



Summer Newsletter - 2024

Encouraging Pride and Interest Where You Live



YHACS MEETING CLEETHORPES



Picture: ABP

On Friday 12th and Saturday 13th July, Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Civic Society hosted the Summer Meeting of the Yorkshire and Humberside Association of Civic Societies (YHACS).

The event was a great success and provided the opportunity for some excellent networking between members of Civic Societies from across the region.

The weekend kicked off with a very informative tour of the Kasbah area of Grimsby Docks, led by Emma Lingard of Lingard's Lincolnshire Tours who is also Corporate Communications Office for Associated British Ports. The Kasbah area, is the last remaining part of the original Victorian dock and Emma led a very informative tour providing us with the history of some of the buildings and an insight into the work currently being undertaken to preserve and renovate the area, which is part of the local Heritage Action Zone. In the evening visitors got the chance to sample a bit of Cleethorpes' history with a fish and chip supper on the Pier.

Saturday began with a well-attended, if soggy, tour of Cleethorpes, led by our Chairman, Alan Nicholson.

The afternoon meeting at the Memorial Hall, opened with an address by the newly elected MP for Grimsby and Cleethorpes, Melanie Onn. YHACS Chair, Margaret Hicks-Clarke, then conducted the



business part of the meeting and gave an update on YHACS activity over the last few months. This was followed by another informative talk by Emma Lingard on the history of Cleethorpes and a talk by our own Paul Fenwick on the 1943 butterfly bomb raid on Grimsby and Cleethorpes.

Ian Harvey, Chief Executive Officer of Civic Voice, explained how Civic Voice are working to resurrect the cross-party Civic Group in Westminster, following the election of the new Government. He spoke about some of the potential pitfalls and positives of what Keir Starmer is proposing in terms of planning regulations and house building and stressed the importance of Civic Voice being involved.

The meeting ended with representatives of the attending Civic Societies being given a few minutes to talk about the work of their local Society and campaigns in their area.

All in all, the event went without a hitch and GDCS look forward to hosting another YHACS event in the future.

Local Landmark – St Mary’s on the Sea Catholic Church, Grimsby

St Mary’s on the Sea, which was described in a report by the Architectural History Project as being of considerable architectural, historical, artistic and communal significance, was built, in the gothic revival style, between 1879 and 1883 to the designs of MC and C Hadfield of Sheffield, the land for the church was originally purchased by local landowner, Sir John Sutton in 1858, but he died before the building work began and the project was funded by Thomas Young of Kingerby Hall. The church was given a Grade 2 listing in 1999, when it was recognised as being of national architectural importance.



Picture Hope.org



Picture Save Britain's Heritage

Although somewhat austere on the outside, the interior of the church is full of architectural and artistic features, including a marble altar designed by Pugin and Pugin and some very impressive stained-glass windows, carvings and statuary. One of the main features of the church are the Wall paintings which were added to the Sanctuary In 1908 and a dado frieze depicting fish added in the 1930s. The paintings which were covered with white paint in the 1960s, were rediscovered and restored to their former magnificence in the 2000s.

It was somewhat alarming to discover that in 2016 this gem was very nearly lost when the Catholic Bishop of Nottingham, the Rt Rev Patrick McKinney commissioned a report which recommended the closure and de-listing of the church and the 'disposal of it, in one way or another'. Fortunately Save Britain's Heritage took up the fight and the church was saved.

Peterson's Smoke House Heads for the Finish Line

Submitted by Graeme Bassett

Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust is working in partnership with the local authority and the port operator to bring a lost kipper smoking house back into life.



Photograph Graeme Bassett

As many of you will know, Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust was set up by the Civic Society in 2010 to secure the future of, not just the Grade 2 Star listed Grimsby Ice Factory, but also the historic Victorian docks which provide its setting (now part of the 'Kasbah' sector of Grimsby's Heritage Action Zone). While new owner, Tom Shutes, continues with his plans to renovate the Grimsby Ice Factory, Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust is nearing completion of its project to bring the long disused Peterson's Smoke House in the Kasbah back to its original use. There have been several delays, Covid and lockdown were big obstacles, and it took until April 2022 to complete opening-up works.

