

WYMONDHAM Magazine

ISSUE 63 | JULY 2022

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From the Editors...

Last month was our first ever print edition of Wymondham Magazine, since taking over the publication in April and there were plenty of challenges:

Designing and compiling a magazine to do justice to our superb contributors' pieces, seeking a new printer, organising distribution and of course, deadlines, deadlines, deadlines - all with the added pressure of getting it to as many people as possible before the Jubilee weekend started.

We'd like to thank the small army of Town Team volunteers, who helped our usual deliveryman Richard to get the issue out in record time. As well as the advertisers that make Wymondham Magazine possible. And Wymondham Town Council for their contribution towards the edition's printing costs.

Everyone's sad the Jubilee Fest and Community Picnic couldn't go ahead, not least the volunteers that spent their own time trying to make it happen. But another Town Team organised event is Wymondham in Bloom - so what better theme for this month's cover?

We think making the town centre a more pleasant place to spend time is essential for helping our high street thrive.

So come on:

Let's Make This A Bloom Town!

Kim and Jimmy

JUBILEE FEST FULLY CANCELLED

There will no longer be a Jubilee Fest and Community Picnic held at Kett's Park, after its volunteer organisers took the difficult decision to officially cancel the event entirely. The festival had been originally due to take place on Sunday 5th June but was postponed, because of poor weather.

The celebration had been entirely organised by volunteers from Wymondham Town Team, who are behind other popular showpieces in the town throughout the year, including Wynterfest and Vintage Day.

Residents can still look forward to the Jazz Picnic on Becketswell on Saturday 2nd July from 5:30pm and Music on the Meadow @WTFC on 6th August.



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BUMPER TURNOUT FOR ECO EVENT

By Nicki Waterworth

On Saturday 11th June, Wymondham Baptist Church hosted an 'eco' event to highlight some of the great work going on in our community to care for our environment. Organised by the Eco Church Team at WBC, the event was well supported by local groups, who set up displays about their work.

We had colourful and informative displays from Greening Wymondham, Wymondham Nature Group, Wymondham in Bloom and Toad Watch, together with a stall run by Val Keel on recycling opportunities and a Food Savvy stand from Norfolk County Council, with ideas and recipes for reducing food waste.

As the weather was dry and warm, we were able to use the church garden for a Make a Bug Hotel activity and a



Toad Racing game, coordinated by Ian Maunders and Georgette Vale respectively. The Women's Institute (Wymondham Bridewell) also offered help in running a cake stall which together with plant, card and craft stalls helped towards raising funds which will be used for environmental projects in and from our church.

The whole event was well supported by our church and local communities and there was a real

buzz and enthusiasm about the conversations as we all learned a bit more about how to look after the world around us.

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this very successful event.

The UK-based Eco Church project is part of the international charity A Rocha. For more information, please go to: www.arocha.org.



COMMEMORATIVE BENCH INSTALLED IN TIME FOR JAZZ PICNIC

By Tony Vale

A bench to commemorate the efforts of a community stalwart has been installed at the venue of an event with which he was involved for many years.

Julian Gillett, previously of Tutttles Lane West, Wymondham, died in 2020 and he was well known for his many involvements in local community life. One of these was as an active committee member of Wymondham Music Festival.

A legacy of the Music Festival is the annual Jazz Picnic at Becketswell (behind Wymondham Abbey), which this year will take place on Saturday July 2 from 6.00pm – 9.00pm.

After Mr Gillett's death, financial contributions were made by several community groups and some individuals, with a view to installing a bench in Julian's memory, overlooking the River Tiffy.

In addition to the Music Festival,

donations were made by Wymondham Photographic Society and Wymondham u3a. Wymondham Town Team provided the balance and co-ordinated the project, with assistance from Wymondham Town Council.

The bench is situated adjacent to the river path, at the town-side entrance to Becketswell, where Mr Gillett could often be seen stewarding the Jazz Picnic.

Mr Gillett's widow, Daphne, said that she and her family were grateful that her late husband's community efforts have been recognised in this way.

Julian was respected for his attention to detail and his determination to get things done, often by working quietly in the background. Hence the plaque on the bench reads:

"Julian Gillett. Step up and make it happen. 1942 – 2020"



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“WHY MONEYPROPERTIES LOVE TO SUPPORT IT’S LOCAL COMMUNITY”

Over the past twenty years of business Moneyproperties have always tried to support its local community in anyway it can.

Mick Money who was born and bred in the town commented, “As a local business we feel a duty of care and responsibility to support our local community, after all, without the support of the local people we would not have a business in the first place!”

“From an early age my mother, god bless her soul always taught me that, the more you give the more you receive, but I never really understood what she meant until I started running a soccer school in the school holidays for local children”

Mick used to run a soccer school in holiday times for children and he been amazed over the years at just how many mothers of the children Mick used to coach football to have entrusted him to sell their home and some still have the original certificates and medals proudly on display!

Moneyproperties support over the years has included individual sponsorship, team sponsorship, Village Hall sponsorship, local schools, and local charities such as Star Throwers.

Moneyproperties currently donate 1% of their sales fee to Star Throwers a local charity for cancer sufferers and their families, their efforts along with the Les King Memorial Football matches have raised more than £20,000 to date.

Mick added, “We are now trying to support female sport throughout South Norfolk and currently sponsor the remarkably successful Wymondham Ladies football team, along with girl's football teams and Swardeston Ladies cricket teams. If we can help females enjoy sport in a safe environment, then that must be a good thing”

Moneyproperties are also heavily involved with this year's Morley Beer Festival which takes place on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th June at Morley Village Hall.

Moneyproperties believe in giving back to its local community and that kindness and support has seen them continue to be successful for the past twenty years and long may it continue, as the saying goes, “Givers gain.”



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CROWDS FLOCK TO WYMONDHAM'S FIRST FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL

By Sara White

The organisers were delighted by the turnout for Wymondham's first Food & Drink Festival held on Sunday 26th June. With over 40 food and drink stalls and a Made in Wymondham craft market, there were plenty of delightful tastes to enjoy whilst doing a bit of shopping and being entertained by Town Crier Yanny Mac, Dave Donut's Punch and Judy Show, and the Glee Club Choir.

South Norfolk Radio were broadcasting from the event throughout the day. There was even an opportunity to have your tongue turn blue at the Norfolk and Norwich Science Association stall.

Many stallholders had sold out of their hot food by the end of the day and traders were delighted by the turn out and organisation of the event. Grumpy Panda said: "Has to be one of the best food and drink festivals so far this year!"

The Oil Tree stall holder said "10/10" and The Durban Grill quoted: "A really well organised event. A great selection of food and crafts around the town centre and we can't wait to be back next year!"

Simon's Table Norfolk said: "Thank you to the events team of Wymondham Food and Drink Festival for organising a very successful first festival. We look forward to joining you again next year!"

It is hoped that the event organised by Wymondham Rotary Satellite Group will raise over £2,000 for local charities. The organising team of Bev Bulcock, Maureen Huckle and Sara White were thrilled by the turnout and fully expect that the festival will go on to become an annual event in Wymondham's calendar.



KEN BAKER: REST IN PEACE

By Martyn Baker

Pam & Ken Baker moved from Bicester to Wymondham more than 30 years ago, with Ken taking up a role as a Publishing Consultant, developing the book publishing side of Hymns Ancient and Modern at Canterbury Press.

He served as Churchwarden at Wymondham Abbey for nine years, also acting as joint Secretary and Treasurer of Friends of the Abbey. After retiring, Ken spent many happy hours pursuing his passion of painting and in his garden which he loved so much, along with sharing time with his family of three children, three grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Ken passed away on 17th June, just one day short of exactly 10 years since his beloved wife Pam died in 2012.

Ken's funeral will be held at Breckland Crematorium on Thursday 14th July at 2pm.



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News In BRIEF:

VICAR RESIGNS

As we understand it, the vicar of Wymondham Abbey, Catherine Relf-Pennington, has resigned from her post.

