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1937

1969

1968

1967

1938

**GREAT**

1966

1939

**YARMOUTH**

1965

1940

**1937**

1964

1941

**TO**

1963

1942

**1969**

1962

1943



1961

1944

**GREAT YARMOUTH LOCAL HISTORY**

1960

1945

**AND**

1959

1946

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

1958

1947

**Monograph Nineteen**

1957

1948

1956

1949

1955

1950

1951

1952

1953

1954

## Introduction

The following books give a timeline of Great Yarmouth.

Charles J. Palmer ended his *Perlustration of Great Yarmouth* in 1875.

At the end of the 1880's, William Finch-Crisp finished his *Chronological Retrospect of the History of Yarmouth from 46 AD to 1885*.

*Yarmouth Notes, 1830 to 1872* by Frederick Danby Palmer was published in 1887. This volume was a collation of items about Great Yarmouth published in the newspaper, the *Norwich Mercury*.

In 1977, A. W. Ecclestone and 27 members of the Great Yarmouth Archaeological Society continued Finch-Crisp's Chronology from 1886 to 1936 by trawling through the Great Yarmouth Council minutes and the *Great Yarmouth Mercury* and the *Great Yarmouth Independent*. This volume was published under the title: *Great Yarmouth 1886-1936*.

John McBride produced *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* in 1998, which dealt mainly with prominent buildings in the town

All these books are of great interest to the public and are a useful aid to historians.

In 2018, The Great Yarmouth Local History and Archaeological Society decided it was time to extend Ecclestone's book from 1937 to 1969 and members of the Society have studied the wealth of detail in the editions of the *Great Yarmouth Mercury* for the relevant period (the *Great Yarmouth Independent* being defunct). It is important to note that the dates are the newspaper publication dates and not the date of the event.

As well as interesting events and changes in the town, there were plans and ideas that never came to fruition or took many years to implement. These include many multi-storey car parks, a second river crossing, a yacht marina on Breydon Water, a new hospital, a tunnel under the River Yare, a river barrage to prevent flooding, a large conference centre, etc.

We hope to produce another volume next year to take the story of Great Yarmouth from 1970 onwards.

The Society wish to express their thanks to the help given by the *Great Yarmouth Mercury* and the Great Yarmouth Library. We also thank John McBride for his permission to use some entries from his book, *A Diary Of Great Yarmouth* (1998) which fills in some gaps.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data contained in this book, no responsibility can be accepted for any error or omission.

The Society acknowledge the help of:

David Tubby,  
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*Paul Davies.*

## 1937

January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. F. R. A. W. Conway was appointed Town Clerk to succeed Mr. W. Edgar Stephens; Mr. Conway had been Deputy Town Clerk for the past six years.

January 16<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council approved a scheme for the construction of the slipper baths at a cost of £22,951 and for a new police station at Gorleston for £7,000.

January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Newcastle steamer *Penton* came ashore on Gorleston beach; its crew were rescued by the Gorleston L. S. A. brigade.

February 6<sup>th</sup>. The new home of the Great Yarmouth Toc H was opened at 146a King Street.

February 6<sup>th</sup>. The death was reported of the Great Yarmouth born former Watford professional footballer, Albert Edward 'Ted' Mummery. Ted had been a professional footballer at Watford for six years before returning to play for his native town.

February 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Michael Falcon, a director of E. Lacon & Co. Ltd. was selected to be the leader of the Yarmouth Conservative Party; Mr. Falcon had for many years been the captain of the Norfolk County Cricket Club.

February 20<sup>th</sup>. Two former Great Yarmouth Mayors died within days of each other; Mr. C. S. Orde, a former banker, who served in 1900 and Mr. F. Buxton, a former solicitor who served in 1891.

February 20<sup>th</sup>. Statistics issued by the Ministry of Agriculture showed that 296,133 barrels of herring were cured during the previous fishing season, most of which were exported to the Baltic ports of Gdansk, Stettin, Klaipeda and Gdynia.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor opened a £14,000 extension to the Great Yarmouth Grammar School, which included a new gymnasium, dining hall, geography room and library.

March 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. A. H. G. Palmer was appointed the Headmaster of Great Yarmouth Grammar School to succeed Mr. E. A. Seaborne. Mr. Palmer, who was chosen from 177 applicants, was chief mathematics master at Whitgift School, Croydon.

March 13<sup>th</sup>. Local employment figures were down 300 on the previous year, showing 4,376 on the register; 3,717 men and 659 women.

March 20<sup>th</sup>. An advert for Great Yarmouth Operatic Society's production of the *Mikado*, produced by Mr. Ernest Bellamy, was to begin in the week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> April.

April 10<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that everything was ready for the opening of Great Yarmouth's new automatic telephone exchange on Hall Quay.

April 24<sup>th</sup>. F. C. Miller Ltd., slipper manufacturers of Boundary Road, Southtown, was destroyed by a fierce fire, temporarily putting 200 people out of work.

April 24<sup>th</sup>. Bertram Mills Circus and Menagerie was advertised to be opening on the Beaconsfield Recreation Ground for three days commencing on Monday May 3<sup>rd</sup>; it would perform twice daily.

May 8<sup>th</sup>. The opening of the new Gorleston Hospital by Lord Kennet.

May 15<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth celebrated the Coronation of King George VI. Rain intervened after the morning events resulting in the cancellation of the afternoon procession to the following day.

June 5<sup>th</sup>. Five boys were warned by the Chairman of the Juvenile Bench for playing cricket in Burgh Road after standing on a traffic signal pad which turned the lights to red, holding up traffic on Beccles Road; the boys were each fined 2/6d.

June 26<sup>th</sup>. The Hippodrome Circus was advertised to begin its season on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June, with twice daily performances.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Great Yarmouth Marina opened on the sea front; it had cost £42,000 to build.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>. A spring, only two inches long in the Haven Bridge lifting mechanism, caused the greatest traffic hold up in Great Yarmouth's history. For just over an hour between 9.25 and 10.35 in the morning the great leaves of the bridge pointed skyward, while staff worked frantically to locate and mend the defect. The ferry experienced the busiest period in its records.

July 10<sup>th</sup>. It was estimated that 13,000 visitors, the greatest influx yet, were brought into the town's stations the previous weekend. Southtown Station received 11 special trains from the London area, Beach Station received thirteen trains from the Midlands and the North, and Vauxhall Station received three trains.

July 10<sup>th</sup>. The aircraft carrier *H. M. S. Furious* was anchored in the Yarmouth Roads about one mile off the Britannia Pier.

July 31<sup>st</sup>. The Mayor opened the Corporation's new Cumberland turf bowling greens at the Marina, where Norfolk played a match against an English Bowling Association representative team.

August 21<sup>st</sup>. A day return to Ostend was advertised at 10/6d for adults and 6/- for children by Queen Line Pleasure Steamers, on the boat *Queen of the Channel*, from their ticket office on Hall Quay.

August 28<sup>th</sup>. The new Gorleston Senior Girls School in Church Lane was to be opened by the Mayor.

September 11<sup>th</sup>. For the first time the autumn race meeting became a three day fixture. There were 445 declared runners over the 18 races with four entries from the King.

September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Wellington Pier's *Come to the Show* entertainment was broadcast on B. B. C. radio.

September 18<sup>th</sup>. The Council's Electricity Undertaking made an annual surplus of £15,504.

September 25<sup>th</sup>. Basque children from the Bilbao region of war-torn Spain arrived at the Old Rectory in Rollesby to take up quarters for the winter.

October 16<sup>th</sup>. The new nurses home in Alexandra Road was to be opened by Mrs. Russell Colman.

October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir John Simon, addressed a packed Floral Hall at the Britannia Pier.

October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Sixteen year old Kenneth Deane was selected by the Amateur Swimming Association to represent England at the Empire Games in Sydney, Australia.

November 6<sup>th</sup>. At a meeting of the Gorleston and Southtown British Legion, Miss Wharton spoke on air raid precautions against gas.

November 13<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth's third woman Mayor, Mrs. E. K. Carr was installed with the accustomed ritual in the Council Chamber.

November 27<sup>th</sup>. Market traders form an Association of Toll Payers in opposition to Corporation plans to re-model the Market Place.

December 19<sup>th</sup>. The Town's Air Raid Precaution Scheme was explained at a meeting at the Town Hall; more volunteers were sought.

December 25<sup>th</sup>. Fred Beck presented his Grand Xmas Pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, at the Royal Aquarium starting for two weeks on Boxing Day.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

The Congregational Chapel in King Street was sold to the Methodists, who renovated it.

The boat, the *United Service* ceased taking the public out to sea.

April 29<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston Hospital was opened in a large house that was formerly the *Grange* in Lowestoft Road. In May the old hospital was converted to a clinic.

May 12<sup>th</sup>. St Luke's Church Hall in Cobholm opened. It cost £1,400.

May 27<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston Holiday Camp opened at *Elmhurst* at a cost of £50,000.

July. The fountains on Marine Parade were built.

## 1938

January 1<sup>st</sup>. The long standing end of year ploughing match at Thurne attracted 103 entries, including four women and a six year old boy. The competition had been an annual event for at least 60 years.

January 29<sup>th</sup>. Two classrooms adjoining the hall at the Priory Girls' School were gutted by fire, but prompt action by the fire brigade prevented further damage to this historic building.

February 5<sup>th</sup>. Labour party leader, Clement Attlee, addressed a large gathering in the dance hall of the Britannia Pier.

February 19<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth's worst flood since 1905 inundated the whole of Southgates Road and mile of the quayside. Further north along the coast much greater devastation occurred when the sea broke through at Horsey Gap swamping the village and many acres of farmland.

March 19<sup>th</sup>. An appeal for more air raid wardens brought forward a further 400 volunteers to join the existing 500, who were already in training.

April 9<sup>th</sup>. The death was reported of Great Yarmouth's first post war Mayor, Alderman W. H. Bayfield. He had been first elected to the Council in 1901.

April 9<sup>th</sup>. The Methodist Central Hall was opened on Deneside on the site of the former King Street Congregational Church, which had moved to Middlegate Street.

April 16<sup>th</sup>. Tenders were accepted by the Council for the building of 148 houses on the North Denes Estate at a cost of £64,243.

April 30<sup>th</sup>. Former Great Yarmouth Co-op centre forward, George Brown, was in the Bromley team that won the F.A. Amateur Cup.

May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Players presented a production of *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* at the Aquarium's Little Theatre.

June 11<sup>th</sup>. The Loyal Order of Shepherds held their 112<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Great Yarmouth.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. Dr. John Lewis, the Great Yarmouth Labour Party candidate, resigned.

July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Admiral of the Fleet Sir Roger Keyes visited Gorleston to address a British Legion rally.

July 16<sup>th</sup>. A one hour programme entitled *Great Yarmouth Nights* was broadcast from the town on National and Empire radio.

July 16<sup>th</sup>. Seven hundred and twenty-nine people availed themselves of the opportunity to be fitted with civilian respirators at the Hospital School.

July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Matthes new *Sunshine* bread-making plant was opened in England's Lane, Gorleston by the Mayor, Mrs. E. K. Carr.

July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The National Swimming Championships were held at the Great Yarmouth Pool with 16-year-old local boy, Kenneth Deane, gaining two seconds and a fourth place in the finals.

July 30<sup>th</sup>. The Girls' High School's new playing field at Barnard Bridge was opened by the High Steward of Great Yarmouth, Mr. Russell Colman.

August 6<sup>th</sup>. The royal yacht, *Victoria and Albert*, anchored for a few hours in the Yarmouth Roads on its way north with the King, the Queen and the two royal princesses on board.

August 20<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth-Ostend motor pleasure ship *Queen of the Channel* with 1,000 passengers on board crashed into the South Pier at Gorleston making a 20 feet breach in the quay head; there were no serious injuries.

August 20<sup>th</sup>. Comedian, Vic Oliver, was to appear at the Royal Aquarium on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August.

September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The death was reported of Alderman John Goode, who for many years had been the joint owner of Goode's Hotel; he had first served on the Council in November 1902.

September 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. George Baker, a well-known figure in the musical world, was adopted as the prospective Labour candidate for Great Yarmouth.

October 1<sup>st</sup>. A diagram issued by the Home Office on how to build an emergency garden trench suitable to accommodate six people was published in the local press.

October 1<sup>st</sup>. Following a rapid deterioration of the international situation, the issue of gas masks throughout the town was begun.

October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Corporation Electricity Undertaking reported an annual surplus of £24,240. Rapid expansion of the service meant that 5,979 cookers, 1,037 water heaters and 651 washers were now connected to the system.

October 29<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth drifter, *Ma Freen*, was sunk while moored at the East Quay, when it was struck by a Scottish drifter returning to the port in the fog.

November 12<sup>th</sup>. The Highways Committee recommended that the new roads on the North Denes Estate should be named after the poets Byron, Chaucer, Milton, Shakespeare and Tennyson.

November 12<sup>th</sup>. Councillor Arthur W. Hollis was elected the Mayor.

November 19<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Art Society's annual exhibition took place in Johnson's Rooms; it included a painting by its president, Sir Arnesby Brown, entitled *A Spring Landscape*.

November 26<sup>th</sup>. The New Britannia Pier Company declared a dividend of 3½% at their 39<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting; it was reported that the Company had had a successful year.

December 17<sup>th</sup>. A crew from the Great Yarmouth Battery R. A. T. A. was photographed at the Nelson Road Drill Hall with a three inch anti-aircraft gun with which it had been equipped.

December 17<sup>th</sup>. Herring landings to December 10<sup>th</sup> were reported as being 300,463 crans; well down on the previous year's catch of 371,162 crans.

December 24<sup>th</sup>. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir John Simon, made his first speech in the town at the Hippodrome. He had recently accepted an invitation to become the National Government candidate for Great Yarmouth, as he needed a seat nearer London because of the health of his wife, (he never stood for the seat but remained the Member of Parliament for Spen Valley until his elevation to the House of Lords in 1940).

December 24<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Post Office reported an increase of 7% in Christmas mail with 518,000 letters passing through its stamping machine over the run-up to the festive period.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

The Methodist Church, between 108 and 109 Regent Road, was demolished.

March. North Denes Junior School was built.

June. The Eastern Counties Bus Station was built on Wellington Road. It had previously been on Brewery Plain.

June 29<sup>th</sup>. The Conge Baptist Mission was closed during the slum clearance programme.

October. The Gorleston Bandstand was demolished to make way for the building of the Floral Hall and the swimming pool. Construction started in November.

October 27<sup>th</sup>. The new Young Men's Christian Association opened on North Quay.

December. The Corporation purchased a further 554 acres of land from Magdalen College, Oxford for £30,500.



## 1939

January 14<sup>th</sup>. Arnold's sale offered the latest Melogram radio gramophone for 11½ guineas or 11/0d monthly.

January 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. George Baker, Labour's prospective Parliamentary candidate, who was a well-known singer, had some sharp things to say about crooning, when he addressed the Round Table at the Royal Standard Hotel.

January 21<sup>st</sup>. Newly built bungalows at Caister, each with five rooms and a garage, were advertised at £450 each, or a £25 deposit and 11/7d per week.

January 21<sup>st</sup>. Miss K. E. Pearce spoke to the Great Yarmouth Naturalists' Society at the Hospital School about the St. Lawrence River, with the aid of lantern slides.

February 11<sup>th</sup>. The Council sat for three and three quarter hours, one of its longest meetings without a break, in the main discussing the proposal for a tunnel under the river to Gorleston; after three hours they were permitted to smoke, after the Mayor ensured that there no objections from the ladies.

February 18<sup>th</sup>. Boxing at the Hippodrome was advertised to feature Freddie Mills and Butcher Gascoigne in a twelve round middleweight contest.

February 18<sup>th</sup>. Frere and Company of 148 King St were offering white Australian wine at 2/6d per bottle or 1/6d per half bottle.

February 25<sup>th</sup>. A proposal that the Edward Worledge School to be taken over by the High School for Girls aroused a good deal of comment in the town; mostly negative.

March 4<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth was still short of volunteers to be air raid wardens, first aiders, auxiliary fire fighters and special constables.

March 4<sup>th</sup>. The Bishop of Northampton laid the foundation stone of the new Catholic Church of St. Peter at Gorleston. The church was estimated to cost between £6-7,000, which was defrayed from the will of the late Mr. Ambrose Page, who traded from premises in Gorleston High Street.

March 11<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that the provision of the recommended air raid precautions around the town, such as digging trenches, erecting concrete pill-boxes, casualty services and contamination equipment could cost up to £21,677.

March 18<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Hospital received an iron lung for the treatment of polio, one of many being distributed to hospitals all over the country through the generosity of Lord Nuffield.

March 18<sup>th</sup>. A series of air raid precaution lectures were to be held at a variety of venues throughout the town.

March 25<sup>th</sup>. Two separate explosions, one and a half hours apart, at the power station resulted in the death of a turbine driver and injury to five other men, including a police officer.

April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Players production of Noel Coward's *Hay Fever* at the Little Theatre was described as a sparkling comedy and their best production ever.

April 8<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council deferred schemes for improving the yacht station and providing a landing ground or aerodrome at Hopton. The latter was to be provided jointly with Lowestoft.

April 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was reported that the new premises for the Trustees Savings Bank on the Market Place would be ready for use next month.

April 29<sup>th</sup>. Anderson shelters were to be available to families in Great Yarmouth with an annual income of less than £250; other householders could purchase them.

May 6<sup>th</sup>. At the Council meeting, protests were made at the showing of the film *The Warning*, which depicted bombers flying over Great Yarmouth; it was thought that this would have a detrimental effect on the summer season.

May 13<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston's new lifeboat, *Louise Stephens*, was launched; it had cost £9,000.

June 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Arthur Harbord M. P. received a knighthood in the King's Birthday Honours List.

July 1<sup>st</sup>. The *M. V. Royal Sovereign's* first sailing of the summer from Great Yarmouth to Ostend was to begin on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July; a day return was 10/6d.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Platten's shop in Broad Row celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday with a sale.

July 29<sup>th</sup>. A 24-year-old Corporation Electricity Department employee died when he came into direct contact with 11,000 volts of electricity on a pylon in a field at Clippesby.

August 5<sup>th</sup>. W. H. Smith and Son were to open their new bookshop at 26 King Street on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. Palmer's Store was offering free estimates for the preservation, repair and storage of customers' fur coats.

August 19<sup>th</sup>. About 450 Anderson shelters had been delivered to Great Yarmouth by rail with another 750 arriving soon; it was estimated that the Borough would eventually require about 5,000.

September 9<sup>th</sup>. The hour of the outbreak of war was observed at the parish church at 11 o'clock by the Vicar, Canon R. Aubrey Aitken, who asked the congregation to kneel and in silence dedicate themselves afresh to the service of God, King and Country.

September 9<sup>th</sup>. The Chief Constable, Mr. B. W. Smith, gave out details of how air raid warnings would be given.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Co-operative Society invited local residents to register for their coal ration.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Great Yarmouth Stores announced that were now stocking black-out material, hurricane lamps, gas masks and first aid kits.

October 7<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that most elementary schools were open and the remainder would be once air raid shelters had been provided; all children were to have their gas masks with them at all times.

October 28<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-three members of a Norwegian oil tanker were landed at the harbour after their vessel struck a mine in the North Sea. The three men badly injured in the explosion were taken to hospital.

November 4<sup>th</sup>. *Duncote*, a villa at the Warren in Caister, collapsed into the sea following a full moon tide and strong winds.

November 4<sup>th</sup>. The Town Hall announced that 50,000 ration books would be posted out in the near future.

December 9<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that instances of unpleasantness towards women had increased during the black-out.

December 16<sup>th</sup>. A suggestion that beer may be rationed was thought to be unlikely, although it may have to be diluted.

December 23<sup>rd</sup>. A fire at Golden Sands Holiday Camp at Hopton was quickly extinguished; it was started in a chalet by boys who had been evacuated from London.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

April. The Links Hotel on Gorleston Cliffs was opened.

May. Construction commenced on the Jellicoe Road Bridge.

June 5<sup>th</sup>. The lifeboat, *Louise Stephens*, arrived at Gorleston; it replaced the *John and Mary Meiklam of Gladswood*.

September. The steamer, *Porthcawl*, caught fire off Great Yarmouth. It burned for four days and nights.

September 15<sup>th</sup>. The tug, *Richard Lee Barber*, was launched from Fellows Shipyard.

October 16<sup>th</sup>. The slipper baths on Hall Quay were opened for public use.

December 13<sup>th</sup>. The Bure Hotel was opened on Caister Road on the site of Fowler's Camping Ground. The Yare Hotel was opened on Hall Quay on the site of the Crown and Anchor Hotel.

## 1940

January 6<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Donald Wainwright was appointed to succeed the late Dr. A. N. Stevens as the Medical Officer of Health.

January 6<sup>th</sup>. Films were being regularly shown at seven cinemas across the Borough; the Regent Theatre, the Regal, the Royal Aquarium, the Empire and the Gem in Great Yarmouth and the Palace and the Coliseum in Gorleston.

January 13<sup>th</sup>. A demonstration was given on the Conge to the Air Raid Precaution Wardens on the methods of dealing with incendiary bombs.

January 27<sup>th</sup>. A course of lectures on five consecutive Fridays on the *War in the West* was to be given at the Hospital School by Dr Barbara Ward B. A. (Oxford).

February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Great Yarmouth had its closest glimpse so far of the Nazi war on shipping, when a bomber attacked a trawler a mile off the beach; exploding bombs shook many buildings in the town.

February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Five Great Yarmouth men lost their lives following a bomber attack on the East Dudgeon Lightship.

February 10<sup>th</sup>. P. C. James Nichols of the Great Yarmouth Police Force received the King's Police Medal at Buckingham Palace. In September during the black-out, he had jumped into the river fully clothed to rescue a man, who had fallen off the quayside.

February 10<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council resolved to apply to the Secretary of State for permission to allow cinemas to open on Sundays.

February 24<sup>th</sup>. The Vicar of Great Yarmouth (Canon R. Aubrey Aitken) was fined 10 shillings at the Police Court for a violation of the black-out.

March 9<sup>th</sup>. The Duke of Kent visited the town to inspect the crews of the minesweepers operating out of the port.

March 16<sup>th</sup>. The Chief Constable's annual report stated that the strength of the Borough force was 76 with five vacancies and the approximate strength of the Special Constabulary at the outbreak of war was 400.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The River Commissioners agreed that the new tug, the *Richard Lee Barber*, should be given protection against magnetic mines.

April 6<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that two rooms at the north-east corner of the Manor House at Caister had fallen into the sea following their undermining by a high tide.

April 13<sup>th</sup>. The death was reported of Alderman E. J. Middleton J. P. He had twice been the Mayor of Great Yarmouth and had first entered the Council in April 1914; he had spent a lifetime in the newspaper trade.

May 4<sup>th</sup>. The cricket season opened, despite the loss of about half of the town's teams which had folded due to the number of players called-up for military duty; only seven of the fifteen teams remained.

May 11<sup>th</sup>. The Council agreed to extend shopping hours by half an hour during the summer to 9.30 pm on Saturdays and 9.00 pm on weekdays.

May 18<sup>th</sup>. The sudden death of the Chief Constable, Mr. B. W. Smith at the age of 59 years, was a sad loss to the town. He had been in office since 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918. He was succeeded by Chief Inspector Charles George Box.

June 1<sup>st</sup>. The *Great Yarmouth Mercury* printed news rather than adverts and personal announcements on its front page for the first time. The first front page headline concerned the impending evacuation on Sunday of 3,700 school children to Nottinghamshire; four special trains were used for the purpose.

June 15<sup>th</sup>. The first air-raid warnings since the previous September were sounded: the all clear was given after three hours, no bombs having been dropped.

June 29<sup>th</sup>. Holidaymakers were banned from the East Coast Defence Area, which included most of the east coast including Great Yarmouth and its adjacent coastal villages.

July 13<sup>th</sup>. Two hundred old and infirm residents, mainly octogenarians, were evacuated by train to the Midlands. Subsequent evacuations saw some of the elderly settled in Liverpool.

July 27<sup>th</sup>. There was a disappointing turn-out for the inaugural meeting of the Great Yarmouth *Get Fit Campaign* held in the grounds of the Grammar School.

August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Great Yarmouth Transport reported an annual profit of £6,808, but the Wellington Pier revealed a loss of £3,759, largely due to partial closures during the war, which had reduced income.

August 10<sup>th</sup>. The annual report of the Public Libraries and Museums Committee stated that 10,550 people had visited the dungeons at the Tollhouse Museum in the five months that they were open, and that the stock of books held by the Central Library was 35,029 with a further 9,636 at Gorleston.

August 31<sup>st</sup>. It was reported that the King had visited an East Coast port (Yarmouth) on his 150 mile tour of East Anglia. He inspected officers and men at the harbour's mouth and also some Newfoundland troops who were billeted in nearby villages.

October 5<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that the Mayor, Mr E. R. Herman, had been invited to serve for a second year; it was the first occasion in 20 years that a Yarmouth Mayor had been re-elected.

October 12<sup>th</sup>. Two dozen communal air-raid shelters were to be built at Caister by the Blofield & Flegg R.D.C.

October 12<sup>th</sup>. The *Mercury* register of Yarmouth men on active service passed the 2,000 mark.

October 26<sup>th</sup>. Five people were fined a total of £17 for out of hours drinking at the Blackfriars Tavern; they were caught by a police constable at 1.40 a.m.

November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Heavier fines were imposed for black-out offences by the Yarmouth Bench when four defendants were each fined £3 each.

November 30<sup>th</sup>. The Ministry of Labour requested that workers only take one days leave over the Bank Holiday at Christmas, either Christmas Day or New Year's Day.

December 21<sup>st</sup>. New premises for the Yarmouth Lads' Club were opened by the Mayor at the Angel Hotel on the Market Place.

December 28<sup>th</sup>. The boys of Great Yarmouth Grammar School presented a nativity play 'A Child in Flanders' at St Alban's Church in Retford.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

Gun Batteries were built on North Denes, the pier and the links.

January 9<sup>th</sup>. The Trinity House boat, *Reculver*, was bombed off Great Yarmouth by a German plane. One man was killed and 30 were injured.

March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Unmanned light vessels were introduced, to preserve the lives of the staff, as they were at risk of being bombed.

June. The centre of Britannia Pier was destroyed to prevent it being used during a possible invasion.

The following premises were damaged by bombing: the British Legion Club on Pier Walk, Filmland and Hills Marine View on North Drive. The first bombs dropped on the town were on 11<sup>th</sup> July.

## 1941

January 4<sup>th</sup>. Bags of sand were distributed around the town to deal with incendiary bombs.

January 11<sup>th</sup>. The Minister of Health, Mr. Malcolm Macdonald, appealed to the public to undergo inoculation to reduce the risk of diphtheria; the disease caused the death of over 3,000 school children each year.

January 25<sup>th</sup>. Under the new Defence Regulations everybody between the ages of 16-60 years became liable for part-time service in the Civil Defence Force.

January 25<sup>th</sup>. There was concern at the 40% rise in road deaths since the black-out had been enforced. Drapers were anticipating a boom in the purchase of white fabric, so that people could be seen.

January 25<sup>th</sup>. The death was reported of the former Mayor, Mrs. A. M. Perrett; she had become Great Yarmouth's first woman councillor when winning a by-election in October 1920.

February 1<sup>st</sup>. The local press published a photograph of a crashed Junkers 88 at West Somerton after it had been in an encounter with *H. M. Trawler Galvani*. The crew were captured on landing by two unarmed residents.

February 8<sup>th</sup>. One hundred and twenty bunks were installed in the shelters beneath the Aquarium and the Regent Theatre.

February 15<sup>th</sup>. Shoppers were urged to shop between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to relieve the pressure on buses during the rush hour.

March 1<sup>st</sup>. The death was announced of Sir Arthur Harbord M. P. at the age of 75 years; he had represented Great Yarmouth in the House of Commons, with a break of only five years, since 1922.

March 15<sup>th</sup>. A Dornier bomber was shot down off the coast of Gorleston, where a motor launch was put out to rescue two of its crew.

March 29<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth had 100 acres of allotments under cultivation to help the war effort, compared with only 38 acres during the Great War, and it was about to utilise the Corporation's flower beds to grow root vegetables.

March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Gorleston Palace was to show Charlie Chaplin's new comedy *The Great Dictator* for six days from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

April 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Percy William Jewson was adopted as the National candidate for the Great Yarmouth constituency and was elected to the House of Commons unopposed.

April 12<sup>th</sup>. The local press recorded an East Coast Town's (Great Yarmouth) ordeal by fire from many incendiary bombs. Two stores, a restaurant and some shops were destroyed with some fatalities.

April 19<sup>th</sup>. Cheese was to be rationed to one ounce a week from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

April 26<sup>th</sup>. A number of four gallon tins for use as water or sand containers in combatting incendiary bomb fires were available from the Corporation Depot in Churchill Road at a cost of 2/6 per dozen or 3d each.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Duke of Kent visited the town to inspect the war damaged areas. He spoke to nurses, firemen, first aiders, rescue parties and Voluntary Aid Detachment workers.

May 10<sup>th</sup>. A photograph appeared in the local press showing the damage to the Tolhouse Museum, which met a fiery end after being struck by an incendiary bomb.

May 17<sup>th</sup>. An elderly lady took three pounds of onions to the Women's Voluntary Service with a request that they be sold to aid the Town's Air Raid Distress Fund, which benefitted by 12 shillings.

May 31<sup>st</sup>. Four women were appointed as magistrates; Mrs. Eve Carr, Mrs. Jane Hunn, Miss Maud Johnson and Mrs Nellie Sutton.

May 31<sup>st</sup>. Great Yarmouth's target of £169,000 for War Weapons Week to fund the cost of a minesweeper had raised more than double the target, the final figure being £342,199.

May 31<sup>st</sup>. Weather reduced the effectiveness of the town's gas cloud exercise when real gas was released in the Market Place to mask-wearing shoppers.

June 7<sup>th</sup>. At Winterton the single women beat the married women 5-1 in a football match, where a good crowd helped to swell the War Charities Fund.

June 28<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Education Committee gave permission for the use of school premises for the establishment of communal feeding centres.

July 5<sup>th</sup>. The Women's Voluntary Service collected 2d a time for the Distress Fund from sightseers who had gathered to view a 3,800 pound bomb, complete with fins, which was exhibited in the Market Place.

July 5<sup>th</sup>. A Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals inspector was sent to Great Yarmouth to deal with about 3,000 homeless cats, which were roaming the bombed out areas.

July 12<sup>th</sup>. The biggest bombing raid so far on an East Coast town (Great Yarmouth) was reported, but thankfully casualties were comparatively light.

August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Enemy bombers set fire to a supply installation at the port.

August 16<sup>th</sup>. The Duchess of Kent visited the naval barracks to see the work of the Women's Royal Naval Service

September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Town Council approved the appointment of Alderman F. H. Debbage as the next Mayor. He had been a member of the Town Council without a break since November 1921.

September 20<sup>th</sup>. Women working on the town's bomb sites cleared 34 tons of debris in five hours. The women in their grimed dungarees attracted a great deal of attention, they were part of the *pick and shovel brigade* working on an East Anglian aerodrome.

October 4<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council received 1,600 applications for the new Morrison indoor shelters.

October 11<sup>th</sup>. The Royal National Lifeboat Institute received £81.75 from the owners, survivors and relatives of three steamers wrecked on the Haisbro' Sands from which the Gorleston and Cromer lifeboats rescued 119 men.

October 25<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that work had been going on for some weeks in making safe the remains of Greyfriars' Cloisters; they had been damaged earlier in the year during an air raid.

November 29<sup>th</sup>. The Education Committee decided to provide children with dinners at the town's elementary schools.

December 13<sup>th</sup>. Savings in the town, through the National Savings Campaign, had reached £601,713 over the past two years.

December 20<sup>th</sup>. The death was reported of Canon R. Aubrey Aitken at the age of 71 years; he had been the Vicar of Yarmouth for 21 years.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

Caister Manor House collapsed into the sea.

Two Russian cannons by the Jetty were scrapped for their metal to aid the war effort.

October 18<sup>th</sup>. Fourteen hundred properties were reported for having unnecessary railings. The railings were requisitioned for scrap and compensation of 25 shillings a ton was made.

November 1<sup>st</sup>. The first woman conductor was employed on the Great Yarmouth buses.

The following premises were damaged by bombing: Gorleston Baptist Church, Grout's, Johnson's Oilskins Factory, Reynolds' Garage, the Aquarium Hotel on Nelson Road North, the Sailors' Hostel on South Quay, Boot's at 11 King Street, Marks and Spencer, the Seagull Garage on Queen's Road, Middlegate Street, the Tramway Hotel, Stone's Nurseries, the Southtown gas holder, the Southtown Railway Station, the Unitarian Chapel in Middlegate Street, 20 houses on Mill Road and St. Luke's Terrace in Cobholm, and St. Luke's Church.

The following premises were gutted by fire: Kerridge's, Green's, Halford's, Jarrold's, Hill's Restaurant, Rose's Fashion Shop, Marsh's Pawnbrokers and Sullivan's.

## 1942

*Much damage to Great Yarmouth during the war was caused by bombing raids, which were not reported in the newspapers.*

January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Mayor organised an aid to Russia week and raised just over £1,346.

January 24<sup>th</sup>. A former Mayor, A. W. Yallop, died. He was the Mayor in 1925. His mayoralty was marked by the opening of the Barrack Estate and the North Parade Boating Lake. He was involved with Miller's photographic business.

January 24<sup>th</sup>. The Regional Commissioner warned of a threat of an East Coast invasion.

January 24<sup>th</sup>. A national campaign was launched to collect rose hips and 134 million hips were gathered weighing 200 tons. Rose hip syrup given to children supplied half the daily dose required of vitamin C.

February 7<sup>th</sup>. The hospital services in Great Yarmouth were reorganised.

February 7<sup>th</sup>. It was decided that care should be taken with heating and ventilating the air raid shelters.

February 7<sup>th</sup>. A Great Yarmouth man, Flight Sergeant K. S. Wilson R. A. F., was mentioned in dispatches for gallant and distinguished service.

February 7<sup>th</sup>. East coast resorts were given a two-month reprieve by the Ministry of Home Security and allowed visiting between the Wash and the Thames. This would benefit the Easter trade.

February 7<sup>th</sup>. A former Vicar of Great Yarmouth, Dr. Lisle Carr, died.

February 14<sup>th</sup>. A photograph of Great Yarmouth men in a German prison of war camp was published in the newspapers.

February 14<sup>th</sup>. Palmer's, the department store, offered to re-model old dresses to save on clothing coupons.

February 21<sup>st</sup>. A Great Yarmouth man, Petty Officer Robert Sampson R. N. was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

February 21<sup>st</sup>. A Gorleston dairyman was fined £1 for selling milk 10% deficient in milk fat.

February 28<sup>th</sup>. The Women's Voluntary Service gave a demonstration of emergency cooking in the Market Place using brick ovens.

March 7<sup>th</sup>. Mr. H. J. Cox, the Hospital School headmaster, retired after 37 years teaching at the school.

March 7<sup>th</sup>. The public were liable to prosecution for burning or destroying paper or cardboard rather than recycling it.

March 7<sup>th</sup>. Arnolds were selling utility goods. e.g. men's flannel shirts at 12/1d each.

March 7<sup>th</sup>. A growth of crime in the area was reported by C. G. Box, the Chief Constable.

March 7<sup>th</sup>. Several people were fined for showing a light during the blackout.

