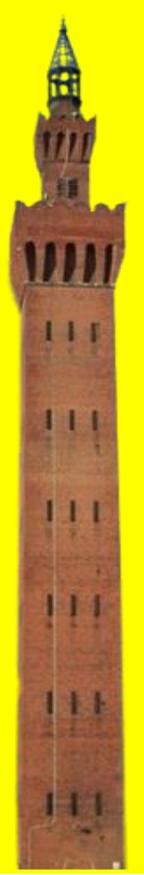
Grimsby Cleethorpes & District Civic Society

Encouraging pride & interest where you live



Spring Newsletter - 2023

Anniversary Time

Grimsby & District Civic Society, in its current form, reaches the milestone of its 20th Anniversary this year. The Society in its present incarnation came into being in 2003 when local architect, Rex Critchlow, suggested to the then president of Grimsby Rotary Club, Murdo MacInnes, that as his project for his presidential year, he should revive the old Grimsby Civic Society, which had been wound up in the 1970s. Murdo took up the challenge and on the 23rd January 2003, the Inaugural Meeting of the new Society was held at the Elizabeth Hotel in Grimsby.

The Society's current President, Paul Genney, chaired the meeting which was attended by Pauleen Bridges, Ann Turner, John Walling, Ray Bemrose, Alan Dowling, Bryan Lowden, Rex Critchlow, Clixby Fitzwilliam, Edward Dickinson (NELC Archeologist), Eric Clow, and Mark Hodson; with apologies being received from the former Chairman of the defunct Grimsby Civic Society, Malcolm Hoole, John Wilson (NELC Archivist), Rod Ambler, Brian Gladwin and Lawrence Brown.

After saying he was pleased to see so many people in attendance, Paul Genney addressed the meeting, saying: "Over the last few years, in my humble view, this town has gone downhill. It is fast becoming a shambles and if nobody does anything about it, it will not get any better". Paul went on to suggest that the new Civic Society was the organization to get things started, he said he was pleased to see such a good turnout.

Several speakers addressed the meeting, including Grimsby MP, Austin Mitchell, who though he admitted the town had its problems, did not agree that it was a shambles and claimed that Grimsby was still a community in a way in which most places are not. This was disputed by some of those present, who pointed to the loss of historic buildings, dumped cars, fly tipping and other problems, saying that the state of the town pointed to a lack of civic pride. All those present expressed their enthusiasm to make people proud of Grimsby, Cleethorpes and the surrounding area and all promised to volunteer their time to help with projects and promote civic pride.

The President of the Louth Civic Society, David Robinson OBE, a former teacher in Grimsby Schools attended the meeting to lend his support and spoke on the ups and downs of the early years of the Louth Society. Members of the Barton Civic Society were also in attendance, along with Walter Jones, Vice-President of the Yorkshire and Humberside Civic Societies who had travelled from Whitby.

Also addressing the meeting was Daniel Khan, the then Principal of Grimsby College, who spoke about visions for the future. Mr Khan told the meeting: "If we start with the children in schools by teaching them about having pride in their area then we have won half of the battle. I believe pride starts in the home and I believe that we have a lot to be proud of here".

Following on from the Inaugural Meeting, a Special General Meeting was held at the Elizabeth Hotel on the 3rd March with Murdo becoming GCDCS' first President and an Executive Committee made up of 10 members, plus a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer being elected. The rest they say, is history!

"Town is going downhill, but YOU can restore pride!"

GCDCS' first Chairman, Paul Genney, Inaugural Meeting, January 2003



Since that first meeting back in 2003, the GCDCS has worked on many projects and during this anniversary year, it is planned to feature some of the bigger projects in this and future newsletters.

The Society has gone through a few changes of both Officers and Executive Committees during those 20 years and indeed in the last few years, but the vision has continued. The current Executive Committee has made a concerted effort to build relationships with 'those in the know', i.e., NELC Officers and other personnel from Regeneration, Transport, Planning, Environment and Heritage. This is ongoing and we believe successful in terms of forging trusted relationships and building our knowledge in all things regulatory.

As a group encouraging pride and interest in the area in which we live, we are making ourselves heard! Our recent focus on artefacts that have gone missing, are in danger or need awareness-raising has been a useful tool towards meeting people and getting conversations going.

