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WYMONDHAM Magazine

ISSUE 72 | MAY 2023

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other historic royal occasions





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From the editors...

Thanks for downloading and reading the May E-Edition of Wymondham Magazine, which marks a full year of us producing this community publication. That's gone by in a whirl. Time flies when you're enjoying yourself.

Also racing up fast is the King's Coronation in May. It's another chance for Wymondham get out in the town centre and have a good time. The Town Green road will be closed on Saturday 6th May for a good old-fashioned street party thrown by the cafe and Sports Bar there. Let's hope the weather isn't good old-fashioned.

There's some sterling work in this edition from local history aficionados, Neil Haverson and Philip Yaxley, who've managed to research and present Wymondham's previous brushes with royalty and how the town celebrated other Coronations.

June will be a print edition once more, so make sure to guarantee your spot as an advertiser if you want to reach around 8600 homes in the town.

Enjoy the issue and enjoy all the bank holidays ahead!

Kim and Jimmy

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NEW MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTORS ALWAYS WELCOMED

Are you an aspiring writer? Do you take part in a community group? Have you got a hobby or a view you're passionate about? Or do you just have a one-off piece of news you want to share with the entire town?

Wymondham Magazine is written almost exclusively by volunteer contributors, who submit their pieces each month for the community to enjoy. And anyone is welcome to send us their story, any time, at the

news@wymondhammagazine.co.uk email address.

We have one main editorial rule: if it's about Wymondham, our readers want to hear it! We'd love to hear more from our sports clubs, opinion pieces on topics affecting the town, features about your hobbies or interests, and updates on what your club or association are up to.

So don't be shy, even if you've never written to be published before. We'll help you get your voice out there! Use the email address above if you'd like more information.



▲ Laura Duffy writes about her passion for reading with a monthly book review

Great experience. Freddy Lowe now also writes for University of Edinburgh's *The Student* newspaper ▼



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YOUNG FARMER SHORTLISTED FOR NATIONAL AWARD

By Tony Vale

Being shortlisted for Senior Member of the Year is an honour for Frances Roberson, from Wymondham YFC in Norfolk, who says she will treasure the accolade forever.

She was hoping to win at the national final on 23 April where she showcased her skills to the judges in a private interview as well as on-stage to an audience. The winner of the competition was Polly Baines from Staffordshire. To get to the final is a huge achievement as the members have to compete in county and area rounds before making it to the national final.

When asked what she loves about Young Farmers Club, Frances said: "The opportunities to learn and meet new people across the country. In YFC there are always things to do. Every one of the finalists are in the final because they are fantastic members of their club and county. They work tirelessly to support the organisation, with enthusiasm and determination to do their part. To have reached the final alone is an honour and something I will treasure forever."

MNR POLAR EXPRESS TICKETS GO ON SALE

By Peter Singlehurst

All aboard the Polar Express this Christmas, as the Mid Norfolk Railway recently announced that tickets for this year's Polar Express are now on sale.

Do you believe? Will you be joining the Polar Express as it travels to the North Pole to meet Father Christmas? Trains will be running from November right through to 23 December.

This year, the cast for the Polar Express will once again be overseen by MNR Theatrical Director Paul Andrew Goldsmith of the Twisted Reality Theatre. Tickets will be available in Standard class where all seats are grouped in four seat bays around a table or Premium class for those wishing for a little more room around a table for four or two.

Charlie Robinson, the Chairman of the MNR Trust said: "This is an important day for the railway as the revenue we receive from our Polar Express experience forms a vital part of the railway's income. The funds allow us to

continue to ensure that the railway will be here for generations to come and enjoy, just as we have".

During the magical journey to the North Pole, the Conductor and Chefs will be eager to invite people on board to enjoy a delicious cup of hot chocolate and a scrumptious cookie, while providing entertainment as you travel. Other characters will also be on board and for those who truly believe you will even get to see the Big Man himself.

Passengers are encouraged to wear their dressing gowns and pyjamas in the true spirit of the film. A full range of food and drink will be on sale at Dereham station before the show begins and the Polar Express shop will also be open for a variety of souvenirs and gifts.

Tickets are on sale from the Mid Norfolk Railway at www.midnorfolkthepolarexpressride.com only. Well? You comin'?



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ONE COMMUNITY, ONE BOOK 2023

By Tracy Kenny

Kett's Books' volunteers are very excited to reveal that the One Community, One Book selection for 2023 is *A Terrible Kindness* by Jo Browning Wroe. Set in October 1966, the book follows the journey of 19 year-old William Lavery, an apprentice embalmer. As the book opens he is attending his first black-tie event. But before the evening ends, news reaches the group of the devastating landslide at Aberfan. William immediately volunteers to help, making his first job as an embalmer a harrowing and life-changing experience. William takes home with him fears for the future as well as a fresh sense of what he's already lost in his short life - and has to work through both to find his way back to happiness.

Kett's Books runs the One Community, One Book project as a kind of town-wide book group featuring a single book, so everyone can join the conversation. *A Terrible Kindness* does start with a young man caught up in a tragedy, but is never grisly - it swiftly moves on to the rest of William's life, and tells how he works through the pain to find healing. We chose this book because so many of our readers will recall the tragedy, because it's a beautifully written and compelling story full of music, because much of it is set in Cambridge, and because it is, ultimately, hopeful.

We hope you enjoy it as much as we are enjoying sharing it - do come in and tell us what you think.

LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE LOCAL HEROES

By South Norfolk Council Communications Team

Residents can now nominate their local heroes in South Norfolk Council's Community Awards. The Awards, sponsored by Clarion Futures, celebrate all the dedicated hard-working volunteers that give up their time to help make South Norfolk a fantastic place to live, work and visit.

At the launch held at Glen Lodge, Bawburgh, South Norfolk Council's Chairman, Councillor James Easter, said: "We have some amazing residents, businesses and community groups in South Norfolk who are inspirational in their efforts to go above and beyond for their community. If you know someone like this, who goes the extra mile, then nominate now and let them know how much you appreciate their hard work."

Yvonne Ogden, Neighbourhood Investment Manager at Clarion Futures said:

"We're delighted to be sponsoring this year's Community Awards that celebrate the contributions and achievements of individuals, businesses and community groups across South Norfolk. Community spirit and support is so important, especially as the cost of



living continues to bite, and it's great to see local residents being recognised for the difference they are making."

The eight award categories are:

- Inspiration of the Year
- Young Person of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Helping Hand Award
- Green at Heart Award
- Business Community Advocate Award
- Community Group of the Year
- Community Hero

Nominations close 3 May. All shortlisted nominees will be invited to a special awards night held on 30 June at Glen Lodge, Bawburgh. Winners will receive grants of £250 to give to their chosen charitable organisation. You can make your nomination by visiting www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communityawards



CORONATION STREET PARTY

By Ryan Parfitt

Wymondham Sports Bar, Town Green Garden Cafe and the Wymondham Antiques Centre are hosting a street party to celebrate the King's Coronation, with lots to look forward to. With having the road closed we plan to bring a traditional street party feel to Town Green. There's plenty to look forward to, with a Brass band, a rock and soul choir, music, face painting, and of course lots of food and drink! We also plan to have an outside screen to show the coronation whilst the whole street gets to celebrate this wonderful event, and we can't wait to see you all.



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MORE FUNDING SECURED FOR BECKET'S CHAPEL

By **Stephanie Potts**

Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust (NHBT) is delighted to announce that it has secured a substantial development grant from the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF). This will enable NHBT to start detailed planning and fundraising for the second and final phase of the repair and repurposing of Becket's Chapel in the centre of Wymondham, Norfolk. Becket's Chapel is Grade 1 listed and is currently on the national 'heritage at risk' register.

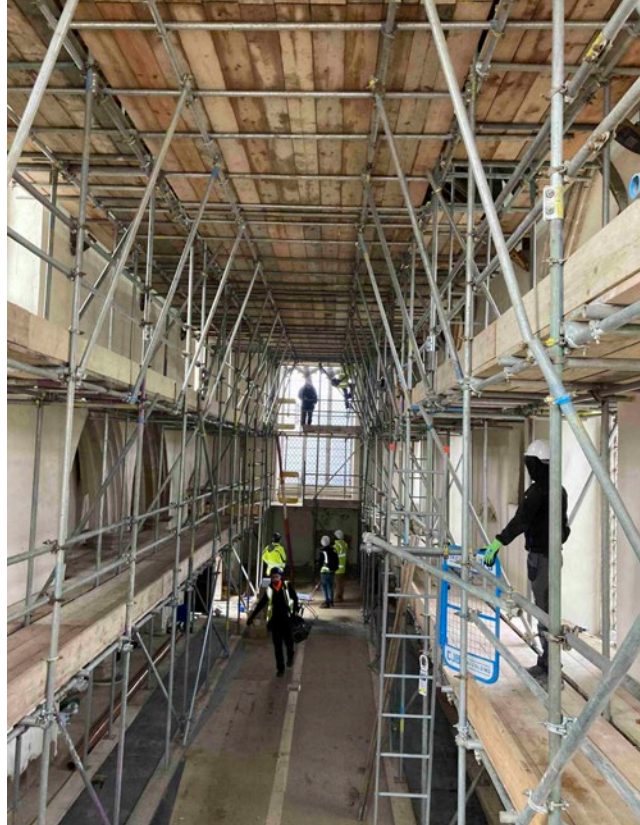
NHBT has already secured in excess of £700,000 grant funding from a range of sources including Historic England, the Architectural Heritage Fund and Norwich Freeman's Charity. This enabled the Trust to embark on the first phase of major repairs to the fabric and upgrade the services and facilities in the building. This phase, due to be completed in early June 2023, included full retrofit analysis of the chapel. It also incorporates sustainable services, insulation and other measures to support the drive to Net Zero, reducing carbon emissions.