The end of a bumpy five-year tenure that at times attracted national headlines could pave the way for the Abbey to be re-opened to visitors, community groups and events.

CHARITY OF THE YEAR

Wymondham Rotary Satellite Group will be selecting a new 'Charity of the Year' in July. They are hoping to find a locally based charity (or a national charity with a local project) who are planning a project which the Group could support with their fundraising proceeds from July 2022 to June 2023. Ideally the project would be a capital project which is due to be carried out during that period. In the past grants have been made for the purchase of computer equipment and provision of training courses, as well as more traditional building projects.

If you know of a charity who could be considered, please contact williamsanne03@gmail.com ASAP

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT AHEAD OF ANGLIA IN BLOOM JUDGING

By Paula Gorst

This year, the Anglia in Bloom judging will be on Friday 8th July. We want to ensure the town is looking at its best for judging day so we are holding a "volunteer day" on Wednesday 6th July. Our aim is to tidy the town's planters and add a few extra plants, add to the Old Sale Yard display, litter pick if necessary, and generally make the town look great.

The day will run from 10am and last until 4pm (unless we complete all our jobs earlier). If you are free for any time on the day we would really appreciate your help. We plan to meet at 10am at the Market Cross to agree on working groups and assign tasks. After that you will find us busy around the town.

Please bring gloves, a trowel, and fork with you. There are no specific numbers of volunteers required, but the more of us there are the better the

town will look. Please circulate this information to anyone you think may be able to help us.

We hope to improve on our Silver Gilt award earned in 2019 - and maybe even go for Gold!



NEW LAW FIRM RAISES £20,000 FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

By **Laura van Ree**

Norwich has recently been granted Social Enterprise Status in recognition of its reputation as a hotspot for Community Interest Companies. One such company is Not for Profit Law, a law project that uses its profits to benefit local charities with help from Norfolk Community Foundation.

Just nine months after formerly Wymondham-based solicitors Laura van Ree and Trina Worden opened the doors of their firm, they have already given away £20,000 in profits. Not for Profit Law donated the sum, along with over £2,000 in donations from clients who received free advice, to their partner charity, Norfolk Community Foundation.

The social enterprise harnesses the talents of the pair, who left well-known law firms to form a legal practice with a philanthropic approach. Their rates are lower than traditional law firms and they feed the profits they make back into the local community through the

Foundation. This money has been put to good use straight away, assisting charities such as the Norfolk Deaf Association, DIAL Great Yarmouth, and St Edmunds Society, all of whom help vulnerable people in Norfolk.

Claire Cullens, CEO of Norfolk Community Foundation, commented: "Our work is only possible because people and organisations like Not for Profit Law care about local communities and want to take action. We are enormously grateful and excited to receive this donation. It will be put to immediate use supporting charities working on the frontline in Norfolk communities."

Laura commented: "We are thrilled to have made such a brilliant start. We are confident that as more and more people learn about what we are doing, and hopefully choose to come to us for advice and assistance, the funds we can direct to Norfolk Community Foundation will be even greater."



Credit: Lovell. Pictured: Buzz, Jane Yolland, Joanne Bend, Dulcie Bailey

STEPPE MAMMOTH 'BUZZ' ON FAIRLAND GREEN

By **Danielle Sparks**

Housing developer Lovell has unveiled the Steppe Mammoth it is sponsoring as part of Break's GoGoDiscover 2022 trail and it can be discovered now until 10th September 2022 on Fairland Green.

Buzz has been designed by artist Donna Newman and is decorated with furry bumble bees, honeycomb and lavender. Symbolising the importance of bees in our ecosystem, Buzz is inspired by the fields of lavender which have long played a part in the landscape of Norfolk. It took Donna four days to decorate Buzz – with 40 different brushes being used!

Donna Newman from Eden Design is a freelance painter based in the Midlands and has family in Norfolk so is familiar with the countryside and also grows lavender in her own garden. Donna comments: "I love Buzz as he is inspired by bees and just looks amazing on Fairland Green outdoors and surrounded by nature. I used five different paints on Buzz and a hair dryer to make the paint dry quicker! I hope Break raises lots of money from the trail and auction, and thanks so much to Lovell for picking my design."

Jane Yolland, sales director at Lovell, says: "Seeing Buzz transform from a blank 3D sculpture into Buzz the mammoth has been incredible – we picked the design and love how he has turned out. Fairland Green is a great location for Buzz and the perfect spot for a picnic too with him. For anyone who loves Buzz, we also have a children's colouring competition running on our website with bee hotels and Waterstones vouchers up for grabs. We hope the trail raises lots of money for Break so they continue to support young people in the region."

Running from Monday 27th June until Saturday 10th September, and delivered by East Anglian charity, Break, in partnership with Wild in Art, the GoGoDiscover sculpture trail has T.rex and Steppe Mammoth sculptures to discover throughout Norwich and Norfolk.

The trail helps to raise valuable funds for Break, which makes life better for children and young people who are on the edge of care, in care and leaving care. All support of GoGoDiscover helps to stamp out the mammoth expectations faced by young adults leaving the care system.

Lovell's colouring competition can be found at www.lovell.co.uk/news/buzz-gogo-discover-competition/

For more information about Break visit www.break-charity.org



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SALVIA CLOSE RESIDENTS TOAST QUEEN IN STYLE

By **Steve Grant**

Wymondham celebrated the Queen's Jubilee in a variety of ways, including intimate gatherings of neighbours on their doorsteps such as this one in Salvia Close. In total around 25 people, including residents, family and friends, turned up for a fun-filled day which included a barbecue, snacks, drinks, music and games. The evening played host to dancing under the festoon lights, drawing on the road with chalk, and sparklers.

It was a great occasion and the residents of Salvia Close all got to know each other that little bit better. We are already planning our summer festivities now with our dedicated WhatsApp group!



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FLOURISHING OPEN GARDENS

By **Diana Grant**

Wymondham's Open Gardens event has proved to be a resounding success.

Eighteen beautiful gardens were recently opened to the public and fortunately the weather was kind.

Proceeds of more than £4000 have been shared between three local charities - Wymondham Heritage Museum, Greening Wymondham and Wymondham Nature Group.

A tea party was held the following weekend to celebrate and to thank the participants and sponsors. The amount of effort from the participating gardeners is considerable and much appreciated. Not only did they prepare their garden to look its best but also graciously hosted hundreds of visitors in their private space.

The committee and hopefully the public are already looking forward to the next Wymondham Open Gardens in 2024. If you think you might like to participate you can contact the organisers via publications@wymondhamheritemuseum.co.uk

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ALIVE CHURCH TO HOST CONCERT IN CENTRAL HALL

By **Barbara McLellan**

The Alive Church of Wymondham is hosting 'An Evening with Two Sopranos' on Saturday, 23rd July. All are welcome to join at 7:30pm in Central Hall. Tickets will be £5 at the door and refreshments will be on sale. For any queries contact wymondham@alivechurch.org.uk

The two singers featured will be Emma Nuule and Catherine Joule.

Emma Nuule is an award-winning soprano who has appeared in numerous shows at the Theatre Royal in Norwich such as Fiddler on the Roof, Norwich Pantomime and Carousel. Emma has sung for honourable events such as the Global pulse awards in Westminster, Queen's birthday celebrations for Norwich, last night of the Proms for Wymondham Abbey and a New Year's Day concert with Norwich Pop Orchestra. She is a graduate of the

Guildhall School of Music.

Catherine Joule is a classically trained Soprano who specialises in Classical, Jazz and Musical Theatre. She graduated from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music with a Postgraduate in Vocal Performance in 2015. She also studied music at Anglia Ruskin University and was awarded the Mark Devin Performance Prize for her final year ensemble. Her professional credits include performing in 'The Butt' by Susie Self- An opera commissioned as part of the Contemporary music festival in Vienna. She has sung in many concerts and recitals in London and East Anglia, including singing the final movement to Mahler's Fourth Symphony at The Old Royal Naval Chapel in Greenwich in 2014.



