

Borough News

Summer 2008

The magazine for Borough residents

Your Local Councillors *P8-9*

You Said - We Listened *P14*



GREAT YARMOUTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Celebrating a **diverse**
and unique Borough



Welcome to this issue of Borough News which, in line with its theme – diversity, has articles as diverse as the people who live here.

We are featuring some of the organisations the Council works closely with to offer opportunities in the daily lives and leisure activities of everyone who makes up the Borough of Great Yarmouth.

You will find articles on a housing project for young people, and how organisations such as Community Connections offer a staggering range of services aimed at helping individuals and communities.

I hope you will be pleasantly surprised at the diverse nature of the schemes and find something that will help you or someone you know.

I would also like to talk about the Town Hall, one of the Borough's outstanding architectural features.

It's hard not to have noticed that it has been swathed in scaffolding and plastic sheeting for some time.

Built in 1880 the town hall has had a number of repair programmes to aid its upkeep. Unfortunately, these haven't always benefitted the structure. Building practices over the years, once accepted as the correct way of doing things, have proven to be anything but.

Materials have been used which weren't sympathetic to the stone or other original materials, this has caused problems such as retaining moisture which leads to rotting wood and the breakdown of the stone.

When undertaking this latest

project we knew the roof would need some attention. The only way to assess the potential of the problems was by using a cherry-picker, which allowed experts to look at the state of the building.

Unfortunately, this does have its limitations and we knew that we wouldn't understand the full implications until the roof started to be removed.

As all owners of older buildings will know, this proved to reveal more problems than had been at first anticipated. Some of the building practices I mentioned have led to considerably damage, this has meant having to dismantle, rebuild and reinforce parts completely as they have become unstable.

The cost of scaffolding, and the plastic sheeting which health and safety legislation state has to be used, is an expensive process. It makes sense that while it is in place we make good the damage that has been done to ensure the town hall stands as a proud welcome to the town.

The final bill is expected to be in the region of £2 million pounds which will be funded from our existing Capital Repairs budget. I know that this is an enormous sum of money but is essential for the Council to commit to a programme of repair and maintenance of such an important and historic building.

I hope you find this issue lively and informative.

Barry Coleman
Leader of the Council

Time is a strange commodity - in the Borough we are in the throes of celebrating 800 years of history through our charter, while also waiting to learn of our future through Local Government Reorganisation.

Eight centuries ago the Borough gained the right to local self-government.

The local electorate also has a right - the right to elect its own representatives on the Council. Local elections are about the people who live in the Borough, and the majority of those over 18 years of age have the right to register to vote. Because of this, it was a great disappointment that this year only 30 per cent of potential voters took up the option.

During my 15 years as returning officer I have seen the overall turnout drop by 10 per cent. Please realise that it is essential that you use your vote to choose your preferred representative.

Whatever happens in the future, Great Yarmouth will have a Council made up of people from all walks of life who want to do their best for the Borough,

It doesn't matter what reorganisation does to the boundaries or who we may or may not become aligned with - this is your home and you should be taking enough interest to put into power the people you judge to be the best suited.

I can assure you that the Council will continue to do its very best - through its services and by overseeing the Borough's renaissance - whatever changes reorganisation brings.



Richard Packham
Managing Director



Sylvia is first past the post

Sylvia Dionysiou of Great Yarmouth was our Spring competition winner and romped home with joint membership for Great Yarmouth Racecourse. Well done Sylvia and here's hoping the winning streak sees you through the remainder of the 2008 season.

Intran



You may recognise the Intran logo which can be found in our publications and displayed in our offices, but do you know what it stands for?

Intran is part of the Council's commitment to communicating with everyone, regardless of language or disability.

The Intran logo means that there is access to:

- Foreign language interpreters on the phone or face to face
- British Sign Language interpreters and lipspeakers
- Translations of written matter
- Braille

Tell us what you think!

We would love to hear what you think about our publication, so please share your views and comments. If you would like this magazine in large print, or in an alternative version, please contact us by telephoning editor Karla Symonds 01493 846512 or email: **boroughnews@great-yarmouth.gov.uk** and we will do our best to provide it.

Keeping in Touch

Benefits	01493 846291
Council Tax	01493 846244
Customer & Business Enquiries	01493 856100
Environmental Health	01493 846478
Homeselect	01493 846140
Housing Rents	01493 846233
Housing Repairs	01493 846381
Planning	01493 846430

Lines are open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Rubbish Collection 01493 846846

Street Services 01493 846846

Lines are open Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30pm

Email us at enquiries@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Fax us on 01493 846285

Send a text message to 07760 166366

Find lots of information on our website
www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Where to Find Us

Trafalgar House

Cashiers - Payment of council tax, housing rent etc

Reception Desk - Council Tax enquiries, benefit enquiries

Interview rooms - For private consultations with an advisor

Greyfriars House

Community Housing

Homeselect

Advice and Homelessness Service

Main Town Hall

General enquiries including viewing electoral roll.