The plans for the second phase will build upon these initiatives, incorporating ground or air source heating and solar panels into a

proposed modern extension to achieve sustainable year-round use of the whole building. It will also include an upgrade of the annex with accessible facilities, storage and when combined with the new extension, room for a café and welcome desk/ Visitor Information Point, designed to attract visitors to Wymondham town centre.

Laura Williams of the Architectural Heritage Fund said: "The medieval Becket's Chapel is such an important building, not just for Wymondham but for the nation. The work being led by Norfolk Historic Buildings Trust will secure its future and provide a special place for local people and visitors to use and enjoy all year round. We are proud to be supporting the next development phase with this grant, building on the funding we have awarded over the past five years".

Judith Harwood NHBT Chair said, "We are delighted by AHF's continued



and substantial support for our project. AHF is unique in providing early-stage funding to enable business case analysis, detailed plans and costs to be determined. Without their support it is unlikely this project would have got off the ground. We now have the real prospect of bringing to fruition our long-held vision for this remarkable building."

More information, including photos of the current work in progress and a full list of grant providers is available at www.nhbt.org.uk



STONES, BONES AND HERBS TALK AT ABBEY

By **Hilary Hunter**

An entertaining and educational talk will be given by medical historian Dr Joy Hawkins in Wymondham Abbey on Sunday 28th May 2023 at 3pm. She will illustrate her talk with Powerpoint slides.

Joy will be talking about the range of herbal remedies used to treat everyday ailments in mediaeval England such as headaches, vomiting, eye complaints and burns. A range of stones and jewels were also used, both for protection and as curatives. Joy will also touch upon the importance of pilgrimage and relics to treat chronic illnesses before the Reformation.



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TOWN COUNCIL WATCH

Succession Special

By Jimmy Young

April 4th and the final full meeting of Wymondham Town Council convened ahead of local elections in May. A short meeting saw the council's four year term draw to a close, marking the end of an era that had seen resignations, defections and an irritating *young* local democracy writer spring up out of nowhere, to cause ire and delight in unequal measures.

For many councillors, this would be their last meeting. From the ballot paper candidate lists, we know there will be wholesale changes of Conservatives. We bid a fond and grateful farewell to Cllrs Yvette Astley (Con), Peter Broome (Con), Ian Flatt (Con), Kevin Hurn (Con) and Robert Savage (Con), who are all not re-standing for Town Council.

Other sitting councillors and new entries from all parties now put themselves at the mercy of the fearsome Wymondham public.

With not much substance on the agenda due to the impending elections, April's whole full council meeting proceeded with all the perkiness of a 5-day old leftover Coronation street party balloon. At one point, standing orders were suspended to allow questions to an expert member of the public. No one asked a question.

I've been a councillor. Get me out of here.

NEW CEMETERY LOCATION

To cheer things up, the first bit of news we did receive was that the New Cemetery Working Group had identified a site for a new cemetery to be built, adjacent to the Williams Park (Lovell) development on London Road.

It will be nice for the residents there to see where the Community Infrastructure Levy the developers paid on their houses went to.

Hands up who thinks we should do a group selfie to remember today by?



XMAS LIGHTS PURCHASE

Next up, the council unanimously approved a sheet of recommendations from the Christmas Lights Working Group. The proposal detailed the specific products the council will purchase, when they take over buying and maintaining town centre Christmas lights this year (up until now, this has been done by the Town Team / Light Up Wymondham volunteer group).

The recommendations included one interesting line that could make a synchronised big switch-on event possible in future, like you see in other towns and cities.

Get Craig from Big Brother and Mr Blobby's agents on the phone. We've got a gig for them.

Cllr Tony Holden (Con) seemed to be feeling vindicated about the whole thing:

"I can't help going back in time...", he reminisced out loud. "...to, you know, years ago when we were told over and over again you simply cannot have Christmas lights in town. It would never happen. It would never work. And yet here we are now with the council taking over at least part ownership of the project."

Yes alright, Tone. You've made your point.

Mr Holden then thanked Doug Hodges, the volunteer Christmas lights organiser for the last 7 years and outgoing Mayor Kevin Hurn (Con) who will be taking on the role going forward.

No abdication of duty for Mr Hurn then.

CODE OF CONDUCT

We then came to an item to approve a Model Councillor Code Of Conduct, which had been pored over last month by councillors in a generation-defining piece of televisual history that *Town Council Watch* had been lucky to witness. The document has been patched up in the meantime by the Town Clerk with their recommendations. Councillors adopted it unanimously.

WYNTERFEST IN PERIL?

Cllr Penny Hubble (Con) provided an

alarming update from the Wymondham Town Team group of volunteers, who organise popular events in town like Vintage Day and Wynterfest. According to the North Wymondham councillor, nobody had stepped forward to take on organising this year's Wynterfest, so there was a real danger it might not go ahead.

Someone should suggest the council helps organise town centre events. "It would never happen!" "It would never work!"

More from this series at:

wymondhammagazine.co.uk/
town-council-watch

END OF AN ERA

And that was that. Just 16.5 minutes after the meeting began, it was all over.

On the behalf of everyone in Wymondham, *Town Council Watch* thanks all the councillors for their unpaid efforts over the last four years - particularly those not returning after the elections. They stand up and put themselves in the firing line for decisions they take and may sometimes even end up the subject of a spot of ribbbing in a community magazine.

Taking a comedic swipe at those in positions of authority is a British tradition as old as monarchy itself.

But ultimately, they spend their valuable spare time thinking about how to make things better for people in Wymondham and working for it. And if they don't do that, who will?

The crown now passes onto new heads. May they execute their responsibilities with wisdom, good judgement and justice.

There is but one thing left to say:
God Save The King!

Clarification:

I received some correspondence about last month's Awards Night themed sketch, which included a section where I imagined Mayor Kevin Hurn giving an exaggerated gushy award acceptance speech, thanking his mum and his agent for their help - a well worn cliché for actors and artists at the Oscars and the like.

According to the contact, this had caused some consternation that I might have been referencing Mr Hurn's own actual late mother, who would have been proud of his achievements in office as Mayor.

This was of course never my intention. So for anyone that had read it that way, please accept my apologies for including a line that allowed this misunderstanding to happen.

LAUNCH WITH A SPRING

Advertorial

By [Rebecca Mills](#), EweMove Wymondham



Spring has arrived: a time of year associated with renewal, growth, and new beginnings. Within the world of property, Spring often produces an influx of sales activity with sellers and buyers focusing on their next move.

So, if you are a seller preparing to launch your property to market, what positive influence can you have on your selling journey? It's time for that spring clean!

A spring clean, regardless of the time of year, can seriously benefit your house sale in several ways:

1. INCREASED APPEAL

Homebuyers appreciate a clean and organised home. A thorough spring clean can make your home look more spacious, brighter, and more inviting. Remember, first impressions are made within seconds.

2. HIGHER PERCEIVED VALUE

A clean and well-maintained property can help create a perception of higher value in the minds of homebuyers, helping to achieve a better selling price within a quicker timescale.

3. FEWER DISTRACTIONS

When a property is cluttered and in need of a

clean, these tend to become the focus points during viewings, often perceived as telling signs of necessary maintenance. Positive features and attributes can be lost, even ignored. A clean and decluttered space is an inviting space.

4. POSITIVE LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Never assume yours is the only property a homebuyer is viewing that day, never mind that week. A lasting impression must be positive and can make all the difference. So, when you complete your spring clean, finish the job with an additional touch. It could be repainting the front door, adding an individual house number, or a couple of colourful hanging baskets.

Ultimately, it's about showing pride and joy in your property. Homebuyers are attracted to this, and as a seller you should have fun with this. If you have any questions regarding your upcoming journey as a seller and you want to know more about my supportive services, simply get in touch via my details below.

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KETT'S OAK

By Neville Cameron

Walking to a bashed up old tree where thousands have walked before: for a change I'm not talking about one walk in particular but several walks I've done all with one mature businessman linking them together. An amazing man that tried but failed to change the way people were treated and died for his trouble.

Ladies and gentlemen let me introduce you to a very special native of Wymondham. Yes, Mr Robert Kett.

Now we've only lived here for 10 happy years but I can't seem to walk anywhere without coming across this name. I'm sure loads of people like me wonder just who this Kett geezer was, so I've done some research and here's my spin on things.

Henry VIII had died leaving Edward VI to reign, and because of his young age the likes of the Duke of Somerset made important decisions, Catholic Churches were destroyed including our own Abbey but it was claimed it was our Parish church as well so it was only partially destroyed.

Land enclosure laws meant landowners could fence in or put hedges around common land and take back strips of land rented out by wealthy landowners. Raising sheep in these areas was far more profitable but it left peasants in dire straits, indeed some were starving.