March 14<sup>th</sup>. Police Constable Geoffrey Cozy of Great Yarmouth received the British Empire Medal from the King for tunnelling into a bomb damaged house to rescue two women.

March 14<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston Palace Cinema was showing the film, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, starring Charles Laughton.

March 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Warship Week raised £310,363.

March 28<sup>th</sup>. Food Ministry Officials were given permission to enter homes to find instances of food hoarding.

April 4<sup>th</sup>. Rev'd. L. J. Baggott was appointed the Vicar of Great Yarmouth.

April 4<sup>th</sup>. Fresh supplies of oranges in Great Yarmouth shops were issued at a rate of 1lb. per head to children with green ration books.

April 11<sup>th</sup>. Dr. D. Wainwright, the Schools Medical Officer of Health, reported that the general condition of children showed the effects of a lack of fresh air, because the ventilation in air raid shelters was unsatisfactory.

April 11<sup>th</sup>. Coal was restricted to six hundredweight per four-week period.

April 18<sup>th</sup>. An appeal was launched for eggs for the hospital.

May 9<sup>th</sup>. A consignment of chocolate for schoolchildren was sent from Southern Rhodesia.

May 9<sup>th</sup>. Boys of the Hospital School used the dissenters' burial ground for growing tomatoes and keeping rabbits.

May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Revolving Tower was demolished having been sold in 1940.

June 25<sup>th</sup>. St. Nicholas' Church was gutted by fire bombs.

July 11<sup>th</sup>. The refuse destructor was demolished in an air raid.

July 25<sup>th</sup>. A rusty pike head was found in a wall at No. 5 Row 108; a relic of the Civil War.

August 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Hospital week

August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Steel rope ladders to reach fire bombs on roofs were demonstrated by the Air Raid Precaution Unit.

August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Nine holidaymakers were fined £1 each for entering the Defence Area.

September 19<sup>th</sup>. Forty men from London employed by the Ministry of Works removed iron railings in Newtown and Southtown for the war effort.

October 10<sup>th</sup>. The film, *Gone with the Wind*, with Clark Gable, Leslie Howard, Olivia de Havilland and Vivien Leigh was shown at the Regent Cinema.

October 17<sup>th</sup>. A Combined Services exercise of street fighting took place in the town.

November 14<sup>th</sup>. Russell Colman presented to the town a wooden casket made from the blitzed public library.

November 21<sup>st</sup>. Gorleston church bells were rung to celebrate victory in Egypt.

November 21<sup>st</sup>. A bus curfew was implemented. No outward buses after 9 pm and no service before 1 pm on Sundays.

November 14<sup>th</sup>. Women were allowed to attend churches without wearing hats.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

The Angel Hotel in the Market Place became the British Restaurant offering cheap food.

August 8<sup>th</sup>. The library was transferred to the vacated Clowes shop at 16 and 17 Hall Quay. The library had been damaged by bombing.

The following premises were damaged by bombing: Kitty Witches' Row, houses on Northgate Street, Brett's on North Quay, the Lacon's Brewery, the St. Nicholas' Church, the Middlegate area, the Tolhouse, the refuse destructor and the Eastern Counties Bus Depot.



## 1943

January 9<sup>th</sup>. Two Great Yarmouth men received the Order of the British Empire in the New Year's honours list: Mr. Farra Robin Aikman Wiseman Conway M. A. received his for services to civil defence, and Francis Robert Boyd Haward for his contribution as Lieutenant Colonel of the Great Yarmouth and District Home Guard.

January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Medical Officer of Health warned of the danger to health of sleeping in air raid shelters if windows were kept closed during the cold weather.

January 30<sup>th</sup>. Concern was expressed by the authorities at the encroachment of the sea at Caister, where 125 feet had been lost in the past 39 years.

February 13<sup>th</sup>. Chief Petty Officer Wilfred George Brown of Gorleston, a survivor of the destroyer *H. M. S. Achates*, which was sunk while protecting a Russian bound convoy, was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal.

February 20<sup>th</sup>. Incidents of drunkenness had been reduced by half with only 12 cases being reported for the past year; only two were local people.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. H. F. Dyson was appointed the Borough Engineer. He was a Great Yarmouth man and first joined the Corporation in 1913.

March 27<sup>th</sup>. Some 400 young people, representing all the youth organisations of the town, attended the first youth rally held at the Hospital School.

March 27<sup>th</sup>. The Royal Aquarium was to show the Ministry of Information film *The Allies at War* on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30 pm.

April 3<sup>rd</sup>. School hours were adjusted to provide an extra half-hour's instruction each day.

April 24<sup>th</sup>. Gales and floods caused havoc in Great Yarmouth with the river invading many houses in Southtown; the gale force winds reached 75 mph and were said to be the strongest for 25 years.

May 8<sup>th</sup>. A 15-year-old boy living in Chaucer Road was fatally injured when playing with a mortar bomb; two other boys were also seriously injured.

May 15<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-six Auxiliary Territorial Service women were killed when a bomb fell on Whitfield House, which was situated on the south corner of Sandown Road and North Drive.

May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Mission to Seamen Hostel was opened in Alexandra Road.

June 5<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Girls' Club presented a Grand Dance at the Goode's Hotel in aid of Norfolk War Charities.

June 26<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth exceeded its £280,000 target during *Wings for Victory Week*. The total finally reached was £338,125.

June 26<sup>th</sup>. There was an inter-services sports meeting on the Wellesley Recreation Ground.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>. A service was held in the ruins of the Parish Church to commemorate the anniversary of its bombing; nearly 2,000 people attended to hear an address by the Vicar of Great Yarmouth, Rev'd. L. J. Baggott.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>. An inter-club sports was held on the Wellesley Recreation Ground with the A.T.C. retaining the boys' championship and the Girls' Training Corps winning the girls' title.

July 10<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council was seeking to remove the North-West Tower from its present site.

July 17<sup>th</sup>. Proposals for works estimated to cost £498,685 were put before members of the East Norfolk Rivers Catchment Board to protect the coast between the Midland and Great Northern Railway defences at California and the northern sea defences at Great Yarmouth.

August 7<sup>th</sup>. A baseball match was held at the Wellesley Recreation Ground in aid of Hospital Week between an American team and a Canadian team, with the Americans winning 5-4. Various events during the week raised £4,470.

August 14<sup>th</sup>. The first Air Training Corps gliding school in East Anglia was opened by the Great Yarmouth Squadron at Banham's Farm on the Acle New Road in the presence of Air Marshall Sir Patrick Playfair.

September 11<sup>th</sup>. *Allied Cavalcade*, an Anglo-American variety concert produced by Mr. Jack Bacon was held at the Regent Theatre.

September 18<sup>th</sup>. Alderman F. W. Lawn was nominated by the Liberal Party to become the next Mayor of Great Yarmouth; he had previously been Mayor in 1930.

October 2<sup>nd</sup>. At a meeting of the Town Council it was pointed out to the Heads of the Civil Defence Services that cars under their control drawing petrol from the Corporation's bulk supply must not be used for private purposes.

October 16<sup>th</sup>. The Duke of Gloucester visited Great Yarmouth where he was welcomed by the Flag Officer in Charge (Admiral Sir Dudley Pound); he inspected officers, ratings and members of the Women's Royal Naval Service before inspecting ships moored on the quayside.

October 30<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council decided to apply to the Ministry of Health to build 350 houses during the first year after the war.

November 20<sup>th</sup>. Captain Alex Long of the Royal Artillery, a former pupil of Great Yarmouth Grammar School, was awarded the Military Cross for coolness, determination and bravery while under fire during the fighting in North Africa at Long Stop Hill and Mendjez al Hab.

November 27<sup>th</sup>. The British Restaurant in Gorleston High Street was opened by the Mayor, who was served the first meal.

December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Girls' High School celebrated its Golden Jubilee at Retford; there was mounting pressure from parents to bring both the Grammar and the High Schools back to the town following the slackening off of the number of bombing raids.

December 24<sup>th</sup>. Sergeant Victor Sydney Nudd of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps of Cobholm returned to the town following his escape from a German Prisoner of War camp in Italy; he had trekked through mountainous country for eight weeks before encountering a Canadian unit on the Allied front line.

#### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

March 18<sup>th</sup>. The WRNS Hostel on the corner of Queen's Road was bombed and several WRNS were killed.

The following premises were damaged by bombing: Watney, Combe and Reid Maltings, Burroughs' Wine Shop and the Fishermen's Hospital.

## 1944

*Great Yarmouth was entering the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the War, but the position of Britain was looking a great deal more optimistic than in previous years. There had been no significant air raids on the town since May 1943. However, the location of some events in the town were still not reported in case it was of use to the enemy.*

January 15<sup>th</sup>. A Cabaret Tea was advertised to take place in Arnold's Restaurant with entertainment by the Empire Orpheans directed by Edward J. Bowles.

January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The retirement of Dr. Hayden-Hare was announced; he had been the organist at St. Nicholas' Parish Church for almost 50 years.

February 5<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Borough Council set out their plans for post-war housing, suggesting a great deal of development in Gorleston.

February 12<sup>th</sup>. The rehabilitation of the coastal area was discussed by the Council.

February 19<sup>th</sup>. There was flooding in Great Yarmouth following strong north-westerly gales; the river overflowed its banks, leaving parts of Southtown Road and the South Quay under water.

February 26<sup>th</sup>. There was a lot of discussion in the *Yarmouth Mercury* about the setting up of the new National Health Service, as recommended by the Beveridge Report.

March 11<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council decided that future housing development would contain a maximum of 15 houses per acre.

March 18<sup>th</sup>. A mother was fined ten shillings for sending two boys onto the dangerous (mined) beach to collect firewood.

March 25<sup>th</sup>. At the Grammar School's Prize Giving at Retford the headmaster, Mr. A. H. G. Palmer, told the boys, the post-war world is yours to make.

March 25<sup>th</sup>. A new Protected (Restricted) Area was imposed on the east coast.

April 22<sup>nd</sup>. A photograph appeared in the local press of the suspension bridge which had been closed by order of the Town Council, because of its dangerous state.

April 29<sup>th</sup>. A woman was given a fine of £10 or two months in jail for sketching in a prohibited area. Chief Constable Box said it was the first prosecution of this kind during the war, but that the woman did not have a permit.

May 13<sup>th</sup>. A warning against the use of binoculars and cameras was given by the Great Yarmouth Juvenile Court, when a 15-year-old boy was cautioned after being seen using binoculars on North Market Road.

May 20<sup>th</sup>. An Eastern Counties double decker bus carrying 55 passengers overturned at Caister, when it suddenly swerved on Filby Road and mounted a four foot bank; a Gorleston woman was killed and many passengers were trapped inside.

June 17<sup>th</sup>. Eighteen people were fined 10 shillings each when prosecuted for not carrying identity cards when stopped.

June 17<sup>th</sup>. The British Empire Medal was awarded to Miss Ella Cunningham, the Great Yarmouth Hospital matron; she had been the matron for eleven years.

June 24<sup>th</sup>. Advice was given on how to recognise the new pilotless V1 planes.

July 1<sup>st</sup>. Gorleston Hospital Week hoped to raise £2,000 with a week of events, including a boxing tournament, a concert, whist drives, a swimming gala in Gorleston Pool and a Grand Hospital Ball.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>. A ten-year-old girl was killed at Scratby after pursuing a baby rabbit through a fence onto a minefield with her brother.

August 5<sup>th</sup>. The Council requested 750 Portal Quick Build houses to meet urgent post-war needs.

August 19<sup>th</sup>. A baseball match between two teams of American servicemen took place at the Wellesley Recreation Ground in aid of Norfolk War Charities Week.

August 26<sup>th</sup>. An appeal was made to find accommodation for 800 evacuees coming to Great Yarmouth from southern England to avoid the attacks by flying bombs.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The War Office announced that the ban on visitors to protected coastal areas had been lifted.

September 9<sup>th</sup>. A bottle nosed dolphin was washed up on the beach near Caister Camp; it appeared to have been injured by a ship's propeller.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Great Yarmouth's black-out was to remain, but rules were relaxed relating to car lights and fires.

October 7<sup>th</sup>. The grave economic state of the town was noted. It was largely due to the loss of income from the holiday and fishing industry and the evacuation of many ratepayers; the Council requested help from the Government to help in the recovery.

October 7<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Town Council decided that a firm of consulting engineers should be engaged to report on the practicability of constructing a tunnel under the River Yare.

October 28<sup>th</sup>. Relaxation of the curfew allowed buses to run until 10 pm instead of 9 pm.

October 28<sup>th</sup>. The Grammar School staff and pupils finally returned to Great Yarmouth from Retford after being evacuated in June 1940; two hundred and forty boys were now attending the school.

November 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. P. R. Hill was elected the Mayor of Great Yarmouth; his wife had previously served as the Mayor.

November 11<sup>th</sup>. A farewell supper was held for C Company of the Royal Norfolk Regiment 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Home Guard.

November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Labour candidate for the Great Yarmouth constituency, Mr. George Baker, resigned to take up an administrative post with the B. B. C.

November 25<sup>th</sup>. The anti-invasion works along the seafront, which had been erected in 1940, including concrete blocks, metal posts and barbed wire had started to be cleared.

November 25<sup>th</sup>. The ban prohibiting the manufacture of ice cream was being removed for the first time in two years. However, ingredients were in short supply and the production machinery was in poor working order.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>. An advertisement appeared in the *Yarmouth Mercury* requesting tenders for the purchase of swill from the school meals service.

December 9<sup>th</sup>. The severe bombing of the Rows had revealed the town's early layout and a wealth of 17<sup>th</sup> century remains.

December 15<sup>th</sup>. Two soldiers were before the court charged with a hold-up at the North Tower public house. When the charge was read out, one of the men said, that they did not get as much from the till as they were charged with taking.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

Erie Resistor factory was built on the South Denes.

A 60 acre site was acquired at Shrublands Farm to build prefabs.

June 1<sup>st</sup>. The last bombing raid on the town when bombs were dropped on the South Denes.

August 25<sup>th</sup>. A B17 American Liberator plane crashed near Sandy Lane in Belton.

## 1945

January 6<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that Mr. Charles William Waters of Herringby Hall, who had been the Chairman of the East Norfolk Rivers Catchment Board since it was set up in 1930 and a member of Norfolk County Council since 1903, had been awarded the Companion of the British Empire.

January 13<sup>th</sup>. To speed up the removal of the concrete road blocks and the pill boxes in the town which had been erected when invasion threatened in 1940, the Borough Engineer's Department were blowing them up with gun cotton charges.

January 13<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that during the war, Great Yarmouth had suffered 219 air raids, 277 people were killed and 588 injured; 212 houses and 25 other properties were destroyed while 1,427 houses and 172 other properties were so badly damaged that they were incapable of repair.

February 3<sup>rd</sup>. A production of *Jill and the Demon King* was performed by the Gorleston Amateur Drama Group in St. Andrew's Hall in aid of the Gorleston Hospital. Films were being shown at the Empire, the Royal Aquarium, the Regal and the Regent in Great Yarmouth and at the Palace and the Coliseum in Gorleston.

February 17<sup>th</sup>. Fire guard duties ended, bringing the Borough in line with the rest of the country.

February 24<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth M. P., Mr. P. W. Jewson arrived back after visiting the U. S. S. R. with a party of delegates from Great Britain. Their visit included a discussion with Marshal Stalin at the Kremlin.

March 17<sup>th</sup>. Work started in clearing the beach between the piers of mines and other obstacles.

March 31<sup>st</sup>. The first conference to be held in Great Yarmouth since 1940 took place at the Bridge Hotel, where 60 delegates of the No.9 District of the Licenced Victuallers gathered for their annual meeting.

April 7<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Town Council approved the engagement of entertainments for the Wellington Pier Pavilion, the Winter Gardens and the Marina for ten weeks commencing on 30<sup>th</sup> June.

April 14<sup>th</sup>. Trevor's Circus advertised that their Big Top was to open on the Beaconsfield Recreation Ground from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> April; the acts listed included liberty horses, performing ponies, acrobatic dogs, wire walkers, acrobats and a trick cyclist.

April 21<sup>st</sup>. The question of a bridge over the River Yare between Great Yarmouth and Norwich was to be placed on the list of post-war development schemes by Norfolk County Council.

May 12<sup>th</sup>. The official hour of victory on Victory in Europe Day was appropriately signalled in nautical style in Great Yarmouth. After the Prime Minister's announcement, naval craft in the port sounded a prolonged and lusty fanfare on their hooters and sirens. In the evening services of thanksgiving were held in all the churches and lights were switched on all the main roads.

May 19<sup>th</sup>. Two Great Yarmouth schoolgirls were tragically killed after wandering into a minefield at Caister.

May 19<sup>th</sup>. Roco Brothers Circus and Zoo advertised to appear at Mill Road Meadow, Cobholm for three days. It was to include lions, bears, horses, ponies, dogs, monkeys and birds; and the Great Blondini would perform on a tightrope above the lions' den.

May 26<sup>th</sup>. Admiral Sir Dudley North thanked the town, when he announced that the Royal Navy would be leaving in the next few days.

June 6<sup>th</sup>. The pages of the local press would be dominated for the next few weeks by the forthcoming General Election. The Independent Labour candidate, Mr. L. F. Bunnell, declared that he would stand down as a candidate to clear the way for the Labour candidate, Squadron Leader E. Kinghorn, to have a straight fight with Mr. P. W. Jewson the National Liberal candidate.

July 7<sup>th</sup>. Between 80 and 90 children, who had been evacuated to the Midlands were due to arrive home; they were to be dropped off at the Hospital School. Great Yarmouth Grammar School held their annual athletic sports on the Wellesley Recreation Ground for the first time since 1940.

July 21<sup>st</sup>. Great Yarmouth central beach between the Britannia Pier and the Jetty was re-opened to the public.

July 28<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth's election result revealed the town's first ever Labour Member of Parliament, Squadron Leader Ernest Kinghorn, gained victory with a 2,105 majority; Brigadier F. Medlicott the National Liberal candidate was returned in the East Norfolk seat.

August 4<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council hoped to requisition 992 unoccupied homes east of the river, as many were unfit for habitation.

August 4<sup>th</sup>. About 1,000 Army Cadets from all over Norfolk held their annual camp at Caister Holiday Camp.

August 11<sup>th</sup>. Rain spoiled the first post-war August Bank Holiday; the weather was reported to vary from a few drops of rain to the occasional downpour accompanied by lightning.

August 18<sup>th</sup>. Victory in Japan Day was celebrated in the town. A proclamation by the Mayor, Mr. P. R. Hill, from the balcony of the Town Hall was followed by the sheathing of the Sword of State, which had been carried unsheathed since the declaration of war on Germany on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939.

August 25<sup>th</sup>. An open air service was held on the Wellesley Road Recreation Ground to commemorate victory and peace.

September 1<sup>st</sup>. A man was given the choice between a £10 fine or a month in prison for keeping a hoop-la stall on the Pleasure Beach for betting purposes.

September 8<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that Mr. J. W. Beckett would become Great Yarmouth's first Labour Mayor on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

September 22<sup>th</sup>. Two soldiers of the Royal Engineers were killed during mine clearance at Caister.

September 29<sup>th</sup>. German prisoners of war were photographed preparing groundworks for temporary houses on the Shrublands Estate.

October 6<sup>th</sup>. The *Rose Bay* was the first of the Scottish drifters making their way down the east coast to arrive in the port to take part in the first herring fishing season since before the war.

October 11<sup>th</sup>. Figures announced for Norfolk air raids revealed that, apart from parishes with aerodromes, Caister was the County's most bombed village with 149 high explosives and 1,070 incendiaries.

November 17<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Town Council decided to hold its future meetings at 7 pm instead of 3 pm, as hitherto.

November 24<sup>th</sup>. Foundations were being laid on the Shrublands Estate at the rate of 30 per week and 200 homes were expected to be ready by the end of the year.

December 8<sup>th</sup>. Labour just failed to gain overall control of the Council; the parties were Conservatives 16, Labour 15, Liberal 8, Independent Labour 7 and Independents 2.

December 15<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that the Home Guard was to be disbanded on 31<sup>st</sup> December and that members were permitted to wear their uniforms for private use if all buttons and insignia were removed.

December 22<sup>nd</sup>. As the last of the Scottish drifters returned north, it was recorded that 92,703 crans of herring had been landed in the port.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

Birds Eye Foods opened a factory in the town.

The *Oulton Belle* returned to pleasure trips after its war time service.

June 26<sup>th</sup>. A captured German U Boat was on display on Hall Quay and visitors were able to board it.

October. Breydon House Girls' Home at 56 North Quay closed.

October 24<sup>th</sup>. The British Sailors' Society Hostel re-opened on Mariners Road after being re-built.

## 1946

January 5<sup>th</sup>. Two gangs of 20 German prisoners of war had started to dismantle the tubular anti-tank scaffolding on the South Denes.

January 12<sup>th</sup>. Fifty Dutch children, who had been staying in the town since early November, left for their homes in Rotterdam; they had been sent to England to recuperate having been left with little food by the Nazis during the winter and the spring of 1945 in the last months of the war.

January 19<sup>th</sup>. The Young Men's Christian Association forces canteen, which had been run by voluntary workers on North Quay, was closed down on 5<sup>th</sup> January. It had opened on February 24<sup>th</sup> 1941 and over this time had served approximately 260,000 cups of tea and coffee, and 253,000 meals. Its one bath had been used no fewer than 8,740 times.

January 26<sup>th</sup>. The first 750 Arcon prefabricated temporary bungalows were in the course of erection on the Shrublands Estate.

February 9<sup>th</sup>. Bananas arrived in Great Yarmouth for the first time since 1940. Two thousand two hundred bunches were delivered to the area for use by young people under 18 years of age. Each child would receive one pound and the bananas could be purchased at 1s 1d per pound.

February 9<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Town Council placed on record its thanks to the officers, men and women of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Brigade of the Royal Regiment of Artillery for their services to the town during the war.

February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The hosiery factory of Johnson and Sons Ltd. returned to Great Yarmouth after 5½ years based in Leicestershire, where it had been evacuated to in 1940.

February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Work started on building 70 houses on the North Denes Estate; the first steps in house building in Great Yarmouth since the war.

March 2<sup>nd</sup>. A woman and two children were among those rescued by the Caister lifeboat when the Dutch coaster, *Caribia*, grounded on Scroby Sands.

March 16<sup>th</sup>. Concern was expressed at the rate of coastal erosion at Caister by local parish councillors to Brigadier F. J. Medlicott, their Member of Parliament.

March 16<sup>th</sup>. Owing to a shortage of nursing staff, Victoria Ward at the Great Yarmouth General Hospital remained empty.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The new quick freezing plant of the Norfolk Cold Storage and Ice Manufacturing Company on the South Denes was expected to deal with about 500 acres of peas and a small acreage of beans during the coming summer.

March 30<sup>th</sup>. The death was announced of Dr. William Roydon, Medical Officer of Health to the former Flegg Rural District Council and a doctor in the Fleggs for the past 52 years.

March 30<sup>th</sup>. A plea for a greater concentration on canning, as a means of restoring the prosperity of the herring fishing industry, was made by Mr. E. Kinghorn M. P. in his maiden parliamentary speech.

April 6<sup>th</sup>. The reconstruction and extensions to Jewson's sawmill was to include the introduction of the manufacture of wood plastics.

April 20<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor opened the Prefab Estate at Gorleston and handed the keys to the first batch of 15 tenants; 711 prefabs had been planned for erection on the estate.

April 27<sup>th</sup>. Clear skies and warm spring sunshine helped to give Great Yarmouth one of its best Easter holidays on record. Except for a few service uniforms, the shortage of hot cross buns and the lack of Easter eggs, the holiday seemed in every way as normal as those Great Yarmouth had had in the pre-war years.

May 4<sup>th</sup>. An increased train service announced by the London and North Eastern Railway meant quicker travel between London, the Midlands and the east coast, particularly on Saturdays.

May 11<sup>th</sup>. The Royal Engineers hoped to have Great Yarmouth and Gorleston's beaches clear by 1<sup>st</sup> June; no fewer than 3,298 mines had been cleared between Great Yarmouth and Caister.

May 25<sup>th</sup>. Work on the first batch of permanent houses on the North Denes Estate was being badly hampered by a lack of bricklayers.

June 1<sup>st</sup>. Great Yarmouth Corporation advertised its forthcoming summer attractions at the Wellington Pier which had a production of *Showtime*, the Marina, the Winter Gardens and the Floral Hall.

June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council announced plans to form its own Building Department; the Borough Engineer was instructed to prepare a report.

June 15<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth's Victory Whitsun holiday was a wash-out when rain, hail and thunder arrived at mid-day on Whit Monday.

June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The B. B. C. announced that at least four programmes would be broadcast from Great Yarmouth in the coming weeks.

June 29<sup>th</sup>. Lord Morrison, the Lord President of the Council and the Leader of the House of Commons, visited Caister to inspect the coastal erosion.

June 29<sup>th</sup>. Caister Camp re-opened; it had been requisitioned by the army during the war.

July 13<sup>th</sup>. A civic dinner was held at the Town Hall for members of No. 4 Bomb Disposal Company of the Royal Engineers to thank them for clearing the town's beaches.

July 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. A. A. C. Hedges was appointed the Borough Librarian on the retirement of Mr. R. G. Watlow, who had been with the service for 52 years.

July 20<sup>th</sup>. A new self-service restaurant was opened in Arnold's basement. It was able to cater for 180 meals every half-hour. During the war it had served as an air raid shelter.

July 27<sup>th</sup>. By a majority of 2,742 votes, the town decided that cinemas should open on Sundays; less than a quarter of the electorate bothered to vote.

July 27<sup>th</sup>. It was decided at a meeting of the Great Yarmouth and District Football League Committee that the League would recommence in September with 25 teams divided into three divisions; it was the first meeting of the committee since September 1939.

August 10<sup>th</sup>. In the early evening of Bank Holiday Monday a shelter in the Waterways was hit by lightning while full of holidaymakers sheltering from the torrential rain; nobody was hurt.

September 7<sup>th</sup>. Squatters in Gorleston moved into huts formerly used by the R. A. F. Air-Sea Rescue Service at the riverside end of Baker Street.

September 14<sup>th</sup>. Workmen were photographed while converting St. George's School for use as an out-patients department for Great Yarmouth Hospital.

September 28<sup>th</sup>. A broken overhead street light cable trailing from a lamp standard during a gale caused the death of a Great Yarmouth man while pushing his cycle along North Quay.

October 12<sup>th</sup>. The start of the herring season was delayed by three days, when fishermen refused to go to sea until their demands for full seamen's rations were met by the Ministry of Food.

October 19<sup>th</sup>. There was concern at the shortage of nursing staff at the Northgate Infirmary.

October 19<sup>th</sup>. At a talk to the Great Yarmouth Round Table, the harbour master, Captain D. V. Sutton, said that the Haven Bridge had opened 17,641 times in 15 years: he suggested that an additional means of crossing the river was needed.

October 26<sup>th</sup>. Scottish fisher girls went on strike for higher wages, fixed working hours and more clothing coupons.

November 9<sup>th</sup>. A new record for a daily landing of herring at Great Yarmouth was achieved when 26 drifters returned an average of 155 crans each.

November 9<sup>th</sup>. Parents of Great Yarmouth children, numbering 178, had been notified that their children's bicycles were defective; only a few had notified the Traffic Department that the defects had been rectified.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Windmill Theatre, described as Great Yarmouth's Music Hall, presented an amusing show called *Saucy Girls of Paris* all week with three performances on Saturday.

November 30<sup>th</sup>. For the first time a Great Yarmouth drifter, the *Romany Rose*, won the Prunier Trophy, when it landed 246 crans on 4<sup>th</sup> November. It was skippered by Walter Rudd of Bulmer Road, Winterton.

December 7<sup>th</sup>. Roman urns and coins, including 628 silver coins, were found during work on the new Grange Estate at Caister; later in the month it was declared treasure trove by a coroner's jury.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

The Dutch Chapel on South Quay was demolished following bomb damage.

April. The front block of Northgate Hospital was demolished.

June. The Gem Cinema was renamed the Windmill.



## 1947

January 11<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council approved the layout of the first section of the reconstruction area between Regent Road and Friars Lane.

January 11<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth meat ration was assured despite a strike by London Transport drivers.

January 18<sup>th</sup>. St. George's School was being converted into a new out-patients and a maternity block for Great Yarmouth Hospital.

January 25<sup>th</sup>. Last season's fishing season resulted in a total catch of 220,224 crans from 4,589 landings.

January 25<sup>th</sup>. The amalgamation of the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Hospitals was approved subject to the consent of the Ministry of Health.

February 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. William Henry Parker, a Gorleston lifeboat member for 20 years, was appointed coxswain to succeed Mr. C. A. Johnson.

February 8<sup>th</sup>. A start was made on the first batch of 65 houses on the Magdalen Estate.

February 8<sup>th</sup>. A wartime mine washed up by heavy seas exploded at 5.12 am on the beach just north of Sandown Road, shattering many windows in the area.

February 15<sup>th</sup>. The Ministry of Fuel announced electricity cuts due to a coal shortage caused by the freezing weather, whilst heavy snow cut off the local villages of Hemsby and Winterton.

March 1<sup>st</sup>. The long spell of snow and frost continued, with many skaters making use of Rollesby Broad, where the ice was 12 inches thick.

March 1<sup>st</sup>. Approval was given by the East Norfolk Rivers Catchment Board for a £350,000 sea defence scheme for Caister.

March 15<sup>th</sup>. As the winter's long freeze began to thaw, ice packs were seen floating down the river.

March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sir Stafford Cripps, the President of the Board of Trade, spoke at the annual dinner of the Norwich, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft Chambers of Commerce, held at the Town Hall.

March 29<sup>th</sup>. Two Roman relics were found at Burgh Castle; a ballista shot and a Roman teaser.

March 29<sup>th</sup>. A new laboratory was opened at Gorleston Girl's School at a cost of £785.

April 5<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council protested to the Minister of Health about the limiting of Great Yarmouth to only 202 new houses in the forthcoming year.

April 5<sup>th</sup>. Alastair Palgrave-Brown coxed the losing Oxford University crew in the University Boat Race.

April 12<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth led the way in East Anglia with 685 prefabs being completed by the end of February.

April 12<sup>th</sup>. Wind and rain kept the numbers of holidaymakers over the Easter holiday down to a thin trickle; it was one of the quietest and coldest that the town had known.

April 19<sup>th</sup>. The Shrublands Social Club was opened by the Mayor, Mr. H. S. Matthes.

April 26<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Ratepayers Association was formed following a meeting, which had been called by Mrs. Nellie Cockrill; the meeting took place at the St. Andrew's schoolroom.

April 26<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Drama Festival Committee presented a week of drama at the Wellington Pier.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Fred Long and Sons, Ltd., were fined £2,750 for offences under the Milk Control and Maximum Price Order.

May 10<sup>th</sup>. Chief Inspector Charles Frederick Jelliffe was appointed as Great Yarmouth's new Chief Constable.

May 10<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that 3,224 people had been re-housed during the past 18 months.

May 17<sup>th</sup>. Work starts in clearing the site for the new Claydon Grove School in Gorleston.

May 24<sup>th</sup>. The police head-quarters was moved to 26/27 South Quay.

May 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. E. Conrad Baker was adopted as the Great Yarmouth Conservative candidate. He was a lecturer in economics at Cambridge University and was a Cambridge cricket blue.

May 31<sup>st</sup>. The Sea Cadets' new head-quarters was opened at *Koolunga* in Gorleston by Vice Admiral Sir George O. Stephenson; it was named *TS Watchful* after Great Yarmouth's war-time naval base.

May 31<sup>st</sup>. The Cliff Hotel at Gorleston re-opened after being occupied by the services during the war.

June 7<sup>th</sup>. Caister Parish Council reported that there would be 25 prefabs erected in the Braddock Road area of the village.

June 14<sup>th</sup>. A new Labour and Trade Unions' Club was opened at 88/89 High Street, Gorleston; it was formerly the British Restaurant.

June 14<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council approved the lease of 22 acres of land at the South Denes to Mr. J. W. Beckett for the development of a workers' holiday camp.

June 28<sup>th</sup>. About 500 workers at the Erie Resistor factory crammed into their canteen to attend the live lunchtime recording of the B. B. C.'s *Workers Playtime*.

June 28<sup>th</sup>. Bowls and cricket were played on Scroby Sands by the town's boatmen in an attempt to prove that the sands were safe for visitors.

June 28<sup>th</sup>. Over 5,000 British Legion branch members from all over Norfolk paraded at the Wellesley Recreation Ground to hear an address by Lieutenant Colonel C. Gordon Larking.

July 5<sup>th</sup>. The purchase of land on the South Denes for the new power station was approved.

July 12<sup>th</sup>. During the B. B. C.'s East Anglia Week, 12 broadcasts were made from Great Yarmouth, including a service from St. Peter's Church, an episode of *Quiz Time*, a public concert by the B. B. C. Midlands Light Orchestra and a programme called *Sentinels of the Sea* broadcast direct from the Cross Sands Lightship.

July 19<sup>th</sup>. *Children's Hour* was broadcast by the B. B. C. from Gorleston's Floral Hall, featuring children who had been auditioned from Norwich, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

July 26<sup>th</sup>. Jewson's open a new factory to produce Plimper, a plastic boarding made from sawdust and chemicals.

July 26<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Naturalists' Society express concern at the disturbance made to the tern colony's nesting sites on Scroby Sands by holidaymakers landing on the sands; boatmen were requested to warn their passengers that tern eggs were protected by law.

August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hermann Goering's armoured car was on display in Regent Road in aid of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Families Association.

August 8<sup>th</sup>. Shows had started at the Britannia Pier after the completion of repairs to the wartime breach (an anti-invasion measure) in its structure.

August 16<sup>th</sup>. The Ministry of Health agreed in principle for Ferryside to be used as a children's home.

August 23<sup>rd</sup>. William Currie was appointed as the Principal to the Great Yarmouth School of Art.

August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Five members of the Great Yarmouth Swimming Club swam the two miles from the beach to Scroby Sands; J. Balls, L.G. Morris, H. McCarthy, J. C. Masterson and R. W. Brett.

August 30<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Carnival included a Midnight Matinee in their events programme for the first time.

September 6<sup>th</sup>. Aluminium prefabricated bungalows from Hawker's factory in Gloucestershire arrived for erection at Bells Marsh, Coronation and Ordnance Roads.

September 13<sup>th</sup>. A plaque was unveiled at the Cliff Hotel to the memory of Grenfell of Labrador. Sir Wilfred Grenfell, who used to live nearby in Cliff House, had been a medical missionary in Newfoundland, where he had improved the plight of coastal inhabitants and fishermen.

September 27<sup>th</sup>. Five crewmen were killed when a R. A. F. Lincoln Bomber crashed at Mautby.

October 4<sup>th</sup>. There were 3,000 people on the Council's housing waiting list and 300 condemned houses in the town still occupied.

October 18<sup>th</sup>. A Great Yarmouth shopkeeper was fined ten shillings for selling a tin of cleaner and polish on a Sunday.

October 18<sup>th</sup>. Wartime barbed wire was baled and dumped on the mudflats on Breydon Water near the north wall.

October 25<sup>th</sup>. There was a slow start to the herring season and no signs of herring in any quantity.

November 1<sup>st</sup>. A new points system for allocating council houses was approved by the Town Council.

November 1<sup>st</sup>. A new home for unmarried mothers was opened at St. Paul's Lodge.

