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WYMONDHAM Magazine

ISSUE 77 | OCTOBER 2023

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Anglia In Bloom awards



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EARLY PRINT EDITION TO SUPPORT WYNTERFEST

The December print edition of Wymondham Magazine will be released slightly earlier than usual, to support the town centre Wynterfest event, which happens on 26th November.

We'll be aiming to distribute the issue to all 8700+ homes in Wymondham from 16th November, so as many people get information about the event as possible before it happens.

That means we are asking for all advertisers to book their places and provide their copy by 30th October.

The same deadline applies if you wish to submit your own contribution to the magazine. If it's about Wymondham, we want to hear from you.

Our November digital E-Edition will be released at the end of October as usual. We are welcoming submissions for that as of now!



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OLD TOWN SIGN RESTORED

By Neil Haverson

Almost 55 years ago Wymondham's original town sign was presented to the town by Wymondham Women's Institute to mark its golden jubilee. It was carved by Harry Carter who made around 200 Norfolk town signs. It was unveiled on Wednesday July 30, 1969, by Ella Bowden, the oldest member of the local WI and its treasurer for more than 30 years. Mrs Bowden had the idea of presenting the sign during her time on the council and had suggested it to mark the Institute's 50 years in Wymondham.

The sign stood for 40 years in the grounds of Beckett's Chapel. But the weather took its toll and in 2008 it was replaced by a metal version. The old wooden sign languished in council outbuildings until it was discovered when the council was moving offices. It was offered to Wymondham Heritage Museum who took on the task of restoring it to its original splendour.

Wymondham Women's Institute closed some years ago. However, the Wymondham Bridewell Women's Institute gathered at the museum to celebrate the restored sign.

President Claire Drake said: "We are delighted to be here to see the renovated sign and are grateful to the museum for organising it. We are happy to be part of a community project."

Founding member of the Wymondham Bridewell WI, Pauline Nicholls, says they were formed in 1966 and meet in the evenings.

She says: "Wymondham WI met in the afternoons but they closed due to lack of members. They gave us £10 to start our evening group."

Much of the refurbishment of the sign was carried out by museum volunteer David Brackenbury.

Says David: "The main problem was that it had been painted so many times with heavy lead paint. All the layers were different colours. One of the monks had been grey, black and dark green. And a monk was in a bad state. I used lots of wood filler and hardener."

With the help of a photograph of the 1969 presentation of the sign to the town, David was able to match, as close as possible, the original colours. Metal stakes were embedded in two feet of concrete to support the sign where it stands in its new home in the peaceful location of the Museum's courtyard garden, formerly the exercise yards for prisoners incarcerated in The Bridewell, the museum's home.

The museum and tearoom are open daily until October 28th. More information at thewhm.org.uk



HALLOWEEN TRAIL TO RETURN 28TH OCTOBER

By Kim Carsok

On Saturday, 28th October the scarily popular Trick or Treat Trail will return to Wymondham town centre. Dozens of high street businesses will again be giving away free treats to children in Halloween costumes from 12-3pm. The costume competition will also be back, so make sure to stop and get your photo taken for a chance to win a prize. Follow Wymondham Town Team on Facebook for all the details: <https://www.facebook.com/WymondhamTownTeam/events>



GREEN HALLOWEEN

By Fiona Prentice

Wymondham Abbey is holding a Green Halloween event on Tuesday, 31st October starting at 4:30pm with a blessing of the churchyard. There will be bat, moth and bug hunting with Wymondham Nature Group and the Norfolk Wildlife Trust members. Dusk is at 5pm so bring your torches! Enjoy home-made pumpkin soup and hot chocolate in the café, and lots of craft activities inside the abbey until 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome (no unaccompanied minors), donations appreciated. To find out more contact Hilary on (01953) 605672.

WYMONDHAM IN BLOOM WIN GOLD!

By *Kim Carsok*

It was total euphoria for the Wymondham in Bloom team at the Anglia in Bloom event in Huntingdon, as they finally achieved a Gold level award for the town. This was the third time the group had an in-person judging session and both previous times they achieved a very admirable Silver Gilt award.

This year the Bloomers had even more volunteers join in, which made all the difference in ensuring the town's planters were watered, litter was picked up and weeds were removed.

Trophies were awarded to two Wymondham sites as well. Wymondham Abbey took the top prize for Biodiversity & Conservation, having drastically improved the wildflower area and herb gardens. The Best Commercial Area trophy was given to our 'High Street', encompassing the town centre route from Fairland Street, through Market Street, Middleton Street and Town Green. Judges were blown away by the incredibly high participation levels of our town centre businesses.

Special category award finalists also included four additional Wymondham sites: Ashleigh Primary School, Robert Kett Court, Browick Road Community Orchard and Becket's Chapel.

The team haven't taken much time to rest after the celebrations as they're already back out weeding public car parks before the winter season hits.

You too can join in! If you'd like to make new friends and spend time outdoors, as and when you're available, send an email to wymbloom@gmail.com. No gardening experience necessary!



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◀ *Best Commercial Area trophy for Fairland Street, through Market Street, Middleton Street and Town Green*





▲ The exterior of Kett's Books at its new location on Market Place

People gathered for an opening event at the new premises ▼



◀ The new Jack Kinsey designed shop interior



Kett's Books Manager Tracy Kenny and South Norfolk District Council cabinet member Cllr Kim Carsok ►

WYMONDHAM'S COMMUNITY BOOKSHOP OPENS ITS DOORS AT NEW LOCATION

With transformation by BBC1's Interior Design Masters finalist, local resident Jack Kinsey

Kett's Books are delighted to announce the opening of Wymondham's community bookshop at their new site at 11 Market Place on Saturday, 30 September. The new shop has been transformed with a magical interior designed by Jack Kinsey, finalist in the BBC1's Interior Design Masters. An enthusiastic band of around 45 volunteers brought their decorating and DIY skills, together with their time and hard work to bring Jack's vision to life.

The new bookshop, which is run by volunteers, will hopefully help build the town's reputation as a destination - attracting more visitors to the area and to other businesses in Wymondham.

Tracy Kenny, Manager of Kett's Books, says: "We have loved growing Kett's Books in Wharton's Court, but we know we have potential to achieve so much more. Moving to 11 Market Place means we're going to be able to hold more activities and events, as well as offer more volunteering opportunities.

"The new site is magnificent and deserves to have the best brought out in it. Jack's design has made the bookshop just as cosy and welcoming as it always has been - but with his touch, it is absolutely enchanting. We can't wait for adults and families to browse our books, meet new friends, and enjoy the community events we are planning.

"One of our favourite areas Jack has designed is a special space for children and parents/carers to enjoy spending time. It is a place where a lifelong love of books and reading can begin and grow."

Jack Kinsey, Interior Designer, who lives in nearby Scoulton, says: "I was delighted to be asked to design the new interior of Kett's Books. It's a wonderful building with so much potential for a designer. Working closely with the team at Kett's Books, my design is inspired by Kett's Oak - a symbol of not only Wymondham's historic past, but of Kett's Books itself. We hope that people feel that the book shop is not only a welcoming and great place to buy a book, but somewhere that they will want to revisit for the experience."

Tracy Kenny adds: "We are very proud of our transformed Kett's Books in its fantastic new location and we are looking forward to welcoming old customers and new to enjoy a visit to us. We would also like to give huge thanks to all our volunteers and supporters who have made all this possible."

Cllr Kim Carsok attended the opening reception on behalf of South Norfolk Council, which awarded a Pride in Place grant for the project, helping with costs of refitting the building. She said: "I'm so pleased to see the community bookshop open its new door at 11 Market Place. Kett's Books is so much more than a shop, it's a community hub of booklovers of all ages reaching far beyond the borders of Wymondham."



Horse Racing Special

By Jimmy Young

With a by-election due on 28th September, Wymondham Town Council's full council meeting at the beginning of the month saw more than its fair share of jockeying for position among councillors. One member of the public even intervened at one point to describe the "electioneering" on display as "disgusting".

Disgusting? Electioneering? Now that's the sort of thing TCW likes to hear. This is surely going to be a good one. So check your morning suit still fits, adorn your head with a large fascinator, we're off for a day at the races in our Town Council Watch pre-election special.

And they're off.

TAKING THE SEABISCUIT

The meeting bounded straight out of the gates with Labour's Michael Rosen whipping out a copy of the Lib Dems' election pamphlet and challenging claims in there that his party hadn't supported Rothbury Park improvements, when they had.

"I'm really concerned that in the latest edition of Liberal Focus, you have chosen to report that Labour and the Conservative on the council oppose this. Will you undertake to put a correction to that?" fumed the North Wymondham councillor.

"It's a difficult one with the literature because..." began Mayor Nuri-Nixon (Lib Dem).

"Is there a difficulty about telling the truth on election materials?", Mr Rosen completed her sentence.

Told you this was going to be a good one.

Before we could enjoy any more, the Clerk took the reins of chairing the meeting and reminded the North Wymondham representative that election materials produced by political parties weren't Town Council business, so shouldn't be discussed in these meetings.

