

Annual Report of Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society

2024-2025

This Annual Report covers the Society's year of 1st April 2024 until 31st March 2025

Registered Charity Number

1108962

Address

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Scarborough
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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

The Trustees have the ultimate responsibility for the good governance of the Society, proper financial management and to ensure the Charitable objectives are met.

At the AGM, Christopher Hall did not seek re-election as a vice-president of the society. He was thanked for all the hard work he had put in over the years to help establish the renowned reputation of the SAHS. It was proposed and agreed at a subsequent Committee meeting that he would remain a Trustee although no longer a committee member.

For 2024-2025 the Trustees are Trevor Pearson (Chair of the Trustees), Martin Bland, Christopher Hall, Stephen Gandolfi, Keith Johnston, Vanessa Milner, Simon Temlett

The Trustees held their annual meeting on 11th November 2024 when they examined and agreed the draft accounts for the financial year 2023-2024. The policies on Privacy, Safeguarding, Complaints and Reserves were reviewed and formally re-adopted.

Committee 2024-2025

President Trevor Pearson

Vice President Keith Johnston

Executive Officers

Chair Vanessa Milner

Vice Chair Mark Vesey

Secretary Simon Temlett

Treasurer Martin Bland

Committee

Rebecca Abberstein
Gareth Davies
Stephen Gandolfi
Elaine Jamieson
Stewart MacDonald
Emma Temlett
Andrew Volans
Lynda Welch

The Committee appointed members to the following posts:

Editor of Transactions Keith Johnston

Fieldwork Elaine Jamieson

Membership Rebecca Abberstein

Minutes Lynda Welch

Programme working group Simon Temlett, Elaine Jamieson, Keith Johnston, Andy Volans. Gareth Davies resigned during the course of the year.

Publications Emma Temlett

Publicity Mark Vesey

Social Media Gareth Davies

Web master Simon Temlett

The Committee met virtually on 4 occasions during the year. On 10 February Keith Johnston's resignation as editor of transactions was accepted.

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:

To increase and disseminate knowledge of and interest in the same.

To undertake and support research into sites and archives of archaeological, architectural and historical interest, and the publication of the results of such research.

To encourage the identification, protection and preservation of such sites and archives.

How we carried out our objectives.

a. Dissemination of knowledge

i) Lectures

Lectures throughout the year were held at the Salvation Army Hall but an earlier committee meeting decided to hold fewer lectures than previous years - mainly one per month, as sourcing good lecturers and different topics was becoming more difficult. Trevor Pearson stepped down from the role he had held for many years as programme secretary and a working group was established in his place. Thanks were given to Trevor for his perseverance and hard work on this. The idea was to organise a full programme throughout the year, with different activities, topics, ideas etc and venues each month to fill the gaps.

Where the speakers gave their consent, the lectures were recorded and uploaded to the Society's YouTube channel. Members are given access to the recording via an emailed private link in advance of subsequent publication to the general public.

ii) Field excursions and other activities

The Society, as part of the new programme, put on two events at the Beeforth Hive. The first, a Roman finds processing workshop, offered members the opportunity to handle and process local Roman finds, identifying and categorising them and looking the process of preparing a Portable Antiquities record. The Society is grateful to Robin Siddle for his work in facilitating this event.

The second workshop was entitled "Knowing Lime - The historic and current use of lime in building conservation" whereby members were invited to attend a conservation class designed to examine the remaining evidence and understand the ways in which lime mortars, plasters and washes can be used to safeguard historic buildings and ruins. The event was presented by Victoria Flintoff and Stephen Gandolfi (Society Trustee and Committee Member) from English Heritage Trust.

Both events were free to members and were fully attended and future workshops are being planned.

iii) Publications

The Society receives requests for articles published in past editions of *Transactions*. These enquiries are now redirected to the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/details/sahs>) where the entire back catalogue of Society publications is preserved and available for universal access. *The Guide to Historic Scarborough* was added also, last year.

The website has an integrated online store and current publications are available to be purchased directly from the website.

Regular trader orders are received from several bookstores, including ones across the country, and the Society notes its gratitude to Chris and Frances Hall for making deliveries to numerous outlets in the Rosedale area, including the National Park Centre at Danby. Once again, the Society is grateful to the Maritime Heritage Centre for their ongoing support in stocking Society publications.

Volume 47 of the Society's *Transactions* will be published in time for the 2025 AGM.

iv) Web site and social media

The Society's Facebook page has 3,600 likes and 4,800 followers. Gareth Davies, responsible for social media, makes daily posts to the Facebook page which generates a great deal of interest and discussion.

The Society's YouTube channel has 390 subscribers and the publicly listed videos have a total of over 15,000 views. The back catalogue of previously streamed online lectures forms part of an archive available to members.

The main updates to the Society website are provided by the fieldwork team and to provide details on the Lecture Programme. Visitors to the website can make enquiries to 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. During the course of the year, a new version of the website has been released which includes an integrated online store for publications, potential for a private area for members, options to sign up to the mailing list. The site incorporates a ticketing platform which allows to control numbers for events and the potential for paid for events.

The Society maintains a mailing database for both members and those with an interest in Society activities. 470 individuals are subscribed to the mailing list. Every mailing sent by the Society contains an option to unsubscribe from the mailing list for either events or information in accordance with current GDPR legislation.

b. Research

Archaeological fieldwork

The fieldwork team continued its association with the 'Big Ideas By The Sea' environmental and creative festival through its involvement in the Big Dig. An excavation was once again carried out on an open area at Paradise with Society members excavating a large trench. Community engagement was a major component with a number of local schools visiting and pupils participating in the excavations. The public could also sign up to work alongside members of the field team and all of the available tickets, for which there was no charge, were taken up in very short order.

