

WYMONDHAM Magazine

ISSUE 69 | FEBRUARY 2023



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From the Editors...

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas. Sorry if that's a bit late but the magazine has been in hibernation for January. But now here we are: already emerging in February with a print edition.

And that's the first bit of news: we will now be printing the magazine every two months (instead of quarterly). We know it's what our readers want. And it's what our advertisers want too. A marriage made in heaven.

This has been made possible solely by the revenue provided by the businesses and organisations that advertise on these pages. So you know the drill: let them know where you saw their ad!

We receive some brilliant photos from our contributors, including this month's cover photo from Graham Smith, who was there to snap Wymondham RFC's 'game of ages' that saw fathers line up against their sons!

Go On, My Son! We hope you enjoy the edition.

Kim and Jimmy

MORE STORIES ONLINE!

We've received more stories than we can print. But don't worry, you can find extra articles and longer versions of these ones on our website at:

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EDITH PLEASANCE CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY WITH U3A

By Chris Yemm

On the afternoon of Saturday 10th December 2022, a birthday party was held by the Wymondham u3a at Central Hall, Wymondham for one of our founding members, Edith Pleasance who was celebrating her 100th birthday.

A frame was put up with photographs of Edith in her youth, together with her husband who was a POW in Eastern Germany during World War II returning home in 1945.

Wymondham u3a celebrated their 21st birthday in February and Edith has been a member since 2001 with a membership number of 1002, just missing out on number one!

The afternoon tea of sausage rolls, scones and cake was enjoyed by all, accompanied by wine, tea and coffee. The afternoon was supported by some great music from the 'Dell Boys' with everyone thrilled at seeing Edith on the dance floor with pure delight on her face,

obviously enjoying every minute of the afternoon.

The party was attended by a large number of members, many of whom are her friends and hold her in great esteem and respect. Over the more than two decades of membership she has both instigated and been involved in a variety of our groups and activities. For many years she has been a regular bridge player.

Edith has been a prolific writer throughout her life and has regularly contributed articles and poems to, what was the Wymondham News, the Wayland News and the Mid Norfolk Times. In 2005, one of her articles was broadcast on BBC Radio Norfolk.

The ceremony of the cutting of the amazing cake, baked by Jennifer Attwell came towards the end of the afternoon before departing for home.



ADDITIONAL NEEDS TODDLER GROUP

By Helen Murray

Once a fortnight in The Hub on Ayton Road, you will find a hall filled with play, chatter and utter joy as children develop and explore their surroundings. Unlike other toddler groups, there are very small numbers, low lighting and toys developed to support sensory play. The children and carers are all known by name and over a hot drink and a biscuit we chat, celebrate achievements, and find solutions for issues that come with having a child who needs extra support.

Last year, after discovering how little support was available, Hope Community Church decided to start Additional Needs Hoppers to provide a space that would support families in the early years of parenting an SEN child. Our group is for children aged 0-4 with any physical or social-communication needs.

Discovering, or even just suspecting, your child has additional needs can be a daunting and sometimes lonely place to be. There are appointments, research, form filling and often lots of disappointment in realising your child's future may not be the

one you expected for them. We want to support families in this and make sure no one feels alone in this journey. Additional Needs Hoppers meets every other Wednesday as a safe place for preschoolers and their carers to come and meet other families on similar journeys. Our group is run by both parents and educators with a wide range of experience supporting children with additional needs in both the home and educational settings.

'It's refreshing to find a group that caters for children with additional needs. Traditional toddler groups are too overwhelming for Sebastian, so finding this group has been a life saver. Not only is it a safe space for him to play, it's also a lovely community that offers resources and advice to parents who have to navigate the official diagnosis stage of autism.' - Jemma, Sebastian's mum.

For more information please email helen@hopecommunitychurch.co.uk or find us on Facebook 'Additional Needs Hoppers, Wymondham' <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088079000917>

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LEISURE CENTRE OFFERS HELPING HAND

By South Norfolk Council Communications Team

South Norfolk Council is providing space for families at Wymondham Leisure Centre to enjoy some family time in the warm and take part in some fun activities during free drop-in sessions.

Food and drink will be available with a sandwich and a drink costing just £1.50. The offer is for families and a parent or responsible adult will need to be present.

South Norfolk Cabinet member Alison Thomas said: "We know that the cost of living crisis is making things difficult for some of our residents. Our Help Hub is doing wonderful work to support people in need but this situation requires a whole Council response and so we are providing even more support through our leisure centres. If you or someone you know is struggling, give us a call and we will do all we can to help."

The Council will also be

helping by offering free showers in its three leisure centres.

Residents will be able to have a hot shower and if needed hair and body wash is available.

A food swap scheme is also being introduced and baskets will be placed in the centres for people to drop off any extra non-perishable food and this food will then be available for those who need it. Pet food will also be included.

The Coffee with Flo Café is also part of the Too Good to Go scheme. People can download the app and buy any surplus food from the café at reduced prices.

The drop in sessions will run at Wymondham Leisure Centre until 30 April 2023, Wednesday-Friday from 4:00-5:00pm

Activities may include Arts and Crafts, Short Tennis, Badminton, Basketball etc. Suitable child age ranges are 5-16 years and appropriate footwear must be worn.

CROSS-PARTY PANEL DISCUSSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

By Stephen Little

On 24th February, a panel discussion event will be held at Central Hall from 6:30-8:30pm. Local MP George Freeman will be joined by representatives from Labour, the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party to discuss climate change, how to fight it and how we need to change.

A presentation from Dr Hayley Pinto of CHAIN will also be given and there will be time for questions from the audience. This is a free event with seats available on a first-come first-served basis. Wine and refreshments will be served from 8pm onwards.

Nicola Maunders, Wymondham resident and CHAIN Committee member, said: "With 2022 the UK's warmest year on record, and 2023 looking set to bring ever more extreme weather around the world, climate change is becoming increasingly central to the political debate. This is why this debate at this time and in a part of the world like mid Norfolk, so crucial agriculturally and yet, like the rest of the county, particularly prone to drought, is so important. We need to find ways to drastically cut carbon pollution and adapt to the new realities of our changing climate. In all this, politicians need to take a lead and time is rapidly running out.

The event will give local residents the chance to hear how each political party aims to meet the challenge of the climate crisis, and the opportunity to put their own questions to our invited panel members. It promises to be a stimulating evening, helping to find a way forward in tackling this greatest of issues which will increasingly affect us all."

For more information go to <http://climatechain.org/>





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Founders Hayley Room and Emma Harwood

LOCAL FOREST NURSERY WINS ACCLAIM AT NATIONAL AWARDS

By **Emma Harwood**

Dandelion Education Ltd, a multi-award winning Norfolk nursery, has once more been acknowledged for its unique ethos, and its outstanding levels of education, at an awards ceremony in London.

Founders Hayley Room and Emma Harwood proudly received the accolades of the Best Forest School, and a Team award, at a reception dinner held in London by the Nursery Management Times (NMT) on November 23rd.

Emma stated that "receiving the Team award was testimony to the equality and support that all Dandelion staff offer each other, and the families within the setting. Every team member is vital to the success of Dandelion and they work tirelessly to be the best they can be."

"Winning the Best Forest School award validates Dandelion's provision of the highest quality Early Years education possible. Delivering the best in today's turbulent climate, with reduced funding and excessive costs, is a challenge but one Dandelion intends to rise to."

Dandelion Education Ltd is a unique open-air, philosophy (P4C) and forest-school-led nursery. Its founders, qualified primary school teachers Emma Harwood and Hayley Staniforth-Room, said their Ofsted success of 2017, 2021 and 2022, along with their numerous accolades, demonstrate that excellence in early years schooling can be met in unique and innovative ways that ensures that ALL children, regardless of perceived barriers, thrive.

Dandelion is one of the few nurseries to have been awarded a Philosophy kite-mark, by Sapere which demonstrates their commitment to developing creative and critical thinking, along with personal, emotional and social skills and problem solving.

To celebrate the award, Emma and Hayley are opening a third site just outside Wymondham in April 2023.

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Meeting dates for 2023

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11 April: Pharmacists from the School of Pharmacy UEA. Understand your drugs and how/when to take them.

13 June: Wiltshire Foods
Demonstration and tasting

8 August: To Be Announced

10 October: Cecil Amey Opticians
How to care for your eyes and diabetic retinopathy

12 December: To Be Announced

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By Jimmy Young

What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of. That and Town Council Watch of course. But don't worry. After a two month break, this column is back, like a guilty husband bearing flowers and promising to do better, by covering two full council meetings in one bumper article. So dim the lights, put on some Barry White, it's time to get all hot and steamy with the monthly love-in that is Wymondham Town Council.

CARVING INITIALS IN THE BARK

At December's meeting, the bonhomie started early when Cllr Kathryn Cross (Con) praised the quality of the market place Christmas tree put on by the council: "I think it looks fabulous... it's a great height and width." "So whoever ordered that, I think it looks spot on."

A gushing Mayor Kevin Hurn (Con) agreed: "I think we can commend Mr Gurney for the ordering process", dotingly referring to the council's clerk to his left: "For it was he, who ordered the tree", he swooned further, now in rhyming couplets.

The YouTube resolution wasn't high enough to detect a reciprocal blush.

SPREADING THE LOVE

The first real bit of new business was to approve a Town Council donation of £2500 to the Wymondham Fuel Allotments charity, which distributes local supermarket vouchers to pensioners in financial need over the Christmas period. It was a cause that united all councillors in its worthiness, at a tough time for many.

As a trustee of the charity, Cllr Robert Savage (Con) was unable to contribute to the debate or vote on it, due to rules about conflicts of interest. But he could rest easy, as the council's Clerk was able to demonstrate an impressively intimate knowledge of the charity's workings in his absence, all the way down to the outcomes of the trustees' most recent meeting. At one point the Mayor even inadvertently addressed the impartial paid member of staff as "Councillor Gurney".

Oopsie. Our friend Councillor Freud might have found that slip interesting.

Cllr Tony Holden (Con) supported the donation but did query why the proposal

wasn't following the council's usual detailed grant application process that other charities had had to follow.

Cue the Clerk to explain all:

"The reason this is not a grant application and not being dealt with as a grant application is because simply this particular charity has not applied for a grant application to this council. This is an initiative for the council to give funds and using this charity as the outlet for distribution."

Well that clears that one up then.

A supportive Cllr Suzanne Nuri-Nixon (Lib Dem) wanted to know which budget this would be coming from.