He's technically right of course. Doesn't mean it wasn't bloody entertaining though.

NAG LIST

Up next, the council's lone ranger Conservative Tony Holden had been reading 'the local press' and had seen an article asking why the council had spent £500 printing the details of 10x ex-councillors in its most-recent annual report.

They're good at spotting this type of thing aren't they, the local press?

"If you'd like to turn to the first page", the Clerk bristled. "Which year is it for?", he whinnied. "For the 2022-2023 year, yes. That's when those councillors were in post for the majority of the year."

See? The ex-councillors' contact details were published this July just in case you wanted to write to them to say thanks for their services. Nice one. The whole thing smells like something a stable hand might find themselves shovelling out, to this columnist...

TURF ACCOUNTANTS

We then came to a report from a consultancy working on the Town Council's new cemetery project. There had been issues with the soil there, caused by the site being used as a dump for earth excavated for the nearby Williams Park estate. Works to remedy the situation are now likely to push back delivery of the whole project. The current cemetery has an estimated two years' capacity left.

What could possibly go wrong?

After a bit of mudslinging about how long councillors on the New Cemetery working group had known about the issues before it came to full council, Michael Rosen (Lab) shared his concerns on the topic:

"We should look at reviewing whether or not we really need to hold half a million pounds for this cemetery project and, if not, we should be looking at spending it on things like the public realm project where at the moment, notwithstanding the future discussions, there is a funding gap that we need to find in order to get that investment into the town."

CLOSE BUT NO SHERGAR

We then came to a thorny discussion about who should and shouldn't qualify for cheaper residents' fees for burials in Wymondham's cemetery.

A Labour proposal introduced by Cllr Todd Baker (Lab) suggested loosening the

definition of who was a resident to "create a more compassionate inclusive approach", which he hoped would bring "cross-party consensus".

Yeah fingers crossed. TCW held his betting slip hopefully in his hands.

A detailed paper listed some new scenarios where people would still qualify as a resident, when they wouldn't today. These were; if they'd only left Wymondham to go into care and died away from here, if they had lived in town for at least year when they died, or if they'd lived here for 10 years at any point in their lives and still had close family members here.

Got it? Good.

The suggestion triggered a number of concerns around the room.

Cllr Lucy Nixon (Lib Dem) said she hoped she had another 40 years to live herself but gave the example of growing up in Sheringham, but feeling she shouldn't be entitled to a resident's rate there in 2060. She then raised the prospect of a means-tested approach instead.

Cllr Tony Holden (Con) suggested some amendments to the conditions around medical conditions, which Cllr Rosen argued back could be addressed via discretion that had already been built into the proposal:

"Where there's a dispute, it will come to the Town Clerk for a decision and the Town Clerk undoubtedly will apply his usual compassion and generosity to these decisions"

Ahem. What? Nothing.

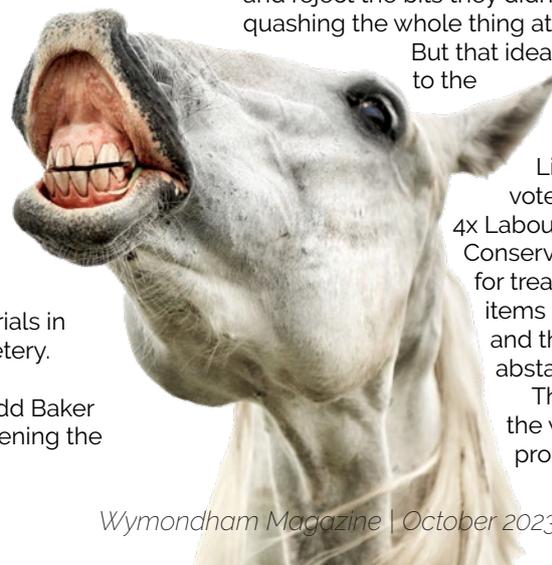
Cllr Paul Barrett (Green) described the emerging proposal as "woolly" adding "we need a properly thought out proposal that is detailed enough and doesn't leave the Clerk in an awkward position."

TCW didn't detect any specific suggestions or details there. Bit of a woolly contribution you could say.

With councillors taking exception with specific parts of the 3-part proposal, we then had a vote on whether each part should be decided on separately. This would allow people to support the bits they supported and reject the bits they didn't - without quashing the whole thing at once.

But that idea was sent to the knackers' yard when 6x Lib Dems voted it down. 4x Labour and 1x Conservative were for treating the items separately and the 1x Green abstained.

That meant the whole proposal would



be voted on, as one. But not before Cllr Todd Baker had time to register his exasperation:

"I'm absolutely staggered that despite people raising grievances with one part of this proposal and having a chance laid in front of you to allow someone who has lived here since the Second World War and had to move into a care home, to allow them to qualify as a resident, we've rejected that out of hand okay to be voted on separately. And unless suddenly everyone's about to get behind a clause which everyone has opposed, I simply cannot understand why that decision has just been made."

"Duly noted" said Mayor Nuri-Nixon.

She'd then go on to say: "It's not that we're against this in principle, I think we all agree that there is a problem with the wording as it stands... so we're not going against the spirit of it, we think it's not clear enough so I suggest that this is deferred until the next meeting."

Voting against stuff is always the best way to show you support it.

But Mr Baker wasn't happy with that:

"If those councillors agree with this in principle, then they also had the ability when this was circulated to type an amendment prior to the meeting about what they thought it should have looked like."

The entire proposal was eventually rejected when everyone voted on the same lines. 6x Lib Dems voted against, 4x Labour + 1x Conservative for and 1x Green sat on the fence and abstained.

Only the Grand National has fewer hurdles to jump, to get anything done.



▲ Not exactly the bookies' favourite

NEIGH SAYERS ON PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS TOO

Next up was another proposal submitted by the council's Labour group, which among other things sought to create a 'Wymondham Play Strategy' and immediately address what it described as the 'large number of repair and maintenance issues' on council-owned land.

Introducing the proposal, Cllr Lowell

Doheny (Lab) described his experience of the town's playgrounds:

"As a parent myself in the town when my children were young it was something that always concerned me and I never felt they were very adequate sadly." Now his children were teenagers, they now "often walk listlessly around the town".

The poor darlings. Something must be done!

Cllr Lucy Nixon wanted some more details: "My question is which parks require urgent repairs? They're not mentioned here. There's no photographs of any damaged equipment. And my concern is if they're dangerous and in need of immediate action to repair them should we be looking at fencing off some of this equipment in order to make sure that nobody gets hurt."



The Clerk intervened on some of the "emotive wording" in the proposal. Although he admitted the play equipment wasn't in "pristine Rolls-Royce condition", he did point out that the council's insurance company had only found that two new bolts were required to keep play equipment within tolerable safety limits.

Oh Icarus. Fly not too close to the sun with your towering ambition.



▲ A removed trampoline in front of the council's £2 million+ office building

But it was a line about the town council potentially adopting playgrounds from other organisations that got District Councillor Dave Roberts' (Lib Dem) back up, who used the public participation section to bemoan the move being "a potential blank cheque on council funds" describing it as "inappropriate". Lucy Nixon agreed: "this proposal is looking to more than double the

expenditure for play equipment for the Town Council"

TCW had to check what date it was for a moment there. Anyone listening in might not have realised there had been a change in which councillors were in charge after the May elections.

Cllr Lowell Doheny (Lab) said a "sense check" on adopting new playgrounds was already built in, pointing out: "any proposals that are made to take on new sites are to take into account affordability and value for money and ultimately any significant expense would have to go back through full council anyway".

A forlorn Cllr Tony Holden (Con) said he'd keep his contribution brief to avoid wasting time: "the current administration has a fallback position and a preferred option of actually doing nothing and so I'm absolutely confident this will fail."

And he was correct. The proposal was voted down by the 6x Liberal Democrats, 4x Labour + 1x Conservative supported it and 1x Green abstained.

PARADE RING

Reaching the final furlong, we trotted into the District Councillor updates section but there was still room for some electioneering.

After Cllr Kevin Hurn (Con) had informed those present about a South Norfolk District Council hosted session on setting up residents' associations, Town Council candidate Dave Roberts (Lib Dem) breathlessly galloped up to the microphone: "Just to correct my colleague here, um, the meeting for the residents' association has been organised by *myself*. It is *aided* by South Norfolk Council. On *my* request!"

Then, when Cllr Holden congratulated allotment holders on the amount of produce they'd grown for the foodbank this year, Cllr Annette James (Lib Dem) agreed "I'd just like to say that the foodbanks appreciate the food that I collect every week and take to them."

Subtle. Remember folks, it's not doing good things that counts. It's making sure everyone knows you've done them.

TWO HORSE RACE

And with that, the councillors left to go and concentrate on winning those all important votes out there in the real world. With the Greens and Tories deciding to stay behind in the paddock and not run in the Town Council by-election, it would be a two-horse race between Labour and the Lib Dems.

Who would win the 1000 Guineas? Who would end up with a long face? Only the fearsome Wymondham electorate knew.