November 8<sup>th</sup>. Scottish and Irish fisher girls at Great Yarmouth staged a lightning strike for an increase in pay from £2 to £2 10s. per week.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. S. W. Mobbs, the Chief Engineer to the East Norfolk Rivers Catchment Board, predicted that Caister may go into the sea within 10 years, if no sea defences were erected.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>. A new machine for gutting herring was being used by Messrs Alexander Wood and Son at Salmon Road.

December 6<sup>th</sup>. The disappointing fishing season saw the Scottish boats leave early.

December 6<sup>th</sup>. A new home for nurses in Gorleston was opened at Bond House on Pier Plain.

December 13<sup>th</sup>. There was a call for public telephones to be installed on the Shrublands Estate.

December 20<sup>th</sup>. Food and second-hand clothing was sent to Germany by the Nelson Ward Labour Association.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

Tecta Furniture Ltd opened in Suffling Road .

The riverboat, *Pride of the Yare*, was sold to be operated on the River Trent.

September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Education Department moved into premises in Euston Road.

## 1948

January 24<sup>th</sup>. Duncan House School moved from Albert Square to Scratby Hall to accommodate more pupils (200).

January 24<sup>th</sup>. A second river crossing for the River Yare will not materialise said Mr. F. Kruber of the Planning Committee

January 31<sup>st</sup>. Extensions were opened by the Bishop of Norwich to the Great Yarmouth Hospital, (containing consulting rooms, massage room, casualty operating room, a 12-bedded maternity unit and nursery and kitchens).

February 14<sup>th</sup>. Nearly five miles of concrete road were completed and 44 out of the initial 162 houses were built in the New Magdalen Estate.

February 14<sup>th</sup>. The chip fryers of Great Yarmouth complained that their potato supply had been cut by 70%, because of rationing.

February 14<sup>th</sup>. To prevent the drift of sand into seafront gardens, Anderson shelter parts were erected against the sea wall.

February 21<sup>st</sup>. One thousand surplus Army lorries were shipped to Great Yarmouth from storage dumps in Holland and Belgium for overhaul before being exported to Yugoslavia.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Transport reported a record year for the buses.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. The weather vane on St. George's Church was bent in the wind and repaired.

March 13<sup>th</sup>. The ugly scars in the town of bombed buildings being used as car parks and play areas were slowly being re-filled with new property.

March 13<sup>th</sup>. A pill box, built into the buildings near where the Revolving Tower was sited, was demolished.

March 20<sup>th</sup>. The local rate was cut by a shilling. It would cost a £1,000,000 to run the town.

March 27<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Electricity Department owned by the Corporation was handed over to the British Electricity Authority.

March 27<sup>th</sup>. Since 1945, 1,198 families had been rehoused. There are 3,023 on the waiting list.

April 10<sup>th</sup>. Dr. K. J. Grant was appointed the Medical Officer of Health.

April 24<sup>th</sup>. Railwaymen gathered at a dinner at the Bridge Hotel to celebrate the nationalisation of the railways.

May 14<sup>th</sup>. Two hundred delegates attended the Electrical Trades Union Conference at the Town Hall.

May 14<sup>th</sup>. The lifeboat, *Elizabeth Simpson*, was sold for £90 and was to be used as a cruising craft.

May 21<sup>st</sup>. Fifteen-year-old Petula Clark, film actress, visited the Girl Guide's and Youth Clubs Conference at the Floral Hall.

May 21<sup>st</sup>. The *Yarmouth Mercury* price was increased to 3d.

May 28<sup>th</sup>. The helicopter mail service commenced using Caister Aerodrome.

June 4<sup>th</sup>. Small girls from St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church processed the Corpus Christi around the town for the second year running.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. Fewer vessels used the port.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. Drs. Blake and Ley were thanked for their voluntary work at the hospital during the war at the expense of their private practices.

July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Pleasure Beach was refused permission to open on Sundays, as it was felt that Great Yarmouth had too much of a continental Sunday.

July 9<sup>th</sup>. The local dentists reluctantly agreed to join the National Health Service.

July 16<sup>th</sup>. Max Pearce, a speedway rider, was killed during a match at Caister Stadium.

July 30<sup>th</sup>. Three hundred tons of wood pulp from Norway arrived at the new Hartman fibre factory.

August 13<sup>th</sup>. An epidemic of scarlet fever hit the town.

August 13<sup>th</sup>. Sir Will Spens became the High Steward.

August 13<sup>th</sup>. Mines on the beach were found and blown up.

August 20<sup>th</sup>. The swim from pier to pier for the Shearley Cup took place.

August 29<sup>th</sup>. Mr. W. E. Stephens, the Town Clerk, died after 32 years' service to Great Yarmouth.

August 27<sup>th</sup>. The annual actors' service at St. James' Church drew a large congregation.

August 27<sup>th</sup>. The British Restaurant, which did valuable service to the depleted wartime population (now named the Civic Restaurant), in the Market Place was doing good trade

September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two motor torpedo boats were moored at Hall Quay for inspection by the public.

September 17<sup>th</sup>. Patricia Brown, a 16-year-old, was invested as Miss Yarmouth at the Marina.

September 17<sup>th</sup>. Those civilians killed in the war were given headstones on which was carved the borough's coat of arms. A Government grant was given for this.

September 24<sup>th</sup>. The St. James' Ballet Company sponsored by the Arts Council brought ballet to theatreless towns. They appeared at the Gorleston Floral Hall and the audience, who at first were shocked by a modern ballet, left as enthusiasts.

September 24<sup>th</sup>. Camden Road was one of the streets flooded in the south end of town, when a high tide choked the drains.

September 24<sup>th</sup>. A Great Yarmouth shopkeeper was fined £1 for selling a bag of flour on a Sunday (it was permitted to sell bread).

September 24<sup>th</sup>. The re-building of the Corporation Caister Road Transport Depot continued. It had been bombed during the war.

September 24<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth took on Hull at Speedway.

October 1<sup>st</sup>. Great Yarmouth buses carried a million more passengers than in the last financial year.

October 1<sup>st</sup>. Two groynes were built as part of Caister's sea defences

October 8<sup>th</sup>. The first Scottish drifters arrived for the start of the autumn herring season.

October 8<sup>th</sup>. The Wellington Pier Pavilion and Gardens made a profit of £220 last year (£1,364 profit in 1946/47).

October 8<sup>th</sup>. Over £16,000 was raised, when the estate of Mr. Shearly was auctioned. The two most important properties were 27 Regent Street (£4,000) and 34 Regent Street (£3,600). Three cottages in Row 60 went for £1.

October 22<sup>nd</sup>. A Great Yarmouth pig-dealer was sentenced to death for murdering a woman in Camperdown. He was hanged at Norwich Prison on 18<sup>th</sup> November.

October 29<sup>th</sup>. One hundred and twenty buildings damaged by the wartime bombing in the Middlegate area were demolished.

November 12<sup>th</sup>. The Eastern Area Model Yacht Championship took place in the Nelson Gardens Boating Lake in boisterous conditions.

November 19<sup>th</sup>. Firewood at a shilling a barrow load could be obtained from the bombsites in Middlegate.

November 26<sup>th</sup>. The largest vessel (3,000 tons) to take cargo out of Great Yarmouth since the war sailed. It took 3,360 tons of dried herring to Italy. Three tugs helped her out of the harbour.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two old people's hostels were opened at the properties, the Oaks and the Elms in Addison Road, Gorleston.

December 10<sup>th</sup>. The estimated capital expenditure of the Council for the next four years was £5,474.637.

December 24<sup>th</sup>. A large fire extensively damaged the High School for Girls.

December 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. P. C. Ellis died, a former Mayor and a former licensee of the Avenue Hotel, Beatty Road, the proprietor of the Metropolitan Temperance Hotel, Marine Parade and the Jetty Tea Rooms.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

Lacon's Brewery was re-built after its bombing in the war.

The Methodist Chapel in the High Street, Gorleston (built 1840) was closed.

The old workhouse (now Northgate Hospital) was taken over by the Ministry of Health at the start of the National Health Service.

January. Johnson's clothing factory was built on the Conge.

April. Hartmann's factory was built on the South Denes and opened in July.

April 15th. Wroughton Infant School on Beccles Road was opened.

April 20<sup>th</sup>. The speedway track on Caister Road was opened.

May. The tennis courts between the Jetty and the Winter Gardens were turned into a children's pedal car circuit.

October. The Jellicoe Road bridge was opened.

## 1949

January 7<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that Scroby Sands was still covered in a mass of oranges that had been jettisoned from the Norwegian motor vessel, *Bosphorus*, before Christmas.

January 14<sup>th</sup>. The new Magdalen Estate already had 174 houses in occupation, including between 50 to 60 families re-housed from the prefabs at Shrublands.

January 21<sup>st</sup>. Great Yarmouth's Sixth Club for the Over Sixties was opened by the Mayor, Mr. F. H. Stone, at the British Red Cross Society premises on St. Peter's Road.

January 21<sup>st</sup>. For the first time since the war the Regal was to stage a pantomime, *Mother Goose*, with Patrick Ward in the title role and Hazel Gay as the principal boy.

January 28<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth's Chief Education Officer, George John Wroughton, announced that he was to retire in August; he had been involved with the Education Committee since 1903, when he began as a junior clerk.

January 28<sup>th</sup>. A fine specimen of a lesser white-fronted goose, a very rare visitor from the Arctic and Scandinavia, was shot on Breydon Marshes and was to be exhibited at Norwich Castle Museum.

February 4<sup>th</sup>. Over 2,000 pairs of sea boot stockings and mittens made by Johnson and Sons Ltd. to a special design by the Admiralty were to be tested in naval trials in the Arctic.

February 4<sup>th</sup>. Fleggburgh Village Hall was opened, it was only the second in Norfolk to be built under the National Council of Social Services post war village hall scheme

February 18<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Citizens' Advice Bureau, which played such a valuable role during the war, is to be re-opened.

February 25<sup>th</sup>. General Post Office detector vans would be out in the Great Yarmouth area during the forthcoming week searching for unlicensed wireless sets.

March 4<sup>th</sup>. Floods and erosion following an 80 mph gale carried away more cliff at Caister threatening the only remaining cliff top house. In the town, the river overflowed onto the wharves and into houses and warehouses.

March 11<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that a factory for the production of Van del Shoes was to be opened in Gorleston High Street in the premises formerly used by the Salvation Army.

March 18<sup>th</sup>. A total of 47,326 persons were registered with Great Yarmouth doctors under the new National Health Service. This represented 98.3% of the Town's estimated population as at June last year.

March 25<sup>th</sup>. Sometime before 4<sup>th</sup> April, on a day and by a route known only to the Food Executive Officer and his confidential staff, some 50,000 ration books will be escorted into Great Yarmouth for distribution in the Town.

April 1<sup>st</sup>. The finishing touches were being made to Cobholm playing field pavilion. It had been started eleven years earlier, but war had interrupted its completion.

April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Record breaking Easter crowds enjoyed the best weather for a long time with the Pleasure Beach being a big attraction.

April 29<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth experienced a marked increase in the demand for sweets, now that their rationing had come to an end.

May 20<sup>th</sup>. A 35 feet Bofors anti-aircraft gun tower was dismantled near Ferry Hill; it had been erected during the war to protect shipping in the harbour.

May 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. F. Kruber became the town's first Mayor to be elected in May; the date had been changed from the customary November by the 1948 Representation of the People Act.

May 27<sup>th</sup>. The North-West Tower was in the process of being repaired by a team of bricklayers and masons under the supervision of the Ancient Monuments Department of the Ministry of Works.

June 10<sup>th</sup>. Eleven thousand ex-servicemen paraded in the Wellesley Recreation Ground in front of Field Marshall Ironside on Whit Sunday. They represented 101 Norfolk branches of the British Legion.

June 24<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor opened the town's first community centre at the Shrublands; it was designed for use by voluntary, youth and adult organisations.

July 1<sup>st</sup>. Herbert Morrison addressed farm workers from all over the country at the Wellesley Recreation Ground at a rally of the National Union of Agricultural Workers.

July 1<sup>st</sup>. A plaque was unveiled at the Grammar School bearing the names of the 56 old boys who had died during the last war.

July 8<sup>th</sup>. The Civic Restaurant on the Market Place had begun serving elevenses and afternoon teas, as well as the usual lunches.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was announced that the Ministry of Education had given approval for a new secondary technical school to be built in the Borough to provide for 650 boys and girls at an estimated cost of £264,000.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Long queues of local people and holidaymakers formed to board *H. M. S. Bleasdale*, which was moored near the Haven Bridge. The Hunt Class destroyer was a veteran of the Salerno landings.

July 29<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council approved a scheme for the layout of the Telegraph House site to the west of Melton Lodge; it would be for approximately 150 flats.

July 29<sup>th</sup>. The Corporation Transport Committee sought the support of the public in discouraging the practice of eating fish and chips on the Corporation buses.

August 5<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council turned down a request to open the Pleasure Beach on Sundays.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. Performers from the town's summer shows attended an actors' service at St. James' Church.

August 19<sup>th</sup>. Concern was expressed at two confirmed and two suspected poliomyelitis cases at Great Yarmouth's Isolation Hospital.

August 19<sup>th</sup>. Robert Brother's Circus and Menagerie was advertised to appear for one week on the Beaconsfield Recreation Ground; it was to include lions, leopards, zebras and llamas.

August 26<sup>th</sup>. General Albert Osborn C. B. E., the International Leader of the Salvation Army, led an evangelical service for 1,000 people at the Winter Gardens.

August 26<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Musical Society, founded in 1867, announced its programme of concerts for the forthcoming year.

September 9<sup>th</sup>. The forthcoming Midnight Matinee at the Wellington Pier would combine artists from the town's four summer shows at the Wellington Pier, the Britannia Pier, the Windmill and the Gorleston Pavilion.

September 16<sup>th</sup>. The new Wroughton Junior Mixed Primary School opened; most of the children had transferred from the Church Road Junior School.

September 30<sup>th</sup>. Nearly 1,000 anglers lined the banks of the River Thurne for the English Freshwater Angling Championship; many stayed overnight in Great Yarmouth and were driven in a fleet of coaches to Potter Heigham and Martham early the next morning for the competition.

September 30<sup>th</sup>. A dancing display was advertised to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> October at the Wellington Pier by the pupils of the Phyllis Adams School of Dancing.

October 14<sup>th</sup>. A training centre for the Royal Naval Volunteer (Wireless) Reserve was established at *Koolunga* in Gorleston High Street; it was also the Headquarters of the Sea Cadets.

October 21<sup>st</sup>. Work started on a new layout for Hall Quay to improve traffic flow and to provide more grass plots and gardens.

November 4<sup>th</sup>. The future of the Jetty was in doubt and had recently been closed, because of its dangerous state.

November 4<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth's speedway team lost out on winning the National League Third Division title to Hanley by 0.01 of a point.

November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth's War Memorial to the 854 men and women who fell in the Second World War was unveiled in St. George's Park by the Mayor, Mr. F. Kruber, and dedicated by the Bishop of Norwich, Dr. P. M. Herbert.

November 18<sup>th</sup>. A fierce fire in a North Quay warehouse belonging to Messrs. Norton Brothers destroyed about a million cigarettes.

November 25<sup>th</sup>. The philosopher and author, Dr. C. E. M. Joad, opened Great Yarmouth's new travelling library; it was the first town to use a double-decker for that purpose.



December 9<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth magistrates decided to permit dancing until midnight and drinking until 12.15 am on New Year's Eve at the Britannia Pier, the Goode's Hotel and the Victoria Hotel.

December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Reasons for the failure of the home market in herring were discussed at the annual skippers' dinner at the Goode's Hotel; Mr. W. Jackson Wallace, a Director of MacFisheries gave the address.

December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society's production of *Aladdin* was to begin at the Wellington Pier for one week from 31<sup>st</sup> December.

### **Extracts from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

Great Yarmouth buses were allocated route numbers and letters for the first time since 1939.

The ice house at the Fishwharf was demolished.

The Information Centre on Marine Parade was built at a cost of £700.

Sea front illuminations were re-instated for the first time since the war.

February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jewson's first used straddle carriers to move timber in Great Yarmouth.

March 28<sup>th</sup>. Johnson and Sons new overall factory opened on the Conge.

May 1<sup>st</sup>. Great Yarmouth Gas Company and Gorleston and Southtown Gas Company both passed to state control under the Eastern Gas Board.

July 29<sup>th</sup>. The outdoor roller skating rink opened in the Wellington Gardens.

## 1950

January 6<sup>th</sup>. The *Hasty Heart*, starring Ronald Regan and Patricia Neal was showing at the Regent Theatre.

January 20<sup>th</sup>. Poultry breeders were asked to send their young cockerels and poussins for freezing at Birds Eye Foods in Great Yarmouth. They would be collected from the farm.

January 27<sup>th</sup>. Eighteen Sherman tanks of 32 tons each and costing £24,000 to build were reduced to scrap at A. King and Sons' yard, Great Yarmouth. Each tank yielded £90 worth of scrap. They were going to scrap Churchill tanks next.

January 27<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor described the rail services at Great Yarmouth as appalling.

January 27<sup>th</sup>. Members of the ten Darby and Joan Clubs in the town were entertained by Great Yarmouth Old People's Welfare Council.

February 3<sup>rd</sup>. A disastrous fire at the Hemsby Holiday Camp.

February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Number 209 Palgrave Road with vacant possession was sold at auction for £1,770.

February 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. R. D. High, a pigeon fancier, of Manby Road, Great Yarmouth won the Berlin Flying Clubs Overseas Challenge Cup Trophy in a race for pigeons from Amsterdam at a speed of 919 yards per minute.

March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ernest Kinghorn (Labour) was elected the Member of Parliament with a majority of 1,162 over the Conservative candidate. The electorate was 51,093. The turnout was 84%.

March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The whalebone seat, scarred by flames, was still by the west door of St. Nicholas' Church.

March 10<sup>th</sup>. Daniel Smith, whose father was the Salvation Army Commanding Officer at Great Yarmouth, won a place in the National Youth Orchestra as a trumpeter.

March 10<sup>th</sup>. Miss Barwell, a former Matron of Great Yarmouth Hospital died aged 84 years.

March 17<sup>th</sup>. The railway bridge between Lawn Avenue and the River Bure was removed and used at North Walsham.

March 17<sup>th</sup>. Northgate Hospital was desperate for more female beds. A ward was closed at Great Yarmouth Isolation Hospital, because of a shortage of nursing staff.

March 24<sup>th</sup>. One thousand delegates attended the Co-operative Party's annual conference at the Wellington Pier Pavilion.

March 24<sup>th</sup>. The wreck of the schooner *Ann Crewdson*, which came ashore during a gale in 1893 was unearthed, when workers were digging a new outlet near the Jetty.

March 24<sup>th</sup>. The German steamer, *Gotaalv* from Gydnia, unloaded 262 standards of deal battens and boards for Jewson's timber yard.

April 6<sup>th</sup>. The Sunday roller hockey was cancelled after the intervention of the Lord's Day Observance Society.

April 6<sup>th</sup>. A stone from the ruined St. Nicholas' Church was sent for the Aldershot War Memorial. Great Yarmouth was one of 54 boroughs to send stone.

April 6<sup>th</sup>. Four trawlers and one drifter failed to sell at auction. Not one bid was received, showing the sad state of the fishing.

April 14<sup>th</sup>. The wet and windy weekend resulted in the worst Easter weekend for trade since the war.

April 14<sup>th</sup>. About 54,000 new ration books were exchanged for old ones. Agriculture workers were entitled to extra cheese.

April 14<sup>th</sup>. Easter bread was distributed by the Vicar of Great Yarmouth under the terms of a charity founded in 1758. Henry Abbon had left £50 for two large white loaves to be given to the poor.

April 21<sup>st</sup>. The Easter Fair took place in the Market Place. A noticeable change this year were the number of coconut shies; until recently coconuts had been unobtainable.

April 28<sup>th</sup>. The *Poplars* on Avondale Road, Gorleston was opened as an old people's home. It had accommodation for 28 people and three resident staff. Previously it had been a school and a boarding house and a restaurant.

May 5<sup>th</sup>. The Council were concerned about the short supply of cement, which put their house building plans in danger.

May 5<sup>th</sup>. An appeal was launched to raise £10,000 to build a church hall to adjoin St. Paul's Church. The original hall had suffered severe damage in the war.

May 12<sup>th</sup>. Circus Rosaire paid a three day visit to a site on Freemantle Road.

May 12<sup>th</sup>. Miss Margaret M. Black was appointed the Headmistress of Yarmouth High School.

May 12<sup>th</sup>. One of the biggest cargo ships to visit Great Yarmouth, *Maria G*, took on board a cargo of canned fish and fish paste. The cargo was going to Tel Aviv via Rotterdam and Antwerp.

May 12<sup>th</sup>. A report stressed the unsuitability of the children's homes in Gorleston.

May 19<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Publicity Association was formed.

May 19<sup>th</sup>. Two young soldiers from Great Yarmouth who had been fighting the bandits in the Malaya jungle finished their National Service.

May 19<sup>th</sup>. The £2,000 scheme to beautify the Waterways with neon lighted nursery-land novelties was completed.

May 26<sup>th</sup>. The Council refused the Pleasure Beach permission to open on Sundays.

May 26<sup>th</sup>. Part of the sea front gardens south of Britannia Pier were converted for use as a children's roundabout, a decision that aroused much criticism.

June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The visitors to the town did not spend much money. Coupon free petrol brought more cars.

June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hemsby Holiday Camp was re-built after a fire.

June 9<sup>th</sup>. Three thousand old people attended a rally at the Marina. They were members of Old People's Clubs in Norfolk.

June 9<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston Lifeboat searched for survivors from an American plane, which had crashed into the North Sea.

June 9<sup>th</sup>. A drumhead service opened the town's youth week.

June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Manchester Unity of Odd Fellows held their conference in Great Yarmouth.

June 16<sup>th</sup>. A man and a young woman were killed when they were shot by a double-barrelled shotgun in Wellesley Road.

June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The new one-way system in the Market Place, Deneside, King Street and Regent Road came into operation.

June 30<sup>th</sup>. The first part of blitzed Great Yarmouth to be re-built, under the Government scheme of special assistance for the re-building of the centres of bombed towns, began in King Street. There will be a gown shop, Hill's Restaurant, a shoe shop and a Maypole Dairy.

June 30<sup>th</sup>. *H. M. S. Bleasdale* berthed in the river.

July 7<sup>th</sup>. Seven broadcasts of Great Yarmouth summer shows were put on air in a programme entitled *Yarmouth Entertains*.

July 7<sup>th</sup>. Four houses in Jellicoe Road were built and handed over to the police for their married officers.

July 7<sup>th</sup>. Four pickpockets were arrested at the racecourse and sent to prison for three months.

July 7<sup>th</sup>. Major reconstruction took place at the Trinity House Quay.

July 7<sup>th</sup>. Rowland Fisher, an artist, retired after 52 years working with Jewson and Sons with 40 years as its Mill Manager.

July 21<sup>st</sup>. Eleven people were charged with fraud for alleged work carried out on war damaged properties.

July 21<sup>st</sup>. *Dominions*, an old people's home was built on a blitzed site in Northgate Street.

July 28<sup>th</sup>. Wroughton Junior School was opened on Beccles Road. It was said to be one of the finest in England.

August 4<sup>th</sup>. The Corporation buses made a profit of £17,267 in the last financial year.

August 4<sup>th</sup>. A grocery shop in Salisbury Road was fined £25 for allowing betting on the premises.

August 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. and Mrs. Beeching celebrated their Golden Wedding. Mr. Beeching was the last in the line of Great Yarmouth boat builders going back nearly 200 years. The shipyard was on Southgates Road.

August 25<sup>th</sup>. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church celebrated its centenary.

August 25<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston Baptist Church were given permission to re-build their bombed out church opposite the Tramway Hotel.

August 25<sup>th</sup>. There were 283 people unemployed in Great Yarmouth.

September 1<sup>st</sup>. A party of Great Yarmouth Grammar School boys and girls from Great Yarmouth High School went on a trip to Austria.

September 1<sup>st</sup>. The ship, *Silvio*, arrived in harbour with salt for the herring season.

September 8<sup>th</sup>. Frankie Howerd presented the *Miss Yarmouth* title.

September 15<sup>th</sup>. The Battle of Britain Week Carnival took place

September 22<sup>nd</sup>. St. George's Men's Service closed down after 42 years, due to a lack of support.

September 29<sup>th</sup>. After renovations following wartime use, the Hippodrome would open next year.

October 6<sup>th</sup>. The architect, Mr. F. R. B. Haward, died. He had designed the two Great Yarmouth war memorials and many public buildings. He was aged 71 years.

October 13<sup>th</sup>. Two veteran members of the Town Council, Alderman P. R. Hill and Alderman H. T. Greenacre were admitted as Freemen of Great Yarmouth.

October 13<sup>th</sup>. Norman Goldthorpe was sentenced to death for the murder of 66-year-old Elizabeth Howe in Row 52. The jury deliberated for 58 minutes.

October 20<sup>th</sup>. The slow rate of slum clearance was criticised by Mr. Spinks, the Chief Sanitary Officer.

October 27<sup>th</sup>. There was difficulty in finding markets for good quality herrings.

November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The herring catch topped £300,000, which was helped by the reduction plant.

November 10<sup>th</sup>. An application to replace the South Denes Caravan Park with a holiday camp was refused, as the land may be needed for industrial use.

November 10<sup>th</sup>. The road was widened where the Norwich road meets the Ormesby road at church corner, Caister.

November 10<sup>th</sup>. The second Sea Angling Festival at the river in Gorleston attracted over 500 anglers. Prizes worth £1,000, cups and trophies were on offer.

November 17<sup>th</sup>. The demolition of the blitzed ruins of Messrs. Johnson in Middlegate Street resulted in the removal of an old doorway, which had been incorporated into the south wall of the building, when it was built in 1936. It was thought to have come from the Greyfriars cloisters.

November 17<sup>th</sup>. The drifter, *Romany Rose*, winner of the Prunier Trophy in 1945, was holed after striking the north pier and was beached.

November 24<sup>th</sup>. German local government representatives held a three week visit to the town to study English methods of local government.

December 1<sup>st</sup>. The drifter, *Wydale*, won the Prunier Trophy for the largest single catch (250¼ crans).

December 1<sup>st</sup>. The first stones were laid for the new Baptist church on Lowestoft Road. The church had been bombed in 1941.

December 8<sup>th</sup>. A large Christmas tree would be erected on Church Plain. A gift of Lord Somerleyton.

December 8<sup>th</sup>. Toc H moved into Sewell House as its headquarters.

December 8<sup>th</sup>. A temporary Callendar-Hamilton girder bridge was to be erected over the River Bure to replace the old suspension bridge.

December 15<sup>th</sup>. Six conferences would be held in the town in 1951.

December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Following a heavy snow fall (15 inches) the roads were blocked and a coffin was brought by river from Reedham for a funeral service at St. Luke's Church.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

The *Golden Galleon* commenced river trips.

Kerridge's shop was re-built after war time bombing.

June. The Jetty was declared unsafe and was closed.

## 1951

January 19<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth was hit by an influenza wave with over 500 claims received by the Ministry of National Insurance Office, compared with the usual 200.

January 26<sup>th</sup>. Excavation of the basements in the Middlegate area began prior to commencing re-building.

February 9<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that Great Yarmouth's Civic Restaurant on the Market Place was to close on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

February 16<sup>th</sup>. Frank Martin and Jocelyn Taylor, the resident roller skating professionals at the Wellington Pier Rink, won the British Professional Pairs Championship at Leicester.

February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Great Yarmouth Corporation was negotiating with the National Trust for the use of 4 South Quay as a museum; it had been left to the National Trust in the will of Miss Blanche Aldred.

March 9<sup>th</sup>. Inns in the Flegg area were permitted to keep open on weekdays until 10.30 pm from the Monday before Easter until the end of October; during the remainder of the year they would revert to a 10 pm closing time.

March 16<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Hippodrome was acquired by Mr. W. A. Russell, who hoped to re-introduce the circus during the summer.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Among the week's advertised entertainment was indoor roller skating at the Winter Gardens and at the Gorleston Rollerdom.

March 30<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth was affected by the worst Easter weather for many years with few holidaymakers visiting the town.

April 6<sup>th</sup>. Census forms were distributed throughout the town for the first time in 20 years.

April 13<sup>th</sup>. The new St. Mary Magdalene Church on the Magdalen Estate was opened by the Bishop of Norwich (Dr. P. M. Herbert).

May 4<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth gain their first speedway win of the season by beating Coventry 55-29 at the Caister Road track.

May 11<sup>th</sup>. The 110 ton auxiliary barge, *Glenway*, of Rochester, went aground between Hemsby and Scratby; a line from the Winterton Rocket Life-Safety Company was fired over it, but the crew of two declined to come ashore by breeches buoy.

May 18<sup>th</sup>. Bad weather spoiled the Whitsun weekend with muffled visitors braving the showers and cold winds.

May 25<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth's third socialist Mayor, Councillor H. J. Shorten, was installed in office.

May 25<sup>th</sup>. At the annual dinner of the Great Yarmouth and District Football League it was stated that during the previous season 1,300 players had been registered to play, and there had only been three cases of misconduct reported.

June 15<sup>th</sup>. Over 4,000 members of old people's clubs from all over Norfolk came to Great Yarmouth for their second annual rally and were entertained at the Marina.

June 22<sup>nd</sup>. A marsh on the west side of Caister Road, used unofficially as an airfield for some years, was opened by Anglian Air Charter as the North Denes Airfield.

July 6<sup>th</sup>. A former Lord Mayor of London, Sir George Wilkinson, opened the new old people's bungalows in Northgate Street, which had been built on the site of Bulman's Nurseries; £15,000 of the £26,000 that the bungalows had cost was contributed by the London National Air Raid Distress Fund.

July 7<sup>th</sup>. The Little Theatre staged *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

July 13<sup>th</sup>. Ronnie Ronalde and Max Bygraves were performing at the Britannia Pier for the summer season.

July 20<sup>th</sup>. A *Great Yarmouth through the Ages* exhibition had been arranged by the Town Council to mark the Festival of Britain.

July 27<sup>th</sup>. Sixteen-year-old Daniel Liffen, a Great Yarmouth Grammar School pupil, became the first person to swim from the north beach to Scroby Sands and back.

August 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was reported that Great Yarmouth Corporation Transport had carried 17 million passengers during the 1949-50 financial year, but had only made an annual profit of £290.

August 10<sup>th</sup>. August Bank Holiday brought rain and traffic jams; the Chief Constable commented that the volume of traffic over Vauxhall Bridge at one point reached 2,900 vehicles per hour.

August 17<sup>th</sup>. Three Great Yarmouth magistrates were reported to be part way through reading 81 novels seized by police for obscenity from a shop at 226 High Street, Gorleston; the titles included *Halo for a Lady*, *Bed Time Blonde* and *Big Time Girl*.

September 7<sup>th</sup>. For the first time since the war, herring were sold to Russia, albeit at a price less than the cost of production, in order to get a foothold in the market.

September 21<sup>st</sup>. The town's Midnight Matinee, organised on behalf of Battle of Britain Week, finished at 3.30 am.

October 5<sup>th</sup>. The Council abandoned a scheme to build six-storey flats at the south end of the Middlegate reconstruction area.

November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Anthony Fell wins back the Great Yarmouth parliamentary seat for the Conservative Party from Labour with a majority of 1,015.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>. A foot-and-mouth outbreak resulted in a valuable dairy herd belonging to Mr. Charles Wharton being slaughtered at Stokesby.

December 7<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston Football Club lost 4-5 in the second replay of their First Round F. A. Cup match against Leyton Orient, played at Highbury in front of 12,000 fans.

December 21<sup>st</sup>. Many Great Yarmouth hotels and local holiday camps were fully booked for Christmas by people from the London area and the Midlands.

#### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

February. The bridge spanning the ravine on Gorleston Cliffs was replaced.

March. Building started on the new Technical High School.

September 10<sup>th</sup>. Peterhouse Infant School was opened.

October. A temporary Bridge was erected over the River Bure, while the Suspension Bridge was replaced.

## 1952

January 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Michael Gascoigne Falcon was appointed to succeed Mr. C. F. MacKay as the head brewer and maltster at E. Lacon and Company.

January 11<sup>th</sup>. The Flegg Petty Sessions held its first session at the Town Hall since transferring from the Old Court House at Rollesby.

January 18<sup>th</sup>. It was estimated that Great Yarmouth's new power station would use 12 million gallons of water an hour from the River Yare when working at full capacity, altering tide levels by 4½ inches in each direction.

January 25<sup>th</sup>. For possibly the first time, a ship flying the Swiss flag and registered in Basle visited Great Yarmouth harbour; it was the 600-ton motor vessel *Lugaco*.

February 8<sup>th</sup>. Approval was given by the Town Council for Mr. J. W. Beckett to have the temporary use of land at the North Denes for seven years as a camping and caravan site.

February 15<sup>th</sup>. The succession of Queen Elizabeth II was proclaimed with the 'traditional ceremony at four points in the Borough; the Town Hall balcony, the Market Place, outside the gates of St. Nicholas' Church and at Feather's Plain in Gorleston.

February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The people of Great Yarmouth paid homage to the late King with commemorative services at the churches and chapels on Friday at 1.15 pm with a two minute silence at 2 pm, which was commenced by the firing of a maroon.

February 29<sup>th</sup>. Councillor William Alfred Barfield was chosen as the next Mayor. He was a Director of Barith Shoes Ltd., which was formerly known as the Norwich Slipper Company.

March 7<sup>th</sup>. A 7½ lb. pike was caught by Mr. Fred Lee, the watchman of the tug *George Jewson*, close to the harbour's mouth, which is not one of the usual haunts of this freshwater fish that usually dislikes even brackish water.

March 14<sup>th</sup>. Grey-Green Coaches were advertising journeys to King's Cross at 10/- for a single journey and 17/6d for a period return with coaches leaving Great Yarmouth daily at 8.55 am and 2.25 pm.

March 14<sup>th</sup>. The 700 years old church of Saints Peter and Paul at Runham was now fully restored after suffering bomb damage in 1941, when bombs from an enemy plane landed nearby.

March 21<sup>st</sup>. Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Council of Churches protested at the Corporation's decision to allow an all-day roller-skating competition to take place at the Winter Gardens on Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>.

March 21<sup>st</sup>. Forty men were thrown out of work after a fire destroyed half of a sawmill and box manufacturing plant owned by Messrs. Wenn on North Quay.

March 28<sup>th</sup>. Concern was expressed at the lack of building work in the town; it was suggested that approximately 300 building workers could be unemployed within the next month.

April 4<sup>th</sup>. The All-England Netball Championships were held at Great Yarmouth despite driving snow, sleet and sand, which accompanied one of the worst gales the town had experienced for many years.

April 10<sup>th</sup>. Billy Russell announced the opening of a zoo and pets' corner on the corner of the Hippodrome for the forthcoming summer season.

April 18<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth experienced its sunniest Easter for many years with holidaymakers and day trippers flocking to the town.

April 25<sup>th</sup>. Ten bungalows designed specifically for old people were under construction in Keyes Avenue.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Since the recent violent north-east gales, it was estimated that almost 7,000 tons of sand had been removed from the sea front between Salisbury Road and the Nelson Gardens.

May 16<sup>th</sup>. The *Ocean Sunlight*, the first of two drifter-trawlers being built for the Great Yarmouth firm of Bloomfield's Ltd., was launched at Lowestoft.

