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Monday – Friday
9.30am – 4.00pm**

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Abbey appoints new Vicar

Revd Catherine Relf-Pennington has become the next vicar of Wymondham, having already served as its associate vicar since 2013. She will be the 60th vicar at the Abbey in its 910 year history and the first woman to take up the post.

Catherine said "the vicar of any church has an important and demanding task. In a parish the size of Wymondham that is particularly true. The heart of the job is loving and serving the people of Wymondham and Spooner Row, whether they come to church or not. The staff and volunteers at the church are a great team and a wonderful church family. It is a great blessing and huge honour to have been appointed to this historic church and serve this community" she added.

Catherine was born in Australia and raised in Hong Kong where she attended school. She later went to university in the UK. Before becoming a priest Catherine was a research scientist in the field of Artificial Intelligence. "It's a skill I'm still looking to put to use in the church!" she joked.

"We are delighted with the appointment", said Bernard Douglass, head churchwarden. "Although Catherine has been working at the church for over three years, she had to go through a full selection process, and she was clearly an outstanding candidate." The Bishop of Thetford, the Right Reverend Alan Winton was part of the selection panel. "Catherine is a first rate priest, and we were impressed with her obvious capabilities and vision for the parish" he said.

Catherine said she encouraged anyone to join a service or come to a community event at the church, or simply drop by to enjoy the tranquillity of the place and perhaps light a candle or say a prayer.



Getting around town: The new vicar favours two wheels as a means of covering the large Wymondham Parish

Hear us on Talking Newspaper!

Not Radio Norfolk or even Radio 4, perhaps, but many visually impaired people find it really helpful to listen to local news stories at leisure. An audio version of this publication is produced by Wymondham and Attleborough Talking Newspaper, and we make sure they have a pre-publication version in time for their next regular issue. For more information go to www.watn.org.uk

Town Council News

Coming up on Tuesday 25 April is the Town Council's Annual Parish Meeting, with lots of information on what the council has been doing over the past twelve months - everyone is welcome! A hardworking Wymondham couple received this year's Civic Award for their tireless community fundraising efforts over many years. The possibility of an artificial grass pitch being added to the sports facilities at Ketts Park is under consideration. And the Tourist Information Centre in the Market Cross returns to its full summer opening hours.

Town honours fund raising team with Civic award



Good work recognised Jennifer and Jim Cawte receive this years Civic award from the town's mayor Joe Mooney

A civic award was presented to Wymondham couple Jennifer and Jim Cawte at a ceremony held at the Wymondham Dell Bowls Club by the town's mayor Joe Mooney.

Mr Mooney said "Jennifer and Jim are a great local fund raising team. They have over many years managed to raise thousands of pounds for local good causes and I know that many groups and projects in Wymondham have benefited from their fund raising activities. They are a credit to Wymondham and they are in my view very worthy recipients of this year's Wymondham Town Council Civic award".

In May 2016 they set off in their 1983 Morris Ital post office van from Wymondham to John O'Groats, Lands' End and back to Wymondham. They managed to raise a staggering £4,350 for the new children's EACH hospice near Norwich. This is just one small example of how they go about raising funds.

Jennifer and Jim said "We are thrilled and honoured to have received this civic award. We both enjoy fund raising and community service has been a large part of our life since Jim joined the Wymondham Lions Club in 1978".

Crime thrillers explored

The Wymondham branch of WEA is offering two day schools this spring/summer. The first of these one-day workshops, run by Jo Statham on 'Europe and the Film Noir', will be held in the Tiffey Room, Central Hall on Saturday 17 June from 10 am to 3.30pm. There will be a £15 charge. Book through Ros Krieger on **600639, rkrieger@talktalk.net**

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Appointments also available at Norwich, Bungay and Lowestoft. Home visits are available on request but further charges may apply.

Meeting dates – council & committees

The Town Council normally meets on the first Tuesday of each month with the Finance and General Purposes and Leisure and Environment committees meeting on the third Tuesday of alternate months. The Planning Lighting and Highways committee deals with planning applications and meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Dates until July are set out below. The complete list is available on the Town Council's website.

