



# COME FOLLOW ME

## A guide to the etched stone path in St James Square, Grimsby

The history of **Grimsby Minster** is a story spanning over 900 years interwoven with the life of the town and its residents. The building has clues to unpack and many tales to tell — some of them are hinted at in this poem. Perhaps you'd like to visit and find the answers?

Jump through time with a **hopscotch** of dates:

- 1848. The railway reaches the docks
- 1086. Grimsby's entry in the Domesday book
- 1878. Grimsby Town FC is founded
- 1193. The first record of 'Grimsby' as a surname
- 1464. A local byelaw
- 1201. Grimsby receives a royal charter

Grimsby's then silted up riverhead is mentioned in the C13th Icelandic *Orkneyinga Saga*.

The choice of typefaces used throughout the path was inspired by **lettering** found around Grimsby on buildings in and around the town centre, on the dockside, inside the Minster and in archive photographs of the town.

Perhaps you recognise some of them?

#LettersFromGrimsby

Can you speak Grimbarian?

Explore the square where there are trees above your head and history beneath your feet.

Can you **skitter**? It's a children's game recorded in Grimsby in the first half of the C20th. You'll need a friend... Hold hands, lean backwards and spin in a circle as fast as you can.

A figure from artist Annabel McCourt's **Human Murmuration** which will appear soon on the wall parallel to the path. Each figure is of a local resident who posed for a photograph in 2020.

Our **twin town** in Germany.

Can you spot something we have in common?

Before major roads and the railways Grimsby was important as a **haven** in rough seas and as a trading post along the East Coast and out to Europe. Where do you think these boats are heading?

**Hello** to you too.

Dates for your diary:

- the feast day of St James
- Great Grimsby Day**

What's going to make your day great?

Grimsby gets mentioned in **parliament** in 1927.

Search and you'll find these two words in two different places near the Minster.

From **Psalms 107**— the inspiration behind *Eternal Father Strong To Save*, a hymn sung at every civic service in the Minster and at memorial services and funerals of seafaring families from the town.

Path created by **Adrian Riley** with stories from the community & historical sources.

**our big picture** St James Square public art is part of Our Big Picture Ltd public engagement 'Our Haven': [www.ourbigpicture.co.uk/our-haven/](http://www.ourbigpicture.co.uk/our-haven/)

Our thanks goes to the many different people and organisations who have contributed to this project.

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This is part of Grimsby's Heritage Action Zone.



Working in Partnership



Grimsby is unique amongst English towns in having an origin story. **The Lay of Havelok The Dane** is a C13th Danish saga which includes a character called **Grim** — possibly the origin of the town's name combined with **By**, derived from an old Danish word for village. The path features several excerpts from the story.

Some stories sound more like confessions...

This list is compiled from ships manifests and historical accounts of the docks, dating from the earliest mentions of Grimsby through to the present day. **Records of goods** carried on ships paint a picture of what was happening in Britain and around the world at the time as well as Grimsby's own fortunes — each of these words is the start of a story. Today's ship manifests tell the story of the rise in renewable energy. Original spellings and local names for types of fish have been retained.

**Fish Dock Races** is a colloquial term dating back to the early C20th for when women would collect their husbands wages from the docks. Poverty could be a real problem for some fishing families and there would be a rush to secure wages before they could be squandered in Grimsby's many pubs.

The **pancake race** run by members of the choir was a tradition of St James Church on Shrove Tuesday. Feel free to have a go yourself!

St James Church is named after the disciple of Jesus who called him, his brothers and other fishermen with the words **Come follow me**.

IN  
COME IN  
COMING  
BUILDING  
REBUILDING SHAPE—  
—SHIFTING:  
SQUINT + SEE  
RISING  
LEANING  
LEARNING  
SHELTERING

A Saxon wall buried beneath your feet.  
"Eachy step, till wdy."

My earliest memory is my mum taking me to see  
the church the morning after the BOMBING

IN P I E C E S  
IN PEACE  
IN REMEMBRANCE

My parents' WEDDING took place on 19th April 1944.  
Vera's colleagues from the dairy provided a "guard of honour" with milk bottles.

DING DONG merrily on high. Back in time.

RINGING

SINGING

MINISTERING

MINSTER

IN

1848 clickeryclick clickeryclick clickeryclazing about

1006 xxx,000 a priest a mill & a ferry	171 L.I.I.I.
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Weeks of grimmest walking 5

We have waded through the mud:

In mid-Grimbsy where we were

1193 see you do Lugh. 2000	SANCTUARY 4 paraphrase of Lugh. 2000
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Was no want of mud  
and mire.

2

1

Does forest do?  
SHEEP!

SOLD COIN WAS FOUND HERE  
FORTITUDO!  
BYRON V. A.

Mount Fuji Cherry (Prunus shiratae)  
How many can you find!



Get any Goodies!

if you prosper  
others will come to this place

NE NE NE NE NE NE NE NE

Bremerhaven 327 miles. As the waddler.  
AHK AHK AHK

BUCK

HS HS HS HS HS HS HS HS

O T C H E R !

25.7

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IT'S GOING TO BE A DAY

A community  
of rather special  
character

22.1



For he commandethy

and raiseth the stormy wind,

which lifteth up the waves thereof.

They mount up to the heaven,

they

go

down

again

BARLEY

to

BAY SALT

the

BIOMASS

depths.

BROWN PLANTATION SUGAR

BUTTES

CARS

COAL

COB

CONTAINERS

COTTON

EELS

EMIGRANTS

FLAX

FRUIT

GUNS

HADDOCK

ICE

IRON

KELYNG

LINSEED

LOCOMOTIVES

MAIL

MUD-FISH

OIL CAKE

ORE

Here we have  
the boats, and  
fish, and inland  
that need them

PEANUTS

I'd swim across to the far side when the barge was in and fill up a tin, then swim back.

PRINCE ALBERT

QUEEN VICTORIA

RED HERRINGS

REFUGEES

SALT-FISH

SLEEPERS †

† Tread softly

STAVES

STEAM THRESHING MACHINES

STEEL

TURBINES

TURF

WHALE-OIL

WHEAT

WINE

WOOL

8 WHALES

3 WALRUS

1 BEAR

300 BUTS OF BLUBBER

FISH DOCK RACES  
1PM FRIDAYS



BEADY... STEADY...  
CHORISTERS' PANCAKE RACE  
STARTS HERE

COME FOLLOW ME