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▲ *Kate's daughter in front of remnants of her school*

◀ *Lyn, Martyn, Kate's daughter and Kate*

Wreckage in the playground of Kate's daughter's school ▶



SAFE HAVEN WYMONDHAM:

A Ukrainian Mother And Her Hosts Tell Their Stories

With South Norfolk Council renewing their appeal for new hosts to come forward to provide homes for Ukrainian families, we hear the perspectives of a mother fleeing war and a local couple who answered the call back in January.

Kateryna (Kate), who now works as a translator, takes up the story:

"More than half a year ago, me and my 6-year-old daughter had to leave our homeland -Ukraine - in search of safety. Our home city is located very close to the border with Belarus and Russia, which means a constant threat of bombings and terrorist attacks. My daughter was not able to attend school normally, play with her friends and have the wonderful childhood she deserved.

Without access to electricity and the Internet for most of the day, I managed to apply for a visa under the "Home for Ukrainians" Scheme. When the program representatives helped me contact a host family in England, I was very happy. This is how I first met Mr Martyn Lemon and his family.

After a month of waiting I received permission to travel to Great Britain and in January 2023 we flew to London

where Martyn and Lyn were waiting for us. It is hard to describe how much care and attention they gave us, how much support and encouragement we received from the very beginning of our stay. Such a display of selfless care pleasantly impressed us, giving us hope for a better future.

“Without exaggeration, I can say that I feel at home here, our hosts have become our family, we spend a lot of time together and created lots of happy memories that stay in our memory and heart forever.

The first months of our stay at Martyn's house were difficult for my daughter, who did not speak English at all, her adaptation at school was difficult but short-termed. No matter what difficulties we used to face, Martyn and Lyn always supported us by giving advice, providing all possible resources to start a normal and happy life here.

Gradually we got used to the new environment, I continued to work as

By Kateryna, Martyn Lemon and Wymondham Magazine

a Ukrainian translator, my daughter began to make progress at school, she learned English very well - now she does not need my help at all while communicating with classmates or adults. She made new friends and feels welcomed and valued. This is an incredible achievement and it's so heartwarming to me as her mother.

Recently, in my home city, the Russian army committed a terrorist act by launching a rocket at the theatre in the very centre of the city in the middle of the day on a weekend. Many people were injured, among them many wounded and killed, including children. I could not be more grateful to Martyn's family that my daughter is now safe in England, enjoying a happy childhood under the peaceful skies of Norfolk.

Without exaggeration, I can say that I feel at home here, our hosts have become our family, we spend a lot of time together and created lots of happy memories that stay in our memory and heart forever. No matter where the future takes us, my daughter and I will remember Martyn and his family as our near and dear people and a part of my heart will always remain in Norfolk,

where we felt loved, cared for and safe."

But what of their hosts? How did Mr Lemon and partner Lyn come to open up their home to people who are effectively strangers?

Martyn picks up the story:

"I remember watching the news and hearing that the government needed people in the UK to host families fleeing the war in Ukraine. I thought to myself, we've got a bungalow with a spare room (now my youngest has finally moved out!) We could do this.

I logged onto the UK government website and applied through there. Very quickly they arranged a Zoom call for us to meet virtually. Once we'd familiarised ourselves with each other, Kate simply asked 'Can we come to you?' and I said 'Yes.'

We went down to Stansted where Kate and her daughter were due to arrive on their flight from Łódź in Poland. It was late by 4 hours but when we were waiting at arrivals we recognised them immediately when we saw Kate's little girl walking through holding a mini Ukrainian flag. It was very bittersweet.

The first few days were just spent settling them in. Luckily, Kate's English is fantastic and her

daughter is clearly a chip off the old block, because hers has come on leaps and bounds. We got her into a local school and it's been great watching her find her feet there.

Our first official 6 months has expired but we're in no hurry for Kate to leave. Her friends back home send through some really quite horrific images of what's going on over there. It's a different world that thankfully people over here haven't had to experience in generations.

We all really hope for peace. Kate wants to return as soon as it's clear it's safe for the long term. We dream of being able to go and visit her in her hometown, so she can show us around.

If you've been thinking about hosting a Ukrainian family, all I would say is don't be nervous, you can do it! The government agencies have been brilliant making everything happen from their end. There are still people who need our help and I know people around here will be willing and able. Go for it. You'll never look back."

South Norfolk Council are actively encouraging more people to offer homes to Ukrainian people, who are already in the area and looking for new hosts. The Cabinet Member for Supporting People, Councillor Graham Minshull said: "We have a number of people that will soon be looking to move on from their original hosts. These people have been living in the UK for around 18 months, many have jobs and have integrated well into community life. They never expected to be here this long and as they try and rebuild their lives in a new country far from home, it's been brilliant to see our residents stepping up and offering so much support and kindness."

Hosting an individual or family fleeing the war is an incredibly valuable thing to do and requires a minimum commitment of six months. Hosts are not expected to provide food or cover any living expenses they may encounter and will not be able to charge rent. However, they will receive £500 per month tax free for hosting. This will not affect any benefits they may receive, or single persons Council Tax discount.

Hosts will be expected to support guests in integrating into their communities and accessing day to day services they are entitled to such as healthcare, benefits, employment support, education, and English language tuition. Please see their link here <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/communities/ukraine/2> or call the Council on 01508 533987.



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WHAT'S IN A PHOTO?

Town's Football Glory In The Victorian Era By Philip Yaxley

The print shown here has been taken from an old sepia photograph of the successful Wymondham District, then to be renamed Wymondham Town, Football Club's first team, which won the Norfolk Senior Cup in the 1888-1889 season, having also lifted the trophy the previous season. Arguably then for a short spell Wymondham boasted the top team in Norfolk - but that was before Norwich City FC was born!



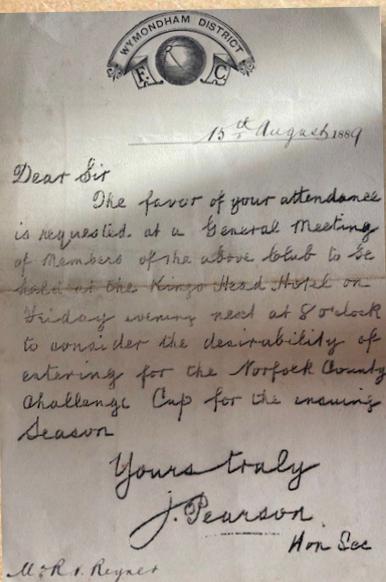
In the 1889 final a magnificent display saw Wymondham defeat Lynn Town (King's Lynn) 3-0 with Philip A. Fryer (second from left in the back row) notching a hat trick. During his soccer career Fryer also appeared for the Norfolk County side, Cambridge University, and the legendary Corinthians. An all-round sportsman he also played cricket for Wymondham and the Norfolk County side. Wymondham's success that season saw J. Fernie (2nd from left in the middle row), E.J. Fryer (4th from left in the back row) and, of course, P.A. Fryer turning out for Norfolk and being awarded County Colours. The Rev. C.H. Winter (4th from left in the middle row) received his County Colours the following season. The gentleman in the middle of the back row was

the club's honorary secretary J. Pearson. In the previous season's final, staged at Lakenham before a then record crowd, Wymondham had defeated Thorpe 1-0 with a goal from G. Doidge.

The Wymondham club had been formed in 1883 and since then have always played home matches on the King's Head Meadow. Changing rooms were at first in the King's Head Hotel, which stood on the Market Place site now occupied by the Co-op, but by that 1889 final it seems they had a pavilion on the meadow. With the reserves also appearing in the Junior Cup Final five times in the last decade of the 1890s, winning on four occasions, the last years of the 19th century were, indeed, heady days for Wymondham's Football Club, but it's a sobering thought they have never again reached the final of the Norfolk Senior Cup since that 1889 triumph.

◀ Letter from the club's secretary J. Pearson, who is shown in the middle of the back row on the photo, calling a meeting to discuss entering the Norfolk County Challenge Cup (i.e. The Norfolk Senior Cup) in the 1889-1890 season.

Invitation to a smoking concert at the King's Head Hotel on the Market Place towards the end of the 1889-1890 season. A similar smoking concert in the 1887-1888 season had been described in The Norfolk County Football Association Annual as follows: "The Wymondham smoking concert proved most successful. The room at the King's Head was filled to overflowing and there was a sporting enthusiasm about the meeting." ▶



By Alex Perry



Things Change

"That used to be the American Army headquarters," said Ted, pointing at the Old School. The U.S. G.I.s were a sociable bunch with plenty to say to the locals, plenty of chewing gum for small kids and plenty of time for the young ladies of Wymondham.

That was the reality of life in the town, till the War ended and they left. Things change, and in Ted's ninety-one years he's seen many changes.

Ted remembers the brush factory which used to be in Damgate, and a Mr. Stubbs who sold the brushes by weight. He recalls the brothers, Leslie and Olly Moore, who used to go round the houses asking residents for their metal waste. And then there was Billy Lemon with his horse-drawn milk cart who would ladle milk out of his churn to his customers in the 1940s. They were all Wymondham characters; now they just live on as memories.