Business enquires include license applications.

Mail forwarding to other departments

Maltings House

Pollution, Pest control, fly tipping, food safety and health and safety

Planning applications and advice

Cover photo by competition winner John Greengrass

Community Connections

Trish Aydin
Chief Executive

Community Connections has made a great deal of difference to many people's lives throughout the Borough. It helps people to form community groups, enter employment, keep the streets clean, mans CLIP offices... the range of its services is vast.

Here Chief Executive Trish Aydin gives a brief account of how the organisation could help you no matter where you live in the Borough, your age, capabilities, mobility or origin.

"Community Connections was founded in 1991 with a strong commitment and dedication to support and help to build communities that work together to improve quality of life in Great Yarmouth.

"We believe that a community working together becomes a stronger, safer community to live and work in. We support community members to become active citizens who care about their neighbourhoods and who want to participate and feel able to get involved in decision-making that affects them and their community.

"Over the last seven years we have developed to become the leading community development organisation in Great Yarmouth and responsible body for Great Yarmouth People the local Community Empowerment Network of voluntary, community, faith and statutory sector.

"We provide a range of training to

build skills and knowledge, enabling people to get into higher education, volunteering as community makers and championing development in their community, or become ready for employment or self employment. We provide support for community groups to access funds for projects and to make a difference in their neighbourhood.

"We hope you have been able to make good use of the Community Liaison and Information Points (CLIPs) that we have developed across the borough. We have developed 10 CLIP offices and more than 50 CLIP information racks borough-wide that hold a wide range of useful information.

"For example, our CLIP office in Martham, at The Green, has become the access point for information on transport. Maps of bus services are available and can also be accessed from Caister CLIP office situated at the local library.

"Just look at these facts about the CLIPs - last year more than 4,287 people accessed our services, including 2,315 new visitors. 299 people attended surgeries and 18,255 news letters were distributed. We had 34 volunteers supporting the CLIP work, providing 1,006 hours of their time.

"CLIPs also enable partners to communicate with the community by providing information and workshops.

As well as all that:

Our organisation is active in the Sustainable Community Strategy that will shape the future of Great Yarmouth

We also work to support and encourage community action and environmental days and have our own street scene assessment team which helps to monitor the cleanliness of parts of the Borough.

We have been successful in obtaining grants of more than £1,133,000 to support local community groups and also to support the development of the Runham Vauxhall and Central Great Yarmouth areas.

Working in partnership with Great Yarmouth and Waveney Primary Care Trust, who provide funding for the Community Health Trainers, we are supporting the community to take control of their health. This includes help to stop smoking, access healthy eating advice, exercise for health, fitness and opportunities to be signposted and access other services.

In 2008-09 we aim to continue to work in partnership and support the development of people throughout the Borough, in identifying the needs of the community, support community development, better understanding and relationship between communities young and old.

Many people need a little extra help to get through what, for many of us, is an everyday routine. Here Peter McGuinness introduces you to the Norfolk Coastal Centre for Independent Life, on Beacon Park, Gorleston and explains what it can offer residents of all ages and all needs.

"Do you need advice, information or a demonstration of equipment to help you live independently at home? Perhaps you or a relative want to try out new gadgets without the hard sell from a company.

"The Norfolk Coastal Centre for Independent Life offers practical support for people with disabilities who want to live independently. It is a partnership between Norfolk County Council, Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT and the British Red Cross. It is the only Independent Living Centre in Norfolk.

"The centre, which opened two years ago, provides a variety of services. Visitors can try out a wide range of equipment and adaptations ranging from small kitchen items to armchairs and a fully operational stairlift.

"Purpose-built room settings are used to display products and adaptations such as a level access shower. The occupational therapy team can help people work out what they need. This may include the identification of practical

Norfolk coastal extends a helping hand

Carol Bundock
at the opening of
the Centre



solutions and information on health and social care services, local organisations, equipment suppliers and financial issues.

"The service that they offer is free and you don't need a referral from a health professional such as your GP, you can make your own appointment to see them.

"The Red Cross Medical Loans Service also operates from the Centre (Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm). With this service people can borrow items of equipment

such as wheelchairs, bathing aids, or commodes for periods of up to three months.

"There is also a drop-in session on the fourth Wednesday of every month for the Hearing Support Clinic for people with hearing difficulties.

"We offer a warm and friendly environment for you to visit, please come and see us."

The Centre is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm. For more information call 0845 054 7181.