May 23<sup>rd</sup>. A Royal Air Force pilot was helped ashore in a dinghy after two Meteors collided during manoeuvres over the sea north of Great Yarmouth.

May 30<sup>th</sup>. At a meeting of the East Suffolk County Council General Purposes Committee the change of name of Hopton to Hopton-on-Sea was agreed.

June 6<sup>th</sup>. There was a measles epidemic, the worst for years, with 934 cases having been reported.

June 20<sup>th</sup>. The largest vessel to be built at Great Yarmouth, the *Sonority*, was handed over to her owners, F. T. Everard and Company Ltd., by the builders Fellows and Company Ltd., following six hours of sea trials off Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

June 27<sup>th</sup>. A large extension to the Birds Eye factory was opened by Lord Llewellyn; the new building was needed to meet the increasing demand for the quick freezing of fruit and vegetables.

June 27<sup>th</sup>. A programme of light popular music by the B. B. C.'s Midland Light Orchestra was broadcast from the Assembly Room at the Town Hall.

July 4<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Roller Skating Club launched its season of the *Roller Rebels 52* shows at the Wellington Pier Gardens in front of 2,500 spectators.

July 11<sup>th</sup>. Max Miller was to pay his first visit to Great Yarmouth when he would appear for six days in a show at the Regal Theatre. By popular demand he would return for a further six days in August.

July 18<sup>th</sup>. The Registrar General's 1951 population census figures revealed a drop in Great Yarmouth's population to 51,000 compared with 56,771 in 1931.

August 15<sup>th</sup>. Richard Dimpleby was in Great Yarmouth and Gorleston to record talks with local people for an edition of *Down Your Way*.

August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The historic house at No. 4 South Quay, where it was believed that the death of Charles I was decided, was opened by the National Trust as a specimen of an Elizabethan merchant's house.

September 5<sup>th</sup>. The first wherry race on Breydon Water for over 70 years took place with three wherries taking part. The *Albion* broke a mast when leading, the *Dragon* ran aground twice and the *Hathor*, which also ran aground on one occasion finally arrived home first.

September 12<sup>th</sup>. Scenes for the children's television serial, *Huckleberry Finn*, were shot on Ormesby Broad and at Hickling.

September 17<sup>th</sup>. The screen version of the operetta, *The Merry Widow*, had its premiere at the Regent cinema prior to opening nationally.

October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. H. T. Greenacre resigned from the Chairmanship of the Education Committee, a post he had held for 27 years having succeeded Mr. E. W. Worlledge in 1925: he was to be followed in the post by Mrs. K. Adlington.

October 17<sup>th</sup>. The Herring Industry Board's herring reduction factory on the South Denes was opened by Lord Carrington; it had cost over £100,000.

October 24<sup>th</sup>. A new drive was launched to build up the Civil Defence Corps, which needed 520 men and women to bring it up to strength.

October 31<sup>st</sup>. More than 3,000 acres of peas were grown during the summer for quick freezing at Birds Eye's Great Yarmouth factory.

November 11<sup>th</sup>. The Masquers performed Sheridan's comedy, *The Rivals*, at the Town Hall for three nights.

November 21<sup>st</sup>. The herring season, which started so promisingly, collapsed due to persistent rough weather with 180 Scottish boats returning home.

November 21<sup>st</sup>. The death was reported of the holiday camp pioneer, Mr. J. Fletcher Dodd, at the age of 90 years; he had founded the country's first holiday camp at Caister in 1906.

December 5<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen Danish sailors were rescued by lifeboat and helicopter, when the Danish Navy Motor Torpedo Boat, *Haroernon*, ran aground on Scroby Sands.

December 12<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Town Football Club lost 2-1 to Third Division Wrexham at the Wellesley Ground in the second-round proper of the Football Association Cup.

December 24<sup>th</sup>. Fire swept through the printing works of John Buckle Ltd. on Theatre Plain, causing extensive damage to the building and the machinery.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

David Ferrow, Bookseller, moved to 77 Howard Street.

Noah's Ark was built at Joyland.

St. Francis Way was constructed over Row 45.

December. The row of shops from the Post Office to Howard Street was demolished.



## 1953

January 9<sup>th</sup>. The Callender– Hamilton Bridge over the River Bure replaced the Suspension Bridge. It cost £40,000.

January 30<sup>th</sup>. The Danish motor torpedo boat was re-floated after being aground for 43 days on Scroby Sands and was towed to Denmark.

January 30<sup>th</sup>. A motion to remove Potter Heigham Bridge was heavily defeated.

February 6<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth was hit by the worst floods in memory. Nine residents were killed.

February 20<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Churchill, the Prime Minister's wife, toured the flooded areas in Great Yarmouth.

February 20<sup>th</sup>. Two Great Yarmouth men were lost on the Lowestoft trawler, *Guava*, which was lost with all hands in the gale of 31<sup>st</sup> January

February 27<sup>th</sup>. The first Wesleyan Chapel in Great Yarmouth in Row 8, which had been converted into three cottages, was due for demolition.

February 27<sup>th</sup>. Ninety coalmen delivered a gift of 250 tons of coal from Oldham for flood victims.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. The Council decided that the new library should be built on the Tolhouse site.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. A 37-year old lighter-man was drowned on Breydon Water after one of the lighters capsized. His body was found at Reedham.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. The ending of egg rationing was greeted with interest by Hartman Fibre and Co., who made egg boxes.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. A fine was imposed on W. H. Smith for employing a newspaper delivery boy between 6 am and 7 am.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. Two horses, called *Topsy* and *Shorty*, pulled coal in carts from the quay to the gas works.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Welsh Society Dinner was held at the Royal Hotel.

March 20<sup>th</sup>. The new Gorleston Secondary School for Girls was opened.

March 20<sup>th</sup>. The estimate for repairing the flood damaged quays was £26,000.

March 20<sup>th</sup>. L. Temple of 18 Central Arcade was offering to purchase or restore flood damaged sewing machines.

March. 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. H. T. Greenacre, an alderman and twice mayor died. He had attended the Coronation of George VI in Westminster Abbey.

March 27<sup>th</sup>. Miss Joan Newson was chosen as Great Yarmouth's *Fruit Queen* by the local Retail Fruit Trade Federation.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dressed flints were used for decoration on the new flats and maisonettes in the Middlegate area.

April 10<sup>th</sup>. Work began on repairing the Breydon flood defences at a cost of £134,000.

April 24<sup>th</sup>. A father and son were drowned at Cantley after falling off their hire cruiser.

May 1<sup>st</sup>. Leading Fireman George Sadd was awarded the George Medal and Police Constable Baumber was awarded the British Empire Medal for their rescue work in the floods.

May 1<sup>st</sup>. The East Anglian Hospital Board stated that all the hospitals were at the limit of their buildings since the advent of the National Health Service.

May 8<sup>th</sup>. The Waterways were damaged by wanton vandalism.

May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Conservatives retained control of the Council through their greater number of aldermen. The turnout was 52%.

May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Forty-five disabled people and their relatives enjoyed a week's holiday at the Gorleston Holiday Camp through the initiative of the Norfolk Voluntary Association for the Welfare of the Handicapped.

May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Waterworks Company celebrated its centenary.

May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The film *The Cruel Sea* starring Jack Hawkins was showing at the Regal.

June 5<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Coronation celebrations went ahead in spite of the rain. There was a carnival, a 21-gun salute, fireworks and bonfires. Many streets in the borough held parties.

June 12<sup>th</sup>. The new North Denes Caravan Park (Seashore) was opened.

June 12<sup>th</sup>. The Floral Clock on the west side of Marine Parade was constructed, especially for the Coronation.

June 12<sup>th</sup>. Coronation films in colour were shown in the local cinemas.

June 12<sup>th</sup>. No Government grant was forthcoming for major port repairs. It was said that the port was not of sufficient importance.

June 12<sup>th</sup>. The Coronation decorations in London were having a detrimental effect on the holiday trade, as people were visiting them rather than going on holiday.

June 19<sup>th</sup>. The Hippodrome celebrated 50 years since its opening.

June 19<sup>th</sup>. The historic South Quay was being developed.

June 26<sup>th</sup>. Traffic wardens were placed at ten points in the borough to help school children cross busy roads.

June 26<sup>th</sup>. Old vaults in Howard Street were excavated where maltings were previously sited.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Flashing beacons were erected on ten crossings in the town.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>. An American Sabre jet crashed into a field at Browston. The pilot had baled out.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was concern about the lack of coal.

July 10<sup>th</sup>. Five hundred bandsmen from East Anglia attended a rally on Wellington Pier.

July 17<sup>th</sup>. The Ministry of Transport's scheme to box in the North Pier at Gorleston with sheet piling at a cost of £60,000 to £70,000 was accepted by the Port and Haven Commissioners.

August 7<sup>th</sup>. Around 20,000 people attended a horse race meeting in Great Yarmouth. It was the largest post-war crowd.

August 14<sup>th</sup>. A dispute over unloading timber cargoes was settled and the dockers returned to work.

August 14<sup>th</sup>. The conference of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions was held in the town.

August 28<sup>th</sup>. There were 774 shops in the Borough, one to every 66 people; £6,750,000 worth of goods were sold and £571,000 was paid in wages.

September 4<sup>th</sup>. After 13 years of National Bread, the sale of new white bread was unexpectedly poor.

September 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Stone's Bakery collapsed on the corner of Church Road and Colomb Road after three jets screamed over it.

September 18<sup>th</sup>. Maureen Pitchers was crowned *Miss Battle of Britain*.

September 18<sup>th</sup>. Seagull Coaches added a miniature coach to its fleet.

September 25<sup>th</sup>. Lance Corporal Brett marched 365 miles home after being a prisoner of war in Korea for more than two years. He had been captured after the Battle of Imjin River.

September 25<sup>th</sup>. The Russian herring contract needed 114,000 barrels of herring.

September 25<sup>th</sup>. The holiday trade was better than expected, but the outside caterers were hit hard.

September 25<sup>th</sup>. The masters of the *Golden Galleon* and the *Norwich Belle* were fined £41 10s for being overloaded with passengers.

October 9<sup>th</sup>. A mural from the South Bank Exhibition was given to the Great Yarmouth head post office.

October 9<sup>th</sup>. A balloon sent off at the Battle of Britain Week travelled 1,200 miles to Lecce in Italy.

October 9<sup>th</sup>. The Rotary Club Conference ended the Great Yarmouth conference season.

October 9<sup>th</sup>. The wherry race at the Breydon Regatta was won by *Albion*.

October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The foundation stone of St. Paul's Church Hall was laid.

October 23<sup>rd</sup>. The town's public libraries had issued 642,360 books in 1952.

October 30<sup>th</sup>. Fragments of masonry from the Blackfriars Monastery were built into a wall at the rear of the South Star Public House on South Quay.

November 27<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Town F.C. beat Third Division Crystal Palace 1-0 in the first round proper of the F. A. Cup at the Wellesley in front of a crowd of 8,944 spectators.

November 27<sup>th</sup>. Between 500 and 600 blooms were on display in the Town Hall during Great Yarmouth's Horticultural Society's chrysanthemum show.

December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Pleasure Beach was given permission to open on Sundays.

December 4<sup>th</sup>. Over 6,500 Chest X Rays were taken by the mobile unit in the town.

December 11<sup>th</sup>. The *Will Everard* sailing barge ran aground in fog on the North Beach. It was re-floated at the next high tide.

December 18<sup>th</sup>. The Council agreed to a reduced rate for Old Age Pensioners who were on holiday for the two weeks before Whitsun next year.

December 18<sup>th</sup>. The old Suspension Bridge was dismantled.

December 18<sup>th</sup>. The outside staircase of the Tolhouse was restored.

December 24<sup>th</sup>. In the last battle of the Korean War, Frederick Brundish, an old Priory schoolboy was awarded the Military Medal.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

1953. Palmer's store used the old Plaza Cinema to store people's flood damaged furniture.

1953. The Fishwharf Post Office closed. It had used a compressed air message tube to connect with the head post office.

February. The Great Yarmouth Branch of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society became independent as the Great Yarmouth Archaeological Society.

March 27<sup>th</sup>. The old people's homes on Keyes Avenue were opened.

May 15<sup>th</sup>. The old toll house by the River Bure Bridge on Acle New Road was demolished.

July 17<sup>th</sup>. The Vauxhall Bridge was closed to vehicles.

September 19<sup>th</sup>. The Breydon railway bridge was closed.

## 1954

January 1<sup>st</sup>. The British Sailors' Society Hostel which opened eight years ago, was closed.

January 1<sup>st</sup>. The Christmas post was up 6½%.

January 1<sup>st</sup>. A large scale reconstruction of the Rampart Road Maltings of Messrs. E. Lacon was taking place. When completed it would be one of the most up-to-date maltings in the country.

January 8<sup>th</sup>. The number of Council dwellings completed in 1953 was 405 houses.

January 15<sup>th</sup>. An inquest into the deaths of two people killed on the level-crossing at Bradwell was adjourned.

January 15<sup>th</sup>. Coffins lined with lead were found when workmen were evacuating the foundations for a block of flats on Middlegate Street. They were believed to be from the graveyard of the Unitarian Church, which had been destroyed in the war. Three plaques found nearby gave the dates and names of the burials. The dates were 1825, 1833 and 1839. Also a small bell was found, believed to be in a coffin. (*Editors: perhaps to prevent being buried alive, the bell could be rung*).

January 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr A. G. Green, one of the last glass-stopper blowers in the country, died aged 71 years. His premises backed onto High Mill Road having been in Newtown earlier. The stoppers were used for medicine, vinegar and scent bottles.

January 15<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Donald Soper, the President of the Methodist Church of Great Britain, visited the town.

January 29<sup>th</sup>. It was officially denied that the Midland and Great Northern railway line from Great Yarmouth to Peterborough was going to be closed in the near future.

January 29<sup>th</sup>. The infant mortality rate of 16.23 per 1,000 live births in 1952 was the lowest ever recorded in Great Yarmouth and was the lowest in the country.

January 29<sup>th</sup>. Hill's Marine View Hotel with 47 bedrooms was brought by Anne Pashley for £10,000. It had been out of commission for 14 years, after it was damaged in the war.

February 1<sup>st</sup>. The motor vessel, *Daniel M*, crashed its way through ice six inches deep at Berney Arms on its way to Norwich.

February 12<sup>th</sup>. After 15 years of commercial inactivity, the River Waveney between Great Yarmouth and Beccles, was to be used by small coasters again.

February 19<sup>th</sup>. The Council decided that the Town Hall could not be used for displaying advertising banners.

February 19<sup>th</sup>. A new old folk's home was opened on Caister Road (the Lawns).

February 26<sup>th</sup>. Skulls believed to date from 600 AD were unearthed on a building site adjoining the Norwich Road at Caister, about 40 yards from the Roman fort.

March 5<sup>th</sup>. Applications for Great Yarmouth's holiday guide reached 31,164; the highest number for five years.

March 5<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that the first chance of seeing a film in Cinemascope in Great Yarmouth was when *The Robe* was shown at the Royal Aquarium.

March 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. P. E. Rumblelow was honoured by being elected the President of the Great Yarmouth Archaeological Society. He was described as one of Great Yarmouth's greatest sons.

March 12<sup>th</sup>. Smith's Crisps produced more crisps last year than at any time since it opened its factory on Caister Road in 1929.

March 12<sup>th</sup>. Licensing hours were increased to 10.30 am to 2.30 pm and from 6.00 pm to 10.30 pm on weekdays.

March 19<sup>th</sup>. The Council decided that there was no useful purpose in holding a Herring Festival in the autumn.

March 19<sup>th</sup>. The Norwegian motor vessel, *Borgestad*, with timber was the largest ever to enter the port.

March 19<sup>th</sup>. The Council entered the new flats in the Middlegate area into the Eastern Region Housing Medal Competition.

March 26<sup>th</sup>. The future of the Great Yarmouth speedway was in doubt for financial reasons.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was hoped to remove thousands of tons of sand blown onto Marine Parade and its gardens during the winter by Easter.

April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Britannia Pier Theatre and Ballroom were gutted by fire.

April 23<sup>rd</sup>. A Winterton man was killed on the beach by a mine left over from the last war.

April 23<sup>rd</sup>. A tradition going back 196 years was enacted when two loaves of white bread were given to 70 needy people of the Borough (Henry Arbon's bequest).

April 23<sup>rd</sup>. An appeal was launched to preserve Drury (Flint) House on South Quay.

April 30<sup>th</sup>. The foundation stone for the new Unitarian Church was laid

April 30<sup>th</sup>. Pixieland, an illuminated ornamental garden, was opened near Wellington Pier.

May 7<sup>th</sup>. A scheme to illuminate Regent Road was approved.

May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Methodist Church on Queen's Road damaged in the war was demolished.

May 7<sup>th</sup>. Two men were fined for stealing lead from a bombed building on South Quay.

May 7<sup>th</sup>. League speedway at the Caister Road Stadium was discontinued.

May 14<sup>th</sup>. The Tories lost their Council majority.

May 14<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth grocers received no rush for the de-rationed butter and margarine.

May 14<sup>th</sup>. Local traders and religious bodies were in favour of setting up an organisation for vetting comic postcards.

May 14<sup>th</sup>. The coaster, *Severity*, was launched from Fellow's Shipyard.

May 21<sup>st</sup>. Herring home sales declined, but the overseas market showed a slight improvement.

May 28<sup>th</sup>. Under the old foundation stone of the Queen's Road Methodist Church was found a bottle with two local papers dated 1867, some coins and a plan of the Methodist Circuit.

June 4<sup>th</sup>. The new St. Paul's Church Hall was dedicated by the Bishop of Thetford.

June 4<sup>th</sup>. A 20-year-old Gorleston lady was given consent to marry by the magistrates after her father declined to give his approval.

June 4<sup>th</sup>. St. Nicholas' Church's restoration fund stood at £30,209, but donations had declined.

June 11<sup>th</sup>. A crowd of 20,000 watched 50 cyclists set off from Marine Parade at the start of the *Daily Express* 1,461 mile tour of Britain.

June 11<sup>th</sup>. The ship, *Hegra*, brought the first timber since before the war from Canada to Great Yarmouth.

June 11<sup>th</sup>. There was an excellent start to the holiday season when crowds flocked into the town for Whitsun.

June 11<sup>th</sup>. The Star Hotel's new cocktail bar was opened.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. The B. B. C's. Midland Region's *East Anglia Week* featured items about Great Yarmouth.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. The road linking South Quay to King Street, after buildings had been demolished, will be named Yarmouth Way. Another link road, Nottingham Way, has been named as a tribute to Great Yarmouth's holiday connection with that city.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. Toc H will lead tours of old Great Yarmouth.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that there was an increasing strain on the local hospital services.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. The Midland Bank brought bank note counting machines to its Great Yarmouth branch, which was four times quicker than counting by hand. A person could count 5,000 an hour.

June 25<sup>th</sup>. A photo-finish camera and loudspeakers for race commentary were installed on the race course.

July 9<sup>th</sup>. *H. M. S. Verulam*, visited the town and moored off Britannia Pier. It had been built as a destroyer and later was converted into an ant-submarine frigate.

July 16<sup>th</sup>. Southtown Station had a face lift.

July 16<sup>th</sup>. The sprinter, Anne Pashley from Great Yarmouth flew to Canada to take part in the Empire Games.

July 16<sup>th</sup>. The Smith Brothers were appearing at the Windmill Theatre, Ted Ray at the Royal Aquarium, Peter Brough and Archie Andrews at the Regal and Billy Russell's Circus at the Hippodrome.

July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Proposals by a private developer for building a ballroom and a conference centre in the centre of the town were considered.

July 30<sup>th</sup>. The Bishop of Norwich opened the St. Nicholas' Summer Festival.

August 6<sup>th</sup>. A woman lost her life when a boat she was sailing was in collision with the pleasure steamer, *Resolute*, on Breydon Water.

August 6<sup>th</sup>. The bank holiday influx to Great Yarmouth was put at 100,000 people.

August 6<sup>th</sup>. Anne Pashley came fourth in the 100 yards final at the Empire Games in Vancouver.

August 6<sup>th</sup>. The Wrestlers' Inn on Brewery Plain was one of the historic buildings scheduled for preservation by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

August 6<sup>th</sup>. Another £10,000 was required for the furnishing fund of St. Nicholas' Church. In particular more chairs were needed.

August 13<sup>th</sup>. The Council decided to stop Sunday performances of the *Water Follies* at the Great Yarmouth Bathing Pool as it did not conform with the Sunday Entertainments Act .

August 13<sup>th</sup>. The England team, including Great Yarmouth's Anne Pashley, gained a silver medal in the 4 x 100 yards relay at the Empire Games in Vancouver.

August 20<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Marie Ashton created a new world record when she played the piano non-stop for 157½ hours at the former Plaza Cinema in the Market Place.

August 20<sup>th</sup>. Over 250 piles had been driven into the North Pier at the Harbour's Mouth during repair work.

August 20<sup>th</sup>. Men were accused of using lights to lure fish at Potter Heigham contrary to an Act of Parliament.

August 27<sup>th</sup>. Over 2,300 entrants competed in the English Bowling Association open tournament on the bowling greens on the sea front.

August 27<sup>th</sup>. Further excavations revealed a double carriageway from the old Roman town at Caister to its harbour.

August 27<sup>th</sup>. Philip A. Rumblelow was awarded a silver medal at the Model Engineers' Exhibition for a scale model of the Scot's drifter, *Hope*. He was the son of the late Philip E. Rumblelow.

September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The new Technical High School on Oriel Avenue, Gorleston was opened.

September 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Larchet had been coming to Great Yarmouth on his holidays for 67 years.

September 10<sup>th</sup>. More timber was being imported into the port from Russia.

September 17<sup>th</sup>. Peterhouse School on the Magdalen Estate was opened.

September 17<sup>th</sup>. Four minesweepers and a fisheries protection vessel visited the town and berthed on the quay.

September 24<sup>th</sup>. Jacqueline Smithdale, aged 15 years, was the first woman to swim from Scroby Sands to the north beach. It took her 103 minutes.

September 24<sup>th</sup>. At Elmhurst Camp in Gorleston a pile of 10,000 pennies was demolished. The money had been raised at the bar for the handicapped.

September 24<sup>th</sup>. The summer had brought mixed fortunes for the traders. The outdoor caterers did not do well.

September 24<sup>th</sup>. A church service concluded the Battle of Britain week.

October 1<sup>st</sup>. A tug and the lifeboat towed into the river a leaking Belgian trawler.

October 1<sup>st</sup>. The proposal to allow chalets at the north end of town was opposed by local residents. The Council later rejected the plan.

October 1<sup>st</sup>. Coxswain William George Fleming of the Gorleston Lifeboat died at the age of 89 years. He was the best known lifeboatmen in the country.

October 15<sup>th</sup>. The cost of Pay-Beds at Great Yarmouth Hospital was increased to £16. 2s. 0d. a week for a single room.

October 15<sup>th</sup>. The herring season got underway with big hauls of fish.

October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Medical Officer of Health declared that tuberculosis was on its way out.

October 29<sup>th</sup>. Herring catches continued to be good and the quarter million mark of fish caught had been reached.

November 12<sup>th</sup>. Crowds gathered at the war memorial to remember Great Yarmouth's war dead.

November 12<sup>th</sup>. The Council had built 2,580 houses since the end of the war and 297 were under construction.

November 12<sup>th</sup>. A Great Yarmouth headmaster declared that horror comics were not a menace in the town as not many were sold by the local newsagents.

November 19<sup>th</sup>. The Merchant's House was opened after its restoration.

November 19<sup>th</sup>. The Battle of Britain Week raised £807 for the Royal Air Force Association.

November 19<sup>th</sup>. An appeal for £7,000 was launched for urgent repairs to Gorleston Church.

November 19<sup>th</sup>. The herring season closed with poor catches during its last two weeks.

November 26<sup>th</sup>. The master of the pleasure steamer, *Golden Galleon*, was fined for speeding on the river at Brundall.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Duke of Edinburgh officially opened the new £250,000 Technical High School on Oriel Avenue.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>. June Powell, a Gorleston actress returned to her home after filming in North Africa as the female lead in the film, *Tangier Agent*.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>. A Gorleston man was drowned when the South Goodwin Lightship was swept onto the South Goodwin Sands. There was only one survivor out of a crew of seven.

December 10<sup>th</sup>. The Prunier Trophy was won by a drifter from Lerwick, Scotland.

December 10<sup>th</sup>. Over 33,000 barrels of herring had been shipped to Russia during the herring season.

December 17<sup>th</sup>. The town's Christmas tree was erected on Church Plain.

December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Southtown Road was flooded and appeared like a river.

December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bloomfield's Ltd. ordered two drifter-trawlers to be built by Richard's Shipyard.

December 31<sup>st</sup>. Fifty-five thousand 1955 holiday guides arrived.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

The upper ferry ceased operating.

The Victoria Hotel was re-named the Carlton after being sold for £24,000.

Peterborough House on the west side of Caister Road was demolished for new housing.

May 21<sup>st</sup>. Building work started on the new power station

## 1955

January 7th. The harbour was closed to shipping for four days following the collapse of a buttress at the harbour entrance during heavy seas.

January 14<sup>th</sup>. The new Unitarian Church opened on Middlegate.

January 21<sup>st</sup>. The first test transmissions from the B. B. C.'s temporary television transmitter at Tacolneston were described as very good and much better than we have had before.

January 28<sup>th</sup>. The Borough's Engineer's flood protection scheme was estimated to cost £268,911.

January 28th. Great Yarmouth's fourth woman Mayor, Mrs. L. M. Gilham, was elected.

February 4<sup>th</sup>. Work was proceeding on the South Denes Power Station.

February 4<sup>th</sup>. There was a large demand for the town's holiday guide.

February 4<sup>th</sup>. The B. B. C. began regular television transmissions.

February 4<sup>th</sup>. Work was well under way on repairing Britannia Pier after the fire, which had devastated it.

February 11<sup>th</sup>. Drunkenness figures were the worst since 1925 (46 men and one female).

February 11<sup>th</sup>. An American pilot was killed when a jet crashed into a field south of Queen's Crescent and north of Lowestoft Road at Gorleston.

February 11<sup>th</sup>. The town's population was 51,550.

February 18<sup>th</sup>. The 200-ton French trawler, *St Pierre Eglise*, ran aground off Waxham in a blinding snowstorm. All the 18 members of the crew were rescued by breeches buoy by the Winterton Rocket Lifesaving Company.

March 11<sup>th</sup>. Excavation work on Deneside to make way for an extension to British Home Stores revealed a large section of the town wall.

March 11<sup>th</sup>. Figures for timber imports issued by the Timber Development Association Ltd., showed that in the country only Boston received greater quantities of sawn softwood than Great Yarmouth. The town had received 17,152 standards valued at £1,285,665.

March 18<sup>th</sup>. It was proposed to build a conference hall and ballroom on the cleared site in Howard Street.

March 18<sup>th</sup>. The Barnardo's Home on Euston Road was closed.

March 18<sup>th</sup>. Several private houses were being built on the site of *Trafalgar House* on the sea front. Only one tree of the heavily wooded area remained.

March 25<sup>th</sup>. A tidal lock was proposed to be built at Great Yarmouth as a protection against high tides.

March 25<sup>th</sup>. *Milmont House* on North Quay was being used as offices and a warehouse. It was built in 1799. The house features in the book, *A Picture of Yarmouth*, by John Preston.

April 1<sup>st</sup>. The retiring Vicar, L. J. Baggott, was presented with a leaving present of £320.

April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. C. A. Mellon, the Gorleston artist, had his 50<sup>th</sup> painting accepted at the Royal Academy.

April 29<sup>th</sup>. A bullock awaiting slaughter at Great Yarmouth Slaughterhouse escaped and bolted across the Market Place, crossed the Conge, plunged into the River Bure and swam towards Breydon Water, where it was caught by two men in a boat beyond the Breydon railway bridge.

May 6<sup>th</sup>. Ferry charges across the River Yare had gone up by 600% since 1939.

May 13<sup>th</sup>. Twin-powered diesel trains of two coaches were trialled on the Great Yarmouth to Norwich railway line. The journey took 30 minutes. It was hoped that it would be a permanent arrangement soon.

May 13<sup>th</sup>. Part of the railway track was re-laid on South Quay.

May 20<sup>th</sup>. The beach was levelled by bulldozers after the winter gales in preparation for the holiday season.

May 27<sup>th</sup>. Labour gained control the town council.

June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. A. Fell (Conservative) retained his parliamentary seat at the general election with a majority of 917 over the Labour candidate. The turnout was 79%.



June 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Guinness clock was a new attraction on the sea front.

June 10<sup>th</sup>. The Nelson Column was re-opened for the first time since before the war.

June 17<sup>th</sup>. Tommy Trinder, the Beverley Sisters and Cheerful Charlie Chester were appearing in the town for the summer.

June 17<sup>th</sup>. Tours of old Great Yarmouth by members of Toc H, resumed.

June 17<sup>th</sup>. The Rivers Bure and Yare were grossly polluted, stated a River Board report.

June 17<sup>th</sup>. The Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal unit were still working on the beaches in North Norfolk.

June 24<sup>th</sup>. Five fire brigades helped to put out a fire at Palgrave, Brown and Son on Southtown Road. The smoke could be seen 30 miles away.

June 24<sup>th</sup>. Rev'd. A. G. G. Thurlow was instituted as the Vicar of Great Yarmouth.

June 24<sup>th</sup>. Three Indian baby elephants arrived at the Hippodrome Circus for training.

July 1<sup>st</sup>. The band of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, the Coldstream Guards marched through Great Yarmouth.

July 8<sup>th</sup>. A British Legion march attracted 3,000 people.

July 8<sup>th</sup>. The Conservatives gained three seats in a by-election and cut the Labour majority to two on the Council.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Iron Age gold bracelets were found at Caister in a garden in Ormesby Road.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Conference of the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers was held at the Town Hall.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. Number 71 Albion Road with vacant possession was sold for £1,195 at auction.

August 26<sup>th</sup>. Number 38 Hall Quay was demolished (the former Town Planning Department). It was to be replaced by a building of a style to conform with the rest of South Quay.

August 26<sup>th</sup>. The jobless total stood at 132 people.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>. An Auster monoplane with two passengers landed on the beach opposite Barnard Bridge, as the airfield at Caister Road was obscured by low cloud.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>. A mine was unearthed on the beach when work was being carried out for the new power station.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Between 200 and 300 old books were found in the vestry of the bombed-out St. Nicholas' Church. Many were damp.

September 30<sup>th</sup>. Four Norwegian minesweepers came into the harbour. They were on a N. A. T. O. exercise.

September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Goode's Hotel and the Assembly Rooms were sold for £51,000 and the Victoria Hotel for £24,000.

October 14<sup>th</sup>. Caister's new police station was completed.

October 21<sup>st</sup>. The Bethel Gospel Chapel in Pier Walk, Gorleston was restored after war damage.

October 28<sup>th</sup>. The houses on Cambridge Avenue on the Magdalen Estate were completed.

November 11<sup>th</sup>. The Herman Infant and Junior Schools were opened in Gorleston. With the new Peterhouse School they completed the primary school accommodation for the new Magdalen Estate.

November 11<sup>th</sup>. The memorial service at the Great Yarmouth war memorial was attended by 3,000 people and 700 service men and Great Yarmouth organisations took part in the march past.

December 9<sup>th</sup>. Council house rents were raised by 50%.

December 16<sup>th</sup>. The herring fishing catch was down 50% on the catch of 1954.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

The Kimberley Hotel was sold for £12,000 and amalgamated with the Carlton Hotel.

The fish finger was invented in Great Yarmouth and manufactured in the town.

January 15<sup>th</sup>. A new Unitarian Church was built in Middlegate to replace the one that had been bombed.

July 6<sup>th</sup>. Crowds lined the sea front to see the Royal Yacht, *Britannia* pass through the Yarmouth Roads.

November. Middlegate Street from Hall Plain to Yarmouth Way was renamed Greyfriars Way. Middlegate Street from Yarmouth Way to Nottingham Way was renamed Tolhouse Street.

## 1956

January 20<sup>th</sup>. The roof of Gorleston Church was re-fitted.

January 20<sup>th</sup>. An Ormesby woman, Susan Holmes, was chosen for the British Olympic Ski-ing team to compete at Cortina in Italy

January 20<sup>th</sup>. A National Serviceman from Gorleston was killed by terrorists in Malaya.

January 20<sup>th</sup>. Drifters earnings were down by £365,981.

January 27<sup>th</sup>. Clearance work was nearly finished in the George Street redevelopment area.

January 27<sup>th</sup>. The Coliseum Cinema in Gorleston installed Cinemascope.

February 3<sup>rd</sup>. A beach mine was exploded on Gorleston beach by the Army disposal unit.

February 10<sup>th</sup>. Albert Kerridge, the founder of the Great Yarmouth drapery firm, died.

February 10<sup>th</sup>. Five national organisations would hold their conferences in Great Yarmouth this year.

February 17<sup>th</sup>. The dance floor at the Floral Hall was closed after finding dry rot in its substructure.

February 17<sup>th</sup>. A turtle weighing a quarter of a ton was washed up on Caister beach.

February 24<sup>th</sup>. A Roll of Honour of civilians killed in the Second World War was installed in Westminster Abbey. It contained 180 names of civilians killed in Great Yarmouth.

February 24<sup>th</sup>. A large extension was built at Birds Eye Foods factory on South Denes.

March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Anthony Fell, the Member of Parliament for the town, voted to retain the death penalty.

March 9<sup>th</sup>. The Pleasure Beach burned down.

March 16<sup>th</sup>. A 17-year-old girl from Cobholm attempted suicide and was sentenced to three years probation.

March 16<sup>th</sup>. The Rifle Volunteer, a public house on Deneside, was closed after over 100 years in business.

April 13<sup>th</sup>. The Chief Constable stated that there was an urgent need for more car parks in the town.

April 20<sup>th</sup>. A new weather vane was attached to the Town Hall. It was a replica of the three-masted lugger, which had topped the Town Hall for 73 years.

April 20<sup>th</sup>. Haven Bridge was closed for 27 nights to carry out repairs.

April 20<sup>th</sup>. A pull-in for buses was created on the west side of Haven Bridge to ease traffic congestion.

April 20<sup>th</sup>. A large extension to British Home Stores on Regent Road was opened.

May 4<sup>th</sup>. The old Gorleston Lighthouse on Brush Quay was in a serious condition and its demolition was considered. Repairs would cost £500.

May 4<sup>th</sup>. Dr. J. L. S. Coulter of the Great Yarmouth Royal Naval Hospital edited Volume II of the *Royal Naval Medical Service in the Second World War*.

May 4<sup>th</sup>. Three land mines were discovered between Caister and Great Yarmouth.

May 11<sup>th</sup>. The National Union of Agricultural Workers' Conference in Great Yarmouth was addressed by Hugh Gaitskell, the leader of the Labour Party.

May 11<sup>th</sup>. The northernmost shelter at the end of Barnard Avenue was built.

May 18<sup>th</sup>. Forty girls from the High School and six schoolmistresses set off for a trip to Heidelberg. The school would be teaching German next year.

May 18<sup>th</sup>. Miss Cunningham, the Matron of Yarmouth General Hospital retired. She had been the Matron since 1933.

June 1<sup>st</sup>. More flats were being built in the Middlegate area.

June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Museum at the Sailors' Home was reorganised to give it a more nautical feel.

June 8<sup>th</sup>. The figureheads of the boats on the Waterways were repaired and painted.

