



THE GRIT GATHERING



LAUNCH / EXHIBITION / SLIDESHOW / CONVERSATION

Saturday 27 January 2018 • 10am to 4pm
Christ Church Halls, Herring Fishery Score, Lowestoft

Welcome to the launch of THE GRIT,
a new community words & music project
led by Dean Parkin.

What do you know about THE GRIT?
Did you or your family ever live there?
Please come and share your memories
of Lowestoft's forgotten fishing village
and find out more about this exciting project.

Together, let's put THE GRIT back into Lowestoft!



A CHANCE TO MEET FRIENDS, EXCHANGE STORIES
AND SHED LIGHT ON OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

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In 1900 Lowestoft was a top fishing port and tourist resort with a population of 23,000. The town's fishing village — known to locals as 'THE GRIT' or the 'Beach Village' — was the most easterly community in the country, right next to the North Sea.

THE GRIT was home to 2,500 people, 13 pubs, three schools, two churches, shops and cafés and the often poor 'Gritsters' were known for their spirit of independence. By the early 1970s few houses remained on the east side of Whapload Road with many new industrial buildings occupying the site of THE GRIT.

In 1997 JACK ROSE and DEAN PARKIN published their book of THE GRIT — the story of Lowestoft's fishing village — which became a local bestseller. That book is now at the heart of a new community words and music project devised by POETRY PEOPLE and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Lowestoft Rising. THE GRIT project will involve:

- A new show bringing to life the characters and stories of THE GRIT
- GRITFEST — a celebration day in Sparrows Nest Park
- New displays about THE GRIT in the Lowestoft Maritime Museum
- Schools workshops and a resource to teach THE GRIT's history to future generations

The book will also be revised and republished in 2018 and this GRIT GATHERING will generate fresh contributions to the new edition. There'll be an exhibition of photographs, archive film and audio, plus a short slideshow presented by DEAN PARKIN at 11am, 1pm and 3pm. Refreshments will be available and entrance is FREE all day. Everyone welcome.



Strand Cottages in Strand Street



Mariners Score School, class 1 in 1924