Sharing the learning

The East Norfolk Learning Difficulties Locality Group was set up to promote awareness of the services available in this area for people with learning difficulties and their families and carers.

The group includes people with learning disabilities, carers, service providers and members of voluntary groups.

A second successful Information Sharing and Celebration Day, which provided information and advice on many services including, leisure, health and wellbeing, education, employment, housing, provider services, support and enablement, advocacy, transition into adult life, was held in May.

For more information on the group contact Carole Teasdale, Co-ordinator for East Norfolk Locality Group 01493 841250



If you would like to know more about how we can support you and how you can become involved in the partnerships please do not hesitate to get in touch On 01493 656372 or visit our website. www.communityconnections.org.uk



How one Comeunity can make a difference

The community is the 8,600 residents in the South and Central areas of Great Yarmouth. It acts as a link between the community and public services such as the council, police and health.

Comeunity operates from Neighbourhood Centre at 143 King Street. People can call in for help and information on anything from housing union, to joining its credit or its outdoor projects.

When they walk through the door they are met by helpful and knowledgeable volunteers, most are being supported through various elements of the programme or the Volunteer Centre based in the same building. In their case it is often a step back into the workplace after a break, or the opportunity to gain the skills needed to start a new career.

The volunteers receive their training and a great deal of help from CLIP worker Jeanne Goncalves.

"We offer a wide range of services, so working here for a while gives our helpers the chance to learn a great deal," said Jeanne. *"They can be doing anything from staffing the CLIP, signposting, providing information on things such as courses, brushing up IT knowledge, coming to grips with an admin job for the first time, or improving the language skills."*

"We have a wide range of ages, two of our volunteers Beryl Tennant and Anne Cording are retired and enjoy voluntary work and meeting our clients. We also have people in their twenties who are looking to change their job."

One of these is 22-year-old Kelly Knowles who had previously worked in retail.

"Comeunity is really good, it is helping me to learn about IT, admin and reception work, which is what I would like to do when I apply for a job," she explained.

For Bruno Braga Corroia Comeunity is an excellent way to improve his English. He arrived recently from Portugal and is keen to learn the

language. As part of his learning he has helped Jeanne set up a library.

Jamie McGarrity found that Comeunity has led to even more voluntary work. A resident of Middlegate he has helped to revive a community association, which now has more than 20 members.

He has been associated with Comeunity for a year and during that time has learned the admin skills he needs to return to work after a break, it has also helped with his communication and social skills.

"I feel so much more confident dealing with people, and that I can achieve things," he said. *"It has made me determined to make Middlegate a really good place to live in."*

"We have volunteers with many skills," added Manager Rob Gregory. *"Using volunteers has so many advantages. Some of our volunteers have experienced illness, disability or the need to move on in their lives."*

The programme has a range of street-based projects including encouraging young people to take up pastimes rather than kick their heels in the street.

"Community based programmes such as Comeunity makes a real difference not just to the residents living in the Central and South Yarmouth Area but to the whole Borough. For example the work undertaken by the Grey 2 Green team is not only making the area involved cleaner, greener and safer places to live but also to visit." said Councillor Bob Peck, Cabinet Member for Community Housing and Community Services *"The Town Centre Music Festival held in July last year brought together 500 young local musicians in a week long event that was enjoyed by both residents and visitors alike. I am proud to be a member of the Management Board which oversees the Comeunity team and its programme."*

Comeunity is open weekdays 9:30am-4:30pm or you can call on 01493 845929 or check out the web-site www.comeunity.info.



With the summer upon us what better time to celebrate the completion of the renovation of St George's Park and phase three of the improvements to Great Yarmouth seafront. Both were officially opened in May by the Mayor Councillor Terry Easter.

Work in St George's Park has seen a glorious play area for the children, which is 'guarded' by St George and friendly looking dragon. The statue was created by an old boy of Great Yarmouth College of Art and Design, Mark Goldsworthy, known as the Woodcarver of Bungay.

Other improvements have breathed new heart into the park, which is always popular with local families and visitors alike.

Extensive landscaping has been carried out by GYB Services including the thinning of perimeter shrubs to give the park a more open feel. Removal of the railings has also helped to extend the park into green areas on either side.

Modern lighting helps to remove dark spots in the park, and new seating gives the park an even more leisurely feel. Coloured uplighters onto trees are triggered when people enter the park to add to the feeling of a being in pleasing surroundings. Gateways to the park, being created by Norfolk blacksmiths, will echo the town's tradition of fishing with designs including herrings, chains and a fishing net.

Roads around the park have been altered to make it a safer place to be - with St George's Road now a cul-de-sac, and Trafalgar Road narrowed, and planted with oak trees.

Trafalgar Road leads pedestrians to the seafront where the work to regenerate the Golden Mile has attracted much praise.

