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ISSUE 73 | JUNE 2023



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Leader Of The 'Pacs!

Tom Boggan talks all things alpacas





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CONTENTS

News

3

Charity Film Show at the Regal	3
Food & Drink Festival Back For 2023	4
Ashleigh School 50th Anniversary Fete	4
Music For A Summer Evening	4
Special Gala Day for the 389th Bomb Group	6
Jazz Picnic Back on Saturday 8th July	8
Town Council Watch: Funfair Special	9

Features

10

What's In a Photo? Les King's Farewell	10
Q&A: Tom Boggan, Wymondham Alpacas	12
Ted Talks... Making Ends Meet	14
The Value of Valuing: Ewemove	15
Can You Use ChatGPT To Write Your Own Will?	16

Community Groups

17

Abbey Meadows	17
Star Throwers Update	17
Come and Celebrate! Symphony Orchestra	19
Greening Wymondham Has So Much To Tell You!	21
Tearoom At The Bridewell	21

Opinion

22

The Lowe Down: Exams	22
Jamie's Transport Matters: Beryl Bikes	22

What's On?

23



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From the editors...

Welcome to the June edition of your award-winning Wymondham Magazine!

Summer's always the best time of year to be in town, with so many different events on, as you'll see from the contents of this month's issue. There's certainly a lot to look forward to.

As always, we thank all the advertisers who've funded the printing of our community magazine. If you've ever wondered how you can support Wymondham Magazine, it's by using the businesses you see on these pages.

If you enjoy staying up to date with what's going on in town, it's definitely worth receiving our free monthly E-Edition to your email inbox. Go to wymondhammagazine.co.uk/subscribe

We hope you enjoy the issue!

Kim and Jimmy

CHARITY FILM SHOW AT THE REGAL

By Philip Yaxley

A special charity film show in aid of the US 389th Bomb Group Memorial Museum at Hethel will be held in the Regal Lounge at the Wymondham and District Ex-Services Social Club on Sunday 25th June (2.30pm). All are welcome.

The main film will be Memphis Belle (1990), a true story about a B-17 Flying Fortress of that name on its 25th and final mission over Germany in World War Two before returning to the States. The movie, whose stars include Matthew Modine, Eric Stoltz and Harry Connick Junior, won rave reviews on its release with Regal Cinema proprietor Les King screening it to packed houses on more than one occasion. Produced by David Puttnam, who kindly wrote the foreword to The Wymondham Regal Story, the movie keeps the viewer hooked and Harry Connick Junior's rendition of Danny Boy is somewhat emotional. The Sally B, a B-17 Flying Fortress which regularly appears at Old Buckenham Air Show and elsewhere, took the part of the Memphis Belle in the film.

Among supporting shorts will be "Hollywood comes to Norfolk with the US 8th Army Air Force in World War Two", featuring film stars who visited the county at the time. Admission is £5 with OAPs £4, payable at the door in cash. Any enquiries to 01953 603517 or 01953 603549.

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FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL BACK FOR 2023

By Sara White

From the nutritional and healthy, to the indulgent naughty but nice, Wymondham comes alive once again with a larger, 2nd Annual Food & Drink Festival on Sunday 25th June.

Following the success of the first festival in June 2022, which saw thousands of people flock to the town, the Wymondham Rotary Satellite Group is coming back with a second, larger charity food and drink festival, with 60+ of the very best of street food and artisan produce - designed to celebrate the fabulously diverse range of Norfolk & East Anglian produce, with a street food experience not to be missed.

Visitors will be able to taste the many gastronomic delights on offer cooked and supplied by local and regional suppliers, whilst being able to munch your way around the town, starting at Fairland Street, through the Market Place, and down along Market Street. This year we have experienced a far greater demand and to offer a great choice, we have extended the capacity of the number of stalls.

Entertainment will also be back on the menu and available throughout the day. There will be time for the family to enjoy hearing from a Town Crier, watching a live cooking demonstration, whilst regular showings of a traditional Punch and

Judy show will be sure to amuse. For music lovers, there will be the One Voice Glee Club - Rock Choir, plus much more. Keep updated on our social media channels.

On Queen Street we will highlight the best of local crafters wares at the Wymondham Makers Market. There will also be several retailers open during the day, which boosts the support for local, independent traders and businesses.

We are delighted to announce our main 2023 sponsor, Rosedale Funeral Home. Simon Beckett - Allen, Director of Rosedale Funeral Home and Author of Cooking for One, said: "Rosedale are proud to sponsor and delighted to be part of The Wymondham Food and Drink Festival again this year. I'm looking forward to seeing the town full of people enthusiastic about cooking and enjoying good food".

In addition to our main sponsor, we also have support from two Wymondham-based businesses: Priors Insurance Brokers and Fosters Solicitors. We would also like to thank Wymondham Town Team for their support and expertise.



ASHLEIGH SCHOOL 50TH ANNIVERSARY FETE

By Amanda Clarke

Come and celebrate at Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery on Saturday 24th June from 11am to 3pm at our Retro Summer Fete!

There will be games, a luxury raffle, tombolas, a BBQ and a fancy dress competition celebrating the 1970s to the 2020s (open to everyone - so dig out those flares and shell suits!) - as well as performances from the children, maypole dancing and much more!

There will be the opportunity to see how the school has changed and developed with guided tours available at 11:30am and 12:45pm.

Did you attend Ashleigh School? Did you work at Ashleigh School? Could you share your anecdotes, memories and photos with us to celebrate our 50th anniversary? Please email office@ashleigh.norfolk.sch.uk or send to Ashleigh Primary School and Nursery, Sheffield Road, Wymondham, NR18 0HL.



MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING

By Gill Webster

The Rotary Club of Norwich St. Edmunds invites you to join them at Wymondham Abbey on Saturday June 17th for a Charity Concert by the Norwich City Concert Band. There will be music for all ages from this notable Band, enhanced by the environs of Wymondham Abbey. Tickets cost £18pp and will include a glass of wine or soft drink and canapés. All money raised will go to the Sue Lambert Trust (a local charity helping those who have been sexually abused) and Community Food Assistance Programmes in the Wymondham area. So come along at 7pm and enjoy music on a summer's evening. Tickets can be obtained via email sarahbannon@btinternet.com, phone 07818 038 898 / 01953 609199, or in Reeves Stationers or Wymondham Abbey shop.

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▲ One of the well presented Nissen huts at the 389th Bomb Group Memorial Museum



▲ The 389th Bomb Group's assembly ship, named The Green Dragon after the Wymondham pub



▲ Enjoying themselves at a Gala Day in 2015

Two American veterans, who were stationed at Hethel, outside The Green Dragon in 2001 ▼

SPECIAL GALA DAY FOR THE 389TH BOMB GROUP

By Philip Yaxley

The 389th Bomb Group Memorial Museum at Hethel holds its annual Gala Day on Sunday 11 June (10am-4pm) – and this year it is a special one. It will be 80 years since the Group, known as the Sky Scorpions and part of the United States 8th Army Air Force, arrived at Hethel airfield in what was called The Friendly Invasion, which brought thousands of young American airmen to the many airfields in East Anglia during World War Two. The 389th flew 307 missions from Hethel and overall it lost 116 planes and 588 men in action, mostly flying in their B24 Liberators against targets in Occupied Europe and Germany.