In 2021, Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust was awarded £1 million of grant funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Architectural Heritage Fund towards the restoration of the Peterson's building and the adjacent Building 89. With surveyors able to assess the true condition of the buildings, our project managers, Eddison's, were able to push towards the next phase. Local construction firm, E.S. Rudkin, won the tender to deliver the main construction work, but more technical issues meant that they were not able to come on-site until March 2023. Once work began, further problems were discovered, such as asbestos, dry rot, damp and a main roof beam in Building 89 that had to be reinforced. These issues were not entirely unexpected given the age and condition of the buildings, however, they added to the cumulative effect of delays due to Covid and raw material cost increases following Brexit. We have been spending money since day one (we have to pay interest on our loan from the Architectural Heritage Fund, for instance) even if no productive work is being done. This has meant that the project has twice faced the real possibility of a cash shortfall. Luckily, our Chair, Vicky Hartung, has been able to negotiate additional funding from the National Lottery, Historic England and North East Lincolnshire Council.

Whilst project completion has been extended to December 2024, the recent Festival of the Sea open day on 22 June 2024 allowed us to show that the two buildings are now very near completion and looking better than they have done in 20 years. Visitors from a number of Civic Societies were also given the opportunity to visit the smoke house during the Grimsby Docks Walking Tour on 12th July 2024, which was part of the YHACS summer meeting weekend. We hope that Civic Society members will take the opportunity to see the completed buildings during Heritage Open Day on 14th September.



An artist's impression of the renovated smoke house

We look forward to seeing this important part of Grimsby's

Rorqual Whale Bones Saved

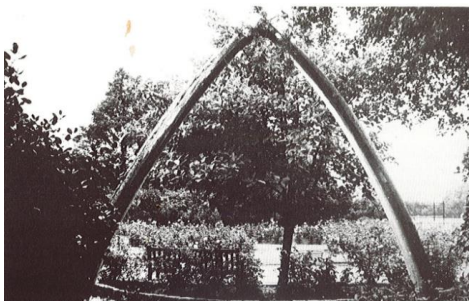
On 2nd April 1892 (Good Friday) a female Rorqual whale was washed ashore on Cleethorpes beach and sadly did not survive. The whale weighed 76 tons, had a length of 76 feet and a girth of 35 feet and its sad demise proved very lucrative for some enterprising locals who surrounded it with a canvas screen and charged people for the privilege of seeing it. The whale was then put up for auction and was purchased for the sum of £75 by local businessman, Matthew Dowse, who sold the blubber and put the skeleton on display in Cleethorpes. It could be said that Matthew Dowse made a very clever investment when he purchased the whale as during the two summer seasons that the skeleton was on display in Cleethorpes the exhibition made over £1,000, it was then sent on a tour of England, making even more money. At the end of the tour, Mr Dowse sold the skeleton to an America businessman for the sum of £250, eventually buying it back for just £15.

Once Mr Dowse had the skeleton back in his possession, he set up a 'whale house' near the railway station where it remained until the bones began to deteriorate. Though most of the bones became manure, the 17ft jaw bones were preserved and for some time stood on the Kingsway. In 1921 the bones were handed over into the possession of Cleethorpes Council.



The whale on Cleethorpes Beach – Photograph BBC

Many people will be familiar with these bones which for many years formed an archway into the flower gardens at Sidney Park. A few years ago, the whalebone arch was removed and for some time its whereabouts was unknown until it was eventually tracked down by former GDCS member, Ernie Brown, who found the bones at Cleethorpes Jungle Zoo and has been negotiating for them to be removed to the Your Place Garden in Wellington Street. Fortunately, the bones survived the recent fire and though deterioration has left them somewhat shorter than they used to be they will soon be in place in their new home.



Photograph Grimsby Archive

What many people are less aware of is that the skull bone of the whale also survived.

At some point, it is not known how, when or why, the skull bone was acquired by a local businessman, George Smith, a mast and block maker, making sails, masts and rigging for ships, who lived at The Elms, 22 Abbey Road, Grimsby, with his wife Maria and their children. Just what made him decide that a skull bone was just what he wanted

remains a mystery, but he was clearly taken with it and something made him decide that the bone was the perfect decoration for the entrance to his property. He placed the bone beside the gate at the Abbey Road entrance to his property and there it has stood ever since, until now!

Over the course of 2023 The Elms fell victim to vandalism and a number of arson attacks, and concerns over the safety of the whale bone grew, particularly after the developers finally took heed of the

numerous warnings and enforcement notices issued by NELC and erected a large security fence around the property, then immediately afterwards, put it back on the market.