Ted recalls the people who would knock on the doors of their friends and neighbours in search of work. They would offer to babysit, to do the shopping or to wash clothes at the laundrette. And their customers always said thank you to them, even if they were paying to get the job done. This was called mixing business with good manners.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, modernisation, technology and automation meant that many jobs which Ted had done by hand became obsolete as the machines took over. His farm boss, Leslie Barnard went into the café business and Ted followed him, and he proved to be a dab hand at preparing cooked breakfasts.

Ted, as ever, was willing to work more than one job, and he ventured into the building trade. He especially remembers the time when he and his co-workers built a house with the manager's son. This man did every task wrong, "he even got grease on his shovel hand," but they could not complain as he was the boss' son. At the end of the working day, this chap went looking for his donkey jacket, which he had put underneath a sheet to keep it dust free. He discovered that his jacket had been accidentally nailed (with 4-inch nails) to a ceiling beam! How everyone laughed!

Park Home Living

Advertorial

By Rebecca Mills, EweMove Wymondham

Have you ever found yourself pondering on the option of park home living? Many homeowners across the UK have opted for this lifestyle as this growing trend continues to combat the higher maintenance and running costs of traditional bricks and mortar. But, how do you know if it is right for you?

Park homes have been around for many decades, although are often associated with holiday parks – a very different matter. Nowadays, this is no longer the case with residential parks becoming more and more popular providing a highly convenient and tranquil way of life. Here are several reasons why homeowners choose a park home:

Downsizing and Financial Considerations: The combination of single-floor layouts and comfortable spaces without excessive square footage make these homes easier to maintain and sustain, as well as safeguard for the future. Running costs are also aided by high energy efficiency due to modern developments in materials used such as CanExcel and Shicco cladding. And yes, modern park homes do come with quality double-glazing.

Community and Like-Minded Living: Over-50's residential parks provide the opportunity and ongoing reassurance for a quieter space enjoyed by people of similar mindsets and desires. This includes that most parks are also pet-friendly.

Purchasing Journey: The upfront benefits of purchasing a park home include the exemption of stamp duty and conveyancing costs. This enables a quick transaction that can take place in just a week.

FAQ: Park homes are neither freehold nor leasehold. The home itself is bought outright, while the land it sits on is a lease, known as a pitch. The Mobile Homes Act 1983 protects the homeowner, and pitch fees paid to the residential park ensure grounds maintenance.

If you are intrigued by this option and would like to experience a park home in person to aid your decision, visit us on the 17th and 18th of November at the Rose Farm Residential Park, Belton. You are welcome to bring along family and friends to freely explore what new build park homes and our assisted move option has to offer. This park is in its first phase of construction with 24 homes available in three different models.

For more information, simply call or email us using the details below.



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Achieving Together

SOUNDS OF THE SIXTIES

By Anne Bealing



The wet Monday morning did nothing to raise Tom's spirits. The postman had delivered only bills, the toaster had stopped working and he seemed to have run out of coffee. A dismal start to the week – a week which held no prospect of joy or excitement for him. How he hated being retired. Compering the morning radio programme had been his life for so many years. After six months of being away from work, he missed his colleagues as much as he missed the regular pay packets. He also missed his father who had died three months ago at the age of 94. For over a year Tom had managed to care for him whilst working at the radio station. It had not been easy, but he had seen it as his duty as the only child.

The drizzle showed no sign of stopping, so he rammed on his battered flat cap, gathered his umbrella from the rack by the front door and ventured out in search of coffee. The village shop was not far away.

'Morning Tom. Ghastly weather, but the garden needs it.' Felicity knew she wouldn't get an answer. To say Tom was an old grump would be an understatement, but she did remember (as did the whole of the small community) that 'Tom had been good to his dad all those years' and that 'he had put Little Baddesley on the map with his breakfast programme on the radio'. Felicity wondered how someone who had talked so much for a living could be so reticent now in real life. She served two customers, passing more comments about the weather, and then put Tom's five-pound note in the till and gave him the small jar of Nescafe and his change. Tom shoved the coffee into his coat pocket, shook his umbrella and left the shop as silently as he had entered it.

The rain had worsened. He hid behind his umbrella and made for home. There were no footpaths and by now the road was lined with gushing streams of water. Motorists drove perilously close and within two minutes Tom was drenched. At last his cottage was not far off. As he quickened his pace, his foot slipped on a pile of wet leaves, unseen from behind his umbrella. The next minute he was lying in the gutter. He swore out loud. He didn't seem to be in pain – just wet and undignified. The jar of coffee was intact too. Nevertheless, it was a shock and he did not jump to his feet as he would have done in his younger days. A gust of wind blew his umbrella into the nearby hedge. Before he could get to his feet to retrieve it a woman on a push bike pedalled up beside him.

'You OK?'

'I seem to be unscathed,' Tom replied, looking at the person who had dismounted, propped her bicycle by the hedge and gathered up his umbrella.

'Let me help you up.'

'I can manage.'

Nevertheless, the woman pulled him to his feet and introduced herself.

'Dee Osgood. I'm on my way to the library. I'm doing research for my book about music in the Sixties. Are you sure you're OK?'

Tom looked at her. She must be about half his age.

'Thank you for your concern but I assure you I'm fine. I'm nearly home. That's my cottage down on the left.'

'I'll walk with you. Don't want you falling over again.'

'There's no need...' But she was persistent. Together they covered the last 100 yards to his gate.

'You're Tom Bradley, aren't you?'

Tom nodded, wondering when she would ride off to the library, and hoping the conversation would soon be at an end.

'I used to listen to your programme every morning. That's what got me interested in Sixties music. You played all the groups. Did you meet the Beatles? I bet you did.'

Before he could stop himself, Tom found himself reminiscing.

'Stop, I need to write this down. It's awesome.'

'You'd better come in then. It's too wet to stand out here writing.' Tom felt the first glimmer of companionship and it pleased him. He handed her the jar of coffee.

'Kitchen's through there. Milk's in the fridge. I'll go and get out of these wet things.' He started to walk away but then turned and called back, 'Yes, I did meet the Beatles. Tell you more in a minute.'



Are you a writer? Prose or poetry? Beginner or published? Wymondham Writing Circle would welcome you at their monthly meetings held in the upstairs room at The Feathers pub in Wymondham. For more information contact Anne on 01953 571425. Come and join us.



ON THE STREET WHERE I LIVE

By Gill Harle

Just a few minutes from Market Cross, in the centre of Wymondham, Fairland Street is an interesting and convenient street to live on with a mix of residential and retail properties, and a steady flow of passing vehicles and passersby, many with their dogs. One of the benefits of living here is that you can step out of your front door and pop into Clement's ironmongers to buy a range of items for DIY projects, or stock up on pet food and plants at Myhills, for those with a sweet tooth there's Yum Yums sweet shop, or you can enjoy a full English breakfast at the Hideout. You may even wish to try your luck on the slot machines in Superslots next door.

But time doesn't stand still and, since moving to Fairland Street in January 2022, I have seen quite a few changes. Sadly, in the past 18 months several long-established businesses have closed their doors for good or relocated. I eagerly looked forward to having a vet just a couple of minutes' walk away that I could take my cat to. Not being a car owner, this was a real bonus on moving to my new home. But on registering my cat the first week I

got here, I was told they would soon be moving to Hethersett. That was a huge disappointment. Another aspect that added to the charm of living here for me was seeing the differing colour scheme and fashions in the window display of Wardrobes dress shop as it changed every week. I was reminded of a scene from the film version of The Time Machine in which the inventor sits in his time machine and watches the changing fashions in a ladies' dress shop as he travels into the future. But time moved a little too quickly here as I watched the closing down sale and disappearing stock as Wardrobes closed down in January this year. I suppose I was lucky to enjoy it for a year. The next to go was Marola's hair salon. I had the pleasure of interviewing Mary, the owner, in the March edition of this magazine. Though sad to see them closing (and having to find a new hairdresser), I could understand the reasons why Mary chose to finally take her long overdue and well-deserved retirement.

Nevertheless, change brings good things too. In September we saw the opening of the delicatessen, Kemball

& Franklyn, which has moved from its shared space in The Enchanted Willow florists into the former dress shop and there is now a tempting range of tasty treats to replace the frocks and hats. And soon we'll be welcoming Kett's bookshop into the old vets. There are downsides to living on a busy street in the town centre, but it's safe to say life on Fairland Street is never dull.





HOW COULD DIVORCE AFFECT MY MORTGAGE?

Divorce is a challenging and emotionally taxing process, and one area where it can have a significant impact is your mortgage. When a couple decides to separate, they often need to address the financial aspects of their shared life, including the family home and any associated mortgage. In the UK, divorce and mortgages are intertwined in several ways, and understanding the legal implications is crucial.