"There's no specific budget allocation for this so at the moment it's just coming from the general reserve" answered Cllr Gurney the Clerk, showing off new Kamasutra levels of flexibility for Wymondham Town Council in supporting worthy causes.

The measure was passed unanimously by the remaining councillors not on the charity's board. All eyes turned expectantly to the next worthy cause...

SWEET NOTHINGS FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

The council swiped left and rejected the next proposal, to fund 20 sessions of mental health therapy for up to 10x Wymondham youngsters at a time, via local not-for-profit organisation Cup-O-T. The scheme aimed to identify struggling 7-16 year olds in the town to support their mental health and work to build up their confidence to join other local youth organisations.

With no councillors on Cup-O-T's board, all were free to take part in scrutinising the proposal, with a rapidly rekindled lust for process, budgetary restraint and detail that included a 15-minute questioning for founder and occupational therapist Catherine Gray.

Among other things, the inclusion of providing refreshments to young 'uns at the site in the request seemed to stick in the gizzard for many councillors.

Said Cllr Julian Halls (Lib Dem): "there's an awful lot here in relation to general administration costs of the organisation, including refreshments which I find rather odd to be honest."

Treat 'em mean, to keep 'em keen, I suppose.

"These are actual costs for running the service, it's not for Catherine and her team to go and buy doughnuts when they could be buying bourbon biscuits." countered Cllr Kathryn Cross.

With a £2500 charity donation approved off the back of half a sheet of A4 moments before, Cllr Cross then suggested maybe this 7-page proposal

had been a victim of its own high levels of detail:

"I think we've got so much information here that might be putting people off slightly but I think we're quite lucky to have such a good breakdown because I don't think we normally get that sort of information."

Costing £4937, the measure was to be paid for out of the council's Youth Support reserve, which was flush with over £10k, thanks to the council putting forward no measures for youths in over a decade. The fund had been raided for £16k in 2019 though, to put towards the council's new £2m office building.

Well if you don't love yourself, who else is going to?

The proposal was rejected after Conservatives Yvette Astley, Peter Broome, Kevin Hurn, Robert Savage, and Lib Dems Julian Halls and Suzanne Nuri-Nixon raised their hands to vote it down.

More from this series at:
[wymondhammagazine.co.uk/
town-council-watch](http://wymondhammagazine.co.uk/town-council-watch)

A NEW FLAME HAS COME

Onto January's meeting, and we were updated that a new Town Coordinator has finally been appointed and will begin work this month. Corinna Pharaoh will work with businesses and residents to coordinate things like events, leisure and tourism in the town.

Town Council Watch hopes it's a match made in heaven.

SHAPING UP THE TOWN CENTRE

By far the biggest item on the January agenda was a proposal to set aside £200k to spend on future improvements to the high street. Added to an existing £50k and a mooted £750k top-up from South Norfolk Council, the move could see £1 million of investment into the town centre. The proposer, a suited and booted, dressed-to-impress Cllr Tony Holden, hailed it as a "once in a generation opportunity".

The measure certainly drew a crowd, with nine speakers in the public participation section, including South Norfolk councillor, Cllr Jack Hornby (Con), one of the Town Council's estranged exes, who resigned two years ago.

It's not me, it's you.

A prenup was on the minds of some of the more distrustful councillors. Cllrs Suzanne Nuri-Nixon and Robert Savage wanted to know how the Town Council could guarantee South Norfolk would hold up their side of the bargain and cough up the £750k?

Be gentle with us. We've been hurt before.

While Cllrs Halls and Savage saw future squabbles on the horizon over what specifically to spend the money on.

Cllr Holden had soothing words and a back rub for them all, re-assuring that this wasn't actually spending the money now, merely setting it aside, and that extensive public consultation would take place before any decisions were made.

After a bit of a public lovers' tiff between Cllrs Holden and Savage, seemingly triggered by the former submitting his written proposal before the latter could submit a similar paper, all councillors present voted to approve the measure.

All's fair in love and war.

KISS OF APPROVAL

Next up, the council approved an increase of 5% to its precept (the Town Council's share of council tax), which members compared favourably against inflation running at around 10%.

A question from Cllr Kim Carsok (Con) did reveal a 26% increase in admin staff salary costs though. Was this to accommodate the new Town Coordinator, asked the 'relatively-new' councillor. Not so. The Clerk confirmed the 26% covered pay rises last year for existing admin staff only, "with a consideration for a pay rise this year".

Very nice too. Do remember to instruct

your employer to put some money away for you inevitable pay rise this year, dear reader.

NOT PUPPY LOVE

A poem:

Roses are red. Violets are blue.

The Clerk's latest risk assessment of Town Council public areas and activities highlighted an abundance of dog poo.

It was apparently becoming a problem in the cemetery. But cometh a problem, cometh an ACTION PLAN. The council could consider banning dogs there, said the report.

"Does that mean banning all dogs, or just offending dogs?" queried the voice of Wymondham's canines and Centre Paws owner Cllr Kathryn Cross.

It was merely something to consider, in the face of irresponsible owners letting their dogs run off the lead and out of sight, came the response from the Clerk: **"they can't possibly see where they're defecating and they make no attempts to clear it up."**

Hmm. Town Council Watch has always thought Kett's Park would be a nice place to walk a dog.

LOVE SHINE A (XMAS) LIGHT

After that, the council agreed to take

on the financial cost of purchasing, storing and maintaining Christmas lights for the town centre - meaning this will no longer fall on the shoulders of the independent voluntary groups Town Team / Light Up Wymondham.

The volunteers will continue to hang the lights though, even if Cllr Astley did balk at the thought of non-professionals risking their lives up ladders.

Sssshh. No one tell her they've been doing it for the last 8 years.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Chip eaters of Wymondham need never feel lonely again, with new CCTV to be installed on Market Place looking fondly over them. The council voted to accept a quote for a camera system in the area, to deter anti-social behaviour.

Public toilet champion Cllr Robert Savage also requested that the outside of the oft-vandalised town centre conveniences be covered by CCTV and an accommodation was made to allow this to happen.

Well. There will be no jokes linking the topics of romance and public toilets here. This is a family publication.

And with that, the Town Council and its residents walked off into the sunset, hand-in-hand, to live happily ever after.



Climate change is here - what now?

Public meeting with cross-party panel including George Freeman MP - discussing climate change, how to fight it and how we need to change. All welcome!

Wymondham Central Hall • Friday 24th February • 6.30pm-8.30pm

Panel includes: **George Freeman MP** Conservative • **Michael Rosen** Labour • **Cllr Suzanne Nuri-Nixon** Liberal Democrat • **Catherine Rowett** Green Party + presentation from **Dr Hayley Pinto** of CHAIN + **questions from the audience**

FREE EVENT • Seats available on a first-come first-served basis
Wine & refreshments served from 8pm onwards



PEOPLE OUTSIDE WYMONDHAM CAN NOW GET PRINT MAGAZINE DELIVERED

By Jimmy Young

Every two months, almost 8500 households in Wymondham receive a free printed copy of Wymondham Magazine. But if you've moved away from the town or live in the surrounding villages, there's historically been no easy way to get your hands on a physical issue. But as of this month, that's changed.

A new print issue delivery service means anyone, based anywhere in the UK, can now receive a hard copy of Wymondham Magazine in each of our print months, for all of 2023.

"We know people love having a physical copy of the magazine to flick through at their leisure", explains editor Kim Carsok. "This new service means it's not just people living in Wymondham that can enjoy our contributors' articles off screen. But anyone with a connection to our town."

She continues: "People regularly ask me for an extra copy or two for their friend or family member who lives outside the delivery area."

For a one-off cost, avid readers will automatically receive their copy through the post as soon as it's printed and ready. And a single purchase buys all remaining editions for the year, no matter when you buy it.

"Anyone buying this package isn't just getting a great magazine for themselves, they're also helping secure the future of a printed community magazine for the whole town," added Ms Carsok.

If you are interested in this service or know someone who might be, please see our postal print edition page at subscribe.wymondhammagazine.co.uk/post

Residents of Wymondham will continue to receive their free copy automatically.



FOWCP Volunteers

EASTER FETE PLANS FOR FOWCP

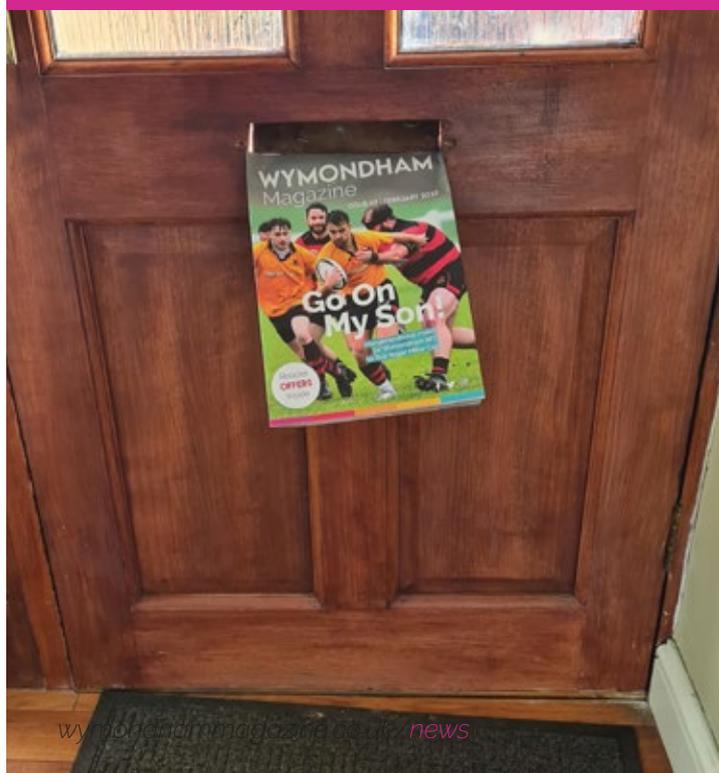
By Vicky Lowe

Formed in July 2021, following the opening of the new School the previous September, the Friends of Wymondham College Prep (FOWCP) is a group of volunteers who support the Wymondham College Prep School, being focused on engaging with families and the local community to provide fundraising opportunities that will help enhance, enrich and improve the learning experiences for the children.

Registered as a charity during 2022, the organisation arranges several social and fundraising events throughout the year, in addition to organising interactive activities for the school students, therefore providing regular opportunities for the wider school community to come together in support of the Wymondham College Prep School.

