



# The Yarmouth Isle of Wight Town Council

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT CHOYD ON TUESDAY 24TH APRIL 2018 AT 6:30 pm

**PRESENT:** Councillors S Cowley (Town Mayor), J Jackson, J Allen, D McCleary, R Corbett, G Head, P Cronin

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Brian Jacobs (Town Clerk), Dr Ruth Waller MCiFA (A Pier's Tale), Richard Leonard (Yarmouth Town Trust), Fran Chard (Yarmouth Society), Sylvia Mence (CHOYD) and 12 members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr S Devine, Cnty Cllr S Hutchinson

### 1. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed all present to the Yarmouth and Thorley Town Meeting, and introduced the Councillors in attendance and the Clerk.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON APR 18th 2017

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on April 18th 2017 be taken as read, confirmed and signed as being an accurate record of the proceedings.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

None were raised

### 4. PRESENTATION OF 'A PIER'S TALE'

Dr Ruth Waller MCiFA presented 'A Pier's Tale' about the history of Yarmouth Pier

### 5. REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor Steve Cowley presented a report based on the written document (Appendix 1 attached). The Mayor expressed thanks to the Recreation Ground Committee, local residents, organisations and Yarmouth Town Trust for their continued help in completing the Play Area refurbishment.

### 6. REPORT FROM THE WIGHT RURAL WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

A member of the police team did not attend, and the Clerk read out the recent Newsletter (Appendix 2).

### 7. REPORT OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL MEMBER

In the absence of Isle of Wight Councillor Stuart Hutchinson delivered his report, which appears as Appendix 3.

### 8. REPORT OF THE YARMOUTH TOWN TRUST

Richard Lennard, on behalf of Martyn Collinson, Chairman of Yarmouth Town Trust spoke to the written report (Appendix 4).

A member of the public asked if YTT was responsible for repairing damage to the Sea Wall, to which the answer was 'no'.

**9. REPORT FROM YARMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSION.**

A member of Yarmouth Harbour Commission read out a report from the Harbour Commissioner, and is shown at Appendix 5.

**10. REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY HALL FOR YARMOUTH AND DISTRICT (CHOYD)**

The report for CHOYD was presented by Sylvia Mence (Appendix 6).

**11. REPORT ON THE YARMOUTH CARNIVAL COMMITTEE**

Chris Waddington, Chairman of the YCC presented a report, which is shown in Appendix 7

**12. REPORT ON THE YARMOUTH SOCIETY AND YARMOUTH CEMETERY**

Fran Chard read out a report on the activities of the Yarmouth Society, and Yarmouth Cemetery (Appendix 8).

**13 TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

As no written resolutions had been received the Mayor thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

**Signed..... Date.....**

**STEVE COWLEY, TOWN MAYOR**

## **Appendix 1**

### **Mayors annual report 2018 ATM**

A busy year; pleased with some work completed but frustrated that there is always more to do, especially as far as the public toilets.

Having been evicted from the Police Station we now have an office in CHOYD where the Clerk is available on Tuesday and Thursday morning 10.30 – 12.30. Tuesday morning coincides with the CHOYD coffee morning so a good time to see our Clerk and meet other locals.

We have applied to the IWC to put the right of way over Friars Lane, one of Yarmouth's old 'sea lanes', on the definitive map. Many thanks to Rod Corbett and Peter Scott for gathering user evidence statements from about 50 people from the Town. Despite this weight of evidence, it might take the IWC up to 2 years before they consider the application!

The Town Council working with the Town Trust have now completed work on the Play Area at the Rec. We are grateful for additional funding from the Delphie Lakeman Memorial Trust (John Caulcutt) and Gift Aid from earlier donations for the Street and donors signage. The board rider at the eastern end has not proved very popular so it is planned to be replaced with a swing. We are now planning to clear part of the area to the south of the football pitch for an additional swing and more fruit trees.

We are still waiting on the Football Club to progress the refurbishment of the old pavilion.

Thanks go to the Recreation Ground Committee and their chair Peter Cronin.