April	4 Planning Lighting and Highways followed by Town Council
	18 Planning Lighting and Highways followed by Finance and General Purposes
	25 Annual Parish Meeting
May	2 Planning Lighting and Highways followed by Town Council (AGM)
	16 Planning Lighting and Highways followed by Leisure and Environment
	18 Finance and General Purposes
June	6 Planning Lighting and Highways followed by Town Council
	20 Planning Lighting and Highways followed by Finance and General Purposes
July	4 Planning Lighting and Highways followed by Town Council
	18 Planning Lighting and Highways followed by Leisure and Environment

TIC open again for summer business

With spring in the air, we have been very busy in the Market Cross re-stocking with 2017 publications and updating information. Soon we hope to have a full range of new brochures about local attractions, special events and theatres, plus local timetables and information on places to stay in England and Wales.

Some local properties let for self-catering, or for bed and breakfast, have reported no longer being in operation. If you know of a local accommodation business, even if operated on-line, please ask the owner to be in touch with us about being added to our free listings so that the information we send out to enquirers can be as comprehensive as possible.

Summer hours begin on 27 March after which the Cross will again be open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am -2.30pm and Saturdays 10am -1.30pm, plus Bank Holidays 10am -1pm although we close on Good Friday.

Do come along and visit the Market Cross as it approaches its 400th birthday! We are so fortunate to have such a remarkable building in our midst. Should the stairs be a problem, the bell is there to alert the person on duty to come down and bring the information you require.

If you are not able to visit, our phone (with answering machine) is **604721** and email wymondhamtic@btconnect.com

Artificial grass pitch for Ketts Park?

South Norfolk Council has reviewed the need for built sports facilities and playing pitch surfaces in the district, and Wymondham has been identified as a suitable location for an artificial pitch.

Ketts Park is the only site which could accommodate such a facility, and it has the advantage of existing infrastructure –access roads, parking, changing rooms, a community hall –as well as established existing outdoor sports use.

A major investment of this kind would depend upon large grants from bodies such as the

Football Association, and a preparatory feasibility study would be required. The Town Council has agreed to provide a grant of £9,500, half the cost of this study. If the scheme goes ahead the Town Council's direct contribution to the capital cost is not expected to be much greater than this, and there would be great benefits to the town, particularly for younger members of the community and active sports players.

So for the moment it's a matter of watch this space until the feasibility study is complete, when the Town Council will discuss its contents with South Norfolk Council.

Who are your councillors?

As a result of the elections last May, the following have been elected to serve until the next local government elections in May 2019 (May 2017 for County Councillors), representing Wymondham on the county (NCC), district (SNC) and/or town councils.