June 15<sup>th</sup>. The War Damage Commission gave a grant of £320,000 for the repair of St. Nicholas' Church. £400,000 had been requested.

June 15<sup>th</sup>. A delegation came from Rambouillet to discuss twinning with Great Yarmouth.

June 15<sup>th</sup>. Eddie Calvert was appearing at the Windmill Theatre, Jewell and Warriss at the Royal Aquarium and Dickie Valentine at the Regal Theatre.

June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The leader of the Men's Service for 39 years at St. George's Church, died.

June 29<sup>th</sup>. A Veteran Car Rally was held on the Market Place.

July 13<sup>th</sup>. Southtown Church was struck by lightning.

July 20<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Dale and Dr. Dale (James Dale and Ellis Powell) came and recorded the radio soap programme, *Dr. Dale's Diary*, in front of an invited audience of 400 people at the Gorleston Pavilion.

July 20<sup>th</sup>. The mission ship, *John Ashley*, took part in the Mission to Seamen's Mission centenary celebrations in the port.

July 20<sup>th</sup>. The Deputy Churchwarden, Mr. A. W. Ecclestone, resigned as he felt that St. Nicholas' Church should not be re-constructed.

July 20<sup>th</sup>. The Medical Officer of Health's report stated that scarlet fever, a major concern in the past, was now a minor problem.

August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Docwra's old factory was demolished to allow the linking of the two ends of Yarmouth Way.

August 10<sup>th</sup>. Anne Pashley was chosen to represent Great Britain in the Olympic Games in the 100 yards and the 4 x 100 yard relay in the 1956 games in Melbourne, Australia. She was the assistant manager at her parent's hotel, Hill's Marine View.

August 17<sup>th</sup>. The new girls' school on the Claydon Estate, Gorleston was nearing completion.

August 17<sup>th</sup>. The Norwich, Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth Hospital Management Committee spent £1,200,000 a year on wages and drugs.

August 17<sup>th</sup>. The South Denes Caravan Site was occupied by 1,200 caravans along with many tents.

August 24<sup>th</sup>. A signal man at Vauxhall Station said that he pulled the wrong lever that caused a train to collide with a shunting engine.

August 31<sup>st</sup>. Twenty-two bungalows were being built on the open space between Beatty Road and the railway line.

September 14<sup>th</sup>. The Tramway Hotel in Lowestoft Road, Gorleston was re-built eleven years after its destruction by bombs.

September 14<sup>th</sup>. Palmer's Store invited the public to visit their London furrier in their coat department.

September 21<sup>st</sup>. A 17 inch television set cost 69 guineas at Arnold's store.

September 28<sup>th</sup>. In spite of some of the worst summer weather of the century, Great Yarmouth and Gorleston had maintained its popularity as a resort.

October 5<sup>th</sup>. A basking shark, measuring twelve feet, was washed up on the north beach at Great Yarmouth. Its teeth had been removed, possibly to make a necklace.

October 5<sup>th</sup>. Winterton Dunes were declared a nature reserve.

October 5<sup>th</sup>. The *Shipwash* lightship was brought into port for maintenance.

October 5<sup>th</sup>. The reredos in St. Peter's Church was restored.

October 26<sup>th</sup>. The foundation stone was laid for the Methodist Church on the Magdalen Estate, Gorleston.

November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Mayor signs the twinning document with Rambouillet.

November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Mayor purchased the first premium bond on sale in Great Yarmouth.

November 9<sup>th</sup>. There were 1,344 people on the waiting list for council houses.

November 9<sup>th</sup>. A Gorleston man was killed by terrorists in Cyprus. He was serving with the Norfolk Regiment.

November 9<sup>th</sup>. Obscene postcards, 5,025 in number, were seized at Caister.

November 9<sup>th</sup>. Demolition work was started on one of the two remaining shops in the Middlegate area to make way for the new library. One of the shops, J. D. Eastoe (newsagent and tobacconist) moved to Townshend Close.

November 16<sup>th</sup>. The November herring season was poor. The prophecies of the scientists was proving correct.

November 16<sup>th</sup>. A bottle of British Cream Sherry was seven shillings and sixpence.

November 30<sup>th</sup>. The last sizable area in Great Yarmouth for re-construction was begun at Fuller's Hill.

November 30<sup>th</sup>. Work was carried out on Duncan's Well at the foot of the White Lion Steps in Gorleston to prevent the pump falling into the well

December 14<sup>th</sup>. Anne Pashley returns home from the Olympics with a silver medal won in the 4 x 100 yard relay.

December 28<sup>th</sup>. Miss Hinde, Matron of Gorleston Hospital retired after 26 years in the post.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

January. The Dodd family sold Caister Camp to the Caister Group.

January 10<sup>th</sup>. The first television detector vans were seen in Great Yarmouth.

February 7<sup>th</sup>. Greenacre School start using the grounds of the Royal Naval Hospital as a playing field.

May. Pixieland in Wellington Gardens re-opened as Caveland.

May 5<sup>th</sup>. The first three-lettered vehicle registration was issued in Great Yarmouth. AEX1 was allocated to Tom Watson of Watson's Garage.

July 16<sup>th</sup>. The Birds Eye cold store was opened. It was the largest outside the United States of America.

September 17<sup>th</sup>. Steam trains were replaced by diesel rail cars on the Great Yarmouth to Norwich line.

## 1957

January 11<sup>th</sup>. A ceremony to mark the completion of the 2,000<sup>th</sup> dwelling on the Magdalen Estate was held; the keys were handed over to Mr. and Mrs. Smith at 74 Oxford Avenue.

January 11<sup>th</sup>. A stalwart housewife was seen queuing outside Arnold's at the commencement of their annual sale at 4 am. She was determined to get a television set which had been reduced.

January 18<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. S. Holmes of Great Ormesby won the British Women's Skiing title in the downhill and slalom at Wengen in Switzerland.

January 25<sup>th</sup>. The death was announced of Mr. Joshua Samuel Goodwin, who at the age of nineteen years, sailed as the ship's carpenter on the *Albert* with Sir Wilfred Grenfell on his first voyage to Labrador in 1892.

January 25<sup>th</sup>. One hundred people attended a buffet marking the Masquer's Amateur Dramatic Society's silver anniversary at the Cliff Hotel.

February 15<sup>th</sup>. Human bones and skulls were found by workmen preparing the site for flats between North Quay and George Street; the police surgeon Dr. S. G. Smith stated that they were of considerable age.

February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The biggest attendance ever assembled in the lecture hall of the Art School gathered to hear archaeologist Sir Mortimer Wheeler talk on *The Growth of Civilisation*.

March 8<sup>th</sup>. The Trinity House vessel, *Triton*, when making its rounds of the lightships off the East Anglian coast, delivered a television set to the men of the Smith's Knoll lightship.

March 8<sup>th</sup>. The 45,000 gallon reinforced concrete water tower at Somerton Road, Martham was completed; the structure rose 50 feet above the ground and acted as a balancing tank for pressure in the mains and as a reservoir to cater for the high demands of water needed.

April 5<sup>th</sup>. Barbara Castle M. P. was to speak at a Labour Party meeting at the Town Hall on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Seats could be reserved for 6d.

April 12<sup>th</sup>. The first school parties to visit Rambouillet would take place this month, a total of 52 children and three teachers would make the trip.

April 12<sup>th</sup>. A Great Yarmouth postcard censorship board was formed to make observations and approve or otherwise, postcards sold in the town.

April 12<sup>th</sup>. Two men were killed by an exploding mine whilst working in a sea wall concreting party near the golf club house at Caister.

May 31<sup>st</sup>. The South African type rondavaals built by Mr. K. H. Temple at the Hotel Hermanus at Winterton were now available for use by holidaymakers.

June 7<sup>th</sup>. The work began on the restoration of the Parish Church of St. Nicholas; the restoration is expected to take five years to complete and would cost £342,750.

June 7<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that Great Yarmouth's new South Denes power station would start generating electricity from the end of July, but the station was not expected to be fully operational until 1960.

June 14<sup>th</sup>. The death was announced of Mr. Billy Russell, the proprietor of Great Yarmouth Hippodrome; he had re-introduced the circus to Great Yarmouth in 1951.

June 21<sup>st</sup>. Lacon's new public house, the Never Turn Back, was opened at Caister; its name commemorating the words spoken by Caister lifeboat Coxswain James Haylett after the lifeboat disaster of 1901 that *Caister men never turn back*.

June 28<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor launched an appeal to raise £45,000 to furnish the Parish Church.

July 5<sup>th</sup>. Flaming June ended with one of the town's most brilliant spells of sunny weather, bringing the total of recorded sunshine up to 290.8 hours.

July 12<sup>th</sup>. The foundation stone was laid by the Lord Bishop of Bradford for the new church on the Magdalen Estate.

August 16<sup>th</sup>. Two shrimpers were sunk and a further two were damaged when a mooring wire snapped as the submarine, *Selene*, was preparing to leave harbour; she had been on a five day visit to the port, where she was visited by 6,000 people.

August 16<sup>th</sup>. Work started on the new Britannia Pier Theatre, which will replace the old one destroyed by fire in 1954.

August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Eighty French schoolchildren arrived from Rambouillet at Southtown Railway Station for a two week stay in the town.

August 30<sup>th</sup>. The new Girl's High School was due to open in September, moving from its present premises in Trafalgar Road.

September 20<sup>th</sup>. A big crack was discovered in the wall of the south-east tower requiring action by the Ministry of Works.

September 27<sup>th</sup>. The number of people out of work showed an increase on the previous year; it now numbered 667 people.

September 27<sup>th</sup>. The Alderman Leach School was the first school to have a television in the Borough.

October 4<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that the Priory Gardens on Church Road, Gorleston had been bequeathed to the town by Mr. P. R. Hill, a former Mayor, who had died earlier in the year.

October 18<sup>th</sup>. Four Royal Naval ships of the Fifth Fishery Protection and Minesweeping Squadron will be illuminated while at anchor in the Roads for Trafalgar Day, where they will also fly Nelson's famous signal *England expects every man to do his duty*.

October 18<sup>th</sup>. Scots boats had brought in 2,467 crans of herring compared with 7,116 in the previous year.

October 25<sup>th</sup>. Herring Trafalgar was served at the Herring Banquet. It was a dish devised in conjunction with Matthes Ltd. The herring were boned and the roes removed, then they were washed and dried before being filled with a mixture of chopped roes, mixed herbs, onion, chopped egg, bread crumbs, chopped ham, milk to moisten and seasoned, then cooked in an open casserole for 20 minutes before garnishing with lemon and tomato sauce.

November 1<sup>st</sup>. The new Tramway Hotel at Gorleston was opened, it replaced the previous building which had suffered a direct hit by a bomb during the war.

November 29<sup>th</sup>. A mine clearance party from No.1 Bomb Disposal Troop Royal Engineers located and exploded a mine in the dunes between Great Yarmouth and Caister; it was the eleventh to be detected since April.

December 13<sup>th</sup>. The restoration of the Tolhouse was hoped to commence within the next two years; it was bombed during 1941.

December 13<sup>th</sup>. The Power Station began supplying electricity to the National Grid.

December 20<sup>th</sup>. British professional roller skating champion, Jocelyn Taylor, was to appear solo at the Alexandra Palace before an audience which included the Duke of Edinburgh.

December 20<sup>th</sup>. A Bill was passed to transfer the jurisdiction of the Royal Naval Hospital from the Admiralty to the Ministry of Health.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

The tug, *George Jewson*, was broken up.

Whitbread & Company took a 20% stake in Lacon's.

January 1<sup>st</sup>. The library in Row 108 was demolished.

February. Work started on altering the Garibaldi including the removal of the three upper floors.

March 29<sup>th</sup>. Watlings Granary in Cobholm was destroyed by fire.

July. The Angel Hotel in the Market Place was demolished.

August. The foundation stone of the new Mission to Seamen Institute and Chapel was laid on South Quay.

September 16<sup>th</sup>. Diesel trains were introduced on the Yarmouth-Lowestoft line.

September 18<sup>th</sup>. Fritton Hall was destroyed by fire.

## 1958

January 10<sup>th</sup>. The Council's scheme for reconstructing the east end of the Wellington Pier began.

January 17<sup>th</sup>. Work was soon to commence on the demolition of the Plaza cinema on the Market Place, which, with the addition of the adjoining premises of John Kay Ltd., had been purchased by F. W. Woolworth and Company Ltd. for a new store.

January 17<sup>th</sup>. Senior pupils from the Priory School moved to the new Styles Mixed Secondary Modern School in Trafalgar Road.

January 17<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that in Great Yarmouth last year the landings of herring were bigger and the earnings greater than in the previous two years.

January 24<sup>th</sup>. The well-known archaeologist Dr. Glyn Daniel spoke to members of the Great Yarmouth Archaeological Society at the School of Arts and Crafts, where he advised people to dig in their gardens with care.

February 7<sup>th</sup>. Messrs. Wolsey and Wolsey were offering televisions to rent starting at 11/6d per week.

February 14<sup>th</sup>. It was estimated that the new Hartmann Fibre factory, which was being built on the South Denes, would provide employment for a further 200 men and double its production capacity within two years.

February 21<sup>st</sup>. A fossil, estimated to be approximately 120 million years old, was found by 14-year-old James Durrant at the foot of Hopton cliffs. It was sent to the Norwich Castle Museum and ultimately passed on to the Natural History Museum in South Kensington.

February 28<sup>th</sup>. Residents living along Caister Road complained about the smell coming from the Smith's potato crisp factory; they claimed that they were unable to open their windows and that their properties had fallen in value.

March 7<sup>th</sup>. A celebration dinner was held at the Garibaldi Hotel to mark its re-opening.

March 21<sup>st</sup>. At midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, the Royal Naval Hospital will be transferred to the care of the Ministry of Health; the Hospital had been built between 1809 and 1811 to receive casualties from the Napoleonic War.

April 11<sup>th</sup>. In what was described as the worst Easter weather for 30 years, the sun shone for a total of 5 hours 14 minutes and the maximum recorded temperature was 47 degrees Fahrenheit.

April 18<sup>th</sup>. A suggestion was made at the Annual General Meeting of the Great Yarmouth and District Archaeological Society that it should commemorate the Town's 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary by placing an inscribed plaque on the site of the old market cross.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Sydney Grapes, the famous local character from Potter Heigham, died aged 70 years. He was best known for his *Boy John* pieces in the *Eastern Daily Press*.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Residents of Winterton, Hemsby and Ormesby complained about the overwhelming stench and escaping dust from broiler houses owned by Birds Eye Foods.

May 30<sup>th</sup>. The first phase of a three-stage extension programme to the Great Yarmouth Grammar School was completed. The new block accommodated 180 pupils and contained a new library, cloakrooms and toilets.

May 30<sup>th</sup>. The 14<sup>th</sup> century Gorleston Psalter was bequeathed to the British Museum by Mr. Charles William Dyson Perrins of the Worcestershire Sauce making family; the Psalter's 288 pages were written and illustrated for the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Norfolk, who died in 1306.

June 6<sup>th</sup>. Ruby Murray and Tommy Cooper were appearing at the Wellington Pier.

June 13<sup>th</sup>. The Medical Officer of Health warned parents to prepare for the polio season.

June 20<sup>th</sup>. The new Mission to Seamen Institute opened on South Quay.

June 27<sup>th</sup>. The new theatre opened on the Britannia Pier; it would seat over 1,500 people. The rebuilding cost £150,000.

July 11<sup>th</sup>. A new B. B. C. panel game called *Sound Idea* was recorded at the Gorleston Holiday Camp.

July 25<sup>th</sup>. The old Northgate Junior School which had once stood in Rampart Row until it was bombed during the war and had subsequently moved to Runham Vauxhall, was closed.

August 8<sup>th</sup>. Vic Oliver, Charlie Chester, and Pearl Carr and Teddy Johnson were appearing for the summer season at the Royal Aquarium.

August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The formal opening of the South Denes Power Station would be opened by Sir Edmund Bacon, Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

August 29<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that there had been no sightings of the Hunter jet aircraft that had crashed off Winterton the previous week.

September 5<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth's first youth centre was opened in the former Girls' High School, now the Styles School on Trafalgar Road.

September 19<sup>th</sup>. Development plans were published for the North Quay. They would include the demolition of St. Andrew's Church and Church Hall and the building of a new police station at the Conge.

September 26<sup>th</sup>. The 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the Town's first charter by King John was celebrated.

October 3<sup>rd</sup>. One-man operated buses were introduced to serve Cobholm and Vauxhall Station.

October 17<sup>th</sup>. A plaque was placed in Greyfriars Way to mark the site of Kitty Witches Row.

October 24<sup>th</sup>. German trawlers were accused by local fishermen of depleting herring shoals.

October 31<sup>st</sup>. The introduction of the production of Steaklets by Birds Eye Frozen Foods would mean more jobs in Great Yarmouth.

November 7<sup>th</sup>. The new Anson Arms public house was opened after moving to new premises on Southtown Road.

November 14<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that the new craze of hula-hooping was becoming popular with both the young and the old.

November 14<sup>th</sup>. The erection of a new secondary modern school on Bridge Road, Gorleston had begun.

November 28<sup>th</sup>. A young naturalist was attacked by a coypu on the Reedham marshes.

December 12<sup>th</sup>. Unger Fabrics were to take over the old Runham Vauxhall Junior School to produce luxury brocades and silk designed for the leading fashion houses.

December 24<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that all the hotels were fully booked for Christmas with many people turned away.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

January 6<sup>th</sup>. The Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, Sir Edmund Bacon, opened the new Civil Defence Headquarters on St. Nicholas Road.

March. The bandstand at the Wellington Gardens was demolished.

March 21<sup>st</sup>. The new cemetery in Oriel Avenue, Gorleston was dedicated.

May. A clock tower on Marine Parade was erected as a memorial to the Far East Prisoners of War.

June. A new lairage was built on the old Trawl Market for the export of cattle.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. A new water treatment works was opened at Ormesby.

November 6<sup>th</sup>. St. Mary Magdalene Church in Gorleston was consecrated.

December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The ambulance station was moved from Greyfriars Way to new premises in Churchill Road.



## 1959

January 16<sup>th</sup>. Hemsby and Winterton were cut off for four days by deep snow drifts.

January 16<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council proposed to create a coach station at Beach Station.

January 23<sup>rd</sup>. New gold-leafed metal hands were delivered for erection on the clock at St. Nicholas' Church.

January 30<sup>th</sup>. Ernest William Applegate was nominated to become the next Mayor. For 27 years he had been the bottling manager for E. Lacon and Company, whom he first joined after the First World War.

February 6<sup>th</sup>. A new landing stage was being built for the Gorleston ferry because of its increasing use.

February 13<sup>th</sup>. The old vapour street lights on Southtown Road were to be replaced by new sodium lights.

February 20<sup>th</sup>. Erie Resistor advertised for 16-year-old recruits at £5 13s 1d for a 42½ hour week.

February 20<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth publicity film, *Having a Wonderful Time*, was released.

February 20<sup>th</sup>. Beach Railway Station and the Midland and Great Northern railway line were to close on February 28<sup>th</sup>; it had first opened on August 7<sup>th</sup> 1877.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. The last service was held at St. George's Church before being closed for public worship; it had been consecrated in December 1715.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council decided to turn Ferryside Children's Home into offices.

March 13<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that 8,000 Tudor bricks retrieved from two derelict houses demolished by the Ministry of Works in Row 36 were to be used for repair work to the Tower of London. The houses dated from 1647.

March 20<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that George Formby would be appearing at the Windmill Theatre this summer.

March 26<sup>th</sup>. Trees were to be planted on the South Quay between Nottingham Way and Queens Road as part of the Town's Charter year celebrations.

April 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was a move to stop camping and caravans on either side of the Acle straight.

April 3<sup>rd</sup>. A font from a disused church in Wiltshire was obtained to replace the one destroyed in St. Nicholas' Church during the war.

April 17<sup>th</sup>. An area of marshland between the Acle New Road and Breydon Water was given to the Norfolk Naturalists Trust to become a wildfowl reserve.

May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Council agreed to protest at the proposed railway line closure between Great Yarmouth and Beccles.

May 1<sup>st</sup>. It was a busy year for St. Paul's Lodge, which had already cared for 36 unmarried mothers.

May 8<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that the new bells for St. Nicholas' Church cast at the Whitechapel Foundry were due to arrive on 6<sup>th</sup> June ready for ringing at their 21<sup>st</sup> June dedication.

May 8<sup>th</sup>. Work had begun on the Vauxhall Bridge to make it safe for motor vehicles.

May 15<sup>th</sup>. The local press reported on the first civic visit from a delegation from Great Yarmouth's twinned town of Rambouillet.

May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first wedding since 1896 took place at the Friends' Meeting House.

May 22<sup>nd</sup>. A holiday home for the blind was to be opened on 1<sup>st</sup> June at Number 1 Avondale Road, Gorleston by the Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft Lions Clubs; it was said to be the first in the country.

May 29<sup>th</sup>. Anglia TV announced that it was to start testing in July; it was estimated to cost between £3 and £8 to convert television sets to receive the new channel.

May 29<sup>th</sup>. Tenders had been received for the construction of the new library in Tolhouse Street.

June 5<sup>th</sup>. The wreckage of the drifter *John & Sarah*, which collided with the *Ludham Castle* in December 1911 was uncovered during an especially low tide at Gorleston.

June 12<sup>th</sup>. A swimming pool was opened at the Herman School in Gorleston, it had taken three months to build with voluntary labour.

June 19<sup>th</sup>. A compulsory purchase order was issued for slum clearance between Priory Street and Bulls Lane in Gorleston.

August 14<sup>th</sup>. A strike by journalists during July resulted in the failure of the *Great Yarmouth Mercury* to be produced for a few weeks.

August 14<sup>th</sup>. The B. B. C. began a series of television transmissions of excerpts from Great Yarmouth's summer shows starting with the Wellington Pier starring David Nixon and Joan Regan, followed by the Royal Aquarium with Lonnie Donegan and Des O'Connor and finally ending with the Britannia Pier starring Ken Dodd.

August 14<sup>th</sup>. A rail bridge was demolished at Vauxhall Station.

August 14<sup>th</sup>. Work began on demolishing the remains of the Priory in Gorleston to create Priory Gardens; it had been left to the town by Mr. P. R. Hill.

August 28<sup>th</sup>. A new car park had been built in Great Yarmouth between Rows 78 and 80.

September 4<sup>th</sup>. The B. B. C. broadcasted a Sunday morning service from St. Nicholas' Church for television.

September 11<sup>th</sup>. A licence was granted to Mr. L. Reynolds of Caister to operate a bus service between Caister Holiday Camp and Silver Sands Caravan Site to Great Yarmouth South Town Station, with drop off points at Apsley Road and Albemarle Road.

September 25<sup>th</sup>. Sir John Hunt was to visit Great Yarmouth to present the first Duke of Edinburgh awards to local boys.

October 9<sup>th</sup>. Part of the Town Wall was sold in order that it could be demolished to make way for a new railway siding in Southgates Road.

October 30<sup>th</sup>. The church clock at St. Nicholas' Church was started for the first time in 17 years.

November 6<sup>th</sup>. On 1<sup>st</sup> November the last passenger train arrived at Southtown Station on the Beccles to Great Yarmouth line.

November 6<sup>th</sup>. A new peal of bells at St. Nicholas' Church was dedicated by the Bishop of Thetford. The congregation included 270 bell ringers from all over the country.

November 13<sup>th</sup>. It was decided that the Borough's fire engines should have sirens rather than bells.

November 20<sup>th</sup>. St. Nicholas' Hospital was to have a cafeteria.

December 4<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston Pier was reported to be in grave danger and support was sought for its re-building.

December 11<sup>th</sup>. Building work was started on the Town's new library west of the Tolhouse and also on the first stage of the reconstruction of the sea front swimming pool.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

Woolworth's closed their Regent Road shop and moved to a newly-built store on the Market Place.

The platforms at Vauxhall Railway Station were lengthened to take the twelve coach special trains.

January. Great Yarmouth buses carried advertisements for the first time.

March. The old mortuary on North Quay was demolished to build St. Francis Way; it was re-located at Northgate Hospital.

May. Hartmann's new factory was opened.

May 5<sup>th</sup>. The sea wall flood defences were finally completed from the Harbour's Mouth to California. They cost £416,888.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Church Road Junior School was closed.

September. The old power station ceased the production of electricity.

September. The jetty shelter was demolished and its clock donated by Mr. F. W. Lawn in 1927 was placed on the shelter on North Drive.

September 11<sup>th</sup>. The Trinity House vessel, *Mermaid*, arrived to replace the *Warden*.

## 1960

January 1<sup>st</sup>. Great Yarmouth Operatic and Dramatic Society was performing *Dick Whittington* at the Wellington Pier Pavilion.

January 8<sup>th</sup>. Plans to build a paddling pool near the yacht pond at Gorleston led to a long discussion at the meeting of the Town Council.

January 15<sup>th</sup>. Penny loaves were distributed to 126 children of Fleggburgh and Billockby; they were paid for each year out of a very old charitable fund that is said to date from at least the Reformation.

January 22<sup>nd</sup>. A First World War bomb was found under the floor of a property in Blackwall Reach; it was assumed that a previous occupant had kept it as a souvenir.

January 29<sup>th</sup>. Rapid deterioration to the outer piling of Gorleston Pier was reported to the Port and Haven Commissioners at their last meeting.

February 5<sup>th</sup>. The former Midland and Great Northern Railway land on the North Denes was to be temporarily leased to Great Yarmouth Seashore Caravans Ltd.

February 12<sup>th</sup>. The Bishop of Norwich, Launcelot Fleming, preached in the re-built St. Nicholas' Church.

February 19<sup>th</sup>. The sea uncovered large quantities of iron anti-invasion defences at Winterton.

February 26<sup>th</sup>. St. Luke's Church at Cobholm, which was badly damaged during the war and a victim of the 1953 floods, was being re-built.

March 4<sup>th</sup>. A pilot scheme for old people's bungalows connected to a warden or a good neighbour house will come into operation when eight bungalows are built at Addison Road in Gorleston.

March 11<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Transport Committee decided to recommend that application should be made to the Traffic Commissioners for a licence to run a circular Town bus tour during the summer months.

March 18<sup>th</sup>. An inscribed silver salver was to be presented to the new frigate, *H. M. S. Yarmouth*, at the John Brown and Company shipyard at Clydebank, near Glasgow.

March 25<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston motor cycle shop proprietor, Jack Kersey, took part in the 24<sup>th</sup> Pioneer Run from Epsom to Brighton on his 550c.c. Triumph motor cycle, which was manufactured in 1914.

April 8<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that Peter Thornthwaite Marsden M. A. would become the Headmaster of Great Yarmouth Grammar School from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1961.

April 15<sup>th</sup>. *Ferryside* at High Road, Southtown, which was formerly used as a children's home, had been taken over by the Welfare Services and Children's Department and would also accommodate the Superintendent Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

April 29<sup>th</sup>. *Yarmouth is an Antient Town*, the history written by the Borough Librarian, Mr. A. C. Hedges to mark the 750<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the Charter, had been selected by the National Book League as one of the 100 best produced books of 1959.

May 6<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. C. H. Morgan Hughes, the Principal of Duncan House School, will be retiring in December and Mr. V. H. Searles, the present assistant master, will become its new owner and principal.

May 13<sup>th</sup>. The Ministry of Works began restoration on the exterior of Caister Castle.

May 20<sup>th</sup>. A thousand delegates and officials of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers will meet next week at the Wellington Pier Pavilion for its annual conference.

May 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. W. E. Mobbs, an alderman since 1956, was installed as the Mayor.

June 3<sup>rd</sup>. A plea for the extension of the meals on wheels service from one to two days a week was received by the Welfare Services Committee from the National Federation of Old Age Pensioners.

June 10<sup>th</sup>. Free rides attracted many youngsters at the annual opening of the Pleasure Beach.

June 10<sup>th</sup>. The summer shows had opened with the stars Cyril Fletcher at the Windmill, Lonnie Donegan at the Regal, Charlie Chester at the Royal Aquarium and Charlie Drake at the Wellington Pier.

June 17<sup>th</sup>. The Tour of Britain cycle race visited Great Yarmouth, finishing on the sea-front.

June 24<sup>th</sup>. The scaffolding was taken down from the Colman window in the Parish Church; it had been recently installed and was paid for by the late Mr Russell Colman, Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk and High Steward of Great Yarmouth.

July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Council Health Committee stated that there was a need for a sewerage disposal scheme.

July 1<sup>st</sup>. Great Yarmouth bathing pool was given a new look with shops and a covered terrace on the south side at the cost of £79,500.

July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Tolhouse was re-opened.

July 8<sup>th</sup>. A piece of bread thrown away in the Market Place at the celebration of the coronation of George IV in 1821 was given to the town museum.

July 15<sup>th</sup>. *H. M. S. Yarmouth* arrived in the Roads for a visit to the town.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>. A 13 year old boy's body was found on Scroby Sands. He had disappeared whilst bathing.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Rough seas prevented trips out to the Roads to see *H. M. S. Yarmouth*.

July 29<sup>th</sup>. An Air Sea Rescue helicopter crashed into the sea off Gorleston beach during an exercise. The crew were all picked up.

July 29<sup>th</sup>. Two photographers were fined for importuning on Marine Parade for the purpose of taking photographs. During the season many photographers were fined and one was jailed.

August 5<sup>th</sup>. Nearly 10,000 people attended the Gorleston football fete.

August 5<sup>th</sup>. Four new Corporation double-decker buses arrived; the first rear-engine Blue Buses.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. An H-bomb protest was held in Great Yarmouth by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. Last year, 1959, was a record for crime in the Borough.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. The cemetery walls were lowered at the junction at Kitchener Road and Nelson Road North to aid visibility for motorists.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. The embankment for the Midland and Great Northern Railway between the River Bure and Lawn Avenue was demolished.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. Many people failed to keep their hospital out-patient appointments.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. The Vicar of Southtown was fined £4 for allowing his van to be used with faulty brakes.

August 19<sup>th</sup>. The Council had built 3,384 houses since the war.

August 19<sup>th</sup>. Houses in Lime Kiln Walk were demolished to make way for industrial development.

August 26<sup>th</sup>. There were moves to close St. Peter's Church and St. Andrew's Church.

August 26<sup>th</sup>. St James' Church was packed for the annual actors' service.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Grout's factory had increased its output to meet demand. It now employed a three-shift working.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Two ponies which were used to pull the bread vans retired from Matthes bakery.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>. For the 20th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, a ten day programme of events had been organised in Great Yarmouth. It raised a record £1,506 net.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Gorleston Chamber of Commerce urged the Council to decide whether Gorleston should be a residential area or a holiday resort.

September 2<sup>nd</sup>. 10,000 people attended Wellesley Road Recreation Ground to see the stars of the summer shows take part in a football match.

September 9<sup>th</sup>. Traffic hold-ups caused a financial loss to the Corporation's blue buses.

September 9<sup>th</sup>. Anthony Fell, Great Yarmouth's Member of Parliament said that Britain should leave the United Nations.

September 9<sup>th</sup>. At the Housing Committee, Mr. A. W. Ecclestone said that he was in despair of getting a tree planted in Great Yarmouth.

September 9th. Great Yarmouth's biggest carnival procession since the war was in aid of St. Nicholas' Church Restoration Fund.

September 16<sup>th</sup>. There were protests about the closure of St. Peter's Church.

September 16th. The submarine, *Talent*, arrived for a three day courtesy visit.

September 16<sup>th</sup>. Two large cargoes of Russian timber arrived in the port.

September 20<sup>th</sup>. A whippet was chosen as the best dog in the Great Yarmouth dog show.

October 7<sup>th</sup>. The Golden Mile was to have a model village in Pier Gardens.

October 7<sup>th</sup>. Half-day closing for Gorleston was approved.

October 14<sup>th</sup>. The Council was urged not to sell their land to private bodies, but to keep it for council housing.

October 21<sup>st</sup>. The Scots' fishing boats arrived nine days ago, but did not sail as there was a dispute about the system of pooling catches.

October 21<sup>st</sup>. A collier grounded on Scroby Sands.

October 28<sup>th</sup>. The small landings of herring was put down to the shortage of boats.

October 28<sup>th</sup>. The 50th anniversary of the first Employment Exchange on South Quay, Great Yarmouth was celebrated

October 28<sup>th</sup>. Magdalen House in Gorleston, an old people's home, was ready to take its first residents.

October 28<sup>th</sup>. Coypus were causing much damage to the Norfolk Broads.

November 4<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston Pier was rotting away.

November 4<sup>th</sup>. Bungalows for old people were being built on Caister Road.

November 11<sup>th</sup>. A prize winning balloon flew to Sardinia.

November 11<sup>th</sup>. Foot and mouth disease was spreading in Norfolk.

November 11<sup>th</sup>. St. Andrew's House, the Church of Scotland Centre, on South Quay, closed after 23 years service to the fisher folk.

November 25<sup>th</sup>. The Duke of Edinburgh toured the Great Yarmouth Birds Eye factory.

November 25<sup>th</sup>. The former Midland and Great Northern Railway land of 35 acres in Great Yarmouth was purchased by the Council for £59,150.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>. St. Luke's Church was re-opened by the Bishop of Thetford after the restoration from flooding and bomb damage.

December 9<sup>th</sup>. Beach Station is to become a coach terminal.

December 16<sup>th</sup>. There was fowl pest in the Great Yarmouth area.

December 16<sup>th</sup>. The Fishermen's Hospital was undergoing modernisation.

December 16<sup>th</sup>. A shortage of nurses was causing concern.

December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Matron (M. J. Aldous) of Melton Lodge Children's Orthopaedic Hospital retired following its closure.

December 30<sup>th</sup>. The Eastern Counties red buses were on strike on Christmas Eve.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

1960. A new road costing £3,660 was built through the old cattle market linking Stafford and Station Roads.

February. New shelters, shops and an entrance were built at the Jetty.

February 12<sup>th</sup>. The newly built Gallon Pot public house was opened on the site of Burrough's Wine Lodge.

July 25<sup>th</sup>. Cliff Park School in Gorleston opened. It had cost £146,498.

## 1961

January 6<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Town Council approved the Housing Committee proposal that Council house tenants should provide their own cookers and wash boilers in future.

January 13<sup>th</sup>. The official opening of the Cliff Park Secondary Modern School was performed by Sir Edmund Bacon, the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk.

January 27<sup>th</sup>. Hobland Hall at Bradwell, a Georgian Mansion scheduled as a building of special architectural and historic interest, was gutted by fire; it was being used by R. G. Carter Ltd. as a district headquarters and for storage.

January 27<sup>th</sup>. Walls and Sons (Ice Cream) Ltd. opened on the site of the old fish yard at Swanston's Road.

February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Construction had begun on the foundations of a Birds Eye's new 10,000 square yard store on the South Denes.

February 10<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Town Council held its longest post-war meeting lasting from 7pm until 10.50pm. A large part of the debate was taken up with the sale of council houses.

February 17<sup>th</sup>. The Haisboro Lightship was towed into Great Yarmouth harbour after being holed beneath the water line in fog by the steamer, *Marshall*.

February 24<sup>th</sup>. A signal box which had stood at Haddiscoe Station since 1904 was dismantled for preservation at the South Kensington Science Museum.

March 10<sup>th</sup>. The owner of the Grey Parrot public house at 3 Howard Street was fined £20 for allowing juke box music to be played after 11pm.

March 17<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Grammar School included a cast of 120 people including 12 masters in its production of *Moscow Follies*. It was produced to raise funds for a coach of pupils to drive to Moscow during the summer holidays.