The latest phase has seen the Broadway lane, for

use by horse-drawn landaus, cyclists and the road train extended to Kings Road.

Other improvements have seen the upgrading of the pavements, an improved entrance to St Nicholas car park, and pedestrian crossing installed.

"It has been an interesting and challenging project," said Councillor Graham Plant, Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Tourism *"The physical improvements to the park and seafront have made such a dynamic difference."*

"People have told us that they feel proud to show their friends and visitors around and to hear how much they feel the town has gained from the regeneration."

Pleasure in the changes was a sentiment echoed by mum Kelly Sandall, who attended the official opening of the park to watch children from Ormesby Middle School take part in the ceremony.

"It is the first time I've seen the park properly," she commented. *"I am really pleased with it, I will bring my children to play here."*

"A great deal of time, money and planning has gone into breathing new life into both of these parts of the town," said Councillor Plant *"They reflect the changes taking place throughout the borough, with investment by the Council and many other bodies making this a place for others to also invest in for the future to create new businesses, employment and prosperity in a town that is looking ahead."*

Welcome - Come and Park yourself and enjoy the view

Your local councillors

Bradwell North Ward



G R Plant (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 601800
Mobile: 07787 121221
e: grp@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



J Tate (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 445328
e: correspondence@james-tate.co.uk



A C Grey (Con)
Telephone: 01493 601591
e: Awaiting information

Bradwell South & Hopton Ward



S A Ames (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01502 731759
Work: 01502 730939
e: steve@amescottage.demon.co.uk
or steve@broadlandsands.co.uk



Vacant
By-election July 10th



S Hacon (Con)
Telephone: 01493 650924
e: sue@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Caister North Ward



B L Cunniffe (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 732430
Mobile: 07795 42817
e: blc@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



A T Smith (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 728205
Mobile: 07760 166348
e: ats@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Caister South Ward



M J Field (Lab)
Telephone
Home: 01493 304676,
Mobile: 07906 926541
e: mjf@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



P T Hacon (Lab)
Telephone
Home: 01493 720917
Mobile: 07932 165776
e: pth@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Central & Northgate Ward



M V Castle (Lab)
Telephone
Home: 01493 844552
Work & Fax: 01692 580525
Mobile: 07966 798928
e: cmamc@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



T R Easter (Lab)
Telephone
Home: 01493 857967
e: te@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



M Taylor (Lab)
Telephone
Home: 01493 308497

Claydon Ward



R A Barker (Lab)
Telephone & fax: 01493 781798
Mobile: 07786 234535
e: dickbarker2007@yahoo.co.uk



A A Blyth (Lab)
Telephone
Home: 01493 668114
Work: 01493 843509
e: aab@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



B J Williamson (Lab)
Telephone
Home: 01493 780525
Mobile: 07798 667998
e: bw@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

East Flegg Ward



G W Jermany (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 368188
e: gwj@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



S Weymouth (Con)
Telephone and fax:
01493 731625
e: shirleyweymouth@tiscali.co.uk

Fleggburgh Ward



D W Thompson MBE (Con)
Telephone
Home & business:
01493 369250
Mobile: 07760 166401
e: dwt@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Gorleston Ward



B J E Collins (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 857063
Mobile: 07760 166340
e: bjc@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



J M Burroughs (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 444334
Mobile: 07841 923303
e: john.burroughs@btconnect.com

Lothingland Ward

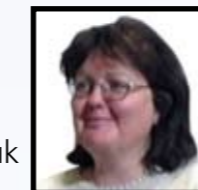


B M Stone (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 603900
Mobile: 07760 166344
e: bms@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



M T Thompson (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 782093
e: myt@burgh-castle.co.uk

Magdalen Ward



K Hewitt (Lab)
Telephone
Home: 01493 663675
e: kmh@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



B R Walker (Lab)
Telephone
Home: 01493 782272
Mobile: 07731 691851
Message Service: 04325 215300



P E Page (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 440662
Mobile: 07759 832386
e: pp@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

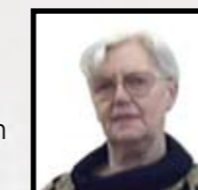
Nelson Ward



V J Pettit (Lab)
Telephone
Home: 01493 844009
e: vjp@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



M T Jeal (Lab)
Telephone
Home & fax: 01493 859165
Mobile: 07876 191967
e: mtj@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



B Taylor (Lab)
Telephone
Home: 01493 308497

Ormesby Ward



C J Reynolds (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 721728
Work: 01493 720050/720312
Mobile: 07850 587738
e: charles.reynolds@tory.org



J R Shrimplin (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 730821
Mobile: 07760 166329
e: jrs@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

St Andrew's Ward



P G Cook (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 653584
Mobile: 07922189048
e: gpc@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