1) JOINT MORTGAGE LIABILITY

In many cases, spouses purchase a home together and take out a joint mortgage. In the eyes of the mortgage lender, both parties are equally responsible for repaying the loan. Regardless of the divorce, both individuals remain financially liable unless steps are taken to alter this arrangement.

2) FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

During divorce proceedings, both spouses are required to provide full financial disclosure. This includes details of all assets, debts, and financial commitments, including the mortgage. Accurate disclosure is crucial as it forms the basis for financial settlements, including the division of property and assets.

3) MORTGAGE REPAYMENT

Deciding what to do with the family home is a crucial part of divorce

negotiations. There are several options:

a. Sell the Property: The simplest solution is to sell the property and use the proceeds to pay off the mortgage. Any remaining funds can be divided between the spouses as part of the financial settlement.

b. Buyout: One spouse may choose to buy out the other's share of the property. This often involves refinancing the mortgage in one person's name, which requires meeting the lender's affordability criteria.

c. Co-Ownership: In some cases, divorcing spouses may choose to continue co-owning the property and share mortgage responsibilities. This option can be complex and should be carefully considered.

4) CONSENT ORDERS

To ensure that the financial agreement reached during divorce is legally binding, it's advisable to obtain a Consent Order from the court. This document outlines the financial arrangements, including mortgage responsibilities, and provides legal protection for both parties.

5) IMPACT ON CREDIT RATINGS

Failing to meet mortgage payments can have a severe impact on your credit rating. It's essential to communicate with your lender and seek legal advice if you're facing financial difficulties after a divorce. Failure to address mortgage arrears can result in repossession of the property.

Advertorial by

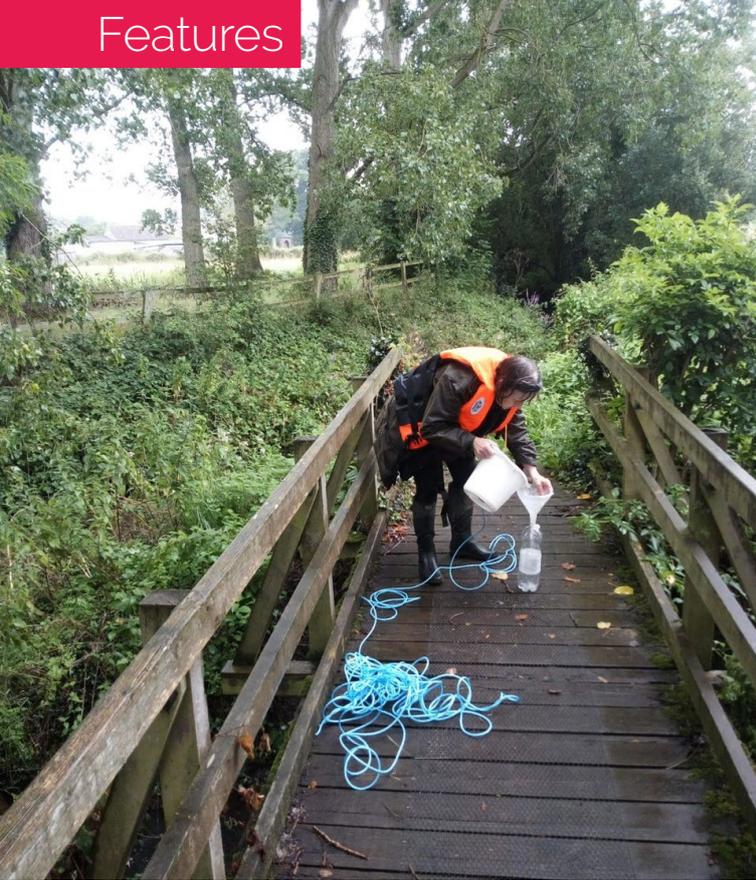


By Sarb Gosal, Partner at Spire Solicitors

6) SEEK LEGAL ADVICE

Navigating the complexities of divorce and its impact on your mortgage in the UK requires expert legal advice. Consulting with a family law solicitor who specialises in divorce can help you understand your rights and responsibilities, protect your financial interests, and ensure a fair resolution. Divorce can have a profound effect on your mortgage. Understanding your options, communicating with your ex-spouse, and seeking legal advice are crucial steps to navigate this challenging process successfully.

If you are looking at beginning the process of divorce or dissolving a civil partnership, contact our friendly and highly regarded Family Law team on [01953 606351](tel:01953606351) or email info@spiresolicitors.co.uk.



Above: collecting samples on the Tiffey

Top right: Dirty barrage

Below: Friarscroft Wood



TALES FROM THE RIVER BANK

By *Jay Andrews*



The weather has been enough to make anyone Ratty. It was solid drizzle when Greening Wymondham set off early morning to collect its first full set of river samples. Complete with bucket, rope and ladder for those hard-to-reach spots. Yes, we've cut the rope since the picture was taken, having bought enough to test the Niagara Falls.

GW member Mike was navigator, safety officer and deviser of spreadsheets. All sites are now identified by What Three Words and OS map references, so we can test regularly in the same spots.

Gabriella Sciannamico is already an old hand at the sample testing – which we've now trialled three times. This Saturday it was the full five samples, being tested in nine categories including pH, dissolved oxygen, nitrate and phosphate. We're passing the results on to the Environment Agency.

The Tiffey also provided a nice cold hour of activity on another round of balsam bashing. Sadly, because it is a very pretty plant, it's an invasive species. And persistent, too. By the time this article appears, we should also have cleared the barrage by Becketswell bridge – see the before picture.

If the river Tiffey is dear to your heart, please consider helping us test – or bash. Email Greening Wymondham at greening.wymondham@wymondham.com – and we'll get in touch.

In autumn we're also planting some of the land along the path that leads from Friarscroft to the Windmill Surgery. South Norfolk District Council – who have been enormously supportive – have recently put up fencing, to add to the clearance, drainage and new pond.

Damselflies love it. And it's a good space to see butterflies on the pink hemp agrimony. We'll be adding native species to the current mix and oxygenating plants to the two ponds.

Keep in touch with our news and send us your views – on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@GreeningWyndham – yes, we know, you try getting it to fit). Or www.greeningwymondham.org.uk.



◀ Rehearsals in Wymondham's Central Hall

AUTUMN SEASON AND AVIAN FRIENDS By Hannah Kerr

Playing to another packed audience for our summer concert in Wymondham Abbey, the players of Wymondham Symphony Orchestra have been blown away by the support of our local community this season. Our summer concert was a celebration of 20 years of Andrew Parnell as our Musical Director and of 10 years of Ceri Peterson as our leader. Sadly, this was Ceri's last concert with us and we are extremely grateful to her for the 10 years of dedication and enthusiasm she has put into her leadership. Work is underway to recruit a new orchestral leader - watch this space!

The celebration concert opened with Andrew Parnell's Living Stones, which he composed for the 900th anniversary of Wymondham Abbey in 2007. Juan Gonzalez joined us for the Brahms Violin Concerto and gave a fantastic performance, and his energy really brought out the best playing from the orchestra. The concert ended with a powerful performance of Dvořák's ever popular New World Symphony.

This autumn we will be preparing our programme on an avian theme, and the concert will be on Saturday 25th November in Wymondham Abbey, entitled Birds of Myth and Fable. The concert opens with Dvořák's The Wood Dove, one of a cycle of four orchestral poems which tells a tragic story of love and despair. This will be followed by Concerto for Birds and Orchestra by the

Finnish composer Rautavaara, which includes recordings of bird song recorded near the Arctic Circle and on the bogs of Liminka in northern Finland. The final piece will be Stravinsky's Firebird Suite which was written for the 1910 Paris season of Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes company.

Tickets are available online at <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/eventlist/wso>. There will also be some availability on the door, but we encourage attendees to purchase tickets in advance to beat the queues. Prices are £15, Friends of the WSO £13 and Under 18s are free.

More details about the orchestra can be found at www.wymondhamsymphonyorchestra.org.uk or on our Facebook page.



STAR THROWERS UPDATE By Victoria Pigg

Centre Updates

Our cancer support centre is open Monday – Friday from 9am – 5pm, please drop in and find out all about our free cancer support services or visit <https://www.starthrowers.org.uk/> for more information.

Hair Loss Support Day

Our first 'Hair Loss Support Day' provided people with a safe and welcoming space to explore the options and support available to those experiencing hair loss as a result of cancer and its treatments. Our attendees learnt lots of scarf tying techniques, scalp care and make up tips from HeadWrappers, they received a free hand massage from Tropic Ambassador Cat and then they were given wig advice and fitted with wigs from our wig bank by Britta Wigs. All went home with a goodie bag of items to help them with hair loss. Contact us to find out more and watch this space for date of the next event: info@starthrowers.org.uk / 01953 423304

Mind-Full Mondays

From Monday 16th October we will be providing a free 30 minute zoom session to help create calm, focus, and a splash of good vibes to start your week for those affected by cancer. Grab yourself a cuppa, head to a quiet space and have a notebook and pen handy! Contact us to find out more: info@starthrowers.org.uk

Thank you to our recent fundraisers A big thank you to our recent fundraisers including: the Hethersett Social Club and all those who helped organise the Open Day and donated a fantastic £1,200 and the Town Green Fundraisers who organised a Charity Event for us and raised £255.92. Thank you to the Hustle Gym Wymondham runners who took on the Norwich 10k on 16th July, together they raised £1,076.75 to support Star Throwers. We are incredibly grateful for their support. Thank you to James and Gareth who organised a very successful Golf Day at Bawburgh Golf Club in aid of Star Throwers and the NNUH Critical Care Complex. We were delighted to receive a donation of £1,050.

