

Flush with pride.....

In April 2016, Yarmouth Town Council took over running the two public toilets in the town from the Isle of Wight Council, to avoid the closure of a very necessary facility for both residents and visitors. As expected, this proved to be a poison chalice, for after years of under-funding and low maintenance, the two blocks were in a shabby state. Yarmouth Town Council has done its best in the face of blockages, mould, leaks and graffiti, but, as they say, you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, and the two blocks remain a poor advertisement for the town.

It's become painfully clear over the last three years that making that silk purse isn't going to be achieved by a constant rearguard action with a low budget. It cost over £16,000 last year just to keep these sub-standard loos operational, and, in spite of spending £3,000 of that on improved drainage and new cisterns at Bridge Road, they still remain an unpleasant place to spend a penny.

However, Shanklin Council has shown that there is a way out, and, in spite of the fact that it's a very expensive one, it shouldn't cost local residents any extra money, though it will be more than a penny a go. Shanklin had the same problem as Yarmouth, but went for a radical solution - it installed semi-automatic, coin-operated modules from Swedish company Danfo, and their public loos are now a matter of civic pride. Yarmouth Council is considering doing the same thing, but, of course, it won't come cheap; a survey has been carried out by Danfo, and the price is going to be around £150,000. After your sharp intake of breath, let me tell you that buys 3 semi-automatic unisex modules and a DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) module installed within the current Bridge Road building, and a complete replacement of the Common toilets with a DDA toilet and a single unisex cubicle. So how will this be achieved at no extra cost? Well, not all at once, of course - Yarmouth Town Council just doesn't have those resources! However, the capital costs can be met by raising a 25-year loan from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb). The interest charges can be covered by charging, say, 20p to all users of the facilities - the two toilets have an annual footfall of around 40,000 - which, together with a projected 50% saving in utility bills and lower maintenance costs, could actually result in LOWER costs to council tax payers! And since most users are visitors, it seems pretty fair they should pay for their use of our conveniences.

Shanklin's experience has been really positive. They've cut their annual spend significantly, they have modern, hygienic toilets with less maintenance and vandalism, and the residents are delighted - they take a real pride in their new loos. If you want to check them out, visit the ones at the top of the Old Village, opposite the bottom of the car park. Don't forget your 20p! coin with you!

Bored riding?

With the help of lot of fund raising by dedicated Yarmouth residents and organisations, Yarmouth Town Council built the new Play Area at the Town Green Recreation Ground, and it's now been up and running since 2016. It seems to have been well received, judging by its popularity with local children! Although those children who were to be the future users of the Play Area were asked what equipment they'd like to have, the Board Rider - that's the big metal hoop with the sliding dolly - hasn't proved too popular, not helped by the theft of the hanging strap. Therefore, Councillors have decided to replace the Board Rider with a triple swings unit - 2 swings for older children and a cradle swing - and move the Board Rider to the newly-cleared and grassed meadow on the other side of the field, where, it's hoped, funds permitting, to install play equipment for older children and maybe grown-up ones.

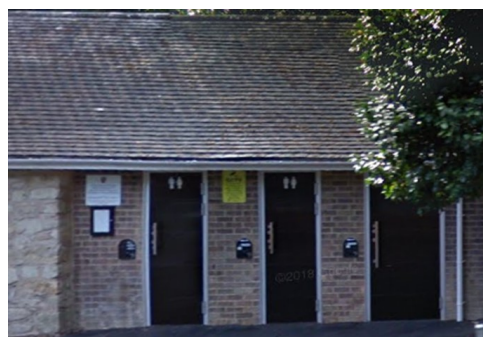
D-Day Celebrations

To mark the 75th anniversary of D-Day, Yarmouth Town Council is organising an afternoon tea party on June 6th at CHOYD for those of Yarmouth and Thorley who were around when it happened, - invitations will be going out soon. WW2 artefacts will be on display in the town and harbour, such as a motor torpedo boat, and celebrations and music continuing over the following weekend for all to enjoy.



Inside a Danfo Modulet 120 DDA compliant

Inside a Danfo Modulet 120



This is how Bridge Road could look with Danfo Modulet 120



This is how The Common toilets could look with a Danfo Tetragon 110 unit

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If you'd like to have your say about these proposals, or want to find out more about them, come along to the Annual Town Meeting at CHOYD on May 21st at 6:30pm.

Child Employment Licensing

The Isle of Wight Council is trying to raise awareness to local residents, businesses and employers to ensure that employers are making every effort to follow the law and protect the children working for them. If you'd like more information, please visit www.iow.gov.uk/council/OtherServices/Child-Employment/Child-Employment.

Yarmouth Times

The newsletter of Yarmouth Town Council

Annual Town Meeting 2019

Once again, it's your chance to meet Yarmouth Town Councillors, ask them questions and generally have your say about what goes on in Yarmouth and Thorley. Usually this happens in April, but this year it's been put back to May to allow YTC to put together a major plan for the town and tell you all about it at the Meeting.

Local organisations will also each give a talk about what they've been up to throughout the last year, and what they plan to do in the coming one. This year, Councillors would like to tell you about their plans for a major overhaul of the town's public loos and get your opinion about the proposals—see below.

So make a date for 6:30pm on Tuesday May 21st at CHOYD in St James Street. See you there!

Yarmouth Pier

Last year, Yarmouth Harbour started a major refurbishment on the much-loved Pier, not only carrying out necessary refurbishment work on the ancient structure, but also improvements to the facilities to provide a richer experience for residents and visitors.

The greenheart piles had been eaten away by gribbleworm and the affected timbers needed replacing. This project is nearly complete, 54 wooden piles having been replaced at a cost of £800,000. Underwater cameras have been installed, the roundhouse has been reinstated and will soon be open with interactive screens to allow all those visiting the pier to see what's going on beneath them.

Yarmouth Rec

Now that the Rec has a nice new play area, which Yarmouth Town Council is planning to supplement by using the meadow (see below), there's the question of what we do with the bit in between.

This, together with the sadly dilapidated Pavilion, have now been relinquished by the football club, so Councillors, together with Yarmouth Town Trust, would like to know what your ideas are for this area. What sports or other uses would you suggest the football pitch is used for?

Enclosed with this newsletter is a slip which we'd like you to fill in and send back to us at CHOYD with your suggestions. **One lucky person who responds will win a £50 voucher to spend at a local restaurant!**

