

Newsletter Number 40



LAST MEETING

TUESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER at 7.30pm

THE PLACE: THE NEW UNIVERSITY LEARNING CENTRE IN THE OLD PALMERS
Illustrated Presentation by Natasha Hayes, Executive Officer of GYBC

THE PLACE.

By Natasha Hayes, Executive Director of Place for the Great Yarmouth Borough Council

12 November 2024

The Conversion of the old Palmers Department Store into the The Place which will house the University Learning Centre and the Library is costing eighteen and a half million pounds and is funded by grants from the Future High Street Fund, the Town Deal, Norfolk County Council and the University of Suffolk with East Coast College. The building is composed of five main buildings with 10 different roofs. During the work several unexpected finds were made and inflation means that the building will be about £1M over budget.

The windows will be double or triple glazed and many measures are being undertaken to reduce heat loss. It will be powered completely by electricity and there will be solar panels and air heat pumps. There will be no gas.

It is planned that work will be completed on 20 February 2025 giving three weeks for fitting out. The old library will close on 17 March and staff will move into The Place along with staff from East Coast College.

Education progressive pathways are being planned as well as a big launch by a prominent person.

Morgan Sindall, the builders, have taken on some recent graduates, brick layers and T level students one of whom won the national student of the year prize.

Great attention has been paid to the materials being used and colour coordination. Births, marriages and deaths will be registered here and weddings and other functions will be able to take place in the building.

There has been much discussion about having a coffee shop in the building as the restaurant in the old Palmers was such a sociable place. However, the planners do not want to be in

competition with local cafes and restaurants and studies have been done which suggests that it would not be profitable. However the matter will be kept under review and there will be a small area for drinks.

This is a really great project making use of a well known and old building in the town and helping to raise the education abilities and aspirations of the local population. It will also bring more people into the town centre.

A visit to The Place has been arranged for 2 December but all places have been taken up.

FUTURE MEETINGS PLANNED but still awaiting confirmation of dates

Rupert Lowe, MP

Bishop of Thetford on the problems he sees in the town and their solutions

Franziska Callaghan, Conservation Officer for the Borough

MARKET PLACE UPDATE

The other week I went to a discussion about progress on the Market Place. It is disappointing how slowly the work is progressing but apparently various pipes and cables have been unearthed which has slowed things down. In addition inflation has eaten into the budget so apart from new seating and lighting there will be only one new tree and two planters. I think we need to see what it looks like when it is completed and then perhaps we could assess the situation and make suggestions about how to improve it and raise funds for it.

THE IRON DUKE

A couple of weeks ago I attended a meeting giving an update on progress with the Iron Duke. The leaking roof is fixed and the designs for the interior seemed impressive keeping in tune with its previous Art Decor style. There will be two restaurants and upstairs there will be two flats for hiring out to holiday makers.

STREET SAFETY AND LITTER PICKING

Each Tuesday morning at a 10 am a small group meets at St. George's Theatre and carries out litter picking in the town and dealing with weeds. It is getting rather late in the year for spraying weeds but some seedlings are starting to grow and last week we sprayed most of the areas in the town centre and Rows. After two of the sessions we had talks with a policeman and a town hall official about antisocial behaviour. A new Public Spaces Protection Order has just been published and is open for consultation until 8 December. It covers the following:

1. groups
2. alcohol
3. intoxicating substances
4. verbal abuse
5. violence
6. loitering or begging
7. graffiti
8. storing of belongings in such a way as to impact on businesses, residents or users of the area
9. using e-scooters, bicycles or e-bikes
10. general anti-social acts.

It would be helpful if you would complete the consultation form which can be found on the

Borough Council's website.



FRIDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT

Two weeks ago the BBC Concert Orchestra played at the Hippodrome and the concert is being broadcast on Friday, 22 November at 7.30pm on Radio 3. It includes a local Portuguese singer and works by two teenagers from the area.

FINE DINING

Rob Haslam, who is one of our members and has done wonders with the Old Rectory and Priory, is putting on a special dinner in the Priory in December and details are given below.

Given the exclusive nature of its fine dining events, it operates on a reservations-only basis.

Register your interest via the link or QR code below or secure your table at:

<https://forms.gle/MuhZzp2gUAwz3gaB6>

Phone: 01493 808101 / 01502 573457

Email: enquiries@thepriory1101.co.uk / alice@funnellskitchen.co.uk

Location: Priory Plain, Great Yarmouth, NR30 1NW





Wishing you all the best for Christmas and 2025.

Hugh Sturzaker