It was in 1549 that things came to a head with men ripping up fencing and hedging regaining their land. They attacked a wealthy landowners property in Hethersett who very cleverly said, "look go and rip Robert Ketts fencing up and here's some money to help you on your way".

That they did! However when tackling Kett (around 57 years old) about their plight he agreed with them, joining in ripping out his own enclosures. Not only that but he became their leader giving them help and purpose.

He called a meeting near where Kett's Oak is now between Wymondham and Hethersett. Thousands attended from the surrounding area. They marched on Norwich to try holding talks but were refused, they were told to disperse but wouldn't.

Growing in size Ketts army armed mainly with spears, pitchforks and other weapons. They attacked the city (second only to London in size) then retreated back to mouse hill overlooking Norwich. From there raids continued until a second messenger told them to go home peacefully and no further action would be taken. Again they refused.

The King sent a new force to quell the rebellion led by the Earl of Warwick with 12,000 men including mercenaries from other countries. The army had a cavalry which easily overpowered Ketts starving men. Thousands were killed

with thousands remaining captive.

Robert and William Kett were sent to the Tower of London. 30+ men were hanged, it's believed some men were hanged at Ketts Oak whilst it was decided not to hang, draw and quarter the Kett brothers at the tower. Instead Robert Kett was hanged in chains from the walls of Norwich Castle and his brother William suffered the same fate hung from the West Tower of the Abbey. There were other ghastly sentences passed.

All of this was forgotten in the main until interest was sparked in the 18th and 19th Century, there are many accounts of what happened. I'm not a historian but I presume this is more or less why we now have: Robert Kett Primary School, The Robert Kett Pub, Robert Kett Court (assisted living), Kett's Books, Kett's Park and various plaques and monuments.

I've personally walked to and around all these places. Kett's Oak is held up with wooden scaffolding and good luck as it's absolutely knackered now. I've walked to the site twice, once with Yvonne. Now this may sound odd but I visited the old Oak before I knew of its history and it's certainly got an aura about it. You can sense it's not nice or proper but then again, there were men killed there because they protested about being starving.



NEVILLE WALKS AGAIN





EXPLORING THE BENEFITS OF MEDIATION AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO COURT

By Kira Arden, Associate Solicitor

Mediation has many advantages over going to court, including being faster, cheaper, and allowing the parties to remain in control and resolve important issues with dignity and respect. This article looks at these benefits and how mediation might work for you and your family.

WHAT IS FAMILY MEDIATION?

Family mediation is a process in which an impartial third-party mediator helps separating couples resolve disputes and make lasting arrangements for the future of them and their family, without going to court.

BENEFITS OF FAMILY MEDIATION TO RESOLVE DISPUTES

Overall, using family mediation to resolve issues has several advantages over going to court, and is well worth considering.

A FASTER RESOLUTION

One of the biggest benefits of mediation is that it allows for a faster resolution than the traditional court process. This is because mediation is a voluntary process, with no set court timetable or deadlines to adhere to. This means that the parties involved can work at their own pace and resolve their dispute as quickly or as slowly as they need. This flexibility is especially useful if the parties involved cannot meet at the same time or place, as mediation can usually take place over the phone or online.

COSTS

Another advantage of mediation is that it is much cheaper than going to court. If the parties go on to seek a consent order encompassing their agreement legal expenses & Court fees will be much less. Mediation can also be a much quicker process than going to hearing, which means the costs associated with the process are lower. In addition, mediation can take place anywhere convenient for the parties involved or remotely, meaning that travel costs are also reduced.

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MORE CONTROL

The parties involved in mediation also have much more control over the process than they would in a courtroom.

PRESERVE RELATIONSHIPS

Finally, and potentially the most important in family mediation is that it has the added benefit of preserving relationships between the parties involved. This is because it is a non-adversarial process, allowing the parties to come together to find a solution that works for both. This is not possible in a courtroom, where the parties are usually pitted against each other, and the judge usually determines the outcome.

If you would like to discuss any points in this article further, please contact Spire Solicitors LLP on [01953 606351](tel:01953606351) for all your legal needs.



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5.

NOTES ON IMAGES FROM PHILIP YAXLEY:

The Haymarket was a cinema in the middle of the city near The Walk and it is shown in pics 2 & 3. At the time, the popular venue for music and dance were the Grosvenor Rooms, shown in pic 1, which were on Prince of Wales Road and where, for example, The Beatles performed in 1963. Probably the most popular store for "pop-pickers", where they could listen to records, was Willmotts, again in Prince of Wales Road, while Smith's of Wymondham were popular locally.

TED Talks...

Rock & Roll

By Alex Perry

It was the early 1950s in the Haymarket, Prince of Wales Road, Norwich. The singer had a full head of thick, curly hair and was dressed like a dandy, with baggy, bell-bottom trousers. "He didn't have much of a voice box," recalled Ted. It didn't matter, this young crooner was an actor, a performer, a "person who came across well" – he was the pop star Max Bygraves.

Ted knew all about good music. He was a regular customer at the HMV (His Master's Voice) record shop where you could ask for the songs of Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, and Vera Lynn to be played on the gramophone before deciding whether to buy them.

Yet the 1950s were about much more than notes and lyrics; there arose a youth culture with daring and revealing new fashions and a rediscovered sex appeal. Max was popular with the local young ladies; they screamed at him, they pulled their hair; they wanted his autograph or better still a special photo for their lockets. And these women too could have their own fans; Ted recollected a Norwich lass with "beads in her pigtails" who had admirers aplenty.

However, looking sexy and trendy was never cheap; it was not unusual for young adults to ask their elders for loose change to subsidise their social lives. Ted had been brought up to work hard for his money and to be thrifty with it. He navigated his way through this age of rock and roll by spotting the bargains – "LPs are better value than singles."

There was danger too, represented by the ultimate accessory of the decade – the J.A.P. bike with perhaps one or even two side-cars. Often home-made, these spartan bikes came without mudguards or lights, and who needs a helmet when you can wrap a scarf around your head!

Yet all in all Ted has fond memories of the fifties and confessed, "sometimes I wish I was back there", before sharing a burst of song. He's still got it you know.



Q&A

John Cann, Chair of Wymondham Photographic Society

By Gill Harle

In this month's Q&A we focus on photography, more specifically the Wymondham Photographic Society. John Cann, Chair of the WPS Committee agreed to talk to us about the Society, his own interest in photography, and provide a few tips for taking great holiday shots. John's love of photography, along with his knowledge and skills, are evident from the stunning images he shared with us for this feature. And the WPS, as he explains below, is not just about photography.

Can you tell us about your role in the Wymondham Photographic Society?

I joined in 2012 as a general member, then joined the Committee a couple of years later, and eventually, I ended up as the Chair. We've got a good, strong Committee. Through the lockdown I pulled back a bit and let the ones who wanted to manage the Zoom meetings. They did that very successfully and kept the club going, though we probably

lost 50% of our membership during that time. Once the lockdown ended and we met normally at the Dell, I was asked to come back as Chair, which I agreed to, and I've been the Chair ever since.

I wanted to join a club when I retired as I think belonging to a club gives you enthusiasm and direction. I looked online to find one and picked Wymondham as it had a nice webpage and sounded good with friendly people.

How long has the club been going and what's behind its success?

It started in 1969, and was called the Wymondham and Attleborough Camera Club, but eventually we changed to the Wymondham Photographic Society. The reason we don't call it a camera club is because we're interested in photography, not particularly the equipment - although people love to talk about the equipment. But it doesn't matter what equipment you've got, it's the image. We've had our fiftieth anniversary and are still going strong. I'd say the

success of the society is due to strong leadership through the committee and enthusiastic members. And although we are known as a local photographic society, in fact we are international as we've had a competition with Red Deer in Canada for the last five years and are about to hold an annual competition with a club in Colorado Springs in the States.

Who are the members and do they take part in competitions?

There are just over 50 members, aged from about 30 upwards. There are a number of retired people, so the age is on the higher side. It's a broad spectrum of members in terms of levels, abilities, and equipment. We have two tiers in the competitions: one for beginners and one more advanced. Not everyone enters the competitions, but about 75% do, and it's a way to judge where you are and whether you're improving. Some competition submissions are even taken with phones. It's the image, not the equipment.





Can you tell us about the meetings and membership?

Our season runs from September to June, and we meet every Tuesday at the Dell Bowls Club from 8:00-10:00pm. We are very much a social body of photographers and we also have a coffee morning on the first Friday of the month at 10:00am. And there's a landscape group, open to any member, which meets about once a month at a particular destination, it could be during the day or evening. We are open to forming other groups too if members are interested. It's all about the members. The membership fee is £50 a year, which we've held for the last few years, and it is reduced if you join later the year. The fee is in line with other local clubs. If people want to come and try it out, they can come along for two evenings free of charge.

What's a typical meeting like?



We don't have typical meetings. Some meetings are competitions, and we have people coming in to give us talks. Upcoming talks include one on underwater photography; another on derelict buildings; a drone photography talk with demonstration on the bowling green; and a wildlife photographer who spends six months of the year in Africa or India is coming to give us a talk. We also have social nights - at Christmas and the end of the season. We have continuous improvement which can be about anything the members want to learn; we had one earlier this year for beginners on how the camera works, composition - all the basics. We also have a studio where we can have a model and lighting. The Dell is a great venue for the meetings, with a big room, a bar, and a car park.