March 24<sup>th</sup>. The highest tide since December 1954 brought flooding to several riverside areas; the pleasure steamer, *Resolute*, was torn from her moorings and remained stuck on Breydon Water.

March 24<sup>th</sup>. At the annual Publicity Ball at Gorleston's Floral Hall, 450 people wined, dined and danced.

March 30<sup>th</sup>. Miss M. E. Irvine was appointed to succeed Miss R. I. Brookes as headmistress of Great Yarmouth Girls' High School.

March 30<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Operatic and Dramatic Society performed the musical romance, *King's Rhapsody*, at the Wellington Pier Pavilion during Easter week.

April 7<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Town Council confirmed that no structures, kiosks or stalls on the east side of Marine Parade should be allowed to sell fish and chips.

April 14<sup>th</sup>. Yarmouth quiz men, Reg Snowling, Ken Jary and Derek Holland won the final of the B. B. C's *Sporting Chance* contest recorded at Broadcasting House in London.

April 21<sup>st</sup>. Fourteen-year-old Richard Balls, a member of the Great Yarmouth Roller Skating Club, won the amateur senior men's figure and free roller skating championship of Great Britain.

May 5<sup>th</sup>. Transistor radios were advertised at L. C. Shreeve's electrical shop in Gorleston High Street at prices between 11½ guineas and 28 guineas; a Dansette cost 14½ guineas and an Ekco was priced at 19½ guineas.

May 12<sup>th</sup>. St. Nicholas' Church was re-consecrated by the Bishop of Norwich, Dr. Lancelot Fleming, in the presence of a congregation of 3,500.

May 19<sup>th</sup>. Radio control equipment was installed at the Churchill Road Depot for the Town's ambulance fleet to increase the efficiency of the service.

May 19<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth's new Central Library was opened by Miss Christina Foyle; it was the largest public building to be built in the town since 1937 and would stock 83,000 books.

June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The first German naval craft since before the war visited Great Yarmouth; it was the German Navy's First Patrol Boat Squadron of eight torpedo boats and a trawler.

June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Brahams became the first large shop in the town to grant a five day working week to its staff.

June 30<sup>th</sup>. Blofield and Flegg Rural District Council decided to approach Norfolk County Council to acknowledge that *on-Sea* should be added to the village signs in Winterton.

June 30<sup>th</sup>. Tommy Steele was starring at the Windmill, Bruce Forsyth at the Wellington Pier, comedian Arthur Haynes at the Regal, Emile Ford at the Royal Aquarium and Bob Monkhouse at the Britannia Pier.

July 14<sup>th</sup>. A demolition gang working with cranes and oxy-acetylene cutters was busy removing machinery from the 70 feet high boiler house of the old power station on South Denes Road; its 140 feet high chimney was also destined to come down during the next few months.

July 21<sup>st</sup>. Bradwell's new primary school was opened.

July 28<sup>th</sup>. The Flying Saucers Big Wheel at the Pleasure Beach came out of one of its bearings stranding 28 people in mid-air for 45 minutes before being rescued by firemen.

August 4<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council decided to ask the Local Government Commission reviewing East Anglia to seriously consider a merger with Lowestoft and the surrounding villages, to form one large county borough.

August 25<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-one boys from Great Yarmouth Grammar School returned home from their 4,272 mile three week trip to Moscow; travelling across Europe by coach.

August 25<sup>th</sup>. Twelve thousand people watched a Television All Stars football match on the Wellesley Recreation Ground; the two teams were captained by the disc jockey, Pete Murray and the comedian, Ronnie Corbett.

September 1<sup>st</sup>. Great Yarmouth's Battle of Britain Carnival Week would be held over ten days and include a programme of 52 events.

September 8<sup>th</sup>. The last property on the site of the new police station was demolished.

September 15<sup>th</sup>. No more steam passenger trains would be operating out of Great Yarmouth after 23<sup>rd</sup> September; only goods and parcel trains from Vauxhall Station would be pulled by steam engines after this date.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Villages between Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft express opposition to the proposed Yartoft local government merger.

October 6<sup>th</sup>. The death was announced of Bandsman Jack Blake, the Great Yarmouth born former British middleweight boxing champion, who for many years was the Great Yarmouth schools' swimming instructor.

October 27<sup>th</sup>. The Scottish drifter, *Glen Ugie*, of Peterhead was trapped against the Haven Bridge by a powerful flood tide, while manoeuvring to turn in the river.

November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Watsons (Great Yarmouth) Ltd., owners of the Caister Holiday Camp and the Seashore Holiday Camp, bought the Silver Sands Caravan Site and an adjoining 7½ acres of land at Caister.

November 17<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston Pier was hit hard by gales which swept the east coast; a great deal of rails and decking were washed away.

December 1<sup>st</sup>. The seasonal catch of herring reached 30,872 crans, overtaking the 1959 season's catch.

December 8<sup>th</sup>. Arthur Hollis Ltd. was concealing lucky tickets on its shelves each day for a week; the finders were entitled to a free turkey.

December 15<sup>th</sup>. Herb Elliott, the Australian reigning world 1,500 metres and mile record holder, presented silver and bronze Duke of Edinburgh awards to schoolboys and girls at the Assembly Room of the Town Hall.

December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Clearance of the site of the old Great Yarmouth cattle market on Station Road had begun; it was to make way for the erection of a building for William Clowes and Sons, the Caxton Press.

December 29<sup>th</sup>. The restoration of the Fishermen's Hospital was complete at a cost of £15,000.

### **Entries from *A diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

May. Fine Fare opened in the old Woolworths store in Regent Road.

May. St Andrews Church was closed.

May 20<sup>th</sup>. The Model Village was opened in Wellington Gardens on the old Pixieland site.

June. Beach Station first used as a coach station.

November 24<sup>th</sup>. The Cap & Gown public house opened on the Magdalen Estate

## 1962

January 5<sup>th</sup>. A fancy goods shop was fined £5 for opening on a Sunday.

January 12<sup>th</sup>. Sidney Da'Volls died. He was a pioneer Labour member of the Yarmouth Town Council.

January 12<sup>th</sup>. Some of the prefabs on the Shrublands Estate were demolished for housing.

January 12<sup>th</sup>. Edward Moore, the founder of the Great Yarmouth building firm, died at the age of 90 years.

January 12<sup>th</sup>. The film, *Ben Hur*, was shown at the ABC Cinema.

January 19<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Boy Scouts' Association's annual camp fire was held in the Town Hall. There was a big sing-song.

January 19<sup>th</sup>. Claud Hamilton, the Broadland expert who produced a chart of the Broads in the 1930s, died at the age of 73 years.

January 19<sup>th</sup>. The contract for £343,234 was signed for re-building the Gorleston Pier.

January 26<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that St. George's Church could be used as a maritime museum.

January 26<sup>th</sup>. It was hoped that a new district hospital would be built on the Northgate and Escourt Hospital sites. Phase one would start between 1966 and 1971.

January 26<sup>th</sup>. The Grimsby trawler, *Galleen*, brought in parts of the American B-66 bomber which had crashed into the North Sea three months ago.

January 26<sup>th</sup>. David Greig of Gorleston were advertising for young men aged 15 to 16 years to work as preparation room assistants at £5 a week.

February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Bulldozers were used to push the sand back onto the beach after the winter gales.

February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. R. F. Barrett was appointed the Borough Engineer.

February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kenny Ball's Jazz band appeared at the Floral Hall in Gorleston.

February 9<sup>th</sup>. The pianist, Phyllis Sellick, an international pianist, gave a recital at the Yarmouth Library.

February 16<sup>th</sup>. A 34lb. cod was found trapped in the breakers at Caister.

March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The 1950 Prunier Trophy weather vane, which was won by the drifter, *Wydale*, was presented to the Sailors' Home Museum. The *Wydale* was broken up in 1961.

March 9<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth rate was increased and the Council expected to spend £3,335,209 during the year.

March 16<sup>th</sup>. Work began on demolishing the Breydon Railway Viaduct.

March 16<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston's international roller skaters, Brian and Patricia Colcough, became the amateur roller dance champions of Great Britain.

March 16<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor laid the foundation stone for the new police station on Howard Street North.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>. A proposal was made to give away the organ in St. George's Church. The plan to move it into St. Nicholas' Church was turned down as the cost would be £2,750.

March 30<sup>th</sup>. The Sunshine Shield presented to the school having the highest percentage of non defective and well-kept bicycles was won by Gorleston Girls' School.

March 30<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Member of Parliament, Anthony Fell, made a vehement attack on the proposal to join the Common Market.

April 6<sup>th</sup>. The Priory Street area was cleared of slums; the first slums to be cleared in Gorleston.

April 6<sup>th</sup>. The Jetty was re-built at a cost of £14,723.

April 6<sup>th</sup>. Coypus were eating the crops on the allotments on Caister Road.

April 13<sup>th</sup>. A mobile crane was brought from Rotterdam to lift a sunken barge in the river

April 19<sup>th</sup>. Potatoes were imported from Holland to ease the potato shortage in England.

April 19<sup>th</sup>. A former Member of Parliament for Great Yarmouth from 1941 to 45, Percy Jewson, died.

April 27<sup>th</sup>. The Vicar of Gorleston, Canon Campbell, declared that Gorleston was the most neglected parish in the diocese, following the building of the new housing estates.



May 4<sup>th</sup>. The annual St. George's Day Service took place in St. Nicholas' Church with the scouts and cubs attending.

May 4<sup>th</sup>. Turves, numbering 2,400, were laid on the bends of the greyhound stadium on Caister Road.

May 11<sup>th</sup>. The Conservatives lose control of the Council.

May 11<sup>th</sup>. During the year there had been 40 unmarried mothers staying at St. Paul's Lodge. Only three left before their babies were born. Of the 37 babies born, 19 were adopted, nine went to foster homes and nine went home with their mothers.

May 18<sup>th</sup>. The Head Post Office was modernised with a new customer service counter.

May 25<sup>th</sup>. The Rambouillet Society had 271 members, including 161 students and pupils.

May 25<sup>th</sup>. A new Morris Minor Traveller car was on sale for £676. 2s. 9d. from Self's Garage on North Quay.

June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Council agreed to allow Botton Brothers to sell light refreshments at the Pleasure Beach, after a debate lasting several months.

June 1<sup>st</sup>. It was decided not to erect parking meters on the sea front.

June 1<sup>st</sup>. The old people called the Great Yarmouth cut rate pre-season weeks, *Hot Water Bottle Holidays*.

June 8<sup>th</sup>. The 135 year history of appointing Jesuit priests to St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church ended.

June 29<sup>th</sup>. Three people were killed in a car crash on Acle New Road.

July 6th. An executive from Shell said that there was a good chance of finding oil under the North Sea.

#### *Shipping Week's Arrivals*

*T. SMALL and CO. LTD. were agents for the following arrivals:*

Wednesday last week: *Globe* from Rotterdam with maize for Norwich, *Diet* from Waterford with chocolate crumb.

Thursday: *Roselyn* from Newburgh with stone, *Humbergate* from Blyth with coal for Norwich, *Ellen M* for shelter, *Corale* for shelter.

Friday: *Taurus* from Amsterdam with maize for Norwich.

Saturday: *Severity* from Blyth with coal for Norwich.

Sunday: *Veritas* from Rotterdam with wheat for Norwich, *Finnpine* from Kotka with wood pulp.

Monday: *Dominance* for shelter, *Maasymn* from Oslo with wood pulp.

Tuesday: *Europe* from Antwerp with wheat for Norwich, *Antje* from Antwerp with wheat, *Marinus V* from Rotterdam with maize for Norwich, *Norwich Trader* from Abbeville with wheat, *Summity* from Blythe with coal for Norwich.

Wednesday: *Heilon* from Amsterdam with milo corn.

*STEPHENSON CLARK LTD. were agents for the following:*

Wednesday last week: *Monica M* from Blythe with coal for Norwich, *Jim M* from Goole with coal for Norwich, *Moir M* from Tyne with coal.

Thursday: *Stanstead* from Shellhaven with oil, *Pulborough* from Shellhaven with oil.

Friday: *William Barendaz* light from Ipswich to load scrap for Rotterdam.

Saturday: *Pulborough* from Shellhaven with oil, *Petworth* from Thameshaven with oil, *Paul M* from Blythe with coal for Norwich.

Sunday: *David M* from Goole with coal for Norwich, *Jim M* from Goole with coal for Norwich, *Pulborough* from Shellhaven with oil.

Monday: *Stanstead* from Shellhaven with oil.

Tuesday: *Monica M* from Blythe with coal, *Jim M* from Goole with coal for Norwich, *Pulborough* from Shellhaven with oil.

Wednesday: *Rose Julie M* from Goole with coal for Norwich, *Stanstead* from Shellhaven with oil.

*BLOOMFIELDS LTD. were agents for the following arrivals:*

*Brandaris* light from Lynn to load barley for Antwerp.

Thursday: *Superior Producer* from Scheveningen with fruit to take cattle back.

Saturday: *Meeuw* from Leeuwarden with fruit.

Sunday: *Superior Producer* from Scheveningen with fruit to take cattle back.

Tuesday: *Superior Producer* from Scheveningen with fruit to take cattle back, *Heemskerk* from Leghorn with calcium ammonium nitrate.

Wednesday: *Herman Hans* from Szczecin, Poland with salt.

*Messrs. J. A. THOMPSON and CO. were agents for the following:*

Saturday: *Fragaria* from Gothenburg with 225 tons of paper for Eastsacks (Norfolk) Ltd., *Kehrwieder 11* from Gdansk with 166 standards of timber for Palgrave Brown and Son Ltd.

Sunday: *Ben Bates* from Thameshaven with spirit.

*GREAT YARMOUTH SHIPPING CO. LTD. were agents for:*

Thursday: *Norfolk Trader* from Rotterdam with general cargo.

Friday: *Boston Trader* from Antwerp with general cargo.

July 13<sup>th</sup>. Old people moved into the new Nelson Court bungalows at Caister.

July 13<sup>th</sup>. The river boat service from Great Yarmouth to Gorleston was withdrawn as it was losing money. The boat, *S. S. Yarmouth*, would perform harbour cruises to Gorleston from Great Yarmouth instead.

July 13<sup>th</sup>. A three-bedroom house on Hamilton Road was for sale for £2,250.

August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The caravan sites were full for the peak holiday season week with 250,000 holidaymakers staying in the town.

August 24<sup>th</sup>. Gifts, novelties and postcards on sale in the town were described as foul and the curate of St. Nicholas' Church was shaken when he was shown them.

August 31<sup>st</sup>. The actors' service at St. James' Church was relayed to crowds in the streets by loudspeakers. Harry Secombe read a lesson and sang *Bless this House*, The Jaywalkers played *Exodus* and Lonnie Donegan sang spirituals. Des O'Connor and Yana sent their apologies for their non-attendance.

September 7<sup>th</sup>. Half Eastsacks factory in Gorleston was destroyed by fire and 600,000 sacks were lost.

September 7<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Mary Taylor, a local housewife and mother won the Miss Battle of Britain title.

September 14<sup>th</sup>. Four people were killed on a pleasure flight, when an Auster plane from Anglia Air Charter of Caister crashed close to Elmhurst Court.

September 14<sup>th</sup>. The clubhouse at Silver Sands Caravan Park was destroyed by fire.

September 14<sup>th</sup>. The town's buses lost 1,924 miles because of traffic congestion.

September 21<sup>st</sup>. Non bona fide gunners were ordered to keep off the Breydon marshes by the Great Yarmouth Wildfowlers' Association.

September 21<sup>st</sup>. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church was restored and re-decorated.

September 21<sup>st</sup>. Billy Fury, the pop star, who was appearing at the Windmill was fined £50 and banned for a month for speeding and not supplying insurance documentation.

September 28<sup>th</sup>. George Gates, the last Mission to Deep Sea Fisherman boat skipper, died at the age of 94 years; he was 51 years at sea and went with Sir Wilfred Grenfell to Labrador.

October 5<sup>th</sup>. Cremation ashes would be allowed to be buried in St. Nicholas' Churchyard.

October 12<sup>th</sup>. Timber workers in Great Yarmouth went on strike for a short period.

October 19<sup>th</sup>. A second river crossing may become a reality after many years of discussion; thus said the Great Yarmouth Highways Committee. They suggested that a flood barrage should be incorporated into it.

October 19<sup>th</sup>. A petition was organised to have a second telephone box erected in Bradwell.

October 19<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that a multi-storey car park should be erected on the former Beach Railway Station with a helipad on its top.

October 19<sup>th</sup>. The new flats on Yarmouth Way gave the finishing touch to the Middlegate development.

October 26<sup>th</sup>. A 19 inch television could be hired for nine shillings a week.

November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The films, *Nudes of the World* and *Love and the Frenchwoman* were shown at the Royal Aquarium.

November 16<sup>th</sup>. At the local Conservative Association, cheers and applause greeted the Great Yarmouth Member of Parliament, Anthony Fell. He was a staunch opponent of Great Britain entering the Common Market. He won a vote of confidence.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was likely that a yacht marina would be built on the River Bure, near Caister Road comprising a motel, restaurant, dance floor and other attractions. It would be built on the allotments.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Gorleston Ladies Lifeboat Guild raised a record £2,423 last year.

November 30<sup>th</sup>. A balloon and label let off during the Battle of Britain Week travelled 905 miles and landed near the Czechoslovakian border. Others landed in France, Holland, Sweden, Norway and West Germany.

November 30<sup>th</sup>. A disused fish house on Exmouth Road would soon open as an indoor archery centre; the first indoor centre in the country.

November 30<sup>th</sup>. *Ocean Starlight* won the Prunier Trophy for landing 294 crans. It was the third time a Great Yarmouth drifter had won the trophy in 21 years.

November 30<sup>th</sup>. Eamonn Andrews presented the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards to young people at the Town Hall.

November 30<sup>th</sup>. Lord Somerleyton stated that the character of our towns ought to be preserved, when he opened the Local Architect and Architecture Exhibition at the library.

November 30<sup>th</sup>. Karl Denver, a pop singer, who appeared at Great Yarmouth in the summer, was fined £25 and banned from driving for a month for driving without insurance.

November 30<sup>th</sup>. A Stork Challenge in East Anglia showed that 559 people out of 625 couldn't tell Stork from butter.

December 7<sup>th</sup>. A budget of £95,000 was set aside for a sea front re-vamp at Gorleston.

December 7<sup>th</sup>. Sir Will Spens, the High Steward of Great Yarmouth, died.

December 7<sup>th</sup>. For the first time for several years, a French naval vessel visited the port. She was the coastal escort vessel, *Le Fougeux*.

December 14<sup>th</sup>. The new police station was opened on Howard Street North. The old police station on South Quay was closed.

December 14<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston Pavilion was to host Old Time Music Hall performances next summer.

December 14<sup>th</sup>. Members of St. John's Church were going to raise £2,000 to buy St. John's Day School. The church was surprised that the school was not owned by them, but by the Ministry of Education.

December 28<sup>th</sup>. The coaster, *Ellen M*, rammed Haven Bridge; it was held there by the tide for four hours.

December 28<sup>th</sup>. Seven conferences had been booked for next summer.

December 28<sup>th</sup>. The number of letters and cards posted in Great Yarmouth between 13<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December totalled 1,035,290.

### **Entries from A Diary of Great Yarmouth by John McBride.**

The Coastguard Lookout and Lighthouse at the end of Gorleston Pier was demolished.

January. The old Midland and Great Northern railway embankment alongside Beaconsfield Road was removed.

February 16<sup>th</sup>. The tide rose five feet above normal, but serious flooding was prevented by the new flood walls.

March 31<sup>st</sup>. Demolition of Breydon Railway Viaduct was started.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. Trains to Liverpool Street, London started operating from Great Yarmouth Vauxhall Station via Norwich.

December 21<sup>st</sup>. The police force moved into their new premises on Howard Street. It cost £111,330.

## 1963

January 11<sup>th</sup>. A mine found on Hopton Beach was exploded.

January 11<sup>th</sup>. The Health Committee decided not to add fluoride to the water supply.

January 11<sup>th</sup>. A Councillor criticised the picture of an almost nude girl sitting on a dinghy on Gorleston Beach, as bad taste. The picture was on the cover of the 1963 holiday guide.

January 11<sup>th</sup>. Between 1951 and 1960, about 3,000 flats, maisonettes etc. had been built over 250 acres of ground, by the Council.

January 11<sup>th</sup>. A premium bond was presented to a baby born on New Year's Day at Great Yarmouth General Hospital.

January 18<sup>th</sup>. A new Humber Sceptre cost £997.

January 18<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth firemen and Caister and Gorleston lifeboatmen put out a blaze on the Dutch motor ship, *Maria W*.

January 18<sup>th</sup>. Seven bottles of whisky and 1,200 cigarettes were found in a ship's bilge by a Great Yarmouth Custom's Officer. A German deck boy was fined £5 with 3 guineas interpreter's costs for smuggling.

January 18<sup>th</sup>. Frank Dye who had sailed his 16 foot Wayfarer dinghy across the North Sea gave a talk to the Yare Haven Yacht Club.

January 25<sup>th</sup>. Six modern Ocean class drifter-trawlers were sold by Bloomfield's of Great Yarmouth. These were the last of the drifters left in Great Yarmouth.

February 1<sup>st</sup>. Great Yarmouth Sports Quiz Team was to take part in the B.B.C.'s *Sporting Chance* contest.

February 1<sup>st</sup>. There were many burst pipes in the thaw and a water cart delivered water to houses.

February 1<sup>st</sup>. The local water board were seeking approval for a tidal and flood barrier at the site of the lower ferry.

February 1<sup>st</sup>. Norfolk Rat week was an attempt to control the number of rats in the county.

February 8<sup>th</sup>. The 21-year-old, known to visitors to the Pleasure Beach as the Snake Girl, died in a caravan from fumes from a heater.

February 15<sup>th</sup>. The Eastern Division of the Coastguard moved from Marine Parade, Great Yarmouth to Gorleston.

February 15<sup>th</sup>. The clock outside the Gorleston Library was taken down as it was in a dangerous condition.

February 15<sup>th</sup>. The jobless total stood at 1,627; the highest for seven years.

March 1<sup>st</sup>. The civil defence underground stronghold was ready for use under Howard Street North, which would contain three weeks supplies. It was to be used in the case of a nuclear explosion.

March 8<sup>th</sup>. Caister Secondary Modern School in Braddock Avenue was opened. The senior school had been using temporary wooden huts on Yarmouth Road called the Annexe.

March 15<sup>th</sup>. Fire gutted the dining hall and bar of the Constitutional Holiday Camp at Hopton. Damage was put at £55,000.

March 15<sup>th</sup>. The film, *Spartacus* was playing at the Royal Aquarium.

March 15<sup>th</sup>. The film actress, Elizabeth Taylor was overheard saying: *Where's Great Yarmouth? In East Anglia* came the reply. *Where's East Anglia* asked Taylor?

March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The big double-fronted house on Southtown Road, which housed Crabtree's, the Marine Engineering firm's office, was demolished.

April 5<sup>th</sup>. The new police headquarters in Howard Street North was opened by the Home Secretary.

April 11<sup>th</sup>. *Frivolity*, the first boat to be launched in Great Yarmouth for ten years was built by Fellow's for their parent company, F. T. Everard.

April 11<sup>th</sup>. Caister Lifeboat rescued men from the trawler, *Kirkley*, which was aground and awash on Scroby Sands. The crew had taken to their dinghy.

April 19<sup>th</sup>. The Vicar of Gorleston urged that notes be put in the offertory plate and not coins.

April 26<sup>th</sup>. Flor Peters, the eminent organist of Mechlin Cathedral, Belgium gave an organ recital at St. Nicholas' Church. Since 1931, Peters had been the Professor of Organ at the Royal Conservatory of Ghent.

April 26<sup>th</sup>. Over 200 scouts, guides, cubs and brownies marched in the annual St. George's Day Parade

May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Family parties would be held in the vestry at St. Nicholas' Church after Evensong twice a month for the congregation to socialise.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was suggested that *Drury House* could be used as a Maritime Museum.

May 10<sup>th</sup>. Labour gain control of the Great Yarmouth Council. One seat was won by the Gorleston Ratepayers' Association.

May 10<sup>th</sup>. The sewage system was reconstructed at Southtown; it cost £166,365.

May 17<sup>th</sup>. The Local Government Commission recommended that Great Yarmouth should become a Non-County Borough in the County of Norfolk and that Bradwell should be incorporated into the Borough.

May 24<sup>th</sup>. Large deposits of oil were cleared off the beaches in Great Yarmouth and Gorleston.

May 31<sup>st</sup>. The Duke of Edinburgh visited Gorleston during his tour of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Centres.

May 31<sup>st</sup>. A new recreation hall was opened at Northgate Hospital.

May 31<sup>st</sup>. The hospital was short of nurses, radiographers, laboratory staff and physiotherapists.

May 31<sup>st</sup>. The Beatles were booked to appear at the A. B. C. on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

June 7<sup>th</sup>. Renovations were carried out to the disintegrating façade of the Star Hotel.

June 7<sup>th</sup>. The Vicar of Great Yarmouth, Rev'd. Gilbert Thurlow, was elected the President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

June 14<sup>th</sup>. More maternity beds were urgently needed.

June 14<sup>th</sup>. The Hooverbus called into the port on its way from the Clyde to London.

June 21<sup>st</sup>. Doctors were asked to display *No Smoking* signs in their waiting rooms.

June 28<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor, J. P. Winter, attacked obscene postcards on sale in the town.

June 28<sup>th</sup>. A 53-year-old man pleaded guilty to misbehaviour by suggesting indecency to a 22-year-old holidaymaker on the beach, when he offered her ten shillings, later increased to one pound.

July 5<sup>th</sup>. Over 200 holidaymakers on board the pleasure boat, *Eastern Princess*, were lost for over an hour in a thick sea fog. The boat eventually ran aground on Spending Beach. The Gorleston lifeboat and a ferry boat took off the passengers.

July 5<sup>th</sup>. The well-known cellist, Paul Tortelier, gave a performance of Dvorak's cello concerto with the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Sir Adrian Boult in St. Nicholas' Church.

July 5<sup>th</sup>. Stan Stennett, the comedian, opened The Great Yarmouth Dairy Festival Week.

July 5<sup>th</sup>. A Great Yarmouth soldier was fighting rebels in the jungles of Sarawak.

July 12<sup>th</sup>. Over 500 people signed a petition urging that the volume of noise from ice cream van chimes should be toned down on the Gorleston estates.

July 12<sup>th</sup>. Harry Worth opened the Great Yarmouth and District Horticultural Summer Show.

July 19<sup>th</sup>. A 3 to 4 bedroom detached house on North Drive was for sale at a price of £6,500.

July 26<sup>th</sup>. Parents were urged to limit their children's television viewing.

July 26<sup>th</sup>. A jar of strawberry jam weighing 16 ounces cost one shilling and fourpence at the Co-op store.

August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hotels were full when more than 100,000 people arrived for the bank holiday weekend.

August 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was reported that the East Suffolk railway line made a loss of £90,800 in 1961.

August 9<sup>th</sup>. On Bank Holiday Monday, 2,200 vehicles an hour were streaming along the Acle New Road. More than 650 coaches turned into the Beach Coach Station over the weekend.

August 9<sup>th</sup>. *H. M. S. Yarmouth* made a weekend visit and moored in the Roads. She was floodlit at night and many boatloads of visitors visited her. A *Meet the Navy* dance was held in the Winter Gardens.

August 9<sup>th</sup>. Helen Shapiro, Jimmy Savile and Ronnie Corbett were appearing at the Aquarium; Joe Brown and the Bruvvers, the Tornados and Rolf Harris were appearing at the Windmill Theatre; and Ken Dodd and Eddie Calvert were appearing at the A. B. C.

August 16<sup>th</sup>. Gangs of hooligans were threatening the town at night. One hotelier called it a terror wave and stated that it was damaging the town's reputation as a family resort.

August 23<sup>rd</sup>. *Festivity*, the second pre-fabricated coaster built by Fellows of Southtown was launched while hundreds of people cheered.

August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The former Caister railway station was to be used as a meeting place for the Caister branch of the Toc H.

August 30<sup>th</sup>. St. Peter's Church was closed.

September 6<sup>th</sup>. There were sightings of Roy *Wease/* Welsh, the great train robber in Great Yarmouth. However, it was a case of mistaken identity.

September 6<sup>th</sup>. The blonde and beautiful housewife, Mrs. Nina Mott, won the Miss Battle of Britain competition.

September 6<sup>th</sup>. The Roman Catholic priest of St. Peter's Church, Gorleston complained to the Council that pornographic material was being sold in Regent Road. Councillor McGee said that Great Yarmouth had become a honky-tonky town and has been made so by cheap-jacks.

September 13<sup>th</sup>. A conference hall, casino, bowling centre and shops were suggested for St. Nicholas' Recreation Ground.

September 13<sup>th</sup>. After another drowning on the Norfolk Broads, the coroner urged people to take proper precautions while boating.

September 20<sup>th</sup>. The First East Anglian Regiment, known as the Vikings, was presented with the Freedom of the Borough. Their march past was watched by 6,000 people.

September 20<sup>th</sup>. A Great Yarmouth couple celebrating their diamond wedding had never been more than 35 miles from their home.

September 27<sup>th</sup>. The Bishop of Northampton opened St. Edmund's Roman Catholic Secondary School. It had cost £76,188.

September 27<sup>th</sup>. The first Scots drifter arrived for the fishing season from Fraserburgh.

September 27<sup>th</sup>. The population of Great Yarmouth Borough increased by 1,865 in the ten years from 1951 to 1961. In 1961 the population was 52,970

September 27<sup>th</sup>. The Methodist Temple closed.

October 4<sup>th</sup>. Ninety-eight boys and girls from Great Yarmouth, Gorleston and Acle joined the liner, *Dunera*, for a two week educational cruise to Spain, Morocco, Gibraltar, Portugal and France.

October 4<sup>th</sup>. The University of East Anglia welcomed its first students.

October 11<sup>th</sup>. During the summer season, the total visiting the Tolhouse was 6,088 and the Elizabethan House was 9,348. The Great Yarmouth museums attracted visitors from all over the world.

October 11<sup>th</sup>. Half yearly figures showed that 389,000 books were borrowed from the Borough libraries.

October 25<sup>th</sup>. Lacon's rebuilt the Crowndale public house at St. Pancras, London. They erected a mural of the Great Yarmouth sea front and beach on a wall in the club room, as many locals took their holidays in the town.

November 1<sup>st</sup>. Raiders removed the tiles off the roof to enter a Regent Street tobacconists.

November 1<sup>st</sup>. Old people in the Grenville Place complex were banned from feeding the birds to keep the area tidy. Later they were allowed to feed them in their back gardens.

November 1<sup>st</sup>. A record number attended the British Launderers' Conference at the Carlton Hotel.

November 15<sup>th</sup>. There were many protests as Great Yarmouth might lose its County Borough status.

November 15<sup>th</sup>. Bradwell children were given polio vaccinations after a local man was diagnosed with the infection.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Plans were submitted to extend the Carlton Hotel to provide a conference hall seating 1,500 people and room to dine 750.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The price of a Hoovermatic washing machine at the Co-op in Great Yarmouth was 79 guineas.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>. At an inquiry the stranding and the total loss of a Lowestoft trawler on Scroby Sands was blamed on the skipper and the second hand.

November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The James Bond film, *From Russia with Love*, was showing at the Royal Aquarium.

November 29<sup>th</sup>. The Retail Fruit Trade Federation cancelled their proposed conference in Great Yarmouth, because the town did not offer suitable on the spot facilities. They chose Clacton instead.

November 29<sup>th</sup>. The Vicar of Great Yarmouth was appointed a residentiary canon of Norwich Cathedral and would be leaving the town early next year.

November 29<sup>th</sup>. Services and masses were held in the town's churches in memory of the assassinated American President, J. F. Kennedy.

November 29<sup>th</sup>. A special turkey lunch was on offer at Arnold's restaurant for seven shillings and sixpence.

December 6<sup>th</sup>. The Council got to grips with the Great Yarmouth traffic problem and a major plan was proposed, which included a second river crossing.

December 13<sup>th</sup>. A tower building containing offices on the site of the old police station on South Quay was considered by the planning department.

December 13<sup>th</sup>. A section of the sea wall collapsed on the south beach.

December 13<sup>th</sup>. The worst ever herring season was drawing to an end.

December 13<sup>th</sup>. The new St. Edmund's Roman Catholic Secondary School was given a Civic Trust Award.

December 20<sup>th</sup>. Seven trawlermen were rescued after their boat, *Loch Lorgan*, hit a shoal and went aground on the North Beach in a gale.

December 27<sup>th</sup>. Thousands of pounds worth of damage was done in a fire at Eastsacks factory at Gorleston on Christmas Day.

#### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

April 5<sup>th</sup>. The bowling alley in Regent Road was opened. It cost £100,000.

July. The Granville Hotel on Regent Road was converted into a restaurant and a shop.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Blundeston Prison was opened by the Home Secretary.

## 1964

January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Winterton folk singer, Sam Lerner and his wife, celebrated their diamond wedding.

January 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Shrublands Drama Group would be presenting *Cinderella* at the Gorleston Pavilion for a week commencing on the 13<sup>th</sup> January.

January 17<sup>th</sup>. Fire swept through a former Methodist Chapel on Nile Road, Gorleston which was currently being used by Repro Arts.

January 24<sup>th</sup>. STD – Subscriber Trunk Dialling was to come into operation at the town's telephone exchange next week.

January 24<sup>th</sup>. Four young artists, John Dashwood, Nicholas Prior and Russell Unwin all 15 years old and Tony Keeler aged 17 years were to exhibit their work for two weeks at the Assembly House in Norwich; all were taught by Mrs Lily Butler.

January 31<sup>st</sup>. Work began at the Wellesley Recreation Ground to create a new cinder running track.

February 14<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Highways Committee decided to go ahead with the first stage of a paper sack method of refuse collection; £10,000 would cover the cost of a pilot scheme.

February 21<sup>st</sup>. Many country stallholders were unhappy with the Council's plans to replace their market stalls with tubular steel stalls with striped awnings.

February 28<sup>th</sup>. From the 1<sup>st</sup> March, the Council's Motor Taxation Office will be issuing a new set of car registration numbers containing a year letter suffix, the first number being AEX 1B.

March 6<sup>th</sup>. Despite printing a record 70,000 copies of the town's holiday guide a further 10,000 would be required to meet demand; 55,337 had already been distributed.

April 3<sup>rd</sup>. South Denes Road became a quarter mile track for motor cycle sprints on Good Friday; the competitors included world sprint champion, George Brown and local rider Philip Kersey.

April 10<sup>th</sup>. A 300 yards stretch of beach was closed after a fourth anti-tank mine was found under the Wellington Pier within the past three weeks; the Royal Engineers' Bomb Disposal Unit was called in to sweep the beach.

April 17<sup>th</sup>. Huge lengths of piping were being laid along the Acle New Road to supply Great Yarmouth with gas from Norwich; this would mean the eventual closure of the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston gas works.

April 24<sup>th</sup>. Five girls from the Cliff Park High School won the Junior Women's Team Gymnastic Championship of Great Britain.

April 24<sup>th</sup>. A new dining hall on two levels to seat 1,600 people and a new heated outdoor swimming pool were nearing completion at Caister Camp.

