



Encouraging Pride and
Interest Where You Live

Winter Newsletter - 2024



Join the Fight to Save Our Libraries

Following on from the report in our autumn newsletter regarding our concerns for the future of Grimsby Central Library, we can now confirm that North East Lincolnshire Council have commenced a Libraries & Archive Review to consider the future of library and archive services in the Borough. A public consultation inviting people to have their say on the future of these services opened on Friday 22nd January and will close on 22nd March. Having had sight of this consultation survey concern has grown, not only for the future of Grimsby Central Library, but also of Cleethorpes, Waltham and Immingham Libraries.

This is the first stage of the consultation, with a follow up, second stage, to take place later in the year. Councillor Hayden Dawkins the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Visitor Economy, explains: "We know that post-Covid, the way people use our archives and libraries is changing. Although in person visits are returning gradually, last year they were around two thirds of previous levels. Alongside this, we also know that many local people do not currently visit our archives and libraries or are unaware of the services that they offer".

The results of the first stage of the consultation are to inform proposals about how the services may look in the future, which will be the subject of the second stage of consultation likely to be released in the late spring or summer of 2024.

According to the NELC website, the aim is to ask both users and non-users of the library and archive facilities about the service in order to understand what is important to them, how they use these services and if they are aware of the full suite of services offered. Also, what they view as the opportunities for the services in the future.



One of the questions in the survey is regarding where people would like to see libraries located and gives possible options of 'in shopping centres' or 'in leisure centres'. As previously stated, we believe that the central library should stay where it is and that the library building should be fully reopened as a public building with resources and events for both residents and visitors. The suggestion of libraries in Leisure Centres, raises yet another concern, as two of the planned locations for 'in-person' consultations are Cleethorpes Leisure Centre and Grimsby Leisure Centre and it is known that some libraries in the East Riding of Yorkshire have been located in leisure centres.

GCDCS have sent e-mails to all elected members of NELC, expressing our concern and setting out our proposals for Grimsby Central Library, as outlined in the last newsletter. We have also written to Lia Nici MP. Councillor Hayden Dawkins, who is the portfolio holder for libraries, attended a recent meeting of the executive committee, where he stated that he is favour of the library being fully reopened as a public library. He also said that no decision has as yet been made on the upper floors being repurposed as a Green Skills Hub for the renewables industry. Even though a recent NELC publication seemed to present this as a 'done-deal'.

If you believe that our libraries should remain as a valuable public resource and that the library buildings should be used to provide vibrant and social community hubs for local people and visitors, please let the Council know. You can access the survey at [Review of library and archive service across North East Lincolnshire starts today | NELC \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#) Remember to include ideas on how you would like to see the libraries operated and what you would like to see them used for. Please also join our Save Our Library Facebook Group [Save Our Library | Facebook](#) and get involved with our campaign.

Three 'in-person' consultations and information sessions have already been held, a final one will be held at Cleethorpes Leisure Centre, on Tuesday February 20th from 4pm to 7pm. What is somewhat puzzling is that no public consultation has or is planned to be held in Grimsby Town Centre!



We call upon North East Lincolnshire Council to ensure that the Grimsby Central Library building is retained as a public space. The library building belongs to the people of Grimsby and once refurbishment works are complete should be fully reopened to provide a vibrant and social public space for both local people and visitors, and should provide, as a minimum:

- Book Lending with an improved children's section
- A local history Section
- Exhibition/Gallery Space
- Reception and booking office
- Provision for courses for local people
- A music library either as a voluntary or commercial activity
- Replace of the outside ramp with something of better design
- An improved computer section to satisfy the needs of online learning
- Archives Section
- Meeting Space
- Working lifts to the upper floors
- Working public toilets
- Cultural events, as are held at Cleethorpes Library
- Longer opening hours to allow easier access for those wishing to use the library

The Butterfly Bomb Raid of 1943

Some of you will have been present at the September public meeting when Paul Fenwick gave his very interesting talk on the Butterfly Bomb Raid on Grimsby and Cleethorpes of 1943. The night when the people of Grimsby and Cleethorpes became the first people to experience the horror of a cluster bomb attack.

By the 9th of June 1943, the residents of the two towns had become used to sirens, uncomfortable nights in damp, cold air raid shelters and the sound of the Luftwaffe's bomb blasts, but this was a night like no other. After what many called the worst air raid of the war, people climbed from their shelters to be greeted by scores of strange looking metal devices hanging from trees, power lines and gutters and lying on the ground in streets and gardens. These metal devices were Hitler's new weapon, the butterfly bomb, with two features that made them so deadly. Firstly, the bombs had rotating wings to slow them down, which also acted as hooks enabling them to hang on trees and gutters. Secondly, they could be armed with one of three fuses, the impact fuse, delay fuse and anti-disturbance fuse. Deploying these together in a precise order enabled the bombs to cause the maximum amount of terror, chaos and death.

