

Newsletter Number 18



The gradual relaxation of Covid restrictions has enabled us to hold two actual meetings in September and October although some people are still anxious about mixing with others.

RECENT TALKS

Wednesday 22 September at Christchurch.

Talk by Carl Smith, Leader of Great Yarmouth Borough Council

Carl Smith gave an upbeat talk about developments in the town over the last two years but preceded his presentation by stating that prior to the Covid Pandemic there were 18 rough sleepers in the town which went up to 84 with the Pandemic. The Council provided all of them with accommodation although there were a few who did not take up the offer.

The Waterways redevelopment started in 2018 with £1.77M from the Heritage Lottery Fund along with funding from the Borough Council and other sources. They have proved to be a great success and between 21 October and 3 November Fire on the Water will be held there with up to six people being able to attend for £6.

In February the operators of a **Big Wheel** offered the Council a Big Wheel until November. It has proved to be very popular and the Council has received some money from it.

The Covered Market should open in March 2022 and there is a waiting list of 15 stallholders to take up places in it. A total of £6.2M is being invested into the Market Place and the associated Rows. The Council has plans to turn first and second floors above 20 properties in the Market Place into flats and apartments.

The Marina development is being topped out on 23 September and will open in July 2022 on budget.

The Third River Crossing is costing £120M and will open in January 2023.

The Operations and Maintenance Unit near the outer harbour will help inward investment and will open in January 2023 and there is hope to further expand the harbour.

The purchase of the old Palmers building is nearly complete. It will house the Library and become a **University Learning Centre** with support from the University of East Anglia and the University of Suffolk.

The future of the **Winter Gardens** is assured with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund of £9.9M and will create 90 jobs.

There are plans to create **new housing** on the Conge and North Quay

He was hopeful that the Borough will be shortlisted along with East Suffolk Council to be **City of Culture 2025**.

He was full of praise for the great team of officers working at the Council and the support given by councillors of all parties. The Borough had received £220M in investments in the last 18 months and £2M of free advertising in the last year.

Following the talk there were many questions which included:

- lack of toilets at the bus station,
- inadequate signage in the town,
- poor approaches to the town, particularly the A47 from Gorleston and from the Vauxhall roundabout
- need to dual the Acle Straight,
- lack of recognition of some artist groups,
- need to support bands on the Gorleston bandstand,
- poor state of shops in the north end of King Street,
- need to improve Marine Crescent near the Waterways,
- future of the Iron Duke
- disgraceful state of Market Row

Annual General Meeting of the Civic Society

This followed on from Carl Smith's talk and here are the notes of the meeting:

**Civic Society of Great Yarmouth
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 22 September, 2021 at 7.30pm
Christchurch, King Street, NR30 2 HL**

Forty nine people were present

1. **Apologies for absence:** Henry Cator, Lady Agnew, Jean and Michael Goffin, Carol Manthorpe, Mike and June Fuller, Rachel Moore, Ajay Kumar, Jane Freeman.
2. **Minutes of AGM 13.11.20.** Accepted as correct.
3. **Report of 2020-2021.** Accepted. Hugh Sturzaker thanked Dave Weston of TMS for designing it and Rodney Scott and family for giving £200 towards the cost of its production.
4. **Financial Report ending June 30 2020.** Michael Muskett presented his financial report which had previously been circulated and he and his wife were thanked for the work involved. Acceptance of the finances were proposed by Catherine Richards and seconded by Andrew Fakes and were passed nem con.
5. **Regeneration of Great Yarmouth Report.** Hugh Sturzaker thanked his committee and some other individuals, particularly Gillian Harwood, who had contributed to the report. He also thanked Paul Patterson for designing it. He gave a short resume of the main headings of the report and hoped that it would be studied by the Borough Council and other organisations and be used as a basis for taking forward many of its suggestions. Its adoption was proposed by Hugh Wiltshire and seconded by Andrew Fakes and agreed by the meeting.
6. **Reappointment of our President, Henry Cator.** Proposed by the chair and seconded by Catherine Richards. Passed unanimously.

7. **Re-Appointment of our committee.** Passed with no objections
8. **Election of new members for the committee.** No new members were proposed but the Society is keen to inject some new blood into itself. Anyone interested should contact hsturzaker@icloud.com.
9. **Plans for coming year.** It was agreed that the Society should run a competition for awards for shops, businesses and market stalls next spring. Volunteers to help with this would be welcomed. The committee would consider awarding prizes for private homes in the town.

The Society is keen to obtain more volunteers for the following:

Secretary for the Society to take minutes of its meetings. Contact hsturzaker@icloud.com

Litter picking. This starts down the Row alongside Skipplings Art Gallery in King Street each Friday at 10.30am. Equipment will be provided.

