

SCARBOROUGH MARITIME HERITAGE CENTRE

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2018 – March 2019



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Registered Charity 1144532

Company number 0675517

Chairman's report

The trustees have monitored the activities undertaken by the SMHC from April 2018 to March 2019 and agree that they meet the charitable aims of educating the public. Our principal activity has been the provision of exhibitions and to give talks to community groups and schools. Volunteers from the community have been involved in all aspects of our work, helping them gain new skills and confidence, build friendships and overcome social isolation. We welcomed 5300 visitors with many praiseworthy comments. Our website is continually updated with new information and we receive over 4000 new viewings a month.

We continue to be a part of the Children's University Network. We work in partnership with the Scarborough Sub-Aqua Club, Scarborough Heritage Forum, Scarborough Library, Scarborough Civic Society, Scarborough Museums Trust, Dean Road Cemetery and many other community groups.

Members of the public continue to donate valuable memorabilia that our volunteers catalogue, preserve and display. Volunteers help answer family and local history enquiries from residents and from around the world via the Internet. We received acknowledgments in several new books for our help given.

We have distributed over 10,000 publicity leaflets throughout the borough and have featured in many local newspaper articles.

Our trustees keep our charity policies and risk assessment up-to-date including: data protection guidelines; whistleblowing; complaints; volunteers; safeguarding; and financial reserves. All these are available to view in the SMHC and on our website. Each trustee has completed a declaration of interest statement.

Several of our younger volunteers completed Customer Service training certificates, now proudly displayed in the Centre. During the Christmas and New Year break our volunteers deep cleaned our exhibits and premises. Our volunteers enjoyed a Christmas party at the Scarborough Sub-Aqua Club.

From April to June our exhibition told the story of the old pleasure vessel, 'Coronia'. Thanks to our President we had previously unseen photographs, letters and newspaper clippings covering its wonderful history.

In July we put on another exhibition for Scarborough's Seafest event that attracted over 10,000 visitors. In September we took part in the national Heritage Open Days. Throughout the year we had historic information banners on display in an empty town centre shop front.

From July to September our exhibition showed a mixture of local historical topics chosen by our volunteers.

From October to January our exhibition commemorated the centenary of the World War One armistice. Our volunteers spent many hours researching the names and details of the men, women and children from Scarborough who died in the war. Our shop window had a 24-hour screen giving a roll call of 840 people who died.

From January to March 2019 our exhibition looked at the history of Scarborough's Fire Brigade and put on show some old fire fighting equipment.

The SMHC is a member of the Welcome to Yorkshire tourism agency. We have public liability insurance and Local Authority Landlord's Certification.

The SMHC Company Ltd was established in November 2008 and we opened to the public in November 2009. This year, therefore, marks our tenth AGM and tenth birthday. Here is a brief summary of some of our achievements:

- 40 exhibitions with an additional 12 special exhibitions for Seafest
- 40 newsletters produced and distributed to over 300 people each time
- 75 newspaper articles printed about us
- 100 volunteers have given over 25,000 hours of their time
- 150 talks given to community groups and schools
- 1000 individual donors have given artefacts, photos, documents etc
- 1000 donated books in our reference library
- 30,000 visitors welcomed and 50,000 leaflets distributed
- 100,000 photographs in our collection
- £150,000 raised and spent
- 500,000 viewings of our website
- Awarded the Queen's Award for volunteering in 2016

Funding

We continue to receive donations from visitors and members as well as from giving talks to groups. The previous tenant of our flat above the Centre moved out but they were soon replaced by a new young couple who have settled in well. Their monthly rental payments help us pay back our Charity Bank mortgage loan. Our largest annual expense is the rental of an off-site overflow storeroom for our larger archived items, models and books.

Conclusion

We would like to thank everyone who supported us this year, and during the past ten years, especially our volunteers who give up their valuable time to make it all possible. We look forward to celebrating our tenth year and beginning some new and exciting projects.

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, J.R.F. Spencer.

Trustees

M. Vesey, R. L. Rowley, D. Normandale, J.R.F. Spencer, Captain P Simpson MN, H. Roberts, B. Roberts.

Committee

M. Vesey, R. L. Rowley, D. Normandale, J.R.F. Spencer, L. Auckland, J. Roberts, A Roberts, J King, S. Kirby, S Macdonald.

President

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

Patrons

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

Objectives

To educate the public about the maritime history of Scarborough. To record and preserve the skills and knowledge of our fishing, boat building and sea faring community that are being lost. To carefully store, restore and display all memorabilia and exhibits donated to the Centre. To stage exhibitions and events that involve all of the community.