Why do you think photography is a popular hobby?

For us, in our society, it's a social club as well as a photographic club. And it's an interesting subject that you can progress in with your abilities, and it also gets you out into the fresh air and you get an understanding of nature. As you learn, you might go down a certain road which you focus more on, perhaps landscape, wildlife, portraiture... Most of our members are general photographers with a leaning towards various subjects. What it's done for me is that I've learned to appreciate the light, the world and wildlife. It's also about getting out, meeting people, and testing yourself - watching yourself improve.

How did you get interested in photography?

Back in the early 70s when I was on a work contract in Egypt, the people I was

working with had fancy cameras and I got interested. When I got back to the UK, I got my first camera and it's been a hobby ever since. I changed over to digital in about 2013 and had Canon equipment at first until the beginning of lockdown, and then after talking to some club members, I changed to Olympus - it's lighter, cheaper and the quality is superb. What I have now is really a mini computer that takes photographs.

Can you tell us about your upcoming Open Day?

We have our next Open Day on Saturday 17th June from 10:00 to 16:00 at the Dell. It's open to the public, and there'll be an exhibition of our photos, a digital display on TV, and members there to talk to. We'd like to encourage new members so that's an ideal opportunity for people to meet us and learn more.

With summer not far off, can you share some simple tips to help people improve their holiday photos, even if taken on the phone?

Yes, I've got five points. The first is take your time, don't rush. The second is to be aware of the background - you don't want a street light coming out of auntie's head in a family holiday photo! Third is composition again, be aware of edge intrusions - you don't want the boot of a car coming into the photograph or an unwanted branch, so again take time, look before you press the button. The fourth one, think about the rule of thirds when composing. So, if you have one main subject, don't put it in the centre, put it on a third line; and don't have any horizons in the centre, but either a third down or a third up. And the last one is remember there's no bad weather for taking photos, only bad clothing!

For more information about the WPS, take a look at their website <https://www.wymondham-ps.org.uk>. You are also invited to come along to the Society's Open Day at the Wymondham Dell Bowls Club on Saturday 17th June.

More from this series at:
wymondhammagazine.co.uk/q-and-a

WHAT'S IN A PHOTO?

Glimpses of Past Coronations

By Philip Yaxley

These pictures give glimpses of Wymondham's Coronation celebrations in the 20th century, when Wymondham folk certainly went to town!

A postcard written on 22 June 1911, George V's Coronation Day, from a gentleman in London, who was then off "to see the illuminations", to George Yaxley of Bowden Terrace, Wymondham. ▶



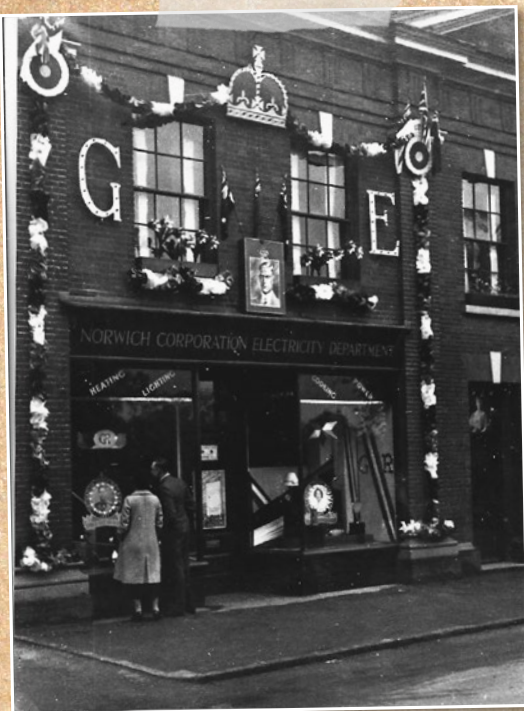
◀ In an interview with Wymondham stalwart Harry Blazey in 1983 he told me he was six when he enjoyed this children's bun-fight to celebrate George V's Coronation in 1911. The party was held on the lawns of Abbotsford in Vicar Street.

A United Church Service followed a band concert, both on the Market Place, to get the festivities to mark George V's Coronation on 22 June 1911 off to a good start. In that year the population of the town was recorded as 4794. ▼



◀ The Band of the F (Wymondham) Company of the 4th Volunteer Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment played at Edward VII's Coronation on 9th August 1902 on the King's Head Meadow and at George V's, joining the Excelsior Band to play on the Market Place. The man in civilian clothes is Algernon S Wilde, the bandmaster, while Wymondham legend Robert Charles Ayton is behind the drum.

More from this series at:
wymondhammagazine.co.uk/whats-in-a-photo

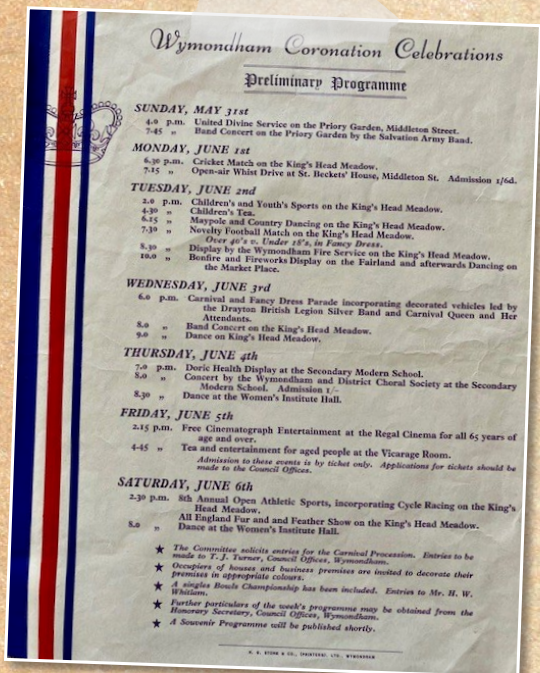


▲ The Norwich Corporation Electricity local depot and showroom in Middleton Street was gaily decorated for the Coronation of George VI and Queen Elizabeth on 12th May 1937. The showroom was situated in Caius House, now occupied by Jarrold, "where advice on any electrical matters will be freely given."



▲ The Women's Institute Hall on Norwich Road was packed for a tea for schoolgirls to celebrate the Coronation of George VI and Queen Elizabeth. A similar tea took place for boys at the Fairland Hall. Some events were cancelled or postponed, but once inside the halls the kids enjoyed their treat.

Wymondham and District Ex-Service Men's Club marked the Coronation of George VI and Queen Elizabeth with a lavish dinner and musical entertainment at a packed Women's Institute Hall on Norwich Road. Among those on the top table were Lord Walsingham and Mr. E. G. Gooch, Chairman of the then Wymondham Urban District Council. In reply to sending a congratulations to the King the club received a reply, which was read out at the dinner and said "The King sincerely thanks the members of Wymondham and District Ex-Service Men's Club, assembled together today, for their loyal greetings and congratulations, which their Majesties much appreciate." ▶



▲ The preliminary programme for Wymondham's packed week of celebrations to mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

The Briton Brush Company's "making" shop was decorated to celebrate the 1937 Coronation. It was here that the heads of paint brushes were fixed to handles. ▶





◀ Browick Road School's lovely tableau to mark the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2nd June 1953. On the front row Veronica Blake is the Queen and she is flanked by beefeaters Peter Smith on her right and Keith Lain.

Janet Crane of Ashwellthorpe was Wymondham's Coronation Carnival Queen for Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation celebrations and flanking her are attendants Christine Walker of Bracon Ash (left) and Doris Bell of Wymondham. Around them are members of the formidable team, which organised the town's programme, including Mr. W.A.Ogden, the chairman of the committee, 5th from left in the middle row and behind him popular Dr. G.C.Gaynor. Legendary town clerk Tom Turner, second from left in the middle row, was the committee's secretary and Miss D.M. Clarke, who later became Margaret Reeve, headmistress of Wymondham Secondary Modern School, now Wymondham High Academy, is the lady in the middle row. ▼

On Sunday 31st May a United Divine Service to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation was held in The Priory Gardens and led by United Choirs and the Band of the Salvation Army. About two years earlier the gardens had been opened at the time of The Festival of Britain. ▼



Among entrants in the gentlemen's fancy dress parade at the town's Coronation celebrations in 1953 were left to right Tom Dallison as a sailor, Tony Burton as a chimney sweep and George Mabbutt as movie legend Charlie Chaplin. There was a separate one for ladies ▶





CORONATION DISPLAY AT MUSEUM

By Neil Haverson

To celebrate the coronation of King Charles III Wymondham Heritage Museum is staging a special display. Our new King is no stranger to Wymondham having visited the town twice in the past. In January 1992 Prince Charles made a surprise visit to Wymondham Abbey. Such was his unexpected visit that he found the Abbey locked as it was winter. Assistant Curate Patrick Kerley was approached by a Metropolitan policeman who said he had come with friends to visit the Abbey but it was closed. Mr Kerley hastened to the Abbey where he "was knocked for six" when he found Prince Charles waiting outside.



Photo: Wymondham Photographic

Prince Charles spent 40 minutes admiring the Abbey and was said to be thrilled by the architecture and altar screen. He also explored the old monastery remains and signed the Abbey's visitors' book.