Successful fundraising efforts to date have permitted exciting and useful learning resources to be provided for use within the Prep School, including games, toys and educational materials. The current fundraising goal is to raise £12,000 for an outdoor classroom, to help create an interactive outdoor activity and learning space for all the pupils to enjoy. With over two thirds of the money raised to date, the FOWCP's forthcoming events hope to allow the overall target to be fulfilled this year.

Following the success of a similar inaugural event held last Spring; the FOWCP is now preparing to host its 2nd Annual Easter Fete, being held at the Wymondham College Prep School site, off Golf Links Road, near Morley, between 2:00pm and 5:00pm on the afternoon of Saturday 25th March 2023. A wide range of attractions are planned for the event, including music, performances, stalls, games and refreshments, with everyone welcome to enjoy a fun time out for all the family.





Ashleigh Primary School & Nursery

Nursery Open Evening Thursday 23rd February 2023

**If your child was born between 01/09/2019
and 31/08/2020 and you are interested in
Ashleigh Nursery from September 2023,
we would love to meet you and show you
our wonderful Nursery!**

**Tours begin at:
4:15pm or 5:15pm**

**To attend, please email
nursery@ashleighprimary.net**

**Please come to the Nursery gate
on Sheffield Road before your
booked tour is due to start.**

**All different
All equal
All learning**

TED Talks...

By Alex Perry

Before there was the internet, before decimalisation and before the motorways there was Ted. Edward Barham (affectionately known as "Ted") was born in Wymondham in 1932, and is a living window into a world long gone by.

Ted started school at Browick Primary when he was seven. He would have begun his education earlier, but he was knocked down by a motor car at the tender age of five. His first teacher was Miss Peggy Yaxley. She was often addressed by other women on the streets of Wymondham by her Christian name. Ted was in big trouble when he followed suit and he quickly learned that it had to be "Miss Yaxley" from then on.

Ted soon picked up the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic, and aged ten continued his education at Norwich Road Secondary School, where he also studied art, science, and P.T. (physical training). He can remember the football games where pupils wrapped coloured scarves around their arms so that everyone knew which teams they were on.

Playtime was as important then as it is today and Ted can name all his best mates such as Bob Stubbs, Brian Page, and Arthur Philby. The big difference back then was that you often had to make your own toys, and Ted recalls tying together fir cones on a string. And if you were unlucky and playtime was cancelled by the rain, then you had to tidy up the cloakroom!

Furthermore, Ted hasn't forgotten the teachers who instructed him in practical subjects like Mr. Baker who showed him how to repair items. However, his most important lessons were in gardening "in lots of different places", which he applied when he left school aged 14 to become a farm worker.

Ted's schooldays overlapped with the Second World War; he'll tell you about that next time...

ROUTE 66

By **Neville Cameron**

Norwich Road: at one end is a posh Waitrose, at the other end is an old prison all joined together with a cafe in both places making it a great place to explore. It was the first place I chose to walk along for varying distances when I started walking. It's also my chosen route now as I'm desperately trying to get over severe pain in my leg and ankle, get fitter and lose weight again. It's great walking that route regularly as I know just where I can pause with my camera taking pictures combined with resting that swollen thing I call a foot.

I'm 66 on the 12th of January and hopefully getting a state pension. I say hopefully getting a state pension as I've only just been told I've got to claim for it.

That sort of changes things for me, 66 is not only that name for an American highway, it's that number that officially makes me old, knackered, unwanted, on the scrap heap. (Interestingly some ladies that were to retire at 60 shockingly now also retire at 66 as well! Don't get me started on that one though.)

I could give up and invest in a mobility scooter, giving up on exercise altogether, but I'd just become a vegetable, so Norwich Road means a lot to me.

As long as I look for different views and angles of photographs I've never treated my eyeballs to



before, the prettier it becomes. There is one view in particular I've tried to take for months but I'm still anxiously trying to collect its beauty. It's a small drain or stream hidden away between two properties, honestly it should be criminal hiding such lovelinesses away. The whole place is covered in such pleasures, there's properties planted along both sides with such character it's mind blowing. There's obviously graded buildings planted there bringing heaps of history with them along with gardens to die for. There's a brand new pad that's erupted gorgeously into a place you'd think wasn't possible as well.

Take another look, again slowly there's smaller, might I say sexier cottages gathered in clumps which is strange as there's so many businesses along the Norwich Road banks as well from a dentist to a toddlers group to a very well placed charity shop.

If you like a bit of history with your cup of tea and slice of cake, the Museum has it all in an ever changing environment, it works so well as it's been used as a jail, a magistrate's and, well... pay your money at the reception and find out yourselves. If you use the museum there's huge potential around that part of town for some excellent building spotters and explorers, not just straight through and down to town either. Anyway that's another story altogether.

I hope I've whetted your appetite for a slow thoughtful walk up and down that treasure trove you've probably used more than you realise. If you live or indeed work on this delightful main road, maybe take a real look around you, you are so lucky.



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Arnie McConnell, Wymondham Community Outreach Project

By Kim Carsok

Wymondham Community Outreach Project runs Tuesdays and Saturdays from 11am-1pm at the RC Church on Norwich Road. It started in 2018 as a community kitchen, ensuring food which would otherwise be wasted was enjoyed by those in need. The project has evolved considerably since then and now regularly supports around 70 local households per week. We sat down with the Coordinator, Arnie McConnell, to find out more.

Is this solely a food bank?

"It's more like a one stop shop for people in crisis. We have clothes, household items, toiletries, toys, gas & electric vouchers, bus vouchers and even a fridge. We often work with ex-offenders who often have absolutely nothing when released. If they are lucky enough to be allocated social housing they go into a shell, so in the past we've

helped with a cooker, bed and basic furniture to set them up so they can restart their lives.

We once had someone come in wearing shorts, flip flops and a T-shirt. It was snowing. He had been released in what he was wearing at the time he was arrested and had nowhere to go. So we had to get him clothes immediately. Nothing surprises me anymore. If you start to exercise a degree of empathy... what are you going to do if you have got nothing and no one to turn to?"

Who is involved here?

"We are a fully inclusive organisation, some people are here because of their faith. I'm a member of the Catholic Church where we are based, as are some of the other volunteers. Some are members of other churches and many key volunteers are of no faith. They come here because of their values and wanting to make a contribution to society. It's a fantastic meeting point for people who want to serve the marginalised, vulnerable and overlooked people who are struggling.

We couldn't do it without Fr. Pat Cleary, Fr. Denis Gallagher, our amazing team of volunteers and our wonderful band of donors and supporters."

How does it work?

"We try to help people immediately and directly instead of sending them off to other places. If they don't have clothes for their youngsters, for whatever reason, we help them with that. If they don't have any food in their house, we get them some food. We can't do everything immediately but those key things we sort straight away.

People get sanctioned for not attending their benefits interview in Norwich, but they can't because they haven't got any money for the bus. And

then all their benefits are stopped. So we have bus vouchers to help in that situation.

The other thing that's really striking is the instance of poor mental health. It's sub-clinical, just under the radar, and it's really concerning. We make sure our volunteers are mindful of that."

What's your background?

"I've been a teacher and a lecturer so I've got that kind of pastoral background as an educator. I then became a volunteer with Citizens' Advice and an activist for mental health in Norfolk. At Citizens Advice, I learned about how benefits worked and didn't work. One of my jobs was handing out food bank vouchers. I'd be giving one to someone who hadn't eaten in two days, and looking at the timetable on Tuesday, the next time the food bank would be open was on Friday. Also giving someone a voucher who, because of their state, I assumed could be a victim of domestic violence or someone in a very poor mental health situation who would inevitably lose the voucher before making it to the food bank.

So when we came here we made the decision not to work with food vouchers. People refer themselves and we put the person's needs above the provider's convenience.

You can see what's going on here - we treat people kindly and without judgement. We are on their side. It's so easy to stigmatise people and make them feel they have done something wrong and that we are begrudgingly giving them some food. We are not just feeding the stomach. We are feeding the spirit, the soul. We are trying to increase self esteem. Some of the experiences people have been through are deeply moving. The last thing they need is to be given a piece of paper and

told to stand in a queue."

Are people surprised at the level of need in Wymondham?

"The thing about the marginalised is that they know how to go under the radar. You're not going to meet them in restaurants, pubs, Waitrose. Often on a first visit when we hand over the food they just go to pieces, men and women. Very often it's the first time they have received kindness. It's also not uncommon for people to be in the car park, do a u-turn and leave, then do three passes before they actually come through the door. They are convinced that we are going to be patronising, superior and dehumanising. We ensure it isn't like that, we smile and welcome them and guide them to the items we have to share with them."

Where do the donations come from?

"I apply for grants whenever I have time. The Lions, Rotary Club, other organisations and private individuals make generous donations. A number of our volunteers have even made four

figure donations which is incredibly telling to me. Many arrive for their volunteer shift every single time with two big bags of food to donate.

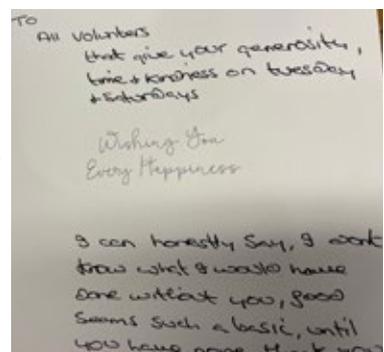
I lose sleep because I don't know how many people are going to come in each day. We need to ensure no one leaves empty handed. So far, thank God, it's worked. It's all down to the generosity of the people in the community, three supermarkets, other charities which support us and the amazing volunteers putting in the hard hours.

Last week we had a lady who came in to make a donation who said 'you supported me when I was down and now I want to help others'. Very often people say 'I've got enough of that, leave it for someone else'. Many of the clothes here are from people who use the food bank and have donated the clothes their children grew out of. There's an economy of compassion; so far it works.

Some more 'corporate' brained government agencies have given funds before which they've instructed us to ring fence for a particular group. For example an amount was given for older people. When a single mother comes in with three children who haven't eaten for two days, and they're not eligible to receive anything from that ring-fenced fund, that's very difficult. It doesn't work.



The money we receive goes towards basics like stationery, buying in food and essential items and we run the van. The church provides the venue for free. Father Dennis gives his blessing. Father Pat says that what goes on in the community outreach project is just as important to the church as what goes on in mass. There's the contemplative prayer side of faith and the social action side. Pope Francis said "Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds". I've taken a lot of inspiration from him. The church must never turn its back on the poor."



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By Tanith Spray, Chartered Legal Executive at Spire Solicitors



THE HIDDEN COSTS OF OWNING A LEASEHOLD PROPERTY

When purchasing a leasehold property, there are more costs that you will need to consider than if you were purchasing a freehold property. It is important that you carefully look at these costs as they can amount to large sums of money that you may not be initially aware of, and they may need to be paid in full at short notice.

