

Annual Report of Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society 2018-2019

This Annual Report covers the Society's year of 1st April 2018 until 31st March 2019

Registered Charity Number

1108962

Address

c/o The Street
12 Lower Clark Street
Scarborough
YO12 7PW

Administration

The Society and its property are administered and managed in accordance with the Constitution adopted at the Annual General Meeting on 4 April 2005. The Society is administered by members of the Committee, constituted in clause 6.0 of the Constitution, and by the Trustees.

Trustees

Trevor Pearson (Chairman of the Trustees), Martin Bland, Christopher Hall, Keith Johnston, Vanessa Milner, Simon Temlett, Linda Kemp

Committee 2017-2018

President	Trevor Pearson
Vice-Presidents	Christopher Hall Keith Johnston

Executive Officers

Chairman	Simon Temlett
Vice-Chairmen	Vanessa Milner, Mark Vesey
Secretary	Keith Johnston
Treasurer	Martin Bland

Committee	Gareth Davies Linda Kemp Emma Temlett Mark Franklin Mike Widdas Marie Woods
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Stephen Gandolfi
Daniel Wilson
Alison Spencer
Stewart MacDonald
Sue Ogilvy

The Committee appointed members to the following posts:

Editor of Transactions	Keith Johnston
Fieldwork	Christopher Hall / Marie Woods
Membership	Sue Ogilvy
Minutes	Emma Temlett
Programme	Trevor Pearson
Publications	Emma Temlett
Publicity	Mark Vesey
Social Media	Gareth Davies
Web master:	Linda Kemp

The Committee met formally on five occasions during the year. Stewart MacDonald and Sue Ogilvy were co-opted onto the Committee during the course of the year.

Objectives

The Society's objectives are set out in clause 3.1 of the Constitution and are:

To advance the education for the public benefit in the archaeological and local history of Scarborough and the surrounding area by the following:

- a. To increase and disseminate knowledge of and interest in the same.
- b. To undertake and support research into sites and archives of archaeological, architectural and historical interest, and the publication of the results of such researches.
- c. To encourage the identification, protection and preservation of such sites and archives.

How we carried out our objectives

a. Dissemination of knowledge

i) Lectures

The last lecture of the 2017 – 2018 Programme was delivered by Nicky Milner on recent excavations at Star Carr. This proved a very popular lecture with a large number of non-members attending. During the autumn of 2018 six lectures were delivered on a variety of archaeological and historical topics and since the New Year began a further five have taken place. All the lectures were well attended by both members and visitors alike.

The lectures presented were on a diverse range of topics listed in Annex 1 and on 4th February the Annual Members' Evening took place and talks were given on a variety of topics:

Mark Vesey	10 Years of the Maritime Heritage Centre
Clive Philips	The Secrets of St Mary's Church
Alison Spencer	Every Field Tells A Story
Simon Temlett	Tales from Two Tours

Prior to lectures, the screen and projector are utilised to show forthcoming Society activities to members and visitors alike in case they may have previously missed announcements.

The Society has updated the Microsoft Powerpoint software on the Society laptop in line with latest version and Mark Vesey, by sourcing the software through Tech Trust, was able to save over £100 on the standard pricing.

ii) Field excursions and other activities

The Society once again participated in the Heritage Open Days and put on a number of events through 6th – 9th September.

Chris Hall provided a talk around the model of medieval Scarborough in association with St Andrews United Reform Church.

Chris Hall and Marie Woods led tours around Ayton Castle in association with the Friends of Ayton Castle. The Society was present at the Castle with the Mini Digs and other information.

Dr Paul Elsam and John Oxley contributed a 'Owen In Scarborough Heritage Walk' exploring the places in Scarborough known to the war poet Wilfred Owen.

Phil Hibbard also led a number of walks looking at the impact of the 1914 German bombardment of Scarborough.

The Society is thankful to those members of the Society who make such a significant contribution to this annual event.

Unfortunately, due to a number of other commitments the Society could not attend the Scarborough Library History event but did attend the Library Fun Palace event on the 6th October. The Society's Mini Digs featured prominently at the entrance to the event and proved very successful. The Society is grateful to Gill Hodgson and other Society members for their participation.