Since our decision last year to promote the 'Clean Seas' initiative, we are working with the Harbour Commission and Yarmouth Primary School to raise awareness of this issue with the Community.

The Toilets taken over from the IWC remain a drain on our resources. It is unfortunate the toilets themselves do not drain properly. We are planning some works to alleviate this problem; we have set aside an additional £5,000 for improvements this year. Thanks to Jamie and Peter for their proposal to fix the problems in the Bridge Road toilets.

There have been regular meetings with the Parish Councils of the West Wight to discuss issues of common concern. A meeting has been proposed with the Leader of the IWC to address the lack of funding for the West Wight community, particularly the West Wight Sports and Community Centre

I am pleased to report that we have a full complement of Councillors following the co-option of 2 new members for the Thorley ward, Sue Devine and Gill Head, who are actively engaging with the residents of Thorley. All the Yarmouth Councillors are very active in keeping me informed about any Yarmouth issues, so that I do not miss anything.

I am really pleased that the new Local Heroes Orchard at the Mount is coming to fruition, we had our first apples last year. Apple blossom soon!

### **Appendix 2: Wight Rural West Neighbourhood Policing Team**

The West Wight Neighbourhood Team are responsible for dealing with incidents which present threat, risk, or harm to members of the community or their property, and situations which may give opportunity to those who would commit criminal offences.

Our aim is to help and protect the most vulnerable people in our community through education, engagement, prevention, protection and prosecution. We work with a number of key partners in order to achieve this, with the objectives of keeping our community a safe place to live and work.

We regularly attend community events and actively engage with the public to find out what their priorities are and what they think we should be concentrating on in the local area.

Our recent priorities were:

- 1) Speeding
- 2) Burglary
- 3) Criminal Damage

Burglary became a concern over the summer months across the island with a number of series and suspects being investigated. The West Wight area was particularly affected in Rookley, Arreton and Wroxall. These Burglaries have now stopped following the arrest and detention of various individuals.

Criminal Damage is more sporadic and is focussed around youth anti-social behaviour. It is more difficult to predict when and where this will occur as the offence is often opportunist rather than targeted. Freshwater and Totland have seen the highest rates of damage across the West Wight area, however these are significantly lower than other towns. Yarmouth has seen damage to the bird hide and evidence suggests these are youths from other towns visiting the area. It is often public buildings which get damaged and the whole community can assist us by being vigilant and reporting suspicious individuals or behaviour. We have targeted a number of people suspected of damage leading to prosecutions and other disposals, however our aim is to work in partnership with schools, the Youth Offending Team and Children's Services to reduce the causes of damage.

Freshwater and Totland now has a new Neighbourhood officer in PC Martin Egerton. He knows the area well and is one of the most experienced officers on the island. He will continue to work with PCSO Mike Thornton and we also welcome back PCSO Carrie Samson following her maternity leave. This will ensure extra visibility from my team in Freshwater and Totland in preparation for the summer months.

The new priorities identified across the area are as follows:

- 1) Traffic related anti – social behaviour. (To include speeding/obstruction/manner of driving)
- 2) Youth related anti-social behaviour.
- 3) To identify and protect vulnerable members of the community reducing their opportunities of becoming a victim or potential offender.

The majority of requests were for speeding to be our main priority followed by parking issues. These issues do affect people on a day to day basis and it reflects on what a safe area we live and work that violence, drugs or burglary are not top of the list. As I have previously stated the role of my team is to identify and deal with the most serious harm being caused to victims by offenders and to work in partnership to reduce this. Having said this we will work with partner organisations to reduce the impact of speeding in our community.

Speeding motorcyclist on the Military Road have been identified as the largest concern by the community. Speed checks have been done on the Military Road and engagement and education

with riders to improve skills and knowledge. We will be running a number of speed campaigns throughout the year and “Bike Safe” events with the intention to educate riders further. Key indicators suggest the majority of bike accidents occur at junctions in lower speed areas, however I appreciate the dangers and impact of an accident at high speed. To manage this situation further a traffic liaison officer will work with my team.

