

Grimsby is a town named after the legend of **Grim** a Danish fisherman, with **by** Old Norse for village. Grim heroically saved the infant Prince Havelok of Denmark from the sea and settled here on our Lincolnshire east coast. Surrounded by salt marsh, Grimsby survived as a small fishing and trading port at the mouth of the Humber for centuries but was already a *borough* when, in 1201 King John presented Grimsby with its first Royal Charter, enabling self-government, local democracy to hold markets (14 years before the signing of the Magna Carta at Runnymede!). A large-scale representation of the Charter's Seal will be seen on this Tour. Present day Grimsby, however, was largely shaped by the arrival of the railway in 1848 and huge investment in commercial fishing in the 1850s. Up till then, trading ships used to dock in what is now *Riverhead* in the town centre. 'Grimsby Fish' and associated trades brought about huge expansion in the town, and this is reflected in the substantial town centre buildings we have today.

Carers' Support Offices, 1, Town Hall Square

Grimsby Water Company 1896 Rapid industrial growth caused severe water contamination and deadly cholera outbreaks, forcing a massive shift toward public health reform. Early water companies drew water directly from rivers and underground water – which is why tea and beer became so popular throughout Britain: both required boiled water during production, making them safer to drink! It is known that water carriers in early Grimsby sold water at a halfpenny per can for those who could afford it, but the general public had access to free, clean water from only 9 town pumps by 1849. A private company, *Grimsby Water Company* was formed in 1864 but 10 years later only a quarter of homes had piped water and piecemeal drainage. Nevertheless, by 1896 the company obviously warranted such a prominent building as this in Town Hall Square. The most common **heraldic shell is the scallop**. From the Crusades, it is believed that scallops were adopted as badges of those traveling to the Holy Land and so became associated with long journeys due to an scallop being used to 'scoop' sustenance and water – and so onto a shell representing hospitality.

Weather Vane *wind vane or weathercock* is a type of *anemoscope* used for showing the direction of the wind. It is typically used as an architectural ornament on the highest point of a building. The word *vane* comes from the Old English word *fana*, meaning "flag".

Other common motifs include ships, arrows, and horses. Not all wind vanes have pointers. In a sufficiently strong wind, the head of the arrow or cockerel (or equivalent) will indicate the direction from which the wind is blowing.

Wind vanes are also found on small wind turbines to keep the wind turbine pointing into the wind. If used on a boat, they are referred to as *apparent wind indicators*.

anemoscope a device designed to show the direction of the wind, or to indicate a change of wind direction.

anemometer a device to measure the speed of the wind

Grimsby Town Hall *side elevation extension*

Grimsby Town Hall, designed by Bellamy and Hardy (Lincoln) and John Giles (London) in the Italianate style, was started 1862. By 1887 it was extended (E. W. Farebrother, architect with John Buchan, Borough Surveyor) to create a courthouse, council chamber, banqueting room, and police station with cells.

- The door to the Police Station from that time, can be seen on the building's lefthand elevation (the words 'Police Office' can just be made out above the door to *NELC Archives*)
- The door to the Court House from that time is on the righthand elevation
- The cells exist today and can be seen as part of the Town Hall's *Time Trap Museum*

Grimsby Central Library

Modern 'stained glass' window facing New Street

David Morris studied at Leeds College of Art and taught in Hull before moving to Grimsby as Lecturer in Ceramics at Grimsby Art School and was a member of the Craftsmen Potters Association of Great Britain.

Views from inside Grimsby Central Library

Replica of Grimsby 1201 Charter Seal

Harold Gosney studied at Grimsby's Silver Street School of Arts and Crafts in 1954 before attending The Slade, London. He returned to Grimsby to teach at the School of Art specialising in sculpture. He has works on permanent display at Ripon, York and Chester cathedrals as well as York Art Gallery and Normandy Hall.

See GCDSCS commissioned film: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jr5nlwArkzc>

For examples of work: <https://modernmooch.com/tag/harold-gosney/>

Guardians of Knowledge

Peter Todd was born in Sheffield, where he attended College of Art 1936–40, before Royal College of Art, 1946–9. He went on to teach and lived in Grimsby, becoming head of Grimsby School of Art.

"He made them up totally - The original statues were welded, they were metal but the powers that be thought that if they eroded they would be quite dangerous, so he decided to make them from fibreglass.

"There's a bronze mixture in the fibreglass to make it look bronze like.



figure close up

"They were made at home, we lived in an old school in Walesby, he set up a 15ft table.

"They were made of clay then with about 10 pots of boiled rubber, he moulded the clay and they were filled with fibreglass and resin."

Sourced from:

<https://www.grimsbytelegraph.co.uk/news/nostalgia/fascinating-story-behind-strange-figures-3751045>



figure close up

DDM Estate Agency

Building Societies

Newspaper Report of late 1800s :

“Great Grimsby and North Lincolnshire Permanent Building and Investment Society, was established about the year 1848, and has a numerous list of members.....The Grimsby and Cleethorpes Permanent Benefit Building Society, instituted in 1866, is in a flourishing condition.....Besides these there are in the town seven other co-operative building societies, by whose agencies upwards of 1000 persons have become owners of their dwellings.”