B W Watts (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 668965
Work: 01493 650541
Mobile: 07775 846457
e: bww@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Southtown and Cobholm Ward



J A Holmes (Lab)
Telephone
Home: 01493 855296
e: john.holmes@norfolk.gov.uk



P Linden (Lab)
Telephone
Home: 01493 653752
Mobile: 07736 922152
e: psl@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

West Flegg Ward



B G Coleman (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 740782
Mobile: 07899 956612
e: bgc@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



M Coleman (Con)
Telephone
Home: 01493 740782
Mobile: 07776 352367
e: msc@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Yarmouth North Ward



P A N Garrod (Con)
Telephone
Home/Work/Fax: 01493 844138
Mobile:
07795 428160 / 07775 604668
e: pag@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



R Peck (Con)
Telephone/fax: 01493 722370
Mobile: 07795 428162
e: rap@great-yarmouth.gov.uk



GREAT YARMOUTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Full Councillor details can be found at
www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk/your_council/councillors

Simon Mutton,
Environmental
Services
Manager



Spotlight on a Service

Each issue we will speak to a Service Manager to find out a bit more about what they do and the services they provide. This issue we ask.....

Who are you?

My name is Simon Mutton and I am Environmental Services Manager

What do you do?

A little of everything! The Environmental Services Unit covers all the Council's 'Street Scene' services, including street cleansing, waste collection and recycling, parks and open spaces, footway and decorative lighting, highway verge cutting, public toilets, street furniture, children's play, outdoor sports facilities and beach management, together with the Cemetery and Crematorium.

We develop the plans for how these services are delivered, taking into account numerous legislative and policy requirements, and commission their delivery, mainly through our operational partners GYB Services.

In similar vein we lead on the Council's partnership with the Great Yarmouth Sport and Leisure Trust in relation to their management of the Marina Leisure Centre and Phoenix Pool.

On top of all that we also deal with Coast Protection, and facilitate the Council's involvement and obligations in respect of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Environmental Forum of the Local Strategic Partnership

So as you can imagine things can get somewhat hectic at times!

How do you help your customers?

By constantly working with our colleagues and partners to try and improve the environment in which the people of the Borough live and work, and to improve their quality of life through the services we provide.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Seeing actual improvements taking place in which we have a significant involvement and influence. The St Georges Park project, Marine Parade improvements and around £700,000 worth of new play equipment installed in the borough over the last three years, together with significant progress in improving the cleanliness of the Borough are good examples..

What are you most proud of?

My team and our colleagues in GYB Services. I know it sounds clichéd but it's also true that so much of what has been achieved so far is down to their hard work and dedication

What's happening at the moment?

An important piece of work we are leading on is the development of the Council's Environmental Management System, which will look to address the issues of sustainability and reducing the environmental impact of the activities of the Council, and others. We were for instance significantly involved in the setting up of the successful 'bio-fuel from chip fat' scheme in the Borough.

What are your plans for the future?

For now...just to keep all the plates spinning!

Any last words?

I hope that whatever form Local Government Reorganisation takes, it will allow us to build on the significant progress we've made over the last five years

Meet your councillor

An informal introduction to one of the Council's ward members.

Name

Penny Linden

Which ward do you represent?

Southtown and Cobholm

What is your 'day time' job?

Councillor

Have you always lived in the Borough?

No I have lived here for the last 30 years, 20 of those spent in Cobholm

Why did you become a Councillor?

I became a councillor about nine years ago. I was keen to learn how local government works. I was already a party member and a school governor at Cobholm Primary school so I knew many of the issues that were affecting people and wanted to learn how those issues could be resolved.

What aspect of your Council work do you enjoy most?

I like meeting and talking to people, I suppose I enjoy what we call "yarning" in Norfolk. People talk to me about problems they are having that they want the Council to resolve but in the process they tell many interesting stories about their lives and the way the area used to be.

What changes would you like to see in the area?

I hope that the developments with First East will have a positive impact on the whole area and the lives of residents who already live here. We have already seen new housing developments in the area and more green areas and I think improvement can definitely be achieved.

It's also been good to see the development of the two community centres and I look forward to wider community participation.

I'm also really keen for council tenants to become more involved in letting us know what they think by joining Area Panels.

I also have great interest in the history of the town. The area is packed with historic sites, it's just a case

of bringing them to the forefront.

I am aware that a lot of restoration/regeneration work has gone on in King Street, and look forward to more regeneration work especially on some properties that are listed buildings.

What annoys you most in your working life?

Delays – it's frustrating for both constituents and myself when change is needed and can't happen straight away, it sometimes make it difficult to maintain enthusiasm.

Where do you look for advice and inspiration?

