



## SCARBOROUGH MARITIME HERITAGE CENTRE

AUTUMN 2021

### New Exhibition

From September our new exhibition is about the Scarborough built ship, 'Morning Star' that was attacked by pirates off St Helena in 1828. The ship was carrying a secret hoard of gold for the British government and also had women aboard. Benito De Soto, the pirate's leader was hunted down and eventually faced a trial but weak evidence hampered the case.

(Below) The Morning Star with her sails damaged by cannon-shot.



### Visitor Numbers

After re-opening on May 19<sup>th</sup> this year we have welcomed nearly 1000 visitors. Our volunteers have continued to wear masks and we keep our premises sanitised and well ventilated. Scarborough has had a busy summer despite big events such as Seafest not happening this year. Scarborough was featured on a special all-day live broadcast by BBC Look North and some of the interviews made it on to the national BBC news. PLEASE NOTE that the Maritime Centre shop front will be having a makeover in the autumn due to rotten wood. We will remain open but might look a bit different for a few weeks. Thanks go to our North Yorkshire County councillor, Janet Jefferson, for obtaining a grant to help with the restoration.

### Re-opening ceremony

We are proud to have been reopened in May by the current Scarborough Town Crier, Mr David Birdsall. He read out a proclamation and rang his bell with cries of 'Oyay Oyay'. We were also joined by our local councillor, Janet Jefferson, and Bonnie Purcheon, from the Scarborough Hoteliers Association. She donated some photographs and items related to the previous town crier, Alan Booth MBE, which complements his medals and bells that were donated to us this year.



### New Donations

Carol Walkington, from Bridlington, has donated 260 photographs of how to knit a gansey, stage by stage, see samples below. Fred Walkington also donated a set of photographs of a Yorkshire coble boat being built by the Siddall boatbuilding family from Bridlington.



## Other News

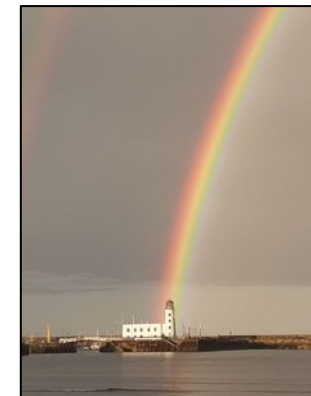
Many thanks go to Ed Asquith, former Editor of the Scarborough News, and Topic UK magazine for this article about our Centre, see left hand image below. Thanks also go to Paddy Billington, former Yorkshire Coast Radio presenter, for his visit to SMHC and for creating a podcast about us. See <https://www.visitscarborough.com/podcast-episode-18>



Peter Rice, from Leeds, donated the cup and photograph below. The cup was awarded in the Scarborough speed boat race of August 1930 and was won by Miss Velocity, piloted by Chris Postill. Mr Postill was a step uncle to Mr Rice.



Mark Atkinson donated his father's life story and photographs. Dennis Atkinson grew up at 2 Moore's Yard in Scarborough. His story is full of fascinating details and he remembered getting his fingers caught in a mangle (a clothes wringer for washing). Luckily his father was a St John's Ambulance man and came to his rescue. To the right of Moore's yard were lavatories or 'dry closets'. Occasionally one could be surprised when there was a shout from below and the metal container underneath you was extracted as it was emptied into the 'night soil cart'. Dennis went on to fight in world war two. To read more about his life see our 'Featured Articles' list on our website.



Right hand image is of a rainbow landing, or starting off from, the Scarborough lighthouse. An auspicious omen as it occurred on the day we reopened.

**We are run entirely by volunteers and public donations.**  
 We always need volunteers. No special knowledge or skills are required.  
 Please contact us if you can spare a few hours a week?  
**Thank you**



**Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre**  
 Charity number: 1144532  
 45 Eastborough, Scarborough, YO11 1NH  
 Tel: 01723 369361 Email: [scarboroughmaritime@yahoo.com](mailto:scarboroughmaritime@yahoo.com)  
 Website: [www.scarboroughmaritimeheritage.org.uk](http://www.scarboroughmaritimeheritage.org.uk)