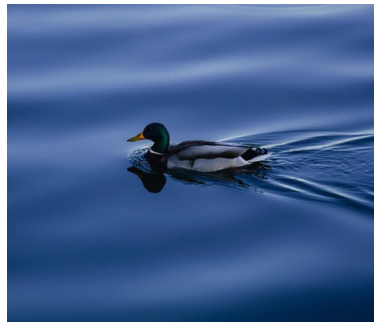




Jamie's opener

I am always intrigued by the things people collect - or more usually the 'themes' that appear when looking around homes. As much as I would like to collect fine wine and vintage cars, my cellar is full of old cardboard boxes containing an array of grubby gardening books and there is a distinct lack of any Aston Martins parked outside. My wife seems to have grown increasingly fond of strawberries over the years - and these have crept on to tea towels, napkins, socks, scarves, crockery... you name it, it may well feature a little red fruit! I was looking around a beautiful house near Reepham last week and as I slowly drove up the meandering drive a handful of brightly coloured bantams blissfully ignored my approach as they pecked away on the gravel in front of me.



Once inside the house, I began to notice the family are particularly keen on chickens. Chickens on the kitchen blinds, the drawing room curtains and cushions, bronze chicken 'figurines' (chickeries?!) on the mantelpiece, chickens on the tiles in the downstairs loo, chicken teapot and mugs - you get the idea. "I love all our chickens and every one has a name" the six year old daughter of the home owner informs me with an eager smile. "How wonderful" I reply. A few moments later the mother asks the little girl what she would like for lunch - "Chicken kiev please mummy" she replies and skips out to the garden. I look outside and see she is feeding some ducks that are waddling around a small pond, and as she rushes back in she adds "And I LOVE ducks too. They're my favourite!". The family are planning to move to Suffolk to be closer to elderly parents living in Southwold - they are all going to live together in the family home while they build a 'granny annexe' on to the property (some might say this is quite a 'brave' move but I think it is rather endearing). After a thorough tour of the house and a very constructive discussion with the couple about their relocation plans, I make my farewells. The husband sees me to my car - "Oh another thing that we have particularly enjoyed about living here is that there is a fantastic Chinese restaurant only a few miles away" and as I slowly drive away, back past the ducks and bantams a dreadful thought crosses my mind - do they order hoisin crispy duck?!

Jamie Jamieson

Jamie Jamieson 

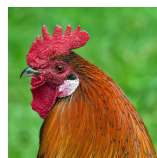
How Norfolk are you?

For the last newsletter of 2016 we have decided to give you a bonus quiz for your entertainment. Are you more of a dumpling or a furriner? Takethe quiz to find out...



1. Where does your tweed clothing come from?

- Inherited from granny.
- Bought age 18 for shooting.
- Bought the other day and worn for a shopping trip round Burnham Market.



2. What do you do with your surplus cockerels?

- Hit them over the head as soon as you can tell what sex they are.
- Sell them on Swaffham poultry market.
- Keep them until the whole garden is a heaving mass of angry, inbred chickens.



3. What dogs do you own?
 a. A variety of Labradors, terriers, sighthounds and mutts - all of whom have right of way on the upholstery.
 b. Two labs.
 c. A pug/french bulldog.



4. What do you drive?
 a. A 15 year old VW Golf of indeterminate colour.
 b. A Land Rover with a decent covering of dirt.
 c. A brand new, white Range Rover.



5. How many teeth do you have?
 a. A few.
 b. Most of my own - they might need a bit of work though...
 c. A mouth full of blinding whiteness.

Mostly As: Extremely Norfolk - when was the last time you even left the county?

Mostly Bs: Happy Medium - recognising both the positives and negatives of the county and making the considered choice to live here.

Mostly Cs: Have you even been to Norfolk? It may not be quite the place for you... maybe stick to a weekend visit!

New Norwich Office

I've been helping people find houses for over a decade. While the majority of properties that I help my clients buy are located on around the North Norfolk coast, there is an increasing need for my service in Norwich. I like to think this is due to a heightened awareness of the Jamieson Property Search brand, due to carefully planned, strategic marketing and PR activities. But I'm not so sure! The concept of a property search agent is slowly becoming more familiar outside of London as those struggling to buy in this 'sea of Mars Bars' climate reach out for advice from friends and family. In many respects the Norwich market is intrinsically different to North Norfolk, yet in so many ways the challenges are identical. To face those challenges in situ, I've set myself up with an office in our very fine city; I'm at 6 Woolgate Court at least one day a week and you can reach me there on 01603 931489, in addition to my usual contact numbers, of course.



To enhance awareness of my service in Norwich, I've taken a three-month run in the glossy Norwich Resident magazine. The November issue is out now and I've managed to squeeze Otter and Grace into December's feature! If you have any (sensible) ideas for my January article, feel free to drop me a line!



This week we take a look at Wymondham

This year we have been looking some of the different towns that make up our lovely county. Our final stop is the market town of Wymondham, a pretty Norfolk town whose centre contains many fascinating historic buildings all presided over by the massive towers of the Abbey church.

Some of the architectural highlights of Wymondham include:

- The Abbey church, part of the old monastery which was dissolved by Henry VIII. Particularly look



for the 18th Century organ with Chippendale case and the gilded altar screen.

- The restored railway station.
- The 15th century Becketts chapel, now the Wymondham Arts Centre.
- The 17th century market cross which also, usefully, contains the tourist information office.

Despite these treasures Wymondham came close to a completely fresh start, architecturally speaking, in the 17th century. A fire swept through the centre destroying many buildings. Three travellers and one local woman were blamed for the blaze and they met a predicatably miserable end as a result. It has been estimated that over 300 people lost property or belongings on that day and as a result the centre of Wymondham is slightly lacking in buildings from before this period. However this meant that the town had space for a bit of a building boom and now contains many fine Georgian buildings as a result.



Wymondham town sign



The market cross



Wymondham Abbey

Jamie's quiz

Once again we finish with our quiz, this month linked to the town of Wymondham and once again we have the prize of a lovely bottle of wine, provided by William Mason Fine Wines.



Should you wish to become better acquainted with William Mason Fine Wines then clicking on their logo will take you to their website where you will find everything you need when stocking up on booze for the festive season.

- When was the Great Fire of Wymondham?
- Which Wymondham inhabitant led the 1549 rebellion?
- What is the oldest pub in Wymondham?
- What carvings support the roof of Wymondham Abbey church?
- How did thirsty monks make their way to the pub before the dissolution of the abbey?

Think you know them all? Send your answers to Maddie »



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