During their time at Hethel the

men explored Wymondham and the surrounding area, making many friends with locals. They patronised the local pubs and particularly the historic Green Dragon, so much so that the logo of the 389th became the Green Dragon in place of the Sky Scorpions and they even had an assembly ship, which was used to aid formations at the start of missions, called The Green Dragon. They would visit the Regal Cinema, while local girls were invited to dances on the base and many Americans enjoyed the hospitality of local's homes. One Christmas I recall our house was full of Americans, perhaps because my grown-up sisters were much older than me. A popular song of the day,

invariably thumped out during a singsong round our piano, had a verse which was changed to "Now the next is number eight all the Yanks are simply great" with a risqué chorus of "Roll me over in the clover..." The Yanks were most generous, particularly when it came to children with the likes of American comics, biscuits, candy and, of course, chewing gum, while many kids enjoyed Christmas parties on the base.

The Gala Day affords the opportunity to visit the museum, housed in Nissen huts and the original base chapel, and through the displays of photographs, uniforms, weapons, personal possessions and other artefacts to learn about the 389th Bomb Group and its personnel. Many of the displays have been revamped by willing volunteers and newly acquired memorabilia and artefacts added. One recent addition is a collection of over 170 model aircraft, which was

bequeathed to the museum. There will be a variety of stalls, including ones for the Norwich Aviation Museum, the Royal British Legion, the R.A.F Association, the Desert Rats and tombola, while among others are one featuring 1940s wedding dresses and another World War Two petrol cans! There will be music from the 1940s and the Norwich Pipe Band will entertain. Refreshments will be available from the café with its lovely home-made cakes, as well as a burger van.

With an American guard of honour from R.A.F. Lakenheath, there will be a short service at 12 noon. The entrance fee is £5 per car (cash only). Any enquiries please to Fred Squires on 01953 798774.



▲ Local girls pose in the 389th Bomb Group camp store with the men who ran it

Ground crew waiting for planes to return from a mission – "sweating it out." ▶



At Christmas 1943 American service personnel hand out goodies to local children as they file past the front of Alf Harvey's fish and chip shop in Damgate ▼



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JAZZ PICNIC BACK ON SATURDAY 8TH JULY

By Philip Richardson

Your favourite traditional Jazz Band DixieMix is returning to Becketswell Meadow, Wymondham on 8th July between 6pm and 9pm. The Rotary Club of Wymondham organises this annual family event, which last year raised well over £2,000 for local charities and was attended by more than 1,000 people. As usual, attendance is FREE but there will be a voluntary collection at the end of the concert. There will also be coffee, hot dog and ice cream stalls and a tombola. Local ambulance staff will be demonstrating CPR techniques and raising funds for their charity 'Circushead'. The cost of the evening is generously sponsored by local companies and individuals.

Gates open at 5:30pm for a 6pm start. Bring your own picnics, chairs and rugs, but please no barbeques.

Parking is limited to disabled vehicles only. Please walk to the event if you can to minimise traffic on Becketswell Road. Entrance to the meadow is either via Becketswell or from Whitehorse Street. Toilets will be available on site and there will be ample stewarding at the event to keep everyone safe.



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TOWN COUNCIL WATCH

Funfair Special

By Jimmy Young

The big wheel that is politics turned once more in May, with local elections signalling the end of the ride for a large batch of former councillors, as new ones ran on excitedly from the queue to fill their seats, and strap themselves in.

Yes, Wymondham welcomes an almost entirely new Town Council. And it's as colourful as a travelling circus tent, featuring 7x Lib Dems, 4x Labour, 2x Greens and 1x Conservative.

Like any carnival, becoming a councillor has proven a hit with families. Among the ranks are father and son, Joe and Paul Barrett (Green), wife and wife, Lucy Nixon and Suzanne Nuri-Nixon (Lib Dem) and husband and wife, Julian Fulcher and Annette James (Lib Dem).

The net cast far and wide to find us new members then...

FAREWELL TO THE OLD RINGMASTER

The new council's first meeting was its AGM on 16th May. This is where the council sets itself up legally for the year and chooses people for various committees and posts.

In a quirk of proceedings, it's the incumbent mayor who chairs the AGM, until the new one is elected. This gave Kevin Hurn (Con), jokingly referring to himself as "mayor for the next five minutes", an opportunity to re-thank staff, councillors and most of all his wife, for their support over the last four years, which he described as "a rollercoaster ride".

It's great when councillors guess the theme of this month's Town Council Watch in advance.

ROLL UP, ROLL UP

The main attraction of the evening was the election of a new Mayor.

Cllr Julian Halls (Lib Dem) nominated Cllr Suzanne Nuri-Nixon (Lib Dem). Cllr Tony Holden (Con) nominated new Labour councillor Michael Rosen but couldn't find anyone to second it; Mr Rosen's Labour colleagues deciding now wasn't the time for their man.

With no other nominees, no vote was required and Cllr Suzanne Nuri-Nixon was chosen as Mayor for the next year.

Cllr Nuri-Nixon comes with experience of course, having been on the council during some of its most-notable decisions in recent years:

Minutes from 2018 indicate she voted in favour of constructing their £2 million+ new office building and she voted against supporting youth mental health organisation Cup O T last year, for instance.

Ahh. The wind of change blows forth.

Cllr Annette James (Lib Dem) was chosen as Deputy Mayor.

Cllr Michael Rosen (Lab) was keen to learn more: "There's quite a lot of detail in there. And we need to know a bit more about the type of spending, to know what limit is appropriate for the Clerk."

The Mayor then voiced her position on making quick-fire decisions about detailed financial proposals: it was best to *dodge-er*:

"I would like to defer this, if we can, to another meeting. We have a room full of new councillors and it's a lot to take in to be fair," said Mayor Nuri-Nixon.

Cllr Holden continued to *scream that he wanted to go faster than that*, if someone would second his amendment. But no-one fancied a bite of his toffee apple.

"We're a new council, so give us a bit of time to get our feet under the table," came the Mayor's response.

TCW may have found a new drinking game here. It's a shot for every time you hear 'new council' in future meetings.

Cllr Todd Baker (Lab) sensibly asked the Clerk to make sure the suggestion was definitely on the agenda for the next full council "in order to assuage the concerns of Cllr Holden that this might go overlooked".

Assuage. Well, that's immediately raised the average level of vocabulary in this column. Some assiduous lexical selection there from the new Central Wymondham member.



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FREE RIDE?

The council then rattled through a few more formalities and appointed members to its various working groups and committees (see their website), before we got to an interesting section on the council's financial rules.

Cllr Tony Holden, who spent much of the evening with his hand up asking questions, had an amendment to suggest. He wanted to reduce the "discretionary" amount the Town Clerk can spend without asking councillors, from £10k to a set of much smaller limits: "I think to allow up to £10k of public money to be spent without any input from councillors is dangerous."