The first air raid started at 1.43am, and comprised of a mixture of high explosive and incendiary bombs. Once fires were burning across the region, the Luftwaffe struck with its new weapon, dropping an estimated 3,000 indiscriminate, unpredictable and deadly butterfly bombs. Those armed with an impact fuse, exploded as they hit the ground, killing and maiming all within their reach. Once everything seemed quiet, ambulance crews, police, air raid wardens, military personnel and civilians, flooded onto the streets to assist; it was then that the bombs armed with delay fuses started to detonate intermittently, causing further death and injury to those who had come out to help. Yet this was not the end of the horror, as those bombs armed with anti-disturbance fuses simply lay in wait for an unsuspecting victim to pick up or disturb them. These bombs continued to cause death and destruction for days, weeks, months and years to come.



Duchess Street the day after the raid, a butterfly bomb hanging for a tree and prisoners of war, under the supervision of bomb squad officers, searching for butterfly bombs in Doughty Road Cemetery
Photographs Grimsby Evening Telegraph Archive

Once the danger of the anti-disturbance fuse bombs became known, the people of the area demanded that every property should be searched for butterfly bombs. In response to this demand a colossal search, comprising of over 10,000 personnel, began on 19th June. However, despite their best efforts, by the time the search was declared complete on the 9th July, 114 people had been killed, a figure that equates to over half of all of those who lost their lives in the local area during 37 raids over 5 years.

Butterfly Bomb Raid Memorial

Following on from Paul's well-received and well attended talk, a committee has been formed with the aim of erecting a permanent memorial to the victims of the Butterfly Bomb Raid. As well as remembering those who sadly lost their lives as a result of the raid, the memorial aims to give this momentous and horror filled night, its place in history. For reasons of national security, in the days and months following the raid, a blanket of secrecy was thrown over what had occurred for fear that should the Germans become aware of the devastation and death they had rained down on the enemy, such attacks would be used again and again. This 'news blackout' was successful, as although butterfly bombs were used elsewhere, their use did not become commonplace. To this day, many people are unaware of the horror that took place in Grimsby and Cleethorpes in 1943.

The Butterfly Bomb Memorial Committee has also sent out a 'call to action' asking for local people to contribute stories and artefacts. The Committee are keen to hear from anybody who remembers that night or its aftermath, or from anyone who has stories passed down by family members. They are also seeking volunteers to help with delivery and research. If you have a tale to impart or would like to get involved, please contact GDCS and we will pass your details on to Paul.

Look Back

Continuing our look back at campaigns that GDCS have been involved in over the last 20 years, we travel back to the latter part of the last decade, when the then Executive Committee took the decision to lobby the Council over a number of derelict properties around the town. This campaign achieved some success and in 2008 the Council started legal action to take over the ownership of some of the properties, culminating in compulsory purchase orders being issued for a dwelling house in Lambert Road, a dwelling house in Highfield Avenue and three dwelling houses in Ainslie Street.

Once in the possession of the Council, the properties were put up for sale, with council grants available to assist purchasers with the costs of renovation. The then portfolio holder for regeneration and strategic housing, Councillor Geoff Lewis, said at the time: "I'm very pleased to see the end of a long legal process and I now look forward to seeing these eyesore properties being renovated and occupied".



Restored Ainslie Street Properties

Unfortunately, though the campaign did have some success, it did not result in all of the identified, derelict properties being restored, as can be seen by the current, sad state of the former Norris the Rubber Man building in Pasture Street.

Weelsby Woods Lion



Photograph Friends of Weelsby Woods

Sadly, the remaining Weelsby Woods Lion was attacked by vandals last month, when graffiti was sprayed onto the lion's head and eyes. As reported in the autumn newsletter, the other lion is currently away for repair after being hit by a 'joyrider' in a stolen car, last year. Following a report by the Friends of Weelsby Woods, the delicate work to remove the results of this mindless vandalism, which is a specialist job due to the sandstone structure of the lion, was carried out by the Council and the lion is now back to its former glory. Police have since stated that a man and a woman have been arrested and cautioned. Just what is the answer to such mindless acts of destruction?