MURDO MacINNES

Who is the man who took up the challenge of forming the GCDCS?

Murdo MacInnes is a native of the Hebrides. As a young man he joined the Merchant Navy and rose to the rank of Master Mariner. After leaving the seafaring life behind in the 1960s, he found his way to Grimsby where he took up

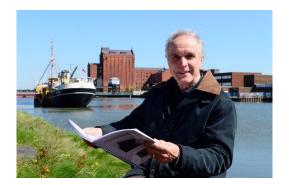


managerial position with Boston Deep Sea Trawlers, at the time when the company had 70 ships sailing regularly to the Northern Fishing Grounds. He went on to become a well-known and well-respected figure on Grimsby Docks, becoming Managing Director of Tom Sleights and eventually setting up his own company, Danbrit Fishing. Murdo was also involved with the Seinnetters Association and with the Fishing Vessel Owners Association, for whom he became the national safety training advisor. Murdo's recollections of the early days of GCDCS will feature in the next newsletter.

Foundation Stones

As mentioned on page 2, since its formation in 2003, Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society have been involved with many projects to protect and preserve the history and heritage of our towns and villages and to make our environment a better place. One of these projects was the publication of a comprehensive list of the area's foundation stones.

Compiled by Martyn Turner (one time Chairman and Treasurer of the Society) in 2017, the project came about after the Society was contacted by Dr Rob Ambler, expressing his concerns about the number of stones that had been lost, were crumbling, eroding or illegible.



Photograph, Grimsby Telegraph Archive

Foundation stones have been a feature in buildings for centuries, even the Great Pyramid of Giza has one, becoming very popular during Victorian and Edwardian times, when most public buildings would have a commemorative foundation stone, usually placed at the base of the building and usually laid during a ceremony to mark the beginning of construction by a notable person, local worthy or benefactor, or even, like the one on the Dock Offices, by visiting Royalty.

The Foundation Stones would have detail of when the building was erected, who laid the stone and sometimes other information. Over the years, many of these stones have suffered from erosion, graffiti and demolition, with more of them being at risk of future demolition and this public record of the stones aims to preserve a record of them for future generations. A copy of the publication is available to view in the Local History Section at Grimsby Library.

History – How Different Our Town May Have Looked

As mentioned on page one, there was a predecessor to the current Society in the form of the Grimsby Civic Society, which formed in 1960. This former Civic Society was instigated by the Council and chaired by the Mayor and if it hadn't been for them, we could have found ourselves living in a very different town to the one we know today. In the 1960s the Highway's Authority was committed to a new traffic improvement scheme including the construction of a new A180. Under this scheme, the road would have entered Grimsby via Laceby Road and continued along Bargate to the town centre.

The necessary road widening and raising of road levels would have had a disastrous effect on the Bargate street scene. The Grimsby Civic Society called for a public enquiry and, at considerable cost, engaged lawyers and traffic consultants. The planning decision was overturned and the A180 rerouted to its current entrance to the town at Lock Hill.



The Fountain Found – After a 10 Year Search



Many of you will remember the cast-iron, Victorian, drinking fountain that once stood in St James Square. Questions had been raised with various people about the whereabouts of this fountain from at least 2013 but it was not until 2020 that the search gathered pace via Facebook and GCDCS Executive Committee. Last year, Committee member, Kerry Henderson, took up the reins on this project to get the fountain returned to its home town, where we have long thought it should be.

The large, Victorian, ornate cast iron commemorative fountain and canopy was presented to the town in 1869 by Mayor Edward Bannister. For many years it stood in Albert Gardens (hence its name 'Albert Fountain') near Grimsby Dock Offices. In the late 1960s when the busy railway crossing necessitated the construction of the flyover into Cleethorpe Road. It re-emerged again in the late 1970s and stood in St James Square for a short time before going back into 'storage'. It is known that at some time it was damaged but not known why, how or when it disappeared from its hometown – and ended up literally 'on the scrapheap!.

By teaming up with Dale Wells and Darren Neave of the Turntable Gallery in Victoria Street, Kerry made a successful bid for grant money from the NEL Heritage Starter Fund to display the fountain and hopefully kick-start its renovation. Finally, after so many years the general public were able to see the fountain again when it went on display inside the Gallery during November and December 2022; alongside an exhibition about Edward Bannister's life as a philanthropist and some of his original paintings.