Photo: Catherine Joule Facebook
One half of the Two Sopranos

TOWN COUNCIL WATCH

By **Jimmy Young**

With just two items of new business on the agenda, June's full council meeting on Tuesday 8th June lasted 38 minutes in total.

Mayor Kevin Hurn (Con) returned to his seat to chair the meeting, following his tight re-election to the post at the previous month's meeting. A single member of the public attended the session.

NO UPDATES ON TOWN COORDINATOR RECRUITMENT

Among the drier routine items such as internal audit results and ratification of previous minutes, there were some items of note.

Council Finance Officer Karen Chamberlain deputising for the unwell Town Clerk, Trevor Gurney, was unable to provide a progress update on the recruitment of a Town Coordinator.

The role, which was originally proposed 6 months ago at December's full council meeting, will eventually work to coordinate events and initiatives among the town's businesses and residents, aimed at benefiting the local economy.

LIVE STREAMING EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

It was a successful evening for Joe Barrett, who has campaigned on these pages for the Town Council to live stream their sessions online, in order to improve accessibility to public meetings.

Cllr Suzanne Nuri-Nixon's (Lib Dem) proposal for the council to acquire the necessary technical equipment to live stream sessions was adopted unanimously and will see £3000 of additional hardware added to the chamber in the council's £2m headquarters at Kett's Park.

Joe said: "After using the Equality Act to lobby our councillors to implement live-streaming, I am delighted to see the measures voted through. I look forward to watching future sessions alongside other



Joe Barrett with live-streaming petition

townspeople who now have improved access to democracy."

The move means residents will in future not have to rely on personal Facebook Live streams provided by Cllr Kim Carsok (Con) to stay informed - though precise details of the timeline for the first stream were not finalised as part of the proposal.

Proposing the measure, Cllr Nuri-Nixon said she hoped "councillors could get behind this so we can move into the 21st century" and pointed to the practice being increasingly common among other councils.

More camera-shy members expressed some personal ill-ease with the measures: Cllr Peter Broome (Con), said he had "resolved himself" to live streaming and conceded it was "inevitable". And Cllr Robert Savage (Con) aired his concerns that being on camera may put off would-be candidates for public office.

All councillors ultimately voted to support the proposal.

SUMMER SATURDAY MARKETS TO GO AHEAD

Wymondham will have six new themed markets over the summer period to be held on those Saturdays

when a Farmers' Market is not taking place. The first is due to take place on 23rd July.

According to the proposal's wording, the yet-to-be-finalised themes would "avoid stalls which compete with established high street shops" and could cover art, crafts, antiques, wellness, clubs, environment, vintage, children/babies, and pets.

Discussion before the vote saw Cllr Kathryn Cross (Con) raise the topic of concessions for charitable organisations and Cllr Broome question whether the administration of the markets would fall under the remit of an incoming Town Coordinator.

The proposal from Cllr Carsok was unanimously adopted at the second time of asking, after its initial reading at May's full council meeting faltered on technical aspects such as risk assessments, dates and electrical requirements.

JANIS RAYNSFORD NOMINATED FOR CIVIC AWARD

One of the final pieces of business was nominations for the Town Council's annual Civic Award. Cllr Tony Holden (Con) nominated Janis Raynsford for the award.

Acknowledging the nomination Mayor Hurn said "Janis has been inspirational in looking after the Priory Gardens and Chandler's Hill Gardens" and praised her long-standing work with the Wymondham Heritage Society.

POLITICAL SWITCH

There was also some intrigue for political observers, with Cllr Penny Hubble moving to sit in the Conservative grouping, having switched allegiance from the Liberal Democrats. The defection takes the balance at Town Council to 11 Conservatives to 3 Liberal Democrats.



Advertorial

By [Rebecca Mills](#), EweMove Wymondham

If you're a landlady or landlord, recent frenzy around the Rental Reform White Paper with its Section 21 abolishment and periodic tenancies may have felt like the last thing you needed right now, what with higher interest rates, inflation, and the impact of energy costs to deal with.

But doom and gloom are not building blocks. Instead, seek out some light by observing how our friends across the border in Scotland dealt with these same changes back in 2017. The Scottish rental market is buoyant, no influx of 'in and out' tenants was recorded as a result and business continues as usual.

In my view the White Paper is yet another signpost emphasising the importance of open, honest, and ongoing communication, dynamic empathy, and good working relationships. So many nightmare stories are the result of a disregard of the above leading to the degradation of that relationship.

Achieving this working relationship requires understanding from the get-go to ensure tenants are well-matched to

the property. Time out of your schedule to check in, check-up and report. And of course, availability to take care of those untimely, unforeseen problems that need resolving, or even to acquaint and teach individuals any intricacies of the property. A current example of this is the task of ensuring your property complies with the upcoming changes to smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Maybe now is a great time to review your position. Ensure your properties are up to regulation standards, ensure to review your rent, check in with your tenants, have another think about your views on pets and start thinking about the changes to minimum EPC ratings in 2025. Feel welcome to call me for a friendly, non-salesy chat about any queries or concerns you may have – there are no cheap shiny suits to be found here! I have a brilliant '99 Tips and Tricks' that could be just what you need to help model your current or upcoming rentals.

It's proven time and time again that the best way of approaching rentals, regardless of how and why you became a landlady or landlord, is to look at it as

a business. You're providing a much-needed resource and at the heart of your business should sit a valued customer. If upon reflection this is not the conclusion you come to, consider your options. A great agent will pay for themselves in numerous ways, so take some time to explore this. The provision of private rentals to the property market is essential and well-run ownership of these needs to be acknowledged, respected, and valued.

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WHAT'S IN A PHOTO?

Cricket in Wymondham

By [Philip Yaxley](#)



Norman Brighton steaming in on the King's Head Meadow against John Nichols's XI in August 1932

Today, there will be some townfolk who do not know that cricket was once played on the King's Head Meadow, the traditional home of Wymondham Town Football Club.

The photo, taken on the meadow ninety years ago next month, shows Norman Brighton, the town club's fearsome fast bowler, steaming in against John Nichols's XI. At the time, Nichols was the county coach and the visitors featured a number of Norfolk players and also included 16-year-old W.J. "Bill" Edrich, who would become a cricketing legend with England and Middlesex, together with his brother Geoffrey, who would go on to play for

Lancashire.

Totalling only 44, Wymondham were beaten convincingly, but in the opposition's 103-5 declared the young Brighton took four wickets for only seven runs in ten overs – a feat which earned him some games for the county



A Wymondham CC mid-1950s

the following season.

Cricket had been played on the meadow since at least 1856 and from 1883 when Wymondham District FC was formed, later Wymondham Town FC, cricket and football were played there according to their seasons. However, in 1958 the cricket club moved to Browick Road Recreation Ground and it was never the same

again. Eventually the club amalgamated with Great Melton to form Great Melton and Wymondham CC, but in 1990 the club became just Great Melton CC with matches being played at Melton Park – and Wymondham no longer boasted a town cricket club.

However, it's worth remembering that the year the club moved to Browick Rec they won the Kimberley Cup there with Norman Brighton still playing his part. In fact, the club won the Kimberley Cup seven times between 1955 and 1963. We know what happened to the town club, but I wonder what happened to the cup?



Wymondham's captain Alan Harwood



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ACHIEVING TOGETHER



POOCHES IN THE POOL!

By Sarah Wright

One of the major pluses of having a dog is, well, to have fun with them! When the Dip and Dive pool opened in Wymondham, local dog owners were excited. Many dogs love swimming, and frequently our rivers are out of bounds, the beach is a full day out and algae might prevent swimming in local Broads. The Dip and Dive pool is a 32ft outdoor swimming pool for dogs and is right around the corner.

There is a floating ramp to make it easy for dogs to get in and out of the water gently, and a platform to dive in from for the more adventurous! The pool is in an enclosed, safe area, with plenty of room for play around the edges - perfect for reactive dogs who need their own space. There are group sessions for up to five dogs who are confident in the water, puppy classes for three puppies under six months, senior sessions for older dogs or those who like a calmer swimming session, and a solo session consisting of exclusive use for you and potential extra dogs if you wish.