Attached to this newsletter is a link to the survey monkey which will enable us to continually review and update priorities. Can I request that you circulate this link widely and encourage others to complete. If your priorities change you can complete a further survey. Can I also reassure you that we recognise competing demands and you can have confidence that we deal with all the other issues that affect our neighbourhood.

Finally I would just like to thank all the councillors for their commitment to the community and my team for the hard work and dedication over the last year. Community partnerships have led to many successes which improve the quality of people’s life and the environment in which we live and work. Report to Calbourne, Shalfleet and Yarmouth Annual Parish Meetings 2017  
West Wight Ward is the largest on the Island and covers 14 separate communities from Yarmouth in the west to Mark's Corner and Thorness Bay in the east, within the parishes of Calbourne, Shalfleet and Yarmouth. This report covers the work I do as an Island County Councillor and within the ward.

Once again a difficult financial year. Sadly I have had to say this every year since first being elected in 2011 and I doubt it will improve for a few more years yet.

We continue to rely heavily on charities and volunteers to help support many services. The costs of Adult Social Care continue to grow, and because this Island has a very substantial proportion of frail elderly people, the annual increase in cost swallows up the 3% increase in council tax raised specifically to pay for it. In the coming 3 financial years government has allocated the Island Council an addition £6.5 M on top of that, which will primarily be used to change the way in which services are delivered. This Council puts more of its elderly folk into care homes than any of our neighbouring councils. It's often not what residents or their families want, and it's the most expensive option.

However not all news is bad, and I'm pleased to say that the Highways network is improving rapidly. Every month we see upgraded roads, the latest being a substantial length of the main road from Newport to Yarmouth which of course is the most heavily trafficked road in the Ward. We have also seen real improvements in the broadband service for most households in the ward as part of the Rural Intervention project, jointly funded by the Council and Government.

As well as Island Council meetings I have served on the Appeals Committee, Employment Committee, Scrutiny Committee and Pensions Committee. For the last year until January, I was also Chairman of the Audit Committee and was pleased to receive an “unqualified” (that is to say fault free) report from the independent district auditors on how the Council accounts for and manages its money.

Locally, I continue to serve on the Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee and the Yarmouth Flood Defence Working Group.

To keep in touch with issues in the ward, I attend and report to the meetings of the Town Council and the two Parish Councils and attend local social events as often as I can, though much less frequently than I would like.

I write a regular monthly column for the Yarmouth and Freshwater Magazine, which always carries my contact details and an invitation to contact me if there are issues I can help with. Those details are also printed each month in the local Parish magazines.

I'm pleased that during the year I have been able to assist many individual residents and businesses with a range of issues, from planning to housing, to highways, social care and education.

I have quarterly meetings with the Chief Executive and senior staff of Wightlink and Red Funnel and support the initiatives to create regular dialogue between them and customers.

In mid-January, the Leader of the Council and his deputy resigned unexpectedly. In my 40 years of Government service with many Councils I have never known this to happen, especially so close to an election.

At the January Council Meeting the Council elected a new Leader and he put together a cross party interim administration to take the Council through to the elections next month. I was appointed as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources. The downside to that was that I had overall responsibility for putting together the 2017/18 council budget, with just two weeks in which to do it.

That means that if there are parts of it you don't like, or the cuts are in the wrong place, you can safely blame me!

### **Appendix 3: West Wight Ward**

West Wight Ward is the largest on the Island and covers 14 separate communities from Yarmouth in the west to Mark's Corner and Thorness Bay in the east, within the parishes of Calbourne, Shalfleet and Yarmouth. This report covers the work I do as an Island County Councillor and within the ward.

At the elections in May last year, there was a change of control of the Island Council and I was appointed as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources.

That means I have responsibility for the Council's finances, its property assets, personnel functions, fleet management, legal services, democratic services (that includes managing committees, elections, and the upcoming boundary review) and lastly the Council's three harbours. And of course, as Deputy my task is to assist the Leader and I regularly stand in for him at joint meetings and in discussions with Ministers.