GROUND RENT

Ground rent is a payment usually paid annually by owners of residential long leases to their landlord. It has been abolished on new leases in England and Wales from 30 June 2022. However, where leases are already in existence, rent will continue to be payable.

Ground rent may also increase in accordance with a recognisable and published formula such as the retail prices index. This will be stated in the lease so it is important to check this as in extreme cases you could see your ground rent double repeatedly over the time you own the property.

SERVICE CHARGE

A service charge is payable by the leaseholder to the landlord for any services that the landlord is obliged to provide under the terms of the lease.

This will usually include maintenance and repair, improvements to the exterior or common areas, as well as building insurance and the cost of the management.

The amount payable can vary each year depending on the costs the landlord incurs.

RESERVE OR SINKING FUND

Some leases allow for the landlord to collect extra money from leasehold owners every year that will go towards large but infrequent projects such as replacing a lift or roof.

CLADDING

There has been particular focus on cladding of leasehold properties since the Grenfell Tower tragedy. In some cases, the lease may allow for the landlord to recover the cost of replacement cladding through the service charge. This may result in affected leaseholders facing an average cost of £9,000. However, some leases may include a remediation plan where the landlord pays for the works or the cost is discounted.

CONSENT

Leaseholders are restricted with how they can use their homes with consent required for certain activities, such as structural alterations or keeping pets. Requesting consent for these can be time consuming and stressful, and you will need to pay for them to deal with your application.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF FROM THESE COSTS?

Although leasehold properties may have more ongoing costs than purchasing a freehold property, they can be a good way of getting onto the property ladder and ensuring the regulated use of shared facilities.

Spire Solicitors LLP Residential Conveyancing Team can support you every step of the way when purchasing a Leasehold Property. They will ensure you are aware of all potential costs, preventing any unpleasant surprises in the future meaning you can buy your property with confidence.

If you would like to discuss any points in this article further or are looking for legal advice relating to purchasing a leasehold property, please contact Spire Solicitors LLP on [01953 606351](tel:01953606351).

WHAT'S IN A PHOTO?

Winter Wonderland

By Philip Yaxley

It may have looked like a Winter Wonderland when these photographs were taken in early 1947, but that winter was one of the most cruel on record. It was in the second week of January that Norfolk experienced its first considerable fall of snow, then followed further heavy snowfalls with blizzards and sub-zero temperatures exacerbating the situation.

On 1 February the weekly Mercury described the "Arctic conditions". There were problems with frozen water pipes, many households still using outside toilets, while extensive power cuts left people in the dark. At a time when many folk still relied on coal fires for heating, shortages of coal did not help and, of course, great snow drifts made it difficult to get around. The then Wymondham Urban District Council praised its workmen for their enormous efforts in clearing "mountains of snow" from the town's streets, but it was not until well into March that the thaw arrived.

The Green Dragon, with Dodman's off-licence on the left and railings round Becket's Chapel on the right, made a pretty picture ▶



The Abbey taken from the snowed-up Briton Brush factory's timber yard ▶

◀ Becketswell Road where an effort had been made to clear a way through the snow



More from this series at:
[wymondhammagazine.co.uk/
whats-in-a-photo](http://wymondhammagazine.co.uk/whats-in-a-photo)



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A NEW YEAR, A NEW LEAF



Advertorial

By [Rebecca Mills](#), EweMove Wymondham

2023 is well underway, and the property market is back in swing! So, what are your property plans for the year? Whether you're selling or letting, buying or renting, there will be much to speak about!

My previous article alluded to improved market activity from Boxing Day onwards following the heightened December lull due to the mini-budget aftermath and cost of living crisis. Here we are, a few weeks in, and the market has indeed lived up to that. Increased online valuations, market appraisals, and viewings offer a positive outlook for what lies ahead.

For sellers and buyers alike, this time has been spent adjusting to the current climate. To adjust effectively, it's essential to call upon those within the industry: reliable estate agents, mortgage advisors and solicitors.

Within the world of lettings, there are many prospective tenants looking for long-term tenancies, but struggling to find properties, arrange viewings and secure a home. There is much to consider with political, economic, and social factors influencing the sector. Landlord's and ladies...now is the time to focus on compliance, management and valuation. Commit to your obligations,

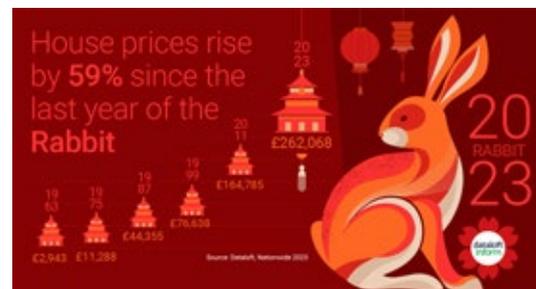
consider your options, and welcome an outsourced review.

It's never too early to start planning. In fact, regular insight into your property's value is important. Get in touch today by giving me a call or booking an appointment online via my website.

69% of home movers prefer to contact an agent by phone, hence why our lines are open 24/7 365 days of the year.

Wishing you all a great year ahead! Until next time.

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This year, Chinese New Year falls on the 22nd January, beginning the Year of the Rabbit. The rabbit is one of 12 zodiac animals and it represents patience, peace and prosperity.



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NEW TECH FOR THE NEW YEAR AT SNR

By David Mann



After the move to a new location, a new piece of state-of-the-art digital equipment has now been acquired by local community radio station South Norfolk Radio (SNR) and installed at the heart of its studio presentational system.

"We've made a considerable investment in this new hardware" explains Anthony Woods, SNR's station manager for the not-for-profit community interest company, "but the Rodecaster Pro will provide us with much more flexibility for our broadcasts, and once our volunteers become fully familiar with it, it should make for slicker and more professional programmes too" he says.

"The suppliers of our playout computer system are also looking to make changes this spring that will further enhance our studio broadcasts" says Anthony, "and, critically, the changes will also make it much easier for the station to broadcast remotely as well, from almost anywhere with a reasonable Wi-Fi connection, whether that be presenters doing live shows from their own homes if they have a microphone and a laptop, or doing

outside broadcasts from live events taking place in the local community. It's also an important element in our planned roll-out of an educational programme for local schools in South Norfolk, tied in to elements of the national curriculum. So it looks like a good time to make a resolution to join us this year" says Anthony.

"We're still actively seeking new volunteers" he continues. "Even if you don't fancy having a go at presenting a show yourself in front of the microphone, there are plenty of opportunities to work in other roles supporting the station, some of them without even needing to leave your own home. We are also keen to expand into more local speech-based programmes and to try and attract more local advertisers to the station too" says Anthony.

South Norfolk Radio was granted a DAB broadcasting licence by OFCOM in 2022 and there was a period of test broadcasting on the local DAB platform last summer. "Currently, because of the increased costs incurred, principally for music rights licensing on DAB as opposed to purely on-line broadcasting,



we have had to put our DAB aspirations on hold for the time being" explains Anthony. "But the station of course remains accessible through our website at www.snradio.uk, on Smart Speakers and on a range of radio streaming platforms and apps. Basically, if you've got a Wi-Fi connection, you've got South Norfolk Radio!" he says.

In a previous edition of Wymondham Magazine, Anthony explained that the station has set up a GoFundMe page for donations. "Everyone is being squeezed financially at the moment" he says "and being a 24/7 broadcaster means for example that our electricity is on all the time, and so the costs are constantly rising. We'd like to say a huge thank you to those who have made a contribution since we opened our donations page, and if you can help us, every donation, however modest, is very gratefully received indeed." Donations can be made here: www.shorturl.at/twCX3

COUNTRYSIDERS UPDATE

By Clare Rowling

Wymondham Countrysiders is the junior arm of Wymondham Young Farmers for those aged 10 to 16 who like to meet with like-minded young people who enjoy the Countryside.

We relaunched back in September with a good amount of young people coming along, most of whom were new to Countrysiders.

So far we have enjoyed Archery, Circus Skills, a talk from a Wildlife Ranger and had joint meetings with the senior club for Bonfire Night and our Christmas party. We have strong links with the Senior Club, with many members moving on when they are old enough and regularly have joint events, including some meetings and the Panto.

We had 16 members take part in the ploughing competition, none of whom had ploughed before. It was a good day and everyone enjoyed themselves. We also take part in competitions with other Countrysider clubs throughout the year with quizzes, public speaking, farming related competitions and a full competition day in the Summer.

The programme for the Spring and Summer include a visit to farm machinery dealership, a talk by a Vet, visit to Asparagus Farm as well as some stock judging with the Seniors.

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 7.00pm until 8.30pm and our indoor meetings are at North Wymondham Community Centre.

We have a fundraising event on Tuesday 14th February with a Bingo night in aid of club funds. Doors open at 6.30pm with eyes down at 7.00pm at North Wymondham Community Centre.

If anyone is interested in joining Countrysiders, please contact Mark on 07484 651881

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MNR ANNOUNCES FULL 2023 PROGRAMME

By Peter Singlehurst

The Mid Norfolk Railway is planning a full programme of events for 2023. The events will include a Steam and Diesel Gala together with a number of other special events weekends.

The programme of events is intended to once again feature a busy mix of speciality weekends together with railway themed events and it is planned that this will be the first time the railway has been able to run such a programme since 2019.

Charlie Robinson, the Chairman of the Mid Norfolk Railway said: "We are all excited by the programme, it will finally mean that we have overcome the issues that Covid caused the railway. The 2022 season has been disappointing and it could be argued that we at the railway underestimated how the effects of Covid had impacted the railway. This programme will I am sure show the railway is back and in

many ways better than before.

"I am also pleased to say that in many of the departments we have new faces that are working to make this a success, in 2023 we are planning to add new services, new catering opportunities and new events, plus bringing back some popular events we have just not been able to run over the last few years."

The 2023 Mid Norfolk Railway operating season will open on the 4th March with the return of the Model Railway Exhibition at Dereham. Standard running days will be a mix of Steam hauled, Diesel hauled, or Diesel Multiple Unit services.

The first planned steam day will coincide with Mothers Day, over the weekend of the 18th and 19th March. In addition a new feature will be a Champagne Afternoon Tea service. The 14th May will see the ever popular Vintage Bus Day together with a new Vintage Fair. This event includes the 'rail replacement' service to the railway's County School, which will again be open at weekends and will feature the ever expanding Miniature Railway of the North Norfolk Model Engineering Club.