The exhibition was well attended, over 1,000 signatures were gathered and it is hoped that this will raise interest in the restoration and eventual display of the fountain.

Edward Bannister (1821-1916) was a landscape artist, who opened a Coal Merchant Business in 1859, which is rumoured to have become the world's largest coal merchants. This business was a great success, made Edward his fortune and led to him becoming a man of influence in the town. He sat on the Boards of many welfare establishments, including the one that became Grimsby Hospital, became Mayor twice, was a Magistrate and Justice of the Peace, and was influential in establishing an Art College in Silver Street.

Huge thanks go to Kerry for the phenomenal amount of work that she has put into this project and to Dale and Darren, for getting on board with the project and hosting the exhibition.



Recent and Upcoming GCDCS Events

JANUARY 2023

At the January Meeting Linda Salkeld gave a talk about the work of the WEA (Workers, Educational Association). Linda gave an overview of how the WEA was founded in 1902 by Albert Mandridge, with the support of the Trade Unions, to provide higher education to working people. How in 1905 in a very enlightened move for its time, it not only opened its doors to women, but also provided creches to care for their children. How it joined forces with the military to provide courses during WWII and provided education on moving forward after the war.

Linda went on to talk about the Grimsby Branch which opened in 1914, explaining that it is a proper educational organisation, regulated by Ofsted, but with no exams or tests. The WEA runs courses that the memorial Hall during the week and Saturday Schools at Grimsby Minster.



FEBRUARY 2023

The speaker for February's, well attended meeting was Kevin Smith who gave a fascinating talk on the Lost Ships of the Humber Project. Kevin explained how the project, which began to mark the centenary of WW1, was originally set up to with the help of Heritage Funding to look for 8 lost trawlers, but that since then over 300 have been identified. In 1907 a Royal Naval Reserve Trawler Section was set up, with the capacity to mobilise 100 ships and 1,000 men in times of crisis.

At the start of WW1, these ships were all brought into service, initially as patrol flotillas to guard against invasion; but very soon many of them were involved in the extremely dangerous activity of mine-sweeping. By the end of the War this activity had taken a terrible toll, with over 1200 Grimsby men and boys losing their lives.

The talk also included some very interesting underwater video footage.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

All meetings are held at Grimsby Town Hall and Commence at 7pm

16th March – NELC Environment with Lisa Loga – Head of Open Spaces + Colleagues from Street Scene

20th April – The Legacy of the Fitties

11th May – AGM + Songs of the Dambusters by Dick Appleton

LOCAL LANDMARK: The Yarborough Hotel was built in 1851 for the Second Earl of Yarborough and the Royal Dock Company to cater for increased trade from the railway and was named after the Earl who was a Director of the Railway Company.

Enlarged in 1891 for the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincoln Railway Co. The original plans describe it as a building of plain, red brick, with ashlar and painted brick dressings and a Welsh slate roof, three storeys with attic and basement. In 1960 it was nearly demolished to make way for shops, but thanks to a campaign instigated by the former Grimsby Civic Society, was fortunately saved and in 1974 became Grade II Listed. In 1991 it was purchased by Wetherspoons who began a full refurbishment, which was finally completed in 2021.



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. We start with:

OTTO CHRISTOPH JOSEPH GERHARDT LUDWIG OVERBECK Written by Paul Fenwick

I first came across the name Otto Christoph Joseph Gerhardt Ludwig Overbeck F.C.S., F.G.S., F.R.S.A (1860-1937) when I was looking into the disappearance of Croxby Pond and I read that he landed a carp at the pond, weighing 17lb 8oz, the first British record. I was intrigued to find out more about this fellow with such an unusual name.

Otto Overbeck's parents were born in Prussia. By 1861 they were living in London where Otto's father, Rev. Joseph Julian Overbeck (1822-1905) eventually became a Professor of German at the Royal Military College. Otto C.J.G.L. Overbeck was born in London on 19th May 1860 (or 1861). As a young man he studied at University College London and Bonn University in Germany. In 1891 he was lodging in Grimsby and working as an analyst.



