



# SCARBOROUGH MARITIME HERITAGE CENTRE

## Newsletter – January 2017

### Yorkshire's connections with Antarctica

Our new exhibition reveals three interesting links between Yorkshire and the Antarctic. Firstly, 2017 marks the centenary of the return to Britain of Ernest Shackleton after his traumatic escape from disaster in Antarctica. Six crewmen aboard the expedition ship, Endurance, fished, worked or lived in Yorkshire. Ernest Shackleton was on an earlier expedition with Captain Scott and Scott's wife supplied the team with ganseys, one of which will be on display.

The second link is that the Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre's president, Martin Johnson, travelled to South Georgia and Elephant Island in 2012 and retraced Shackleton's voyage. Martin's amazing photographs will be on show and reveal the stunning landscapes that bring to life the beauty and harshness of Antarctica.

Finally, a rather unexpected connection with Yorkshire is that a steam trawler, the Viola-Dias, built in Beverley in 1906, lies abandoned in South Georgia. She was a typical steam trawler used on the Yorkshire Coast and was requisitioned by the Admiralty as a minesweeper in World War One. She ended up in Antarctic waters on sealing trips. She has been rusting away since the 1960s but a group in Hull is hoping to bring her back home and restore her for Hull's City of Culture in 2017.



Martin by Shackleton's grave



Replica of the James Caird boat

### NEW DONATIONS



Shermuly Rocket Pistol Set – donated by Martin Johnson. A 1950s case of rescue line throwing pistol and rocket equipment. It was used to fire a thin cord to another ship or the shore. A thicker rope would then be attached and pulled across ready for a breaches buoy to rescue people.



14 model boats ranging from Egyptian river craft to Clyde Puffers and Scarborough's 'Miss Velocity' speed boat. Donated by Richard Craven & family, made by their late father.



Scarborough Harbour Master's logbooks covering over 100 years. (Long-term loan)



40 framed photos from the Anchorage Club that is closing down.

Also donated recently: Fisherman's leather thigh length boots, a signal flag set and many others items. Thanks go to everyone who gave or loaned items, time or money to us in the past year.

## TRAINING & EDUCATION

SMHC volunteers undertook several days of training given by Scarborough Museums Trust curator, Jennifer Dunne. Volunteers learned how to clean, preserve, label and catalogue artefacts. (Pic LHS)

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of November a one-day training & information workshop presented three online history websites to attendees. The 'CITIZAN' project and website is a way for the public to log on and record coastal archaeology and history. The 'Home Front Legacy' website can also be used by the public to search for and record any World War One wrecks or sites. Antony Firth, from Fjodr Ltd, presented his website and work on the 'East Coast War Channels'. Antony has recorded information on hundreds of wreck sites along the Yorkshire coast. All three projects encourage the public to get involved and help add to the historical records. See their websites for more details.



Jennifer Dunne talk to volunteers



Antony Firth shows websites

## SCARBOROUGH'S HISTORY



Fred Normandale has installed this lovely reminder of Scarborough's herring girls on the seafront. The sculpture is mounted on the wall of 33 Sandside, by the Chandlery and old boat yard. There is an explanation panel with details about the origins of Scarborough Fair.



SMHC volunteers set up a maritime history stand at the University of Hull's Community Day. Residents from all ethnic groups and walks of life were invited to share their passion and culture such as food, drink, music & history.

## 2016 REVIEW

At the end of our first year in new premises we look back at what we achieved. Thanks to so many of you we purchased and renovated an old building in need. We secured a bank loan and a tenant to repay it. We were accepted by the Heritage Lottery fund and given a £10,000 grant to install professional display equipment, archive & library shelving. One of our patrons, Lord John Beauclerk, opened our new centre and we soon became an accredited Children's University network partner. In June, we were awarded the Queen's award for volunteering and attended a garden party in Buckingham Palace and a presentation by the Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire. We have welcomed 7600 visitors (double the number in our old premises) and many new volunteers have joined the team. Our new website went live and receives an average of 4000 new visitors a month resulting in 30,000 pages being looked at. We have given 30 talks to schools and community groups totaling 1000 people. It has been quite a year!

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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