Greening up. Help with planting and maintaining the flower beds. Volunteers to contact annhacon@icloud.com

Mediaeval Fayre to be held at the end of May. (This has now been moved to 3 and 4 September. If interested contact hsturzaker@icloud.com)

Assessing Planning applications. Contact hsturzaker@icloud.com

10. **Any other business?** Two concerts are being held at the Minster in October and if we are going to be successful in our application to be City of Culture in 2025 then we need to be getting good attendances at such events.

Friday 1 October. Chorus of St. Cecelia at 7.30 pm

Thursday 14 October. London Mozart Players at 7 pm

Tuesday 12 October at Christchurch

Filby in Bloom: Secrets of our success. Adrian Thompson, Mayor of Great Yarmouth and Chair of Filby in Bloom, gave a fascinating talk about the history of Filby in Bloom and some of the secrets of its success which has resulted in prizes both regionally and nationally. It has also brought amazing benefits to all the residents of this Norfolk village.

Mr. Thompson became a parish councillor at the age of 19, an independent borough councillor in 2019 with an overwhelming majority and has recently been appointed Mayor. At the age of 21 he started Filby in Bloom but their first entry for Anglia in Bloom in 1995 was unsuccessful. Two years later they were voted the best kept village in East Anglia and since then have won the national title twice and been East Anglian champions six times. The judges give points for horticulture (40%), Environment (30%) and Community (30%)

Each Saturday a group of up to 12 volunteers meets to do some work and then make some decisions over a cup of coffee. Each year they grow 23,000 bedding plants from plugs and use 5 tons of compost. The plants are watered daily with 1000 gallons of water containing tomato feed. There are 160 flower baskets and the workers cut the grass verges and clean and paint the street furniture. They buy 10,000 bulbs annually and share these with four neighbouring villages.

Filby in Bloom costs £9000 annually and money is raised by selling plants, waste paper, quizzes and accepting donations and grants. Over the years they have re-established 17 allotments, planted an orchard from which the villagers can collect the fruit and have recently planted a woodland on an acre of land they have purchased. He stressed the importance of planting trees to improve the environment and reduce global warming.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Tuesday 14 December

“Culture, Heritage and Tourism Strategy”. Paula Boyce, Strategic Director of the Borough's Executive Leadership Team

Tuesday 18 January, 2022

“Ambassador Programme and Community Champions for Great Yarmouth”

Jade Martin, Ambassadors Programme Lead;

James Dudley, Community Champion Programme Co-Ordinator

Wednesday 9 February, 2022

“Preparations for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee”. **Bruno Peek, LVO, OBE, OPR**,
Pageantmaster.

Tuesday 5 April, 2022

“A future for our great historic buildings. Kit Martin, CBE, British Architectural designer and country house property developer who converted the old St. Nicholas hospital site into housing.

Several other meetings are in the planning stage.

FUTURE EVENTS

Paint the Town. The Civic Society has been asked to oversee this event along with the Borough Council. It will involve music, dance, street circus, exhibitions and displays in shop windows etc. It will be held from Wednesday 23 to Sunday 27 March 2022.

Mediaeval Fayre. Suggested by the Civic Society it will be run in association with the Borough Council and will take place on 3 and 4 September 2022. Anyone interested in helping organise this please get in touch with me.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

Can you spare some time to help with the following projects?

- **Awards for shops, businesses and market stalls.** Involves judging the fronts of these properties on 2-3 days lasting 2-3 hours each plus a few committee meetings
- **Awards for private homes in the town.** Similar work as awards for shops etc.
- **Gardening and maintaining some some planters.** Anyone interested contact annhacon@icloud.com
- **Litter picking.** Friday mornings at 10.30am for one and a half hours. Meet at the back of Skippings on Kings Street. Equipment provided.
- **Planning applications.** Assessing planning applications submitted to Council and advising your committee whether we support the applications.
- **Christmas Tree Festival in Minster.** Is there anyone who would like to make a Christmas Tree for the Society to be entered into the Festival at the Minster? Ideally this would not be decoration of a Christmas Tree but an object of art in the form of a tree indicating the work done by the Civic Society

I do hope you will be able to attend some of our function and will have a good Christmas. How about starting it off with a visit to St. George’s? Details are below.

Best wishes,

Hugh Sturzaker

St. George's Theatre is putting on a **Christmas Special** on Tuesday 21 December at 2 and 7pm. Tickets are £15 but for a block booking we can get them for £12 each. It would be nice to meet up socially and good for St. George's to have a large audience. Do consider coming with some friends or your family.

If you would like to come please drop me an email at hsturzaker@icloud.com enclosing the information below.

I (please print name) would like.....tickets at £12 each for the Christmas Special at St. George's on Tuesday 21 December.
I would like to attend the 2pm performance: Yes/No
I would like to attend the 7pm performance. Yes/No

Please pay to Civic Society by BACS: Sort code 30 99 97. Account 31018468 and make sure your name is mentioned.

Alternatively you can send a cheque to me at East Shores, Marine Parade, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth NR31 6EY.

Tickets will NOT be issued but there will be list of people who have paid at the theatre.



