

SCARBOROUGH MARITIME HERITAGE CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2019 – March 2020



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Registered Charity 1144532

Company number 0675517

The Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre (SMHC) is managed, overseen and administered in accordance with its charitable constitution and its memorandum of association and articles of association.

Directors

M. Vesey, R. L. Rowley, D. Normandale, J.R.F. Spencer.

Trustees

M. Vesey, R. L. Rowley, D. Normandale, J.R.F. Spencer,
Captain P Simpson MN, H. Roberts, B. Roberts.

Committee

M. Vesey, R. L. Rowley, J.R.F. Spencer, L. Auckland,
J. Roberts, A Roberts, J King, S Macdonald, L Shannon.

President

Mr J Martin Johnson JP, BA, IEng, IMarEng, MIMarEST

Patrons

Earl of Burford, Lady Caroline French Blake, Lord John Beauclerk

Objectives

To educate the public about the maritime history of Scarborough. To record and preserve the skills and knowledge of our fishing, boat building and sea faring community that are being lost. To carefully store, restore and display all memorabilia and exhibits donated to the Centre. To stage exhibitions and events that involve all of the community.

Trustees Report

The trustees have monitored the activities undertaken by the SMHC from April 2019 to March 2020 and agree that they meet the charitable aims of educating the public. Our principal activity has been the provision of exhibitions and to give talks to community groups and schools. Volunteers from the community have been involved in all aspects of our work, helping them gain new skills and confidence, build friendships and overcome social isolation. We welcomed over 5000 visitors with many praiseworthy comments. Our website is continually updated with new information and we receive over 4000 new viewings a month.

We continue to be a part of the Children's University Network and we work in partnership with Scarborough Borough Council, Scarborough Sub-Aqua Club, Scarborough Heritage Forum, Scarborough Archaeological & Historical Society, Scarborough Library, Scarborough Civic Society, Scarborough Museums Trust & the Dean Road Cemetery Group.

Members of the public continue to donate valuable memorabilia that our volunteers catalogue, preserve and display. Volunteers help answer family and local history enquiries from residents and from around the world via the Internet. We received acknowledgments in several new books for the help we gave.

We have distributed over 10,000 publicity leaflets throughout the town and have been featured in many local newspaper articles.

Our trustees keep our charity policies and risk assessment up-to-date including: data protection guidelines; whistleblowing; complaints; volunteers; safeguarding; and financial reserves. All these are available to view in the SMHC and on our website. Each trustee has completed a declaration of interest statement.

The SMHC is a member of the Welcome to Yorkshire tourism agency. We have public liability insurance, buildings insurance and Local Authority Landlord's Certification.

Main activities

The SMHC opened to the public in November 2009 so in November 2019 we celebrated with a 10th birthday party and specially made cake. Our chairman made a presentation to over 100 delegates, at the UK National Maritime Heritage Forum meeting in Glasgow, in November, about our ten years of work.

From April 2019 to June our exhibition was on Scarborough's old pubs and inns.

In June and July we created two special 'mini pop-up' exhibitions to

commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day and also the maritime connections with the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. We celebrated National Volunteers Week by interviewing some of our volunteers about their commitment. Sadly, our librarian passed away and many of our volunteers attended her funeral. A memorial plaque was put up in our library.

In July we put on another exhibition in the large marquee tent on the pier for Scarborough's Seafest event that attracted over 10,000 visitors.

During the summer of 2019 we adopted an old BT red telephone box on Scarborough's seafront and converted it into a mini museum. Local residents helped and local business and a county councillor gave funding. The 'History Box' is open 24 hours a day 365 days a year so extends our range and audience. It has received coverage on local TV and radio and on Trip Advisor.

From July to September our exhibition was on Scarborough's old hotels.

In September we took part in the national Heritage Open Days by opening up our archive store room to the public.

From October to January our exhibition was on Scarborough's old churches.

During the Christmas and New Year break our volunteers deep cleaned our exhibits and premises. Our volunteers also enjoyed a Christmas get together.

From January to March 2020 our exhibition looked at the history of Longwestgate, a street in the old town that housed many fishing families.

Funding

We continue to receive donations from visitors and members as well as from giving talks to groups and book sales. The tenants in our flat above the Centre continue to pay the monthly rental that helps us pay back our Charity Bank mortgage loan. We also received another £10,000 donation to reduce our mortgage payments. Our largest annual expense is the rental of an off-site overflow storeroom for our larger archived items, models and books, along with our annual energy and insurance bills.

Conclusion

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the SMHC this year especially our volunteers who give up their valuable time to make it all possible. We look forward to another exciting year ahead with many new projects.