My fellow councillors. Sometimes if I don't understand or agree with something they can offer me a whole new way of looking at it and it suddenly makes sense.

What do you do away from work to relax?

I just enjoy spending time at home. I have five grandchildren and I love being in their company. I also enjoy reading Murder Mysteries by British authors such as Ian Rankin.

What makes you laugh?

Lots of things, myself usually, I try not to take myself too seriously. My grandchildren and their little ways also make me laugh.

What would you put on a headstone?

Circumstances determine our lives but we shape our lives by what we make of our circumstances.



Novus Centre Open for Business

The Novus Centre is the place for budding entrepreneurs to head to for advice on starting or growing their enterprise.

Based in an eye-catching black-clad building on the Conge, Novus is the new home of enterpriseGY the local organisation that has helped 200 new businesses to set-up and seen the creation of more than 300 jobs.

Quite an achievement for an organisation that until now hasn't had a physical presence in the town, but has operated as a 'virtual' programme.

The Novus Centre was opened in May by the Mayor Terry Easter who welcomed the return of the Conge as a place centred around local businesses. In the last century it was home to several popular retailers, and the Novus building was previously a furniture store.

Novus provides a one-stop shop of business advice including business planning and expansion, staff training and market training.

"enterpriseGY is not just about helping existing or fledgling businesses," explained Programme Manager Richard Percy. "We also have more than 2,000 students in secondary education involved in projects to encourage their entrepreneurial skills.

"Almost 600 businesses signed up to Business Watch, which is a scheme to protect business premises. So you can see that we have a range of products on offer."

"By stepping through the door people can begin to achieve their own individual journey towards a more enterprising and secure future," added the Mayor. "And collectively they will have a huge impact on the borough's economic future."

To learn more about enterpriseGY call 0800 458 0146, visit www.enterpriseGy.co.uk or call in at the Novus Centre on the Conge it is open 8.30 to 4.30 Monday to Friday.



Bretts will give a better start

An old crumbling building is to provide a haven for young people starting out in the world.

Bretts warehouse on the corner of Market Row and Howard Street is being developed as flats, with back-up help from several organisations.

The accommodation is aimed mainly at young people who have been in foster care but who are too old to remain there. They need the kind of help most people get from their families - to learn to live in their own home, manage budgets and obtain employment.

Bretts a Grade II listed building, refronted in the 1830's, is being converted to 17 flats including one for a live-in care worker. There will also be a communal area for the youngsters to meet up, and as a welcoming place for other young people who visit to gain help from services also housed in the building.

These will include advice with education and training through organisations such as Norfolk Learning Partnership, as well as someone to consult on avoiding becoming homeless.

"The Council is providing a stepping stone into the world for young people in terms of somewhere decent to live," said Councillor Barry Coleman. "An important part of the project is also to provide a service which will stop other young people from becoming homeless.

"Bretts will provide a mediation centre to give help and advice on problems such as isolation from families, or eviction from present accommodation.

"We want to help break the cycle of homelessness and provide a central hub where young people know they can come for help."

Bretts is the next step in the scheme that saw the old Courts site in Market Row reclaimed and rebuilt to provide homes and retail units.

It is hoped that the Bretts building will be ready for occupation in January.

Changing Times

Since the middle of last year local papers have been full of stories about the Boundary Committee review of local government in Norfolk and Suffolk. Councils in both counties were invited to put forward their proposals for unitary authorities - these are councils that deliver both county and district council services.

Great Yarmouth Borough Council believes that the current structure in Norfolk works perfectly well and made representations to present this view. However, the Boundary Committee was quite clear that they believed a unitary structure for Norfolk (and Suffolk) was feasible and would be putting one forward whether or not individual councils prepared a case.

With this in mind we decided that we had to protect the interests of the people that live within Greater Yarmouth, local businesses and our voluntary and community organisations. We worked together with North Norfolk District, Breckland and Norwich City Councils to put together a proposal for three unitary

authorities in Norfolk: a Coastal Authority (Great Yarmouth, North Norfolk and part of Broadland), a City Authority - Norwich on wider boundaries, and a Country Authority (Breckland, most of South Norfolk and West Norfolk and Kings Lynn). These would be three authorities of similar size in terms of population, which would work together to improve services and provide value for money for local people.

We believe that one council that covers the largest part of the Norfolk coastline, as well as the Norfolk Broads creates the opportunity to improve tourism; to tackle issues of regeneration in seaside towns; to manage coastal erosion and flood risk strategically; to deal with skills

gaps, low pay and below average educational attainment; to improve services for a growing elderly population and to address affordable housing.