Owners are welcome to swim with their dogs too but many are happy to enjoy the action from the poolside as proud parents and take photos. Experienced dogs have a whale of a time - you can hear them woofing from the car in the car park as soon as they come up the drive! They throw themselves into the fun wholeheartedly. There is a trained member of the team in the water to keep the dogs safe, help improve the swimming style of dogs who are a bit splashy, and help new swimmers build confidence in the water. They also oversee throwing the balls and toys into the water!

The benefits of Dip and Dive are many. It is reassuring for owners to know that their dogs can swim and not panic should they fall into water. It is low impact exercise, which is great for puppies who can't go for long walks and for elderly dogs with arthritis. The water supports dogs with mobility issues and helps keep dogs trim and fit. On hot days it's impossible to take dogs out for walks until very late in the day. The pool is just around the corner and a perfect way to exercise safely and keep cool.

Dip and Dive is such a fun thing to do with your dog. With a heatwave forecast, and the summer holidays ahead, Centre Paws is worth a visit in itself. There's a huge field in which to let your dogs off the lead and run; a dog friendly café; an area where agility classes take place; a dog grooming salon, and, in one corner of the field, a glorious 32ft pool complete with crystal clear water sparkling in the sunshine. What better way to spend your time?





BLOOM TOWN!

Wymondham in Bloom Targeting Gold for 2022

By Kim Carsok

For the last several weeks, the Wymondham in Bloom volunteers have been very hard at work trying to beautify the town for the summer season.

Early in June the team helped plant up the Railway Station together with Station Bistro owner Brendan Gray, and made a few improvements at the Old Sale Yard.

After the Jubilee weekend they spent nearly a whole day helping the Town Council Gardener plant up all the town centre planters. The new red, white and blue design includes a significant proportion of perennials which will last throughout the winter and beyond. After the initial planting day, several days of hot weather (and much encouragement by volunteer Diana Grant) drove volunteers and local businesspeople to help out with daily watering and ensure the plants would thrive.

In the meantime, the campaign for business floral displays has also been running in earnest. The step counters for volunteers Janet Benjafield and Paula Gorst have been ticking up rapidly with personal visits to shops up and down the high street and some further afield around town. More than sixty businesses have agreed to be

involved in some way.

On 29th June, around fifty of the businesses were judged by a panel from the Wymondham Garden Club. They scored points based on plant care, creativity, longevity and overall impact. The total scores will determine the award levels achieved by each business, and certificates will be granted for displays which are Outstanding, Excellent, Highly Commended and Commended.

Coming up on Friday, 8th July the town as a whole will be judged for the regional Anglia in Bloom competition. This is part of the renowned RHS Britain in Bloom campaign. If we were to achieve a Gold award, we would have a chance at competing at the national level. Committee members Annette James and Kim Carsok have spent countless hours working on the 30+ page project portfolio which has been submitted to the Anglia in Bloom judges. Fingers crossed they are impressed!

To help prepare the town for judging day, a Tidy Up Wymondham session has been arranged for Wednesday, 6th July. We will meet at 10am on the Market Cross to assign volunteers to various tasks including planting and pruning as well as litter

picking and other similar jobs. Please come along and help if you can, and bring gloves and your own tools where possible.

Following the Anglia in Bloom judging day, the volunteers will be judging our residents' competitions. First up is the Home Frontage Competition where photos of your domestic hanging baskets, window boxes and front gardens will be judged. We hope you will have felt inspired by the wonderful high street business displays and want to get involved too. Photos should be sent to wymbloom@gmail.com by 15th July. The top prize will be a £50 voucher to Wymondham Garden Centre so don't miss out!

Next up is the Sunflower Growing Competition organised by committee member Annette James, in loving memory of her dad Owen James. You have until Friday 16th September 2022 to submit a photo of your sunflower(s), together with the relevant measurement. See full details of all our competitions on the Town Team website here: wymondhamtownteam.org/wym-in-bloom-2022



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PREPARING TO BUY OR SELL

By Julie Crowder-Barr

Buying or selling a house can often be quite daunting. Being prepared is half the battle and more often than not, can help to avoid delays along the way. Before you put your property on the market or start looking for a property, it is important to consider the following in order to make the process smoother.

1) Get budget and mortgage ready. As a first step you will need to go through your finances and ensure you have a clear idea on how much you can afford to spend on moving. Before looking at properties, you should establish a realistic purchase price after taking into account any hidden costs such as stamp duty, removal costs, and solicitor and estate agency fees. For your mortgage, you may wish to use a mortgage advisor who will be able to assess the level of repayments you can afford and look at a range of mortgage products to best suit your needs. Alternatively you can go straight to a lender and apply for a mortgage.

2) If you have a property to sell you will need to choose a local estate agency to sell your property. It is also advisable to start getting solicitor quotes as they will handle all the legal aspects of buying or selling a property for you. The service you receive can make a huge difference as to how easy or difficult you find the process.

3) If you have any old papers relating to renovations or upgrading of your property, it is advisable to keep these in a safe place. Any work involving gas or electricity should have been carried out by someone who is suitably qualified and they should certify the work has been carried

out in accordance with applicable regulations. Internal modifications may need building regulations consent and, when the work is complete, you will need a certificate confirming that those regulations have been satisfied, together with any planning permission, if it was also required.

By having the right paperwork and certificates in place, you should be able to avoid any problems and delays along the sale process.

4) Whilst most properties are now registered electronically at Land

Julie Crowder-Barr, Associate at Spire Solicitors LLP, discusses things you should consider to help make the buying or selling process smoother.

Registry, it is advisable to keep any old deeds, if you have them, as they may contain information that does not appear in the Land Registry records, for example any rights or covenants.

This is an initial guide for things to consider when moving house. If you would like to discuss any points in this article further, please contact Spire Solicitors LLP on 01953 606351 for all your legal needs.

www.spire solicitors.co.uk/solicitors-in-wymondham-office



MNR TRAINS RETURN TO WYMONDHAM IN JULY

And First Regular Passenger Service North of Dereham

By Peter Singlehurst

The Mid-Norfolk Railway has relaunched its running season featuring the first regular passenger service to run north of Dereham since British Railways closed the line to passengers in October 1964.

The Railway has also announced that trains are again planned to run to Wymondham Abbey station from Dereham by the summer school holidays in July, once the engineering works that have caused the closure are completed.

A supplier of coal has also been found that means the Blue Steam service timetable will run with either the resident BR standard Class 4 MT engine or for this year only, the on-hire Austerity Tank engine No 22, hauling the maroon vacuum-braked coach set.

The new service north is part of the Green Diesel Multiple Unit service timetable, which will see two trains a day travel north to Hoe Crossing. The 2022 running season also sees a new Orange Diesel Engine timetable. This timetable will see the railway's Heritage Diesel engines hauling trains and will feature the rostering of the resident class 14, class 33 and, on occasions, one of the class 47s in service.

Explaining the relaunch, Charlie Robinson, the Chairman of the Mid-Norfolk Railway, said: "I know that there has been disappointment and uncertainty due to our postponed

reopening caused by the long standing engineering issues and the impact of the lost income from the cancelled Polar Express service at Christmas. It is therefore important that the railway has decided to relaunch our running season and make it clear we are open, running trains and looking forward with confidence to the rest of the year.

"The Mid-Norfolk Railway, despite not being able to currently run south of Thuxton to Wymondham is however, still able to start new regular services running north from Dereham. This therefore marks an important point in the railway's history and is another small step towards the eventual return to County School."

The ongoing engineering work will see track maintenance being carried out between Thuxton and Hardingham and also track near Bridge 1675 will be realigned to remove the excessive curves that British Railways introduced when the line was singled. Both issues have been long known, but had to wait while other higher priorities were addressed in recent years.

Recently members of the Mid-Norfolk Railway were on hand to welcome home to the railway the resident steam engine, British Railways Standard Class 4 Tank engine 80078. The engine has been away on its travels over the winter and will now soon resume service hauling trains on the

railway.