More info on this year's programme can be found on the MNR website at: www.midnorfolkrailway.co.uk.

Photo: Ian McDonald

STAR THROWERS UPDATE

By Victoria Pigg

Services: Star Throwers is open again after the holidays and welcoming people back for information and support. We are always looking for more Volunteer Therapists who are looking to donate their time to support people affected by cancer.

Fundraising: We had a very busy run up to Christmas with our Charity Ball which raised £5645, followed by our Wreath Making the next day supported by Nicky from The Enchanted Willow which raised a further £900. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported us by fundraising, organising events, taking on a challenge or attending one of our events in 2022.

Looking for a challenge for 2023? Take part in the Spring Blickling Half Marathon or take on a tandem skydive - for both events you'll just need to raise some sponsorship funds for Star Throwers. Contact us to find out more: victoria@starthrowers.org.uk

Events: Join us at the centre on Saturday 24th February from 10am – 2pm for our 'Star Throwers Swishing' event - Swap up to 8 items of your good quality clothes, shoes and accessories for a whole new wardrobe!

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◀ New tearoom table numbers carved by David Brackenbury

The then Prince of Wales informally visits Wymondham ▶



▲ Outfit worn by museum maintenance manager David Brackenbury for the late Queen's coronation in 1953

Can you spare a few hours a month to help at Wymondham Heritage Museum? Volunteers are urgently needed for the roles of stewards and to help in the Tearoom. If you can help, please email: info@thewhm.org.uk

HERITAGE MUSEUM REOPENS SOON

By Neil Haverson

Wymondham Heritage Museum opens for the new season on Monday March 20th. During the winter break the volunteers have been busy setting up new displays and refreshing existing ones.

One such display reflects the area's rich agricultural heritage with artefacts from farming of yesteryear. Some of them cause scratched heads as visitors work out what they were used for. The display has been revamped with a new stand for the exhibits and an information board telling the life of a farmworker and a month-by-month guide to the old farming year.

An exhibition is planned to celebrate the coronation of King Charles in May. As the Prince of Wales, the King visited Wymondham twice, once in 1992 and



During the close season, the wishing well was emptied to retrieve the coins dropped in by visitors making a wish. The money goes towards helping to maintain the museum. It receives no outside funding, relying on admission revenue and donations. If you popped a coin in the well and made a wish, did it come true? The museum would love to know.

again in 1997. In 1992 he paid an informal visit to the Abbey, returning in 1997 to attend a Music in Churches Trust concert. The display will feature coronation memorabilia including the outfit worn by museum maintenance manager David Brackenbury for the late Queen's coronation in 1953 when he was seven years old.

Among the popular permanent displays showcasing the history of the town is the Brushroom. It tells the story of Britons Brushes, once Wymondham's major industry. In addition to the many artefacts is a memory book with entries from former employees and their relatives such as this gem.

"My grandmother worked here. She told me stories of knotting the brushes. She told me she used to sit on a three-legged stool and when she finished her employment at Briton she cut one leg off so no-one else could use it!"

The recreated grocery and ironmongers' shops have shelves bulging with products from early in the last century. Some of them you may remember!

Of course, the town's most famous citizen, Robert Kett, is featured. Why did he lead a rebellion which ended with him hanged at Norwich Castle?

There is the fascinating history of the museum's home, The Bridewell, displayed in one of the cells. Its role from the 17th century was a

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prison, then a police station and finally a magistrate's court. Visitors can find out what life was like for the prisoners, what they ate, the rules and regulations they had to abide by. Go down to the dungeon and experience how it felt when the cell door slammed shut.

Other regular favourites include a look at the many lost pubs of Wymondham, the history of the Regal Cinema and how the long arm of the local law policed the town.

Round off your visit with a hot cuppa and homemade cake or scone in The Bridewell Tearoom, formerly the exercise yard for remand prisoners. Look out for the new table numbers carved by David Brackenbury using an image of the iconic Market Cross.

For more information about the museum, details of opening times and admission prices go to thewhm.org.uk





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BRASS BAND EXPANDING

By **Barry Rose**

New Buckenham Silver Band has been providing quality brass band music since 1887, proudly performing at all kind of events in the area such as summer fetes and park bandstands, special concerts, Christmas concerts and carolling, Remembrance parades, Royal Jubilees and many church events – indeed if you were in the town during December it is highly likely that you will have heard us performing either playing carols at the Wynterfest and Morrisons or perhaps even at our concert performance in Wymondham Abbey as part of the Zipper Club Nine Lessons and Carols – where we received a standing ovation.

We are a very friendly brass band with an ambitious agenda to grow and develop our capability – we have recently engaged a new Musical Director who is enormously talented at developing players and producing band performances and we are deeply proud that the band sources so much of its playing talent locally.



And this is where you might come in! If you have any interest in being involved with brass music – or you are a lapsed player who long ago set aside their playing interests, but would dearly love to renew that passion – then you will have no better an opportunity than to make contact with us right now. We are always keen to meet and accommodate new players to the band and you can be reassured that you will receive a warm welcome – so why not give it a go?

Rehearsals are every Thursday evening from 8:00pm to 9:45pm in New Buckenham Village, Hall Moat Lane, New Buckenham, Norwich, NR16 2AU.

Just give Barry a call on 07928 096 932 or visit our website at www.nbsb.org.uk.

See you soon!

WPS PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Rajasthan Man by Dominic Byrne



By **John Staines**

Our second round DPI competition saw only 6 images out of the 56 submitted scoring a maximum 10 points and of these winning images the judge's favourite was this excellent portrait of "Rajasthan Man".

The judge commented that his choice was based upon the photographer's skill in achieving a great "depth of field" enhanced by superb "lighting" emphasising the rugged skin and giving the viewer a brief insight into his life and character.

The photographer Dominic Byrne commented: "The image was taken in a small village in the desert outside Jaipur. I was working in the Middle East and decided to take a short break to India with the intention of photographing some of the local people. I had arranged a tuk-tuk driver to take me to some locations and to act as an interpreter and he would stop at some small tea stands and ask the people if they were happy for me to take some photographs. Mostly they were very amenable but would then look terrified when I brought out my enormous lighting kit. It was all good fun with plenty of laughs and plenty of tea drunk and I ensured that everyone I photographed got a printed copy of their photograph."

"This particular image was made using a Nikon D700, a 24-70mm lens at 56mm, 1/250s F5.6 ISO 100. I used an Elinchrome Ranger with a 1 Metre softbox for the lighting."

NO REST FOR ROTARY SATELLITE GROUP

By **Maureen Huckle**

Like many other groups at this time of year, Wymondham Rotary Satellite Group have been reflecting on the successes of 2022 and planning for 2023.

In the last year we have been able to give financial support to Star Throwers and Homestart Norfolk for new computers and cash support to the Community Outreach Programme for the food bank. We've run a monthly 100 Club, arranged quizzes, we've supported at the Jazz Picnic and Remembrance Day, we've joined in at Wynterfest and of course we brought you Wymondham's first Food and Drink Festival. We also arranged for a local young person to go on Rotary Young Leaders residential scheme.



We're looking for a candidate to go on the next event so let us know of anyone aged 18-24 who would benefit from this wonderful opportunity.

That's quite a lot for a small group of volunteers! Not resting on our laurels, oh no. We're already planning our

next Quiz Night on May 12th and the Food and Drink Festival will be held on Sunday June 25th. Please put the dates in your diaries and we really hope to see you there.

Every penny of profit that we raise is handed over to local charities and we could do so much more.

Why not come and see if you'd like to

join us and help at those 2023 events? Just email us at

wymrsg@gmail.com or contact us through our Facebook page.



An update from...

GREENING WYMONDHAM

By **Mike Heard**

TREES FOR Y6 CHILDREN

On the 12th December the Y6 children at Ashleigh, Browick Road & Robert Kett Primary schools all received a tree whip which they were advised to keep outside in the cold and plant once the particularly cold snap of weather was over and the ground was soft enough for the tree roots to survive in. The children were given a talk on monoculture vs biodiversity. Children were able to see the roots of one tree, and each tree would support the lives of birds, insects, wildlife above the ground and in the ground, in the soil itself.

BROWICK ROAD COMMUNITY ORCHARD

If you are not aware we are creating a community orchard of local heritage variety fruit trees on an area of neglected land to the east side of the Browick Road Recreation Ground, all the work being carried out by an enthusiastic group of volunteers.

Since the summer our focus has been on the lower area. This has been hard graft as it required a lot of clearance both of vegetation and dumped waste including building materials. We are at the stage of starting to construct the



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various planned areas. These include an activity area, raised beds and of course more fruit trees. We are using as many recycled items as is reasonably possible, for example, our recently constructed compost and leaf mould area is made up of unwanted pallets.

In the near future, we have a planting event on the 18th Feb between 10am & Noon to plant a number of trees which have been sourced utilising grants obtained. We would welcome a good turnout of local people to help plant the trees but also to come and look at the work that has been undertaken.

ROTHBURY PARK

Greening Wymondham have been working with a Landscape Architect on a new plan for Rothbury Park, including a path, better disabled access and play opportunities and much more tree planting. There will be a public consultation with an exhibition in the Rothbury Community Centre on the afternoon of Saturday 11th February 2023, between 2-4 pm.

BECKETSWELL PARK

Following a meeting between Greening Wymondham members and the Mayor at the Park, the Town Council has resolved that Becketswell Park should be assessed by ecology specialists, tree surgeons and landscape designers to draw up detailed proposals for improvements to the Park.

More details of our activities can be found on www.greeningwymondham.org

NEW ART DEMO SERIES

By Judith Munks

Wymondham Art Society is pleased to introduce an exciting new programme of events for 2023. It includes demonstrations by artists proficient in various mediums; oils, watercolours, pastels and inks. Subject matter is varied, including local landscapes, wildlife, still life and portraits. Also included in July is an illustrated talk by the curator of the Munnings Museum in Dedham, Jenny Hand. The museum is the former home of Alfred Munnings and owns the largest collection of art works by this superb East Anglian painter, well known for his paintings of horses, who began his career designing posters for Colman's Mustard and went on to become president of the Royal Society.

Everyone is very welcome to attend meetings, which are informal and friendly. We meet at 7:15pm on the first Wednesday of every month, except January, at the Roman Catholic Church Hall. All you need is an interest in the visual arts – you do not have to be an artist yourself, though the majority of our members enjoy painting. We do

not offer painting tuition as a society. Meetings are free to members, with a £5 charge for guests (includes refreshments). Full membership is £30 per annum. Please come along to a meeting for a taster session. If you subsequently join, your guest fee will be refunded.