In particular during the year I have been working with colleagues to more effectively manage the savings we know the Council has to find over the next three budget years, reducing the savings target next year from £9.3M to £5.5M; still a lot of money, but more manageable.

We continue to rely heavily on charities and volunteers to help support many services. The costs of Adult Social Care continue to grow, and because this Island has a very substantial proportion of frail elderly people, the annual increase in cost swallows up the 3% increase in council tax raised specifically to pay for it. Last year I reported that the Island Council placed more of its elderly residents into care homes than any other in the region. I'm pleased to say that we have been able to change that and now, more rapid assessment on leaving hospital and a comprehensive care package has allowed residents to return to their own homes, where most would rather be. IWC is now being cited nationally as an example of good practice.

Our Highways network continues to improve and by the end of the core investment period, which has another two years to run, every Island Road and pavement will have been brought up to a high standard. It then will be maintained at that standard for the next 20 years.

Following on from last year's improvements in the broadband service for most households in the ward as part of the £5M Rural Intervention project, jointly funded by the Council and Government, we have managed to attract a further £35M of government grant and private investment. This will again improve our connectivity and help to support business, which is essential for our economy to thrive. That improvement in connectivity was one of the reasons Ascensos moved to the Island from the mainland last September, creating 400 new jobs.

I have regular meetings with the Chief Executive and senior staff of Wightlink and Red Funnel, with members of the Chamber of Commerce and representatives of the many Charities that support Island residents

Locally, I continue to serve on the Yarmouth Harbour Advisory Committee and the Yarmouth Flood Defence Working Group.

To keep in touch with issues in the ward, I attend and report to the meetings of the Town Council and the two Parish Councils and attend local social events as often as I can, though much less frequently than I would like.

I write a regular monthly column for the Yarmouth and Freshwater Magazine, which always carries my contact details and an invitation to contact me if there are issues I can help with. Those details are also printed each month in the local Parish magazines.

Most importantly I'm always available to residents of the ward to offer advice, guidance and support to help resolve issues they have with any Council service.

I'm pleased that during the year I have been able to assist many individual residents and businesses with a range of problems, from planning to housing, to highways, social care and education. My only regret is that having accepted the roles described above in managing the Council, it takes so much time that I cannot always respond as fast as I did when just being a ward Councillor – the upside is that when I do seek help for residents from Council officers it does get dealt with quickly.

#### **Appendix 4: Yarmouth Town Trust**

The Town Trust's main priorities have continued to be: -

The Town Hall

Mill Road cottages

Recreation Ground/Children's Play Area

Archives/Website

The Common including the benches and monitoring the condition of the Seawall.

Graveyard Copse – maintained at Trust's expense, then reimbursed by DLMT

**1. Financial Matters:** (a) The annual accounts of the Town Trust will be considered by the trustees at their next meeting on the 14th May. There are not expected to be any unpleasant surprises. Once the accounts have been approved by the trustees, they will be sent as usual to the Charity Commission and eventually appear on the Charity Commission's website. The items of a significant nature have been the renovation of number 9 and 10 Mill Road Cottages.

(b) - The Town Hall was used on 182 days during the year ended 31 March 2018, compared with 185 days in the previous year and 191 the year before that.

**2. The Town Hall:** We continue to monitor the condition of the War Memorial where some decay is inevitable.

**3. Mill Road Cottages:** As most people know the rentals from the Mill Road cottages are the Town Trust's only income, excluding any donations that are received from the Public or other Charities, and modest bank interest.

Number 9 was found to need considerably more work than had been expected and a major renovation project has now been completed. The Trustees took the view that it was better to completely restore the premises to a high standard while it was vacant rather than put off some parts until later. The Trust is most grateful to the Herapath Shenton Trust for its generous donation towards this work.

Following a similar inspection number 10 was also found to require a significant amount of work and this has now also been completed. Again our thanks go out to the Herapath Shenton Trust for its generous donation towards this work.