The Friends Of Seamer Village marked the commemorations of the end of World War 1 with an exhibition at the Seamer Community Hall on the 3 – 4th November. Vanessa Milner and Keith Johnston made significant contributions to a very poignant exhibition.

iii) Publications

The Society's publications continue to be available for sale through Amazon and provides a number of sales from across the country. Local shops are also supplied regularly with publications. The Maritime Heritage Centre is a valuable source of revenue for the sale of publications and the Society is grateful for their ongoing support.

On average the Society's website receives 1,750 unique visitors per month which is a small increase on the previous year (previously 1,700). The main updates to the site are provided by the fieldwork team and to provide details on the Lecture Programme. Visitors to the

website can make enquiries of the Society for help or information and such requests have been received from all around the world. Enquiries are circulated first to the Committee and then if required to the wider Society membership via the mailing list. Prior to the introduction of the GDPR legislation, all people listed on the mailing list were contacted to explicitly opt in to receive Society mailshots. People could opt in to receive information on Society events and / or more general information, such as requests via the website. Those people who did not respond to the contact were purged from the mailing list. Every mailing sent by the Society contains an option to unsubscribe from the mailing list for either events or information.

The Society's Facebook page has 1,141 'likes' and 1,142 followers; this is an increase of over 12% from last year (1,011 'likes', 1,018 followers). The page promotes the Society's activities and advertises the Lecture Programme but also shares other news stories with an historical or archaeological aspect.

The previously produced Society leaflet is still available at Society events and is used to promote the Society and information on the history of Scarborough.

Following the 2018 AGM, Vanessa Milner gave a talk on 'The Country House at War' which she subsequently delivered to the local U3A and which generated interest in the Society's work and events.

The Society has also featured in several local newspapers in articles publicising the lecture programme and events. The Society also appeared on the local internet television station, Scarborough TV News, as part of the Scarborough Library Fun Palaces event.

b. Research

Since the last Annual Report the Society has continued to be very active in its archaeological fieldwork and a brief report on the various projects follows:

Resistivity meter

We purchased a resistivity meter with grant aid from the Land of Iron Project and held two training days in June for the society and members of Brompton Local History Society.

Raincliffe Woods

In March we produced a report on the work which had been carried out to date on this project and this is available on the web site. We also produced an Archaeological Project Design to inform our future work on this major landscape research project. Latterly we have been doing geo-chemical sampling on some of the platforms; trying to trace the water management system for the forge; analytical survey of the rocks in the quarries and topographical survey of the Forge site.

In September we gave a presentation to a meeting of the Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise (RWCE) about our work and in February some of the Board members of RWCE joined us on one of our survey days

Goathland Incline Top

In June 2018 we carried out a resistivity survey at Goathland Incline Top to assist the Land of Iron Project in gaining a better understanding of the structures which are there. We were

joined by our colleagues from Fridaythorpe, Fimber and Wetwang Archaeology Project (FFWAP) who carried out magnetometer survey and later we worked with Historic England in carrying a topographical survey. A report is in the course of preparation and will appear on the web site.

Hanging Grimston

In late July/early August, members of the Society again worked with the High Wolds Heritage Group (HWHG) to conduct a fourth season of excavations at the scheduled site of Hanging Grimston. Twenty-six members of the Society participated along with about thirty from the HWHG. Two trenches were opened. Again, supervision of the excavation trenches; supervision of finds processing; guidance and education of novice diggers and some aspects of the organisation were carried out by six members of the SAHS team under the overall direction of Historic England's Marcus Jecock. In 2018 the work was funded through a grant of £1,000 awarded to HWHG from the Aviva Community Fund. Other grants of £1,000 from the Royal Archaeological Institute and £500 from the Medieval Settlement Research Group were obtained which will be used for the extensive post excavation work necessary.

During what was otherwise a good summer, the planned Open Day had to be cancelled due to extremely stormy weather. We plan to return to this site in July/August 2019 for what is likely to be our last season and we recently learned that we have been awarded a further grant of £1,000 from the Mick Aston Fund for this project.

Brompton Castle Hill

The small excavation on Castle Hill reported in the last Annual Report coupled with our topographic survey encouraged us to apply for Scheduled Monument Consent to work in the main field. This was duly granted and in September we excavated four trenches here which substantially added to our knowledge of this site and raised a number of other questions. An open day was held jointly with the community of Brompton. We plan to return to this site in September 2019

There are currently 40 active members of the field team which represents about a quarter of the Society's membership.

