

**SCARBOROUGH MARITIME HERITAGE CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT
December 2022 – November 2023**



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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.

Trustees

M. Vesey, R. L. Rowley, D. Normandale, Lynn Shannon
Captain P Simpson MN, H. Roberts.

Committee

M. Vesey, L. Rowley, L. Auckland, J. Roberts, A Roberts, J King,
S Macdonald, Les Shannon, M Glass, R Sheader.

President

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

Patrons

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

Objectives

To educate the public about the history of Scarborough and especially the maritime aspects. To record the skills and knowledge of our maritime community. To store, digitise and display memorabilia donated to the Centre. To stage exhibitions and talks for the community.

Trustees Report

The trustees have monitored the activities undertaken by the SMHC from December 2022 to November 2023 and agree that they meet the charitable aims of educating the public. Our principal activity has been the provision of exhibitions to the public and historical information presented via our website. Volunteers from the community were involved in all aspects of our work, helping them gain new skills and confidence, building friendships and overcoming social isolation.

We work in partnership with the Children's University Network, Scarborough Borough Council, Scarborough Heritage Forum, Scarborough Archaeological & Historical Society, Scarborough Library, Scarborough Civic Society and Scarborough Museums Trust, Discover Yorkshire Coast tourism agency, local schools & colleges.

Members of the public continue to donate valuable memorabilia that our volunteers catalogue, digitise and display. Volunteers help answer family and local history enquiries from residents and via the Internet.

Our trustees keep our charity policies and risk assessment up-to-date including: data protection; whistleblowing; complaints; volunteers; safeguarding; and financial reserves. All can be seen on our website. We have public liability insurance, buildings insurance and Local Authority Landlord's Certification.

Main activities

From December 2022 to November 2023 we received nearly 5000 visitors to the Centre. Over 4000 people visited our website every month looking at over 30,000 different pages of information. Our Facebook posts reached over 3000 people each month.

2023 marked the 70th anniversary of the huge storm in 1953 that devastated the East Coast of Britain. Our exhibition looked at this and other big storms along with forecasting and shipwrecks.

From May to September our exhibition looked at the Scottish herring lasses, their lives and their work, where they came from and where they ended their journey on the east coast.

Our third exhibition focused on Anne Bronte, who died here and wrote about Scarborough.

Scarborough's annual summer maritime festival, Seafest, was held in July. We put on a broad ranging exhibition for the 10,000 visitors.

For the Armed Forces Day in June, two volunteers sold books on the seafront about Scarborough in World War Two.

We still get plenty of visitors to our 'History Box', an old BT red telephone box by the harbour, displaying history information and an audio guide.

One of our trustees worked closely with the Borough Council, Civic Society and Historical & Archaeological Society to finalise the Sea Wall Heritage Trail. 31 information 'portholes' were installed along the Marine Drive with additional researched information put on our website and a phone app. We published a booklet about the trail and an audio version was made available on the internet. Residents and visitors have been submitting their memories about Scarborough's past. The project was funded by a £40,000 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Funding.

Our volunteers continued to catalogue and digitise the huge collection of maritime photographs donated to us by Mr Scales and Mr Coull.

One of our volunteers has been helping repaint some of the old town's traditional black and white road signs that have become very rusty.

Funding

Our largest annual expense of £981 paid for the rental of an off-site overflow storeroom for our larger archived items. Insurance costs have risen but we had a fixed price energy contract so have not suffered too much from the huge leap in electricity prices. Donations from the public continue to support our work along with rental income from our tenant.

Towards the end of the year we raised extra funds to help with the purchase of new larger premises but this fell through. Most donors were happy for us to hold onto their money until we find another suitable building.

Conclusion

We would like to thank everyone who has supported the SMHC this year, especially our volunteers who gave up their valuable time to make it all possible.