BANKER BASHING

It was a tricky night for the FTSE listed trillion pound bank Barclays, whom the Town Clerk described as 'notoriously difficult' when it came to registering new signatories for the council's accounts.

Town Council Watch has approached Barclays CEO, Coimbatore Sundararajan Venkatakrisnan for his reaction.

And that was that for the AGM. The first proper meeting of the full council happens on 6th June, when the public will get a first glimpse of what the new council plans to do.

Will it be tunnel of love or a big dipper? Only time will tell.

TCW is sure it will be a cakewalk.

WHAT'S IN A PHOTO?

Les King's Farewell Performance

By Philip Yaxley

Wymondham legend Les King looks deep in thought 30 years ago on the evening of 28 June 1993, perhaps reflecting on his many years managing Wymondham's Regal Cinema, for it was the last film show before he closed the cinema. Among the reasons he mentioned for the closure were problems with heating and sound, as well as rising bills and falling attendances. He also said it was increasingly difficult to compete "with television, satellite movies and video games", as well as those cinemas in Norwich. I remember my wife and I getting the last two seats for a screening of Grease about 1979, but later the audiences dwindled. Les had employed many ideas to try and attract customers, among them well behaved dog's nights and courting couples's nights, where the ladies were admitted free. Once when a Western was screened he led a horse round the aisles! However, perhaps his greatest triumph was when he showed David Puttnam's Memphis Belle and managed to persuade the pilot of the Sally B, the Second World War B-17 Flying Fortress used in the film, to fly over the cinema when the movie was screening there. He arranged discos in the

Les in a reflective mood on that last night ▶



▲ A ticket for the final performance



A queue of people waiting to get into the Regal ▶



◀ Boxer, Herbie Hide and an EDP reporter with Les



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adjoining clubhouse, with groups like Procol Harum and Slade also playing gigs. However, in spite of all his valiant attempts to keep the cinema going, the end was inevitable. He chose the movie *The Bodyguard*, starring Kevin Costner and Whitney Houston, for what he termed "Les King's Farewell Performance" with admission £3, while for another £3 film lovers could keep their seat as a souvenir. Ironically people flocked to the Regal that night with among the audience Kevin Body, the town mayor, and boxer Herbie Hide, that year's British heavyweight champion.

Les had been employed by Norwich businessman Roy Dashwood as a doorman "to maintain strict discipline" in 1965, but a year later he became manager and when the Wymondham Ex-Service Men's Club bought the building from Dashwood, Les leased the Regal part until he called it a day. With the way he kept the cinema going over many years Les was a true star!



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Q&A

By Gill Harle

Tom Boggan,

Wymondham Alpacas

This month we visit the wonderful world of Wymondham Alpacas. Tom Boggan talked to us about his enthusiasm and love for alpacas and how his passion became a business. It was a pleasure to meet the alpacas and it's easy to fall for these charming creatures. Tom and his team currently care for nine alpacas, but there may soon be llamas joining them, as he explains here.

What's your background and how did you become interested in alpacas?

I grew up in Hethersett, then moved to Wymondham with my partner. I don't have a farming background and did different jobs before becoming assistant manager of the café at Centre Paws. My partner got me an alpaca experience for my birthday, hoping to get it out of my system, but I just fell in love with them! I read books and went on husbandry and shearing courses. I managed to persuade the farmers to rent me a paddock here at Centre Paws then got three alpacas as pets. I never planned to do anything with the public, but friends walked them, which went very well, and now I do it six days a week!

When did you set up Wymondham Alpacas?

I started doing the alpaca walks and experiences around the end of 2019. At the beginning, we just did Saturdays and Sundays, three walks a day and the boys had a break between treks. Now we do one walk in the mornings, six days a week.

When we started, we went almost straight into lockdown, but being an outside business we were quite lucky and could soon start taking families and bubbles. We had to wash the leads

between walks and do handwashing, but we managed, and eventually it was great! We've had to raise our prices this year with the increased costs of food, vet prices and medicines.

I'm passionate about alpacas, but if it ever became a chore, I wouldn't do it anymore. People who come on the experience know I'm passionate and it's hard to stop me talking about alpacas! I love them and they are my pets first and foremost. If my business stopped, I would still have alpacas.

Do many people ask about the difference between alpacas and llamas?

That's the most common question we get! They are two different animals, but in the same family. Alpacas are known as smaller, cuter versions. Excitingly, we have some llamas coming at the end of the month, so when people ask me, I can just point! First, I need to get to know the llamas myself, but as they are pack animals, the plan is for them to carry picnics made in the farm café, and go for a trek, stopping for a bite to eat. I'd also like to do an adult-only llama trek into town and stop for a pub lunch. So we have plans, and it's nice to keep the business fresh.

Where are alpacas originally from and how have they adapted to the

climate and diet here?

They're common in South America, especially Peru where they're considered quite a spiritual animal. They use them for everything from fleece for bedding and clothing to meat.

The alpacas cope well with the climate here. We had to stop doing treks last summer as it was so hot, but they're generally okay with the heat. It gets hot in South America, but it's also freezing at night there. The boys aren't big fans of mud or rain, so we don't do our experiences in the rain. It's important that they have shelters, as unlike sheep that have lanolin making them waterproof, alpacas are not. So it's important they're not left out in the rain.

Alpacas are a grazing animal, so they spend a lot of time in their paddock grazing and have a hayrack. I give them extra vitamins and minerals as Norfolk grass is different from South American grass and doesn't have the goodness they are used to. My boys are on clover in the paddock, so they can get slightly overweight as clover is like chocolate for humans.

Can you tell us about the alpacas you have?

We keep boys, as if you have both it's not fair for the females to be constantly harassed, and the males fight more. I've got a very good alpha, Carlos, who keeps the others in check. If they're not showing signs of aggression there's no

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real need to get them castrated. Most of my boys are relatively old and the vet said they're grumpy old men now and that's not going to change!

The average lifespan is between 20 and 25. My oldest is 18 and fully retired. The youngest, Franco, is two and a half and he's in training now. Obviously, they do get poorly and injured like every animal, and I sadly lost my first alpaca in December. Carlos is now 16 and when he's ready to retire from trekking, his body will show me and he'll refuse to go out - that's when it's time to stop.

I always go to a breeder so I can see my boys' birth certificates and family tree; I think it's important to know their background and genetics. My boys are pet quality rather than show quality, but I go for temperament and friendliness.

What about their characters and names?

They all have different personalities and during the experience I introduce you and tell you about them. I like human names and wanted a South American theme so went with Carlos, Bruno and Diego; but breeders prefer you not to change the names, so there's Clifton and Galahad, which are very British names. On his birth certificate, Clifton's very posh: Clifton James Barrington Constable! Denver is named after a little boy who passed away and his mum came on one of our walks.