**4. The Recreation Ground/Renewed Children's Play Area:** Renewed Children's Play Area: The Town Trust has continued to support and work with the Town Council to further enhance this important project, which is now in operation. The renewed play area has been a great success and well used. One item has been used much less than the others and it is now proposed to sell and replace the "board rider" with swings as local demand has suggested these will be more suitable for young children.

Fencing to the North Side: £7,154.27 was donated to the Town Trust for the Recreation Ground from the money raised at the Queen's Gala Award Evening held by John Caulcutt at the Towers. This, together with help on the ground from Trustees and Councillors, has enabled the re-fencing of the boundary, which was completed last year.

The Existing Sports Pavilion: This building is no longer fit for purpose and will be closed before the summer. Outline proposals for replacing/refurbishing it have been drawn up and these have received initial approval "in principle" from the Town Trust and the Town Council. The Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners have committed £2,500 to support this new project as have the Town Trust. Further fund raising efforts will continue and it is hoped to begin this project by the end of the summer.

**5. Website Upgrade:** In Phase 1, approximately 370 photographs have been put up on the Town Trust Website, and more will be following.

Phase 2 has begun and involves the loading of documents. It is a time consuming project that moves forward at a slow but steady pace.

**6. The Common:** The physical condition of each memorial bench on the common continues to be monitored. On-going maintenance work will be carried out as necessary to keep the benches in good order. Our thanks go to Jenny Jackson for taking over this area from Sylvia Mence and to her and Mike Dorey for their continued hard work in this area.

The state of the sea wall continues to give cause for real concern and the Trust continues to correspond with the IWC and the Crown Estates about this issue.

**7. Trustees:** During the year John May replaced Sue Poston who was appointed a Harbour Commissioner, Mike Dorey was re-appointed by the Town Council and Jenny Jackson replaced Sylvia Mence as a Town Council appointee.

Special thanks were given to Sylvia and Sue for their service and commitment to the work of the Town Trust.

The present trustees are: John Caulcutt, Rodney Corbett, Steve Cowley, Mike Dorey, Richard Leonard, Jenny Jackson, Bernie Tucker, John May and myself.

## **Appendix 5: Yarmouth Harbour Commission**

The Commissioners strategic plan aims to take Yarmouth Harbour safely from 2018 to 2035 to ensure that future generations have a sound asset. Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners will do this by ensuring revenue does not drop; that unnecessary expenditure is reduced; that essential maintenance is continued; and that sufficient reserves are built up to fund the capital works required; and finally, by carrying out these capital works. The Commissioners will continue to manage, develop and operate the port facilities and services responsibly for the sustainable economic growth of the harbour and prosperity of the Isle of Wight, and in particular the West Wight area, whilst preserving the natural beauty, character and charm of the surrounding environment. The Harbours goal is to be the destination of choice for yachtsmen visiting the Solent and to satisfy the needs and exceed the expectations of our resident berth holders, commercial operators and all of our other customers and stakeholders.

2017 was a year that demonstrated how weather dependent is the core business of the harbour, and how valuable the development of the moorings for long term visitors are - both to the harbour and to Yarmouth businesses as our stakeholders. Visitors to the harbour remain a vital part of our business, and we look forward to welcoming more visitors - and new visitors - as this season progresses. However, the increase of berths available to long term visitors allows us to hedge against the possibility of inclement weather and, because of the more effective utilisation of berthing space, we are not reducing the moorings that we do have to offer our daily

visitors. The number of yacht visits to the harbour increased by 10% in 2017, a total of 42,194.

We continue to prepare for the future by ensuring that we have funds, or plans, for the necessary and essential works and liabilities for the harbour.

Our largest single commitment this coming year will be the work to the pier; At this stage of the works, things are going well, and the pier is on target to be reopened for use at the end of July 2018 with the official opening in August. As such a prominent feature in Yarmouth, we are proud to be able to deliver both the refurbishment and the wider Pier's Tale project with welcome assistance from the Heritage Lottery.