At this point, the Executive Committee began making enquiries into whether the bone was still in place behind the fence and whether its safety was assured. These enquiries fell on deaf ears, with no response whatsoever from the development company and it was decided to await the sale of the property and hope for more success with the new owners. So, imagine our dismay when with no sign of the property being sold, builders suddenly appeared on the site. Even more so when an initial visit to the site revealed that the bone was no longer in position by the gate.



The skull bone on the move. Thank you to the Quinta Development builders for their help

However, thanks to an intrepid foray onto the site by Pete Milsom, we are pleased to report that the bone had not been removed or destroyed, but simply moved, and although it had suffered minor damage in the move was still pretty much intact. It is now in a place of safety and as soon as arrangements can be made it will be joining the jaw bone arch in the Your Place Garden which will provide a safe and secure permanent home for these pieces of Cleethorpes' history.

The Family Group



We are pleased to be able to report that Harold Gosney's Family Group Sculpture has been returned to its rightful home in Immingham and is now on display at its new location at Oasis Academy. Huge thanks to Kerry Henderson for rescuing the sculpture, to Dale Wells for a fantastic job on the restoration, Harold Gosney himself for overseeing the restoration and Blackrow Engineering and Jackson Engineering for providing the new brackets and taking on the mammoth task of putting the sculpture in place and of course to Oasis Academy for giving it a new home. A celebration of the re-siting of the piece will take place soon and there will also be a special showing of a film about Harold Gosney and his work. Keep your eye on our social media and website for more details.

Beacontorpe Church

Following developer David Beard's impassioned speech at one of our meetings, when he told us how he would still like to press ahead with his planned purchase of Beacontorpe Church despite the devastating fire, and how he would like to restore the exterior to as near as possible its original look, we were somewhat dismayed to find that the Methodist Circuit have decided to put the church up



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:

Our latest 'noteworthy local', may not have achieved international stardom or seen his name in lights, but he has certainly made a mark on the local area, and the name of Murdo MacInnes will certainly be known to anyone who ever had any connection to the fishing industry or to Grimsby Docks. His achievements in this field are many and if that is not enough, its thanks to him that Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society exists, this alone makes it only right and fitting that he should be celebrated in our Newsletter.



Murdoch MacLeod MacInnes was born on the 9th January 1931 in, what many would consider the idyllic location of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. His education, which for Murdo meant a sail across to Oban to school, ended at the age of 14 and he soon found himself going to sea, as a fisherman. Just one year later, Murdo left the fishing, joined the Merchant Navy and spent the next 18 years sailing the seven seas. At the age of 27, he gained his Master's Foreign Going Certificate of Competency and became a Master Mariner. In 1958, Murdo married Elizabeth Strathdee and they went on to have a son (now aged 63) and a daughter (now aged 61), Murdo now also has two grandchildren and he describes himself as being: "extremely proud of all of them".

Although he enjoyed his time in the Navy, after 18 years he felt that things were changing and that it was time to look for a different career path. When he was offered a managerial position at Boston Deep Sea Fisheries, this path led him to the town of Grimsby and he, Elizabeth and their children, relocated to the town. Murdo enjoyed his time working for Boston's, but when there was a split in the company and one of the directors, Fred Parkes, left to take over another company, Murdo accepted his offer to take up a new position at Tom Sleight's. His next move was to set up his own company, he formed a partnership with David Cox and the Danbrit Fish Company was born. This led to further adventures for Murdo when he secured a contract that saw him spending some time in the Falkland Islands and another that led to him spending 5 years in the Pacific Ocean, in a spot that he describes as: "very close to the equator and in terms of longitude, exactly opposite Grimsby". His sojourn in the Pacific ended in 1990 when Murdo came home to care for his wife, Elizabeth, when she became ill with cancer and Murdo came home to nurse her. Elizabeth sadly passed away in 1995.

A few years later, Murdo found happiness again when he met his current wife, Sheanach. Murdo and Sheanach have now been happily married for 26 years, although Sheanach is not now in the best of health and has been in hospital for some time. In a twist of coincidence, Sheanach's father was from Murdo's adopted home town of Grimsby, and he had met his wife, Sheanach's mother, whilst working as a fisherman. Sheanach had actually attended the same school in Oban that Murdo attended, but in a different year and both of their families were involved with the Free High Church of Scotland, but she and Murdo had never met during those years, probably due to Murdo being away at sea much of the time.