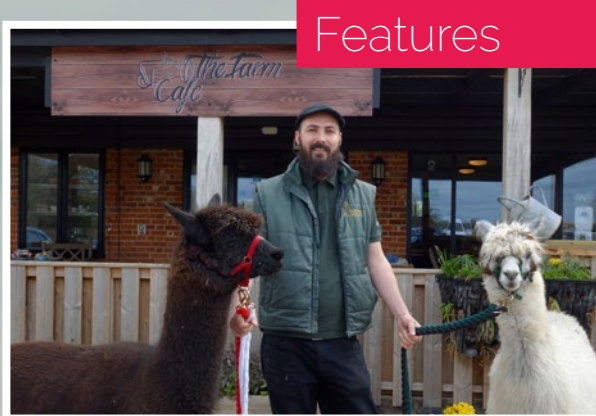
as they're all great in their different ways. I'm very bonded with Carlos because I walk him the most and he was one of my first alpacas. Clifton and Galahad have amazing temperaments - they're the boys I take to care homes, schools and weddings.

What activities do you offer?

The experience lasts around one hour 15 minutes. We herd the alpacas into the shelter, hand feed them and I talk about them and answer any questions. We finish with a walk round the local fields. The meet and greet is the same as the experience but without the walk.

All sorts of people do the experience: couples, families, friends. Last year we did a 101-year-old birthday, which was great. We are wheelchair accessible for the meet and greets. We've had school and care home visits and gone to care homes ourselves. We do local fêtes and Wymondham Fest. I've been invited on a music video, and Come Dine with Me on Channel 4, but it was cancelled due to Covid.

We do needle felting workshops using alpaca fleece, which is hypoallergenic. On one course people brought pictures of their dogs and made little needle felt dogs. We've also done team-building experiences with companies and the UEA. We can host big groups and fun events like hen parties. We've done weddings too and my boys wore little black bow ties!



Franco was picked by the public on our Facebook page. I don't say that I have favourites

In January 2022 we purchased the café on the farm. After the experience people can come to the café for bacon rolls and cups of tea. We've supplied the back room for private functions, like hen parties and afternoon teas.

What reactions do you get from people?

The reactions have been amazing, people love coming to visit, so it's very rewarding. One family have been back seven times! I like to use the experience as a teaching tool and try to go into as much detail about alpacas so people leave feeling they've learnt something.

We've been nominated for multiple awards. We were previously runners up in the South Norfolk Business Awards and we've been on the Muddy Stiletto Awards, which is local as well. People can vote for us if they want us to win that. It's nice being part of the community and being recognised as well.

Where can people find out more and what future plans do you have?

We have a Facebook page, Wymondham Alpacas, and a website where you can book our experiences (www.wymondhamalpacas.co.uk). The website is quite simple at present but we hope to add more. We want to grow and expand. This year we're getting three llamas and more land. We've got nine alpacas now but could get more in the future.

By Alex Perry



Wymondham Youth Music Society

On July 8th WYMONDHAM YOUTH ORCHESTRA will end its 34th season in Wymondham Abbey with a performance ranging from the intimate **J.C. BACH** to the

magical grandeur of **STRAVINSKY'S FIREBIRD** and a festive **L'ARLESIENNE** suite by **BIZET**.

Together with the **PULHAM ORCHESTRA**, this year celebrating 40 years of music-making in South Norfolk, they will **'BOUNCE'** in a piece by the composer Tom Armstrong commissioned for both orchestras in 2004.

Come and listen **OR, if you are 19 or under and a Grade 5+ instrumentalist, COME AND PLAY WITH US!** Sign up via our website.

You may wish to wait to join for the new season starting in September. BUT... before that, come and listen to our super **JUNIOR STRINGS** performing in Queen St. Baptist Church Wymondham at 6:30pm on JULY 13th. For further details contact LINDA: 01953 529158 or go to wyms.org.uk



Making ends meet

"They didn't call me a 'skilled worker'," said Ted, "they called me a 'skilled labourer' or they would have had to pay me more!"

Ted continued to work on the land in the 1950s and 1960s with both root crops and with grazing cattle. However, in the latter decade his employment became unpredictable as his boss at the Kimberley Hall farm could not guarantee him work every day.

So, Ted took a second job at Thetford Construction, where he rolled metal into Z bars (these were long, narrow, and shaped like the letter 'Z'). These were used to construct Dutch barns, with a roof but no walls, which were used for the storage of hay.

This dual career of field and factory might sound like chalk and cheese to some, but it made sense for Ted to have two employers within a short walking distance of each other. You see, he had to show up at these two workplaces by 7:30 in the morning to find out if either or both of his managers needed him that day.

If Ted was in demand, then this meant two shifts with 16 hours of hard grind before sunset. And he had to keep his foot on the accelerator during these long working days, as there were bonuses if a piece of work got done within a preset time.

It was during this hectic stage of his life that Ted met his future wife, Baryl. Ted recalled that he lived at a time when people worked hard, played hard and loved hard. "Whether it was at the youth club, the air cadets or the bus outing, we were quite open with each other about our intentions - we were all looking for the same thing!"

One day in March he was walking his dog Bobby, when a young lady took an interest in this collie, "Can I speak to the dog?" One thing led to another and soon she was taking Bobby for walks. Baryl's relationship with Ted progressed too and they got married in August 1967.



THE VALUE OF VALUING



Advertorial

By [Rebecca Mills](#), EweMove Wymondham

Within my line of work, I naturally respond to the many reasons driving homeowners to take stock of their property. A plethora driven by desire, requirement, or consequence, and all with underlying emotion. All Estate Agents will jump at the chance to value your property, but what's behind those big numbers? And if you really want to maximise the potential of your largest asset, have you considered all available options?

Many factors are combined and considered when a valuation is made. The one factor no one has control over is the location. Sadly, houses don't like to be moved (this keeps me in a job!) But what about size and condition?

Size? We've certainly had enough rainfall recently that if houses were going to grow, I'm sure they would have done so! No, I'm talking of those major renovations of loft conversions or extensions, even a new entrance way or conservatory, or reconfiguring existing spaces. Finally, condition: this is

the most variable due to the myriad of jigsaw pieces that make up your unique home.

So, if you're considering how to increase value, what do you choose?

There are many options, ranging from the cosmetic to those larger renovations you've always dreamt of. Some common options beyond general redecoration include updating your kitchen or bathroom, the aforementioned conversions and expansions, improving energy efficiency with modern windows or insulation, or even alternative energy and heating sources. And never forget enhancing curb appeal with landscaping or a new front door or renewing that garden shed.