As ever, a huge amount of thanks needs to go to all of the staff in the harbour, and to the stakeholders for their continued support.

For more information please visit us at the AGM on the 8th June at 6pm here at CHOYD. 18th April 2017

### **Finance**

Turnover in comparison to 2015 shows a decrease of 2.5%. However, operating Profit shows an increase of 12%.

Visiting boat numbers for 2016

Visitor boat numbers for 2016 show an increase of 13% or 4,288 boats in comparison to 2015 figures.

Rally bookings for 2016 show an increase of 21% and sailing school visits increased by 37%.

The total number of visits including short stays and long term visitors amounted to 38,421.

### **Harbour works**

In April 2016 Mayhew Callum structural engineers were instructed by the Commissioners to carry out a visual inspection and prepare a report on the condition of the existing breakwater structure.

The purpose of the report was to inspect the structure in more detail than has previously been carried out during the three yearly infrastructure reviews and as far as possible give a realistic assessment of the likely residual life of the structure, together with recommendations for remedial and maintenance works to be carried out in order to extend the life of the structure.

The conclusion was that if remedial and repair works to the steel structure are carried out and subsequently maintained, it is considered that the residual life of the structure can be extended for at least the next 25 years.

Replacement of timber sleepers will be an ongoing maintenance requirement throughout the life of the structure.

The breakwater has now been put onto a rolling maintenance programme which is by far the most cost efficient option.

Further details of the harbour operations throughout 2016 will be presented at the Commissioners Annual General Meeting on the 31st May at 1800 at the RSYC.

#### **Appendix 6: REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY HALL OF YARMOUTH AND DISTRICT**

I am pleased to present the report of the Community Hall on behalf of the Trustees.

This community facility, having been proposed by local people in the Community Plan of 2009, became a reality with premises in July 2015. Since then it has been proved that there is a need for the Hall, its finances are sustainable, and volunteer help has come forward.

The need for a meeting place open to all is proved by the variety and number of events and activities using the Hall. These include monthly talks organised by the Yarmouth Society and the River Club, weekly Yoga and Tai Chi, very successful weekly drop-in Tuesday Coffee Mornings, parties for families and friends, and a venue for local committee meetings and the Town Council, whose Clerk now has an Office in the Hall. Children's activities include a weekly Mums, Bumps and Babies group, use by the Primary School, a popular monthly Messy Church, and a Super Kids self-defence group for 4 – 12 year olds. Five or six charities use the Hall for fund raising events and various support organisations attend the Tuesday Coffee Mornings. A group of mainly West Wight artists and small traders used the premises during last year's Yarmouth Old Gaffers Festival and we also host two week-ends in the annual Isle of Wight Open Studios of artists in July.

Fund raising events for the upkeep of the Hall include a monthly Community Quiz night, a Curry Night, and an evening of Music and Hot Dogs. An important part of our income is from the surplus profits of the Bar. As we are a charity the Bar is run by an independent company and is open two evenings weekly when Snooker, Pool and Darts are available and also open on request for hirings.

Many of our booking enquiries are made via our website ([www.choyd.org.uk](http://www.choyd.org.uk)) which has a detailed Events Diary. We are also supporting a new website for all Yarmouth events set up by Trustee Kevin Shaw and administered by Denise Cronin ([www.yarmouthevents.info](http://www.yarmouthevents.info)).

Generous donations were greatly appreciated in 2017 from the Harbour Commissioners, the Town Council and the Wednesday Girls which, together with earlier donations from the yacht club's Yarmouth One Design Class and anonymous donors, were used to refurbish the Toilets in August. We are indebted to Jules and Sarah Russell who project managed that refurbishment and contributed their skills and labour without charge.

The 2016 refurbishment of the kitchen, again funded by generous donors mentioned in last year's report, has proved its worth for many hirings requiring light refreshments, for cooked meals such as a Harvest Lunch, and recently for two events each cooking for approximately 95 people. One of these was a charity event run by the Needles Coastwatch Institution in December. The other was a January Thank You Supper, organised by John Caulcutt and Steve Cowley, for the volunteers of over 10 local organisations who make an invaluable contribution to our community.

