

Newsletter – December 2014



**SEASONS GREETINGS
TO ALL OUR
READERS**

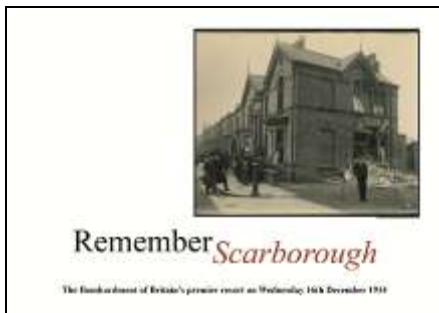


Fifth Birthday

In November we celebrated our 5th year of being open to the public. It has been an amazing journey and we have achieved so much: 15,000 visitors, over 100 talks to schools and community groups, 5 awards, 20 exhibitions, 100s of family and local history enquiries answered. To top it all off we have just published our first book, see below. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU goes out to all our volunteers and supporters who have made it possible. Here's to another 5 more!

Bombardment centenary

The SMHC are proud to publish a new book with never seen before images, facts and figures, for the centenary of the 1914 bombardment of Scarborough. SMHC volunteer, Michael Knaggs, has spent 2 years researching the book which is available for £7.99 and contains 60 pages of high quality images. Order your copy by post, email or telephone.



Bombardment centenary cont'd

On 16th December at 07.50 there will be a commemoration at the town hall. The mayor will welcome guests including a representative from the German Naval Memorial. SMHC chairman, Mark Vesey, will read the story of the bombardment followed by Cllr Tom Fox who will read the names of the 18 civilians killed in the raid. Rockets will be fired, including one for the mariners lost due to German mines laid in the raid. Doves will be released followed by the Remembrance speech and Last Post. At 11am a church service will be held at St Mary's and at 13.30 wreaths will be laid on a new centenary cairn at Dean Road cemetery, see artist's image below. The SMHC and Art Gallery exhibitions on the bombardment will be open all day from 10am to 5pm.



We should also not forget the 100 mariners who lost their lives due to sea mines laid by the Germans during the raid. The number of mariners killed in the First World War are estimated to be somewhere between 12,000 and 15,000 (They were not included in the 880,000 memorial poppies at the Tower of London). These include fishermen and merchantmen that worked to keep the nation fed and those who worked on minesweeping duty. The Mercantile Marine Memorial at Tower Hill in London (see photo above) has the names of over 12,000 men indexed by the ships they were serving in. The ships of the Merchant Navy are listed in alphabetical order followed by those of the Fishing Fleet, including the Scarborough vessel, 'Condor', sunk on 29/05/1915 by a mine, with the loss of 9 men.

Bombardment centenary cont'd

Please remember that we have a wonderful exhibition of 6 pull up panels about the bombardment that can be loaned out for free. Our volunteers can also come and give slide shows and talks to your group about the event or other aspects of Scarborough's maritime history.



VIOLA—The Life and Times of a Hull Steam Trawler is an engrossing read. Some 800 trawlers and their crews were engaged in the most dangerous civilian occupation in WW1. They were requisitioned from the Hull and Grimsby fleets to hunt U-boats and sweep for mines. One quarter of those vessels were lost, along with half their crew. *Viola* was one of this fleet and was built in Beverley. She survived the war and was sold into whaling, sealing, and exploration in the far South Atlantic. Today she lies rusting at the derelict whaling station of Grytviken in South Georgia. Available from Lodestar books (internet) £12.



Photo above left - Our 'Scarborough in world war two' exhibition is on display in the empty fish shop area of the Market Hall.



Above right – A recently donated crochet of a WW1 Dreadnought.

An example of one of the many enquiries received and answered

I lived at 5 Merchants Row from 1944 until 1952 when the houses were finally condemned. We were then sent to the Council Estate near Seamer...the old house was a wonderful place. I loved it and remember it with pleasure, the view was spectacular...I was shocked to hear from relatives when the row was pulled down. I have lived in Australia since 1957...If I lived in Scarborough I would be an enthusiastic member of your Society....Hoping you can help and it would not be too much trouble to write back. Geraldine Godbold (Nee Dillon). Australia.

Thank you for replying so quickly to my email. Absolutely fascinating stuff you sent, my daughter Jayne and I spent a lot of time over the weekend looking at the pictures and the map...Especially interesting to me was the fact that the bottom part of Merchants Row became Eastborough....As you can tell my years in Scarborough were very important to me. Thank you again.

Help Wanted

We are always looking for friendly volunteers who can spare a few hours a week to help with filing, scanning, fundraising, accounts or greeting the public. Please call Lindy Rowley for a chat on 01723 369361, pop in or email us.

The SMHC needs to raise £4000 to keep open in 2015. Anything you can give us will be gratefully received. Many thanks.

Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre

Registered English Charity: 1144532

Registered office: 36 Eastborough, Scarborough, YO11 1NJ

Tel: 01723 369361 Email: scarboroughmaritime@yahoo.com

Website: www.scarboroughsmaritimeheritage.co.uk