Engine 80078 returns to the railway following service over the Christmas period at the Swanage Railway in Dorset, winter maintenance, and then most recently a guest spell on the Epping and Ongar Railway.

Mid-Norfolk Railway Honorary Vice President and engine owner Stewart Robinson, said: "I am pleased to see 80078 back at the Mid-Norfolk Railway after its recent travels and together with the rest of the railways steam crews, we are all looking forward to once again working the engine during this summer's steam service."

Throughout the 2022 running season, the railway will once again be running the popular "Breckland Fryer" fish and chip trains in the evening and afternoon cream tea trains on selected running days. The railway will also continue to run the "Kids Go Free" family tickets that were successfully introduced in 2021. These tickets will be available for all standard running days but do not include special events or special trains.

The MNR shop at Dereham Station has also had a refresh with new lines of merchandise and clothing that feature the railway's new "Heart of Norfolk" logo on offer. Further details of events and timetables will be available on the railway's website in due course at www.midnorfolk railway.co.uk



WYMONDHAM HERITAGE SOCIETY



COURTHOUSE IN THE BRIDEWELL

By Neil Haverson

For more than a century the Wymondham Bridewell was home to the local magistrates' court. Petty sessions were held there from 1878 to 1992. Prior to this, on the first Tuesday of the month sessions were held at The White Hart in Hingham and on the third Tuesday at The King's Head in Wymondham.

From 1832-78 The Bridewell was a women's prison. When the prisoners moved out in 1878 the cells and first floor were demolished to create the Court House. The tall cast iron windows can still be seen. Alterations to the building in 1963 provided four court rooms that could be used simultaneously to deal with the court's increased workload. In the early days, the magistrates were mainly local landowners, the income from their property qualifying them for the position. Legal advice came from the part-time clerk who was a practising solicitor.

Wymondham bench.

Reorganisation of Norfolk courts in the 1970s saw local courts such as Long Stratton and East Harling closed and sessions transferred to Wymondham. The part-time clerk's role was gradually replaced by a full-time appointment.



The magistrates Court

It was during this period that former Norfolk coroner and mental health tribunal judge, William Armstrong, was a solicitor appearing regularly at the Wymondham Court House.

He says: "When I started to practise in 1972 there were over 20 courts in the county. There are now only three based at Norwich, Kings Lynn, and Great Yarmouth. In those days, before the Crown Prosecutions Service, the pace was a little gentler and not so much pressure. The magistrates were lay people, not lawyers, but they displayed common sense - although there were exceptions! Crucially they were local and knew their local communities. Each bench tended to have its own characters and quirks. The police would prosecute. Some were very good but they were not trained lawyers. We had a good relationship, there was respect. We now have full-time lawyers sitting as district judges as well as lay magistrates.

"I defended many of the local rogues. There was lots of petty theft, fights, shoplifting, poachers and a few objections to pub licences. A case William recalls was a client who was caught driving in thick fog without lights. "He was charged with driving without consideration to other road

users. When the police gave evidence I asked what other cars were on the road. The officer said none but claimed my client had been reckless. "I said it didn't matter, if there were no other cars on the road how could he be driving without consideration for other road users? I won! The law was wrong, the government had to change it."

The final court was held at the Bridewell on January 31, 1992. The building then became derelict until Wymondham Heritage Society, with the aid of grants, bought it from Norfolk County Council in 1994. The Society undertook the conversion of the building to accommodate the Heritage Museum and a number of community and caring projects. The first floor was reinstated. The ground floor is now the museum's main gallery. The magistrates' bench now forms the counter for the museum's reception. The Society then set up the Bridewell Preservation Trust to manage the building and safeguard its future.



William Armstrong stands where the magistrates' bench stood, now the museum's agricultural display



William Armstrong sits behind the original magistrate's bench, now the museum's reception desk

From 1907 the income qualification was abolished and men from other walks of life became eligible. In 1925 Edwin Gooch, a blacksmith, was one of the first to reflect the change. In 1919 women were considered "competent" to be appointed as magistrates. Ethel Gooch, Edwin's wife, joined the bench in 1946, the only example of a husband and wife being appointed to the

A FESTIVAL OF BRAHMS

Wymondham Symphony Orchestra

By Andrew Naylor

After a very successful return to live music making in the town with its April concert at Central Hall, the Wymondham Symphony Orchestra is now preparing a fabulous programme for their summer concert in July.

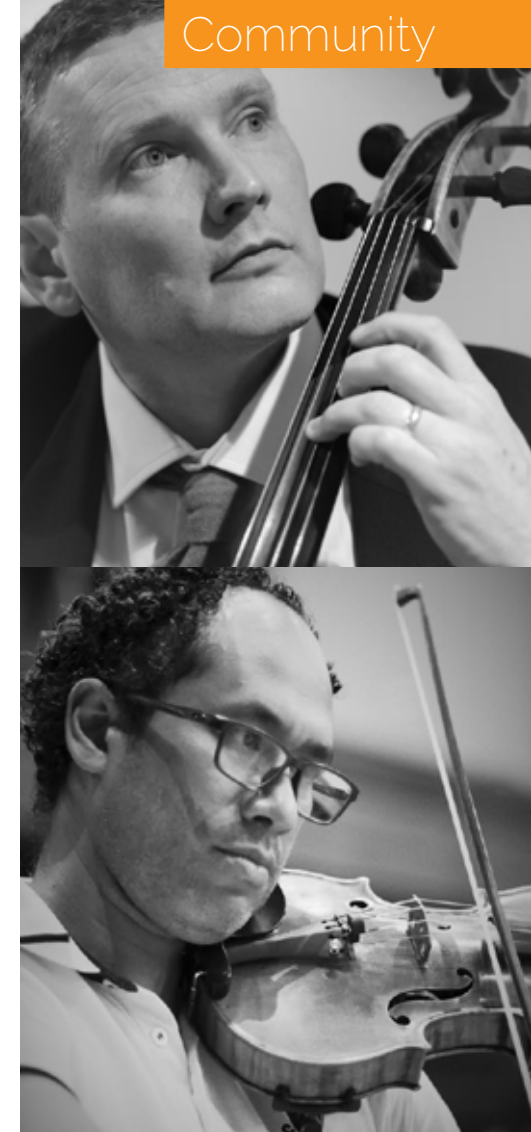
The orchestra is now back up to full strength with several talented new members and will be "on tour" at the beautiful church of St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich on Saturday 9th July at the earlier than usual time of 7pm. This venue has amazing acoustics and always attracts a large audience, and we plan to fill it with the lush sounds of German Romanticism in this 125th anniversary year of Brahms's death.

The programme opens with the Tragic Overture – the much darker companion piece to the popular Academic Festival Overture. This is followed by the rarely performed Double Concerto for violin and cello with soloists Juan Gonzalez on violin and Ben Rogerson on cello. It's said that this piece requires two brilliant and equally matched soloists and we are sure you will marvel at their playing.

The majestic Symphony no 2 in D forms the second half of the programme. These are all wonderful works full of rich romantic themes and it was hardly surprising that Brahms was hailed as Beethoven's true heir.

The Orchestra is joined by two stunning soloists from the BBC Concert Orchestra. Juan Gonzalez was born in Venezuela, and has had a global career, playing with orchestras there and in Mexico, Germany, and the Britten Sinfonia in the UK. He teaches and coaches and has recordings on Deutsche Grammophon and Sony Classics to his name. With him will be the cellist Ben Rogerson, who after studying at the Royal Academy of Music and in the USA is now much in demand playing with the London Mozart Players and the City of London Sinfonia, when he is not teaching.

Tickets are available online via links on Facebook and our website, and directly at www.trybooking.co.uk/BPGU and will also be available on the door. They are £15, with Friends of the WSO at £13 and Under 18s free.



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NEW GROUP FOR FORAGERS

By Alex Klokkaris

The Wymondham Foraging Group emerged organically, and very quickly, as a result of a seed planted last February in a local social media page to gauge interest in starting a group in Wymondham.

