

# Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society

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## NEWSLETTER

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## The Role of the Police Authority and the new Police & Crime Commissioners

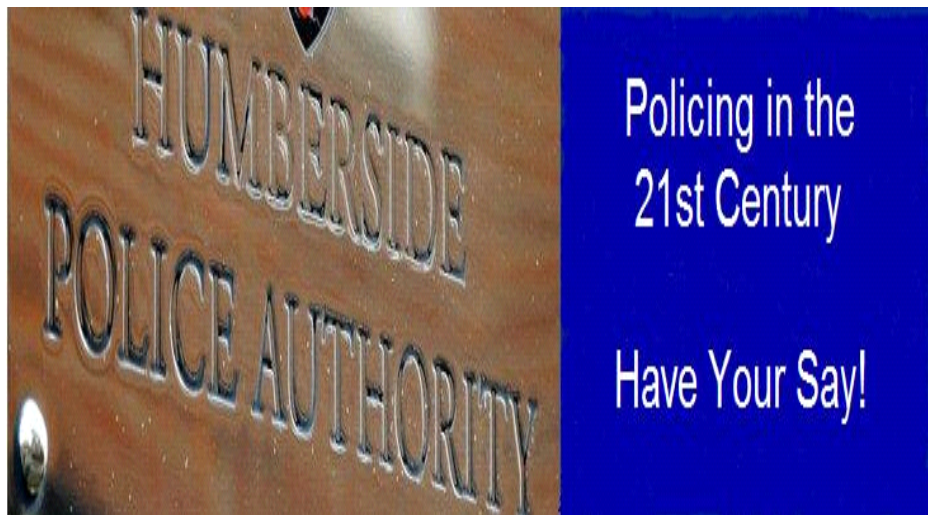
Further to my letter of February 2010 when I expressed concerns about our Humberside Police force while proposing that a representative of the Humberside Police Authority be invited to address our Civic Society, it is reported that Councillor Stephen Beasant, Vice Chair of the Authority has kindly agreed to address our members meeting on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

My concerns first came about when 2 years ago Ernie Brown Chairman of Grimsby in Bloom and myself sought police permission to involve our youth offenders in brightening up the front of the Victoria Street Police Station in Grimsby, this to coincide with the successful Grimsby in Bloom initiative.

Sadly our request was turned down somewhat brusquely with the answer that police time would be wasted carrying out investigations, should the gardens be vandalised. This left me wondering what had happened to what I thought was the fundamental understanding between police and public; that the police should maintain a good relationship with the public.

This was the spirit as outlined by Robert Peel the founder of the first organised police force who assured a worried parliament that the police are the public and the public are the police.

While the matter of brightening up the front of their police station is really a very small matter and



taking into consideration in this 21<sup>st</sup> century that our police forces at all levels face significant pressure in a world under constant threat. I have always thought that it must make sense in having the community and in particular Civic Societies onsite, allowing each one of us to serve as their eyes and ears.

I consider it my own fault that up until now I have paid little attention to the role of the police authority, but I note that one of its pledges is to consult with communities to find out what we want from our police force. I look forward to this meeting and hope that many of our members will attend.

Murdo MacInnes



Councillor Stephen Beasant

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Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society.

# Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust

The fate of Grimsby Ice Factory has been the subject of healthy debate within the Society for many years. It was a Civic Society member the late Rex Critchlow who spearheaded the move to save the Ice Factory from demolition.

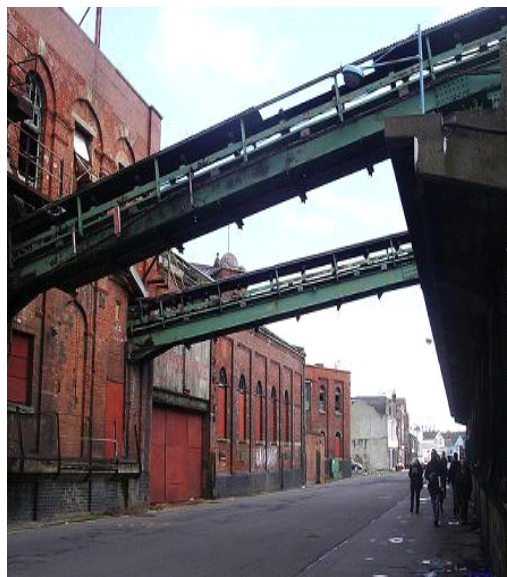
On the other hand, many members would like to see it demolished. To resolve the situation, the Civic Society has facilitated the creation of the Great Grimsby Ice Factory Trust.