Abbey Ward

Mr R Savage WTC, SNC
"Kingston" 6 Park Lane
NR18 9BG. 603722

Mr K Hurn WTC
6 Daisy Street NR18 0FF
603637

Mrs P Stearn WTC
Middle Farmhouse Stanfield
NR18 9BG. 603984

Cromwells Ward

Mr J Halls WTC
2 Chapel Loke, Spooner Row,
600720

Mr J Hornby WTC, SNC
9 Papillon Rd NR18 0WD.
600300

Mr A Osborne WTC
Granary House Old Stn Yard
Silfield Rd NR18 9AU. 603175

Northfields Ward

Mr C Longhurst WTC
17 Warwick Drive NR18 0LT.
605126

Mr J Mooney WTC, SNC, NCC
2 Orchard Way NR18 0NX.
604482

Mr D Underwood WTC
14 Herb Robert Glade
NR18 0XS. 601585

Rustens Ward

Mr P Broome WTC, SNC
14 Bramble Way NR18 0UN.
600829

Mr A Holden WTC
31 Ashleigh Gardens NR18 0EX.
859968

Mrs S Sayer WTC
217 Norwich Road NR18 0SL.
602827

Town Ward

Mr I Flatt WTC
48 Orchard Way NR18 0NY.
603398

Mr L Hornby WTC, SNC
9 Papillon Road NR18 0WD.
600300

Mrs S Wyer WTC
11 Bramble Way NR18 0UN.
07842766038

Forehoe Ward

C Foulger NCC
Pear Tree House, The Turnpike,
Bunwell NR16 1SP. 07745163169

Community News

Tolls Meadow has a new warden, coordinating a team of volunteers and taking on oversight of this precious fen meadow, a varied habitat just a few hundred yards from the Market Place. Music Festival returns for its 22nd year with another full and varied programme. Only a year old, the Wymondham Access group has already recorded string of activities designed to help people with mobility or other access problems. A new local group, 'Dying Matters', encourages us all to think and prepare constructively for the inevitable end to our lives, or those of family and friends. And the Arts Centre, Museum, Garden Club and North Wymondham Community Centre remind us of their activities.

John Beckett – new warden at Toll's Meadow

I came to Norfolk in 1978 to study Environmental Sciences at UEA. After nearly forty years I am on the cusp of achieving 'naturalised Norfolk' status - but people can still identify my accent as Nottinghamshire!

After UEA I worked for ten years in a variety of capacities for environment and youth organisations before eventually training as a high school science teacher, teaching for 18 years in Harleston. I also did some freelance environmental education and conservation.

Having now entered a very busy retirement I recently found myself on the committee of WyNG, as Toll's Meadow warden. I took over from Paul Holley who after a few years of good management has moved to Lincolnshire.



Wardens past and present John Beckett (left), with past voluntary wardens Ann Roberts and Paul Holley.

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Toll's Meadow is a fen meadow – a rare habitat needing careful management to avoid succession by brambles and scrubby trees. An enthusiastic group of twelve volunteers ('The Wyngworkers') meets twice a month from October to March to carry out scrub clearance, ditch maintenance, meadow management, pond and dyke dredging and general upkeep of the reserve.

Practical tasks are restricted during spring and summer when birds nest and the meadow is in full glory, with its wide range of plants and insects. We are currently planning monthly social activities, such as bird watching, bat detecting and plant and fungi identification.

Longer term, we have ambitious plans to further increase the biodiversity of this site, (eg by creating a 'turf pond') to encourage aquatic invertebrates. Survey teams from WyNG and Norfolk Wildlife Trust will undertake careful recording and monitoring of species to show whether our efforts are working!

Everyone is welcome to visit this tranquil reserve, just a few minutes' walk from the Market Cross. But we do ask that the visitors keep to the paths so that the meadow flora and fauna are not disturbed. Dogs should be kept on leads.

For more information about activities and practical conservation work, please contact John Beckett on **602876**, and check out WyNG on Facebook. New volunteers are always welcome to join the team.

Wymondham alive with the sound of music!

Wymondham Music Festival returns for its 22nd year with a packed programme of open air events, recitals and concerts.

Town Busking Day kicks it all off on Saturday, May 27. Then there is a series of Market Place Mornings, with live music on Saturdays June 3, 10 and 24.

Festival Fortnight follows from Saturday 1 July starting with more live music in the Market Place, then it's Feathersfest rocking The Feathers pub until 11pm.

The Festival's largest event, the Jazz Picnic is at Becketswell on Monday, July 3 with Simon Nelson's DixieMix. The popular Teddy Bear's Picnic for the under 5s will be at King's Head Meadow on Sunday, July 9.

Wymondham Abbey has a busy music programme including Wymondham Symphony Orchestra's Summer Concert,

Norfolk Young Musician 2017 Lucy Thalange, Jazz at The Abbey with the Jo Fooks Quartet, Wymondham Youth Orchestra's Summer Concert and the Young Musicians' Concert.

The annual Music Lecture and Recital in Wymondham Baptist Church, features guitarist and luthier Peter Turrell. There's an open-air ceilidh in the Market Place on Saturday, July 15 and the family concert with The He Hews rounds off Festival Fortnight at the Baptist Church on Sunday, July 16.

Keep in touch with the Festival at www.wymfest.org.uk, where you can buy concert tickets, as well as following on twitter, facebook and google+. Puff's Toyshop in Wymondham Market Place also sells concert tickets. For general enquiries, contact the Festival office on **333500**, info@wymfest.org.uk

Roll up, roll up and register!