Looking ahead to Christmas We are delighted to be holding our Christmas Wreath Making event again on Sunday 3rd December, supported by Nicky from The Enchanted Willow, tickets for which have already sold out! We will be holding our Christmas Coffee Morning the day before on the 2nd December make sure to save the date.

GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME WITH GUY BARKER

By Andy Speller

Report from Wymondham Garden Club

Gardeners Question Time: this may not sound like an interesting subject, even amongst the green fingered folk of Wymondham, but if your guest expert is as knowledgeable, personable and amusing as Guy Barker, then the contrary is true.

Guy ably responded to all the members' questions which ran a gamut of gardening topics; from how to get rid of fairy rings to pruning rambling roses, from lambs ears in lawns, to tree peonies which won't flower, from wisteria which need cutting back monthly – despite what the books say, to which plants like a feed of tomato fertiliser.

As a local professional gardener looking after several large private gardens, Guy has first-hand experience of what grows well on the heavier clay soils of Wymondham and the thinner soils of Breckland.

For the second half of the evening

Guy had brought along examples of flowers currently in bloom at the gardens he manages. These included the large white flower head of Hydrangea Anabelle, Cobalt blue Agapanthus, raspberry Wine Bergamot, Cardoons, Crocosmia and plants which add structure like the purple foliage of Physocarpus Diablo. Would be gardeners looking for summer flowers (which are also attractive to bees) take note! These can all be bought at specialist local nurseries.

Our next garden club meeting will be 16th October at Town Green Centre for the Annual General Meeting and a Plant Sale. Please bring along any surplus plants (proceeds to club funds). The meeting begins at 7:30pm and entry is free for members and £4 for guests. For further information about the club contact – wymondhamgardenclub@gmail.com.



BUSY LIONS

By John Wilde, President of Wymondham Lions Club

Well, it's October already, Autumn according to the weathermen, and of course the sun is blazing as the kids go back to school (RAAC permitting!).

Meanwhile Wymondham Lions remain as busy as ever. Highlights of the summer include helping out at both the Royal Norfolk Show and the Wayland Show in Watton. We have given substantial donations to various causes including help requested through social services, assistance for a gathering of young carers and, of course world wide disaster relief (devastating wildfires, floods, typhoons and more) through our International Foundation.

Things to look forward to in the next month include our 'world famous' Quiz'n'chilli on October 6th at Central Hall. Fantastic value with a great meal and an easy (ish) brain workout for only £12 per person. BYOB. Teams of up to 6 people. E-mail Nigel on sealoft7@gmail.com for info and to book. Let him know if you want chilli, veg chilli or non chilli chilli. All tastes catered for!

We have been in touch with the real Santa and he has graciously agreed to be with us for Wynterfest on November

26th (a week earlier than normal). He will be in Money Properties this year with his elves, entry still from Wharton's Court. He will be there from 1pm until 5pm and it will be great to see him again.

As many of you know we have an annual bucket collection at Waitrose to help us pay for presents for the residents of 4 of the town's care homes. This year we will be asking for donations on the 1st & 2nd of December. A big thank you to Waitrose management for allowing us into the store for this. If you are able to collect for an hour with one of the Lions your help will be gratefully received. Contact Wymondhamlions@gmail.com.

WYMONDHAM LIONS

QUIZ'N'CHILLI

Friday October 6th 2023

Wymondham Central Hall - NR18 0QB

7.00pm for 7.30pm start

£12 / person - max 6 people / team

B.Y.O.B - Raffle

Ticket price includes choice of

Meat, Veg or Non-Chilli-Chilli

All proceeds to Lions Charities

to book & for info contact

Lion Nigel on sealoft7@gmail.com

Wymondham Lions is Registered Charity No 1050430



[gmail.com](mailto:wymondhamlions@gmail.com).

Good old Santa, and elves, will be with us again on the 13th, 14th and 15th of December as we go into the care homes in turn to deliver the presents and sing some carols for the residents. If you would like to come along and sing please send us an email for details.

Still keeping hold of Santa - we are lucky! - he will have another grotto in Wymondham Garden Centre on Tuttle Lane on December 16th, 12:30-16:30. After that one we will be letting him fly off back to the North Pole to ready himself for his big day.

And finally, after Christmas we will be holding the annual Burns Supper and Ceilidh, in conjunction with Wymondham Rotary Club, at Central Hall on Friday January 26th. Tickets will be on sale nearer to Christmas. Again contact wymondhamlions@gmail.com for details.

Wymondham Lions meet upstairs in The Feathers on the last Tuesday of each month (except December) at 7:30pm. All are welcome. We are always looking for new members and people to help out on an ad hoc basis. All members are volunteers and all money received is used for charitable donations. Any admin is paid by the Lions themselves. Any support is always very gratefully received.

NATURE GROUP AUTUMN MEETINGS

By Nicola Cooke

If you've got an interest in nature, please come and join the Wymondham Nature Group (WynG) at our stimulating and sociable monthly gathering. Thursday 12th October 2023, 7:30pm: Illustrated talk by Tony Mckie about the work being done by Blofield and District Conservation Group
Thursday 9th November 2023, 7:30pm: Illustrated talk by John Bulpitt – Images of Nature from around the UK
Our meeting venue is Town Green Centre, Wymondham,

NR18 0PW (behind Wymondham Methodist Church).
All welcome - admission £3, NWT members £2 – no booking required. Further details from Ann Carpenter on 01508 488337.
Wymondham Nature Group is the local members' group of Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Registered Charity No. 208734. Follow Wymondham Nature Group on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WymondhamNatureGroup>



WPS PHOTO OF THE MONTH - TUFTY

By Jeremy Wood

This image was taken during a trip to Sweden in March, primarily to see golden eagles. Eagles were the main focus, but when they weren't showing, the squirrels provided entertainment. They soon disappeared when the eagles turned up.

IT NEVER STOPS FOR GREENING WYMONDHAM

By Jay Andrews

As every gardener knows, autumn work pays dividends. So as the last of the wildflowers die away, Greening Wymondham's fortnightly work at Browick orchard continues.

With the help of 25 stalwart and treasured volunteers, the gabion seating is in place in the seating area, paths in the apple orchard mown – though not for the last time – and the wildflower meadow are scythed.

Over the autumn Greening Wymondham will be planting more trees. Last summer, Browick Road primary school used the environment as inspiration and contributed some wonderful paintings to our Great Big Green Week. We're hoping to build on our relationships with Wymondham schools so they can see us and projects like Browick Orchard as a current and future resource.

Work on Kett's Park Wood kicks off on October 10th, led by Matt Davies of the Norfolk Fringe Project. There's a huge range of woodland management tasks so if you fancy a few hours in the open air, bring yourself and a pair of gloves. You can find out more about it on our website

www.greeningwymondham.org.uk and check future dates.

And please let us know now if there's an area of Wymondham that's particularly litter-heavy. We have another of our Litter Picks on October 7th starting at 11am at the Baptist Church just off the Market Place. If there's somewhere you consider particularly bad, email greeningwymondham@gmail.com – and we will try to get a team out there. But we can only do so if we know beforehand so we can organise transport. There will be another litter pick in November so all is not lost.

River litter picking is coming to an end. A bicycle tyre and a chimney lining recently enlivened the usual haul of bottles, broken glass and food wrappers. Sadly and mysteriously, also a dead squirrel, now suitably interred.

Keep in touch with our news and send us your views – on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (@GreeningWyndham). Or www.greeningwymondham.org.uk; email greeningwymondham@gmail.com.



WYMONDHAM WRITING CIRCLE

By Anne Bealing

What do we do at each meeting?

We each bring copies of what we have written to read to the other members. We then talk about it and give feedback on how it might be altered or improved where necessary. This is always supportive. We are not in the business of stern criticism. Good humour prevails! We take the writing away to consider again at home and bring it back the following month with any added comments.

What sort of writing?

Every sort! We have writers of poetry. We have members who are writing at length for adults or children. We have members who are writing their autobiography. Some have

had writing published. Some are beginners. But we all share a love of writing.

Where do we meet?

We meet monthly on a Wednesday evening at The Feathers pub in Wymondham. We have the upstairs room all to ourselves. There is a small charge for the room which we share between us and we always buy a drink (tea, coffee or alcohol) from the bar to support the pub. There is a free public car park behind the pub.

Would you like to join us?

We are currently looking for new members. Please contact Anne on 01953 571425 or annebealing@aol.com if you would like to come and join us.



