

InShort

Tattoo firms investigated

A NUMBER of suspected illegal tattoo studios are being investigated by Great Yarmouth borough council officers.

The unlicensed businesses are believed to be operating from unregistered premises in the borough. Harriett Sealey from Great Yarmouth Borough Council's environmental health service, said: "The borough council works with existing tattoo premises in the borough to ensure that all the relevant hygiene standards are met."

"We are currently investigating reports that some unregistered tattooists in the borough are offering tattoo services from unlicensed premises."

"We will investigate all allegations and take appropriate action against the individuals offering these services and we urge residents to only have tattoos done at the licensed tattooists in the borough - where good hygiene standards are met."

Anyone wanting to start up a tattoo establishment in the borough is required to apply for both a premises and personal registration. This is issued by the council's environmental health service following inspection of the premises and interview with the applicant. The borough of Yarmouth has very strict by-laws that must be adhered to in licensed establishments relating specifically to infection control and cleaning.

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Plaque marks the site of town's famous silk mill

By **JOE WILKES**
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CIRCULAR blue plaques were unveiled in Great Yarmouth at the start of the week, to commemorate two buildings that once played an important role in the life of the town.

At 10.30am on Monday, the Great Yarmouth Local History and Archaeological Society placed the distinctive signs on the site of the former Grouts textile factory and naval hospital in St Nicholas Road, now the site of the Booker warehouse, during a small ceremony.

The factory began life in 1815, and employed thousands of people in the town before closing in 1972.

Silk artefacts which had been made there were found in the wreck of the Titanic. It also made parachutes during the second world war.

The naval hospital dated back to 1793, and looked after wounded soldiers in the Napoleonic Wars, and was once visited by Admiral Lord Nelson in 1801.

Chairman of the society, Dr Paul Davies said: "Grouts used to be a major employer in the town and an important factory in the war effort."

"The other one blue plaque is to commemorate Great Yarmouth's great naval past especially in the Napoleonic wars."

"I think the people of Yarmouth should be proud of their heritage and of where they live."

The Mayor of Great Yarmouth, Councillor Colleen Walker, unveiled the first plaque marking the naval hospital, while the manager of the Booker warehouse, Russell Ray, unveiled the plaque commemorating the textile factory.

Mr Ray has worked at the warehouse for 33 years, starting when he was



HISTORY MARKERS: The unveiling ceremony at Bookers in St Nicholas Road this week; below local historians Dr Paul Davies (right) and David McDermott.

Pictures: JAMES BASS

16. He said: "It is a pleasure and an honour. Our warehouse is the last surviving part of the factory."

"You can imagine it used to stretch all the way to where Sainsbury's is now, and to where the petrol station is. The links with the Titanic is a fantastic story."

"I think everybody knew somebody who used to work here."

The next blue plaque unveiling will be at the Sailors' Home, in Marine Drive, next Monday.

The Sailors' Home was founded in 1861 and in its one hundred year history cared for more than 11,000 shipwrecked sailors. They were given accommodation, food and basic medical care.

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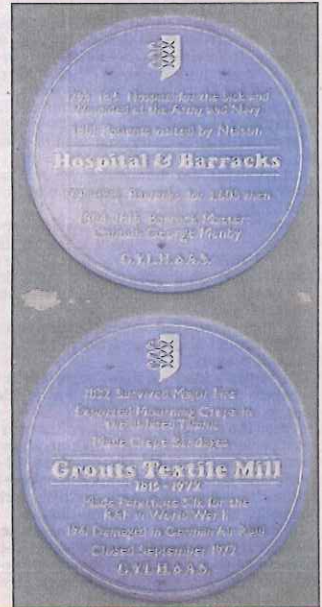
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MEMORIES: A small crowd watched as the blue plaques were unveiled commemorating Grout's and the old naval hospital. Picture: JAMES BASS



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