Abbey Walk

Victorian Landowners' leasing of land for house building

Research focused on one particular Victorian landowner, Edward Heneage and his *Great Grimsby Heneage Building Company*:

- by 1887 Heneage's rural land on what was the *edges* of Grimsby (People's Park and Peakes Parkway area), was marked out for new roads and building plots
- with a capital of £10,000, his company laid roads and drains, collected ground rents and *some* transferring of freeholds; in a period of 20 years at least 15 contracts were put out to tender for road and drainage works prior to house building starting
- Terraced housing was not only an economical solution to fit large numbers of people into a relatively constricted area, but was also a better 'fit' with pre-laid drainage and roads. Depending on who leased each plot, it was commonplace for more than one builder to complete a terrace with each building to his own design and ornamentation.
- In just in one part of Heneage's land 390 houses were built by 11 'builders' – who were a mix of individual investors, builders and *property companies* which could be anything from an investment company to gain from rentals, or a forerunner of what we know as a *building society*. Most of the original societies were *fully terminating* when members clubbed together to build houses for members but once all had a house the society would be dissolved. A *permanent* building society such as *The Grimsby and Cleethorpes Permanent Benefit Building Society* continued taking in new members as earlier members gained their house.

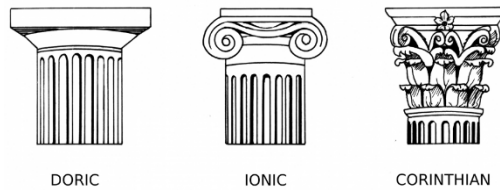
Grimsby learning Centre ex-Great Grimsby Gas Company

By 1877, *Great Grimsby Gas Company* which supplied street lighting to the town, had its large gas works and offices in Sheepfold Street next to the Great Northern Railway, and its coal wagons. Before the end of the century, the gas company was hiring out gas cookers, fires and bath heaters and had over four thousand customers and almost a thousand street lights. By 1905 consumers had more than doubled to over ten thousand and opened a showroom first in Victoria Street in 1909 followed by this larger one on the corner of Osborne Street and East St Mary's Gate in 1928.

The company's gas fitters pedalled around town on delivery bicycles with toolboxes in the front carrier. By 1953 - both the town's gas and electricity supplies were generated from coal at the town's gas works in Sheepfold Street and the power station in Moss Road. After the Gas Act 1948, *Great Grimsby Gas Company* became part of the *East Midland Gas Board* which took over local authority and privately owned gas production and supply utilities into state ownership. *East Midland Gas Board* itself became *British Gas East Midlands*, after the Gas Act 1972.

Bridge McFarland

Columns in architecture



Victorian Corinthian columns often incorporate stylised leaves of the *Acanthus* plant to demonstrate strength and endurance

AbbeyGate



These low, rounded stones at the base of each gate pillar acted as bumpers in the days of horse drawn vehicles. If a carriage or wagon turned too sharply, the wheel would be guided away from the more fragile masonry or brickwork sides of the gateway.

Yarborough Hotel

'OLDHAM SIGN SERVICE' OF LEEDS

An established sign-making company in Leeds, *Oldham Sign Service* was introduced to neon sign making in 1936. By the 1940s it was the leading company manufacturing neon signage outside London and eventually, the largest in Europe. However, neon signs were costly, complicated and dangerous to make and once LED lighting came to the fore, Oldham's neon department closed in 1994. The company reverted to general signage before finally closing in 2003.

Neon lighting needed a high voltage, typically above 1000 Volts to work. A red-painted Fireman's Switch sign mounted in a conspicuous position was necessary in case of fire when firemen would need to switch off the electric supply. Voltage of any amount and water does not mix!

Victoria Street

Window shopping

Until production of large sheets of glass was possible, shop windows were small and panes of glass even smaller. It wasn't until the Chance Brothers of Staffordshire industrialised the production of high quality, relatively inexpensive flat glass in 1840s, that plate glass became popular. (*Plate* glass because molten glass is poured onto a metal table or *plate*).

Victorian consumerism evolved from increased wealth, cheap labour, and 'window shopping' – the means and ability to display goods to prospective and admiring customers. Shop windows increasingly became an essential part of the high-street with shops and shopping a far more visible activity in the 19th century than at any other time. Shops began to compete with attractively displayed goods to entice potential customers into the store. The term 'window dresser' first appeared in the 1881 census and 'Situations vacant' advertisements from the 1850s onwards asked for window dressing skills, whilst 'situations

Victoria Street *continued*

wanted' emphasised the need for such skills. The first manuals devoted to the skill appeared: *A Guide to Window-Dressing*, in 1883 and even Lever Brothers Ltd, soap manufacturers produced *Window Dressing, Its Popularity and Advantages*, in 1899 as a means towards advertising their products. Window dressing as a profession had really arrived when *The British Association of Display Men* formed in 1919.