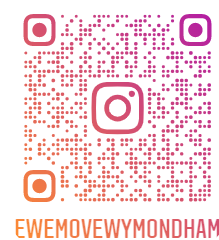
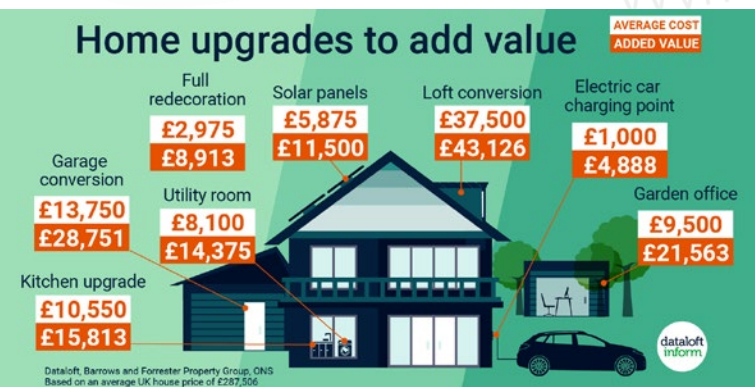
When considering home improvements, it's important to weigh the potential cost against the potential return on investment. Some upgrades will be more expensive than others but may ultimately increase the value of your home significantly. While other upgrades may be more affordable

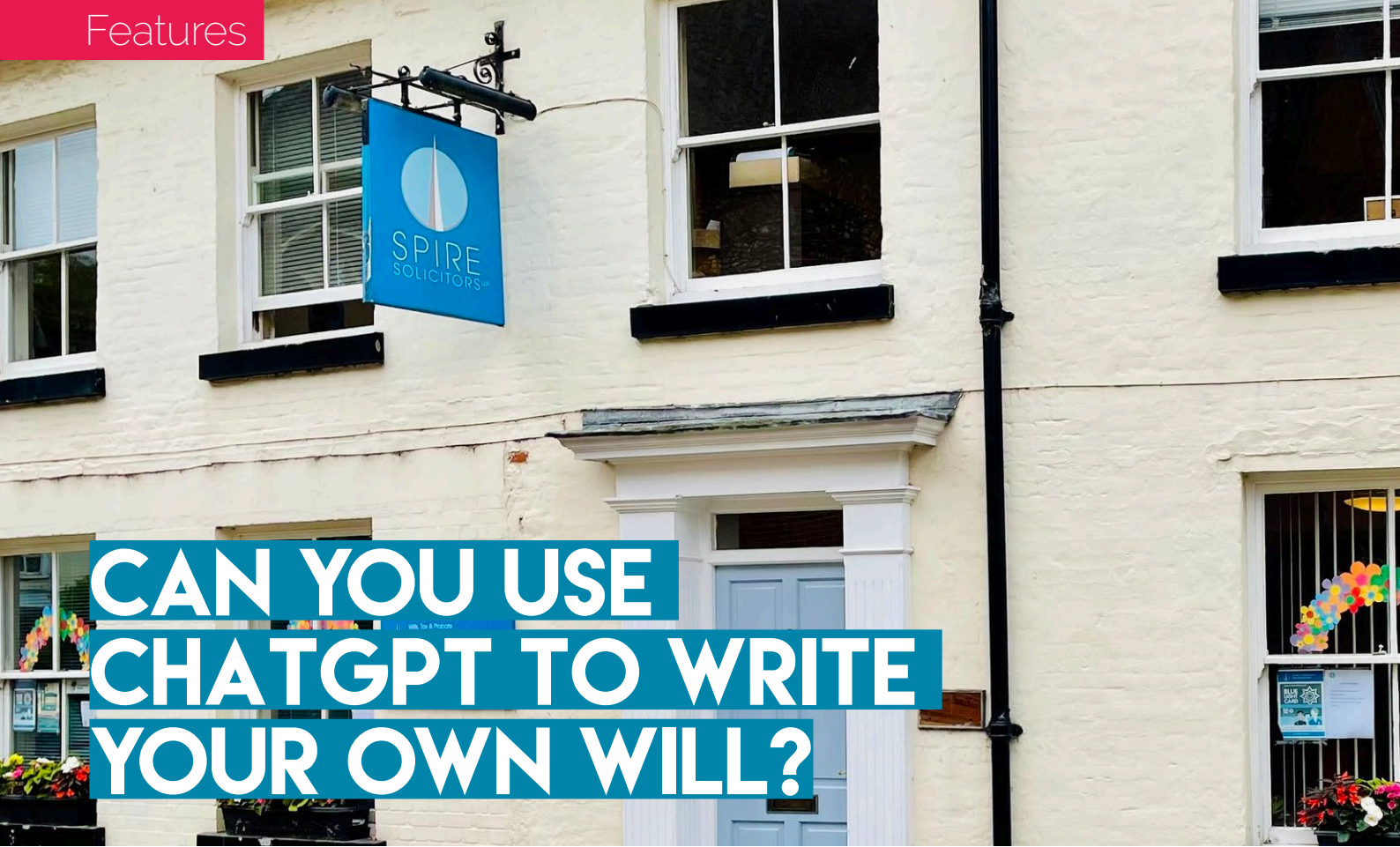
looking for. If you're in an area valuable to expanding families, adding an extra bedroom or creating a playroom could be a selling point. Alternatively, if you're in an area popular with professionals, upgrading your home office space and internet connectivity may be a more valuable investment.

By carefully considering your options, understanding the needs of potential buyers, understanding your environment, and working within a strategic budget, you can make major differences that both enhance your home and increase its overall value. It may just be that you fall back in love with your home, but if you're ready to move on: choose an Agent that understands and makes those efforts worthwhile!

Rebecca Mills, Branch Director
 Call (24/7): **01953 665 785**
 Mobile: **07923 236 076**
 Visit: ewemove.com/instant-valuation

and still make a noticeable impact. You will reap the benefit of any wise choice regardless of whether you ultimately stay or move on. It's important to analyse the current trends in the housing market and what potential buyers are





CAN YOU USE CHATGPT TO WRITE YOUR OWN WILL?

By Catherine Galvin, Private Client Executive at Spire Solicitors

ChatGPT has recently hit the headlines as a large language model developed by OpenAI, based on GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) architecture. It is designed to understand natural language inputs and generate responses that are coherent and contextually appropriate. ChatGPT has been trained on vast amounts of text data, including books, articles, and websites, and can generate responses on a wide range of topics.

Whereas it can be used for a variety of natural language processing tasks, such as language translation, text summarisation, and conversational AI, we look at whether it is a tool you can use to write your own Will.

Unfortunately, the answer is no. You cannot use ChatGPT to create your own Will.

As an AI language model ChatGPT is not authorised or qualified to draft legal documents such as wills. The creation of a will requires careful consideration of legal and personal factors, and it is essential to consult with a qualified legal professional to ensure that the document is legally valid and reflects your intentions.

Furthermore, ChatGPT is not regulated by the SRA (Solicitors Regulation Authority) like Spire Solicitors LLP. There are several benefits to using an SRA regulated law firm, instead of OpenAI methods, or roadside

Will writers who tend to be cheaper due to not being as qualified. Here are some of them:

PROTECTION OF CLIENT FUNDS:

SRA regulated law firms are required to have separate client bank accounts, which means that client funds are protected.

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE:

SRA regulated law firms are required to have professional indemnity insurance, which protects clients if the firm makes a mistake or provides negligent advice.

HIGH STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONALISM:

SRA regulated law firms must adhere to strict ethical and professional standards, which means that clients can trust that their lawyers are acting in their best interests.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE:

SRA regulated law firms are required to have a complaints procedure in

Advertorial by

SPIRE SOLICITORS



place, which means that clients have a route to seek redress if they are unhappy with the service they have received.