The 2023 season starts on Wednesday, 1st February with a demonstration of painting with acrylic inks by Sue Williams. Sue's demonstrations are always very popular, instructive and entertaining, so would be an excellent introduction to potential new members. Acrylic ink may be an unfamiliar medium to some, but can create dynamic, colourful paintings.



MUSICAL GROUP INVITES NEW MEMBERS

By Debbie Gothard

Livewire is a Wymondham based group who believe in 'taking the music to the people'. Our repertoire includes popular musical shows such as The Sound Of Music, and Oliver!, as well as light operetta including the Gilbert & Sullivan classics and The Merry Widow. We also produce a series of Christmas concerts each year.

Our 2023 summer show will be The Magic of The Musicals, which will showcase some of the best tunes from musical theatre down the years. We have just begun rehearsals for the show and are keen for new members to join us. If you have an interest in musical theatre and are interested in joining us either as a vocalist, or 'behind the scenes', then please call Debbie on 01953 851543 or email livewireopera@gmail.com. We welcome any age or ability; all we ask for is enthusiasm and commitment!

Rehearsals take place every Monday in the Central Hall, Wymondham, 19:30 - 21:30. Performance dates for The Magic Of The Musicals! will be announced soon – keep an eye on our social media pages for details.



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FREE WILL REVIEW

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

FREE PROBATE ADVICE

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

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SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA HEADS BACK TO ABBEY

By **Adrienne Cleary**

The orchestra rounded off a wonderful Autumn Season by performing two concerts in the Central Hall Wymondham, to very appreciative audiences. We paid homage to two British composers, Vaughan Williams, whose 150th Anniversary of his birth was being celebrated around the country and Charles Villiers Stanford, both of whom were strongly influenced by British and Irish folk song. A particular favourite with the audience was the Fantasia on Greensleeves, followed by a very lively performance of the Tuba concerto by Vaughan Williams, performed by Mark Peck, who has been playing with the WSO for over 25 years.

The Family Christmas Concert on December 11th was a joint presentation with children from The Robert Kett Primary School. A sell-out concert that was full of joy and happiness and with



wonderful sparkling performances by the children, some singing and some playing their instruments sitting side by side with the WSO players. There were many highlights, one of them being the illustrated version of The 12 Days of Christmas and the singing of carols and a carol quiz with the audience. One parent wrote 'what a wonderful opportunity for the children to be able to take part in a public concert, performing alongside (and be part of) a full symphony orchestra, creating music of such a high standard. At a time when music and the arts are so desperately underfunded, and music is being squeezed out of the curriculum, this was a fantastic event, and I was pleased to see it well attended.' A collection was made for the Wymondham Food Bank which amounted to £220 donated by our very generous audience.

So now we are starting rehearsals for our Spring Concert. We are very excited

to be able to perform in Wymondham Abbey once again having missed playing in such a wonderful venue for some three years and look forward to welcoming our audience there on Saturday March 25th, the concert starting at the earlier time of 7 pm.

Entitled 'Out to Sea', the programme consists of the very popular and well known theme The Adagio of Spartacus and Phrygia by Khachaturian, Sea Pictures by Elgar, (mezzo-soprano Maria Willis, born in Norfolk and based in London) Four Sea Interludes and Passacaglia from Peter Grimes by Britten, March 'Padstow Lifeboat' by Arnold and Fantasia on British Sea Songs by Wood.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all. Tickets are available on the door or through our website, wymondhamsymphonyorchestra.org.uk at a cost of £15, (£13 Friends) U18 free.

NATURE GROUP TALKS SCHEDULE

By Nicola Cooke

Wymondham Nature Group (WyNG), the local members' group of Norfolk Wildlife Trust, continues its programme of indoor meetings throughout the coming months as follows. The talks are all held in the Town Green Community Centre, Wymondham, NR18 0PW (next to Wymondham Methodist Church). All are welcome - admission £2 - further details from Ann Carpenter on 01508 488337.

Thursday 9th February 2023, 7.30 pm - "Norfolk's Wonderful 150". This talk by Dr Tony Leech is based on a Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society book that profiles 150 species which are in some way special to Norfolk. Either it's because it is a particularly good place to see them or, in some cases, the only place.

Thursday 9th March 2023, 7.30 pm - "Wild Geese and Winter Wildlife - a thousand miles around North Norfolk on an elderly bicycle" - by Nick Acheson. In the winter lockdowns of 2020-21, Nick cycled more than a thousand miles around North Norfolk on his mother's 40 year old cycle, following flocks of Brent geese and pink-footed geese and speaking to the many people whose lives are touched by them. His resulting book, The Meaning of Geese, tells the story of arctic geese faced by changing landscape and climate (to be published in February 2023).

Follow Wymondham Nature Group on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/WymondhamNatureGroup/



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SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Wymondham Garden Club Update

By Andy Speller

February heralds the first signs of Spring - with Aconites, Snowdrops & Crocuses as well as Hellebores & early shrubs all flowering, our gardens stir from their winter slumbers!

Wymondham Garden Club has an exciting programme of talks for anyone interested in Gardening, be they budding beginners or folks who have established gardens. There's always something new to discover & arouse green fingered interest. All are welcome.

The club programme for 2023 kicked off with a January talk on Botanical Gardens by Jim Paine (of Walnut Tree nursery near Attleborough) discussing plant varieties which will flourish in Wymondham & district soils.

This month we have Rosemary Ward talking about "Plants for a Sunny Garden" and Mediterranean style planting (something we all need to seriously consider as summers' become hotter).

March sees the return of one of our favourite speakers, Dr Ian Bedford, the subject this time "All you might ever need to know about Slugs"! Don't be put off, there's more positives to Slugs than you might expect as Ian will divulge (as well as how to keep the bad ones away!).

In April we have Chris Deakin talking about "Designing & Planting Small Gardens", ideal timing as the Spring growing season gets underway.

For anyone considering joining, membership of the club is just £18 for 2023. Talks are free to members with refreshments provided. Guests pay £4 per talk.

Wymondham Garden Club events are listed in the Wymondham Magazine & on the Facebook "Wymondham Garden Club" page. Printed programmes are available at club meetings. For further information about the club contact wymondhamgardenclub@gmail.com

Did you know? Google "Botanical gardens in Norfolk" & you'll be directed to Norfolk, Virginia! The nearest Botanical Garden is in Cambridge; well worth visiting - there are extensive herbaceous areas, greenhouses dedicated to different climates (think desert plants, tropical rainforests etc), an arboretum & much more.



▼ Cambridge University Botanic Garden ▼





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MARCH OF THE LOWE-BOTS?

Princeton student, can analyse a text and inform you whether it was human or computer-generated, allowing teachers to breathe a sigh of relief.

Out of interest, I asked ChatGPT to write a "700-word

lighthearted newspaper column" (which is my Wymondham Magazine brief). It replied with an article entitled "Planning Fun Summer Vacation", which began like this:

"As I sit here at my desk, staring out the window at the bleak, wintry landscape, I can't help but feel a sense

notably, the third season of Sally Wainwright's Happy Valley (free to watch on iPlayer). I do not deny the importance of self-care at this time of year. Leaving the Christmas holidays behind can verge on the depressing, and at the time of publication, Valentine's Day approaches, either a celebratory or insufferable time of year depending on your views. So, self-care is more paramount than ever. I recently discovered Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code, famous for its galloping historical inaccuracies (and there are plenty) but for still being a fun thriller. On the opposite end of the sophistication scale are the works of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, who recently delivered a BBC Reith Lecture on Freedom of Speech. Her fiction provides an extra cultural enrichment somewhat lacking in The Da Vinci Code, so either may appeal to you based on your tastes.

When pitching this article to my sister, I asked her, "how else do we make the early months more bearable?" She laughed and said, "eat chocolate." Enough said. And, for context, my sister is sugar-free. We are in the 21st Century, in which absolutely nobody is exempt: sugar-free, vegan, gluten-free, you name it, there is a bar out there which caters to your needs. My sister's favourite is Montezuma's "100%" flavour (revolting for me but delicious for her). It is also suitable for vegans, which is handy for people like me who know sugar-free people and vegans and occasionally get the two confused.

These elements will hopefully help us all enjoy 2023, regardless of its various challenges. And as a final note – I promise that it is me writing this, not the AI author of the journalism masterpiece "Planning Fun Summer Vacation".

According to social media, a New-Year concern for teachers and lecturers across the country is the recently released "ChatGPT": an AI-based software which produces essay-like responses to complex questions, in eerily human-like written English. Some teachers and lecturers are concerned that this will lead to an "epidemic of plagiarism", with students over-relying on it for their schoolwork.

My cousin introduced me to this AI bot at a family Christmas party, and initially, I was astounded like everyone else on social media. I couldn't wait to ask it about all the juicy issues that interested me (rather like we ask Siri to tell stupid jokes) and to copy and paste in last term's essay questions to see how it responded.

Then, after digging deeper, I came to my senses. I hope that our fantastic Wymondham teachers are not stressing over this too much, because from what I've seen, it is hardly as groundbreaking as the media claims. It is prone to incorrect information: it told me that Roald Dahl wrote a short story called "The Switch" (he didn't) and that J.K. Rowling was a former lawyer (she's not). Its generation of computer code, while impressive, is not failsafe and does have

“ I ASKED CHATGPT TO WRITE A 700-WORD LIGHTEARTED NEWSPAPER COLUMN

bugs. It presents sweeping 'factual' statements that are actually up for debate and lacks the depth in opinion and evaluation that make essays successful. I asked it an A-Level English question on "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" (one of the Wymondham set texts), and I know that its answer would have scored very badly. Its sister website "GPTZero", created by a hero

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of longing for the warmer months. Don't get me wrong, I love the holiday season as much as the next person. But let's face it, there's only so much eggnog and Christmas music a person can take before they start to go stir crazy. But fear not, dear reader!"

Somehow, I doubt this app will put me out of a job just yet.

Conversely, the New Year saw the release of many positive things, most

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

“THE NOT SO FLEXIBUS

By Jamie Collingwood

Flexibus: a name you may or may not have heard of. The Wymondham Flexibus is an on-demand (well, kinda – more on that later) minibus that serves Wymondham and its surrounding villages, giving villagers transport to any other village or into Wymondham without needing a car. The interesting part though, is that it doesn't have a timetable.