As well as running a successful business, Murdo also acted as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors of Grimsby's Nautical College and as Chairman of the Grimsby Fisherman's Mission and Director of the

Main Board. He became involved with the Seinnetter's Association, an organisation which provided a fund for fishermen who were seriously injured or killed at sea. He was also a long-term member of the Grimsby Fishing Vessel Owners Association and fought the corner for the Grimsby fishing vessel owners who he felt tended to be overpowered by Hull and often struggled to have their voices heard. Although a representative of the fishing vessel owners, Murdo always recognised that Grimsby's fishing industry could not have existed without the fishermen who manned the trawlers, as he put it: "Grimsby's economy was built on the cod end", and he always fought for a fair deal for the fishermen. After the decline of the fishing industry, he became involved in the fight for redundancy for fishermen, along with former GDCS Chairman, Paul Genney, then SDP-Liberal Alliance Parliamentary Candidate for Grimsby and former Grimsby MP, Austin Mitchell.



Outside, of the fishing industry one of the projects that Murdo instigated was a fundraising drive to raise the money to provide a memorial bench to the Grimsby Chums Regiment at the Lochnagar Crater at La Boisselle in France. The Lochnagar Crater was created by a mine that was detonated on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. At 7.28am on 23rd October 2016, following seven days of bombardment by the British Artillery, the Lochnagar Mine was detonated underneath the German lines and eight successive waves of infantrymen of the 34th Division

were ordered to stand up from their trenches and "in straight lines prescribed, officers in front as ordered, set off at a walk to attack the German front line trenches". This was to become known as the bloodiest battle in British Military History. On this first day alone, 19,240 British soldiers died at the Somme, along with 6,000 German soldiers, by the end of the battle 870,000 soldiers had died. Of these 420,000 were British, with 502 being members of the Grimsby Chums Battalion. The crater is now a permanent war memorial and a commemoration service is held each year.

Speaking of his time in Grimsby, Murdo says: "He has become very fond of the Grimsby and Cleethorpes area and has always found the people very friendly and welcoming". In 1979, he got involved with the Grimsby Rotary Club where he met Malcolm Hoole and Rex Critchlow who had been involved with the original Grimsby Civic Society. At that time the Grimsby Rotary was run by Grimsby businessmen and there was a strict hierarchy and various stages that members had to go through to attain certain positions. Murdo made his way through the stages over the course of 5 years and became President of the Club.

The spark that led to the formation of the current GDCS was a visit to Grimsby by three American Rotarians, who were taken on a tour of the town, including Grimsby Railway Station where one of the American visitors lost her shoe. Due to the large number of pigeons that had taken up residence at the Station, finding herself shoeless was not a pleasant experience for the lady. Murdo decided that action needed to be taken over the state of the station and contacted the then Town Clerk, who told him that the Station: "was not within his bailiwick". Not to be deterred, he then contacted the Net Rail Manager, who had never been to Grimsby or Cleethorpes before and was most co-operative, particularly after enjoying the delights of Steeles Café. The upshot of this meeting was the installation of the pigeon netting at the station, which is still in place to this day and makes the station a much more pleasant and hygienic place to visit. Following on from this success, Malcolm and Rex suggested to Murdo that his

project for his Rotary Presidential Year could be to form a new Civic Society. Murdo took up the challenge and with a small committee made up of himself, Martyn Turner, Ian Phillips, Paul Genney, Pauleen Bridges and Pauline Lee; and with the £60 still held in the previous Civic Society account by Malcolm Hoole and Rex Critchlow the new Society was formed. Murdo said that when it came to appointing a Chair of the new society, he felt that it would be more appropriate for a 'Grimbarian' to take the role, and he suggested, Paul Genney should take up the position. The rest they say, is history and when it comes to the history of GDCS and the Grimsby Fishing Industry, Murdo certainly deserves his place in both.