NOTEWORTHY LOCAL

Each Newsletter will contain a short Bio of someone connected with the North East Lincolnshire area who has either made a contribution to the area or found fame in some other way. In this issue, we look at the life of:

PATRICIA ANN HODGE OBE

The celebrated actress, Patricia Ann Hodge, was born in Cleethorpes on the 20th September 1946 and her childhood years were spent in Grimsby, where her parents, Marion (nee Phillips) and Eric Hodge, were managers of the Royal Hotel which once stood close to Riby Square, prior to its demolition to make way for the current flyover.

The young Patricia was described as an intelligent and studious child, as evidenced by the fact that she passed her 11+ exam with flying colours and gained a place at the then Wintringham Grammar School for Girls, before moving on to continue her education at St. Helen's School in Northwood, London. Patricia then moved on to the Maria Grey College (now part of Brunel University) in Twickenham, where she trained as a teacher. Her first job was at the Russell County Primary School in Chorleywood, where she taught English and drama. However, Patricia was not cut out to be a teacher, having been drawn to the stage since appearing in a school play as a child, and she soon applied for a place at the London Academy of Music and Art. She started her studies there at the age of 22 and soon made her mark, being awarded the Eveline Evans Award for Best Actress on graduation.



In 1971, Patricia made her professional stage debut, appearing in the Howard Baker play, No One Was Saved, at the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh. In 1972, she made her West End debut in the farce, Rookery Nook by Ben Travers and a year later starred in the stage musical, Pippin, written by Stephen Schwartz. In an interview given in 2014, Patricia spoke about how tough it was to make her first breakthrough into acting, saying: "Equity was a closed shop when I started my career. You had to have 40 weeks on your provisional Equity card before you could get a full card and work in the West End. I was very lucky, I did three jobs in a row after drama school, which gave me exactly 40 weeks. I did a handful of West End musicals including Pippin, directed by Bob Fosse, but the musical roles were mostly superficial. Actors can only be as good as what they are offered, our only weapon is our ability to say no. When you're at the beginning of your career, you're not able to say no very often. Fledgling actors need to say yes to everything".

Whilst working in the theatre, Patricia made several unsuccessful attempts to make a breakthrough in TV and film work, something which she again found tough as when applying for TV and film work, she found that she had become classed as a theatre actress. Her big break came when she appeared in a play called Happy Yellow at the Bush Theatre in London, which was directed by Claude Waltham, a respected film and television director and written by Tina Brown, a journalist in her mid-20s, who wanted to be a playwright. At the time, Tina was in a relationship with Harold Evans, the editor of the Sunday Times. She herself went on to become editor of Vanity Fair. Due to Tina's connections a huge number of high-profile people came to see the play, including John Mortimer and Irene Shubik, who had done a play together called the Dock Brief, starring a character called Rumpole. They were in the process of

turning the Dock Brief into a TV series and were looking for someone to play a young barrister. they asked Patricia to audition for the role. The series of course was Rumpole of the Bailey. Patricia later said: "Rumpole changed my career. It started off with half a dozen episodes and then the show kept coming back for years".

From those humble beginnings, Patricia's career has gone from strength to strength. She has appeared in 18 films and 55 TV productions and has still found time to fit in some occasional stage work. She has been nominated twice for best actress at the Olivier Awards for her roles in *The Mitford Girls* and *Noel and Gertie* and nominated for the best actress award at the BAFTAs for her role in *Hotel du Lac*; in 2000 she won the Oliver Award for best supporting actress for her role in *Money*. Her latest roles have been the part of Mrs Pumphrey in the TV Series *All Creatures Great and Small*, starring opposite Nigel Havers in Noel Coward's *Private Lives*, the inaugural production of Havers' production company and acting as narrator for the TV special *For the Love of Paul O'Grady*. She is an honorary graduate of Brunel University and a trustee of the London



Academy of Music and Art; she is also joint president of Grimsby's Caxton Theatre. In 2017, she received her greatest accolade when she was awarded an OBE for her services to drama.

Despite Patricia's glittering career success, her personal life has not been without tragedy. In July 1976, Patricia married music publisher Peter Douglas Owen, though desperate for children of her own, Patricia struggled to conceive, when she had all but given up hope, she found herself pregnant in her 40s, with her son Alexander, two years later she gave birth to her second son, Edward. Her experiences led her to become patron of the child bereavement charity. When asked why she made that decision, she says: "during that time, not being able to have a child myself felt like a kind of bereavement, and while losing a child is not the same thing, it struck a similar emotional chord with me".

In 2016, after 40 years of marriage, Patricia lost her husband Peter at the age of 85 after a long struggle with dementia. He had spent the last 3 years of his life living in a care home. Since her husband's death, Patricia has worked to raise awareness of the condition. She first revealed to the world the deterioration in Peter's condition in 2015, when she described the illness as horrific and said that he was often unable to recognise her or his sons. In respect of her role as an ambassador for dementia awareness, Patricia says: "I was a human being experiencing something a lot of people experience and, though everyone experiences dementia differently and there is no 'one size fits all', if my talking about it has helped other people, then I am glad to talk about".