The post generated a great response, and the result was a Wymondham Foragers WhatsApp group. The ground was fertile and the conditions were right, almost as if the group was waiting to sprout and come to life! One of the group members, local businessman Neil Platten, offered to use his tech abilities to create a Facebook group page as a way of reaching out to the wider local community.

Following an informal consultation with the WhatsApp group, we outlined some of our guiding principles including a love and respect for nature, social inclusion, collaborative learning, and, of course, responsible foraging.

The interest shot up, with over 130 local members joining our Facebook group. A few highly enjoyable walks have already taken place: we struggled with identification of plants between us, so we applied for a local grant from South Norfolk Council to help pay for a foraging teacher for guided walks, which would be accessible to all in the community.

The council's response was amazingly prompt, we gratefully received the grant on the same day!

The result: Over 30 people



attended our first guided plant ID walk at the Lizard conservation area in May, with Norwich-based professional organic gardener and forager, Kasia Puzio, found through local networking. The plant ID walk was diverse, with members from Wymondham, surrounding villages, children and families, and even people travelling from Norwich to share in the experience.

This is an informal community-led initiative, and group members are encouraged to take ownership of the group and the process of shaping it. The aim is for everyone to connect, participate, exchange and share information and experiences, as well as to create a platform for anyone who wants to organise a foraging-themed walk locally.

We hope that capacity-building initiatives and empowering communities to create, explore, connect through nature will continue to be supported for our own wellbeing and that of our communities.

There are no set plans for the future, the group will shape itself organically. If there is a philosophy at all, it's an emphasis on process rather than outcomes.

We have funding for another couple of guided walks locally; we are hoping to have Jim Christou, experienced forager and mushroom specialist, for an



autumn walk and one more from Kasia. In between we will be doing our own amateur walks, learning together and connecting to the cycles of nature and its gifts.

Find us on Facebook under Wymondham Foraging Group at: www.facebook.com/groups/3414460946



NEW FACE AT STAR THROWERS

Hello! I'm Naomi Parfitt, the new Cancer Information Nurse at Star Throwers.

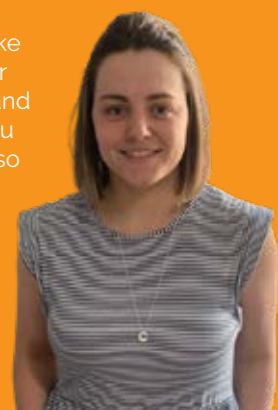
I have worked at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital within the acute care sector for the last 8 years, mainly within the renal department but also caring for a number of oncology patients on the wards. I have always had a special interest in oncology and focused my dissertation research specifically on breast cancer and mastectomies.

Prior to my nursing degree I was a volunteer at Star Throwers. I very much enjoyed my volunteer role all those years ago, so when the team were searching for a new member to join them, I jumped at the chance.

Naomi joins the existing Star Throwers Cancer Information Nurse, Tina Hales.

Cancer Information Sessions: When someone is diagnosed with cancer, they or their carer often becomes their own 'cancer researcher'. However, without a medical background or experience reading scientific papers this can lead to conflicting information and websites / literature that cause more confusion. Star Throwers aims to make peer-reviewed cancer research accessible and understandable to you and your loved ones so that you can make informed decisions.

To book a free Cancer Information Session with our nurse, contact us on 01953 423304.



A MONTH IN THE LIFE OF A WYMONDHAM SIXTH FORMER

My bedroom window is the old-fashioned type with several shutters and panes overlapping one another, meaning it is the prime source of entrapment for flies and bugs. Many animals – wasps, flies, the occasional butterfly – have tragically met their ends in the layers of my second-floor window. I mention this because Wymondham sixth formers are at the stage where they are revising at home, and this brings several challenges. Mine is spending every revision break rescuing the latest insect that has deigned to pay me a visit.

(It's actually a very annoying task, one that often provokes a desire to kill the animal myself. Partly because they appear to do it deliberately – they fly in even when it is only open by an inch – and then once they are trapped, their instinct is to fly upwards, which in my window is a spider-web-riddled dead end. Were they to crawl 2cm downwards, they would notice the expansive fresh-air exit I create for them – but no. Thankfully though, Window Fly Rescue is a fine art that gets better with practice and, having commenced study leave, I can boast that Earth has about three or four more living insects in it than it otherwise would. Not big savings for the planet, but hey, small victories, right?)

Perhaps the above paragraphs are evidence that we all go slightly mad when revising at home. Study leave is undoubtedly a very positive thing: we control our hours, more comfortable clothes, and no £5 limit on our food consumption (I'll never understand that school policy). Freedom of headphone usage is a big pro, as it allows language students like me to listen to the Spanish Let it Go on a loop whilst revising vocab. But like all positive things, study leave has its idiosyncrasies. I am always amused, for example, by writing an English Literature essay, hating it to my core, then rereading it 48 hours later and thinking it's a masterpiece. And then emailing it to my teacher and hearing back that my first instinct was right.

(Just kidding – I hope.)

At the time of writing, our position on the A-Level exam timeline is as follows: we're in the thick of it. Everything is happening at once, and that's not even a metaphor. If you use AQA and do my subjects, then you would have joined me simultaneously sitting English Literature and Spanish at 9am on Tuesday the 7th. Or instead, as clearly AQA believe

those subjects would never be taken by the same student, sitting Spanish in the morning and remaining in isolation all day, with one's charming invigilator captors even accompanying you to the toilet.

(They do this so you don't communicate with anybody who has already taken the clashing exam, so in my case, to prevent me seeing other English students.)

I had the short straw. I then continued isolation overnight because the postponed English Lit had been pushed into my afternoon Maths slot. Apparently, you used to have to sleep at the headmaster's (I have no words). Thanks to 21st century alterations, I could sign a legal waiver and they just trusted me. Which is a relief for all concerned as my headmaster lives a long way away and I'd have probably needed to get up with him at 4am.

Regardless, I think I speak for all of us when I say that we will be walking on air when this is over. The magical last day is the 24th June (which, rather charmingly, is also my dad's birthday). Until then, it's full on. If somebody asked me whether I was enjoying it, my answer would be a resounding no. Enjoyment is possible if you get a fun exam question (this can happen in English), but the revision interim is the opposite. The pressure to replicate the absolute best version of your work in an all-or-nothing two and a half hours three times a week for three weeks is staggering. Sitting at home, this pressure can feel insurmountable, sometimes utterly terrifying. The nice thing though is that by the time this article is published, we will probably be most of the way there, if not done, so sixth formers across the town will have forgotten all this. We'll be lying flat on our bedroom floors recovering (me surrounded by swarms of window flies). And that will be very worth it.

THE POETRY OF LORD BYRON

Hands up who hated poetry in secondary school? As an English Literature student, I absolutely feel your pain, because until my conversion to it last year, I also hated it.



THE LOWE DOWN

With Freddy Lowe



Most of the public these days (sadly!) only associate poetry with the heart-sinking feeling of being asked yet again what Shakespeare meant when he put the comma here instead of there, or having to argue that X, Y, and Z really means A, B, and C... even if you're secretly thinking that it just means X, Y, and Z. Even one of my best friends who is (like me) planning on taking English further admitted that she found half of that stuff to be nonsense (and her word wasn't nonsense).

Readers who love poetry, not to worry, I am with you – but I first wanted to acknowledge that it is very common (and entirely understandable) for people to not want to touch it with a bargepole. My theory however is that some poets can transcend that, for they can accomplish two things at once: they can be critically provocative for those who want to analyse, but their writing is equally appealing and joyful for those who are wanting to read something short in bed after a horrid day. One of these such poets is Philip Larkin, who prompted my re-evaluation of poetry last year, and another is George Gordon Byron, more commonly known as Lord Byron.