Election of New GDCS President

Prior to our AGM, Paul Genny, who has served as President of GDCS for a number of years took the decision to stand down from the role and we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Paul for all that he has done for the society over the years, initially as Chair and latterly as President. We are pleased to announce that Martyn Turner accepted the invitation to stand for the role of President and was duly elected at the AGM. Martyn is also a former Chair of GDCS and during his time in the role produced a publication that is a permanent record of all of the surviving foundation stones in the area. We are sure that Martyn will make an excellent President and are pleased to welcome him into this role.



A Local Person – Frederick James Coultas



We continue our local person feature with the story of a man who epitomizes the thousands of men who through hardship and sheer hard work, were the real builders of Grimsby. Those who faced the daily peril of sailing on the town's trawlers. Frederick James Coultas, was born in September 1890, the son of Alfred and Susan (nee Jaines) Coultas of Montague Street, Cleethorpes. The Coultas family, originated in Barking, once the centre of the UK's fishing industry and Fred, like many boys of his time was destined for the trawling from the day he was born. His life at sea began at just 14 years of age. As a member of the Royal Naval Reserve, when war broke out in 1914, he soon received his call up papers and was dispatched north to the naval base at Scapa Flow in Orkney where he found himself sailing on a requisitioned Fleetwood trawler, HMS Thornton, which had been brought into service as a supply ship. Aside from the added dangers of enemy action and mines, war would have made little difference to Fred, his role as a trimmer meant that whether it be war time or peace time, his days would be spent shovelling lots of coal. In Orkney, Fred met his wife, Joan Berston and they were married in 1917. Their first child, also named Frederick James, was born in 1918. When the war ended, Fred returned to Cleethorpes, where his wife and son soon joined him and went back to the trawling. Fred and Joan went on to have 5 more children, his last surviving daughter (95) still lives in Grimsby. The outbreak of WW2 afforded Fred the opportunity to leave the fishing behind and take a shore job with the railway, but this was not the happy ending that it should have been. One cold, dark night in 1950, Fred was making his way down the sidings at Barnetby to catch his train home and was struck by an engine. After all the years spent dodging mines and fishing the arctic grounds, it was the land job that took his life.

GCDCS 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:

February – To mark its 140th anniversary, GCDCS member and former Chair of the Friends of People's Park, Ann Turner, gave a very interesting talk about the park. Ann told us about the state the park was in prior to the formation of the group, about how they went about raising the funds for improvements and the sheer amount of physical hard work the members of the group put in to restore the park and turn it into the beautiful oasis that we see today.



March – Debra West and Byron Young entertained us with an interesting talk on Grimsby's Caxton Theatre. They told us how the Caxtons are the only local theatre group in the country that have their own theatre and enlightened us on the history of the theatre and the processes involved in putting on a production; all peppered with some amusing anecdotes of life in a local theatre.

April – Darren Neave and Dale Wells of the Turntable Gallery, who have been instrumental in restoring some of the area's neglected art as well as opening two galleries one in Victoria Street and one on Grimsby Docks, came to talk to us about the work of the galleries, the complexities of art restoration and the importance of art to the well-being of society. They also revealed some exciting plans for the future.



May – Our AGM in May was followed by entertainment from local singer/songwriter, Dick Appleton. Dick is a well-known entertainer who was commissioned by BBC Radio Lincolnshire to write a series of songs commemorating the 617 Squadron Bomber Command, later known as the Dambusters, raid of 16th and 17th May 1943. To mark the anniversary of this raid, Dick performed some of these songs.

June – There was no public meeting in June, but instead members were invited to go on a tour of the last remaining house of Immingham's Tin Town which was a development of dwellings constructed of wooden frames covered with corrugated iron. Tin Town was erected in 1901 to house the workers needed for the construction of Immingham Docks and their families. After 114 years as a home, work was started in 2020 to preserve and restore the bungalow to its original condition.



July – In July, local historian and tour guide, Emma Lingard treated us to one of her very informative talks on 'Old Grimsby'. Emma is a real authority on the town and the history of the area, her talks are always interesting and worth listening to and this one was no exception.

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

October 17th – The Cleethorpes Whale Story with David Smith

November 21st – Edward Watkin Society Update with Geoff Scargill

December 19th – Music Evening and Social

with Roger Beard & Richard Papps, Kirsty Hannah, Rob Bywater and Dave Wagstaff

January 16th – Piers with Tim Mickleburgh

February 21st – Weelsby Woods with Jemima Edwards of Friends of Weelsby Woods

All meetings start at 7.15pm at Grimsby Town Hall

Parking Available at Rear

Admission Free for Members, £3 for Guests

Executive Committee News

The Exec continue to press on with various projects. Currently, we have nothing further to report on the position with the central library as the second consultation on its future has yet to start. NELC advise that this is due to begin in September. We will of course keep you updated on this when more information becomes available and, if the need arises, when we are ready to go into full 'save our library mode'.