Our 3rd Annual General Meeting will be on Thursday 14 June at 7pm and, once again, our annual accounts have been passed by an external auditor. Finance remains an important item on the Agenda of the Trustees, an annual Budget is set, and we have been able to follow the guidance of the Charity Commission in establishing an appropriate Reserves Fund. As in many voluntary organisations today, we value highly our many helpers but we would like to have more. The sustainability of the Community Hall is as dependent on volunteers as on sound finances. Please get in touch if you or someone you know would like to join in.

#### **Appendix 7: Yarmouth Carnival Committee**

Thank you very much for asking me to report once again on the annual events organised and run by The Yarmouth Carnival Committee.

We are ably assisted by a small band of willing helpers throughout the year, without who's help it would be very difficult to continue. I would also like to thank local businesses, residents and visitors for their continued support. We like to help local charities like the Earl Mountbatten Hospice and Yarmouth School when funds permit.

In August, the 107th Carnival Week was held and for the first time in a few years there was no theme. This proved to be popular and despite the weather, it was a very successful week culminating in a very good Carnival Parade with many local family entries taking part in the procession through the town. I believe it caused a small traffic jam!

We decided last year to cancel the Carnival Website and to start a Carnival Facebook page instead, this proved to be very helpful with keeping people informed and aware of what we were doing. I'm sure it encouraged more people to enter the carnival parade. William Kingston was voted the 'Spirit of Carnival'.

As traditional, the Guy Fawkes Party was held on the Sunday the 5th of November and was well attended. Extra car parking space was offered on the Green by Yarmouth Harbour Commissioners together with the overflow car park courtesy of Wightlink. The County Council were very helpful and agreed, that for the first time we could ask for donations towards parking in the River Road Car Park. £684 was collected from all car parking, which together with donations, a total of just over £2,000 was raised to help towards the cost of the Firework display. (£6500)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank The Yarmouth Town Council, The Town Trust and the Police once again, without you all it would be impossible to run these events.

Carols in the Square was once again very well attended, the tree looked lovely, the weather stayed dry and the carols were wonderfully sung by all.

A solo, of the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City, was sung by a young, Millie Pointer.

All accompanied by the Isle of Wight Salvation Army Band and led by the Band Master Lt Rodney Bean. The Yarmouth School children joined the Slipshod Singers and several read the Christmas lessons brilliantly.

Father Christmas, always a very popular visitor, also found some time to deliver his presents.

Over £980 in donations was given to the Earl Mountbatten Hospice.

The final event of 2017 was the very popular Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch held at the Royal Solent Yacht Club on Wednesday 13 December when 73 guests ate a traditional Christmas Lunch prepared by the kitchen staff of the RSYC, after which we all sang a selection of seasonal Christmas songs to finish off. The Carnival Committee members laid the tables, served the guests and cleared away. Much of the food and wine was kindly donated by the various suppliers to the Yacht Club. Remaining costs were borne by the Delphi Lakeman Trust and as usual the Carnival Committee are truly grateful to all who contributed.

For the first time this lovely event was recorded on video by Alan Benns.

We also gave a token of our appreciation to Mary Smith, a loyal member of staff at the Royal Solent who always was there to help our team with setting up the tables. As she was retiring at the end of March.

The Mayors award was presented to the Wednesday Girls for all their charity work, and I was extremely privileged to receive the 'Freedom of Yarmouth'. I would like to thank you all once again; it was something that I will always treasure.

The first events of 2018 have already taken place or not as the case maybe,

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races due to be held on 13 February were cancelled due to the awful weather.

The Easter Saturday Duck Race was held on the river, on the 31st of March – slightly marred by weather again, prior to the event. It seemed that this together with an early Easter meant that not so many people were around. Even so in the end it was well attended and enjoyed by all.