Instead, the bus service uses a methodology known as Demand Responsive Transport – DRT – which means that its route for the day is determined entirely by customer requests. So, if no one requests it, the bus won't leave the depot. But as far as I am aware, though the service is used, it's very underutilised, and I only occasionally see it in Wymondham or passing through a village.

Perhaps that's because it only operates from 9am until 2:30pm in school term time (or 8am-4pm during school holidays) and only from Monday to Friday. And making a request for the bus is far from simple: you have to call up Flexibus by telephone or fill out a

request form on the Norfolk County Council website, but this has to be done by 3pm on the day before travel!

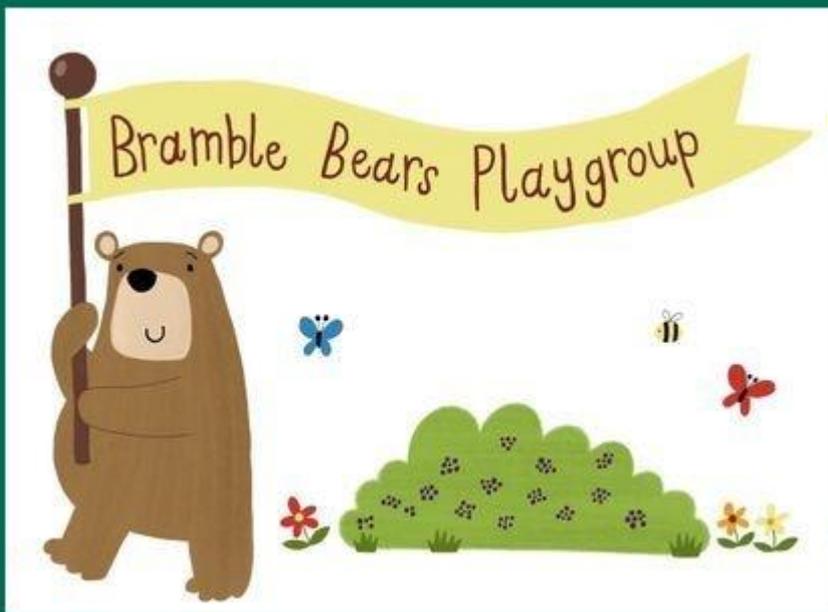
This might be fine for someone who doesn't work 'normal' hours (i.e. 9am-5pm), lives in a village outside of Wymondham, wants to get into town in the late morning or early afternoon and isn't likely to change their plans. Unfortunately, it doesn't do much for those that this doesn't apply to, and its drawbacks are blatant.

So the question I ask is this: how can it be improved? Well, to do that we need a solution to the biggest issue of them all, that is the requirement to book by 3pm on the day before travel. It turns out, however, that we're in luck - a bus company called Go Coach (based in Sevenoaks, Kent) already has the solution, and they are using it right now. They leased software which allows users to make a journey request by choosing a pickup and drop off location on their app and for a bus to arrive ASAP (in practice this can be in under 5 minutes). Users can also call up if they don't have the app and the bus company will put their journey in for them. For Wymondham and surrounding villages, I imagine a wait time to be longer, not least because there would be fewer buses circulating than Go Coach's Sevenoaks setup and



fewer passengers to use it, but with the new ability to request a bus with no upfront warning, it wouldn't be unrealistic to have it arrive, say, within half an hour.

Flexibus would then provisionally be able to extend hours, perhaps extending onto weekends, and if demand for the service grew then multiple buses could run during peak hours therefore reducing journey times. This would allow people living outside of Wymondham to get into Wymondham earlier/later in the day, on weekdays and weekends, which would provide them the opportunity to access Wymondham's high street, bus services and more. If Norfolk County Council cracked this, the Flexibus could become a genuinely useful piece of public transport to get people into Wymondham town centre.



— Est. 1968 —

Bramble Bears is an amazing little playgroup that offered not only a brilliant learning environment for my son to start his education but was also a place I felt confident leaving him. The environment the staff create in the hall is one of warmth and fun with my son often crying at home time because he didn't want to leave! I would not hesitate in recommending Bramble Bears to any parent looking for a stimulating and nurturing environment for their child. –Amy (Parent)

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Guest Column

FROM MY PERSPECTIVE



By Cllr Kathryn Cross, Town Council, North Ward

Firstly I would like to wish all of Wymondham a very Happy New Year and hope that 2023 is kind to you all.

It's not been an easy few years for any of us but following the full council meeting on January 3rd, I am excited that Wymondham will soon benefit from a huge boost to its fortunes.

The unanimous agreement by councillors to allocate a further £200,000 to a regeneration project, which could see £1 million spent on the town centre with funds from South Norfolk district council, signals a new dawn for the town.

I feel very fortunate to be on the council at such an exciting crossroads and be able to play a small part in making Wymondham a better place for our children to grow up in and for us to live and work.

I have lots of my own ideas about improving car parking, the safety of pedestrians, signage (one of my biggest bugbears currently!), highlighting our historic assets, and generally brightening up the town centre and making it a real destination for shoppers and tourists.

But I do urge everyone to take part in the forthcoming consultation process because your thoughts and ideas really matter as you are the ones who will be using the town and at the end of the day it needs to be user-friendly. Whether you are young or old, resident or business owner, shopper, student or occasional visitor – your input is vital to the process.

On your next trip into town maybe take a few mental notes about what would make your visit easier, more enjoyable and what changes you would make, however drastic that may be, and let your councillors know. Collaboration is the key.

And talking of collaboration, what a wonderful event Wynterfest was again with so many businesses open, so many stalls showcasing their wares, and fantastic entertainment. It makes you realise what talented folk are out there doing some incredible work. Thank you to Wymondham Town Team for pulling it all together, we are extremely fortunate to have you working so tirelessly on behalf of the town.

I was especially delighted to see a beautiful Christmas tree in the market place, something I proposed to the council and we finally got the infrastructure in place to have it safely installed. Now I am on a new working group at the town council looking at Christmas Lights. At the last full council meeting we successfully proposed that the council buys all the lights throughout the town, with volunteers continuing their amazing work to install them, as the team so enjoys the community spirit of the task. I'm excited to see what we can come up with for next Christmas.

More from this series at:
wymondhammagazine.co.uk/
from-my-perspective

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BOOK REVIEW

Book Lovers by Emily Henry

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

As a romance reader, *Book Lovers* by Emily Henry has to be one of the best books I read over the Christmas break. At first, I was slightly wary that there would be too many book references, as there are many mentions of different plots and tropes throughout the first few pages, but as I read on, the tiny references became something I adored. I hadn't yet come across a book where the two main characters are avid bookworms, until *Book Lovers*. Even the daily vocabulary was quite different to characters who clearly didn't read as much, which I found quite interesting.



Within romance books, one key element is pacing. If the main characters met in chapter one they can't get married in chapter two, because that's too soon. Emily Henry paces the character development and relationships perfectly. Even the humour was perfectly timed and never overused. For example, Charlie Lastra, a book editor, occasionally comes out with these witty and dark one liners which compliments his serious demeanour, this more importantly melts his barricaded outer-shell like butter being pressed against a hot knife.

I would recommend these 373 pages to any teen-plus reader looking for a perfectly paced 'work enemies' to lovers novel.



ATHLETIC CLUB'S *NOT* NEW YEAR'S DAY 10K RACE

By *Katie Whitmore*

Nearly 700 runners from across the region raced into the New Year taking part in the annual Wymondham AC 10k on Monday 2nd January. A record turnout of 687 runners took part in the event which celebrated it's 40th anniversary this year.

First place honours in the men's race went to Saint Edmund Pacers' runner Jack Nixon who finished in 32:39, followed by Wymondham AC's Aidan Banfield in a time of 33:23 and Daniel Middleton in 33:56.

In the Ladies race Kate Murrell from Tri-Anglia Triathlon Club took first place in a time of 38:56. Second and third places were closely contested between two of Wymondham AC's runners - Harriet Carr in 39:17 and Juliette Watkinson in 39:26.

In the Junior men's race, William Percival from City of Norwich AC came first and finished an impressive 14th place overall in a time of 36:00 with

fellow CONAC runner Hannah Colby winning the junior female race in 51:14.

The first event took place on 1st January 1983 and Wymondham AC runner Eva Osborne took part in the first ever race. Still running strong 40 years later, she wore the Number 1 vest for the race and won her F70+ age category in a time 1:02:17.

The race was supported by over 90 members of Wymondham Athletic Club who volunteered for marshalling on the course as well as giving out race numbers, setting out the course and handing out well deserved medals, water and snacks to the runners on the finish line. Supporters also turned out in good number to watch the race.

A hot drink and cake sale back at Race HQ in Central Hall raised an impressive £415 for the club's chosen charity The Miscarriage Association.



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GAME OF THE AGES BRINGS WYMONDHAM FAMILY BACK TOGETHER

By Andy Thomson

Dads played sons and old coaches tried to keep up with young talent as Wymondham Rugby Club celebrated the start of 2023 with a game of the ages.

A New Year crowd of supporters turned out to watch the first Roger Miller Cup fixture as a University XV of Wymondham's former Colts players took on a Select XV of current and semi-retired senior players.

"It's been a brilliant event and something Roger would have loved," said club chairman Paul Wootton. "This was about bringing people back to the club - we always say rugby is a big family and this was a chance for a fantastic reunion."

A minute's silence was held before kick-off at Barnard Fields to remember Roger, who died in

2021 at the age of just 51. He was a long serving player, volunteer and former chairman at the club.

"Roger was one of the nicest blokes you would ever meet," said Paul. "He had a love for life and never took things too seriously - but he was highly intelligent, selfless and incredibly funny. He became a stalwart at Wymondham Rugby Club."

The game was a celebration of Roger's legacy and despite the rain drew a large crowd of players and supporters. The Uni XV won out over their older rivals and so became the first winners of the Roger Miller Cup.

"It's been an absolutely fantastic day and a phenomenal event for the club," said former Colts head coach Adam Allen.

Photos: Graham Smith



FAREWELL MONTY

By Philip Yaxley

When football legend Maurice "Monty" Norman passed away at the age of 88 on 27 November last year,

there was plenty said in the local and national press about his illustrious career with Norwich City (1952-1955) and Tottenham Hotspur (1955-1965), as well as his 23 appearances for England, including in the 1962 World Cup. However, there was no mention of the fact that he helped Wymondham Minors (ages 16 - under 18) to win the Norfolk Minor Cup at Carrow Road in 1951. It was in the final that Norman, playing at inside left, scored two goals in a 4-2 win over Norwich City College.