Available in many beautifully published, easy-to-read editions, Lord Byron's poetry is wonderful and the perfect cheer-up mechanism for anyone who is too busy to read long novels but still misses the joy of literature. His words are hilarious, poignant, sarcastic, and versatile enough to apply to almost any situation in life. "To Woman" feels like the gender-reversed equivalent of a man-hating breakup song; "Childe Harold's Departure" is relatable reading for anyone who is anxious to leave an uninspiring environment; "She Walks in Beauty" is for those who want to impress on a date – and "Epitaph to a Dog" is what it says on the tin: one for the canine lovers.

If you miss reading but want short, commitment-free reads, get a copy of this and have it by your bed. Read one whenever you fancy without feeling the need to analyse or overthink – just enjoy the words and the stories. You might be converted and find that poetry is the perfect antidote to whatever life is throwing at you

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH TO BE RESTORED

By Rachael Mold

Does your group want to meet in an historic building?

Whether your group or activity happens once a year or once a week, St Andrews Church in Deopham is looking to be your new home! Residents of Deopham (a small village about 5 miles south of Wymondham) are making plans to renovate St Andrews Church so that it can be a resource for the wider community as well as a place of worship. These plans include bidding for National Heritage Lottery Funding. It's a long term plan we know but right

now the St Andrews Restoration (STAR) group would love to hear from local groups that would potentially use such a space. That way we can make sure the renovations are planned in a way that will meet the needs of potential users. So if you are thinking of setting up or expanding a group or activity please do get in touch this month (rmold@me.com). Whether you do music, drama, arts and crafts, exercise, nature and wildlife, education, local history or something else entirely we would love to hear from you.

MORLEY BEER FESTIVAL REVIEW

By Samuel Dutton

With post lockdown blues now a distant memory, hundreds of people found their way to the Morley Beer Festival this year to feel like part of a community once again (and fill themselves with locally brewed beers and ciders). Both days were filled with revelry and cheer. And while the weather may have turned as the festival went on, the spirits of the people certainly did not.

Despite its title, the festival was a largely family focused affair. Just after getting my wristband and making my way into the main area I saw a school load of children playing with diabolos, balancing boards and different ground mats for various games. I might have been fooled into thinking I had stumbled on a playground, if it weren't for the adults nearby reposed on deck chairs and bale of straw sipping away at their new favourite Norfolk brewed beverages. And of course the serene singing from the fine Serena Grant. Everyone was focused on amusing their friends with the newest happenings, savouring the company of the bubbling friend in their hand and losing themselves in the shared feeling that permeated everything. Not a single thought turned to the darkening clouds overhead.

I took the strongest cider they had and ventured to the other parts of the festival. Here there were a plethora of activities for people of all ages to enjoy. Dads were showing up their teenagers at archery, sisters were outscoring their red-faced brothers in footy drills and all the kids clambered to the top of the inflatable hill only to be sent tumbling down by a swinging wrecking ball (a toy one thankfully). Beyond that there were plenty of stalls for buying all sorts of gifts. A few of these were almost too tempting not to buy, with one nifty little item calling out to me in particular.

My only regret is not staying longer, but for the short time I was there I had a better time than I had expected... I had expected a small bunch of locals gulping down watery beer in a tattered marquis. My ignorance was laid bare before my eyes at the spectacle of this event. It proved that in a world of doom and gloom, small communities can come together to do something special even still. And if that something special is whacking the rat, sipping cider in the sun or listening to the local artists sing their hearts out then I think that's more than enough. Suffice it to say I will be attending the next Morley Beer Festival if all goes well and I'll certainly be spending a great deal more time there than I did. I would highly recommend anyone else to do the same.



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Guest Column

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE



By Cllr Kim Carsok

Having only been elected in October 2021, I recently attended a parish councillor training course at Norfolk Parish Training & Support alongside my colleague Cllr Penny Hubble.

Whether you're new to a role or have been doing it for years, training is always worthwhile to gain or renew knowledge. And this course also offered a great chance to speak with other councillors from the region and see how our Town Council compares with other parish councils facing similar issues.

The training was hosted by experienced parish council clerks (the head of the permanent administrative staff at a council). In it, they gave an amusing example to visualise their advisory role in a scenario, where councillors were discussing a proposal to paint a grass field pink.

Despite the obvious absurdity of the idea, as clerks, they'd advise councillors on the costs of pink paint, that you'd need to re-paint the grass as it grew, point out that it might cause maintenance issues for the mowing

equipment and any other factors to inform the councillors' decision.

But ultimately, if the councillors still voted that it's what they wanted to do, that would be the will of the council. The clerk would then have a duty to go and seek contractors and enact it. The lesson: it's for advisors to advise and elected representatives to decide. I can't see residents rushing to re-elect councillors who voted to waste taxpayer money on painting the grass pink though.

Another interesting section explained the difference between a council committee and a working group:

A committee is a decision-making body with devolved power to vote on and enact decisions on behalf of the Council. A working group is meant to be set up for a short-term purpose, so that councillors can work together informally to explore options and prepare a detailed analysis for full council. The working group's report should include the pros and cons of the options and not present a foregone conclusion waiting to be rubber stamped.

Our Town Council has a number of

working groups. They include Buildings, Health & Safety and Personnel, New Cemetery, Browick Recreation Ground Review, and Bright Future (town centre improvements). Two additional groups have been proposed and will be discussed at full council on 5th July at 7pm.

In my opinion it is absolutely essential for these working groups to ensure the reports they bring to full council present all the important information to aide councillors in making a fully informed choice when asked to vote on the subject.

This is of particular importance because the meetings held by working groups are not open to the public. Only committees and full council are open, and only they are able to make binding decisions.

All holders of public office are expected to abide by the Nolan Principles, one of which is 'openness'. If we are to act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner, it must also follow that working group reports and recommendations are fully transparent too.



Wymondham **Methodist Church**

Open Tuesdays

Refreshments and Conversation
All are welcome



Colouring ★ Jigsaws ★ Crosswords
Word Search ★ Sudoku

**IN THE TOWN GREEN CENTRE
EVERY TUESDAY
10AM - 12 NOON**

NEW RUGBY LEAGUE TEAM GROWING FAST

By Ed Lambert



The Anglian Vipers are a new rugby league team based in Wymondham. Despite various attempts by different people to form rugby league clubs in Norfolk over the last twenty years, the Vipers are currently the only active rugby league club in the whole of Norfolk and Suffolk. The idea to form a club started with the three founders Rob Humphries, Chris Wildish and David Parkin in 2019, but its development has been delayed until this year due to Covid.



In England, Rugby League is mainly played in the north of the country and isn't as well known in East Anglia. While there are many similarities the game is quite different to Rugby Union. There are 13 players on each team instead of 15, there are no line outs or contested scrums and the ball gets turned over to the other team after six tackles; as a result each player has more time with the ball, and the game is much faster and requires a higher level of fitness.

The club train and play their matches at Wymondham Rugby Union Club's ground at Barnard Fields. It is a superb facility, opened in 2018 with four pitches and a fantastic clubhouse. They



Photos: Ed Lambert

have entered the East RL competition in 2022, which features seven teams from around the Eastern Counties. The season runs from May to August.

The Vipers have attracted a very enthusiastic group of players, with 40 registered male players, a core group of nine female players and 22 attending the latest training session. The majority of the squad have never played rugby league before, but there are five players with good experience and the rest are mainly Union players keen to learn a new code during the summer; there are even some players who have never played either code before but wanted to try a new sport.

The Vipers' first ever match was away at St Albans Centurions on 7th May. The Centurions are an established club in the East RL competition with a glittering honours board and have ambitions to win the league this year, so it was a tough test for a newly formed club. The players new to rugby league have been working hard to pick up the rules and structure of League in training, and the experienced players had the task to help them through the match.

The first half score reflected the inexperience in the Vipers team with Centurions taking a 24-0 lead into the break. However, the Vipers' players learned fast and the second half was nowhere near as comfortable for Centurions, with Vipers scoring two tries and with the final score 38-10.