A 3D printed blue plaque has recently been commissioned and this has been put in place to replace one of the stolen ones. This is a trial run to see how well the plaque weathers and if it proves to be durable, further 3D printed plaques will be commissioned to replace the other stolen ones. This will obviously be a much cheaper option than the iron ones and the plaques will be less susceptible to theft.

Planning Group

The Planning Group continue to monitor all local planning applications and recently submitted objections to several applications, including: a planned solar farm, off Margaret Street, Immingham. Whilst in favour of solar farms in general, it is felt that this one is far too close to the town itself and poses a substantial fire risk. Concern was raised about the suggestion that a water tank should be installed as a fire extinguisher at an electrical facility. Objections have also been submitted to a proposed Air BnB in Seaview Street and two proposed Apart Hotels on Isaacs Hill. The Group also continue to monitor proposed developments on the Fitties and have registered their concern about the number of retrospective planning permissions being applied for. After some discussion a letter is also to be sent on behalf of the Society, questioning why enforcement against planning breaches is so lax.

Transport Group

The Transport Group attended a recent Bus Forum where the number of complaints about the punctuality of bus services and the number of buses being taken out of service was noted. Some changes are to be made to some services to try and improve them. Services 3 and 4 are to be upgraded to every 15 minutes and the number 7 will be revised to make it more punctual. As from July printed timetables are to be made available at bus stops. There have also been quite a lot of complaints, as some people do not like the audio announcements on buses. However, it is felt that these are generally a good thing and they are standard on many forms of public transport.

Artefacts Group

We are pleased to be able to report that actual fountain part of the Bannister Fountain is now in the possession of GDCS and is currently being kept in a place of safety. Discussions on how to secure funding for the restoration of the fountain are ongoing and it is hoped that it will eventually be fully restored and back on public display. Kerry Henderson continues to press Freshney Place and the Council regarding the Jubilee Mural currently hidden behind a false wall in Freshney Place. A hole in the wall has confirmed that the mural is still there, but its condition is still unknown and recent correspondence suggests that those responsible for the day to day running of Freshney Place have no idea what is hiding behind that wall.

Paul Fenwick and Kerry Henderson continue to meet with those interested in making Grimsby a centre for a National Butterfly Bomb Memorial. Recently they joined Andy Evans, who is writing a play called 'Butterflies Over Cleethorpes', at Sussex Pavilion for two 'story gathering days', when local people were invited to pop in and have their memories of living in the area in 1943 recorded.

YHACS

GDCS featured in the latest YHACS Newsletter thanks to a piece submitted by Alan Nicholson publicising various projects taking place in N E Lincs, including the renovation of the Victorian balconies on Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes; the regeneration of both St James and Riverhead Squares; plans for Freshney Place, Cleethorpes Market Place, the Pier Gardens and the Ice House; and the progress on the Youth Zone.



Civic Voice



We were pleased to welcome Ian Harvey, CEO and Co-Founder of Civic Voice, who travelled from Liverpool in order to address the YHACS Summer Conference at the Memorial Hall. Ian spoke to the meeting about concerns around the planned changes to planning laws proposed by the newly elected Government. It was assumed that once the new Government was in place there would be some time in which action could be taken to reinstate the cross-party Civic Voice group within

the House of Commons, but it seems that Keir Starmer's Cabinet have hit the ground running and their plans were announced just 4 days after the election. These plans include:

- Reviewing the National Policy Planning Framework
- Reinstating mandatory housing targets for Councils
- A commitment to deliver 1.5 million new homes over 3 years, (300k per year)
- 300 additional planning officers across the UK and a new task force to unlock stalled sites
- Ending the ban on onshore wind
- Focus development on grey belt areas
- A pledge to develop a new generation of new towns
- Further devolution to combined authorities

- A review of green belt boundaries
- A requirement for all mayoral and combined authorities to have a plan for housing

These plans have left many unanswered questions and concerns, particularly in respect of what constitutes 'grey belt', whether the Government will incentivize the 'brown field first' policy, how they will ensure that new developments contain the infrastructure that is often missing, how the countryside will be protected in the face of plans to build 'new towns'; and, most importantly, how will communities be involved in shaping the new developments and how will they deal with communities that object to planned developments and/or to new energy infrastructure such as pylons?