Prince Charles rounded off his time in Wymondham with a visit to Reeves stationers. Here one of his royal protection officers bought a signed copy of the book *The Wymondham Regal Story* by Philip Yaxley and Les King.

During his visit Prince Charles suggested the Abbey would be perfect for a music event. Five years later in 1997 he returned to the Abbey for a Music in Country Churches Trust concert. It featured the English Chamber Orchestra with director and violinist Pinchas Zukerman. The performance was sold out with around 500 people attending.

The museum's exhibition will also include some of the town's other royal connections.

In October 1909, Wymondham welcomed King Edward VII when he travelled through the town on his way to Norwich to perform ceremonial duties. The Parish Council set up a subcommittee to manage the occasion and Mr J W Cluffton offered to make a triumphal arch. It was built near the old Fire Station in Market Street with labour and tools provided by builders Edward Semmence and Henry Bowden. It cost £2 15s.

Chairman of the Council William Fryer published a notice urging businesses and residents along the Royal route to decorate their properties

with flags and bunting and other residents to loan their decorations to those on the route.

The Abbey Bells began to ring just after 10am and they rang for the duration of the event. The line of cars slowly made its way up Market Street led by the equerries. As they approached the arch, *The National Anthem* was sung by school children and the Church Choir, followed by loud cheers.



But was there a Royal visit much earlier than that? There is speculation that Elizabeth I visited in 1573 although there is no hard evidence. She came again to East Anglia in 1578 staying at Kenninghall and Bracon Ash. After leaving Norwich on August 22nd she spent two days at Kimberley where she held Court. It is possible she may have taken a short ride to Wymondham to see the Abbey. She had contributed a large sum for repairs in 1573.

Following Prince Charles visit in 1992, it was reported in the Evening



◀ David Brackenbury with Trevor Reynolds in 1953

Beefeater outfit worn by David Brackenbury in 1953 ▶

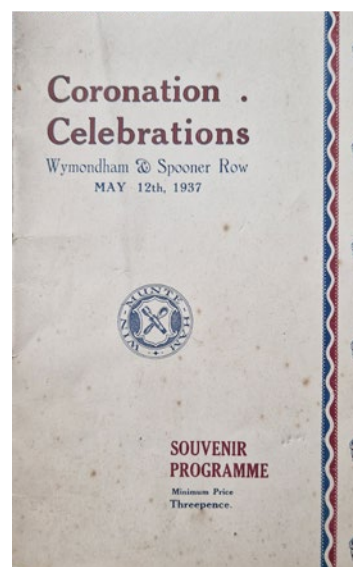


News that he looked at a mulberry tree planted in the vicarage garden by Elizabeth I suggesting that Good Queen Bess did indeed visit Wymondham.

Among the memorabilia on display at Wymondham Heritage Museum are programmes from the Coronations of 1911 and 1937 of George V and George VI, photographs including many from Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953 plus the outfit worn by seven-year-old David Brackenbury on that occasion.

Wymondham Heritage Museum is open daily. Monday to Wednesday,

Saturday and Sunday 1pm-4pm; Thursday and Friday 10am-4pm. Tearoom open museum hours Monday to Friday. For more information go to thewhm.org.uk.



Sunday 7th May
2023

12.00 to 3.00



Indoor Picnic



North Wymondham
Community Centre

Celebrate the King's Coronation with your neighbours, friends and family.

Tea, coffee, juices will be available
(Bring your own food)

Games—quizzes—entertainment - etc

Priority to given to those who have pre-booked
Please contact Georgette Vale
Georgette@ValeMail.uk
01953 605434 or 07867 681839



Wymondham Sports Bar
Town Green Garden Cafe
Wymondham Antiques Centre
King Charles Coronation
Street Party



Saturday 6th May
12pm-6pm

Brass Band	Kids games	Inside & Outside Screen
Face Painting	Rock & Soul Choir	Pimms & Prosecco
Music	BBQ	



LOOKING OUT FOR SWIFTS

By Nicola Cooke



Thursday 11th May 2023, 7.30 pm: Looking out for Swifts, an illustrated talk by Caroline Spinks
Caroline Spinks set up Norwich Swift network in 2021 to help swifts that nest in Norwich (and beyond) in response to their fast-declining population. Swifts are arriving back from Africa right now so come and hear some Swift stories about why these birds are so remarkable, how they can sleep in mid-air. You will also find out how you can help Swifts in your local area.

The meeting will be held at the Town Green Community Centre, Wymondham, NR18 0PW (next to Wymondham Methodist Church). Wymondham Nature Group (WyNG) is the local members' group of Norfolk Wildlife Trust. All welcome - admission £2 - further details from Ann Carpenter on 01508 488337. Follow Wymondham Nature Group on Facebook: facebook.com/WymondhamNatureGroup



COUNTRY MARKET

By Eleanor Riches

Wymondham Country Market is on Every Friday February-December 10:30-12:30 at Wymondham Library. We Produce home cooked food, jam preserves, handcrafted items for all ages like knitted clothing, quilted items, wooden crafts, silver jewellery, cards, all locally produced.

We also are at Farmers Market, the 3rd Saturday in the month, 9-1pm under the Market Cross. Orders can be taken for all items including crafts and food. Also we make gluten free cakes on request. If you have any questions, you can message us through our Facebook page.



STAR THROWERS UPDATE: MAY

By Victoria Pigg

SUPPORTING STAR THROWERS

We Need Your Support! Our small charity supports over 250 people per year with over 1,000 support sessions - we need your help to enable us to continue and to grow. It costs approximately £30,000 per month to run our cancer support centre - we are asking for a one-off donation today or for you to become a 'Friend of Star Throwers' and make a regular monthly donation to support our work. Visit our website to become our 'friend': www.starthrowers.org.uk/supporting-us/become-a-friend-of-star-throwers/ or call 01953 423304.

SUPPORTING STAR THROWERS

Due to the success of our 'Swish' in February we will be holding another 'Swishing at Star Throwers' event on Saturday 13th May from 10am - 1pm at the Star Throwers Centre, Wymondham. Swap up to 8 items of your good quality clothes, shoes and accessories for a whole new wardrobe! We will also have a rail of vintage items for sale. Bring along your items on the day or in advance and make a £3 donation. Refreshments available and the Treasure Trove shop will also be open.

STAR THROWERS SKYDIVE DAY

Looking for a challenge in 2023? Take part in our Skydive Day on Sunday 25th June, raise a minimum of £330 (and pay a deposit of £50) and your skydive will be FREE! Contact us to find out more: victoria@starthrowers.org.uk

GARDEN PARTY

We are bringing back the Star Throwers Garden Party this year on Saturday 1st July from 10am - 2pm - this will be a casual, social event at the Star Throwers Centre. Entry will be free - relax in the garden with a tea, coffee and cake. Come and join us!

SHOP

Don't forget to visit our 'Treasure Trove' next to the centre on Melton Road in Wymondham - follow our dedicated Facebook Page - search 'Star Throwers Shops' for daily updates on items we have available.



DEFIBRILLATOR AT THE SHED

By Andrew Clarke

The Shed has recently had a defibrillator and bleed kit installed in our front porch and it is fully accessible 24 hours a day to the Wymondham Community. It is registered with the East of England Ambulance Service and Circuit, the National Defibrillator Network.

We are now one of six defibrillator sites within the Wymondham area. To see your local defibrillators visit www.defibfinder.uk. More information on the Bleed Kit can be found at controlthebleed.org.uk

We were able to cover the cost of the defibrillator and bleed kit with a very kind donation from a member's father. All the members of The Shed are very grateful for such a charitable contribution to our project. We were also able to install CCTV to cover the

perimeter of our building with the remainder of the donation.

The Shed, based in Wymondham, is a fast-growing, friendly, welcoming community and charity with over 60 members. The sessions are divided into male and female groups as well as mixed and includes a large variety of crafting activities from woodturning to watercolour painting, carpentry to crochet and many more. Equipment and materials are provided. There is also the opportunity to share skills and knowledge – we have members skilled in music, IT, model making and much more.

If you would like more information then please contact us at info@theshedwymondham.org.uk or via our Facebook page facebook.com/theshedwym.



Wymondham
Photographic Society:
Photo of the month

THE WASTELAND

Photo and article by Dominic Byrne

The photo was taken on the island of Hokkaido in Japan in winter and I was drawn to the very beautiful monochromatic scene and the sense of a real wilderness. The image was taken with a Nikon D800 with a 70-200mm zoom lens at 70mm, 1/250s at f11 and ISO 200.

The judge commented that this was his favourite image of the competition due to its simplicity. "The detail in the sky and the minimalist detail in the trees produced a bold statement reflected and enhanced by the title of 'The Wasteland'."

Wymondham Photographic Society meets on Tuesdays at the Dell Bowls Club. For more information visit www.wymondham-ps.org.uk



LITTER PICK HAUL

By Greening Wymondham

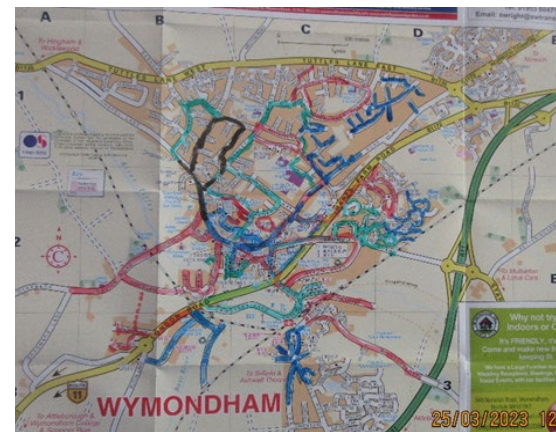
The 25th March saw Greening Wymondham organise it's big litter pick for the town. There was a tremendous turnout with approximately 50 individuals turning out to collect litter pickers and bags before venturing afoot to tidy Wymondham up for the benefit of all.