Priory Garden Bowls Club for the over 55s will hold its Registration Day for the coming season at the Clubhouse in Priory Gardens (off Back Lane) on Saturday 15 April from 2pm. Annual subscription remains at £12. Novices are welcome to join us.

The club has regular afternoon roll-ups. We do not belong to any leagues but play friendly matches with other clubs in the region. There are several competitions for cups and shields throughout the season. One of our aims is to encourage older residents to socialise with their peers. To keep folks in touch with each other during the winter month we have a Whist club for members.

North Wymondham events reminder

Congratulations to Helen and Norman Ilsley for being runners up in the recent South Norfolk Council Community Awards scheme.

Town Mayor Joe Mooney said "Helen and Norman worked tirelessly to raise funds for the refurbishment project at the North

Wymondham Community Centre. They really deserve this recognition. Well done to them both".

The Ilsleys remind us of the busy social programme at the North Wymondham Community Centre in Lime Tree Avenue. Regular monthly events include an indoor

market every first Saturday and Tea and Chat at 2pm every second Wednesday. Special events include a Tribute to John Denver at 7.30 on Saturday 15 April and an afternoon of Music and Songs from the Shows with 'The Strand Players' at 2.30pm on Sunday 11 June. Come along – you'll be very welcome!

The Lizard Pastures

Have you been to The Lizard in Wymondham? Did you know that it is a County Wildlife Site? Did you know that it is in a Conservation Area?

Did you know that The Lizard Charity 'manages The Lizard Pastures as a piece of informal, natural countryside for the general benefit and enjoyment of the people of Wymondham'?

Why not come down to The Lizard on Sunday 28 May 2017 from 2 to 4pm and find out more about it?



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Wymondham Community Events – Spring 2017