The major historical research project conducted by the Society, led by Keith Johnston, into the relationship of Scarborough's visitors to the sea continues with regular meetings. A good number of people are involved and are pursuing a variety of lines of research.

During the year, the Society has continued its work on the re-publication of the Rosedale Mines and Railways book. The sub-committee, led by Keith Johnston, has continued with its work towards producing a revised version of the publication.

The Society is involved in planning activities, including a lecture and guided walks, for the visit of the Victorian Society to Scarborough in July 2019

c. Sites and archives

The Society has continued to work closely with the Scarborough Library Archives Group, continuing to catalogue its collection of local history resources. There has also been some exploration of the newspaper collection of the Scarborough Museums Trust.

Partnership working

Working in partnership with other organisations and community groups is important in the delivery of the Society's Objectives. During the year the Society worked in partnership with:

Brompton Local History Society – excavations at Brompton Castle

Friends of Ayton Castle – represented on the Committee, Heritage Open Days

Friends of Dean Road and Manor Road Cemetery – Heritage Open Days

Friends of Seamer Village

Fridaythorpe, Fimber and Wetwang Archaeological Project – archaeological geophysics

High Wolds Heritage Group – excavation and finds processing

North York Moors National Park – Land of Iron project

North Yorkshire County Library and the Friends of Scarborough Library – Archives Group

Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise – ongoing project work

Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre – publications

Scarborough Museums Trust – excavation archive

The Society is represented on the local Heritage Forum (Chris Hall, Keith Johnston and Marie Woods); on CBA Yorkshire (Trevor Pearson); on the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society (Keith Johnston); on the North Yorkshire Moors Archaeology Group (Chris Hall) and the North Yorkshire Moors Land of Iron Partnership Group (Chris Hall).

During the course of the year the Society was approached by the Saving South Cliff Gardens Heritage Lottery Funding Project which was seeking contributions to help raise £125,000 matched funding to secure a Heritage Lottery Grant. If successful, the Grant would be used to restore the South Cliff Gardens to their Victorian splendour. The Committee agreed to a Society contribution of £100 and subsequently the Project bid was successful.

The Society was approached by the East Riding Archaeological Trust for a contribution towards the purchase of a headstone for the influential archaeologist T.C.M Brewster whose grave has been unmarked since his death in 1984. The Committee agreed to donate £50 towards the purchase.

The Society would like to acknowledge the contribution of Kevin Cowie, whose employers have donated a laptop for the use of the fieldwork team to analyse the data provided by the resistivity meter.

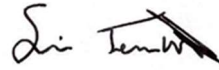
Membership

The Society has 134 paid up members at present. There are 10 life members and 3 institutional members. 140 paid in 2017, 120 paid in 2016, 114 paid in 2015, 122 paid in 2014, 129 paid in 2013, 137 in 2012 and 151 in 2011 & 2010. This shows a slight decrease on the previous year. 103 visitors paid to attend lectures to date.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trevor Pearson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line to its right.

Trevor Pearson
President of the Society
Chairman of the Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Temlett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line through the end.

Simon Temlett
Chairman of the Society

Annex 1 – Lectures

- 30th April 2018 **Recent excavations at the early Mesolithic site of Star Carr**, Nicky Milner
- 1st October 2018 **The History of the Rotunda Museum**, Jim Middleton
- 15th October 2018 **Ways of Seeing the Past: The use of reconstruction paintings in archaeology**, Judith Dobie
- 29th October 2018 **The Archaeology of the Isle of Man**, Claire Corkill
- 12th November 2018 **New perspectives on Neolithic flint mining and stone quarrying**, Pete Topping
- 26th November 2018 **The Search for the Battle of Brunanburh**, Clive Philps
- 10th December 2018 **The development of Scarborough's Armistice commemoration tradition**, Keith Johnston
- 7th January 2019 **Trust me, I'm a doctor – the sorry tale of a Filey and Hunmanby GP**, Trish McNaughton
- 21st January 2019 **Strata Florida – The Cistercians, the Abbey and the Legacy**, Marie Woods
- 4th February 2019 **Members' Evening**
- 18th February 2019 **How Scarborough's fishing families moved from downstreet to uptown**, Vivienne Ravis
- 4th March 2019 **Myths, Magic, Witches and Saints: the Folklore of some Objects in Whitby Museum**, Christiane Kroebe
- 18th March 2019 **The North York Moors National Park 'Land Of Iron' Project**, Maria-Elena Caldera