ARTS CENTRE FINAL EXHIBITION

By June Gentle

The final show at the Wymondham Art Centre this season will be: CLAY GLAZE FIRE. The exhibition opens on October 10th, and runs until October 22nd.

The newly refurbished Becket's Chapel is a stunning venue for this colourful show. Twelve potters from our region will be presenting a wide variety of ceramic styles and prices. A Special Feature will be the sale of Potters Samples available for only £5 each.

The show is curated by an ex-Wymondham resident, who learned to make pottery at the town's evening classes back in the 70s. More recently her Wymondham motif jugs and mugs were made for the jubilee year and sold for charity by Wymondham Rotary Club.

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KIDS WELCOME AT MUSEUM

By Neil Haverson

The volunteers at Wymondham Heritage Museum are always keen to hear visitors' views on their experience. A form is available in reception for them to say what they enjoyed the most, which displays they particularly liked. This feedback is invaluable to the committee in planning future exhibitions and improvements to the overall layout and ambience of The Bridewell.

In addition, we ask where visitors come from and how they found out about the museum. This helps us plan how best and where to promote the museum. Children leave us their comments too and it's reassuring to know they report that there is lots to do and see. This is good news, especially as the half term holiday is coming at the end of the month and parents will be looking for something to occupy bored youngsters.

They won't be disappointed. How do I know? Well, I was fortunate enough to pick up some feedback from one of the young visitors. She is five years old and was visiting with her grandparents. What was her overall impression of the museum?

"Awesome!" she replied with wide eyes. "The dungeon was the best. I saw the rat."

And no, she wasn't a bit scared. She also liked the cells, especially the one with the model of a prisoner sitting beside his bed.

But what about the Brushroom? A room full of brushes, tools, photographs and artefacts together with audio describing life in the factory. That must all have been a bit boring to one so young. Clearly not. When the commentary clicked in she was heard to exclaim: "Nanna, be quiet! The man is talking."

And who was this Robert Kett and what did he do? She opened the doors on the wall display in the form of Kett's Oak to reveal the story of this local yeoman and the 1549 rebellion he led.

On to the main gallery where she pounced on the sandbox. What would this young archaeologist find buried there?

"I found loads of things!" she exclaimed. "Lots of bones and some pottery."

She was impressed by the giant pair of ditching boots on the agricultural display and mused on their size compared to her own little wellies.

Of course, she was too young to know many of the products in the two recreated shops, but it was the fruit basket in the Damgate Stores she was after. She was doing the children's quiz

and one of her questions was to count the bananas.

She completed the quiz, with a tiny bit of help from her grandparents, and proudly presented the completed form to the stewards in reception. She took her time selecting her prize from the range of goodies on offer before turning her attention to the shop.

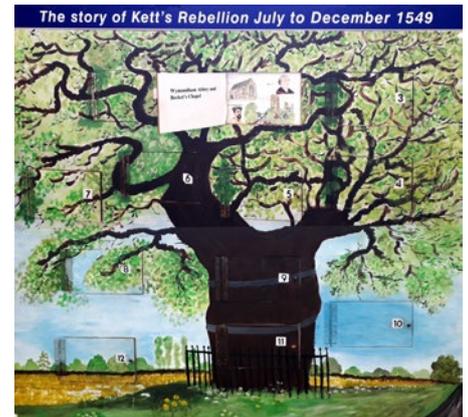
Oh, decisions, decisions, what to have. A Biro, a keyring, a ruler perhaps or some crayons? Finally, she settled on a pen in the form of a quill.

There was just one place left to go, The Tearoom. Now this may well have contributed to the "Awesome" verdict. A homemade chocolate brownie was attacked with relish, washed down with a beaker of orange squash.

"Can I have a go on the wishing well?" she asked.

Granddad watched as some of his pension disappeared down the well. A handful of coins dropped at once made such a good splash. Of course, what our young visitor wished for must remain a secret, but I have a suspicion I know what a weary Nanna and Grandad were wishing for.

"The museum and The Bridewell Tearoom are open daily until Saturday October 28th. Information at thewhm.org.uk



Community Noticeboard

WYMONDHAM ABBEY
A GREEN
HALLOWEEN
Tuesday 31 October
4.30 - 6.30 p.m.

Join us for a nature-themed Halloween event for all ages in the Wymondham Abbey church and churchyard

- ❖ Starts 4.30 pm with a blessing of the churchyard
- ❖ Craft activities inside the church
- ❖ Bat, Moth and Bug-hunting with WyNG (Wymondham Nature Group) & NWT (Norfolk Wildlife Trust) members.
- ❖ Homemade Pumpkin Soup to enjoy
- ❖ Come in old clothes and bring a torch, waterproofs and wellies for exploring our amazing churchyard wildlife

To find out more, contact Hilary on 01953 605672

FREE event - no need to book - just come along and enjoy yourselves!

Wymondham Abbey, Church Street, Wymondham NR18 0PH
www.wymondhamabbey.org.uk @wymondhamabbeychurch Wymondham Abbey Church

Clay-Glaze-Fire Pottery Show

New and varied work for sale

Tue 10th to Sun 22nd October 2023
Tue-Sun 11.00am - 4.00pm

@clayglazefire2023

Wymondham arts centre

www.wymondhamarts.com
Church Street, Wymondham NR18 0PH
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Registered Charity Number 1153188

WYMONDHAM LIONS

QUIZ 'N' CHILLI

We Serve *Friday October 6th 2023*

Wymondham Central Hall - NR18 0QB
7.00pm for 7.30pm start
£12 / person - max 6 people / team
B.Y.O.B - Raffle

Ticket price includes choice of
Meat, Veg or Non-Chilli-Chilli
All proceeds to Lions Charities
to book & for info contact
Lion Nigel on sealoft7@gmail.com

Wymondham Lions is Registered Charity No. 150430

Greening Wymondham

WYMONDHAM BIG LITTER PICK

SATURDAY 7th OCTOBER 2023
10am - 12:30pm

We are holding a litter pick and will provide:
Litter pickers & bags
(Please bring your own gloves)

Starting at Baptist Church, Queen Street
But finishing with refreshments at Baptist Church
Tea/Coffee & Cake at the end

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE FROM:
www.greeningwymondham.org | greening.wymondham@gmail.com
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adverts@wymondhammagazine.co.uk



THE LOWE DOWN

With Freddy Lowe



I was listening to a political podcast recently, and one of the guests was a political thinker and writer who I hugely admire. He is one of my media heroes. One of his books addresses a particular social issue and does it brilliantly; this book is a seminal text for people of my leanings! And yet, in this most recent podcast episode, the author changed his tune. He announced, "Something really has passed. I'm beginning to think I wouldn't write that book now."

I'm ashamed to say that at first, my heart sank. "What are you talking about?" I protested inwardly. "Do you think this is no longer a problem? Are you backing down and taking back what you initially wrote?"

That heart-sinking feeling shocked me, and I have since trained myself to avoid it. What I should have seen is that this podcast announcement was good news! No, the author was not taking back what he wrote in his brilliant book – the book remains an important reflection of the time when it was relevant, and some elements of our time now – but he was acknowledging that things are capable of changing. What's more, that heart-sinking feeling revealed a telling human instinct. My theory is that it is a natural instinct to become obsessed with the social factors that hold us back. In fighting against them, we become mild fanatics, and when they begin to pass, we almost feel sad. We feel like we have lost

purpose.

That fanaticism is very human, and yet is the exact opposite attitude to the healthy one as exemplified by my favourite writer: namely, that we can overcome obstacles without letting them become the one thing

that defines our identities. Otherwise, when we do overcome them, our hearts will sink.

In other words, we are not defined by the things that hold us back. The path to feeling okay is not identifying ourselves as

"oppressed by X". Rather, it is motivating ourselves to keep doing what we are doing despite X. That way, when X disappears (or, at least, abates slightly), we feel relieved, rather than feeling like we've lost a religion.

At the time of publication, school pupils will have returned to school for at least a month. We all know that the first weeks and months of term are riddled with challenges. All those pupils are heroes! The thesis of almost all my Lowe Down articles is that it's tough for school students, particularly with the social pressures they have to balance as well, and that they are commendable for continuing to chip away. Wymondham is an undoubtedly privileged area, but that doesn't inoculate people from stress and social pressures.

The challenge of secondary school is linked to the above observations. You have to always back yourself. Every day you're there, you're made to stand

firm and keep on with the important stuff – ie. your education – despite social pressures. Were you to let social pressures become your whole life and define your sense of self (which we all succumb to sometimes!), mental well-being will inevitably suffer.

“We can overcome obstacles without letting them become the one thing that defines our identities. Otherwise, when we do overcome them, our hearts will sink.”

I remember an infamous Year 12 classroom debate in English Literature where pretty much the whole class rounded on me after I expressed

an unpopular view on an article the teacher had shared. My classmates expressed in no uncertain terms what they thought (hint: it wasn't in my favour). Certainly, for a few days, I would walk into school thinking, "How on Earth am I going to overcome this classroom free speech crisis?", until I realised that this didn't matter. It didn't matter if a few shrill classmates didn't like what I had to say. There was nothing stopping me from writing what I wanted in essays. And indeed, the shrill cries of "tread carefully!" didn't make a shred of difference to my final A-Level grade.