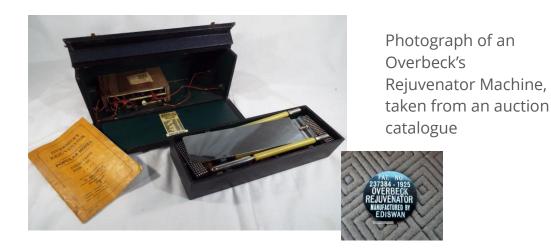
As a highly qualified industrial chemist, Otto Overbeck became the Scientific Director of Hewitt Brothers Brewery. He lived at 5 Bull Ring.

Otto worked at the Brewery for 37 years. He was a man with many interests, an artist, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a member of both the Geological Society of London and the Chemical Society and he was a collector of all manner of artefacts, art and tropical plants.

Otto Overbeck was also an inventor; he invented a forerunner of 'Marmite' and the process for making non-alcoholic beer. Unfortunately, he was neither able to profit or make a name for himself from these inventions, but he did later go on to have one 'big idea'.

Otto Overbeck was a prominent advocate of electrotherapy and proposed 'A Theory of Electric Health'. He wrote a book about the subject and went on to design his famous electrotherapy device, the Overbeck Rejuvenator and patented aspects of it worldwide from 1924. The object of the Overbeck treatment was to restore the balance of the body wherever it may be failing. 'Overbeck's Rejuvenator was used with remarkable success in the following cases: asthma, bladder weakness, bunions, bronchitis, chilblains, catarrh, cramp, constipation, debility, deafness, eyesight, facial nervous contraction, general weakness, gout, goiter, head noises, headache, heart affectations, hair growth and recoloration, incontinence of urine, insomnia, indigestion, irregular blood pressure, lumbago, menstrual irregularities, nervous exhaustion, neuritis, neurasthenia, nightmares, obesity, paraplegia, paralysis agitans, rickets, rheumatism, rheumatoid arthritis, sexual weakness, sciatica, voice production and wrinkles'. Photos of Otto showed him looking years younger following treatment. Unsolicited testimonials flooded in! Was this all complete quackery or could there possibly have been some mild benefits, like when using a TENS machine today, i.e., some pain relief and the production of endorphins?

The Head Office for Overbeck's Rejuvenator was at Chantry House and was there up until 1948, over 10 years after Overbeck's death. Branches were set up in 42 locations worldwide, covering almost every continent.



Otto amassed a fortune from the sale of this invention. In 1928, he bought a large villa called Sharpitor, overlooking Salcombe Bay in Devon. He lived there until his death in 1937. He left the property to the National Trust asking that it be used as a museum, public park and youth hostel. His wishes were accepted and today half the house is used as a youth hostel, with the other half being open to visitors as a museum. The gardens surrounding the house are planted with unusual, sub-tropical plants enjoying the sheltered location, e.g., olive trees, banana trees and palms. Overbeck's Museum and Garden sounds like it is well worth a visit. There is even a 'Croxby Pond' exhibit!



The Winsby Lottery

You can now support the Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society, with the chance to win up to £25,000, by playing a local Community Lottery. The Winsby Community Lottery was set up by North East Lincolnshire Council and administered by Gatherwell, a company that runs successful lotteries in other towns. Players have a 50 to 1 chance of winning one of the prizes from the £25,000 jackpot to 3 extra tickets. Players have the opportunity to nominate one of 20 charities as the beneficiary of their ticket purchase (one of which is GCDCS) and 60p in every £1 goes directly to the charity. For more information go to: <u>http://www.winsbylottery.co.uk</u>



EXEC COMMITTEE NEWS

As mentioned on page 2, the current Executive Committee is currently working hard to build relationships with individuals and organisations across the Society's catchment area. These are just some of the current activities and projects that the Committee are involved with.

LOCAL PLAN

The Committee recently met with Ian King of NELC Planning Department, to discuss the local plan. Interestingly, concerns expressed by the Committee regarding the plans for future housing development, such as lack of brownfield sites and the doughnut effect of building on the outskirts are consistent with those expressed by others. GCDCS are to submit 10-20 points of concern that we would want a developer to consider.

WHO ARE THE EXEC?

The current Exec Committee is made up of Alan Nicholson (Chair), Sue Milsom (Secretary), Graham Bassett (Treasurer), Pete Milson (Events), Jill Smith (Membership), Roger Beard, Kerry Henderson, Malcolm Moreland, Marion Piggott, Paul Fenwick and Angela Greenfield.

