

# THE YARMOUTH ISLE OF WIGHT TOWN TRUST



## **Annual Town Meeting – Report from the Chairman on the year ended 31 March 2014**

**Introduction:** This is my report on the year ended 31 March.

At the Town Council meeting on 3 September, I offered, on behalf of the Trust, a suggestion that the Trust could provide regular updates to councillors of its activities in the Town. This was accepted, and since then a trustee has done that at most Council meetings.

### **1 – Financial Matters**

A – The annual accounts of the Trust will be considered by the trustees at their next meeting which is due on 12 May. I can tell you now that the accounts are likely to show a small but reasonable surplus, after taking into account grants received from the Herapath Shenton Trust, the West Wight Landscape Partnership the Delphie Lakeman Memorial Trust and Yarmouth Town Council totalling about £12,200. The Trust is extremely grateful to these organisations for their generous and indeed vital support. The Trust's largest cost was £15,602 for renovations to the Town Hall, which I hope you all agree now looks better than ever and is a building of which we can all be proud.

B - Income from the Mill Road cottages was lower due to continuing maintenance and improvement expenditure – our grateful thanks are due to Dave Cooke for all his efforts.

C - The Town Hall was used on 179 days during the year ended 31 March 2014, compared with 230 days in the previous year. So far, 144 days have been booked for the current year.

D – The Trust made a donation of £300 towards the Yarmouth Old Gaffers Festival last year.

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.

### **2 – Archives and other historic assets**

A - Work goes on with the process of making more of the Trust's historic material available to everyone on the website, with valuable and enthusiastic support from Lynne Rowcroft and Clive Tappenden.

B – last year I reported that the Trust would be looking at ways to earn income from the sale of copies of one of our pictures, to contribute to a Town Hall Maintenance Fund. We have had printed 150 high quality numbered copies of a painting by Francis Percival Blake done in 1895. The subject is a view of the seafront of Yarmouth. The Trust was extremely fortunate that the Delphie Lakeman Memorial Trust underwrote the cost of copying the picture and making the 150 prints for us. We have sold 35 copies since we started the sales effort in the New Year, which has made a valuable contribution to our Town Hall Maintenance Fund.

The trustees are inspecting the War Memorial to monitor the effects of weather damage. You may remember that I outlined 3 possible ways forward:-

Let the weather do its work – this would be more authentic or natural;

Replace the frame or at least the top part of it – but this would stand out and look new – and be more expensive.

Apply a lime wash or shelter coat, which may arrest the damage temporarily, and review then its condition annually. This is what we are doing at the moment.

As I have said, the Town Hall is in a very much better state than it was. However, renovation of the windows and the door is needed, and we hope to deal with that this year.

We are also renewing the notice boards to a standard that reflects the listed status of the Town Hall. The work is being done by Clifford J Matthews from near Ventnor. The new boards are ready to go up. We were happy to be able to give the work to an Island firm.

C – The Trust’s assets are regularly checked to ensure that they are appropriately covered for insurance purposes.

D – The Town Crest is made freely available to Yarmouth organisations so long as the use is not for commercial gain, in which case the Trust would have to make a charge. The Trust will provide the graphics so as to ensure that the Town Crest is properly represented and that it appears in an appropriate setting.

During last year, the following uses were approved by the trustees:-

Jill Cowley	Crest to be printed on cover of Yarmouth & Thorley Voices book
Carnival Comm	Carnival banner for use in Carnival Week
SME Ltd (Sustainable Energy)	Crest being used on website as YHC is a partner, no permission asked. Email and various phone calls Chris Lisher had passed the digital Crest over.
Dick Dawson	Crest to be used on a flag for Marigold Morphy, one-off same as Town Flag at Hampshire Flag Company
Terry Clarkson	Armed Forces Day programme 2014

### **3 – Yarmouth Recreation Ground**

An application for Village Green status to be given over the majority of the Recreation Ground, was granted in January. An area of 160 square metres was withdrawn from the application, and discussions are ongoing with the Town Council and the Football Club about the possible construction of a new Yarmouth Pavilion for the use by the inhabitants of Yarmouth and the Football Club. The project will depend upon finding the funds necessary for the new build, and establishing how the new Pavilion will be able to support itself financially in the future.

I hope that residents of Yarmouth will come forward with their ideas and support once the project has been developed further.

### **4 – The Common**

This, including the trees, benches and the Beacon, continues to be maintained by the Trust.

Some damage was inevitably caused by contractors working on the rebuild of Tennyson/Bouldnor Road, but this has largely been made good, and further measures will be dealt with over the next few weeks. Monitoring and protecting the Common has taken up a lot of trustee time since January.

I must also mention the state of the sea wall, which is IWC property, and for which the Trust is not responsible. The surface of the sea wall is not in great condition, but the greater problem is lower down ie the large holes at beach level and a little above that, mainly at the west end. The holes are being made worse by every ebb tide. We are in correspondence with IWC about this issue, but I am afraid that the crucially important repair works are unlikely to be done in the immediate future. In the meantime, we must hope that the sea wall does not fail, and that the Common and then the nice new road do not fall into the sea.

C – The Grave Yard Copse. This is looking pretty good. It is regularly maintained for the benefit of Yarmouth with the help, once again, of the Delphie Lakeman Memorial Trust.

### **5 – Trustees**

As was announced on 9 September, the Charity Commission has allowed the Trust to update its Governing Scheme to reinforce its independence and effectiveness. We have welcomed Rodney Corbett and Sylvia Mence as new trustees. The present trustees are:

John Caulcutt, Martyn Collinson, Rodney Corbett, Steve Cowley, Mike Dorey, Sylvia Mence, Sue Poston, Bernie Tucker, and myself.

### **6 – Other Matters**

A - Mission Statement. The Trust prepared this, and delivered it by hand to every home in Yarmouth last December and January. The aim of doing this was to inform

everyone of just what the Trust stands for, and its objectives. There are a very few left if anyone would like one, and it can be found on the website.

B – WW1 Commemoration. The Trust is working closely with the Town Council and others on this. It is intended to mount a display in the Town Hall for St James' Day and 3 August, when the commemoration will be marked.

C - I should mention the brief visit, to our Mayor, of the Chairman of Yarmouth Town Council, Maine, USA last spring. Our clerk Lynne Rowcroft provided a disk containing various items on Yarmouth for the Mayor to pass on to him, including the 1609 Charter, letter to HRH George III and Prince Regent, list of archives as on the website, Yarmouth's timeline, the Arabella log, the 1840 Tithe Map of Yarmouth and Harry Guy's 1911 newspaper articles of Yarmouth and the Isle of Wight. We are now trying to sell some of our Blake prints to residents of Yarmouth, Maine, USA.

D - To conclude, this report will be placed on the Town Hall notice board tomorrow.

R J Leonard  
Chairman  
22/4/14