I write that as someone who had a relatively harmonious time at secondary school. Some people have far worse experiences than I do. Despite how easy it is to view oneself solely through a victimised lens, schools are full of people who keep going regardless of the challenges they face behind the scenes, and they are unsung heroes for doing so.

Sir James Neville - A Norfolk Soldier Abroad and At Home

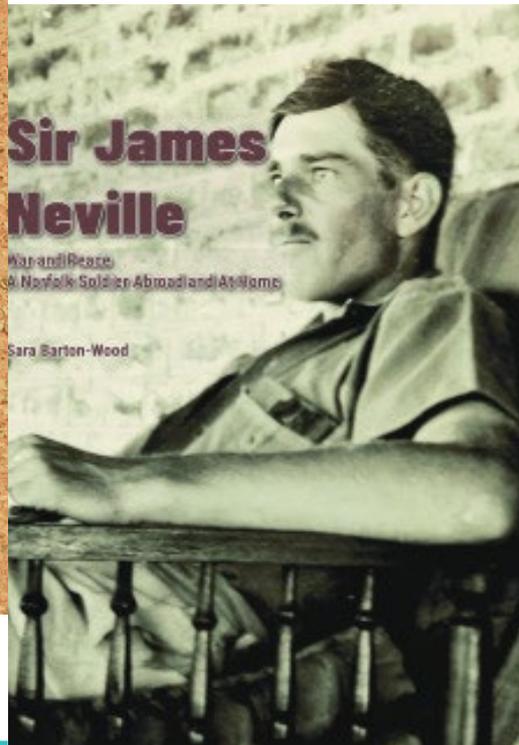
By Sara Barton-Wood

I first came across the diary of Sir James Neville, MC, in the Norfolk Record Office where I worked in 2010. I was looking for subjects for a history column in the Eastern Daily Press to which I contributed and this diary grabbed my attention at once.

Neville was an educated man - Eton and Sandhurst - and grew up at Sloley Hall near North Walsham in Norfolk. His writing is so vivid and personal I immediately felt myself transported to the front line in northern France with all its horrors of trench warfare, disease, cold, lack of proper food and constant terror. He survived, though injured, and was awarded the MC, and was then sent off to Russia with the North Russia Expeditionary Force to try to kick out the Bolsheviks and restore

the Russian Imperial family. Then it was Limerick in the run-up to independence in Ireland, after which he left the army and became an inspector for the Gezira Cotton Picking Scheme in The Sudan.

It's a rattling good read as Neville spares us no details about his army duties, his family life and his love affairs in his diary and letters home, and he also took his Box Brownie camera with him to war. Poppylands of Lowestoft have produced a high-quality product with this book with many original photos, maps and diagrams and the author has set the whole thing in context with ample descriptions of how the war was progressing, so the reader can grasp the whole picture. A must-read for every child studying history! Now available at Kett's Books.





GIRLS YOUTH RUGBY EXPANDING

By Julie Buckenham

Wymondham Girls Youth Rugby comprises four age groups teams, Under 12's, Under 14's Under 16's and Under 18's and is the fastest growing girls rugby club in the region.

All the girls teams train together at Wymondham Rugby Club twice a week, Thursday evening from 6.00-7.30pm and Sunday morning from 10.00 -11.30am (unless the girls have a match). The Under 16's and Under 18's also spend time training with the Wymondham Wasps ladies team to provide extra support.

Currently Wymondham has a total of 40 girls across all four age groups. The Under 14's girls have enough girls to independently form their own team but all other age groups are required to cluster with other clubs to ensure there are enough girls to play matches safely.

Last season the Under 14's clustered with Lowestoft & Beccles as the combined team known as the "Titans"

and the girls won the Eastern Counties Plate against Shelford. The Under 14's Titans also made it to the Cup final vs Norwich Wildcats in April, finishing second place which was a fantastic achievement for the Under 14's!

Some of the girls have attended Leicester Tigers camps this year at venues at Langley School and at home at Wymondham Rugby Club. The girls have enjoyed the camps and always come away buzzing especially after meeting Ben Youngs (Ben plays for Leicester Tigers and England) and some of the girls recently attended a Centurion event at Bury Rugby Club where the girls got to meet and spend time with Rocky Clark, MBE (Rocky is a Saracens player and has earned her 50th cap at the 2010 Women's Rugby World Cup playing for England). Spending time with professional players gives the girls inspiration and also an opportunity to learn and grow in their



own rugby journey.

Girls rugby is a great team sport where you will make new friends, grow in confidence and find strength in your own ability.

Come and give it a try, a warm welcome awaits you! If you are interested in joining us please contact girlsrugbyadmin@wymondhamrfc.com.



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Saturday 30th September

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

Viktori Live Band

7pm, Ex-services Club
Regal Lounge
[www.facebook.com/
groups/130014680369369](http://www.facebook.com/groups/130014680369369)

Tuesday 3rd October

Wymondham Photographic Society
8pm-10pm, Dell Bowls Club
Guest Speaker Jim Barrett-Smith
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Wednesday 4th October

Art Society Demo with Sarah Allbrook
7:15pm, Catholic Church Hall
Sarah graduated from Norwich
University of the Arts in 2009 and has
been painting landscapes around East
Anglia ever since, preferring to paint in
oils en plein air. She loves the thrill of
painting on location, reacting directly to
the light, movement and atmosphere
of a scene. She will paint a landscape in
oils for us.
www.wymondhamart.org

Friday 6th October

Lions Quiz 'n' Chilli
7pm, Wymondham Central Hall
Gather the gang and get competitive for
a fun charity quiz night. Form a group
of up to 6 and get ready to battle it out
whilst enjoying some homemade chilli.
£12/person BYOB. To book & for info
contact Nigel on
sealoft7@gmail.com.

Saturday 7th October

Town Litter Pick
10am-12pm, Baptist Church, Queen St
Join volunteers to help tidy up the
town. Bring yourself & a pair of gloves.
Refreshments afterwards inside the
church.
www.greeningwymondham.org/

Tuesday 10th October

Volunteer Workday
9:30am-3:30pm, Kett's Park Woodland
Join volunteers to help this woodland to
thrive. Refreshments at 11:00am. Bring

yourself, your lunch, a pair of gloves and
sturdy boots.

www.greeningwymondham.org/

Wymondham Photographic Society
8pm-10pm, Dell Bowls Club
Continuous Improvement: Studio set up
instruction for portraiture
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Wednesday 11th October

Charity Golf Day
11am, Bawburgh Golf Club
Stableford team event in aid of Star
Throwers and Finnbars Force. Email
victoria@starthrowers.org.uk to book.

Thursday 12th October

Nature Group Indoor Meeting
7:30pm, Town Green Community
Centre
Illustrated talk by Tony Mckie about the
work being done by Blofield and District
Conservation Group. Admission £3,
NWT Members £2.
01508 488337
[www.facebook.com/
WymondhamNatureGroup](http://www.facebook.com/WymondhamNatureGroup)

Friday 13th October

Bob Keeley Music Night
7pm, Dells Bowls Club
Live performance of 50s, 60s, and
Country Music begins at 8:15. Tickets
available only from the Club ring
01953 602099 or 07594 997526. £6
members, £7 non members. Bar open
but bring your own nibbles.
www.wymondhamdell.com

Saturday 14th October

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

Monday 16th October

Garden Club Annual General Meeting
and Plant Sale
7:30pm, Town Green Centre
Bring along any surplus plants for the
sale (Proceeds to Club funds). Routine
AGM (Reports from the Committee &
election of new Secretary). Presentation
of Mercury Cup No Show Table
or Club Table exhibits at October
Meeting. 7.30pm, Town Green Centre.

Members Free, guests £4. For further
information about the club contact
wymondhamgardenclub@gmail.com
[www.facebook.com/profile.
php?id=100077254060337](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100077254060337)

Tuesday 17th October

Wymondham Photographic Society
8pm-10pm, Dells Bowls Club
Studio night with professional model
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Tuesday 24th October

Wymondham Photographic Society
8pm-10pm, Dells Bowls Club
Open Print Competition Round 1
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

Saturday 28th October

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

Trick or Treat Trail

12pm-3pm, Wymondham Town Centre
Dozens of businesses on the high
street will have treats for children in
Halloween costumes.
[www.facebook.com/
WymondhamTownTeam/events](http://www.facebook.com/WymondhamTownTeam/events)

Tuesday 31st October

Green Halloween
4:30pm-6:30pm, Wymondham Abbey
A nature-themed event for all ages
with craft activities, bat, moth and bug
hunting and pumpkin soup.
www.wymondhamabbey.org.uk/

Wymondham Photographic Society
8pm-10pm, Dells Bowls Club
Guest Speaker David Steel
www.wymondham-ps.org.uk

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