The Trust believes that the Ice Factory has a sustainable future. This means that the valuable historic ice making equipment can be preserved for the future while the rest of the building earns its way.

We have not advertised for membership yet - we want to make sure the structure is right before we ask for money. Nor are we in opposition to Associated British Ports. We believe that as the owner of the building ABP has a vital role to play.

As for Great GIFT, it's a bit like the Shaking Stevens fan club. If you don't like Shaky you don't have to join. If you don't believe the Ice Factory has a future you're entitled to your opinion. Watch out for more news about Great GIFT soon.

Graeme Bassett



## Memories of Great Grimsby At War

As the poppies of remembrance begin once more, to appear upon the lapels of millions of people around the world, the Heritage Committee of the Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society, are pleased to announce the arrival of their recent film 'Memories of Great Grimsby at War', on You-Tube.

Thanks to a grant from English Heritage, the film was first previewed during the recent Lincolnshire Heritage Open Days event at Great Grimsby Town Hall. The film was watched by scores of people, including Her Worshipful the Mayor of the Borough of North East Lincolnshire, Councillor Mrs Norma Lincoln and her consort during this ever popular event in the heritage Calendar.

Memories of Great Grimsby at war was sensitively made and put together by young film makers under the expert guidance of local film production company Focus 7 and features the memories of local residents during WWII. Now thanks to the internet, the whole world can log on to You-Tube, to watch this very interesting and unique historical record of local memories.

The films executive producer, Heritage chairman Ernie Brown, was enthusiastic

about the arrival on You-Tube." The local residents, mostly from Vicarage Gardens in Great Grimsby, were so much fun to work with and their attitude in the face of extreme adversity is to be applauded. The film, at times, made me laugh and cry, it is filled with moments of fear and excitement spoken from the heart by these local survivors of the 2nd World War and now the whole world can experience this gritty, poignant but heart-warming film of memories." <http://www.youtube.com/user/Focus7Ltd#grid/user/4E8909897CA67BE9>

"Focus 7 felt privileged to have been a part of this project, working with young people aged 10 - 22, it was an honour to listen to these local people talking about their own experiences of World War 2. The young people were taken by surprise and in some cases overwhelmed by the stories told, it was them who lead the questioning. We would like to thank Ernie and Jacquie and the Grimsby's Civic Society for involving Focus 7 in this project. We are always delighted to work on community projects especially such a worthy one."

Robin and Sean - Focus 7

Ernie Brown

## Heritage Trail Booklets

On Friday 29th Oct, the Heritage Committee of the Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Civic Society took possession of 4,000 brand new Cleethorpes Heritage trail booklets, fresh from the printers.

"The last print run of 4,000 copies, funded by an Awards for All lottery grant, just flew off the shelves of Libraries and Tourist information desks throughout the Borough", said Ernie Brown, Chairman of the Heritage Committee. "It's been more than a year now since we ran out of stocks of our free booklets but thanks to a recent successful funding application through Grass Roots Grants we've been able to afford another reprint and they're now back on the shelves".

The Grass Roots Grant of £1597 was awarded to the group after receiving the forms through the offices of VANEL (Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire) on Town Hall Street in Great Grimsby.

Collect your free local Heritage trail booklets of Great Grimsby and Cleethorpes from your local library or Tourist Information desk soon, whilst stocks last!

Ernie Brown

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### Wilkinson's Store, Grimsby

The planning committee received a planning application (July 2010) to upgrade the fascia signs on the front of the building as well as to put new signs in the windows on Bethlehem Street.

The planned upgrade is to be carried out to all stores in the U.K. The committee were quite happy with the new fascia signs but strongly objected to those proposed for the windows on Bethlehem Street. Subsequently I received an email from the planning officer, who was dealing with Wilkinson's upgrade, requesting for some members of the committee to meet with representatives from Wilkinson's store.

This was discussed at the executive meeting and armed with a variety

of designs we had a very productive meeting with representatives from Wilkinson's store including a graphic designer.