Patricia Hodge is now 77 years old, though she still looks as glamorous as ever and is still working as hard as ever, she has been known to say that she feels lucky to have chosen a career with no retirement age. She has travelled a long way for a girl who started life in a Grimsby Hotel.



Lost Landmark

Following on from the previous article, it seems appropriate that this edition's local landmark should be a lost landmark, one that sadly no longer exists but that some of you will remember. The childhood home of Patricia Hodge, the Royal Hotel, was a grand building that once graced Cleethorpe Road in Grimsby. Improvement work on the land around the site began in November 1863, when a large part of what was known as the Old Creek, which used to stretch from Cleethorpe Road to the Royal Dock was filled in. The building work on the hotel was then started but this came to a halt in April 1864 when the bricklayers went on strike, demanding an extra 6d a week to take their wages up to 4s 6d. Two weeks later, with their demands met, the builders returned to work and the building work recommenced. By March 1865, the hotel was nearing completion and the question of a name for the new hotel needed to be addressed. It is not known for sure why the name Royal was chosen, but it is likely that is linked to the hotel's proximity to the Royal Dock which was named so after the visit to the Dock of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1849. It is said that one of the builders depicted the letters of the name of the hotel by carving 5 animals in the brickwork over the front door, these being a rabbit, an owl, a Yorkshireman(!), an ape and a leopard. The cost of building the hotel was £6,000 and it was opened to the public on 22nd April 1864, once opened it proved so busy that a daily bus service was put on to transport visitors from the railway station.



From 1890 onwards, the hotel became the property of the Manchester, Sheffield and Liverpool Railway Company, which later merged to become LNER. At the beginning of WW2, the hotel was requisitioned by the Royal Navy and on derequisition was found to be in a state of neglect. In 1948 when the railways were nationalised, it became the property of the British Transport Commission and was left to fall into a further state of disrepair, until in 1949, Hewitt Brothers purchased the hotel and commenced its renovation, returning the hotel to its former glory. By the early 1950s the popular hotel was reopened and all was going well, but unfortunately the hotel stood beside what was considered to be one of the busiest rail crossings in the country and in 1964 Hewitt's announced their plan to build a new Royal Hotel in Littlecoates Road as the old one was to be demolished to make way for the new flyover.

Doughty Collection Ships

For some time, questions have been asked about the whereabouts of the ships from the Doughty Collection, which used to be on display in the Doughty Museum, next to Grimsby Town Hall. Once the museum closed, many of them were put on the display in the Welholme Galleries, until that building also closed. A few of them are now on display in the Fishing Heritage Centre and there were rumours that some had gone to Hull and some had been sold to private collectors. Recently, executive committee member, Paul Fenwick, was invited on a tour of the archive where many of the area's historical artefacts and museum pieces are stored. Paul was very pleased to be able to report that a full inventory of the ships exists and, although a total of 5 ships are missing, the collection, including the valuable bone ships, carved by French prisoners during the Napoleonic War is mostly intact. It's really good to know that these ships are being carefully preserved. What a shame that we do not have a museum where they can be on public view!



Local Persons – Roy & Peter Smith



Roy Smith was born at 20 Tiverton Street, Cleethorpes, on the 4th March 1928, the sixth child of Violet (nee Sumpter) and James Smith. His older brother, Peter, was born in 1926. At the time of the 1939 Register, Roy was still living in Tiverton Street, with his mother, two of his elder sisters, Ethel and Isadora (Dora) and his older brother James. Peter was not living with the rest of the family, but was living at a house called Littlegarth in Brereton Avenue, the property of a William B Dixon. James Smith, a former transport worker, had by this time been admitted to Bracebridge Heath Hospital, Lincoln, where he was classed as a 'mental patient' and where he died in 1942. With her husband being a long-term hospital patient, life must have been very hard for Violet and her children. When war was declared in 1939, the brothers would soon

have found themselves thrown into a very different life to what they had known before. Schooling would become irregular and nights would be disturbed by bomb blasts and anti-aircraft fire. On the night of 14th of June 1943, Peter Smith (17) was in Park View, close to his home in Brereton Avenue, when he was killed by a bomb blast. A short time later, Roy (15) was also injured when a bomb fell on Tiverton Street, he was removed to the hospital, but died from his injuries later that night. Who knows what the boys might have gone on to achieve had their lives not be so cruelly cut short.