ONGOING TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

SRA regulated law firms are required to ensure that their lawyers undertake ongoing training and development, which means that clients can expect to receive up-to-date and relevant legal advice.

Overall, using an SRA regulated law firm gives clients confidence that they are working with a reputable and professional legal service provider, minimising the chance of any unmitigated risk.

If you would like to discuss anything in this article or are looking for legal advice, please do not hesitate to contact us on [01953 606351](tel:01953606351).



ABBEY MEADOWS

By **Chris Brown**

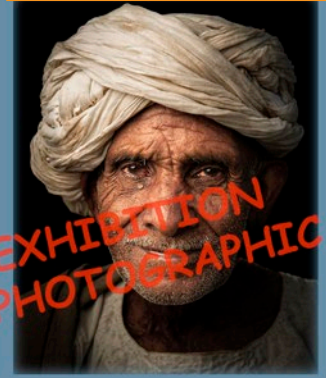
The Abbey meadows form part of the responsibility of the Papillon Trust. Many people comment how much they enjoy the view over the ha-ha of sheep grazing in the meadows and of lambs in the spring. The preservation of the meadows form part of the setting of the Abbey, which given the Rev Papillon's actions to alter the course of the road to increase the churchyard and the dignity of the approach to the Abbey, is clearly in line with his wishes.

The Rev William Papillon formed a Trust (in 1833) to create a school, before state education was provided, and to endeavour to ensure evensong was held regularly in the Abbey, by providing funds to recompense a 'lecturer' at evensong. Interestingly, no mention in the founding document is made of the meadows, in spite of claims made to the contrary. The Trust was revised by the Charity Commissioners in 1992; its current obligations are to preserve its assets, fund the evensong lecturer, and make grants to assist the religious education of young people in the parish.

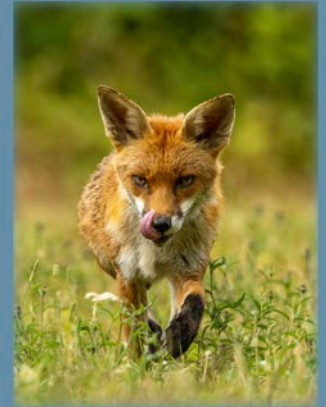
The meadows are part of a scheduled monument overseen by Historic England, and also by Natural England. The sensitivity of the site and its monastic remains means that grazing by sheep is the most appropriate means of

maintaining it. A report by the Norfolk Archaeological Service indicated that regular public access would be detrimental. The Trustees, however, feel that from time to time, the meadows might be seen by those interested in the site and its history. Therefore, the Trustees are arranging an open afternoon visit (Saturday 10th June 2:30pm) when Stephen Heywood (FSA Historic Buildings researcher) will introduce the tour, starting in the Abbey and then going into the meadows. There will be appropriate displays in the Abbey from the Abbey and town archives. Teas and coffees will also be available there. The schoolrooms, a foundation asset of the Trust, will also be open.

The meadows were last opened in 2009, so please take this opportunity to learn more. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Sensible shoes are advisable; no dogs are allowed in the meadows.



OPEN DAY & EXHIBITION
WYMONDHAM PHOTOGRAPHIC



Wymondham Photographic
Society
Open Day & Exhibition
at the Dell Bowls Club
June 17th 2023
from 10am to 4pm



STAR THROWERS UPDATE

By Victoria Pigg

We were delighted to welcome back people to our centre for our first Coffee Morning since 2019 and raised a fantastic £680 to support local people affected by cancer. Join us on 1st July as we bring back our annual Garden Party – all welcome to join us in the beautiful setting of the Star Throwers gardens and enjoy some light refreshments, games and entertainment! Our doors are always open (Monday – Friday) to support people with our free information and wellbeing services, do pop in to see us and find out more – find us on Melton Road in Wymondham. Visit our website for full details of our support services: www.starthrowers.org.uk

On 25th June it's the Star Throwers Sky Dive Day. You can jump for free by helping raise funds for our cancer support services. Just email info@starthrowers.org.uk for more information.

Looking ahead to Autumn, on Wednesday 11th October will be the Star Throwers Golf Day at Bawburgh Golf Club. It'll be run as a Stableford Team Event – Best 2 from 4. Booking is in teams of 4 at £220 per team. Book your tickets via email: victoria@starthrowers.org.uk.

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COME AND CELEBRATE!

By **Hannah Kerr**

Wymondham Symphony Orchestra welcomes you to attend a truly special Double Celebration Concert on Saturday 1st July at 7pm in Wymondham Abbey, when we will be playing music by Brahms, Dvořák and our Musical Director Andrew Parnell.

Our first celebration will be 20 years of working with our fantastic Musical Director Andrew Parnell. Andrew has conducted choirs and orchestras since his student days in Cambridge and



now directs the Ely Choral Society and Ely Youth Choir as well as our WSO. He has worked tirelessly and patiently over 20 years to bring our playing standard up to its present level and is largely responsible for the overall sound, setting balance, tempo and phrasing and

bringing out the composer's intentions in the performance.

Standing in front of the audience waving his baton is only a very small (though vital) part of the Musical Director's work, which starts at least a year ahead of the concert, helping to choose a balanced programme of items that are within the capability and resources of the orchestra. He then plans his approach to the pieces, before taking around 24 hours of intensive rehearsals with the WSO over the term leading up to the concert.

Our celebration concert begins with Andrew's fanfare Living Stones, originally written for the 900th anniversary of Wymondham Abbey in 2007, and performed here for the second time in its original venue. It really encapsulates musically the struggles between monks and parish that set the tone for the first 400 years of the Abbey's history.

We are delighted to welcome back the Venezuelan violinist Juan Gonzalez who performed with us last summer when we were "on tour" in Norwich. This time he will be playing Brahms' Violin Concerto, one of the hardest in the repertoire.

The second half will feature the incredible and ever popular New World Symphony by Dvořák and will

give us a chance to celebrate a second milestone, and sadly bid a fond farewell to our leader Ceri Peterson who has been with us for 10 years. Ceri has played with the Norwich Philharmonic, the Academy of St Thomas and the Norwich Pops Orchestra. The WSO have been lucky enough to have her expert and inspiring leadership for 10 years and wish her well in her future endeavours.



Tickets are available online via links on Facebook and our website, and directly at www.trybooking.com/uk/eventlist/wso. There will also be some availability on the door and in advance from the Abbey shop. Due to the anticipated demand, we recommend booking in advance to guarantee a good seat. Prices are £15, Friends of the WSO £13 and Under 18s are free. More details about the orchestra can be found at www.wymondhamsymphonyorchestra.org.uk or on our Facebook page.

NOT FOR PROFIT LAW

Community Interest Company

Not for Profit Law is a social enterprise founded by two local solicitors, **Laura van Ree** and **Trina Worden**, who have more than 30 years' experience between them. Prompted by their experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic, **Laura** and **Trina** have resolved to 'do law differently'. Through **Not for Profit Law** they offer expert legal advice at lower rates than traditional law firms, partnering with **Norfolk Community Foundation** to feed the profits they make back into the local community.

