businesses on board. Ultimately we would like to have a greenhouse and or polytunnel near the town centre where we can propagate the plants which will be cheaper than buying them and would be educational for children. It would also be therapeutic for older people who might like to help out.

Interesting, non listed buildings. There are many listed buildings in the town and along with Franziska Callaghan, Chief Conservation Officer, we are making lists of interesting buildings and places and those which have a connection with a famous person or event. We would like to complete this work in the next few months and if you are interested please get in touch.

Town Wall. On Thursday 28 August Ann Hacon, Angie Powley and Hugh Sturzaker of the Civic Society met with Tracey Read, Council Officer overseeing the Town Wall Project and Vicky Skoyles of Cultural Connections Volunteering to discuss plans for the Town Wall. The following was decided:

- **Weeds and plants on the town wall and surrounding pathways** to be sprayed with weedkiller periodically
- **Trees close to the wall** to be removed
- **Shrubs near the wall** to be reduced in height
- **Stone and bricks near the old Potteries** are being removed from the wall. Report this to Great Yarmouth Preservation Trust
- **11 notices to be placed at sites around the wall** giving details of its history with some photographs and a QR code giving further information
- **Place plaques** on the fisher woman statue and the fish basket
- **Markers to be placed in the roads** showing where the wall used to be
- **Encourage local people and organisations to take an interest in their section of the wall**
- **Arrange trips around the wall** for school children
- **Consider arranging a competition for children** to present a topic about the wall
- **Arrange for filming the length of the wall by a drone**
- **Arrange a grand celebration of the wall** in the spring.

Ideas for future meetings. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for future meetings or visits.

We could do with some help.

- Greening up the town
- Compiling a list of interesting buildings or places
- Helping to man our stall in the Minster at the History Fair on Saturday 13 September between 10am and 3pm for a couple of hours. It give you the opportunity to see the other stalls as well.

Please let me know if you are able to help with any of these functions.

Best wishes,

Hugh Sturzaker

hsturzaker@icloud.com