Since the first game the Vipers have lost 70-22 in a friendly against a very strong Bedford Tigers side, then had their first ever win, 48-38 in the East RL cup against North Herts Crusaders. They then lost heavily against Bedford again in the cup, 70-28, but the following week showed huge improvement losing 32-20 to the same Bedford side in the league and followed that up with their first league win on 18th June, 46-32 against

North Herts.

They are now looking to improve over the rest of this season and become a competitive force in the East RL competition over the next couple of years. They already have a number of women involved in the training sessions and hope to arrange a friendly against another women's team this season. Further ambitions include a youth set up and a women's team entered in the East RL comp in 2023.



If anybody is interested in playing for the Vipers, attending training, sponsoring the club or just finding out more, please contact them via Facebook or by email at info@anglianvipers.com. Training is currently at 7pm on Monday evenings and all are welcome, whatever their previous level of experience or ability; they are a friendly club who want to spread the rugby league word around Wymondham and South Norfolk - the more the merrier. The club also has a range of merchandise which can be found at northwest.iconsports.co.uk/anglian-vipers.



FOCUS ON PE At Robert Kett Primary School

By Hollie Prime, PE Lead



Advertorial

Whenever PE is mentioned in a classroom at Robert Kett, a cheer will usually erupt. It is one lesson children love, especially when the sun is shining and they can use the school field. Over this academic year, we have had a whole school push in improving the quality of teaching and learning of PE.

To ensure the children are receiving our own best practice as teachers, we have provided CPD for teachers to attend; the most recent was a whole staff gymnastics course

after school. The purpose of CPD is to develop teacher knowledge, skills and confidence, along with reminding ourselves on how to use the fantastic gymnastic equipment we are lucky to have. We do not want the children of Robert Kett to see the equipment, but never actually be able to go on it. The buzz we get from the children when they are enjoying their lesson, was the same with the adults when the wall bars and ropes were brought out to be used. We are in a very privileged position with our equipment and we have now got

the training and confidence to use it with our classes.

As we have now returned to 'normality' (or as much as possible), we have been able to organise and compete against other local schools, we have strong links with Ashleigh and Browick and the children have enjoyed representing the school in a range of sporting competitions. It has been fantastic to see the sportsmanship and competitive element of PE shine through.



WHAT'S ON?

Friday 1st July

Ex Services Bingo Night
7pm doors open, eyes down 8pm, Ex-Services Social Club
Cash prizes and raffle. All welcome
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

Leticia Szabo: Enchanting East Anglia
11am - 4pm, Wymondham Arts Centre, Becket's Chapel
Exhibition runs through 3rd July
www.wymondhamarts.org

Saturday 2nd July

Jazz Picnic with Dixie Mix
6pm to 9pm, Becketswell Meadow
Bring a picnic, free entry
Organised by Lions Club and Rotary Group

Live singer Jackie Cann
8pm, Ex-Services Social Club
Members free, non-members £2
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

Sunday 3rd July

Bishop of Norwich leading service
11am, Wymondham Abbey
Following the resignation of the Vicar, The Rt Revd Graham Usher will be leading the service and he would like to encourage as many people as possible to attend, thereby beginning the task of returning the Abbey to what it used to be.

Tuesday 5th July

Wymondham High Academy starts its exhibition at Wymondham Arts Centre till Sunday 10th July. The Arts Centre is open from 11am - 4 pm (Tues - Sun).
www.wymondhamarts.org or email info@wymondhamarts.org

Open Tuesdays at WMC
10am-12noon, Town Green Centre
All welcome for refreshments and conversation
With colouring, jigsaws, crosswords and more

Full Town Council Meeting
7pm, Kett's Park Offices
wymondhamtowncouncil.org/documents/agendas

Wednesday 6th July

Tidy Up w/ Wymondham in Bloom
10am-4pm, Market Cross
Join the volunteers to help spruce up the town centre in preparation for Anglia in Bloom judging.

Arts Society Portrait Demo by Stephen Teeuw
7.15pm, Roman Catholic Church Hall
www.wymondhamart.org

Friday 8th July

Anglia in Bloom Judging
9am-12pm, Town Centre
Regional competition judges will tour the town and give marks on horticulture, community, cleanliness and environmental categories. Residents and businesses in the town are encouraged to decorate their doorsteps with all their best plants for the day.

Live Music Night with James Barr
8:30pm, the White Hart Pub, free admittance
thewhitehartwymondham.co.uk

Saturday 9th July

Rum and Reggae
12 noon - 11pm, Green Dragon
Live music: roots, reggae, steppas and dub

A Festival of Brahms by Wymondham Symphony Orchestra
7pm, St. Peter Mancroft Church, Norwich
Tickets £15, under 18s free
www.wymondhamsymphonyorchestra.org.uk

DJ Owen 80s and 90s Music
7pm, Ex-Services Social Club
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

Tuesday 12th July

Open Tuesdays at WMC
10am-12noon, Town Green Centre
All welcome for refreshments and conversation
With colouring, jigsaws, crosswords and more

Saturday 16th July

WRFC Car Show
10am, Wymondham Rugby Club
100+ Cars, food trucks, bar, inflatables
www.wymondhamrfc.com/club-events

Lizzy & The List
8pm, Ex-Services Social Club
Rock/pop/ballads/country band in the

Regal Lounge
Members free, non-members £2
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

Monday 18th July

Wymondham Garden Club - Reclaiming an Allotment
Talk by Juyana Lewis - learn about allotments & vegetable growing
Show Table - Sweet Peas, Soft Fruit, Lavender
Club Table - A favourite from my Garden
7.30pm, Town Green Centre. Members Free, guests £4.
wymondhamgardenclub@gmail.com

Tuesday 19th July

Open Tuesdays at WMC
10am-12noon, Town Green Centre
All welcome for refreshments and conversation
With colouring, jigsaws, crosswords and more

LEET Committee Meeting
7pm, Town Council, Kett's Park

Thursday 21st July

Author Event: Jessica Sterling
5:30pm, Wymondham Baptist Church
Hosted by Kett's Books with free entry

Friday 22nd July

80s and 90s Party
Ex-Services Social Club
Ticket only event, see noticeboard for information
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

Saturday 23rd July

Choral Society Concert: Celebration of Summer
7.30pm, St. Mary's Church Attleborough
Tickets £10 on the door (under 16s free)

An Evening with Two Sopranos
7.30pm Central Hall Tickets £5.00 on the door. Refreshments will be on sale.
Contact Alive Church for any queries on wymondham@alivechurch.org.uk

Tuesday 26th July

Open Tuesdays at WMC
10am-12noon, Town Green Centre
All welcome for refreshments and conversation
With colouring, jigsaws, crosswords and more

Saturday 30th July

Childrens' Summer Party
2pm-4pm, Ex-Services Social Club
Entertainment, disco, party games, refreshments included
£3 per child, tickets on sale in the bar.
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

Wednesday 3rd August

Arts Society Watercolour Demo by Ian McManus
7.15pm, Roman Catholic Church Hall
www.wymondhamart.org

Saturday 6th August

Music on the Meadow @ WTFC
12pm-late, Wymondham Town Football Club
Live music, DJ, street food, bar, children's entertainment and more

Monday 8th August

Clay - Glaze - Fire
Pottery Show
11am-4pm Tues-Sun
Wymondham Arts Centre, Becket's Chapel
Runs until 21st August
www.wymondhamarts.org



MARKETS

Charter Market

Every Friday
8am to 2.30pm Market Place

Farmers' Market

Third Saturday
(16th July)
9am to 1pm, Market Place

www.wymondhamtowncouncil.org
01953 603 302

SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

Alive Church 10.30am, Central Hall
www.alivechurch.org.uk/wymondham

Baptist Church 10.30am and online
www.wymondhambaptist.org.uk

Hope Community Church 9.30am & 11.30am
www.hopecommunitychurch.co.uk

Methodist Church 10.30am
www.wymondhammethodistchurch.com
Via zoom at 6.30pm for the link email:
zoomchurchservice@outlook.com

RC Church
8.30am and 10am
www.wymondhamrcchurch.org.uk

Wymondham Abbey
11am
www.wymondhamabbey.org.uk



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