Relive Grimsby's Fishing Glory Days – Grimm, Cod, Women and Beer

Grimsby 11th March 1961, landing day and the end of the first cod war. Since 1958 the men have been going to sea with the threat of war looming over them, but now they're free, they're back in town and they're ready to head down to the disco at the Ship. And, of course, there's the women they left behind. It will be 7 years before the triple trawler tragedy, 11 years before the 2nd cod war and 15 years before the fishing industry collapses altogether. The fishing community have been forgotten by all, society and government alike; and yet they are still, to this day, 115 times more likely to be injured at work than any other workforce. Their story needs to be told and Grimm is here to do it.



After it's sold out 2023 hit preview, Grimm returns, promising laughs, scrapes and a whole heap of fish. This is Grimsby as it was. So, grab your mate, skipper or loved one and meet us at the Ship's disco where there's a pint with your name on it.

If you fancy a night reliving Grimsby's fishing past, then come along to this production by young, local dramatist, Evangeline Henderson. Performances will take place at:

- Grimsby Docks Academy – Thursday March 14th
- The Polar Bear, Hull – Saturday March 16th.

Tickets are available from: <https://www.sugarpunch.org/grimm2024>

For more information contact: evangelinehenderson01@gmail.com

GDCS Events Past & Future

Once again, attendees at our public meetings have been treated to some very interesting and enlightening talks on a diverse range of topics:

October – in a last-minute change of programme, due to unforeseen circumstances, former Skipper, Martin Grant, spoke of his memories of doing one of the most dangerous jobs in the world, when he came to talk to us about his life at sea. Having first gone to sea at the age of 15 and after 30 years spent fishing the arctic grounds, Martin is certainly an authority on the subject.



November - Karen Lepley came to tell us about Grimsby's shoebox appeal, giving an interesting insight into how the appeal started, how volunteers work tirelessly at sorting donations and packing shoeboxes to be sent across the globe. Some very moving photographs, illustrated just how much the shoeboxes mean to the children who receive them.

December – Gordon Wilson, local poet and historian, told us about the life of one of Grimsby's benefactors, Frank Barrett, giving an insight into the life, businesses and philanthropy of the man who gave us Barrett's Recreation Ground. He also enlightened us about some of Frank Barrett's less than legal business activities, in a very interesting talk.



January – In January, Dave Smith gave a presentation on the Hamlet of Beacontorpe, explaining how the area grew from a hamlet of a few dwellings to become a very important part of the town of Cleethorpes. He told how the name came from the beacon that used to be located on the shore to warn of the threat of a French invasion. How it became a bastion of Methodism, an important centre for brick making and was home to the gas works, water tower, the tramway depot, a look out station and Hodgsons Cycle Railway.

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

February 15th – People's Park with Ann Turner

March 15th – The Caxton Theatre

April 18th – Turntable Gallery & Heritage Projects Update – Darren Neave and Dale Wells

May 16th AGM – Followed by Dick Appleton and Songs of the Dambusters

All meetings start at 7.15pm at Grimsby Town Hall

Parking Available at Rear

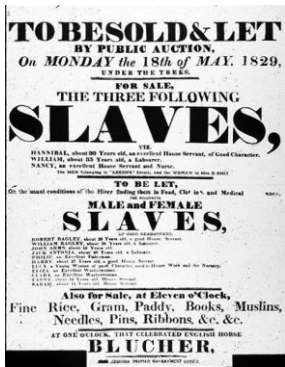
Admission Free for Members, £3 for Guests

Executive Committee News

At recent committee meetings we have been joined by a number of guests who have been keen to tell us about their work and to explore ways of collaborative working with GDCS. Kevin Gracie of the Grim & Havelock Association came along to tell us about the work that the Society had been doing with the Equality Practice in relation to the book they have recently published, but his main reason for wishing to talk to us was to discuss the Havelock/blue stone from outside of the Welholme Galleries. Kevin believed that this stone was to form part of the exhibition that the Equality Practice are putting on at

the Heritage Centre, but wanted to ask for GDCS' support with getting this stone re-sited in a permanent position. The committee assured him that we will do what we can to help.

Anna Hartley, is the newly appointed Learning and Education Officer for Heritage Lincolnshire and her role is working with schools to encourage the children to take an interest in local heritage and history. Anna joined us to tell us about a project on Edward Watkin that Heritage Lincolnshire are going to take into schools later this year and suggested that there may be things that GDCS can help with, particularly as building relationships with community groups is now part of the curriculum in secondary schools. Anna was also keen to hear suggestions for further projects and committee members came up with a number of possible people who had had a big influence on the town, such as Edward Bannister, Herbert Scapin and Ernest Farebrother.