April			
Sat 1	7.30	Wymondham Choral Society Concert – Stainer Crucifixion	Abbey
Tue 4	7.30	Town Council meeting	Tiffany Rm, Central Hall
Sat 8	5 – 6	Abbey Choir Lenten Concert directed by Rob Goodrich to include Allegri Miserere	Abbey
Sun 9	2 – 4	Wymondham Newcomers' Event	Bridewell Tearoom
	2.30	Regal Experience Film: Notorious – Hitchcock thriller, full of suspense, with Cary Grant and Ingrid Bergman	Ex Services Club
Sat 15	9.00	Farmers' Market	Market Place
	12 – 4	Easter Trails for families (info 607062)	Abbey
	2.00	Priory Bowls Club registration	Priory Gardens
Mon 17	11.30 – 3	Abbey Duck Race – fun for all the family! (inside Abbey if wet)	Becketswell
Sat 22	11.00	Coffee-time chamber organ recital – Bob Gee	Abbey
Tue 25	7.30	Annual Parish Meeting	Tiffany Rm, Central Hall
May			
Tue 2	7.30	Town Council meeting (AGM) – appointment of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, committees	Tiffany Rm, Central Hall
Sat 6	11 – 4	Traditional Craft fair – celebrating East Anglian designers and makers (info 607062)	Abbey and churchyard
	10 – 5	Opening Exhibition: Amaze in May – six diverse artists and sculptors (til 21 May)	Arts Centre
Sun 7	2.30	Regal Experience Film: Pillow Talk – romantic comedy with Doris Day and Rock Hudson	Ex Services Club
Mon 8 – Sun 14		Dying Matters week	National event
Sat 13	7.30	Phil Beer Band: Phil Beer with Emily Slade, Gareth Turner, Greg McDonald and Steve Crickett	Central Hall
Sat 20	9.00	Farmers' Market	Market Place
	11.00	Coffee-time organ recital – Al Walker	Abbey
Tue 23	10.30	Exhibition: Spring Open Show – selected works in a wide range of media (til 4 June)	Arts Centre
May 26	5 – 10	Real Ale Cider and Music Festival continues to 29 May	Green Dragon
Sat 27	11 – 2	Town Busking Day	Town Centre
Sun 28	2 – 4	Lizard Open Day	The Lizard
	2.30	Regal Experience Film: Live and Let Die – Roger Moore as James Bond. Personal appearance by Madeline Smith	Ex Services Club
June			
Sat 3	11 – 1	Stromm – Live music at the Market Place	Market Place
	7.30	Concert by Norwich Baroque with organ soloist Rob Goodrich	Abbey
Tue 6	10 – 5	Exhibition: Time in my Life – Peter Hall, landscapes, portraits and abstracts (til 11 June)	Arts Centre
	7.30	Town Council meeting	Tiffany Rm, Central Hall
Sat 10	11 – 1	Triple Bill – Live music at the Market Place	Market Place
	7.30	Encore Concert	Abbey
Sun 11	12 – 6	'Beyond the Abbey gate' – open churchyard and local gardens, (info 607062)	Abbey and locality
Tue 13	10 – 5	Exhibition: The Three of Us – David Jones, Jane MacIntosh and Barry Watkins (til 25 June)	Arts Centre
Wed 14	5 – 8	1348 Living History Event – public open evening (info 01953 607062)	Abbey
Sat 17	9.00	Farmers' Market	Market Place
	10 – 3.30	WEA Day School 'Europe and Film Noir'	Tiffany Room
Sun 18	2.30	Regal Experience Film: Florence Foster Jenkins – amusing true story of a New York heiress who wanted to be an opera singer, but had a terrible voice – with Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant	Ex Services Club
Sat 24	11 – 1	Groovapolitan – live music at the Market Place	Market Place
Fri 30	7.30	Black Voices: all-female a cappella collective	Central Hall
July			
Sat 1	11 – 1	Live music at the Market Place Start of Festival Fortnight – continues to Friday 13 July	Market Place
	12 – 11	Feathersfest – Folk, Pop, Indie, Singer-Songwriter artists from throughout Norfolk.	Feathers
	7.30	Wymondham Symphony Orchestra: concert includes Andrew Harsley soloist in Elgar's Cello Concerto	Abbey
Sun 2	7.30	Vagaband – indie roots rock band	Ex Services Club
	6.30 – 9	Summer Pizzaz – Song and Pizza and Jazz with Hymn and Arthur	Spooner Row Church
Mon 3	6 – 9	Jazz Picnic with DixieMix	Becketswell
Tue 4	1 – 2	Lunch-time recital: Norfolk Young Musician, Lucy Thalange, mezzo-soprano	Abbey
	7.30	Music Lecture and Recital – guitarist and luthier, Peter Turrell	Baptist Church
	7.30	Town Council meeting	Tiffany Rm, Central Hall
Wed 5	5.30	Tea-time recital: Rachel Groves, harp	Abbey
Thu 6	7.30	Jo Fooks Jazz Quartet: Jo Fooks, sax, Ted Beaumont, piano, Val Manix, bass, Bobby Worth, drums	Abbey
Fri 7	8	Soulful folk band Arcelia: Gavin Alexander, Teresa Gallagher, Simon Foster, Martin Elliott, Perry White	Central Hall
Sat 8	11 – 1	Meet Arcelia – live music at the Market Place	Market Place
	7.30	Wymondham Youth Orchestra Summer Concert	Abbey
Sun 9	11 – 1	Teddy Bear's Picnic for the under fives	King's Head Meadow
	12.00	Guided Town Walk, meet at the War Memorial	Town Green
	7.30pm	Harpichord recital Massimo Radaelli Brown	Baptist Church

Dying Matters - are you ready for it?

Dying Matters is a new group in Wymondham who are interested in end-of-life issues and the importance for all of us to consider the one thing that is certain when we are born... that we shall all die at some point. What really makes sense, given that we cannot know our futures and when we might have an accident or contract a terminal condition, is to make preparation.

The National Council for Palliative Care (NCPC) is behind Dying Matters and every year designates a week in May for people across the country to hold events encouraging all of us to talk about death and dying, with people close to us, with friends, in our places of work and within our communities.