By the time you read this article the Boundary Committee is likely to have published its preferred option for both Counties. You will be invited to comment on those proposals. If you would like to know more about Great Yarmouth's response, or want to let us know what you think, contact our Lead Officer - Executive Director Jane Ratcliffe on 01493 846210 e-mail jratcliffe@great-yarmouth.gov.uk or look on the website www.great-yarmouth.gov.uk.



You Said – We Listened

One of the Council's six Corporate Priorities is to ensure that we are totally customer focussed and that customers are at the heart of everything we do. One of ways we aim to achieve this is by consulting with our customers, individually and as a community, and listening to what they say.

"What our residents say is important to us and help to shape the way we deliver services in the future," said Barry Stone. "Obviously, as Cabinet Member for both Customers and Communication this is an issue that is a personal priority to me. I cannot emphasise enough that not only do we value resident's opinions but we also act on them, whether they are through formal channels such as the Citizens' Panel or from a letter or telephone call."

Here are examples of some of the changes we have made at your request:

- You said** Our opening times were not consistent across the Authority. Some offices closed at 4.30pm whilst others opened until 5.00pm
- We did** All our public counters are now open 9.00am – 5.00pm and we don't close for lunch
- You said** You would like to be able to recycle items when you're out and about
- We did** We introduced new street recycling banks at Great Yarmouth Market Place and Gorleston Seafront for newspapers/magazines, plastic bottles and drink cans
- You said** We should be more vigilant in collecting outstanding Council Tax and Business Rates
- We did** At the end of the financial year we have collected 97.1% of the money owing for 2007/8. This is our highest collection rate ever. We will continue to collect the remaining outstanding amounts during this financial year as well as aiming to increase the collection rate for 2008/9.
- You said** We were not processing benefit claims fast enough
- We did** We have introduced a fast-track system which has seen new claimants receive payments in less than a week

Happiness in Great Yarmouth

The views of residents are very important and could make a difference for decades to come.

"The council is keen to hear the views of residents on how they feel about the Borough and the issues which affect their lives" said Barry Stone, Cabinet Member for Communications, Customer Services and Information Technology.

"One of the most successful forums for us to find out what residents think is through the Citizen's Panel. The panel is made up of 1000 residents who represent a cross section of the Borough and the information they provide helps us shape policy on a range of issues ranging from recycling to playgrounds and leisure."

The most recent questionnaire focussed on perceptions of quality of life and this is what the panel had to say. Generally, people living in Great Yarmouth felt just as happy with their quality of life as those living elsewhere in Norfolk.

The key to happiness in Great Yarmouth is being able to get on well with neighbours.

Those who are happy to respect ethnic differences in the community are more likely to be part of the 70% who feel positive about life in the Borough.

Over one third of people who agreed that people from different backgrounds get on well together believe that they will see improvement in their lives over the next four years.

For more information on the Citizens' Panel contact Karla Symonds, Communications Manager 01493 846512 or email krs@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Sean and Thomas Rea enjoying life in Great Yarmouth



Positive Futures

Positive Futures has just that - having been put in the enthusiastic and capable hands of sport's aficionado Marten Payne.

The Home Office funded project is aimed at 12 to 18-year-olds and uses sport to give youngsters from a range of disadvantaged backgrounds, the opportunity to gain confidence and encourage them to look ahead to education, training and employment.

Community Activity Co-ordinator Marten is well known in the Borough for the success of his Active X project, which introduced youngsters to many sports on Gorleston beach from beach football and cricket to kiting.

An active member of the Great Yarmouth Sports Partnership, he took over the Positive Futures contract in April and by May had 20 different activities available to participants.

Marten works with the Youth Service to offer professional coaching in sports as diverse as basketball, football and power kiting to members of youth clubs.

He also teams-up with the Pupil Referral Unit on Magdalen Estate, Gorleston, and one of the practical steps he has taken is to introduce youngsters to becoming rookie beach lifeguards.

Training courses in water safety saw young people receiving certificates during May half term.

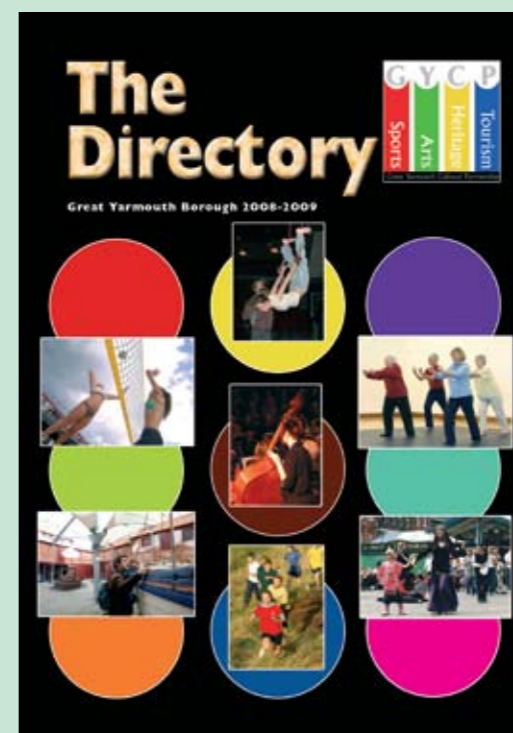
But if you think this energetic young man's horizons stop there, you would be wrong. He is also looking into starting sessions at the Marina Centre for the over 50s which will include fitness sessions, dancing and games.