SUB-GROUPS

As well as the main Committee, there are three Sub-Groups which operate under the umbrellas of the Executive, these being Planning, Heritage and Transport. These groups meet regularly to discuss issues affecting the local area, arrange meetings with representatives of the Council and other bodies and organisations within the GCDCS catchment area.

The Groups carrying out in depth investigations where necessary and report back to the Committee as a whole on issues that they feel need discussion, or if it is deemed appropriate to submit suggestions or concerns on behalf of GCDCS. See more on next page.

HUMBERSTON FITTIES

Committee members have had several meetings with residents of Humberston Fitties who have concerns about the actions of the site's landlords, Tingdene. The Committee will continue to attend these meetings as it feels that it is vital that the integrity of this site is protected, both in terms of its historical and ecological value to the area.

CHARTER DAY

Grimsby's Charter Day will take place on the 11th March and the GCDCS will be taking part in this with a stall at an event in the Town Hall.

HAROLD GOSNEY'S FAMILY GROUP

Following on from her recent success with the Bannister Fountain, Kerry Henderson has now managed to get Harold Gosney's controversial Family Group Sculpture removed to a place of safety, with the aim of getting this repaired and hopefully returned to its home town of The Sculpture, which was Immingham. commissioned for the Immingham Shopping Centre in 1965, was removed to storage when the Shopping Centre was refurbished and never put back. In order to raise the funds for the repairs, Kerry has set up a crowdfunding page and has secured an offer of matched funding dependent on raising sufficient funds in a very limited period of time. If you can help by making a donation, however large or small

Please go to: https://www.crowdfunder. co.uk/p/family-groupgosney-legacy



PLANNING GROUP

The Planning Group meet regularly to consider Planning Applications and any impact that suggested development may have on the local environment or street scene; along with any risk they may pose to the area's heritage sites. Consideration is also given to the effect of developments on the infrastructure, road network and potential flood risks. Where appropriate objections to developments are submitted in the name of GCDCS.

Recent proposed developments considered include the sale of the former training academy on MacAulay Street and the plans to use the site for housing; and the plans for the site of the former depot on Weelsby Avenue to be used for housing.

HERITAGE GROUP

The Heritage Group meet regularly with the NEL Heritage Network and report that during 2022 £147,000 has been handed out by the Heritage Starter Fund, with 18 organisations benefiting. Applications have been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £600,000 for NEL Projects such as

TRANSPORT GROUP

The Transport Group recently attended a meeting with the area's train operators which was also attended by Ian King from Eng-AGE.

In respect of local services, the performance on the Barton Line has improved over the last year, which is attributed to new contracts which allow the use of newer, more reliable vehicles. However, Transpennine admitted that the train service on that route is still poor and attributed the failures to the end of the Driver Rest Day Working Agreement which has left drivers reluctant to work on rest days and led to an exodus of drivers from the company; and to high levels of 'non-covid' sickness, including mental health.

Transpennine have submitted a revised recovery plan to the Department of Transport and hope to be able to deliver a more reliable service by end of summer/early autumn. They also reported that the decision to end the direct airport route was not their decision but was down to the Manchester Task Force and that they would prefer to have it back.

Grimfalfest, the Heritage TV Channel and Grimsby Town's Heritage Project – Grimsby Creates Success Stories. Sadly, the Heritage Network itself is only funded for one year and is due to finish on 7th March this year, when a final celebratory meeting is planned. At this stage it is unclear whether anything will replace it.

REGIONAL NEWS

The Yorkshire and Humberside Association of Civic Societies (YHACS) held their Annual General Meeting at the Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate, with representatives of 18 Civic Societies being in attendance. At the meeting it was reported that there are currently 41 Civic Societies and 2 other affiliated regional organisations that are members of YHACS. It was further reported that over the last year, YHACS has held 4 Quarterly meetings, issued 4 newsletters, 3 bulletins and provided advice and guidance to several member Societies as well as supporting Civic Voice. It is hoped that the programme of events will continue during 2023, but more help will be needed from Member Societies to help with hosting.

The Meeting concluded with the election of Officers for the coming year and the presentation of Awards.

Nationally, Civic Voice is involved with many projects aimed at protecting our heritage, towns and cities and giving people a voice in respect of what is wanted/needed in their individual towns. Civic Voice regularly hold online meetings and seminars (details in the regular e mails sent out by Sue) which provide information and training and which are open to members of Civic Societies to participate in.

