

## **Scarborough Sea Wall Heritage Trail**

**Pamela Lumb, Originally of Batley but now from Beverley, East Yorkshire.**

### **Interview and Transcription by Huw Roberts**

*Today I'm talking to Pamela Lum. Born and bred in Dewsbury, Pam has fond memories of her visits to Scarborough as a child. She is also a lifelong follower of Yorkshire cricket and is a regular visitor to the North Marine Road ground.*

*I think you visited Scarborough with your parents as a child. Tell me about those holidays and what made them memorable.*

I remember coming to Scarborough with my Mum, Dad and my sister when I was a little girl, we always stayed at the Boston Hotel on the North side, which had fantastic views over the North Bay. Most years we came at Whitsuntide, which was the first week in June, so you would think that the weather would be lovely, but a lot of years we would come out of the hotel in the morning after breakfast and the fog horn would be going because there was a sea fret and you couldn't see a thing. But we just carried on down to the beach, with a lot of stuff, jackets on and everything and stayed there the whole day and had a lovely time. So whatever the weather, we went down onto the beach.

*And what would have been your holiday entertainment in those days?*

Well, as I say during the day, most days we would have been down at the beach just playing. My dad would build boats in the sand and he would dig a big hole and I'd run and jump into it and I would disappear when I was only a little girl, so we'd spend all day on the beach building sandcastles. And we visited Peasholm Park and we would go on the boating lake. My dad would take us around in a rowing boat, which I thought was wonderful. On a Monday or Thursday we'd go and watch the naval battle in the park. Now, when I was a little girl, that did used to scare me because the ships were quite big and the bangs from the battle were very loud, but I still liked to go.

In an evening we'd go back to Peasholm Park and I loved to do the tree walk where there would be all these displays in these cabinets with seaside scenes and sort of mechanical scenes and it was all lit up in lovely coloured lights and as a little girl, I thought that was magical, so I loved doing that in an evening. We'd also visit the outdoor lido which was ever so cold and the water was really cold in there and me and my sister used to go in with my dad, and my mum used to stay to look after our stuff. I remember once my dad was standing on the side of the pool just minding his own business, and my sister came up behind him and pushed him in and there were a few expletives, I think. At that point he was not impressed with my sister Susan pushing him into the water. We thought it was hilarious.

Donkey rides. Yes, I loved going on a donkey as a little girl, I loved to stroke the donkey as well as riding on its back. And we used to hire deckchairs most of the time since we were down there all day, but my mum did have a row with a deckchair attendant once because she thought that they were charging too much money for the deck chairs. I think in the end she gave in, but there was rather a row and we were all very embarrassed about that.

We used to go on the little train to Scalby Mills. I used to love doing that. My dad always wanted to be the driver of that train, so fond memories of the train. I remember one evening we went to have a drink at the Scalby Mills pub and my sister spilt cherryade down my white dress which I still remind her about to this day, so I wasn't impressed with that but we did like to go thereon the miniature train.

*And did you partake in any of the evening entertainment that was available to visitors?*

Yes, we used to go to the Floral Hall because that was only a short walk from the Boston Hotel and a lovely little theatre. You were close to the performance and I think we saw Tommy Cooper there twice over the years and Val Doonican as well. It really did attract the top entertainers of the day. We went to the Futurist Theatre as well, not as often, but a little bit and I remember taking my son to the Futurist when he was about seven or eight to see Ken Dodd who was hilarious. It was supposed to finish at 10:30 pm and the open top buses were waiting outside to bring us back to the North Bay and it was up to midnight when Ken Dodd actually let us go out. Steven by that time was fast asleep on my knee. But that was a good night's entertainment at the Futurist with Ken Dodd.

*You're also a fan of Yorkshire cricket. Tell me about your earliest memories of watching Yorkshire playing in Scarborough. When was that?*

My dad became a member of Yorkshire Cricket when I was about 11 years old, so that would be the mid-1960s and that was the great Yorkshire team of that time. I remember coming to Scarborough and seeing the likes of Brian Close, Freddie Trueman bowling fast. Phil Sharp catching slip catches like he just plucked them out of the air and put them in his pocket. Doug Padgett, Jimmy Binks wicketkeeper. It was a fantastic team to follow in the 1960s. So I remember watching Yorkshire play and winning their matches at Scarborough then and that was great. And I also came to the Scarborough Cricket festival in September when they would invite international tourists and I remember seeing the West Indian team with Clive Lloyd in it and Gary Sobers. So all the big stars used to come to Scarborough for the festival week or fortnight.

*So the North Marine ground, everybody seems to think that is very special. Why do you think that is?*

Well, it's so special because it's small and intimate. You can get close to the players wherever you're sitting. You feel as if you're nearly on the field together with the fielding team or batting with the batsmen because you're so close. They'll allow you on the playing field at lunchtime and the tea interval, which doesn't happen much these days, but it still happens in Scarborough. You're sitting in the ground, the seagulls circling, you can hear the little train hooting and in Peasholm Park, you can hear the naval battle going off. If the cricket ever gets boring, you can just nip out and in two minutes you're looking at a wonderful view over the sea and the North Bay. So it is a very special ground.

*And what particular memories do you have over the many years that you've been visiting the North Marine Ground?*

Well, the Yorkshire team memories, as I say, right from the 1960s with Yorkshire's special team and then Geoff Boycott playing fantastic innings there in the 1970s. I remember Ian Botham in a one day match. It was a John Player League match on a Sunday which was 40 overs a-side and he was playing for Somerset. It was a glorious sunny day so people were sitting in deck chairs and Ian Botham hit this huge six into the crowd. Unfortunately a lady was fast asleep in a deck chair and it hit her right on her nose and it broke her nose. So paramedics arrived, an ambulance arrived and she got taken to Scarborough Hospital, but the news was that the day after, Ian Botham sent this lady a huge bouquet of flowers in hospital to say sorry. So that was a memorable time. The most memorable match of all I think that I've ever seen, it has to be when Yorkshire won the County Championship there in 2001 with David Biass as captain. I think it was against Glamorgan and we bowled them out and it was just wonderful. The celebrations just went on all day at the ground. Everybody was so happy so that was a very special match.

*Pamela. Thank you very much for sharing your lovely memories with me today.*