FREE WILL REVIEW

Changes in the law and tax system can mean that a will made just a few years ago might not perform as you expect. Laura and Trina will happily look at your will and make suggestions about potential changes that might benefit you. It may be that you don't need to do anything, but it is certainly worth checking!

FREE PROBATE ADVICE

There can be a lot to think about when someone dies, at what is almost certainly an emotional time. For that reason, Laura and Trina offer a free initial probate advice service to anyone who has lost a loved one or is dealing with an estate.

Also advising on **Powers of Attorney**, **Court of Protection** and **Trusts**.

We aim to be flexible, offering meetings online, in offices in Norwich or at your home. Evening and weekend appointments are available on request.



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*Helping Hands scheme is available on selected homes at William's Park and subject to our terms and conditions. It is important you speak to our Sales Executives to find the right home for you before committing to a Helping Hands. Images show artists impressions of William's Park house types. CGIs are indicative only and elevations are subject to change, external finishes and features may vary. Information correct at time of going to print, Friday 12th May 2023.

GREENING WYMONDHAM HAS SO MUCH TO TELL YOU!

By Jay Andrews

On June 6th at 7pm the new Wymondham Town Council will discuss the plans we commissioned for Rothbury Park after consultation with local people. If it gets the go ahead we hope the park is transformed into a wonderful space for everyone soon. You are welcome to sit in on the meeting and your views will be sought.

The Browick Park orchard has matured brilliantly over the spring and early summer with continued help from local volunteers. And the Vegepod outside The White Hart overwintered nicely with leeks and herbs going strong – summer greens have just been added.

The pod will be part of so much going on in the Great Big Green Week 10th-17th June in Wymondham,

all culminating with family-friendly activities at the Abbey Hall (opposite the Abbey) hosted by Greening Wymondham on Saturday 17th.

There will be a treasure trail and junk modelling for families. Not to mention a textile mending workshop, mask making and a chance to visit parts of Wymondham hidden from the casual visitor. And films! Just short shorts linked together to look at our land, rivers, trees and wildlife and our impact on them. A good watch for everyone over 7 to dip into.

We're teaming up with Wymondham Abbey on the 10th where there will be lichens, bones, herbs and lots for families. We have one of the first ever river litter picks on the 14th courtesy the

Norfolk Rivers Trust who will be balsam bashing at the same time along the Tiffey.

Not to mention a White Hart quiz night on the 15th – with some green questions but town quizzers are always adept!

Local Anglian Water will be along on the 17th to demo what people can be doing to help and garden experts to advise on planting for any age.

Greening Wymondham will have all the details of what you can do and see during the Great Big Green Week on our website, Facebook and Twitter.

Look us up at www.greeningwymondham.org or on Facebook and Twitter. Contact us at greening.wymondham@gmail.com.



TEAROOM AT THE BRIDEWELL

By Neil Haverson

Fancy a pear and ginger muffin? Or how about a Guinness and chocolate Brownie? You never know which mouth-watering homemade cakes will pop up on the menu at the Bridewell Tearoom in Wymondham Heritage Museum - thanks to the baking skills of the volunteers.

Tearoom manager Helen Munday took over this year and is delighted with the number of volunteers who have come forward to help serve drinks and snacks to museum visitors. Previously there were only sufficient volunteers to open during the week but it is now open at weekends and will be for the rest of the season.

Helen has been looking at ways to improve the room. "We've got a coffee machine now so we can serve frothy lattes and cappuccinos and we have a wide range of teas. There are soft drinks, crisps and chocolate bars for the children."

Helen points out that there are not many places in Wymondham where you can get a cuppa and a snack in the afternoon. "We're open until 4pm and welcome groups and well-behaved dogs."

Entry is through either the museum's main entrance which provides disabled access or from Browick Road, ideal for dropping in for a bite when you pick up children from the school opposite.

The Museum and Tearoom are open Monday-Thursday 1pm-4pm, Thursday and Friday 10am-4pm, Saturday and Sunday 1pm-4pm. If you would like to join the Tearoom team, email Helen at tearoom@thewhm.org.uk.



Read Greening Wymondham's piece 'A Butterfly Future?' at: wymondhammagazine.co.uk/opinion



— Est. 1968 —

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THE LOW DOWN

With Freddy Lowe



Exam season can be hellish. Granted, some pupils purport to do everything perfectly and seem to experience no stress whatsoever (and well done to them!), but for most of us mortals, it's a stressful time. However, once we've accepted that it's hellish, it becomes slightly less hellish! Once accepted, the stress is less of a burden.

In Wymondham, exam season is soon for GCSE and A-Level students. To any students reading (or parents of those students), you can freely lose any guilt you may have that the hellishness is somehow your fault. The stress is a rite of passage; you are doing fine.

One of my A-Level pet peeves was those smug YouTube videos or web articles entitled, "Top 10 Tips for Guaranteed Exam Success" or "I got all 9s in GCSEs – here are 30 Simple Steps to Do The Same" (as if we needed any more lists to memorise). These videos were often unhelpful because one person's "ten tips" list will be another's "don't-touch-these-revision-strategies-with-a-bargepole" list. I am currently in exam season at uni, and I only tell myself three things:

1) Keep eating.

This is crucial! You need all the resources you can get. Now is not the time to stint (the diet can wait until after exams). This is the time to strip your life of all other pressures you usually put on yourself. Any non-exam thoughts should be for self-preservation!

2) Never feel guilty about 'not doing enough'.

If you're not doing enough, you'll know it with certainty. If you are stressing and asking yourself, "Am I doing enough?", the fact that you're asking is proof that you are probably fine! If you're exhausted and your body is telling you to stop, stop guilt-free. There will always be more hours in the day that you could spend revising, but were you to use all of them for that purpose, you would go insane. Another – more general – rule of thumb is to get rid of feelings of 'guilt', be it about your revision hours or what you're doing outside of them. If you crave to binge-watch Stranger Things after hours of revision, do it! No guilt is required. I often fret that I'm not 'doing enough', as if 'doing enough' is somehow a quantifiable measurement. It took me a while to calm that instinct. If you are genuinely doing your best, that is all you can do. You can only chip away slowly.

3) Don't worry about failing!

In Derren Brown's podcast Bootcamp for the Brain, Pragma Agarwal describes a study in which two groups of people were put in separate rooms to solve the same maths puzzle. The first group were told beforehand that women

typically performed worse than men, whereas the second group were told no such thing. Consequently, the women in the first group did perform less well, because their cognitive resources were wasted on their fear of failure.

The point is that (regardless of gender) saying to yourself "I'm going to fail – help – I'm predestined to fail" only wastes energy better spent on the tasks. A small dose of nervousness is good, but so is a small dose of confidence.

That's the triad: keep eating, lose the guilt, and remind yourself that you'll be fine.