Victoria Henley of NELC requested to come along at speak to us about a slavery exhibition that she is working on. This will take place in Grimsby Minster on a date to be confirmed. The exhibition will focus on both historical and modern slavery and is Victoria is looking to include stories of slavery linked to the Grimsby area, such as the slavery of the apprentice boys. If anyone has anything that they would like to contribute to this exhibition, Victoria would love to hear from you.

At the Heritage Open Day at Cleethorpes Town Hall, our Chairman, Alan Nicholson, met Councillor Hayden Dawkins, the Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Visitor Economy and Diversity. Councillor Dawkins expressed an interest in the work of GDCS and Alan subsequently invited him to attend our November committee meeting to discuss various projects that are currently underway in Grimsby and Cleethorpes. At the meeting, a number of questions were posed to Councillor Dawkins, on:

- The future of Grimsby Central Library. Councillor Dawkins assured the meeting that no decision has at yet been made in respect of the library and said that no decision will be made until after the public consultation has taken place. In response to concerns about whether the funds available would be sufficient to complete the works, he said that a thorough inspection of the library has taken place, which he has been personally involved with, and that the building is in a pretty bad state of repair. Renovations will need to take place on the whole building from the top down and will include, desperately needed repairs to the roof, replacement of all windows with windows of a modern spec., replacement of the heating system, all coloured glass and artwork to be retained. The original lights will be kept but it unlikely that these will be in working condition due to the difficulty of getting the bulbs for them. A considerable amount of asbestos will be removed from the building, solar panels will be installed on the roof, the glass area in reception will be removed, the public lifts will be reinstated and the ramp at the front of the library will be replaced with something more suitable. Councils Dawkins said that there are no plans to move the library and no library will be closed. He said that consideration was being given to the security of stock within the library, the location of water pipes and the alarm system.
- Councillor Dawkins was unable to tell us when the works in Freshney Place will be started, but said that it needs to be by a certain date in order to keep the funding. He said that the Jubilee wall will be kept and preserved when the building work starts.

- The various Cleethorpes developments are currently out for consultation and decisions as to how the funding for Cleethorpes will be spent, will be made and published soon. Work is due to start on the former Submarine site, it is not fully certain what this development will contain, but it is likely to house a tourist information centre and the Council are currently in negotiation with a restaurant company, which he assured us is not MacDonalds. Plans are also being formulated for the Boating Lake Paddock.
- When asked about the House of Fraser building, Councillor Dawkins said that the cost of the purchase was £350,000 and that it would have been foolish not to have purchased this building given that the rear of the building is within Freshney Place. No decision has yet been made as to what the building is to be used for, but there are several possibilities being considered. He said that the Council is 100% committed to the idea of having a museum in the town and this building could be a contender as a location for this, although there are several other options for the building.
- Questions were asked about the situation with the Humberston Fitties. Councillor Dawkins said that the Council are not able to break the contract with Tingdene unless they actually break the conditions of the lease.

Planning Group

The Planning Group have submitted comments on several developments with objection being made to the planning application for the erection of dwellings on the site of the Scout Hut on Waltham Road due to the difficulty of access. The only entrance to the site is narrow and the proposed entrance and exit is straight onto the Scartho Fork roundabout. An objection was also submitted to the proposed residential development at Cheapside, Waltham due to this not only being the completely wrong place for such development, but also on the grounds of the site being a flood plain. A further objection was submitted to some aspects of the Pleasure Island Development due to its potential detrimental effect on the local environment.

Transport Group

Following attendance at local transport meetings, the Transport Group are able to report that Stagecoach is to extend concessionary fares for a further period. The RMT have submitted some proposals and it is hopeful that the rail strikes will end soon. Station Booking Offices are to be retained and not closed. Both East Midlands and Trans Pennine have reported improvements to their services but this is only in comparison to how bad these services have been and further improvements are still necessary.

Artefacts Group

Negotiations are currently taking place to retrieve the actual fountain part of the Bannister Foundation and it is hoped that we will soon be able to announce that this has been brought back to Grimsby and is in safe storage, pending the hoped for restoration of the fountain. The Family Group is now fully restored, but there have been some frustrating delays over getting this mounted, negotiations are

taking place to try and get this sorted. Some good news is that the old RBS Bank building in Victoria Street has been taken over by CARE who are committed to keeping the doors.

Heritage Group

The Heritage Group have requested a further visit to Corporation Bridge in light of the fact that the it has now been announced that works on the Bridge are now delayed for an indefinite period. North East Lincolnshire Council have reported that the delay is due to corrosion, which was more severe than expected, being revealed following the initial shot blasting. There is now some concern that the available funding will not be sufficient to complete the repairs.



