



Newsletter – March 2015

AGM

On Tuesday 24th March at 7.30pm, the SMHC will hold its AGM at the Angler's Club, Friar's Way, Scarborough. This will be followed by a slide show of images from the 100-year-old glass-plate photographs we have been given (see below). Please remember to renew your membership to continue supporting us and receiving your newsletter. Join us on the night to hear all our latest news and a presentation about our new premises. A bar for refreshments is available.

Voice Your Choice

A big thank you goes out to all those who voted for us at the Urban Area Forum's Voice Your Choice competition. Eighteen local charities and projects put bids in to win a share of the money available. The SMHC requested money to restore some 100-year-old glass plate photographs and to share them with the community, involving young and old alike. Our project was voted best overall and in the coming months this project will be up and running. If you would like to be involved let us know.



Glass plate photograph donated by Mr Les Day showing fishermen using a set of 'wheels' to load tourists into fishing boats.

New Home

As you all know we have been searching for 10 years to find permanent premises for our Centre and archive. We have identified and made an offer on a building in Eastborough but it does need a lot of work doing to get it into shape. We are currently working with local tradesmen to get a full estimate for the cost of the work that will take place over the summer. If all goes to plan we could be moving in at the end of this summer. Any donations you can give to help fund the repair work, which includes the roof, wiring, carpentry and plastering, would be very gratefully received. Donate online, by cheque or cash.

A few interesting anniversary dates this year:

350 years ago: 1665, Scarborough born Admiral Sir John Lawson died. (We will have an exhibition about this important figure later this year)
 280 years ago: 1735, Bathing machines first used in Scarborough.
 240 years ago: 1775, Scarborough Shipwrights Society founded.
 170 years ago: 1845, Railway station opened.
 150 years ago: 1865, Valley Bridge opened.
 135 years ago: 1880, Huge storms wreck many ships along the coast.
 110 years ago: 1905, North Bay pier collapses into the sea.
 100 years ago: 1915, South Bay pool was opened.
 75 years ago: 1940, Coronia evacuated troops from Dunkirk.



Scarborough – Britain's First Seaside resort with the first bathing machines and the first cliff lift.

Bombardment Centenary

The commemorations to mark the 1914 bombardment of Scarborough went well with the SMHC receiving media coverage on ITV and BBC, local radio & newspapers and some national daily newspaper websites. We have some nice photographs from the day available to view in the Centre and online. The limited edition book we printed has sold out. Our 'pop-up' bombardment exhibition is now on in the Market Hall.

Website

A massive thank you to Colin Coupland who set up and ran our website for the past decade. It was voted best maritime family history website some years ago and receives nearly 5000 visitors a week. Unfortunately Colin is no longer able to maintain the site so we are searching for a new webmaster who can take on the work. If you know someone who has used 'php coding' or would be willing to commit some time to upgrade or maintain our website then please get in touch.

Exhibitions

Our new exhibition of model boats and maritime paintings will be on display at the Centre from March to May. We will then host a display by the Scarborough Sub Aqua Club of artifacts from shipwrecks and the stories that go with them, from May to July.



Unveiled – the maritime themed Castle Ward community mosaic now on show in the garden of 'The Base', junction of Cross Street & Friar's Way.

Ships built in Scarborough in 1815, 200 years ago:

Mary, 49 Tons, Lugger, John Skelton.
Isabella, 40 Tons, Lugger, John Skelton.
General Phipps, 305 Tons, Snow, George Dale and George Smith.
Editha, 196 Tons, Snow, George Dale and George Smith.
Ann's Resolution, 215 Tons, Snow, George Dale and George Smith.
Lord Normanby, 188 Tons, Snow, TW.
Willing Mind, 50 Tons, Lugger, Christopher Smith.
Perseverance, 50 Tons, Lugger, Christopher Smith.
Hope, 50 Tons, Lugger, Christopher Smith.

RNLI Education Outreach

Scarborough's lifeboat service is one of the oldest in Britain. They are due to receive one of the first Shannon class boats. The lifeboat station has been closed until a larger one is built. RNLI heritage education volunteers have been working with school pupils to create art that will show the 200-year history and go on the building site hoardings. Volunteer, Tabz Nixon, said "Many thanks to the Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre the children were able to see how lifesaving equipment had developed...the project proved a massive success amongst the children...it has been a real pleasure working alongside the Maritime Heritage Centre and it has created indelible links between our organisations".

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 going in 2015. Anything you can donate to us would be very gratefully received. Thank you.

Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre

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