So on the day approximately 35 bags were filled ready for South Norfolk to collect – perhaps the most unusual find was two full bottles of alcohol free gin! Needless to say they were drained into

the gutter. But the folk who turned out did enjoy a well deserved cuppa and cake and chat at the end.

As the map displays, the group managed to cover a significant part of the town with the roads marked being picked at.

Our next challenge might be to see whether we can cover some of the further outlying areas of Wymondham - this is planned for 20th May - please email Greening.Wymondham@gmail.com if you wish to participate.



A SUMMER FOR CELEBRATING - WYMONDHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

By **Hannah Kerr**

After a triumphant return to Wymondham Abbey for their spring concert, the Wymondham Symphony Orchestra is looking ahead to a summer of celebrations.

The spring concert promised to be a fantastic start to the year for the orchestra. Playing to a capacity audience, the nautical themed concert 'Out to Sea' featured a varied program of exciting pieces. Beginning the program with Malcolm Arnold's 'Padstow Lifeboat', the orchestra were especially delighted to welcome the Treasurer of the Malcolm Arnold Society who described it as "altogether a splendid evening". Members of the audience will have recognized the Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia by Khachaturian as the theme from The Onedin Line. They were also eager participants for the rousing finale of Henry Wood's 'Fantasia on British Sea Songs' well known to all Prom-goers. Four Sea Interludes and the Passacaglia from Benjamin Britten's dramatic opera

'Peter Grimes' was the feature of the second half, but it is fair to say that the highlight of the evening was a dazzling performance by mezzo-soprano Maria Willis singing the song cycle Sea Pictures by Elgar.

The season continues with a truly special Celebration Concert in the summer. Taking place on Saturday 1st July at 7pm in Wymondham Abbey, the orchestra will be celebrating 20 years of working with their fantastic Musical Director Andrew Parnell.

Fittingly, the program will begin with Living Stones – a piece written by Andrew Parnell himself for the 900th Anniversary of Wymondham Abbey in 2007, and performed here for the first time since its premiere.

The orchestra are delighted to welcome back the Venezuelan violinist Juan Gonzalez who performed the Brahms Double Concerto with us in St Peter Mancroft last summer. This

time he will be playing Brahms' Violin Concerto, one of the hardest in the repertoire. Juan has led orchestras in Venezuela, Mexico and Germany, and nearer home has been with the BBC Concert Orchestra and the London Symphony Orchestra. Next month he will be playing at Westminster Abbey in the Coronation Orchestra on May 6th.

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

Tickets are available online via links on Facebook and our website, and directly at <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/eventlist/wso>. There will also be some availability on the door. 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.



WYMONDHAM GARDEN CLUB MAY MEETING

By **Hannah Kerr**

On Monday 15th May, a talk will be given to the Wymondham Garden Club members and guests by Gabrielle Reid of Gabriel's Garden. The presentation titled "A Year in the Cutting Garden" will discuss florals designed according to what is in season from their one acre cutting garden)

The monthly Show Table will include Cacti & Succulents: Exhibits in Pots & Bowls. A Cookery competition invites competitors to make a Sticky Rhubarb Drizzle cake, and the photography competition invites submissions on the topic: Norfolk in Springtime. The Club Table will showcase 'A favourite from my Garden' – Plant or Flower, Fruit or Vegetable. Join in at 7:30pm in the Town Green Centre. Members Free, guests £4. For further information about the club contact wymondhamgardenclub@gmail.com

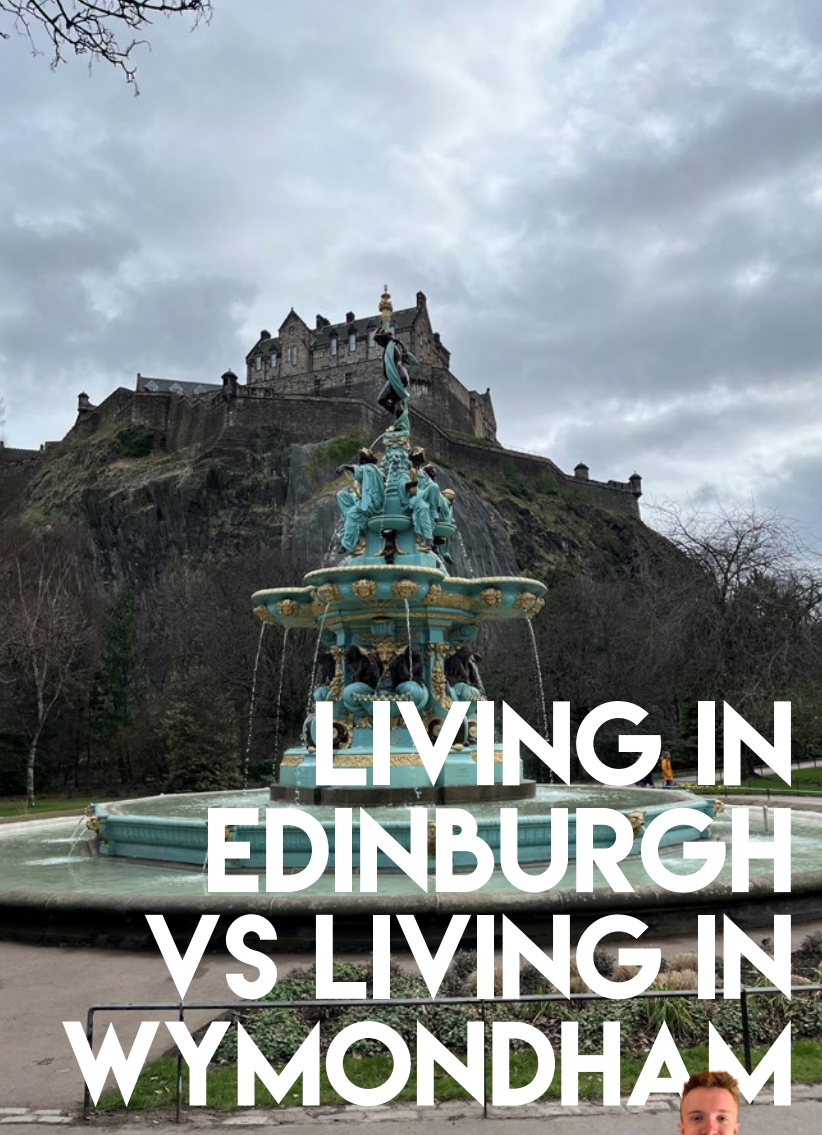
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LIVING IN EDINBURGH VS LIVING IN WYMONDHAM



THE
LOWE
DOWN

With Freddy Lowe



A couple of kilometres from where I live, a house stands in isolation amongst several fields. Surrounding the house are roads about as close as the Norfolk flats come to anything recognisable as an upward gradient. Were you to cycle up them, you would perhaps notice a ten-second incline. This house bears the sign "House on the Hill," hilariously satirising how undramatic Norfolk 'hills' are.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is the first difference between living in Edinburgh versus Wymondham. My Strava average running pace increases exponentially in Wymondham. I imagine I'll feel somewhat depressed upon returning to Edinburgh and discovering that I can no longer run 5K in under twenty-five minutes. The fact that a walk in Edinburgh involves lots of climbing (even along the shopping streets) is a running joke among my English visitors.

Comparing living in Edinburgh 'versus' living in Wymondham makes it sound like a competition, which it certainly is not. I always advocate that naming one city as 'better' than another is moot if they are entirely different places with different purposes. (Plus, Wymondham is my hometown. Edinburgh is a fabulous city, but Wymondham remains sacred.) However, the last academic year has awakened in me some key differences between the two lifestyles; I aim to affectionately highlight them here. The first, as said, was 'average elevation' versus 'average pace'.

The different English Literature courses also make for revealing comparisons. The phenomenal Wymondham High

English A-Level had a significantly varied scope: ranging from Philip Larkin to Coleridge, Kate Atkinson, Hardy, Agatha Christie, and even a contemporary writer of our choice when it was time to do our coursework. It is fair to say that, by contrast, the university courses are slightly more experimental. Names ranged from Aphra Behn to James Hogg, Toni Morrison, and even some gruesome science-fiction stories by Octavia E. Butler. Heard of any of them? Nor had I. The distinct advantage of English degrees is the chance to be pushed out of your comfort zone, though that doesn't prevent occasional incredulity at some course organisers' choices. The Wymondham A-Level course is more of a toe in the water, but as challenging as some of the books were, there were impressively very few (or even none?) that you could call 'bad'!

I remain grateful to a former English tutor who kept me sane over email. She said that the idea of reading set texts in the sun is a myth and that sometimes, they do have to expose you to some diabolical stuff. Wymondham, as my hometown, is where I indulge in guilty-pleasure, old-time-favourite authors: Agatha Christie, Dorothy L Sayers, Robert Galbraith, etc., so I suppose unfamiliar material is good for you.