May 1<sup>st</sup>. Construction was progressing on the Vauxhall Caravan Park, a ten acre site on the Acle New Road. It was hoped to open it by Whitsun with room for 100 caravans.

May 8<sup>th</sup>. John Hender, a former Great Yarmouth Grammar School pupil, was appointed City Treasurer of Coventry. In 1951, he had gained first place and the gold medal in the final examinations of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants.

May 15<sup>th</sup>. *Hands off Great Yarmouth* stickers appeared on many vehicles in the town, as it fought to retain its status as a County Borough.

May 15<sup>th</sup>. The pop group, the Kinks, were to appear at the Floral Hall on Whit Monday with Adam Faith appearing at the Wellington Pier the following Wednesday.

May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The ship's figurehead, which for some years had been a feature of the Trinity House Depot on South Quay, received a spring clean with gold-leaf re-applied to parts of the figure.

May 29<sup>th</sup>. Mike Bailey, a former pupil of the Alderman Leach School, gained his first football international cap, when he was selected by Alf Ramsay to play for England against the United States of America.

May 29<sup>th</sup>. Morecambe and Wise were to appear at the Wellington Pier, Billy Fury at the Royal Aquarium and Des O'Connor at the Britannia Pier; the Shadows were also due to start their season at the Regal on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

June 5<sup>th</sup>. The only large site on the sea front unconnected with the holiday industry, the Great Yarmouth Coastguard Station, was to be auctioned in July.



June 12<sup>th</sup>. The Blue Anchor public house on the Market Place was to be demolished to be replaced by a new branch of the Westminster Bank Ltd.

June 12<sup>th</sup>. A large gathering of farm workers heard an address by George Brown, the Deputy Leader of the Labour Party, at the Marina.

June 26<sup>th</sup>. A plan to transform the village of Belton into a small township with more than four times its present population of 800 was revealed by East Suffolk County Council.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Gorleston Pier was to re-open after nine years and three months. It had been closed because of its dangerous state; its renovation had cost £400,000.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>. A new one-way traffic plan involving many of the roads at the town centre would come into being next week.

July 10<sup>th</sup>. Caister's new secondary school was opened by Chris Chataway, the Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of the Department of Education.

July 17<sup>th</sup>. Caister's new lifeboat was formerly handed over and named the *Royal Thames*.

July 24<sup>th</sup>. Weeks of fine weather since the beginning of May contributed to making one of the town's busiest summers on record.

July 24<sup>th</sup>. A timesheet bearing the names of the builders was found by workmen during the dismantling of the old power station chimney.

July 31<sup>st</sup>. It was announced that George Wimpey and Company Ltd. were taking over the disused herring reduction plant and four acres of land on the South Denes as a base and storage area to service offshore drilling and production operations.

August 7<sup>th</sup>. Docwra's sweet factory on the South Denes was gutted by a fierce fire.

August 7<sup>th</sup>. Sporadic outbursts of trouble involving crowds of youths along the sea front marred a sunny and busy August Bank Holiday weekend.

August 14<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth hospitals were suffering from staff shortages leading to the closure of a ward and putting a serious strain on the existing staff.

August 21<sup>st</sup>. The Ministry of Transport gave the green light on the construction of a new road bridge at Potter Heigham.

August 28<sup>th</sup>. Five thousand spectators watched the annual charity football match between the stars of the summer shows on the Wellesley Recreation Ground.

September 11<sup>th</sup>. The train fare from Yarmouth Southtown to Lowestoft was 2s 9d and from Yarmouth Vauxhall to Norwich 6 shillings.

September 25<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that the Prime Minister, Sir Alec Douglas Hume, was to speak on the following Tuesday at a public meeting in the Market Place in support of Mr. Anthony Fell during the election campaign.

October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The three candidates for the Great Yarmouth Electoral Division handed their nomination papers to stand as the town's Member of Parliament in to the Town Hall; they were David Spreckley (Liberal), Clinton Davies (Labour) and Anthony Fell (Conservative).

October 16<sup>th</sup>. Carr and Carr were advertising the new HMV 19 inch television for 70 guineas and a Grundig tape recorder for 39 guineas.

October 16<sup>th</sup>. The Great Yarmouth Operatic and Dramatic Society were to present *Oklahoma* for a week at the A. B. C. Theatre from 26<sup>th</sup> October.

October 23<sup>rd</sup>. A new factory for the manufacture of optical gauging and measuring instruments, Kandux Precision Instruments Ltd., was opened by the Mayor.

October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Anthony Fell was returned as the Great Yarmouth Member of Parliament; he obtained a 1,929 vote majority over Clinton Davies.

October 30<sup>th</sup>. An American F100 Super Sabre fighter from Lakenheath crashed onto Darby's Hard on Riverside Road, Gorleston. There were no casualties and the pilot, who had bailed out, landed in allotments near Lawn Avenue.

November 13<sup>th</sup>. Plans were revealed of the new Tower Complex on the sea front on the site of the old Coastguard Station which was now under demolition; the new building would have a 13,000 square feet ballroom and a 120 feet high observation tower.

November 20<sup>th</sup>. There was an unusual sight of three German trawlers in the harbour. Heavy gales had caused them to seek shelter.

November 20<sup>th</sup>. The new Fastolfe Arms public house on the Magdalen Estate was opened.

November 27<sup>th</sup>. Gulf Oil (Great Britain) Ltd. announced that it was to start exploratory drilling in the North Sea and would be using Great Yarmouth as its base.

December 4<sup>th</sup>. A new library was opened in Beach Road, Caister.

December 4<sup>th</sup>. Fire badly damaged the ground floor of E. D. Folkes furniture shop at 137 King Street. Prompt action by the fire crews prevented its spread to the upper floors.

December 11<sup>th</sup>. Hartmann Fibre Ltd. announced plans for a 40,000 square feet extension to their South Denes factory.

December 18<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Operatic and Dramatic Society were to present *Old King Cole* as their pantomime in the early New Year.

December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Carlton Hotel announced that they were fully booked and would be catering for 250 guests over the Christmas period; the bookings had been fully taken within two days of being advertised.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

R. H. Clarkes pasta mill became Pasta Foods Ltd.

The Palace Cinema was converted into a bingo hall.

January. Tesco purchased Overill's cycle shop and Savory's fruit and vegetable store on the east side of the Market Place to build a supermarket.

March 18<sup>th</sup>. Smith and Daniels store in the Market Place was sold to Woolworths for £38,000.

April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The new Herbert Matthes Block was opened at Northgate Hospital.

May. St. Andrew's Church and St. Andrew's School were demolished to build a garage and offices for Norfolk Motor Services.

November 7<sup>th</sup>. Hepworth's opened a new store at 29 Market Place; at the top of Market Row.

December 26<sup>th</sup>. The first rig started drilling in the North Sea.

## 1965

January 1<sup>st</sup>. It was reported that heavy snow fell in Great Yarmouth on Christmas Day for the first time since 1938.

January 8<sup>th</sup>. The Shipwrecked Sailors' Home was closed on Marine Parade after tending to the needs of seamen for 104 years.

January 15<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that the Caister Group had acquired Herbert Woods Ltd., boat builders and owners of the largest hire fleet on the Norfolk Broads.

January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Arthur William Ecclestone was nominated as Great Yarmouth's next Mayor, the first Great Yarmouth born Mayor for several years. He was a director and surveyor to E. Lacon and Company.

January 29<sup>th</sup>. The 499-ton German tanker, *Preusagg 1*, with 1,000 tons of petrol on board crashed into the harbour entrance, but suffered only slight damage.

January 29<sup>th</sup>. Concern was expressed at the number of football matches called off on the Caister Road pitches, which constantly became pitted with ruts and flooded after rain; it was the site of the former refuse tip.

February 5<sup>th</sup>. 2,000 people attended a memorial service at St. Nicholas' Church for Sir Winston Churchill.

February 12<sup>th</sup>. Kenneth Macmillan, the internationally famed Royal Ballet choreographer, who spent much of his childhood in Great Yarmouth, scored a triumph with his production of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

February 12<sup>th</sup>. Mandy Rice-Davies, '*the girl with the sultry voice*', would be appearing at the Silver Dollar Club in Hopton.

February 26<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth's major retail outlets agreed to a year's trial of all-day closing on Thursdays.

February 26<sup>th</sup>. A scheme granting free travel on Corporation buses by old age pensioners was suggested by the Great Yarmouth Transport Committee following the passing of the Travel Concessions Act 1964; because of the cost this was later altered to half-price fare.

March 5<sup>th</sup>. With preparations for the drilling of oil and gas due to start within the next three months, a giant transport work barge was towed into Great Yarmouth harbour from Holland; it was to be used for ferrying drilling rig equipment that needed a large flat deck.

March 12<sup>th</sup>. The opening of the Fine Fare Supermarket in Gorleston High Street on 16<sup>th</sup> March would be accompanied by a display by the Dagenham Girl Pipers.

March 26<sup>th</sup>. A 250 feet warehouse containing egg and food packaging materials at Hartmann Fibre was gutted by fire.

April 2<sup>nd</sup>. An 80 feet mobile crane with a 90 feet jib was used to lift the six-ton axle of the giant Skyride into position; it was to be the new summer attraction at the Pleasure Beach.

April 9<sup>th</sup>. A new heliport was to be established at the Caister Road Airfield for ferrying supplies to the drilling rigs.

April 15<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that the Glomar IV, which was anchored four miles off Great Yarmouth, had travelled 5,000 miles from Galveston in Texas to take part in the North Sea drilling operation.

April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Concern was expressed about the Bank Holiday invasion of Mods and Rockers on the seafront, which had resulted in many fights and scuffles.

April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Selection of children for secondary education by means of the 11-plus examination was to be ended in 1966.

April 30<sup>th</sup>. A reprieve from closure for the passenger train service from Yarmouth Southtown to Lowestoft was announced.

May 14<sup>th</sup>. Of the 15 drilling rigs planned to operate off the East Coast at least nine will be serviced from quayside bases at Great Yarmouth.

May 21<sup>st</sup>. St. John's Yarmouth (Properties) Ltd. were advertising for tenants for the new Tower Building on Marine Parade; shop units were available at £1,200 per annum and amusement arcades from £650 per annum. The first stage of the development would be ready for occupation on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1965.

May 28<sup>th</sup>. Canvassers will begin this week delivering a question and answer booklet to the Town's 17,000 houses, preparatory to collecting signatures for the 'Hands Off Great Yarmouth' protest petition in response to the Boundary Commission proposal to merge the Town into the Norfolk administrative county.

June 4<sup>th</sup>. Bradwell Parish Council called a public meeting to discuss its protest at being merged with Great Yarmouth.

June 4<sup>th</sup>. Several well-known showbiz personalities began their summer season including the Bachelors at the A. B. C., Mike and Bernie Winters, Matt Monro and Jimmy Tarbuck at the Wellington Pier, Lonnie Donegan at the Royal Aquarium and Norman Vaughan and Joe Brown at the Britannia Pier.

June 11<sup>th</sup>. Several sea front traders complained of hordes of Mods and Greasers causing disruption to their trade by clashing along Marine Parade during the Whitsun weekend.

June 18<sup>th</sup>. Last reminders of the old pier at Gorleston vanished with the removal of the watch keepers' hut, lighthouse and fog horn, the latter was believed to have been there for 80 years.

June 25<sup>th</sup>. Plans for the new Tower Building had been altered to provide for the construction of an ice skating rink.

July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Gorleston Gas Works was closed down at 1pm on Tuesday and simultaneously, in a compound on the other side of Southtown Road, a valve was opened in an underground main bringing propane gas from Norwich.

July 9<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that all the 123 employees of Eastsacks (Norfolk) Ltd., who had lost their jobs with the closure of the Gorleston paper sack making factory, would be in new jobs by the end of the week.

July 16<sup>th</sup>. Watson's Garage on Southtown Road was advertising the new Vauxhall Viva de Luxe for £573, including purchase tax.

July 23<sup>rd</sup>. With the arrival of the peak holiday fortnight, concern was expressed at the frequent half-hour delays between Great Yarmouth and Gorleston, caused while approaching the roundabout at the Haven Bridge.

July 30<sup>th</sup>. The Borough's Director of Entertainments and Publicity announced the intention to convert the Winter Gardens into a continental style beer garden in time for the next summer season.

August 6<sup>th</sup>. After the earlier closure of Gorleston Gas Works, Great Yarmouth followed suit after 142 years of gas production.

August 20<sup>th</sup>. The annual midnight matinee, which was currently being organised, would have no less than six performers who had appeared at a Royal Command Performance.

August 27<sup>th</sup>. A new operating theatre at Gorleston Hospital had been completed; for 18 years it had been without surgical facilities.

September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Gorleston's 15-year-old Ann Willard won the British Girls' Golf Championship at Formby.

September 10<sup>th</sup>. Two old established shipbuilders, Fellows and Company Ltd. and Crabtree (1931) Ltd. are faced with closure unless a ten week strike by 24 Amalgamated Engineering Union members is settled.

September 17<sup>th</sup>. The death was announced of 86 year-old folk singer Sam Lerner of Bulmer Cottage, Winterton. In 1962, an American record company had produced a long playing record of 18 of his songs, entitled *Now is the Time for Fishing*.

September 24<sup>th</sup>. The 60-year-old radio and television shop of Carr and Carr moved from its Regent Street premises to 19-20 Market Row.

October 1<sup>st</sup>. Brian and Patricia Colclough retained their World Roller Skating Pairs Dance Championship in Madrid.

October 8<sup>th</sup>. The port's new £46,000 diesel tug, *Hector Read*, arrived; it replaced the *Richard Lee Barber*.

October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Yarmouth Salvation Army Corps celebrated its centenary with a united thanksgiving service at the Hippodrome.

October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The assembly of the first four system-built timber framed houses designed by the Borough Architect, Mr. F. Jackson, had begun on the Shrublands Estate; it was hoped that the speed with which these could be erected would assist in the Borough's urgent need for more Council housing.

October 29<sup>th</sup>. The Yardbirds were advertised to appear at the Floral Hall on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November; the cost of admission was 6 shillings.

November 5<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that the £41,200 Suffolk Road (Southtown by-pass) would be put in hand next March and would be completed before the summer.

November 12<sup>th</sup>. An extensive re-development plan for the Britannia Pier in the shape of a re-built pier head and improved entrance was put before the Council by Forte (Holdings).

November 19<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth was swept by 50 mph icy south-easterly gales sending shipping scurrying to the port and delaying departures; the Town and district also suffered power cuts.

November 26<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that Lacon's were to merge with Whitbread's in a £3,000,000 deal.

November 26<sup>th</sup>. The long history of the Prunier Trophy came to an end; the total catch for the season was only 12,761 crans.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>. A proposal for the Grammar and High Schools to become co-educational was discussed by the Education Committee's General Purpose sub-committee.

December 10<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Town Council decides to set up a direct labour force within the Housing Department.

December 17<sup>th</sup>. The General Steam Navigation Company proposed to introduce day trips to Ostend or Calais as an attraction for visitors next summer.

December 24<sup>th</sup>. British Petroleum's giant 5,600 ton oil-rig, Sea Gem, which was supplied from the South Denes base, capsized and sank claiming 13 victims; no local men were among the crew.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride**

January. The Great Yarmouth Fire Brigade took delivery of a Simon Snorkel fire engine, the first in East Anglia. There were only ten in the country.

January. The chimney of the herring reduction plant was demolished.

April. Lord Devlin, the first of three mobile cranes, costing £21,800, arrived on South Quay.

April. A paddling pool and 21 chalets were built at Gorleston by the yacht pond.

August. Yellow no waiting lines were first painted on the Town's roads.

August 6<sup>th</sup>. The pleasure steamer, *Southtown*, left port for a ship breakers yard in Rotterdam.

November. Two new foot bridges were erected in Middleton Road over the railway.

December. Cluer's Cars new showroom opened on Fishwharf Road.

## 1966

January 7<sup>th</sup>. It was announced that the Grammar School and the High School would be co-educational in 1967/68.

January 7<sup>th</sup>. The Council again voted no to the fluoridation of the water supply.

January 14<sup>th</sup>. A memorial plaque to Rev'd. Aubrey Aitken and his wife was unveiled in St. Nicholas' Church. He had been the Vicar from 1920 until his death in 1941.

January 14<sup>th</sup>. Fishermen were worried about the wreck of the *Swan* off Gorleston beach. They said it was a hazard and they wanted it removed.

January 14<sup>th</sup>. Over 1,000 people were unemployed in the town.

January 28<sup>th</sup>. Dr. James Smellie, a general practitioner and an honorary hospital practitioner in Great Yarmouth, died at the age of 68 years. He had won the Military Cross at the Battle of Arras in 1917 and came to the town after the First World War.

February 4<sup>th</sup>. The Borough's education budget of £1,797,168 was announced.

February 11<sup>th</sup>. The crew quarters of the rig, Conoco I, seventy miles north-east of Great Yarmouth fell into the North Sea. The quarters were empty and were being prepared to move to another rig.

February 11<sup>th</sup>. Wanton damage along the sea front was a problem. The latest victim was Merrivale Model Village.

February 11<sup>th</sup>. Work started on building a new pipe store on Suffolk Road for Brown and Root Wimpey.

February 11<sup>th</sup>. British Petroleum was moving its headquarters for United Kingdom exploration to the town.

February 11<sup>th</sup>. East Anglia's first ice rink was nearing completion at the Tower building on Marine Parade.

February 11<sup>th</sup>. The first assignment of pipes for bringing gas ashore came by train to Southtown Station from Glasgow.

February 11<sup>th</sup>. A well 25 feet deep and 4 feet wide was found during the digging of foundations for a new supermarket on the west side of the Market Place.

February 11<sup>th</sup>. Matthes Bakery was producing 5,000 loaves an hour at their Gorleston factory.

February 11<sup>th</sup>. The six clothing factories of Johnson and Sons were producing two million garments a year.

February 11<sup>th</sup>. Hartman Fibre Ltd. were producing three million articles a day and were employing 700 men. Over half of their output were egg boxes.

February 18<sup>th</sup>. Three fireman died in a fire at R. A. F. Neatishead, a top secret signal and radar station.

February 25<sup>th</sup>. One of the two sister ships built for the Scheveningen to Great Yarmouth fruit and vegetable trade, the *Superior Importer*, arrived on its maiden trip.

March 4<sup>th</sup>. An unofficial strike by 25 crane drivers brought the port almost to a standstill.

March 4<sup>th</sup>. Beccles Road filling station was selling petrol at between 4/11½d and 5/3d a gallon, depending on its grade.

March 11<sup>th</sup>. The ill-fated Caister lifeboat, *Beauchamp*, which hadn't be used since the 1901 disaster was broken up.

March 18<sup>th</sup>. Miss Embleton, the Matron of the Great Yarmouth Hospital since 1960, retired.

March 25<sup>th</sup>. It was decided by experts that Scroby Sands were shrinking.

March 25<sup>th</sup>. The London Philharmonic Orchestra played to 3,000 adults and children at the Hippodrome in two performances.

March 25<sup>th</sup>. A third gas strike in the North Sea by Neptune One was announced by Shell Exploration.

April 1<sup>st</sup>. In the General Election, Dr. Hugh Gray won the Great Yarmouth seat for Labour beating the Conservative candidate, Anthony Fell, by just under 1,000 votes. This ended a 15-year Conservative hold of the seat.

April 1<sup>st</sup>. Severe weekend gales caused havoc to the off-shore rigs. The rig, Constellation, with 29 men on board, was driven almost to the Dutch coast.

April 1<sup>st</sup>. The shortage of beds for old people in Great Yarmouth was appalling, said a consultant physician.

April 8<sup>th</sup>. The rig, Neptune One, 38 miles north-east of Great Yarmouth, made a gas strike of considerable importance.

April 8<sup>th</sup>. The port tug, *Richard Lee Barber*, left the port for the last time to be broken up by a Belgian firm. It had been built by Fellows of Southtown in 1939.

April 8<sup>th</sup>. The Corporation bus fares went up by one penny on all their routes.

April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Bank Holiday weekend was spoilt for the fifth time with disturbances by the Mods and Rockers.

April 15<sup>th</sup>. It was stated at the Planning Committee meeting that millions of gallons of petrol could be saved if the medieval town wall was demolished and this would also allow better planning for the expansion of the town.

April 22<sup>nd</sup>. A 26lb. mine was blown up on Great Yarmouth beach.

April 29<sup>th</sup>. Southtown Station, on which £40,000 had been spent in recent years, was put up for sale by British Rail.

May 6<sup>th</sup>. The new pay roll tax shocked the hoteliers. Prices would have to rise.

May 6<sup>th</sup>. Freeman's, the leather merchants, celebrated its centenary.

May 13<sup>th</sup>. After a break of 26 years, Westminster Bank returned to Great Yarmouth on the corner of the Conge and the Market Place on the site of the Blue Anchor public house. Its branch on Hall Quay had closed at the outbreak of the war.

May 13<sup>th</sup>. Three rig supply boats, which were newcomers to the port, had arrived in the last two weeks.

May 13<sup>th</sup>. Labour kept control of the Council, although their majority fell from six to four.

May 20<sup>th</sup>. Parts of an American Phantom jet, which crashed in flames off Winterton, were brought into Great Yarmouth. The two crew were missing.

May 27<sup>th</sup> Last week's ship arrivals:

*Carara* from Rotterdam with maize for Norwich; *Tarzan* from Rotterdam with maize meal; *Triumph* from Maasiuis (Holland) with fruit; *Paullgate* from Blyth with coal for Norwich; *Vassos* from Caen light to load scrap for Catania; *Beta* from Foynes (Ireland) with barytes; *Function* light to load scrap for Dunkirk; *Peter Robin* from London with soya bean; *Port Talbot* from Rotterdam with maize for Norwich, *Frauke Danz* from Kotka (Finland) with wood pulp; *Lady Sheena* from Tyne for shelter; *Antelope* from Shoreham for shelter on passage to Middlesbrough; *Delfzijl* from Amsterdam with wheat for Norwich; *Geestdam* from Maasiuis (Holland) with fruit to take ponies back; *Cherie* from Amsterdam with maize for Norwich; *Superior Trader* from Scheveningen with fruit; *Superior Importer* from Scheveningen with general to take general back; *Heathergate* from Falmouth light; *Frans W* from Ostend light to load cattle for Scheveningen; *Rigel* from Ostend light to load cattle for Ostend; *Superior Trader* from Scheveningen light; *Superior Exporter* from Scheveningen with fruit; *Superior Producers* from Scheveningen with general; *Superior Exporter* to tow *Superior Trader*; *Frans W* from Ostend light to load cattle for Scheveningen; *Rigel* from Ostend right to load cattle for Ostend; *Superior Trader* from Scheveningen with vegetables; *Superior Exporter* from Scheveningen with general; *Hermann Eisen* with 188 standards of timber from Hamina (Finland) for Orfeur and Bellin Ltd; *Nebo* from Skoghall (Sweden) with 132 standards of timber for A. and W. Cushion Ltd. of Norwich; *Victory* with chemicals; *Nomadisch* from Rotterdam with general to take general back; *Senior* from Antwerp with general.

May 27<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor opened the Corporation's Tyrolean Biergarten at the transformed Winter Gardens.

May 27<sup>th</sup>. A cheaper version of a barrage on the River Bure near the yacht station to prevent flooding was proposed by the Chief Engineer of the East Suffolk and Norfolk River Authority.

May 27<sup>th</sup>. Four local lifeboats accompanied the Norwegian lifeboat, *Ambassador Bay*, which was on a visit, into the harbour.

May 27<sup>th</sup>. The retiring Mayor, A. W. Ecclestone, suggested the formation of an interparty liaison committee, where non-party municipal matters could be considered.

May 27<sup>th</sup>. A plan to build a £3,000,000 hospital for the Borough was one of the Government proposals.

June 3<sup>rd</sup>. *H. M. S. Defender* arrived in the Roads on a courtesy call.

June 3<sup>rd</sup>. A 25 million cubic feet a day gas strike 60 miles north-east of Great Yarmouth was announced.

June 10<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston and Great Yarmouth Library had a record year when 842,610 books were borrowed. That is about 16 books by each of the town's 52,000 people.

June 10<sup>th</sup>. Controversial new market stalls arrived with green, red and white awnings.

June 10<sup>th</sup>. The Winterton Lighthouse was to be sold at auction. It was built 126 years ago.

June 17<sup>th</sup>. Old Time Music Hall returned to the Gorleston Pavilion.

June 17<sup>th</sup>. James Callaghan, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, spoke at the farm workers rally at the Marina.

June 24<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth's oar mace was lent for an exhibition at the National Maritime Museum. It was made for the local Admiralty Court in 1562. It was unusual in that it had a long shaft and a squat blade.

June 24<sup>th</sup>. Clare Jenkins from Martham was been given the part of Nanina in the television series, *Dr. Who*.

June 24<sup>th</sup>. Three multi-storey car parks were planned for Great Yarmouth's town centre.

July 1<sup>st</sup>. The Crown Hotel on the corner of Regent Street and King Street was sold for re-development.

July 1<sup>st</sup>. Should Charles Street be allocated for housing or industry, a Councillor asked?

July 1<sup>st</sup>. A West Indian, who had a booking, claimed that a hotel had turned him and his wife away because he was coloured.

July 8<sup>th</sup>. The boat, *Royal Sovereign*, made the first continental passenger voyage from Great Yarmouth, since before the war, on a day trip to Calais. The trip had been delayed by a seamen's strike. The *Royal Sovereign* was 285 feet long, a 1,851 ton motor vessel with a maximum speed of 20 knots. It was built in 1948 and carried 1,300 passengers. The return fare was 52 shillings and allowed three hours in France.

July 8<sup>th</sup>. Terry Scott, Hugh Lloyd, Donald Peers, Mike and Bernie Winters, Dickie Henderson, Teddy Johnson and Pearl Carr, Ruby Murray, Frank Ifield, the Barron Knights and Ted Rogers were appearing in the town for the summer season.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Chaos reigned in the yacht station when a strong ebb tide and the large number of boats caused several cruisers to career down the river out of control.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Swedish Malmo Orchestra performed in St. Nicholas' Church. Beforehand, the Vicar, Rev'd. Donald Holt, said he was sure that the concert would not detract from the sanctity of the church.

July 22<sup>nd</sup>. There was an accusation of a colour bar operating in some hotels and guest houses.

July 29<sup>th</sup>. The town was clogged with holidaymakers and caused the worst traffic jam for years. The Transport Manager said that it was sheer chaos.

July 29<sup>th</sup>. Madam Cynthia, a palmist, who had read thousands of palms on the sea front died aged 99 years.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. Two more people drowned on the Norfolk Broads making a total of six this year.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. Crime had doubled in Borough in the last six years.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. The Nelson Gardens boating lake lost £7,250 last year.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. the Palm Court Hotel was sold to the adjacent Burlington Hotel.

August 19<sup>th</sup>. Two boat disasters in the West Country had a detrimental effect on Skylark type trips from Great Yarmouth beach.

August 19<sup>th</sup>. The rig, North Star, failed to find gas in commercial quantities.

August 19<sup>th</sup>. An all-stars' cricket match took place on the Wellesley Recreation Ground. Dickie Henderson scored a cavalier 40 runs.

August 19<sup>th</sup>. A Royal Marines Tattoo took place on the Wellesley Recreation Ground for four days.

August 26<sup>th</sup>. Stars from the summer shows played in a football match at the Wellesley Recreation Ground between a Showbiz team and Great Yarmouth Town Football Club. The stars supported many charity events during the season.

August 26<sup>th</sup>. Part of the town wall was exposed after demolition of properties on Blackfriars Road, so that re-development could begin.



September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Fines of £5 to £15 for the Bank Holiday hooligans was felt to be too lenient by the tradesman and the inhabitants of the town.

September 9<sup>th</sup>. The first stage of the extension to the College of Further Education was completed at a cost of £128,000.

September 9<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Watch Committee decided to employ 20 traffic wardens.

September 16<sup>th</sup>. Two more rigs off Norfolk, struck gas.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ten years of twinning with Rambouillet was celebrated with the Mayor and others visiting Rambouillet. A French week would be held in Great Yarmouth next month.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. A cruiser sank on Breydon Water. Two holidaymakers were saved.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Cobholm Methodist Church was re-opened.

September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bold plans were submitted to solve Great Yarmouth's traffic problems.

September 30<sup>th</sup>. A square called, Place de Great Yarmouth, was named in a new part of Rambouillet.

October 7<sup>th</sup>. A Labour councillor urged that the annual civic procession from the Town Hall to St. Nicholas' Church be abolished. He said it was like the Retreat from Moscow.

October 7<sup>th</sup>. An extension was added to the Working Men's Club on Deneside. It included a new bar and a room which would seat 500 people.

October 14<sup>th</sup>. A cruiser was crushed at the western entrance to Breydon Water when two coasters collided.

October 14<sup>th</sup>. Fifty years of National Savings in Great Yarmouth was celebrated.

October 14<sup>th</sup>. It was proposed that people taking their own deckchairs onto the beach should be charged a fee.

October 21<sup>st</sup>. Gales caused flooding in the Blackfriars Road area.

October 21<sup>st</sup>. The Danish motor vessel of 1,600 tons, *Skanderborg*, docked in the River Yare from Greenland. It was thought to be the first boat from Greenland to visit Great Yarmouth.

October 28<sup>th</sup>. Many citizens of the town gave generously to the Aberfan Disaster Fund.

November 4<sup>th</sup>. A wartime hanger that had housed American bombers during the war at Tibenham was re-assembled on East Quay for port use.

November 18<sup>th</sup>. The Caister Lifeboat Queen was crowned.

November 18<sup>th</sup>. The new Ford Cortina was on sale at the car dealers, Pertwee and Back, for £668.

November 25<sup>th</sup>. It was decided that a Hovercraft service from Great Yarmouth to Norwich was not practical, as the river was too narrow and too crowded.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Minimum standards and facilities were defined for hotels and guest houses by the British Travel Association.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The drive to eradicate coypus from the Norfolk Broads was bringing good results.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The public were reminded that the Southtown bypass (Suffolk Road) had a speed limit of 30 mph as street lighting had been installed there.

December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The National Assistance Board was replaced by the new Supplementary Benefits Scheme.

December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Erie technicians at Great Yarmouth developed an electronic heating apparatus to keep warm the hands of those suffering with Raynaud's phenomenon, a disease that affects the blood vessels.

December 23<sup>rd</sup>. The General Steam Navigation Company ended its day trips to the Continent; this included the day trips to France from Great Yarmouth. They had traded under the title of Eagle Steamers for over a century.

December 30<sup>th</sup>. A bigger and brighter holiday guide for 1967 had been prepared and 80,000 had been printed. A £15,570 national newspaper campaign will be launched in the New Year.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

February: Aldred's, the estate agents, moved into new premises on Hall Quay on the site of Clowes and the temporary library.

## 1967

January 6<sup>th</sup>. *Golden Cockrell*, a catamaran specially ordered for the 1968 Atlantic single-handed race, was launched at the Fishwharf.

January 6<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council turned down a one-way traffic system for Southtown.

January 13<sup>th</sup>. Val Doonican, Morecambe and Wise and Bernie Winters were booked for the summer shows.

January 13<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth was one of 22 resorts on the black list of beaches that had untreated sewage pumped into the sea.

January 13<sup>th</sup>. The 86-year-old Crown Hotel on the corner of King Street and Regent Street was demolished.

January 29<sup>th</sup>. A fierce fire destroyed part of the Rosalind Food canning factory on Swanston's Road. It put 100 women temporarily out of work.

January 20<sup>th</sup>. A further 100 workers were made redundant at Grout's textile factory.

January 20<sup>th</sup>. The new port dredger was named *J. E. Dewhurst*. For 40 years, Dewhurst had been the Norfolk representative of the Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Commissioners.

January 27<sup>th</sup>. A guest house on Salisbury Road was offered for sale for £7,500.

February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Four hundred feet of the East Quay was repaired, as it had fallen into the river. It was to be used by a North Sea exploration firm.

February 10<sup>th</sup>. A big new North Sea gas strike 23 miles north-east of Great Yarmouth was announced by Phillips Petroleum.

February 10<sup>th</sup>. A 40lb. pike was caught on the Norfolk Broads.

February 17<sup>th</sup>. An offer of £750 from the Ministry of Works was accepted to restore the old town wall, which had been exposed by slum clearance on Blackfriars Road.

February 17<sup>th</sup>. An increase, during 1966, from 48 to 56 cases of drunkenness was described as being perturbing. Two thirds of the cases were visitors.

### *Shipping Arrivals:*

*T. SMALL and CO. LTD. were agents for the following arrivals:*

Wednesday last week: *Else Muller* from Oxelsand with iron ore.

Thursday: *Yewdale* from Rotterdam with pipes: *Vamos* from Rotterdam with wheat for Norwich: *Bremervorde* from Rotterdam with milocorn for Norwich: *Andescol* from King's Lynn with engine trouble: *Grace* from Le Treport, light to load scrap for Genoa: *Armin* from Rotterdam with maize for Norwich.

Friday: *Noordzee* from Wismar (Germany) with kainit (salts of potassium used in the manufacture of fertilisers): *Yewarch* from Rotterdam with pipes: *Nordzee Karin* from Gothenburg with wood pulp: *Peter Robin* from London with meal.

Saturday: *Bore V* from Kotka (Finland) with wood pulp: *Arvo* from Boston, light to load waste paper for Zaandaam: *Meppel* from London, light to load barley for Antwerp.

Sunday: *Frederick Hughes* from Rotterdam with engine trouble: *Yewdale* from Rotterdam with pipes.

Tuesday: *Yewarch* from Rotterdam with pipes: *Ferrocrete* and *Atcato* from London with clay: *Inge Leonhardt* from Oxelsand with iron ore.

Wednesday: *Yewdale* from Rotterdam with pipes.

*STEPHENSON CLARKE LTD. were agents for the following arrivals:*

Wednesday last week: *Wesermark* from Rotterdam with pipes.

Thursday: *Lisbeth Turkol* and *Firle* from Thameshaven with oil.

Friday: *Friston* from Thameshaven with oil.

Saturday: *Stansted* and *Lisbeth Turkol* from Thameshaven with oil.

Sunday: *Firle* and *Stansted* from Thameshaven with oil.

Tuesday: *Lisbeth Turkol* and *Friston* from Thameshaven with oil.

*BLOOMFIELDS LTD. were agents for the following arrivals:*

Wednesday last week: *Superior Exporter* from Scheveningen with general and fruit to load cattle and general.

Thursday: *Superior Producer* from Scheveningen with vegetables to load general and ponies: *Superior Trader* from Scheveningen with general to load Scottish herring: *Shell Supplier* from Thameshaven with spirit.

Friday: *Superior Importer* from Scheveningen with general and fruit to take general out.

Saturday: *Superior Producer* from Scheveningen with general and fruit to take cattle to Ostend: *Superior Trader* from Scheveningen, to take general out.

Sunday: *Superior Exporter* from Scheveningen with tomatoes to take fish out.

Monday: *Superior Producer* from Scheveningen light to load glass: *Dinglebank* from Thameshaven with spirit.

Tuesday: *Superior Importer* from Scheveningen with vegetables: *Superior Exporter* from Scheveningen with general to take general out.

Wednesday: *Superior Producer* from Scheveningen with general and fruit to load general: *Superior Trader* from Scheveningen with fish to load cattle and fish boxes.

*ANGLIAN MARINE SERVICES LTD. were agents for the following arrivals:*

Thursday: *Spirality* and *Sedulity* from Colchester for shelter.

