



## SCARBOROUGH MARITIME HERITAGE CENTRE

### Newsletter – Autumn 2016

#### NEW EXHIBITION



Our new exhibition runs from October to December and looks at the lives of three local characters: Joseph Sawdon; George Simpson; and Edward Francis Tudor James. Sawdon, of Longwestgate, was apprenticed before WW1 and served in the Merchant Navy. He sailed all over the world in the 1920s and 30s and served again in WW2 until his ship was sunk by enemy action off the eastern seaboard of Canada. Simpson was a pier man on the West Pier and wrote a daily diary from 1977 to 1981. He provides us with a lively interesting account of life on the pier. We focus particularly on the trawlermen's blockade of the Harbour in February 1981. Edward Francis Tudor James (1851-1929) was known as 'The Fisherman's Friend'. He had an interesting life and local fisherman, Allan Roberts, has compiled some fascinating information about him.

#### QUEEN'S AWARD PRESENTATION

On 22<sup>nd</sup> September, the Lord-Lieutenant of North Yorkshire presented the SMHC volunteers with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest accolade any volunteer group can receive in the UK and reflects the many years of hard work put in by committee members, volunteers, trustees and supporters.



**SMHC President, committee members, volunteers and supporters receive the Queen's Award at Birdsall House near Norton**

#### EDUCATION

SMHC volunteers, Lindy & Tom Rowley continue to deliver educational talks in schools and host school groups in our Centre. Here is an extract from a letter of thanks from Graham School: "*The session was vital to the students and to further their research...the students said they found it very interesting, useful and fun. They particularly enjoyed browsing exhibits. I would highly recommend this experience to other schools as a way to engage students.*" (Teacher, Mark Blackie)

#### EVENTS

SMHC volunteers exhibited historical information at the Scarborough Library 'Heritage Day', the WW1 Centenary Exhibition in Dean Road Cemetery and at the 'We Are Scarborough' event at the University. The East Yorkshire Family History Society held an information & help desk in our premises for people researching their family tree.

#### SEAFEST



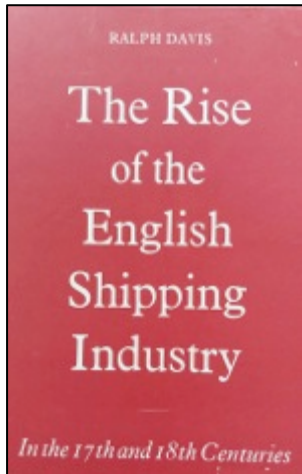
**This year's Seafest was a great success with an estimated 15,000 visitors attending. Thanks go to all our volunteers who staffed it.**

## UK MARITIME HERITAGE FORUM - JERSEY

SMHC director, David Normandale, went to Jersey for the annual UKMHF conference. He had the chance to go on vessels owned by the Jersey Maritime Museum including 1860 and 1870 sailing fishing boats, 1913 and 1914 sailing boats, and RNLB 'Howard D', a Liverpool Class lifeboat launched in 1937. The directors of the Jersey and the Guernsey museums made presentations on the maritime heritage of the Channel Islands. On day two, 'I do like to be Beside the Seaside' was the topic including a presentation by Esther Graham, Seaside Heritage Project Officer for Scarborough Museums Trust. Delegates at the conference were updated on the progress of the SMHC.

## SCARBOROUGH FAME

Scarborough is officially the most visited town in England. The latest 'Great Britain Tourism Survey' shows only London, Manchester and Birmingham had more domestic tourists between 2013 and 2015. It also states that in Yorkshire, overnight stays rose by a fifth last year. Visitors to our new premises have doubled in number compared to our old site. Our new website receives over 3000 visitors a month.



A great book we have just received has 10 references to Scarborough. We were the 10th largest port in the UK in terms of ship ownership and tonnage in 1788, nearly 22,000 tons / 152 ships. Our ships had 'great storage and cheap operation'. We were the leading port for collier owners. In 1691 we built two ketches for the Royal Navy. We built 'Baltic traders' and in 1727 a 150-ton ship cost £400 to build here (£730 in London, £460 in Yarmouth).

## SAD NEWS

We were very sad to hear the news of the death of Ross Tyson, aged 84. He volunteered with Scarborough's lifeboat for more than 70 years. He joined the lifeboat team in 1954 and became a crewman on the inshore rescue boat in 1965. He retired as a crewman 29 years ago but continued as the team's tractor driver and, latterly, standard bearer. Mr Tyson was awarded a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal in 2012. His funeral was held in a packed St Mary's Church.

## LIFEBOAT

Scarborough's new lifeboat house, Shannon Class Lifeboat and tractor-trailer are all undergoing final work and trials ready for winter operation.

## NEW DONATIONS

Thanks go to all those who have given, books, photographs, models and artefacts over the past few months. Our collection continues to grow and our volunteers will soon upgrade their curatorial skills by training paid for from our Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

## FOR SALE



Beautiful models made by local man, £395 each. Contact us for details.

The SMHC is run entirely by volunteers and public donations.  
Please help us in any way you can. Thank you.



**Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre**

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