<https://www.ikfoundation.org/itextilis/shop-windows.html>

<https://retailhistory.wordpress.com/2021/03/17/windows/>

<https://www.buildingconservation.com/articles/shop/shopfronts.htm>

Guy and Smiths building 'Window to 1913' project: <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/business-and-investment/investment-and-regeneration/grimsby-developments/window-to-1913/>

Banking

Banks and other financial institutions in their wish to project an image of absolute permanence, security, and stability so that customers would feel their money was safe, built BIG and grand – and those in Grimsby were no exception. Up to WW2 there were many regional banks with names we no longer see or hear of, due to 1950s take-overs of these 'small' financial institutions resulting in the Big 4: Barclays, Midland, Lloyds and NatWest – and they, along with Assurance groups, have all left their mark here in Victoria Street.

McDonalds

Built as **Savoy Picture House** in 1920 and designed by Chadwick and Watson in a Neo-classical style for *Savoy Picture House Ltd*. A distinctive building in white faience (glazed terracotta) to front with (cheaper) red brick to rear and topped with a 20s 'flapper' who used to hold a tambourine! It was the first cinema in Grimsby to show 'talkies' but closed after many name changes, in 1977. McDonalds has been the main occupant since 1984. You might just find videos online of the remaining, original interior which is not publicly accessible.....

Post Office buildings Historically, the Post Office was not responsible for the design and construction of its own buildings, because of it being a government -owned entity. Until the arrangements for procurement changed in the 1980s it was the architects working within the Office of Works (1851-1940), the Ministry of Works and Buildings (1940-1942), the Ministry of Works and Planning (1942-1943), the Ministry of Works (1943-1962), the Ministry of Public Building and Works (1962-1970), and the Property Services Agency (1972-1993) who carried out this work. Because these architects were civil servants often very little is known about them - their buildings were occasionally published in the architectural press, although some of the attributions were credited to the chief architect of the ministerial department rather than to individuals. <https://britishpostofficearchitects.weebly.com/>

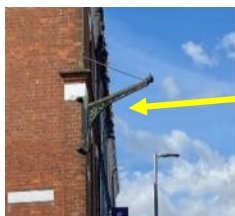
Santander by Paul Waterhouse, 1913, Manchester for **Prudential Assurance Company Ltd**
Prudential was founded on 30 May 1848 in Hatton Garden, London. The company's registered name was "The Prudential Mutual Assurance Investment and Loan Association" and its purpose was to offer life assurance and loans to the middle classes. In 1854, after making small inroads into middle class business, Prudential took a daring step and opened the Industrial Department to sell a new type of insurance, Industrial Insurance, to the working (industrious) classes, for premiums of a penny and upwards – 'penny Policies' to provide some income for families on the breadwinner's death. Prudential developed a new system for providing insurance to this market based on door-to-door agents supported by actuarial tables, sound investment and efficient administration. By 1920s the Prudential held 20 million policies. Prudential's' Building on Vicotria Street is accredited to **Paul Waterhouse**, son and business partner of **Alfred Waterhouse** (Natural History Museum, Manchester Town Hall amongst other notable buildings). Alfred is considered the most successful of all Victorian architects specialising in Victorian Gothic though not exclusively, and father and son between them, designed 21 regional offices for Prudential throughout UK

Riverhead

The first record of gas street lighting in Britain was in 1807 in London's Pall Mall. During the first few decades of gas street lighting, the lamps were lit by a lamplighter whose job was to light lamps when the sun went down using a wick on the end of a long pole. They would then return at dawn to extinguish each lamp.

By the 1930s, lamplighters were no longer needed as clockwork control was invented to operate the lamps automatically. Gas street lighting continued until the 1950s when electricity replaced gas. However, there are still around 1500 (Listed) gas lamps in London, and many are maintained today by William Sugg's – a company established in 1837. From: <https://www.williamsugg.co.uk/gas-street-lights/>

Gas-light bracket



Today.....



....and in history

Grimsby Town Hall front elevation



14 boars' heads: 6 on 2 Grimsby Coats of Arms top left and right; 8 on the top edge of the portico above the front door

Why the medallion busts?

They are all key to Grimsby's history:

Queen Victoria the reigning monarch during the construction of the town hall and she visited the town with her Prince Consort in 1854

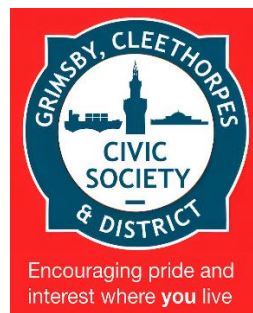
Prince Consort Queen Victoria's husband and consort

Edward III granted historical land and trading rights to Grimsby's freemen.

Archbishop Whitgift the 16th-century Archbishop of Canterbury who was born in Grimsby's Old Market Place.

Gervase Holies a local historian, Royalist, and Mayor of Grimsby in 1640

Earl of Yarborough a prominent 19th-century local aristocrat and landowner, instrumental in railway and local dock development



<https://www.grimsbycleecivsoc.com/>