The theme for this year is "What can You Do?" For ourselves we need to look at the fundamentals - have we made a Will, considered organ donation, made Lasting Power of Attorney agreements, got our finances in order...? We all need to talk to people in our lives about our wishes if we get seriously ill, and what happens at and after death. These are not morbid conversations, it won't bring dying any closer, just brings into focus what you would want to happen.

These are the practical issues that all of us, as responsible adults, need to have looked at before we lose capacity. Then we can get on with life and just review our decisions every 5 years or so.

Without this preparation, by the time you are in hospital or a care home you may be given treatment you would not wish to receive. It makes life much clearer for your family, friends, carers and health professionals if you have previously discussed these issues - everyone can then respect your wishes.

During May there will be events where you can find information, talk to people and share your stories. We are also planning discussion group meetings with speakers on relevant topics in the months that follow. There is much to learn!

For more information contact: Rachelle Wolfe on **856127** or **Rachelle.Wolfe@gmail.com**

Dying Matters - 8 to 14 May 2017

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Young citizens visit council office

A regular December double fixture for Robert Kett Primary School council members is their annual visit to meet the mayor in the council chamber. This follows the ceremony at Becketts Chapel to lay flowers in memory of local hero Robert Kett.



Wymondham Access Group

Over the last year since their first meeting Wymondham Access Group (WAG for short) have been busy at several projects. To publicise their existence, they won the Abbey's 'Favourite Christmas Tree' competition, and came third in the Carnival Pirate Parade.

They are working with Wymondham Leisure Centre to raise money for a pool pod, a special lift to help with access to the pool for those with limited mobility. They have

advised several groups on access problems and publicised the difficulties met by people with heavy luggage, pushchairs and mobility problems in accessing platforms at the station. They are now linking up with Norfolk and national bodies to raise awareness of disability problems.

Neil Seach is chair of the group, and invites anyone interested in the group's work to look at their Facebook page or website www.accesswymondham.org, or come to one of their regular meetings.

Arts Centre opens for 8th season



Abstract art opens the new season at Wymondham Art Centre. The first show runs from 6 – 21 May.

Back for its eighth season, Wymondham Arts Centre re-opens in Becketts Chapel, Church Street with a programme of exhibitions and activities running through till the autumn.

The opening show from 6-21 May, 'Amaze-in-May', features six contributors who are dominantly abstract artists, but apart from all being members of the Norwich 20 Group do not have too much in common: no school of this or ideological that. But the two sculptors and four painters all share a restless exploratory approach to their materials and a continued invention of form that gives some excitement as to what they will be doing next...! Six diverse, differing makers of work guaranteed to stimulate, satisfy and sometimes to provoke... but above all, to enjoy. Other exhibitions through until July are listed in the Events Diary.

200 Club to raise funds for Museum

Wymondham Heritage Museum, already well into its 2017 season, is always looking for ways to raise funds to supplement its modest entry charges. The museum does a great job in keeping Wymondham's history alive and accessible to us all, and the 200 Club is a good way to show your support with the chance of winning monthly prizes.

To raise the funds needed the 200 Club needs at least 150 members and anyone is welcome to join – you don't have to be a Heritage Society member! So do please get in touch with Sue Eades to find out more.

sue200club@btinternet.com

Summer is coming at Wymondham Garden Club!

Our monthly meetings continue on 24 April with Andrew Brogan talking about the Story of Henstead Exotic Gardens. On 15 May, Charlotte Philcox is giving a talk on Workers, Wellingtons and Wheelbarrows! In June there's a Quiz Night and in July it's Gardeners' Question Time.

We meet on the third Monday of each month at Town Green Centre, Wymondham, at 7.30pm. Complimentary tea and coffee, garden chat – what more could a gardener want! Visitors Fee £3.50. Contact **604373** for further information.

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Keeping in touch

About Wymondham is published four times a year. To keep right up to date visit the Town Council's website at wymondhamtc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

We welcome your contributions. If you want to submit articles or photos, put items in the diary or comment on content please contact **John Wood on 01953 602051.**

To advertise or comment on circulation please contact the **Town Clerk on 01953 603302.** The next edition will be in June: copy date is **Friday 1 June.**