We have received, via the planning officer, a number of ideas for the five windows on Bethlehem Street from the graphic designer, who had followed quite a number of our recommendations. They are very exciting and we have selected a number of designs. We are looking forward to the outcome.

Coincidentally, during the upgrade Wilkinson's have re-varnished and repaired the benches (adjacent to the store) on Bethlehem Street.

Martyn Turner

### Hampton House Sculpture

Would any of our readers be able to help me find some more information about the installation of the sculpture on Hampton House on Church Lane in town.

I know that it was created by Philip Pape of Tyrwhitt House in Barton, that he was an accomplished stonemason as well as a being a great sculptor. He was also a tutor at the Grimsby Art School in the 60's.

Does the public work of art on Hampton House have a name? How much did it cost to make? Who commissioned it? Was it a gift to the people of Great Grimsby? Was there a ceremony when it was installed? Is Philip Pape turning in his grave at the desecration of this wonderful work of art?

Not forgetting, of course, the most important question of all. Being in a Conservation Area, why have NELC allowed the present owners to paint it bright red?

Ernie Brown

### A Rose By Any Other Name

It has been suggested to me by a fellow member that the Civic Society might benefit from a change of name. The full title of the 'Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society' certainly describes well the area we cover - but it is something of a mouthful.

Some of you have been with me when I have haltingly tried to remember correctly the full title when talking to the media or on formal occasions. But, more to the point, our fellow member has suggested that the very word 'Civic' has a sort of municipal or official ring about it. Possibly giving an impression that we are linked in some way with the local authority or another official body - which may put off some people from joining.

When thinking about his suggestion I wondered if it could even be argued that the very words 'Civic Society' have a sort of 'middle class' sound about them which might also put off some potential members.

Of course, we stray into dangerous territory when we start talking about the English class system and there is no intention of denigrating that force for good, the great middle class. Into which, I suppose, I have gravitated willy-nilly; despite vainly

trying to remain a paid-up member of the 'working class'.

However, there is little doubt that it is a human trait to feel uncomfortable about joining any group which appears to move in a different social environment to that in which one normally moves.

Having said that, who could be more friendly than that group of members, mainly female, who welcome us to our meetings, sell us raffle tickets and pour us our tea or coffee. Please accept my fulsome thanks on behalf of all members of the society.

Getting back to the nitty-gritty question of the name of the society. I suppose that the thinking behind a suggested name change is that it might enable us to draw on a wider spectrum of potential membership. So you may wish to give it some thought.

In the meantime, having started digging myself into what is really somebody else's hole, I will follow the usual advice and stop digging.

Alan Dowling

### Combined Courts Project



Earlier this week a set of three new stainless steel benches were installed in Town Hall Square.

As part of the second stage of this areas redevelopment, Grimsby in Bloom are pleased to announce the arrival of this very stylish, locally made seating.

Thanks to a donation from the New Horizons project, the Grimsby in Bloom committee commissioned Arne Fabrications of Elm Road in Cleethorpes to manufacture these benches.

The area has been developed in conjunction with the Youth Offending Service, Heneage Rd Great Grimsby

Ernie Brown

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### National Trust Free Day Access Pass (for all members)

Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society has joined Civic Voice so all members of the society are now members of Civic Voice. One of the many advantages of joining is a free day access pass to National Trust Property. Civic Voice has a strong partnership with the National Trust. It shares a passion for conserving and improving places for people.

Individual members of all civic societies who join Civic Voice can receive the offer of a free day access pass. This will provide free access to any National Trust property during normal opening hours subject to a small number of restrictions.

The free pass is available to download by members by using the following link <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/nationaltrustcivicvoiceoffer>. The pass is transferable and can be given to friends or family if a member is already a member of the National Trust.

Where members do not have internet access a free day pass will also be available by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Civic Voice, Unit 101, 82 Wood Street, The Tea Factory, Liverpool, L1 4DQ requesting one and providing contact details and the name of the group which is a member of Civic Voice.

This offer is available in the first year that a civic society joins Civic Voice.

### **Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Civic Society**

**Friday 3rd December**

**Grimsby Minster**

**7.00 pm**

**Guided Tour of Minster**

**8.00 pm**

**Concert**

**Louth Male Voice Choir**

**Free admission  
Refreshments available  
Non members welcome**



For more details  
Tel :01472 812069  
[www.grimsbycleecivic.co.uk](http://www.grimsbycleecivic.co.uk)

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