Corrosion on the Bridge
Photograph NELC

YHACS AGM

By Alan Nicholson

On Saturday, 27th January, I attended the YHACS AGM at the Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate. The meeting was preceded by a talk by a local historian and author, Paul Jennings, about working-class lives in Edwardian Harrogate. He highlighted the fact that in Edwardian times, there were over 3000 domestic servants looking after the rich mill owners who had built their mansions in the town, well away from the smoke ridden towns and cities where the mills were, and how they set up 600 private schools in the town to educate their children. Paul told us how young girls from as far afield as Durham and Middlesbrough came to Harrogate to take up this domestic work. He also spoke about how Harrogate was also an important railway town, with over 500 people being employed by the railway. An altogether interesting talk from Paul.

After lunch the business of the AGM commenced with the Annual Report presented by the outgoing Chair, Kevin Trickett, followed by the Treasurer's Report. Kevin Trickett was elected into the vacant post of President. Margaret Hicks-Clark from Goole Civic Society was elected as Chair, whilst Alan Goodrun of Halifax Civic Society, who was standing down as Treasurer, was elected as Vice-Chair. Jane Lee of YHACS newest Civic Society, Keighley in West Yorks, was elected to the post of Treasurer.

The Annual Awards came next, with the Peter Spawforth Award and the Richard Ward Memorial Prize. Unfortunately, there were no entrants for the latter, so it is once again held over. Each Civic Society was then invited to give a five-minute presentation on their respective Civic Society's work

Due to several speakers going over their five-minutes, when it came to my turn, my time was limited due to having to catch a train home! Nevertheless, I did find time to advise those present that GDCS will be hosting a YHACS meeting on July 13th in Cleethorpes. It will be the first seaside event since Scarborough in 2022.

THE NATIONAL PICTURE

This year's Civic Voice Spring Convention will be held in Wakefield on the 12th and 13th April, in partnership with Wakefield Civic Society and YHACS. The theme of the conference will be regeneration – how do we regenerate our cities and towns in these challenging times. Across Wakefield district, both heritage

and culture are being used to transform local places, to bring new life, new interest, and new money, into the area. Local Civic Societies are playing their part in working with the local council, developers, businesses and others, to bring about change.

Wakefield, which has the nickname the 'merrie city', has a fascinating history and examples of built heritage than span from medieval times to the present day. Of particular interest will be the Westgate High Street Action Zone, a 4 year, £4m + project funded by Wakefield Council and Historic England together with local businesses, to refurbish some of the significant heritage properties along this key route into the city centre.



The Convention will include tours of Wakefield City Centre and there will be a full panel of speakers, including: Simon Lightwood MP; Claire Elliot, Director of Economic Growth Wakefield Council, Paul Gwilliam, Project Manager Westgate Regeneration Scheme; Tony Wade, Artist; and representatives of Civic Voice and YHACS.

The Greatest Story Never Told

A new exhibition has recently opened at the Fishing Heritage Centre. The event which focuses on Grimsby's founding legend of Grim and Havelock has been organised by the Equality Practice and supported by National Lottery Funding. The event will be held in the Doughty and Muriel Barker Gallery until Sunday 30th June 2024.

The Greatest Story Never Told
The Legend of Grim the founder of Grimsby
#Inclusion
Celebrating those that are born here and those that arrive here
We are neighbours
We are a community
This is our home town
Opens 10th Feb - 30 Jun 2024
Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre,
Muriel Barker Gallery
Alexandra Dock, Grimsby, DN31 1UZ
Open Tuesday to Sunday
from 10.00am to 4.00pm
Closed Mondays except Bank
Holidays
All ages welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult at all times
For more information call 01472 323345
Or email fhc@nelincs.gov.uk
FREE
Heritage Fund
Exhibition organised by The Equality Practice
info@theequalitypractice.co.uk

The event retells the 12th century Story of Grim the fisherman and his escape from Denmark with Prince Havelock. Speaking to the Grimsby Evening Telegraph, Tracy Todd of the Equality Practice said: "We want to celebrate this legend. The idea has been on the go for seven years now and we're honoured to be able to bring this to the residents".

As well as telling the story of the town's origin, some of the town's most impressive historical artefacts will be on view, including the original seal of Grimsby which was created in the 13th century. The exhibition has been put together with the help of 10 local schools, local artists and other organisations.

The exhibition is open Tuesday to Sunday (excluding bank holidays) from 10am to 4pm.

Are you planning a local event?