The Government have described the grey belt as poor quality and ugly areas and Angela Rayner has promised that the new homes will be of exemplary design and have real character. The plans have been welcomed by both the Royal Town Planning Institute and the Home Builders Federation. Others have issued words of warning, including Zack Simons, a planning lawyer who pointed out that in reality 300 planning officers equates to only one new planning officer per authority and the Chartered Institute of Building who warned that the building industry is facing some real problems with a shrinking skills base. Various Civic Societies have also voiced concern and have suggested the large number of unoccupied homes across the country should be brought back into use first.

Since Ian addressed the meeting, Civic Voice have announced the creation of an 'Expert Forum' in response to the overwhelming number of comments received regarding the Government's new consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework. Recognising the importance of community involvement, the Trustees of Civic Voice are seeking volunteers with expertise in planning, housing, local government and community involvement to join this forum and contribute to shaping the civic movement's official response. The forum will be chaired by Civic Voice Trustee, Margaret Hollins. While the primary focus of the forum is the current consultation response, there is potential for it to evolve into a more permanent standing body to inform Civic Voice policy in the long term. Interested individuals who can offer their time and expertise are encouraged to contact Civic Voice via info@civicvoice.org.uk to arrange a discussion about next steps.

Ian Harvey has also announced that he will be hosting the next Civic Voice Conversation Series, starting on 3rd September, with a conversation with Clive Betts MP. This will be followed on the 9th September with a conversation with Sam Stafford, Planning Director at the Home Builders Federation and host of the 50 Shades of Planning Podcast; and on 19th September with Andrew Taylor, Group Planning Director at Vistry Group which includes Bovis, Countryside and Linden Homes. If you would like to register to listen to the conversations, tickets can be found at www.tickettailor.com/events/civic-voice.

So far, Civic Voice have been inundated with thoughts and feedback about these reforms and have conducted a survey to gather structured insights from both Civic Societies and communities, they will be sharing the thoughts collected from the survey with the new Housing Minister, Matthew Pennycook, MP. Recently, the Exec held a special meeting to formulate a response on behalf of GDCS. During this meeting we discussed several concerns, such as the vagueness of the planning announcement and the Government's statement that: 'we need a war on nimbys', which we see as an insult to people who care about their local communities and wish to stand up to dictatorial developers.

We also discussed what we consider to be the main issues in our area, such as the lack of affordable housing, the number of redundant, town-centre buildings and 1st and 2nd floors of shops that could be converted to residential use. It is our view that developer built homes are increasingly of a poor quality and design and need to be better than the 'boxes' which are predominant from national building companies. That they are built in the wrong places and lack infrastructure and services, such as public transport, retail, schools, etc. They are also unaffordable to many of the people who need homes and there is a real need for social housing. These views have been submitted to Civic Voice.

We will of course issue further updates as and when these become available.

Heritage Open Days 2024

This year's Heritage Open Day Festival will take place between the 6th and 15th September and GDCS will once again be taking part. Numerous sites across N E Lincolnshire will be throwing open their doors to the public, some of them not usually to open view.

Over the course of the Heritage Open Days Festival, there is lots of opportunity to take part in some great events, including: The Awesome Water Exhibition at Cleethorpes Town Hall, an exhibition that explores the essential, the imaginative and the fun ways water is utilized at the seaside.

Grimsby Fishing Heritage Centre will be holding exhibitions that coincide with the Open Days, including: The Art, Heritage and My Sketchbooks Exhibition, with work by Sarah Palmer of the House with the Blue Door, in the Fred Smith Room and Hometown Heroes, an exhibition celebrating N E Lincolnshire's sporting connections in the Muriel Barker Gallery. On the 14 September, Our Big Picture will be holding an interactive event called the Humber Hovercraft, featuring the Humber's short-lived mode of crossing. Some of the local Churches are also taking part with St Nicholas, Great Coates, holding an exhibition featuring Captain Bligh of the Bounty and St Andrew's, Immingham holding an exhibition on the Pilgrim Fathers.