APPG

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Civic Societies provides a forum to discuss issues related to the Civic movement and provides a platform to raise these issues on the Parliamentary agenda. The group is chaired by Craig Mackinlay MP (Con) and the vice-chairs are Sarah Olney MP (Lib-Dem) and Rosie Duffield MP (Lab), Civic Voice's Director, Ian Harvey is the registered secretary. The Group recently held an event to discuss the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the key document that sets out the Government's planning policies for England. The APPG is committed to promoting the interests of Civic Societies and supporting efforts to shape the built environment for the benefit of communities. The event which is open to Civic Societies will give members of the public the opportunity to engage with the consultation and to hear from experts

GRIFF RHYS JONES PARLIAMENT VISIT

In January, Civic Voice President, Griff Rhys Jones, attended an event in the Houses of Parliament to promote pride in place on the high street. The aim of the event was to emphasise the importance of celebrating and preserving the distinct character and history of local high street, as well as how this can help to boost civic pride across the United Kingdom. Mr Rhys-Jones, who is a keen advocate of the historic environment said that he was thrilled to be a part of the event.

He said: "Our high streets are the heart of our communities and play a vital role in preserving local heritage and character and creating a sense of belonging in our communities.



A LOCAL PERSON – MARY ANDERSON

Whenever tales are told of the people who built a town or city, it is always the tales of the 'great and the good', the philanthropists and mayors and businessmen, that make it into the pages of history. Whilst these may be the men whose deeds go down in record, it was on the backs of those never mentioned, the fishermen and the filleters and the net braiders, that the money to accomplish these deeds was made. This section focuses on one of the 'forgotten, not so great and good', an ordinary citizen of Cleethorpes.



Mary Anderson was born in North Somercotes in 1804, the daughter of John and Mary Anderson. Mary was turned 30 when she married Joseph Grant, a local fisherman, the couple had one son, John.

In 1837, at the age of 33, Mary became a businesswoman, opening the first tea booth on Cleethorpes sands, later relocating the business to Dolphin Street. After Joseph's death in 1961, she also became a lodging house proprietor, at a property in Knoll Street. Mary continued to run her tea booth until shortly before her death at the age of 90.

PUZZLE PAGE

Answers will be in the next edition of the Newsletter

WHO AM I?	ANAGRAMS
	Can you identify the local streets?
l wasn't born in Grimsby, but died there.	
	1. Letters Resting
My feet may have travelled to your doorstep.	2. Meanest Stretcher
	3. One Vague Vine
	4. Away Cyan Rust
I played a summer season at the Windmill Theatre in Great Yarmouth.	5. Helps Pet Rest
	6. Another Learns
	7. Draw Poor Wok
l won an Ivor Novello Award.	8. Adorn Baby Lord
	9. Which Curl Lay
In the 1980s, a punk band called	10. Gawky Sin
Splodgenessabouts released a cover of my	11. Peal Snake
greatest hit.	12. Away Fir
	13. Hallowed More
I liked to ask male persons to help me with	14. Creak Openly
my cigarette.	15.Ample Hoard
	16.Rainy Woo 17.Hired Leotards
	18.Cobra Delay
	19. Dewy Ore Pipa
Picture Quiz	20. Right Slaver
Name the Place – Some have gone.	



GET INVOLVED

Would you like to make a contribution to future newsletters? If so, there are several ways in which you can do this.

- Future editions will contain a letters page, if you there is something that is of particular interest to you or you have a particular concern about something, then please submit your letter.
- Is there somebody you feel should be included in either the Noteworthy Local or Local Person sections. If so then you can either submit a piece on that person written by yourself or you can ask us to research and compile a piece for you.
- Let us know if there are any local buildings that you think should included in the local landmarks section.

Please submit all contributions to <u>gcdcsnewsletter@outlook.com</u> Alternatively, you can hand hard copies of content to one of the executive committee members at meetings. Please note: we cannot guarantee that all content will appear in the newsletter immediately following its submission. This will depend upon the amount of material submitted and the amount of space available.

JOIN US

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

BANNISTER LEGACY PROJECT

To find out more about the Albert Fountain and the Bannister Legacy Project please go to: <u>https://www.bannisterlegacy.com/about-the-project</u>