A week or so later the team met the Wymondham Minors side which had won the Norfolk Minor Cup in 1948 in a challenge match on Browick Rec, which was drawn. The picture of the 1950-51 team shows Maurice second from right in the front row, while second from left in the front row is John Barham, who recently told me of Maurice's big contribution to the team's success. At the time that 1951 final was described as "a splendidly fought game that proved to be the best Norfolk Minor Cup final on record."

As a centre half (defender) Maurice made 411 appearances for Spurs, helping them to win the F.A. Cup and League Double in 1960-61, winning the F.A. Cup again in 1962 and the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1963 - not bad for the lad from Mulbarton, who once turned out for Wymondham Minors on Browick Rec!



LOVELL SPONSORS WYMONDHAM WASPS RUGBY TEAM

By Danielle Sparks

Lovell is sponsoring local women's rugby team, Wymondham Wasps, for the next two seasons. Wymondham Wasps is part of Wymondham Rugby Football Club and is just a short distance from the Lovell Wymondham development, William's Park.

The sponsorship will help with expenses for the Wasps throughout the year, such as travel and equipment, as well as new tops featuring Lovell on the front. Wymondham Wasps currently sit fourth in the table with over 30 women in the team.

Liam Browning, general manager at Wymondham Rugby Club, said: "We are one of the best teams in East Anglia and are always looking to recruit and grow women's rugby. Having a sponsor interested in a

women's team really shows how far the game has come with big companies wanting to invest in women's grassroots rugby, so a massive thank you to Lovell for supporting us this year."

Sasha Bainbridge, partnerships director at Lovell, said: "England's most recent win at the Six Nations shows how far women's rugby has come and the support and interest in the game. The new Wymondham Wasps shirts look fantastic and we wish the team all the best for the new season."



ARCHERS CELEBRATE 10TH BIRTHDAY

By Pete Hill

Wymondham Archers celebrated their 10th birthday on Saturday 7th January 2023. A lovely occasion where their Chair Pete Hill took the opportunity to share some words with the guests and also eat some cake; something, Archers love to do.

Pete shared that being 10 years old was one thing, but wanted to recognise the club's conception where the founder members at the Green Dragon in Wymondham decided to begin an Archery Club back in 2012. The Club was inaugurated on January 7th 2013. Pete Hill, the chair for the last 7 years, shared his gratitude to Andy Beer and David Morley, two of the founder members of the Club.

Wymondham Archers is now measured as the 3rd largest Archery Club in the UK (except university clubs). As Pete said "Who would have considered that possible?" The Club has grown hugely since the early days of throwing £2 in a tin, with 35 members, and an average of 55 years, with three archery sessions per week. Wymondham Archers now provides 365 days per year for outdoor Archery as well as 7 days per week for 7 months per year indoors. As Pete says, "A rare provision for Archery in the UK." Today Wymondham Archers average age is just over 38 years, a massive 17 years younger than in 2013. Membership consists of around 30%+ women and girls. They have a large cohort of LGBTQ+ participation. Their oldest Archer is 89, their youngest being only 7 (a child of one of the Archers). Currently Wymondham Archers has 258 members. "There is a joke, that Archers are very much not team players." Pete says, "But we truly seem to be egalitarian."

Archers travel to Wymondham Archers from Wymondham (naturally), from Norwich, and wider afield in Norfolk. They also travel from Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Essex and Bedfordshire with one Archer registered as living in Hong Kong. Very much a Community Club, Wymondham Archers reach out to people who come to Club for some R&R, for some respite, to be with their families. And he jokes... "To get away from their families," to make friends and help build a lovely community and of course shoot some arrows. Wymondham Archers are proud to have podium Archers competing on the International, National and Local



stage and are expecting to grow to the largest Archery Club in the UK this year.

Pete thanked Wymondham Rugby Football Club, recognising that Wymondham Archers wouldn't be where they are today if it wasn't for the Rugby Club's kindness in partnering with them in 2018. Over the last year alone close to 5000 shooting opportunities have been made to the outdoor range at the Rugby Club by the Archers. Wymondham Archers also partner with Norfolk Showground where they opened an indoor Archery Range in September 2022. More than 1700 visits have been made there by the Archers since then.

Pete, also shared his gratitude to a host of grant supporters over the years, informing the guests that Wymondham Archers simply wouldn't have been able to provide such facilities if it wasn't for them. Grant providers include Wymondham Town Council, Saffron Housing Association, South Norfolk District Council, British Sugar and Armultra, Archery GB and Sport England. But also included the fantastic support from their own club members with Easyfundraising. Wymondham Archers has also supported Nelson's Journey over two recent charity events raising more than £3K for children and young people whose lives have been affected by bereavement. Other events the Club gets involved with include the Festival of Sport at Holkham where they introduce hundreds of kids of all ages shooting thousands of arrows in getting people interested in Archery... "The new National Sport", as Pete cheekily suggests.

And, as Pete suggests 'Archer and Team' seem incongruous but shared with the party that the team of committee and members at Wymondham Archers is what makes the Club so incredible, "It is truly a team effort." He says, thanking all of those members who step to do a bit for the benefit of the club and its members. "It wouldn't be what it is without our volunteers." He added, "We've introduced hundreds of people to Archery over the years and continue to bring people into Archery."

If you are interested in getting into archery with Wymondham Archers, just visit wymondhamarchers.co.uk and get in touch.

LOGAN RACES ON

By James Howes

Logan Howes from Wymondham continues to move forward in his racing efforts. Logan has since moved onto the mini max class moving forward and racing with bigger faster karts.

The season came to a close for Logan as he entered the final big race for the year with the BKC winter cup held at Whilton Mill in Daventry.

Friday practice showed great pace in the morning but as the day went on he was losing time and the kart wasn't handling as it should. Friday evening we stripped the kart down and put it on the jig to find it was very badly bent and also found cracked welds on the front stub.

We tried our best to fix it but then made the decision to give Logan his Christmas present early which was a new kart.

With that going into Saturday we were straight on the pace matching the front runners. Heat 1 we started p6 and had great battles in the changing weather conditions, finishing p5. Heat 2 we started p14, got caught up in someone else's accident putting us at the back but fought back to p12 and receiving a 5 second penalty. The final heat we started p9, after 2 laps we were at the front of the pack sitting in p2 chasing down the leader and was soon the back bumper of him.

With just 3 laps to go the tyres started to go off and we were over gripping and started losing time to the karts behind and they caught up. With two laps of hard defending we finished the race p3. You can follow Logan's progress on his instagram page @loganhowes2011.



Wednesday 1st February

Art Society Demo with Sue Williams
7:15pm, Catholic Church Hall
Sue is a well-known professional artist and will demonstrate for us using acrylic inks.
www.wymondhamart.org

Sunday 5th February

Money for Nothing - Dire Straits Tribute
7pm, Wymondham Central Hall
Organised by Wymondham Helicopter Group in aid of East Anglian Air Ambulance Charity. Tickets £20 available at Reeve's and online: ticketsource.co.uk/wymondham-helicopter-group
01953 600563

Tuesday 7th February

Full Town Council Meeting
7pm, WTC Kett's Park Office
Public welcome
www.wymondhamtowncouncil.org

Wymondham Photographic Society
8pm-10pm, Dells Bowls Club
Guest speaker: Peter Benson- via zoom (Photography on the dark side)
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Thursday 9th February

Wymondham Nature Group
Indoor Meeting
7:30pm, Town Green Centre
"Norfolk's Wonderful 150". This talk by Dr Tony Leech is based on book profiling 150 species which are in some way special to Norfolk. Admission £2
01508 488337 / www.facebook.com/WymondhamNatureGroup

Saturday 11th February

Park Design Public Consultation
2pm-4pm, Rothbury Community Centre
Greening Wymondham invites all to see design plans for improvements to Rothbury Park and make comments.

Sunday 12th February

Quiz Night
5:30pm, The White Hart
Fun Pub Quiz with a cash prize jackpot. Max team of 5.
www.facebook.com/thewhitehartwym

Tuesday 14th February

Wymondham Photographic Society
8pm-10pm, Dells Bowls Club
Open DPI competition- Round 3
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Saturday 18th February

Tree Planting Event
10am-12pm, Browick Road Orchard
Join volunteers at the Community Orchard in planting next batch of trees.
www.greeningwymondham.org/

Monday 20th February

Garden Club Talk "Plants for a Sunny Garden" 7:30pm, Town Green Centre
Rosemary Ward, on Mediterranean Plants & Mediterranean Style Planting. Members Free, guests £4.
wymondhamgardenclub@gmail.com

FOWCP 2nd Annual Easter Fete
Fundraising for Wymondham College Prep School outdoor classroom.
Wymondham College Prep School, Golf Links Road
Saturday 25th March 2023
2:00pm to 5:00pm

- Music
- Performances
- Stalls
- Games

FREE ENTRY

To find out more about the event or to offer your support, please contact Vicky at:
events@fowcp.onmicrosoft.com

Tuesday 21st February

Police Community Drop In
12pm-2pm, Wymondham Library
Discuss local issues with PC Vicky Bailey.

Wymondham Photographic Society
8pm-10pm, Dells Bowls Club
Guest speaker: Roger Hance- via zoom (Nature Photography)
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Thursday 23rd February

Heritage Society Meeting
7:30pm, Fairland Hall
A talk by Sarah Power of Curious Spark entitled "Putting on a pageant in 1578"
New members can join at the meeting.
www.wymondhamheritagemuseum.co.uk/?p=heritage.society

Friday 24th February

Climate Change Discussion Panel
6:30pm, Central Hall
Climate Hope Action In Norfolk invites Local MP George Freeman and representatives from Labour, Liberal Democrats and Greens to discuss climate change, how to fight it and how we need to change.
<http://climatechain.org>

Tuesday 28th February

Wymondham Photographic Society
8pm-10pm, Dells Bowls Club
Guest speakers: David & Joan Jordan (J & D do Venice)
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

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.
www.wymondhamart.org

Saturday 4th March

Community Seed Swap
10:30am, - 1pm, Baptist Church
Bring along your excess seeds and swap them for something different and chat with other growers over coffee and cake.

Thursday 9th March

Nature Group Talk
7:30pm, Town Green Centre
"Wild Geese and Winter Wildlife – a thousand miles around North Norfolk on an elderly bicycle" – by Nick Acheson.
01508 488337 / www.facebook.com/WymondhamNatureGroup/

MARKETS

Charter Market
Every Friday
8am to 2.30pm Market Place

Farmers' Market
Third Saturday (18th February)
9am to 1pm, Market Place
www.wymondhamtowncouncil.org
01953 603 302

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Rebecca Mills
Branch Director



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