Other smaller scale research surveys and projects have been undertaken in the local area at the villages of Wilton and Brompton and reports will be published for free download from the website shortly. The report on survey work at Allerston in January 2024 was published in March 2025.

Historical research

Chris Hall has worked extensively on a heavily revised and updated version of *Architects and Civil Engineers of Scarborough: 1800 to 1914* and the Society has committed to publish the work on completion. The book is in the final stages of production, with a foreword by Jane Grenville, numerous illustrations and a cover featuring Cuthbert Brodick's painting of the Grand Hotel.

The Society, represented by Vanessa Milner worked in association with Austen Sleightholme from the Archive Group, on a trial event at the Library called 'Down Memory Lane'. The idea was for members of the public to come along to the Library to discuss, reminisce and share photographs and stories of their experience of some aspect of Scarborough's history. The first event was themed on 'Gala Land', the no longer extant underground entertainment complex. A good number of people attended and future events are planned. A talk based on the event is to be added to the programme.

Outreach

The Society participated in the Big Day Out at the Castle where members of the Society put on the ever-popular mini digs, whereby children can undertake a miniature excavation to discover real

archaeological artefacts. The mini digs were also at the Dean Road and Manor Road Cemetery Fair and the Society is grateful for Gill Hodgson for facilitating the digs.

In May the Society organised a guided walk of the area of the medieval town for members and friends learning about past archaeological discoveries and excavations. During May and June visits were organised for Society members to the University of York excavation at Skipsea Castle and to the Fridaythorpe area to look at some of the archaeological features of the landscape surrounding the village led by members of the Fridaythorpe, Fimber, Wetwang Archaeological Project.

On 20 April and 13th October 2024 members of the Society gave tours of Raincliffe Woods organised by Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise and advertised to the general public as a 'Walk into the Past'. Each was attended by about 20 members of the public and gave them an opportunity to visit a number of archaeological sites discovered by the Society's survey work in the woods.

The Society also receives enquiries via Facebook and the website. These are circulated to members of the committee and responded to where possible.

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.

Partnership working

The Society is a partner in the 'Sea Wall Heritage Trail – Portholes in Time' project in which 31 engraved granite information panels have been installed along the Marine Drive. The Scarborough Maritime Heritage, as the lead organisation, now has a guide book available for purchase in addition to an audio guide, website information and also a mobile phone application.

The Society also works in partnership with other organisations and community groups, and this is important in the delivery of the Society's Objectives. During the year the Society worked in partnership with:

Big Ideas by the Sea – Big Dig

British Association for Local History – publicising Society work and events

Brompton Local History Society – Ongoing work in the Brompton area

Friends of Ayton Castle

Friends of Dean Road and Manor Road cemeteries -mini digs

Heritage Adventures – Big Dig

North York Moors National Park

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

Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise – Outreach events and ongoing project work

Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre

The Society is represented on the local Heritage Forum (Chris Hall and Keith Johnston); on the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society (Keith Johnston); on the North Yorkshire Moors Archaeology Group (Chris Hall).

Membership

Membership fees were retained at the 2023-2024 level for the 2024-25 year.

The Society currently has 180 paid up members and 9 life members. This compares to 168 members in 2023/24, 163 in 2022/23, 154 in 2021/22, 128 in 2019/20, 134 in 2018/19, 140 in 2017/18, and 120 in 2016/17. No membership subscriptions were taken during the pandemic 2020/21.

Non-members can pay on the evening to attend talks and at the time of the report, in total 135 visitors have paid on entry to the six talks that have taken place.

Members can opt to pay direct in the Society bank account and payment reconciled with the membership number. The Society notes its gratitude to Rebecca Abberstein and Martin Bland for once again facilitating and administering this procedure.

Signed

Trevor Pearson,
President of the Society
Chair of the Trustees

Vanessa Milner
Chair of the Society

Appendix 1 – 2024-2025 Programme

8 April 2024	<p>Following the formal business of the Annual General Meeting, members were presented with a series of short talks which provided updates on a number of Society activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chris Hall - Coprolite Mine at Speeton• Elaine Jamieson - Skipsea Castle excavation 2023• Keith Johnston - Proposals for SAHS historical research projects• Andy Volans - Brompton garden digs 2023• Martin Bland - Brompton 'Eastanby' excavation 2023
21 October 2024	<p>Eastfield, Scarborough: A multi-period landscape and Roman Period mystery <i>Pete Wilson</i></p>
25 November 2025	<p>Forgotten Vikings – North Yorkshire Perspective <i>Alex Harvey</i></p>
16 December 2024	<p>The Forgotten Casualties for the 1914 Scarborough Bombardment <i>David Pendleton</i></p>
20 January 2025	<p>Where Power Lies: the archaeology of transforming elite centres in the landscape of Medieval England <i>Dr Duncan Wright</i></p>
3 February 2025	<p>Soldiers and Militiamen in Scarborough c. 1850-1914 <i>Keith Johnston</i></p>
10 March 2025	<p>Exploring Kinship at the Iron Age cemetery of Wetwang Slack, East Yorkshire <i>Professor Ian Armit</i></p>
24 March 2025	<p>Members Evening:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ten Significant Graves in St Oswald's Church, Filey <i>Catherine Welch</i>2. The hanging Stones <i>Raymond Clarke</i>3. The Street Where You Live <i>John Grant</i>4. The Battle of San Pietro Infine or What I did on My Holidays <i>Andy Volans</i>
14 April 2025	<p>Annual General Meeting</p>

OTHER EVENTS

28 January, 2025

Down Memory Lane – Gala Land-A discussion group at the Library Hub

Austen Sleightholme/Vanessa Milner