Mums won't be forgotten either, they will have the opportunity to become their toddlers' personal fitness coaches.

"This is all exciting news," said Councillor Graham Plant. "The borough is offering a range of activities for all ages and abilities. If you pick up a copy of The Directory it lists quite literally hundreds of activities in sports, arts and leisure."

To learn more about Positive Futures or GY Active call Marten Payne on 07766 205746 or visit active-feet.org.uk.

To obtain a copy of The Directory call 01493 846550.



Ageless pursuits

Throw away those carpet slippers and jump into your dancing pumps is the invitation of The Great Yarmouth Older People's Network.

Egyptian dancing is just one of more than 100 activities listed in the Ageless Opportunities Directory of Social Activities for those over 50.

If you fancy something a little less physical - how about bingo, bowls, the arts, walking, chess, coffee mornings or joining a social club.

But if you are game for a sporting challenge there is short-mat bowls, self-defence, exercise, table tennis or line dancing.

It's easy to keep up-to-date with the Network's latest activities as it also has a monthly column in The Advertiser. Look out for a 50+ Funday and other activities to be held during the summer.

"We are always pleased to hear from people with new ideas for activities or those who would like to join," said Ageless Opportunities Development Co-ordinator Kate Platt.

The directory is available free from libraries, GP surgeries, CLIP offices, James Paget and Northgate hospitals, Priory Centre, CLIP offices, or the tourist information office.

The project is managed at the Priory Centre by the Great Yarmouth Community Trust and is funded by the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

To contact Kate Platt call 01493 743055, or 07747 107910, or email kate-platt@gyctrust.co.uk.



Dates for your diary

All dates and times correct at time of going to press. Please check with contacts to confirm details.

School summer holiday Youth sports activity Programme †

A number of diverse and challenging ranges of sporting and activity pastimes including Orienteering, Startrack athletics and Tennis begins on 23rd July.



Fireworks Extravaganza *

Enjoy a free fireworks display every Wednesday evening from 23 July to 27 August. The fun starts at 7.30pm from the Jetty on Great Yarmouth Seafront.

Great Yarmouth Maritime Festival *

The 8th annual festival, celebrating the Borough's seafaring heritage and fishing industry, is being held on 6th and 7th September on Great Yarmouth's South Quay.



Heritage Walks *

To find out more about our Borough's rich and proud history take a guided heritage walks. Walks take place on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays until 26th October.

Black History Month

The launch of Great Yarmouth's Black History Month celebrations starts on October 4th on Great Yarmouth Market Place.

Contact Great Yarmouth International Association Tel: 07876 206762



* Contact 01493 846346 for further information

† Contact 01493 846446 for further information

Go Elephants!

It's not often in Great Yarmouth that you see a life-size baby elephant, but if you did recently your eyes really weren't deceiving you! Local charity SeaChange Arts was one of only a handful of organisations outside of Norwich to successfully apply to be part of Go Elephants! an exciting creative project organised by The Forum Trust and Wild in Art.

Young women from GFS Platform in Great Yarmouth worked with SeaChange Arts' Creative Learning Officer, Corrina Giles, to create a very special East Coast elephant, Ellie Memory. After training from Corrina, the girls handmade felt, and sewed by hand and with machine to provide a colourful and custom-fitted costume for the fibreglass model. Ellie then went on tour, spending a week in the foyer of the Town Hall and in the window of GYFM radio station.

Ellie is now in the foyer of the Norwich Playhouse until 31 August 2008. For more information see

www.go-elephants.co.uk

The Great Yarmouth Go Elephants! Project was supported by Great Yarmouth Borough Council.



Charter Celebrations Continue

The sunshine and the crowds came out to greet HRH Princess Royal as she visited Great Yarmouth in June to help celebrate the Borough's 800th charter anniversary.



"On her visit she talked with many of the thousands of visitors and residents who lined the streets to cheer her." said Councillor Barry Coleman, Leader of the Council. *"Her Royal Highness has shown great interest in the heritage of the town and had a good knowledge of the history of the Town Hall. She was also interested in the relationship between bailiffs and mayors over the centuries."*

For further details on Charter events contact Mayoral and Civic Events Officer Laura Goodman on 01493 846125.