16 Corporate Ducks raced, 'Doddy Duck' won

1,000 'baby ducks' were launched and finished in under 6 minutes.

The Best Dressed Corporate Duck was 'Plumptious Pintail, as voted on Destination Yarmouth Face Book page.

I would like to thank Nick Taylor for all his help with this.

Thanks must also go to Yarmouth Sailing Club for their hospitality on the day. The spread of tea and cakes was amazing.

Thanks is a small word but means a lot, without all the support given by the wonderful community here in Yarmouth, we could not do what we do for Yarmouth. We appreciate it very much.

## **Appendix 8: Yarmouth Society Report**

Our paid up membership this year is 153 of which 13 are new members and six no longer attend because of age or infirmity . This year we have attracted more visitors because of specific topics, three from Brighstone which is very gratifying. Mal Butler is our speaker secretary and has worked hard to secure some varied and interesting speakers this year.

Our committee remains largely unchanged but I am delighted to report that Kevin Shaw joined us in December and has already proved to be an invaluable committee member, not only because of his skill and knowledge of technology. The rest of us are pretty clueless! Kevin is arranging the purchase of a microphone which the society is donating to CHOYD for use at our future meetings but will be available to all other organisations for their use at meetings too. This year on several occasions we have been reliant on Kevin to set up his own equipment for use by various speakers for their presentations . Investigations indicate that for approximately £500 an interactive white screen and CD player could be purchased for use in the hall. The committee voted at their last meeting in March to offer £150 from our funds towards this purchase should CHOYD committee decide to do this.

Last year I was able to report a very successful venture with the FYT bus. This worked very well and I would like to record the Society's thanks to Michael Craig and his excellent team for their cooperation. Unfortunately this year there were not enough members wanting to make use of this service so it is currently in suspension till such time as we have sufficient members who do. I also reported some loss of income to the society as Wightlink withdrew their willingness to display our Heritage Booklets at the ferry office and Holdings were also reluctant to do so . At our last committee meeting Kevin generously offered to edit the booklet, originally written by Geoff Cotton many years ago. Changes to use of buildings in the town and in some cases demolition of properties have rendered the booklet out of date and sad looking. With the planned revamp and new cover and photographs it should look more appealing and hopefully more outlets will be happy to display it for us. I have amended about one hundred of the old ones and Peter, who runs the Southern Vectis Booth at the bus station on the harbour has enthusiastically taken a hundred copies, some of which a colleague has taken to display at Southampton. We hope the new booklet will in time be displayed at the castle and Warners at Norton Grange.

We are grateful to the Town Council for its continued support.

## **CEMETERY REPORT**

There have been approximately nine burials and burials of cremated remains during the year. The grass cutting is carried out by Brighstone Landscaping four times each year on contract. and St James Church is grateful to Yarmouth Town Council for their financial support towards the costs of maintaining the cemetery.

Island Roads wrote to the Rev Mark Watson in February 2017 to ask that the overhanging branches along the cemetery boundary on Tennyson Road be cut back because they were a hazard to buses and other vehicles. We were given fourteen days to comply with the order otherwise Island Roads would deal with it and send the church the bill. I traced the boundary carefully; it passes through the thicket there and I marked with white paint the branches which were our

responsibility. Max Berryman undertook the work for the church within ten days. It is interesting to note that all the remaining overhanging branches have yet to be dealt with.....

Two gifts to report: the Cronin family have donated a very smart set of wrought iron gates to replace the old ones which no longer hung properly. They were made specially by a family member from Hythe and erected at no cost to the church. We note that everyone passing through now takes care to close the gate properly. At the same time the Chandler family of Victoria Road donated a bench seat sited half way along the path between Tennyson Road and High Street in memory of Mrs Marjorie Chandler. The PCC and members of St James are very grateful for these welcome additions to the cemetery. Mr Les Pitman has fitted new locks to the Mortuary Door where the electric mower and strimmer are kept and Mr David Mears has fitted a new stop cock and tap to the leaking water tap in the cemetery, free of charge. Our thanks are due to both of them.