Speaking of education, another significant difference is whether the teachers turned up in the first place! This is one of the things I naively had

not foreseen upon arrival at University. If, like me, you have been studying a Humanities course this year, you likely had several email notifications to let you know that the lecturers were on strike. I'm all for freedom of protest (we studied J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* at GCSE; they instil it in you when you're young), and the Wymondham teachers had a strike period as well, so I give full solidarity there. However, there was a very minor difference at Edinburgh: they averaged about a strike per week. Student patience takes a slight knock when faced with swathes of four-day, five-day, or even seven-day weekends with no hint of the university recompensing the tuition fees.

Edinburgh has Arthur's Seat, the Edinburgh Bookshop, Princes Street, the literary quotations on the train station walls, and the possibility that you may bump into one of your favourite authors (including Kim Sherwood, whom I had the opportunity of interviewing for the student paper – she was delightful!). Wymondham has good set texts, a fabulous community (again, must stress, solidarity for all my former teachers), more forgiving running routes, this brilliant publication which I remain grateful to be allowed to contribute to, and fewer strikes. They are equally fabulous places, each with their signature advantages, and that is no bad thing.

“

**MY STRAVA
AVERAGE RUNNING
PACE INCREASES
EXPONENTIALLY
IN WYMONDHAM.**

More from this series at:
wymondhammagazine.co.uk/
the-low-down

Guest Column

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE



By Tony Vale. non-political resident of Wymondham

As the football season ends, so a new one begins for Wymondham Town Council (WTC).

For the purposes of this article, WTC becomes "Team Wymondham" - the organisation which oversees the social and economic wellbeing of the Parish of Wymondham.

14 citizens, all supposedly with Team Wymondham's interests at heart, will step onto the pitch (Town Council offices) at Kett's Park at 7pm on Tuesday 16 May, for their first game of the season. It will also be when the Team Captain (Mayor) will be selected.

They will face all kinds of challenges, many of which will be outside their direct control, on behalf of us, the Council Tax-paying season ticket holders.

How well our community representatives perform will be dependent on their ability to work as a

team, regardless of any other off the field allegiances they may have or the colour of the shirt they wear.

If Team Wymondham has team colours at all, perhaps it should be a combination of Red and Black. This will reflect the need to stay out of the Red and keep in the Black, when managing the six figure budget, gifted to them by the spectators in the stand.

Every team has its stars but Team Wymondham will need to be aware of the nervousness of the newcomers, who are equally keen to perform to the best of their ability.

Regional and/or national agendas have to be left at the door and for those who have the privilege of wearing more than one hat, it's important for them to remember which one they are wearing at any given time.

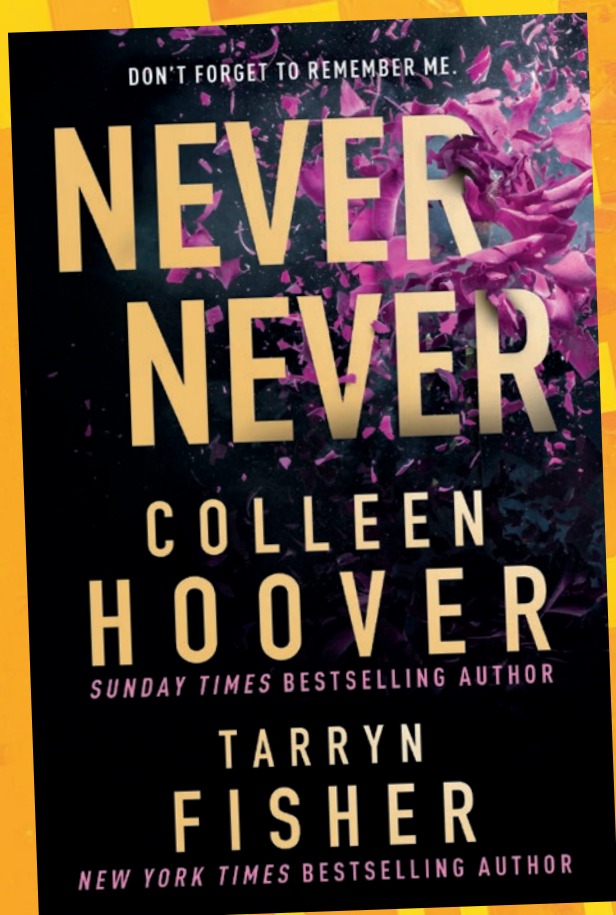
On first Tuesday home matches, it

can only be the one marked "Team Wymondham".

Recognising the individual skills and talents of the new squad is logical, so hopefully we'll see this reflected in the makeup of the Team Sub-Committees, with the goalkeeper having equal status to the goal scorers.

The new Team Wymondham has an opportunity to be proactive in the community, by building alliances with local businesses and by making it's supporter-financed resources available for wider community use.

As loyal supporters, our role is to check out the Team Wymondham (Neighbourhood) Plan and to show our interest in the outcome by watching all of the matches, either in person or online.



BOOK REVIEW

Never Never by Colleen Hoover and Tarryn Fisher

By Laura Duffy, Volunteer at Kett's Books Community Bookshop

I think it is clear to say that I am officially an avid reader of Colleen Hoover. Not only does she have interesting and unique plots, her style of writing seems so engrossing.

Never Never was definitely something I haven't come across yet in terms of plots and I was constantly questioning how it would end. It was interesting to read a book and know the same amount of detail as the protagonists at the beginning and watching the characters reconnect seemed so satisfying. The two different perspectives also gave such an insight to each character and how their feelings developed through the novel.

Overall this book was a good read, and I would recommend this to an older teen who wants an easy read novel with a lot of mystery.





BIG NORFOLK RUGBY WEEKEND COMES TO WYMONDHAM

By Andy Thomson

The season showdown for rugby clubs across Norfolk will be played out at Wymondham on the weekend of 29 - 30th April.

It is the first time the "Big Norfolk Rugby Weekend" festival is coming to Wymondham RFC and the club is ready to host hundreds of players and supporters across the two days. The four men's senior cup finals are on the Saturday and the women's and youth finals follow on the Sunday.

"It's truly a celebration of the strength of the community game here in Norfolk," said Mark Ballman, president of the Norfolk Rugby Football Union.

Spectators are welcome at Wymondham's Barnard Fields ground and tickets cost £5 on the Saturday and entry is free on Sunday. There will be full catering, food trucks and bars both days, live music on Saturday from 5pm, and a giant inflatable play area on

Sunday.

"We want to make this the best Big Norfolk Rugby Weekend yet - an opportunity for everyone to enjoy the day and celebrate this great county's rugby achievements," said Liam Browning of Wymondham RFC.

Play starts on Saturday at 11am with two finals - the Outigo Norfolk Salver and the Marett's Chariots Junior Cup. The R&L Engineering Intermediate Cup follows at 1:30pm and the Woodforde's Senior Cup kicks off at 3:30pm. The first of Sunday's QD Youth finals for U14-U16 teams start at 11am, and the McDonald's Senior Women's Cup final rounds off the festival at 2:30pm.

John MacKay, president of Wymondham RFC, said: "Norfolk has a great rugby community and this is an opportunity for us all to get together to enjoy some fantastic sport, meet new friends and old rivals and celebrate just what makes rugby such fun!"



GREAT MELTON BOWLS AND CRICKET CLUBS HAVE 'NEW' PAVILION FOR 2023 SEASON

By Philip Richardson

Great Melton Park now boasts a bigger, better Pavilion to host the highly successful Great Melton Cricket Club, the Great Melton Bowls Club, and which also serves as parish room and village hall. It will be available for use as the new 2023 sporting season begins, and is the result of a highly successful fundraising campaign by the Cricket Club whose increased membership, particularly of girls, necessitated bigger premises. The new facilities include improved and enlarged changing

rooms, better kitchen, bar and toilet provision, together with an improved meeting room and more covered space for watching team games.

Meanwhile, the much smaller bowls club, whose outdoor rink adjoins the cricket pitch, is looking forward to sharing the new building for the social side of its programme. Outdoor play is likely to start at the end of April, and the club would welcome anyone who has not played bowls before to come and try their hand, with free tuition from



existing members at set times over the first few weeks of the season. Spare sets of bowls are available and all ages are welcome. Anyone interested should contact the chairman, Philip Richardson on 07715699211 or email prichardson@downhammanor.co.uk. The club website greatmeltonbowlsclub.co.uk is a good place to see what the members get up to.



SUMMER SLEEP

Now that the clocks have gone forward the days will be getting longer, this means the sun will be up earlier and dropping later, both of these things can affect your sleep and thus have a knock on effect on your energy and recovery.

Having spent a large proportion of my life travelling the world through summers and different time zones, often with long days, lots of sunshine and high humidity, I've found out that the better the quality of sleep you can get, the better your productivity will be for work or pleasure during the day.

What tips can we follow to help us get good quality sleep and wake up feeling refreshed and ready to go? Assuming we're not travelling and just following our normal daily routine:

1 Include physical activity in your daily routine.

Exercise can encourage better sleep but try not to exercise too close to bedtime as this may have the opposite effect. Why not take advantage of the earlier sunrises and get some exercise

in at the start of the day. Not only is it cooler but it sets you up both physically and mentally!