Things are even allowed to go pear-shaped! In my English Literature A-Level (the real thing), I realised twenty minutes in that I had missed a whole double-page spread of the answer booklet and had started my answer halfway through it. I believed – incorrectly – that they only gave you that one answer booklet for your essays. I spent several minutes not writing a thing and fretting that I wouldn't have enough space to finish the exam. This was not helped by the fact that this was an "analyse the extract" question and that the given extract was rubbish anyway.

It turns out that a) they will gladly give you more paper, and b) if you breathe, follow the allotted time per question (even if you've spent much of it not writing anything), and get to the end of the ordeal, things will be okay even if you've had a nightmare. My English grade turned out fine.

You've got this.

By **Jamie Collingwood**

Beryl are a company that provide local transport by means of bike or scooter. Stations that Beryl provide exist around a town or city in which a passenger could begin their journey by unlocking a bike or scooter and ending at another station elsewhere (or indeed the same station); stations often house bikes, e-bikes and scooters, but this depends on where other people have left them – one station could have nothing at all. In order to unlock one of their bikes or scooters, you must have their mobile app, which you can also use to check locations of stations in the area and which vehicles they have.

The service is useful to those who would want to commute without having to worry about locking up their bike, or for those that don't have access to a bike and would like a quicker way to get around a local area without having to walk. Wymondham has a few such stations now, such as on Market Street, outside Morrison's (Postmill Close) and Kett's Park. This could speed up journeys between them that would otherwise be by foot, particularly if

there is no bus route close by! It is also possible to unlock a bike in Wymondham, and cycle it anywhere into Norwich. This could be useful, for example, for anyone who works in Norwich and wants to cycle in without having to worry about their bike being stolen, then having the choice of cycling back or taking the bus.

Beryl's service could be more useful if it had more stations around Wymondham. For example, there is no Beryl station at Wymondham Train Station, which is a missed opportunity for a quick and easy journey replacement from the town centre to the station, or at NR's Health and Fitness Gym down London Road which is out of zone (meaning if you leave a bike in this area, you could be charged £10 for locking the bike up there and £80 for a collection fee!). This means there are a few blackspots where Beryl doesn't reach yet. It could also improve by adding Beryl stations to surrounding villages, meaning people living in a village could cycle into town



and vice versa, leading to less reliance on their cars and a means of transport for those that cannot drive.

On their app, Beryl offer a feature to request a bay. It is quite a simple process to follow and could be used to show demand for more bays around Wymondham. I successfully tried requesting a bay in a village, which was easy to do, but no new bays have appeared just yet. However, with ever increasing ridership and people adapting to their system, we could see more bays appear in and around Wymondham in the future.

Tuesday 6th June

Full Town Council
7pm, WTC Office in Kett's Park
All welcome in person or watch on
YouTube @wymondhamtc193
www.wymondhamtowncouncil.org

Wymondham Photographic Society
8pm-10pm, Dells Bowls Club
Annual Print Competition
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Wednesday 7th June

Art Society Demo with John Tookey
7:15pm, Catholic Church Hall
East Anglian artist John Tookey works
mainly in watercolour, oil and pastel and
is justly famous for his dynamic bold
watercolours that sparkle with light. He
will paint a street scene in watercolour.
www.wymondhamart.org

Saturday 10th June

Historic Significance of Abbey Meadows
2:30pm, Wymondham Abbey
Stephen Heywood will present
this talk followed by a tour of the
meadows. Children are welcome when
accompanied by an adult but no dogs
allowed.

Tuesday 13th June

Wymondham Photographic Society
8pm-10pm, Dells Bowls Club
Guest speaker via Zoom - Russell
Lindsay (Downtrodden Man)
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Saturday 17th June

Photographic Society Open Day
10am-4pm, Dell Bowls Club
Exhibition open to public
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Monday 19th June

Garden Club Quiz Night
& Social Evening
7:30pm, Town Green Centre
Questions and Conundrums for
Green Fingered Folks who don't take
life too seriously. An opportunity to
chat, converse and socialise. Show
Table - Roses - 3 stems of Rose,
One Fragrant Rose. One Delphinium
Stem; Cookery competition - 3 Fresh
Strawberry Muffins; Photography -
Sunlight & Shadow in Norfolk. Club
Table - A favourite from my Garden
- Plant or Flower, Fruit or Vegetable.
Members Free, guests £4. For further

information about the club contact
wymondhamgardenclub@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077254060337

Tuesday 20th June

Wymondham Photographic Society
8pm-10pm, Dell Bowls Club
End of season buffet and awards
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Thursday 22nd June

Heritage Society Meeting
7:30pm, Fairland Hall
A talk on "Restoration of Ketteringham
Hall Ice House" by Mary Parker. New
members can join at the meeting.
01953 600 205
www.wymondhamheritagemuseum.co.uk/?p=heritage.society

**Sunday 25th June**

Food & Drink Festival
10am-4pm, Town Centre
The Rotary Satellite Group invite you to
enjoy street food, artisan drinks, music,
crafts and entertainment.
www.facebook.com/WymFoodFest

Flower/Insect ID and Willow Crafting
2pm-4pm, Toll's Meadow
Car Park on Cemetery Lane (free on
Sundays). All welcome, no charge
(donations to NWT welcome).
01953 602 876
www.facebook.com/WymondhamNatureGroup/

Charity Film Show in Regal Lounge
2:30pm, Ex Service's Club
Main film 'Memphis Belle' (1990), a true
story about a B-17 Flying Fortress of
that name on its 25th and final mission
over Germany in World War Two before
returning to the States. Admission is £5
with OAPs £4, payable at the door in
cash. Any enquiries to 01953 603517 or
01953 603549.

Talk: A Ministry in Sound
3pm, Wymondham Abbey
Talk on musicians in the pre-
Reformation English parish church by
Dr Roger Bowers, Emeritus Reader
in Medieval and Renaissance Music,
University of Cambridge
www.wymondhamabbey.org.uk

Tuesday 27th June

Beginners Crochet
10am, Big C Furniture & Craft Shop
Suggested Donation £5 to attend,
booking essential on 01953 603320.
www.facebook.com/bigcwymondham

Saturday 1st July

Star Throwers Garden Party
11am-2pm, 30 Melton Road
Relax in our garden with tea, coffee and
cake. Free entry - come and join us!

Double Celebration Concert
7pm, Wymondham Abbey
Wymondham Symphony Orchestra
presents music by Brahms, Dvořák and
Musical Director Andrew Parnell. £15
tickets, £13 for members, children free.
wymondhamsymphonyorchestra.org.uk

Wednesday 5th July

Art Society Demo with Jenny Hand
7:15pm, Catholic Church Hall
Jenny is curator of the Munnings
Museum in Dedham, Suffolk, which is at
Castle House, the former home of the
East Anglian artist Sir Alfred Munnings
(1878-1959). The museum owns the
largest collection of art works of this
prolific painter and former president of
the Royal Academy. Jenny will give an
illustrated talk about the artist.
www.wymondhamart.org

Saturday 8th July

Jazz Picnic
6pm-9pm, Becketswell Meadow
Enjoy the upbeat music of DixieMix
outdoors with a lovely view of the
Abbey.

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