



SCARBOROUGH MARITIME HERITAGE CENTRE

JULY 2020

Re-opening

Dear readers, we hope you and your loved ones have come through this unusual time in one piece and we look forward to seeing you again soon. We will open again on July 4th & 5th then every Friday to Sunday till the end of July. In August we should be back to our normal hours. We will be observing social distancing guidelines and only allowing 2 people into the Centre at any one time. We have hand sanitizer at the entrance. Our volunteers will be keeping 2 metres away from visitors but still able to explain Scarborough's fantastic history to them. Our summer exhibition is about Scarborough during World War 2 (see article on next page).

Loss of Cassie Pelucci

Sadly, in March we lost our oldest volunteer, Cassie Pelucci. She was a real Scarborian bottom ender with brothers in the fishing industry. Cassie knew many people and was welcoming and friendly to new visitors and volunteers. Cassie took part in our old town superstitions video project, see our website, and she was delighted to be part of our delegation when we received the Queen's Award for volunteering in 2016, see photo. Cassie was with us since we first opened in 2009 and she also volunteered at the RNLI gift shop. Many of our volunteers visited her whilst she was in the Dunolie Care Home on Filey Road. Cassie passed away shortly after her 87th birthday. She will be greatly missed and her name will be engraved on our special memorial wall.



VE Day 75th anniversary

Sadly, as we were in lockdown on the VE Day anniversary we had to delay the opening of our exhibition. However, we did upload to our website many articles related to Scarborough during World War 2. In some ways Scarborough was in the front line of the war. There was a danger of the Germans invading the north-east coast in 1940 and 1941, so the town was heavily defended with troops, artillery, barbed wire, pillboxes, minefields and concrete anti-tank cubes. The top secret "Y" station listened into German naval communications and sent this information to Bletchley Park for decryption. The people of Scarborough experienced difficult times during WW2. The tourist trade was badly affected. The fishing industry, already ailing before the war, suffered too. In the first half of 1940, Scarborough fishermen were attacked on numerous occasions in the North Sea, and throughout the war sea mines were a serious danger to fishing boats. There were over 20 *Luftwaffe* air raids, which were mostly concentrated in 1940-1942, but throughout the war constant air raid alerts imposed a considerable strain upon the community. The arrival of evacuee children from Hull, West Hartlepool and Middlesbrough, many of them impoverished, was a considerable challenge for the town, as were later, smaller waves of evacuees from London and other provincial cities. By the end of the war, Scarborough was disfigured by bombed out buildings and there was a serious housing shortage that lasted well into the post-war years.



Scarborough lockdown in the 1600s

The plague that reached England in 1348 wiped out nearly half the country's population and within a year it remained endemic until 1665. Seaports facing the Continent were particularly vulnerable. No ship was allowed to land goods or crew until the captain had sworn an oath that none of the crew had been in contact with diseased persons during the past month. Despite this, Scarborough was visited five times by plague in 1598, 1603, 1624, 1635 and 1645. Protection from land-based visitors resulted in bailiffs being able to exclude strangers, close markets, quarantine households, open 'pesthouses' and levy rates to support orphans and paupers. Breaches would incur fines, whipping or even death. When Scarborough's markets were shut down, Scarboroughians were permitted to trade in Seamer. After the infection was over, Scarboroughians could be fined for trading in Seamer! In Newborough, Oldborough, St Mary's and the Undercliff, two night watchmen confined people to their homes. They also collected money for the impoverished and sick. In 1626 a pesthouse was built where Clarence Gardens is now. In 1635 no one was allowed to leave the town and five children were dying every day. Scarborough did not welcome visitors. Vagrants were whipped out of town. Thanks to regular street cleaning and a clean water supply mortality rates were much lower than in other towns.

RIP Barry Nicol

Barry sadly passed away, age 85, following a prolonged period of ill health. Barry was born into the fishing industry at Great Yarmouth where his parents were engaged in the herring industry, his father being a foreman cooper and his mother a herring quine. His home was the Torrey area of Aberdeen. He loved the sea and would be drawn to the boats and harbours at every opportunity taking great interest in the vessels especially the fishing boats and their catches. After school he entered the printing industry until called for National Service in the Royal Marines. Afterwards, he married and settled in Crofton near Wakefield. Upon retirement 20 years ago he went back to Scotland in Kelty, Fife. Barry bequeathed a sizable collection of maritime books to the SMHC and financially supported us during our early days. Barry Nicol RIP.

New Website Articles

See our 'Featured Articles' link on our website homepage as it includes 'Britain's first Nuclear Test' and information on the 'SS Betty Hindley'.

Hull's Maritime Museum has closed for major refurbishment until 2023. 50,000 objects will be conserved and packed into storage. A range of projects in the community will take place during the closure. The work is being funded by a £13 million National Heritage Lottery grant.

Seaside 100, a new book by Kathryn Ferry

Sandcastles, donkeys, piers, sticks of rock, beach huts, paddle steamers, promenade shelters and ice cream cones; This book explores the best-loved features of holiday destinations. Each object and building adds its own layer to the story of our seaside heritage. Using a mixture of historic images and modern photographs the book takes a roughly chronological journey through the things that make our seaside distinctive. The places where we took our holidays for the past three hundred years have been transformed from mere stretches of coastline. This book is a celebration of all that makes our seaside special. Available on Amazon and in bookshops.

Regal Lady

The Regal Lady pleasure boat based in Scarborough has received a complete makeover and has been rebranded as the 'Dunkirk Experience', as she took part in the Dunkirk evacuations 80 years ago. She will now house an exhibition about that event whilst also having a large bar and drinks area. See their Facebook page for more details.

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 two or three hours a week?

Thank you



Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre

Charity number: 1144532

45 Eastborough, Scarborough, YO11 1NH

Tel: 01723 369361 Email: scarboroughmaritime@yahoo.com

Website: www.scarboroughsmaritimeheritage.org.uk