If a walking tour is more to your taste, you can join a tour of the Port of Grimsby and the Kasbah, or join the Watkin Walk of Cleethorpes, led by Heritage Lincolnshire. For those who like to be indoors there is the opportunity to see the interior of Weelsby Hall or take a tour of the Immingham Tin Town Centre. Details of all events are on the Heritage Lincolnshire website www.heritagelincs.org. Booking is essential for some events.

We Need a Financial Expert – Could it Be You!!

Graeme Bassett, who has done a fantastic job of keeping GDCS's finances in order has announced that he would like to step down from this role at the next AGM. This means that as from May 2025 we will need someone to fill the gap. As the accounting now includes protected funding in the form of grants for special projects, we need someone who understands the complexities of book keeping. Interested? Please contact Graeme at dalziel999@aol.com



PUZZLE PAGE

Where is it?



Anagrams

Can you solve the anagrams and identify the places and the people?

All places are in North East Lincolnshire.

The people are all linked to North East Lincolnshire, some are living, some are not; some are celebrities, some are not.

Places

1. Eatable Goth Ink
2. Corrugated Unisex Snores
3. Legal Say
4. Fee Marker Treatments
5. Achieved For Free
6. Ill Moist Vicar
7. Graham Online
8. Brutish Oftentimes
9. Centres Planner Legend
10. Mill Width Lawman

People

1. Indifferent Rod
2. Agile Ogres
3. Ego Soup Jailed
4. John Lying Naked
5. Cursive Tree
6. Deaf to Barrack
7. Lap Lay Nail
8. Brash Owl
9. Simple Mote
10. Evade Loony Ken

Remember this is your newsletter too!

Do you have a local interest story?

Do you have a recommendation for the notable person feature?

Can you think of someone who has never achieved fame or fortune, but deserves a mention as our local person?

If so, we would love to hear from you.

If you have something to contribute, whether it be a completed article, an opinion or something/somebody that you would like us to research then please contact angelagreenfield@outlook.com or hand your idea to any Exec Committee member.

Winter Newsletter Quiz Answers

Word Search

Across

Duke Street, Veal Street, Ariston Street, Links Road, Stephen Crescent, Oole Road, Dock Street, Elm Avenue, Windermere Avenue.

Down

Davenport Drive, Baroness Road, Kings Road, Odin Court, Tiverton Street, Spall Close, Bodium Way, Helene Grove, Manor Avenue, Norfolk Court, Pinfold Lane, Oak Avenue, North Sea Lane, Rosina Grove, Hamish Court.

How well do you know North East and Greater Lincolnshire

1. The Barge Inn was moved to the Riverhead in 1982
2. Cleethorpes' twin town is Konigswinter
3. Grimsby Town Football Club was founded in 1878
4. The Dock Tower is 309 ft high
5. The Charge of the Light Brigade was written by Alfred, Lord Tennyson
6. The main décor at Tiffany's Night Club was caves and plastic palm trees
7. There are 4 colours in the Lincolnshire flag, red, green, blue and yellow
8. Princess Diana opened Grimsby Hospital on July 26th 1983
9. In 1142, Lincoln Cathedral was destroyed by fire
10. St James' Church became a Minster in 1983
11. Lincolnshire Day is on the 1st October
12. The Grimsby Telegraph was first published as the Grimsby Daily Telegraph in 1897
13. The Glory Hole in Lincoln is a passageway beneath the High Bridge Café
14. Great Grimsby Day is on the 22nd January
15. At the Haxey Hood, participants compete for a leather tube
16. The Manager of Grimsby Town in 1973 was Lawrie McMenemy
17. Elton John had a hit with the song Grimsby
18. The Bannister Fountain was originally sited in the Albert Gardens, site of the current flyover
19. The Big Dipper, originally called the Figure of Eight, ride, stood at the end of the North Promenade
20. The Chancellor of the Exchequer with connections to Grimsby is Norman Lamont ~~t~~ said to be built from cotton wool

The Dock Tower was said to be built of cotton wool because much of the money that was used to build it came from the profitable import of cotton for the West Yorkshire Mills.

Poor people have it, rich people need it, if you eat it you will die, what is it? - Answer Nothing!

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

Find us on Facebook – <https://facebook.com/GrimsbyCleeCivSoc>