If you are planning a cultural or heritage event, which will take place within North East Lincolnshire GDCS is happy to include details in our Newsletter
The next edition is scheduled to be published in May
Please send details to angelagreenfield@outlook.com
by 30th March 2024

Word Search

D	U	K	E	V	E	A	L	H	A	N	O	R
A	R	I	S	T	O	N	N	E	C	V	A	O
V	X	N	T	I	U	Y	K	L	I	N	K	S
E	B	G	O	V	S	G	G	E	F	M	N	I
N	A	S	T	E	P	H	E	N	N	P	O	N
P	R	F	B	R	A	B	M	E	O	I	R	A
O	O	L	E	T	L	O	P	M	R	N	T	H
R	N	Q	Z	O	L	D	K	A	F	F	H	A
T	E	O	C	N	U	I	B	N	O	O	S	M
U	S	D	O	C	K	U	L	O	L	L	E	I
V	S	I	E	L	M	M	R	R	K	D	A	S
W	I	N	D	E	R	M	E	R	E	S	S	H

The grid contains a number of words that when put together with Road, Street, Drive, Avenue, Court, Close, Lane, Crescent, Grove or Way are all places in North East Lincolnshire.

How many can you find?

QUIZ – HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW NORTH EAST AND WIDER LINCOLNSHIRE?

1. What year was the Barge Inn moved to the Riverhead?
2. What is the twin town of Cleethorpes?
3. What year was Grimsby Town Football Club founded?
4. How tall is the Dock Tower?
5. Which Lincolnshire born poet wrote Charge of the Light Brigade?
6. What was the main décor of Tiffany's night club?
7. How many colours are there in the Lincolnshire flag?
8. What year did Princess Diana open the new Grimsby Hospital?
9. What event destroyed Lincoln Cathedral in the year 1142?
10. When did St James Church become a Minster?
11. What month is Lincolnshire Day in?
12. When was the Grimsby Telegraph first published?
13. What is the Glory Hole in Lincoln?
14. When is Great Grimsby Day?
15. What is competed for at the Haxey Hood?
16. Who was the manager of Grimsby Town in 1973?
17. Which artist had a hit with a song called Grimsby?
18. Where was the Bannister Fountain originally sited?
19. What used to stand at the end of the North Promenade next to Wonderland?
20. Which former Chancellor the Exchequer has connections with the area?

Fun Fact – Sometimes it is said that the Dock Tower was built on Cotton Wool – do you know why?

Riddle: Poor people have it, rich people need it, if you eat it you will die, what is it?

Do you have a story for our Newsletter?

Would you like to contribute to our Newsletter? Do you have a local interest story, a recommendation of a notable local, or can you think of someone who has never achieved fame or fortune, but deserves a mention in our local person section? so, we would love to hear from you.

If you have something to contribute, then you can either send the completed article, or just send the idea and we will research it for.

Please send any articles or ideas to angelagreenfield@outlook.com or hand them to a committee member.

Autumn Edition Puzzle Answers

NAME THE YEAR

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Iceland's banks collapsed - 2008 | 7 The Railway came to Grimsby - 1848 |
| 2 Grimsby's Wellow Abbey dissolved - 1537 | 8 The Railway came to Cleethorpes - 1863 |
| 3 Austin Mitchell became Grimsby's MP - 1977 | 9 Haile Sand Fort was built - 1917 |
| 4 Pleasure Island closed - 2016 | 10 Winter Gardens demolished - 2007 |
| 5 Della Dolan entered the Miss World - 1984 | 11 Grimsby Minster was built - 1230 |
| 6 The Riverhead Centre (Freshney Place) opened to the public - 1968 | 12 Lawrie McMenemy became manager of Grimsby Town Football Club - 1971 |

Who Am I?

1. John Whitgift
2. Patrick Wymark
3. Joanne & Kevin Clifton
4. Shona McIsaac
5. Tommy Turgoose
6. Madge Kendall
7. John Hurt
8. Alan Nicholson
9. Margaret Solomon
10. Norman Carmichael

Things Connected to Grimsby Docks

1. Well done to anyone who got this one and apologies for the 'typo' - Dock Tower
2. Grimsby Ice Factory
3. Wickham Road
4. Skipper Bunny Newton
5. Consolidated Fisheries
6. Tom Sleight
7. The North Wall
8. Net Braiders
9. The Ross Revenge
10. Alfred Enderby
11. The Grimsby Town
12. Egging back o'Doigs

JOIN US

If you would like to become a member of GDCS or if you would like more information, please go to our website at www.grimsbycleecivsoc.com or email: info@grimsbycleecivsoc.com