2 Try to watch what you eat and drink

Avoid heavy meals too close to bed and try not to go to bed either too full from eating or too hungry. This may cause restlessness and keep you up. Caffeine, alcohol and nicotine are all stimulants and can keep you up at night because the effects of these can take quite a few hours to wear off.

3 Don't doze off during the day!

Sleeping during the day will affect your night time schedule, but if you feel the urge to take that much needed sofa nap, try not to do it too close to bedtime or you may find yourself laying in bed wide awake.

4 Try to keep your bedroom at a good temperature

Often rooms that are too warm will cause you to stay awake as you may

Paul Jewiss is...



THE TOWN TRAINER



get restless, especially on hot summer nights. Cooler rooms are always better for a good night's sleep, so where you can keep windows open, a breeze coming through or keep a fan on before bedtime to cool the room down. Change your duvet to a lightweight summer option and use heat wicking pillows.

5 Try to maintain a regular sleep pattern

The recommended number of hours of sleep is 8 per night, but some people can get away with less. Try to get up and go to bed at the same time each day so your body clock becomes used to it.

The biggest thing you can do, is to turn off phones and tablets an hour before bed as this gives the eyes and brain time to unwind and relax. Dump the social media scrolling and watch some TV, read or listen to music.

Enjoy the summer, get a good night's sleep and this will ensure you optimise productivity throughout the day.



Wednesday 1st March

Art Society Demo with Rachel Thomas
7:15pm, Catholic Church Hall
Rachel studied textile design at college, but now paints in oils, capturing movement and pattern in nature, the changing seasons and light in a contemporary style. She exhibits regularly, both locally and in London. She is a member of Eastern Contemporary Artists and the East Anglian Group of Marine Artists.
www.wymondhamart.org

Saturday 29th April

Community Orchard Volunteer Workday
10am-12pm, Browick Road Orchard
Refreshments and tools provided but bring your own gloves. Entrance opposite Gunton Road NR18 0QN or Ayton Road Car Park.
www.greeningwymondham.org/

Play: Witness for the Prosecution
2pm and 7:45pm, Central Hall
Wymondham Players present one of Agatha Christie's most accomplished plays - keeping you guessing until the end!
07999 004453
www.wymondhamplayers.org.uk

Sunday 30th April

Vegipod Replanting
2pm, Behind the White Hart
Join Greening Wymondham volunteers for a spring planting session of the community VegiPod. Bring seedlings if you have any.
www.greeningwymondham.org/

Tuesday 2nd May

Wymondham Photographic Society
8pm-10pm, Dells Bowls Club
Guest speaker Kevin Pigney via Zoom (Wildlife Photography)
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Wednesday 3rd May

Book Making Workshop
10am-12pm, Big C Furniture & Craft Shop
Suggested Donation £5 to attend, booking essential
01953 603320
www.facebook.com/bigcwymondham

Art Society AGM and Demo with Ed Cooper
7:15pm, Catholic Church Hall
Ed is a professional artist and art tutor from Ipswich, deriving much of his inspiration from the Suffolk landscape around him. He combines teaching art locally and painting and drawing both 'plein air' and in his studio. He has also recently started to work digitally using his Ipad Pro. Ed will paint a landscape in oils this evening.
www.wymondhamart.org

Thursday 4th May

Local Elections
7am-10pm, Various Polling Stations
Registered electors can vote at their local polling station. Ballots are for Wymondham Town Council and South Norfolk District Council. Bring Photo ID to vote in person.
www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/elections

Friday 5th May

Bingo Night
7pm, Ex-Services Social Club
Cash prizes, raffle, eyes down 8pm in the Regal Lounge.
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369

Saturday 6th May

King's Coronation Celebrations
11am-11pm, Ex-Services Club
Coronation ceremony will be shown on cinema screen and 'Joking Apart' band will play from 7:30pm.
www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369



Sunday 7th May

Community Garage Sale
10am-3pm, Town-wide
In celebration of HM King Charles III Coronation, the North Wymondham Community Centre invites all to take part in a town-wide garage sale. Email tony@valemail.uk with your name and address to book your place.
07851 370 666

Indoor Coronation Picnic
12pm-3pm, North Wymondham Community Centre
Celebrate the King's Coronation with your neighbours, friends and family. Bring your own food. Tea, coffee, juices, games, quizzes and entertainment will be available. Priority given to those who have prebooked via

georgette@valemail.uk or 01953 605 434.

We invite you to our
Coffee Morning
to celebrate the Coronation of
King Charles III

Monday May 8th 10.00-12 noon

Town Green Centre

Wymondham Methodist Church

- Tombola
- Raffle
- New and nearly new stall
- Cake stall
- Plant Stall
- Coffee, tea, cake and chat



Proceeds are going to the church appeal to install a defibrillator

Tuesday 9th May

Beginners Fairisle Workshop
10am-12pm, Big C Furniture and Craft Shop
Suggested donation £5 to attend, booking essential, must be able to knit
01953 603320
www.facebook.com/bigcwymondham

Wymondham Photographic Society
8pm-10pm, Dells Bowls Club
Annual DPI Competition - Tier 1
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Thursday 11th May

Nature Group Indoor Meeting
7:30pm, Town Green Community Centre
"Looking out for Swifts", an illustrated talk by Caroline Spinks. Swifts are arriving back from Africa right now so come and hear some Swift stories about why these birds are so remarkable, like how they can sleep in mid-air. You will also find out how you can help Swifts in your local area. Admission £2.
01508 488337
www.facebook.com/WymondhamNatureGroup

Friday 12th May

Charity Quiz Night
7:30pm, Wymondham Central Hall
Gather the gang and get competitive for a fun charity quiz night. Form a group of 6 and get ready to battle it out. £24 per team. Book via email wymrsg@gmail.com. 01603 810 494

Saturday 13th May

Community Orchard Volunteer Workday
10am-12pm, Browick Road Orchard
Refreshments and tools provided but bring your own gloves. Entrance opposite Gunton Road NR18 0QN or Ayton Road Car Park.

www.greeningwymondham.org/

Music Night

7:30pm, Ex-Services Social Club
Simon Faye singer/entertainer in the
Members Bar
[www.facebook.com/
groups/130014680369369](https://www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369)

Monday 15th May

Garden Club Talk "A Year in the Cutting
Garden"
7:30pm, Town Green Centre
A talk by Gabrielle Reid (of Gabriel's
Garden – florals designed according to
what is in season from their one acre
cutting garden). Show Table – Cacti &
Succulents: Exhibits in Pots & Bowls.
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](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077254060337)

Tuesday 16th May

English Paper Piecing Workshop
10am-12pm, Big C Furniture and Craft
Shop
Suggested donation £5 to attend,
booking essential
01953 603320
www.facebook.com/bigcwymondham

Police Community Drop In

12pm-2pm, Wymondham Library
Discuss local issues with PC Vicky
Bailey.

Full Town Council AGM

7pm, WTC Kett's Park Office
Public welcome
www.wymondhamtowncouncil.org

Wymondham Photographic Society

8pm-10pm, Dells Bowls Club
Annual DPI Competition - Tier 2
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Saturday 20th May

Queen Tribute Band
8pm, Ex-Services Social Club
Regal Lounge, Members free, Non-
Members £5 On Door
[www.facebook.com/
groups/130014680369369](https://www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369)

Tuesday 23rd May

Wymondham Photographic Society

8pm-10pm, Dells Bowls Club
Bi-pod competition - with Pikes Peak,
Colorado

www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Saturday 27th May

Community Orchard Volunteer Workday
10am-12pm, Browick Road Orchard
Refreshments and tools provided
but bring your own gloves. Entrance
opposite Gunton Road NR18 0QN or
Ayton Road Car Park.
www.greeningwymondham.org/

Sunday 28th May

Talk: Stones, Bones and Herbs
3pm, Wymondham Abbey
Talk on treating everyday ailments in
medieval England by Dr Joy Hawkins,
Lecturer in Humanities and History at
the UEA
www.wymondhamabbey.org.uk

Quiz Night

7:15pm, Ex-services Club
Members Bar - All Welcome
[www.facebook.com/
groups/130014680369369](https://www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369)

Tuesday 30th May

Wymondham Photographic Society
8pm-10pm, Dells Bowls Club
Vic Hainsworth - PAGB Awards for
Photographic Merit
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Wednesday 7th June

Art Society Demo with John Tookey
7:15pm, Catholic Church Hall
East Anglian artist John Tookey has
had an extremely successful painting
career. He works mainly in watercolour,
oil and pastel and is justly famous for his
dynamic bold watercolours that sparkle
with light. He has exhibited with most
of the major art societies and has won
numerous awards. He is a member of
the Pastel Society UK and the Institute
of East Anglian Artists. He will paint a
street scene in watercolour.
www.wymondhamart.org

Sunday 25th June

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-12pm, Big C Furniture & Craft
Shop
Suggested Donation £5 to attend,
booking essential
01953 603320
www.facebook.com/bigcwymondham

Saturday 8th July

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

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

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

Wymondham Abbey 10.30am
www.wymondhamabbey.org.uk

* check individual websites for Christmas
service times

MARKETS

Charter Market

Every Friday
8am to 2.30pm Market Place

Farmers' Market

Third Saturday
(20th May)
9am to 1pm, Market Place
www.wymondhamtowncouncil.org
01953 603 302

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