

*‘Rule III – That the legitimate objects of the charity are the destitute children of deceased Seamen, Fishermen, Rivermen, Marine Engineers, Firemen and Ship-Carpenters, who go to sea’ (Rules of the Port of Hull Society, 1883 )*

# THE SAILORS’ FAMILIES SOCIETY



Photograph of children in the school rooms at Newland Cottage Homes, early 20th cent. [C DSSF/1/9/6/109]

**Fact:** A committee, set up by the Port of Hull Society for the Religious Instruction of Seamen in 1837, would become the Sailors’ Families Society

In 1836, four Hull whaling ships were lost, leaving 20 widows and 61 fatherless children in need of help.

Although a collection of £49 was raised, a more organised approach was required to help the families of seafarers.

A Sailors’ Orphan Institute was established in 1837 by a special committee of the Port of Hull Society for the Religious Instruction of Seamen to clothe and educate children of deceased sailors.



Children supported by the society attended the British and Foreign School on Dock Green, as well as Sunday School and services on board the 'Valiant'.

They were provided with a set of clothes every year, and when the Port of Hull Society opened a sailors' institute on Waterhouse Lane, the children's schooling was moved there.

Between 1837 and 1863 the society clothed and educated 700 children.



Photograph of the former Park Street orphanage building, early 20th cent. [C TDP/2/4]

By the 1860s, it was felt that a residential home for seafarers' orphans was needed. The society opened a home on Castle Row in 1863, which catered for 6 boys and 6 girls.

Applications to the society could be made on behalf of children aged 7-14, or 15 in the case of girls. On leaving the home, boys were found apprenticeships and girls were usually placed in domestic service.

In 1865, a second home was opened at No.8 Spencer Street to house 30 children, but further provision was still needed.

In 1867 Thanet House on Park Street was purchased to provide more adequate accommodation and, after alterations, the new home could house 150 children.

In 1871, an orphanage band was formed for the boys. It began life as a drum and fife band before becoming a brass band a few years later. Donations were requested for the band to appear at civic events in the city, and these donations were a vital source of fundraising for the society.

# PORT OF HULL SOCIETY'S

## SAILORS' ORPHAN HOME AND SCHOOL,

### PARK STREET, HULL.

Election of Twenty-Four Children, April 29th, 1892,

TWELVE GIRLS AND TWELVE BOYS.

#### SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

No.	GIRLS.	PLACE.	No. of VOTES.	No.	BOYS.	PLACE.	No. of VOTES.
1	Brown, Leathian C.	Grimsby	40 votes, 20 uncounted	12	Jest, Albert Henry	Hull	3780
2	Carter, Lily	Grimsby		14	Drury, John Edward	Hull	3637
3	Collins, Norah	Hull		15	Brown, John Thomas	Grimsby	3614
4	Collins, Minnie	Hull		16	Sondal, Walter Henry	Grimsby	3468
5	Draper, Katelessa C.	Leamthorpe		17	Aikinson, Frederick	Grimsby	3422
6	Humbley, Agnes Emily	Giles		18	Draper, Richard James	Leamthorpe	3420
7	Keller, Olive	Hull		19	Richardson, John Thomas	Leamthorpe	3369
8	Keller, Sarah A.	Hull		20	Wheeler, Charles Edward	Giles	3220
9	Kerwin, Mary D.	Hull		21	James, Peter James	Grimsby	3165
10	Richardson, Jane	Leamthorpe		22	Horsman, Arthur	Hull	3151
11	Smith, Alice Mary	Grimston		23	Wynn, George William	King's Lynn	3143

P.S.—The Successful Candidates will be received into the Home on Tuesday, May 10th. The Children now selected must bring with them Education Act Certificate of Birth, which can be obtained from the Registrar for Signature, and a note from their teacher stating what standard they last passed; also the following Clothing (one of which should be new)—Girls—2 Chemises, 2 pairs of Black Worsted Stockings, 2 Night Dresses, 2 Frocks, 2 Pocket Handkerchiefs, including those in use at the time of admission, Brush and Comb, and a Bible. Boys—2 Shirts, 2 pairs of Stockings, 2 Pocket Handkerchiefs, including those in wear, 2 Night Shirts, Brush and Comb, and a Bible. The Clothing must all be marked with the initials of the child's name.

Each Child must bring with it a Certificate stating that it is free from, and has not been exposed to, any infectious disease within the last Six Weeks.

#### UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES.

No.	BOYS.	PLACE.	No. of VOTES.	No.	BOYS.	PLACE.	No. of VOTES.
25	Eastwood, Joseph W.	Keintworth	2053	33	Watson, Ernest	King's Lynn	945
26	Wilton, Thomas Henry	Starborough	1946	34	Todd, Edward	Hull	787
27	Hoskins, Neil Matthew	Middlethorpe	1892	35	Hoskins, Albert O.	Middlethorpe	472
28	Schmidt, Walter	Grimsby	1692	36	Cough, Joshua	Whitby	424
29	Wynn, Robert	Stockton	1626	37	Woodcock, John F.	Whitby	364
30	Akers, William	Harborough	1395	38	Maynard, Jacob	Harborough	361
31	Coxe, Charles Henry	Harborough	1313				

P.S.—The Unsuccessful Candidates will have the votes they have received counted at their credit in the next Election on making a fresh application, which will be on Saturday, September 18th next, but they will NOT be placed on the list of Candidates if a fresh application is not made.

### Results of election of children to the Park Street orphanage, 1892 [C DSSF]



Photograph of the society's band at Park Street, late 19th cent. [C DSSF/1/9/10/117]

**Fact:** In 1863, the Sailors' Families Society opened its first residential home for orphans on Castle Row



Ever in need of extra beds, the society developed a plan to replace the Park Street orphanage with a ‘cottage homes’ complex on Cottingham Road.

Newland Cottage Homes opened in 1895, having been funded by substantial donations from local figures. These new homes sought to provide a healthier, more family-oriented environment for children. Over the years, the complex was expanded to include a hospital ward, school, central dining hall, sports ground and cinema.

In addition to attending school, the boys undertook gardening and other manual labour tasks, whilst the girls were taught sewing, cooking and washing as training for future domestic service jobs. A staple of the orphanage’s calendar was the Whitsuntide Festival, held annually to raise money for the homes.

Newland Cottage Homes accommodated children for over a century, but in 2004 the decision was taken to close the site. The Society’s work was refocused towards subsidising the education and clothing of children in their own homes. And so the Society’s work had come full circle, back to where they had started in 1837.



Architect’s drawing of Newland Cottage Homes complex, 1907 [C TDSSF/1/2/5/40a]



**Fact:** In 1895, the society opened Newland Cottage Orphans Homes, a complex of small homes, in a healthier out of town location on Cottingham Road



**Programme, Saturday, May 10th, 1913.**

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The Orphan Boys’ Band will play during the afternoon.

2-45 .. .. The Orphan Children will line the central path.

3-0 .. .. His Worship the Sheriff (Hubert Johnson, Esq.), Mrs. Johnson, and Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Sanderson will be received by Councillor and Mrs. J. H. Robins and Members of the Carniva Committees at the Band Stand, and the Carnival will be opened by Mr. Sanderson on the invitation of the Sheriff. The Chairman, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson and friends, led by the Band, will proceed to the Schoolroom where Mrs. Sanderson will declare the Fancy Fair open, and votes of thanks will be accorded.

3-0 to 6-30 .. .. Comic Costume Cricket Match—Police v. Tramways.

3-30 to 7 .. .. Bowling Match. Fish Trade Sports and finish of Marathon Race.

3-45 to 4-15 .. .. Physical Exercises, Drills, etc., by the Orphan Girls on the lawn in front of the School.

4 to 5 .. .. Cafe Chantant in the Frances Reckitt Home.

4-30 to 6-30 .. .. Afternoon Teas in the Pavilion 6d. each. Meat Teas in the Stratten Hall, 1s. each. High Teas in the Whitby and Hartlepool Home, 1s. 6d. each.

5-0 .. .. Children’s Tea on the Grass.

6-0 to 6-30 .. .. Physical Exercises, Drills, etc., by the Orphan Boys, on the lawn in front of the School.

7-15 to 9-15 .. .. Reckitt’s Morris Dancers in the Stratten Hall.

7-30 to 9-30 .. .. Cafe Chantant in the Francis Reckitt Home.

Exhibition of Model Railway.

Two of the Homes will be open for inspection.

Football Competition, Aunt Sally, Coconut-shy, Quoits, Swings, etc.

The Prince’s Hall Cinematograph Operator will take Photographs.

**Full details of the day’s programme will be found on pages 29, 31, 33, 37 & 41.**

**Tug of War Competition.**

**Saturday, May 10th, at 4-30 p.m.,**

NEAR GIRLS’ PLAYGROUND,

*Competing Teams :—*

1.	HULL POLICE, GORDON STREET TEAM.	
2.	do. WINCOLMLEE do.	
3.	SISSONS BROS., “A” TEAM.	
4.	do. “B” do.	
5.	RECKITT’S CANISTER WORKS TEAM.	
6.	BRITISH GAS CO., “A” TEAM.	
7.	do. “B” do.	

CATCH WEIGHT COMPETITION, last man over the mark.

1st and 2nd Prizes for Winning Teams will be presented by JNO. YOUNG, Esq.

Referee : INSPECTOR M. CARROL.

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Extract from the programme for the orphanage’s Whitsuntide Carnival, 1913 [L.362.73]