Saturday: *Spontaneity* from Blyth with coal for Norwich.

Friday: *Minerva II* from Blyth with coal.

Tuesday: *Spirality* from Goole with coal for Norwich.

*MESSRS. J. A. THOMSON & CO. were agents for the following arrivals:*

Thursday: *Schlei* from Mantyluoto (Finland) with 155 standards of timber for A. R. Taylor Ltd. of Wroxham.

Sunday: *Kathe Hamm* from Hamina (Finland) with 312 standards of timber for Palgrave Brown and Son Ltd.

*GREAT YARMOUTH SHIPPING CO. LTD. were agents for the following arrivals:*

Thursday: *Senior* from Antwerp with general.

Friday: *Nomadisch* from Rotterdam with general.

February 24<sup>th</sup>. The small Jewish cemetery on Blackfriars Road was opened up after slum clearance.

March 10<sup>th</sup>. With B. B. C. 2 only a few months away a complete installation of an aerial was priced at £5 10. 0d.

March 10<sup>th</sup>. Conductor-guards operated for the first time on the Great Yarmouth-Norwich railway line.

March 17<sup>th</sup>. The prospect of a second river crossing was looking brighter.

March 17<sup>th</sup>. The Shrublands Youth and Adult Centre had 1,300 members.

March 17<sup>th</sup>. The call for a full-time ambulance station at Gorleston was rejected.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>. A director of Shell stated; that drilling for gas in the North Sea will go on for a long time.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thomas Dannett's *History of Yarmouth* was discovered in a parcel of old books in the Borough Library. It was written on parchment in Dannett's own hand bearing the watermark of 1590.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>. A £335,000 dual carriageway by-pass scheme for Southtown was presented to the highways committee.

March 30<sup>th</sup>. Jeremy Thorpe, the leader of the Liberal Party, addressed the Young Liberals Conference at the Wellington Pier Pavilion.

April 7<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston Holiday Camp held Gorleston's 7<sup>th</sup> Trade Fair. It was attended by 16,701 people.

April 7<sup>th</sup>. Richard Balls of Great Yarmouth Roller Skating Club, won the British men's figure and free skating titles.

April 14<sup>th</sup>. The noise from helicopters using North Denes Airfield and flying near Breydon Water was a worry for the naturalists.

April 14<sup>th</sup>. A pile of pennies in the Lord Nelson public house raised £61 15s 2d. It was knocked over by the television personality, Bob Wellings.

April 14<sup>th</sup>. The weekly cost of an in-patient in Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Hospitals was £46 10s 7d against a national average of £40 16s 5d.

April 14<sup>th</sup>. The annual levelling of the beach was in progress.

April 21<sup>st</sup>. A new layout plan at the east foot of Haven Bridge was approved. It involved removing the roundabout.

April 21<sup>st</sup>. One of the largest lumpsuckers (a fish) seen was found on the beach. It was 15 inches long. The fish was very rare in the waters off Great Yarmouth.

April 21<sup>st</sup>. The Round House on the East Quay was demolished.

April 21<sup>st</sup>. Edward Worledge Primary School was officially opened.

April 28<sup>th</sup>. A 30 feet stretch of Stonecutters Quay collapsed into the river.

May 5<sup>th</sup>. A snow blizzard hit some of the May Day activities.

May 12<sup>th</sup>. A reviewer stated that the Vauxhall Viva de luxe was handsome, quiet, yet full of zip. A new one cost £653.

May 12<sup>th</sup>. Horses were being grazed on the bomb site on Fuller's Hill. They were stabled at Laughing Image Corner.

May 12<sup>th</sup>. The minesweeper, *H. M. S. Plover*, paid a five day visit to the town.

May 12<sup>th</sup>. Twenty traffic wardens commenced duty in the town.

May 19<sup>th</sup>. The new Gorleston lifeboat was named *Khami* at a ceremony on Brush Quay. The lifeboat cost £35,000.

May 19<sup>th</sup>. Only one in five of the Great Yarmouth Music Club's concerts made a profit.

May 26<sup>th</sup>. The old Gorleston gas works at Southtown was demolished. It closed in 1965 after over 100 years of service.

May 26<sup>th</sup>. The Conservatives took control of the Town Council.

June 2<sup>nd</sup>. One of the landau horses bolted on the seafront, the driver fell off and two passengers jumped out; after a mile it slowed down and was stopped by a car.

June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Maritime Museum was opened in the old Shipwrecked Sailors' Home on Marine Parade.

June 2<sup>nd</sup>. At the Mayor's Civic Church service, the Vicar, Rev'd Donald Holt, spoke of the decline in moral standards and the decline in family life.

June 16<sup>th</sup>. An Ormesby family escaped from Nigeria, which was in turmoil.

June 16<sup>th</sup>. A Winterton man, Dennis George, related his life story to the paper. He went to sea on a drifter at the age of ten years.

June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The ballroom of the Constitutional Holiday Camp at Hopton was destroyed by fire. Damage was estimated as £250,000.

June 30<sup>th</sup>. A proposal was adopted for a second river bridge (high level and fixed) costing £2,000,000, which would be built within five years.

June 30<sup>th</sup>. Three died as an Air Sea Rescue helicopter fell into the sea 100 yards off the beach. The rotor blade landed on the beach.

July 7<sup>th</sup>. A chimpanzee appearing in the chimps' tea party at the Britannia Pier had to have six rotten teeth extracted. This was done by two local dentists and a doctor. It took two hours to prepare the chimpanzee and 15 minutes to extract the teeth.

July 14<sup>th</sup>. A proposal to build an indoor swimming pool at Southtown was accepted.

July 14<sup>th</sup>. An air trip from the North Denes Airfield cost 15 shillings.

July 21<sup>st</sup>. The hero of the Neatishead bunker fire, James Todd, was awarded the British Empire Medal.

July 21<sup>st</sup>. The building of the Gorleston Crematorium was well underway.

July 21<sup>st</sup>. Rolf Harris, Susan Maughan, Morecombe and Wise, Ivor Emmanuel, Freddie and the Dreamers, Ruby Murray, Mike and Bernie Winters were appearing in the shows in the town.

August 4<sup>th</sup>. St. Peter's Church was handed over to the Greek community to use as a church.

August 4<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen men were made redundant at Southtown Station Goods Department due to the fall in traffic.

August 4<sup>th</sup>. Anne Willard of Gorleston won the English Girls' golf championship.

August 4<sup>th</sup>. Morecombe and Wise opened the Friends of the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Hospitals Fete at Northgate Hospital.

August 4<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council approved council house rent increases. An earlier decision to add fluoride to the water supply was reversed.

August 11<sup>th</sup>. The former Yarmouth Southtown Station was used as a base for the North Sea oil and gas project.

August 25<sup>th</sup>. Starting stalls were introduced at the Great Yarmouth Race Course.

September 1<sup>st</sup>. Great Yarmouth born, Peter Shore, was appointed to the Cabinet as the Secretary of State for Economic Affairs.

September 1<sup>st</sup>. There was renewed bank holiday disturbances on the sea front. Fourteen youths appeared in court. Leather jacketed youths behaved like a crowd of vultures, said a hotelier.

September 1<sup>st</sup>. The 34 mile gas pipe from the gas rigs reached Bacton.

September 8<sup>th</sup>. The Gorleston lifeboat, *Khami*, saved 14 people from a cutter 40 miles off Great Yarmouth.

September 8<sup>th</sup>. Tenants were urged to boycott Tory businesses after the council house rent rises.

September 8<sup>th</sup>. There were protests against the council house rent increase.

September 15<sup>th</sup>. The new priest in charge of St. James' Church stated that he had no time to be the Actors' Chaplain and so the annual August Actors' service would not be held in future.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Greek Orthodox Community held their first service in the former St. Peter's Church. The service was officiated by the Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Great Britain. The church was dedicated to St. Spyridon, a Cypriot saint.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Fire gutted the Great Yarmouth Town Football Club's dressing rooms at the Wellesley Recreation Ground.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>. A tired and exhausted heron arrived in Great Yarmouth on board the supply ship, *Lady Fiona*.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first residents moved into Mildred Stone House, an old people's home. It cost £121,000.

September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The ice-skating rink in the Tower Building on Marine Parade closed after 19 months.

Sept 29<sup>th</sup>. A presentation was made to Basil Adlington on his retirement as the ear, nose and throat consultant at the Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft Hospitals.

October 6<sup>th</sup>. Edward Heath, the Leader of the Conservative Party, talked to party workers at Great Yarmouth on his tour of East Anglia.

October 13<sup>th</sup>. The new breathalyser law will severely dampen social events, stated a *Great Yarmouth Mercury* survey.

October 13<sup>th</sup>. The Home Secretary approved the use of 1100cc. B. M. C. Panda cars for the police force of Great Yarmouth.

October 13<sup>th</sup>. A bottle of whisky cost 44/11d in Wine Ways of the Central Arcade.

October 13<sup>th</sup>. The German motor vessel, *Butendiek*, caught fire off the coast and was brought into Great Yarmouth harbour. Amongst its cargo was 25 tons of matches.

October 20<sup>th</sup>. Gales of 70 mph caused great damage in the town, caravans were overturned and a chimney collapsed on the corner of Fullers Hill and Northgate Street.

October 20<sup>th</sup>. Live cows, sheep and boars were shipped from Great Yarmouth to Ghana. The voyage would take three weeks.

October 27<sup>th</sup>. A coal depot for putting coal into sacks and loading it onto lorries was established at Vauxhall Railway Station. The depots at Gorleston and Southtown were wound down.

October 27<sup>th</sup>. *Miss Checkout* was won by an employee of Fine Fare in Gorleston High Street.

November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two local men saw spinning saucers high up in the sky.

November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Five thousand square feet were added to the selling space in the Co-op store in the Market Place.

November 10<sup>th</sup>. Southtown Station closed for goods traffic.

November 10<sup>th</sup>. The herring season closed with a record low catch of 2,518 crans.

November 17<sup>th</sup>. It was very difficult to admit the chronic sick into Northgate Hospital, as there was a lack of beds.

November 24<sup>th</sup>. A new Midland bank was built between the Gallon Pot and the Wrestlers' public houses. It was designed so that it was in complete harmony with its adjacent buildings.

November 24<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Sailing Club's plan for a headquarters on Breydon Water was turned down.

December 1<sup>st</sup>. There were plans to cover and heat Gorleston outdoor swimming pool.

December 1<sup>st</sup>. As a precaution against foot and mouth disease, shooting was prohibited on the marshes.

December 8<sup>th</sup>. It was decided that the Great Yarmouth police force, established 131 years ago, would merge with the county force.

December 8<sup>th</sup>. Enoch Powell, the opposition spokesman on defence, was the speaker at the Caister Conservative's annual dinner.

December 15<sup>th</sup>. It was hoped that the Young Men's Christian Association's proposals to take over Drury House on South Quay might save it from demolition.

December 15<sup>th</sup>. It was thought that the proposed multi-story car park in Howard Street South would mean the demolition of the ancient Friends' Meeting House.

December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Pleasure Beach was allowed to open on Sundays.

December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Haven Bridge jammed for 45 minutes and caused the biggest traffic jam for many years.

December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Watch Committee, which controlled the police force was abolished after at least 121 years existence.

December 29<sup>th</sup>. Influenza and the breathalyser influenced the enjoyment of Christmas.

### **Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

March 1<sup>st</sup>. Great Yarmouth's first escalator was installed in the Britannia Pier complex. It cost £7,000 and was 32 feet long. The entrance to the pier was modernised with bars, restaurant, etc., costing £125,000.

May 18<sup>th</sup>. North Quay was made one-way, northwards. St. Nicholas' Road was made one-way, eastwards, from the Market to Nelson Road.

June. Rosalind Foods purchased the old Eastsacks premises on Riverside Road.

July. Beccles Road was widened from the White Horse public house to Queen's Anne Road. It cost £250,000 and 36 houses and 12 businesses were demolished.

August 12<sup>th</sup>. Fine Fare supermarket purchased Elmo Stores in the Market Place.

October. The roundabout at the foot of Haven Bridge was removed and replaced by traffic lights.

November. The railway line between Great Yarmouth Southtown Station and Lowestoft was made single track.

## 1968

January 5<sup>th</sup>. Local doctors expressed the hope that the influenza epidemic, which had struck down hundreds of people just before Christmas, may be on the wane.

January 12<sup>th</sup>. Mr. C. E. Kevill-Davies, the Chairman of E. Lacon and Company Ltd. announced that sadly the 330-year-old brewery would close before the summer. The Brewery Plain premises now owned by Whitbread's would see about 150 redundancies.

January 19<sup>th</sup>. Mildred Stone House, Great Yarmouth's fifth old people's home, was officially opened by the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Frank Stone, as the home was named after his late wife.

January 26<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that the Great Yarmouth Fur and Feather Club, otherwise known as the Rabbit Club, had had its best attended Annual General Meeting for several years.

February 2<sup>nd</sup>. A copy of John Bunyan's *Holy War*, originally given to Mrs. Dawson Turner by Sarah Martin, has been donated to the Great Yarmouth Library.

February 16<sup>th</sup>. The ferry *Sealord Challenger* arrived in Great Yarmouth on her maiden voyage; it was hoped that this new roll-on, roll-off service will provide a new road into Europe.

February 25<sup>th</sup>. Three new Atlantean single-decker buses were to be introduced into Great Yarmouth's bus service. It is thought that they will herald the end of most of the double-decker fleet with preference eventually given to one-man operated single-decker vehicles.

March 1<sup>st</sup>. It was announced at the makers of Smith's Crisps annual dinner that the company had successfully survived a period of mortal competitive danger.

March 15<sup>th</sup>. A 110lb. bomb was unearthed on the site of a prefab on the Shrublands estate. It had been there for more than 20 years during which time a family had been in occupation.

March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Three Great Yarmouth coach firms, Seagull, Felix and Grangeway, all owned by the Calver family for over 40 years, were taken over by Mascot Coaches of Norwich.

April 5<sup>th</sup>. The junior section of Duncan Hall School at Scratby was to go co-educational in September after 70 years as an independent boys' school.

April 19<sup>th</sup>. Fifteen and a half-year-old Robert Bellin won the under-18 year Southern Counties Chess Championship at Southend.

April 28<sup>th</sup>. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government stepped in to ask the Town Council to reconsider their proposal to lease the Floral Hall to a slot machine company for seven summer seasons from 1969 to 1974.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sir Edmund Bacon was invited to become the High Steward of Great Yarmouth in succession to Sir Will Spens.

May 10<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Corporation was offering a rate of 7¼% on trustee security bonds for periods of between one to five years, the minimum investment limit was £200.

May 17<sup>th</sup>. A 5-ton lorry laden with 8½ tons of sand plunged through the side of Potter Heigham's ancient bridge and ended side-on in the River Thurne.

May 24<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. E. V. Fleet becomes Great Yarmouth's sixth woman Mayor.

May 31<sup>st</sup>. It was announced that David Greig was to operate a new supermarket on the site of Bussey's former shop in Gorleston High Street. It would be the fourth supermarket in that part of Gorleston and was almost opposite Fine Fare and a few doors from the shops of the Co-op and Arthur Hollis.

June 14<sup>th</sup>. The Broadway Hotel opened at the eastern end of the Acle New Road.

June 21<sup>st</sup>. The new Roman Catholic Church at Caister was blessed and opened by the Rt. Reverend Leo Parker, Bishop of Magarmel.

June 28<sup>th</sup>. A Transport and General Workers Union official claimed that the employment of Great Yarmouth's first woman bus driver could lead to strike action.

July 5<sup>th</sup>. A ton of egg trays caught fire at the Hartmann Fibre factory, requiring two fire engines and a snorkel to control it.

July 12<sup>th</sup>. A plan for a second river crossing was taking shape; it included a four lane highway and a high level bridge. It would be crossing south of the power station to a point near South Ice House Hill.

July 19<sup>th</sup>. On Wednesday, Sir Edmund Bacon would be opening the new 56-bed maternity block at Northgate Hospital. It would serve both the Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft areas.

July 26<sup>th</sup>. There now appeared to be two choices for a new river crossing; a bridge estimated to cost £4.3 million or a tunnel to cost £6.8 million.

July 26<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor will open the new crematorium at Oriel Avenue and it will be followed by a service of dedication by the Venerable W. A. Aitken, the Archdeacon of Norwich.

August 9<sup>th</sup>. Northgate Hospital Fete, opened by Jimmy Tarbuck, raised a record £1,200. It had been organised by the League of Friends of Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Hospitals.

August 16<sup>th</sup>. A 17-year-old Belgian seaman was rescued 10½ miles off Caister by the rig supply ship, *Lady Edwina*. He had been adrift in a rubber life raft for 27 hours and was the only survivor of the trawler, *Shamrock II*, which had capsized and sank 35 miles off Cromer.

August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The last days of one of Great Yarmouth's best known public houses, the Halfway House, were drawing to a close as a result of the Beccles Road improvement scheme.

August 30<sup>th</sup>. Gorleston Church was looking to raise £10,000 to build a new Chapter House to replace St. Andrew's Hall.

September 20<sup>th</sup>. Miss P. D. Nunn, the Headmistress of Peterhouse Infants' School was to retire after being in the post since 1954; she was an old girl of the High School and had previously been appointed Head of Church Road School in 1946.

September 20<sup>th</sup>. A Ride with the Stars day at the Pleasure Beach raised about £1,200 for various local charities.

September 20<sup>th</sup>. The ship, *Sealord Challenger*, started its twice weekly service to Norway, sailing from Great Yarmouth via Rotterdam with cargoes for Oslo and Kristiansand.

October 4<sup>th</sup>. *H. M. S. Yarmouth* was ready to re-join the fleet after a two year absence for modernisation. The Mayor and the Town Clerk attended a service at which the warship's captain, Robert Gerkin R. N., spoke of the ship's links with Great Yarmouth.

October 18<sup>th</sup>. Two mystery fires within 48 hours may have spelled the end of Drury House, the 17<sup>th</sup> century Great Yarmouth merchant's house, for which preservation efforts had been made without avail in recent years.

October 18<sup>th</sup>. Work was in progress on a new road bridge and by-pass at Potter Heigham on the line of the old railway line, which would alleviate bottle necks caused by the old hump back bridge in the village.

October 25<sup>th</sup>. British Rail engineers were working with crane and steel cutting equipment to remove the footbridge at Gorleston station.

November 1<sup>st</sup>. The Minister of Housing and Local Government, Anthony Greenwood, stepped in to use the Prices and Incomes Act legislation to prevent the Council from increasing housing rents to levels that he found unacceptable.

November 8<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth experienced its worst ever herring season when five Scottish drifters recorded a total catch of only 797 crans.

November 8<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Joan Knott, the prospective Liberal Parliamentary candidate, visited the Fishermen's Hospital to collect signatures for her petition to obtain free or reduced television and radio licences for elderly people.

December 6<sup>th</sup>. The hand bell which had disappeared three weeks previously from Waters and Sons sale yard at Acle, was returned by a workman from London; the bell had been inadvertently placed on the back of his lorry, which had since made deliveries all over the south and west of England. The bell had been used at the sale yard by the Waters family for about 70 years.

December 13<sup>th</sup>. The Christmas fare for North Sea gas rig workers, loaded at Great Yarmouth, included a four feet Christmas tree and a hundredweight of nuts; it was taken to the British Petroleum rig, *Sea Quest*, by a Bristow's helicopter.

December 27<sup>th</sup>. A 13-year-old boy rescued his 13-year-old foster sister from a fire, when he heard balloons bursting downstairs. He then returned to push out a 14-week-old baby in a pram. The kitchen was severely damaged and two budgerigars died.



**Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

1968. One of the icehouses by Haven Bridge was demolished.

1968. The Scenic Railway mock rock effect was replaced with a painted mountain scene.

January 1<sup>st</sup>. Great Yarmouth police merged with the Norfolk and Norwich forces to become the Norfolk Joint Police Authority.

February. Hunt's (mineral water manufacturers) Howard Street factory closed.

April 20<sup>th</sup>. The Elim Pentecostal Church opened on York Road.

May 25<sup>th</sup>. Work started on the Crown Building on Yarmouth Way.

October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Stradbroke School pupils were transferred to the new Cliff Park Primary School.

October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The American School was opened at the Stradbroke School in Gorleston.

## 1969

January 3<sup>rd</sup>. An oil rig diver was rushed to a decompression chamber in Gorleston.

January 10<sup>th</sup>. An extension to the port's facilities took place with a new roll-on roll-off ferry for the Norfolk Line. Previously cars and holidaymakers were transported to Holland in its coasters.

January 10<sup>th</sup>. Four horses trained by Alan Jarvis of Leicester enjoyed a week's break on the dunes and in the sea.

January 10<sup>th</sup>. The 495-ton cargo vessel, *Clarity*, went ashore on the mud on Breydon Water, where she stayed for nine days.

January 17<sup>th</sup>. A bungalow in Freemantle Road was for sale for £8,250.

January 24<sup>th</sup>. Requests for the town's holiday guide was 26% down on the previous year.

January 24<sup>th</sup>. Rev'd. Clemens said that a previous Vicar of Gorleston from 1892-1917, Rev'd Forbes Phillips' grave was neglected. Phillips' grandson, Peter Cadbury, sent £100 to pay for its upkeep.

January 24<sup>th</sup>. A Caister woman who received Britain's sixth liver transplant died in the weeks following the operation.

January 31<sup>st</sup>. It was proposed to build a harbour on the north side of Breydon Water for sea-going pleasure craft.

January 31<sup>st</sup>. A former Great Yarmouth Grammar School boy, Major General Dye, was promoted to the post of General Officer Commanding Eastern Region.

January 31<sup>st</sup>. The Corn Hall on Howard Street was demolished. It had been built in 1871. The Ornamental façade over the doorway showing a wheatsheaf was to be preserved.

January 31<sup>st</sup>. Two diary firms, L. Collett and T. Cotton merged.

February 7<sup>th</sup>. After an abnormal build up of pressure and gas from the seabed, 56 men were evacuated by helicopter from the rig, Unifor 1, thirty-five miles north-east of Great Yarmouth.

February 7<sup>th</sup>. Seven men took to a life raft when their Danish boat, *Tobitrader*, listed in the north Sea 60 miles off Great Yarmouth; in gale lashed sea and a snowstorm they were rescued by a Belgian tug.

February 7<sup>th</sup>. A controversial plan to build a five-storey office block on the Corporation's South Denes Caravan Site was discussed.

February 7<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed to ask private enterprise to tender to build a multi-storey car park to the west of Palmer's Departmental Store.

February 7<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council agreed to purchase Southtown Station, its yards and forecourt for £116,300.

February 14<sup>th</sup>. The hospital and planning authorities agreed to build a £5,000,000 hospital on a site to the west of Wood Farm Lane in Gorleston.

February 14<sup>th</sup>. The Sealord Shipping Company discontinued its service from Great Yarmouth to Norway via Rotterdam. The service was moved to Immingham. However, they would continue a six-day a week service from Great Yarmouth to Rotterdam.

February 14<sup>th</sup>. The Wellington Road Arch was not worthy of preservation the planning committee was told.

February 21<sup>st</sup>. One hundred yards of sea wall collapsed during a gale at Gorleston and threatened houses on the cliff top.

February 21<sup>st</sup>. There were free weekly roller skating sessions available at the Winter Gardens. Usually over 300 school children attended.

February 21<sup>st</sup>. A tin of Heinz tomato soup cost 1s 1d at Fine Fare.

February 28<sup>th</sup>. The erosion of Gorleston beach was causing concern.

March 7<sup>th</sup>. The Council approved a £5,500,000 budget for the year with an increase of 4d on the general rate.

March 14<sup>th</sup>. A baby's caul (a membrane covering the baby's head at birth occurring rarely), was presented to the town's Maritime Museum. It was considered to be a good luck charm against drowning,

March 21<sup>st</sup>. Fortes Empire took over the running of the Royal Aquarium. They already ran the Britannia Pier.

March 21<sup>st</sup>. Shipping movements:

T. SMALL and COMPANY LTD, were agents for the following arrivals:

Thursday: *Swift*, from Rotterdam with maize; *Erebus*, from Bremen with nitrate.

Friday: *Hans Priess*, from Koegee (Denmark) with mustard seed; *Ergo*, from Cologne with Keiserite (magnesium sulphate mineral); *Ferrocete*, from London with ground nut cake; *Kimbar*, from Felixstowe light.

Saturday: *Metropole*, from Goole for shelter; *Sitka*, from Bremen with fertiliser; *Horizon*, from Amsterdam with maize; *Lukas M.* from Immingham for shelter; *Offshore Delight*, from Middlesbrough light.

Sunday: *Polaris*, from Hamburg with Keiserite (magnesium sulphate mineral).

Monday: *Heros*, from Bremerhaven for stores; *Makkum*. from Avonmouth with fish meal pellets; *Gatcombe*, from Lowestoft light; *Kwiek* from Boston light.

Tuesday: *Hein Sietas*, from Antwerp with general.

Wednesday: *Riet*, from Rotterdam with general.

STEPHENSON CLARKE LTD. were agents for the following:

Friday: *Maplehurst*, from Thameshaven with oil.

Sunday: *Maplehurst*, from Thameshaven with oil.

Tuesday: *Friston*, from Thameshaven with oil.

BLOOMFIELDS LTD. were agents for the following:

Thursday: *Hollandia*, from Whitstable for shelter: *Groverort*, from Stettin (Poland) with salt.

Monday: *Inverness*, from Kent with oil

NORFOLK LINE LTD. were agents for the *Duke of Holland*, which arrived on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday from Scheveningen with general.

April 11<sup>th</sup>. A Cessna aircraft overturned after taking off from the Caister Road Airfield. Three people were hurt.

April 11<sup>th</sup>. *H. M. S. Yarmouth* arrived to visit the town. It anchored off the Britannia Pier.

April 11<sup>th</sup>. There were proposals to demolish the Windmill Theatre and the Empire Cinema and for them to be replaced by shops, an amusement arcade with cinema and theatre accommodation on the first floor.

April 25<sup>th</sup>. The Council's proposal to buy eleven acres of Southtown railway land as part of their plan for a new road link met with opposition from the Ministry of Local Government.

April 25<sup>th</sup>. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals had had to kill 526 unwanted and diseased cats in the Borough during the previous year.

April 25<sup>th</sup>. The motor ship, *Vigia*, was lost in the North Sea, but the crew was saved.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hunt's Drinks of Great Yarmouth celebrated its centenary.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Arnold's Stores celebrated its centenary.

May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Yarmouth House, a six-storey office block, on Yarmouth Way was being constructed.

May 9<sup>th</sup>. A mobile crane on the quay toppled over onto a rig supply boat. Two men were saved from the river.

May 9<sup>th</sup>. The Conservatives increased their majority on the Council to 18.

May 9<sup>th</sup>. The Lowestoft fishing boat, *Kastor*, ran aground and broke up on the Cackle Shoal. One man drowned and one was missing.

May 9<sup>th</sup>. The water tower on the corner of Deneside and St. Peter's Road was demolished. It was built in the 1880s to house water from the Jetty pumping station. The water was used to clean out the public lavatories and to lay down the dust on the roads.

May 16<sup>th</sup>. The Council was given the go-ahead to build an estate on North Denes Road .

May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Malley was elected the Mayor.

May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Selbourne House was demolished and it was hoped to build a multi-storey car park on its site.

May 30<sup>th</sup>. Gunmen robbed the Cooperative Dairy in Middle Market Road and took £126. The staff were tied up in the cold store.

June 6<sup>th</sup>. A fire at the Pier Hotel, Gorleston put it out of action for two months.

June 6<sup>th</sup>. The Minster of Transport agreed to the closure of the Great Yarmouth to Lowestoft railway.

June 6<sup>th</sup>. The South East Tower was shored up after cracks were discovered in its 36 inch thick walls.

June 20<sup>th</sup>. R. H. Porter of Cobholm, who made wooden crates and boxes, closed after 50 years trading.

June 20<sup>th</sup>. A Bristow's helicopter ditched into the North Sea. Three people were rescued from its life dinghy.

June 27<sup>th</sup>. The Maritime Museum obtained Norfolk's only surviving lateener, *Maria*, It was built in 1827.

June 27<sup>th</sup>. Stars appearing in the town were: Engelbert Humperdinck and Lonnie Donegan at the A. B. C. Theatre, Dora Bryan and Mark Wynter at the Britannia Pier, Lana at the Tower Restaurant and Billy Russell's spectacular circus at the Hippodrome, Charlie Drake, Vince Hill and the New Faces at the Wellington Pier and Jack Douglas at the Windmill Theatre. The film, the *Italian Job*, was showing at the Regent and *Cool Hand Luke* at the Empire.

July 4<sup>th</sup>. The go-ahead was given for a 68 acre factory site at Harfrey's Farm, Southtown.

July 4<sup>th</sup>. Erie Electronics celebrated 25 years in the town.

July 4<sup>th</sup>. A Dairy Festival was held on Marine Parade.

July 4<sup>th</sup>. Dr. P. J. Rochford retired after 40 years as a general practitioner in the Flegg Villages.

July 11<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth group of hospitals appointed a man as matron; Ralph Mullins.

July 11<sup>th</sup>. At Erie Electronics Gala Day at the Wellesley Recreation Ground, 7,000 people attended.

July 11<sup>th</sup>. There were complaints about the smell emanating from the Caister Sewage Works.

July 11<sup>th</sup>. Great Yarmouth Health Committee offered family planning facilities to all unmarried women.

July 11<sup>th</sup>. The illegitimacy rate in Great Yarmouth was twice it was ten years ago at 14.72 per 100 births.

July 11<sup>th</sup>. A 900 yard extension to the east-west runway at Caister Airfield was in progress. The airfield could accommodate the Anglia Air Charter's nine-seater Islander aircraft.

July 18<sup>th</sup>. Caister Lifeboat Station was to be closed by the Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

July 18<sup>th</sup>. The Pleasure Beach had a £60,000 facelift.

July 25<sup>th</sup>. The Donkey Derby for charity attracted 8,000 people. One of the attractions were the stars Lonnie Donegan and Vince Hill.

July 25<sup>th</sup>. Engelbert Humperdinck was missing for three days from his summer show because of a slight throat infection.

July 25<sup>th</sup>. Over 2,500,000 pounds of peas a day were being processed at the Birds Eye factory

August 1<sup>st</sup>. It was suggested that St. George's Church should be demolished, as it had sat empty and desolate for ten years.

August 1<sup>st</sup>. A Martham man died in an explosion on a drilling rig.

August 8<sup>th</sup>. Two aldermen were presented with the Freedom of the Borough; Mr. F. H. Stone and Mr. A. W. Ecclestone.

August 8<sup>th</sup>. Engelbert Humperdinck opened the Friends of Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Hospital Fete; £1,300 was raised.

August 8<sup>th</sup>. A painting of Lowestoft Harbour by the local painter, Rowland Fisher, was presented to the Borough.

August 15<sup>th</sup>. The number of beds in the chronic sick wards at Northgate Hospital was reduced to 18 in each ward; a loss of 15 beds.

August 22<sup>nd</sup>. A bomb scare delayed the start of a summer show at the Britannia Pier.

August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Belgian trawler, *Styn Streuvels*, hit Haven Bridge and sank in the harbour.

August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The first Roman Catholic Mayor since the 16<sup>th</sup> century held his civic service at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Gorleston.

September 5<sup>th</sup>. Two men from Norwich attempting to row a 16 feet skiff across the North Sea from Gorleston to the Hague in Holland were rescued off Corton.

September 5<sup>th</sup>. Carolyn Gray was crowned Miss Battle of Britain at the Marina.

September 12<sup>th</sup>. The *Norwich Belle* rescued two men when their speedboat sank off Scroby Sands.

September 12<sup>th</sup>. The Health Committee declared that the town could be cleaner.

September 19<sup>th</sup>. It had been a poor holiday season and it was suggested that more money should be spent on publicity.

September 19<sup>th</sup>. St. Nicholas' Church Flower Festival attracted 17,000 visitors.

September 19<sup>th</sup>. A cash and grab raid using coshes got away with £16,000 destined for wages.

September 26<sup>th</sup>. St. Andrew's Chapel screens in St. Nicholas' Church were dedicated.

September 26<sup>th</sup>. The farce, *Don't Tell the Wife*, starring Jack Douglas at the Windmill Theatre was the most successful show the theatre had put on.

September 26<sup>th</sup>. Sir Alec Rose, the round the world yachtsman, opened Caister Junior School.

September 26<sup>th</sup>. A total of 24,700 cigars were found in a car, which had arrived from Scheveningen on a boat. The driver was prosecuted at the magistrate's court.

October 3<sup>rd</sup>. A high tide, the highest since 1953, flooded the beach and the quays.

October 10<sup>th</sup>. A brick plaque commemorating Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee was uncovered by a workman on a house in Mill Road, Cobholm.

October 10<sup>th</sup>. An episode of the B. B. C. comedy programme, *Dad's Army*, was filmed on the Britannia Pier.

October 17<sup>th</sup>. The drift away from the church spells malaise, said Canon Holt, the Vicar of Great Yarmouth, at a civic service.

October 24<sup>th</sup>. The sum of £433,000 was needed to put the roads and footpaths in the Borough in order.

October 24<sup>th</sup>. The old oak staircase linking four floors was removed from Drury House. It was to be erected in Blickling Hall.

October 24<sup>th</sup>. The Caister Lifeboat left the station for the last time. There had been extensive protests at the station's closure.

October 31<sup>st</sup>. Princess Anne visited an offshore gas rig.

October 31<sup>st</sup>. The Danish ship, *Gotha*, was wedged against Haven Bridge when it was caught by the tide.

October 31<sup>st</sup>. Two men died when their car hit a cow on the Acle New Road.

November 7<sup>th</sup>. Amusement arcade operators made a spectacular protest against the new tax on penny-in-the-slot machines, when they burnt more than 2,000 machines on the beach.

November 7<sup>th</sup>. It was planned to create a conservation area to protect the Victorian buildings in Camperdown and Albert Square.

November 7<sup>th</sup>. A Councillor declared that people living in the Blackfriars Road area were living in squalor.

November 14<sup>th</sup>. A decision was made by the nuns of St. Louis at Monaghan in Ireland to shut the fee-paying High School on North Drive in July 1971. It came as a bombshell to the parents of the 240 children attending the school.

November 14<sup>th</sup>. A national appeal was launched for £50,000 to provide a volunteer lifeboat at Caister.

November 14<sup>th</sup>. The number of books borrowed from the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Libraries was down by 5% (24,067 books).

November 14<sup>th</sup>. It was declared that litter was an expensive problem for the town.

November 21<sup>st</sup>. A flying doctor scheme was launched to serve the North Sea rigs.

November 28<sup>th</sup>. A helicopter saved 19 people from the rig, Constellation, as it was being towed, when it was battered by high seas and sank.

December 5th. Bloomfield's ice house and store at Southgates Road was demolished; a sign of the declining fishing industry.

December 5th. Sand was dumped on Gorleston beach to supplement it, as it had been eroded.

December 12th. Plans for a new hospital were dropped. There were many protests at the decision.

December 19th. Vandals cut down a 25 foot illuminated Christmas tree on Magdalen Square.

**Entries from *A Diary of Great Yarmouth* by John McBride.**

Bessey and Palmer was re-named Ruymps.

March. The dual carriageway section of Beccles Road was built at a cost of £67,000.

September 20<sup>th</sup>. The Missions to Seamen opened Flying Angel House on Southtown Road on the closing of the South Quay Institute.

October. Drury House on South Quay was demolished.