

Annual Report of Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society 2019-2020

This Annual Report covers the Society's year of 1st April 2019 until 31st March 2020

Registered Charity Number

1108962

Address

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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.

For 2019-2020 the Trustees are Trevor Pearson (Chairman of the Trustees), Martin Bland, Christopher Hall, Keith Johnston, Vanessa Milner, Simon Temlett, Dan Wilson.

The Trustees decided that, in addition to meetings held before the main Committee meetings, they would hold an annual meeting. That was held on 9th December 2019 when the Trustees examined and agreed the draft accounts and formally adopted policies on Privacy, Safeguarding, Complaints and Reserves.

Committee 2019-2020

President Trevor Pearson

Vice-Presidents Christopher Hall, Keith Johnston

Executive Officers

Chairman Dan Wilson

Vice-Chairmen Vanessa Milner, Mark Vesey

Secretary Keith Johnston

Treasurer Martin Bland

Committee

Gareth Davies

Stephen Gandolfi

Stewart MacDonald

Sue Ogilvy

Alison Spencer

Emma Temlett

Simon Temlett

Mike Widdas

Marie Woods

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 Simon Temlett

The Committee met formally on five occasions during 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 2018 – 2019 Programme was delivered by Andrew Volans on "Digging Hill 80: Crowd Funded Archaeology on the West Front". This proved a very popular lecture with a large number of non-members attending.

During the autumn of 2019 six lectures were delivered on a variety of archaeological and historical topics. A further 4 have taken place also on a variety of archaeological and historical topics. 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 The Annual Members' Evening took place on 3rd February 2020 and talks were given on a variety of topics:

John Oxley - The Scarborough big dig

Alison Spencer – My hero and his playground

Simon Temlett – Ginger Lacey WW2 fighter ace

Peter Rawson – The Reverend George Young and his battle with time

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 – 14th 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 relevant information.

The Society was also represented at the Southburn Archaeological Museum's Open Day on the 30th March 2019 where Marie Woods, Phil Hibbard, Simon and Emma Temlett discussed and promoted the Society's activities and work to visitors.

In July 2019 the Society participated in a number of ways in the AGM weekend of the Victorian Society, including Keith Johnston giving the Friday evening lecture and he and other committee members [Stephen Gandolfi, Stewart MacDonald, Simon and Emma Temlett] guiding walks round historic Scarborough on the Saturday afternoon.

The Society is thankful to those members who made a contribution in some way, to the various events throughout the year that the society was involved with.

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 1,800 unique visitors per month which is a small increase on the previous year (previously 1,750). 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 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. 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 1,621 'likes' and 1,666 followers, this is an increase from last year 1,141 'likes', 1,142 followers. This large jump is due to the high-profile Scarborough Castle excavation receiving wide scale press attention and Marie Woods regularly posting updates on this and other excavations.

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 2020 AGM, there was a brief summary of the current historical and archaeological research being carried out by various society members.

The Society has also featured in several local newspapers in articles publicising the lecture programme and events.

Fieldwork

Since the last Annual Report, the Society has continued with a very active archaeological fieldwork programme. There are currently 40 active members of the field team which represents about a quarter of the Society's membership. A brief report on the various individual projects follows: -

Scarborough Castle

Over two long weekends in May/June 2019 we worked with the English Heritage Trust to undertake a small excavation in the grounds of the Castle. The aim of the excavation was to test the idea that a large flat-topped mound in the outer bailey of the castle is a dump of spoil from an abandoned plan to construct a large playing field in 1926. We found that the mound is probably of two phases beginning with a spoil dump from the 1921-5 excavation of the Roman Signal Station which was then added to in 1926 with spoil from levelling the north end of the playing field. As well as the dig, the Society also arranged activities for children with the 'mini-digs' proving very popular. There was someone on hand at all times to talk to the visitors about what we were doing. Over the course of the six days of the dig nearly 800 people came to visit the excavation. It also featured in the local paper and radio and on the BBC Look North. A report on this excavation has been prepared and this can be accessed through the Society's web site.

Hanging Grimston

In late July/early August 2019, members of the Society again worked with the High Wolds Heritage Group (HWHG) for a fifth season of excavations at the scheduled site of Hanging Grimston. Twenty-five members of the Society participated along with 18 from the HWHG. Three trenches were opened this year. 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. This project has benefitted from two grants from the CBA Mick Aston fund, a grant of £1000 from the Royal Archaeological Institute, a grant of £500 from the Medieval Settlement Research Group (these to be used for the extensive post excavation work necessary) and a grant of £1000 awarded to HWHG from the Aviva Community Fund. We held a well-attended Open Day on 28th July 2019.

Brompton Castle Hill

We obtained Scheduled Monument Consent for a second season of work at Brompton Castle Hill and we returned over two long weekends in September 2019 when we excavated four more trenches which have further added to our knowledge of this site – and raised a number of other questions. A well-attended open day was held jointly with the community of Brompton during the course of their Heritage weekend. A report on the excavation is currently being prepared and will be available through the web site.

Raincliffe Woods

The last Annual Report referred to survey work carried out at the Forge site, in June 2019 we published a report on that work and this can be accessed through the Society's web site. In November 2019 we carried out a trial excavation and environmental sampling at a mound off Low Road been which we think might be a bloomery site. This gave us an initial insight into this mound and further work will ensue.

Through contact made by Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise, with whom we work, we are hoping that some geography students from Sheffield Hallam University will use the work done during their field- school .to provide some insights into Forge Valley and its forge

Goathland incline Top

Following the geophysical and topographical surveys previously reported, in March/April 2020 we will be carrying out an excavation at the engine house site in collaboration with the North York Moors National Park's Land of Iron project. Up to 10 of the National Park's own volunteers will be joining us for this

Outreach

In addition to the open days at Hanging Grimston and Brompton Castle Hill and the public engagement at Scarborough Castle, in January one of the field officers, Marie Woods, gave a presentation on archaeology to the residents of Jazz Court Eastfield. This was well received.

Simon Temlett gave two talks to the pupils of year 6 at Seamer Primary School on Star Carr using artefacts loaned by Heritage Adventures Ltd.

Marie Woods went to Brompton village school where class 3 helped to process/ record finds that were excavated, from the Brompton Castle Hill excavations.

ii) Historical research

During the year two historical research groups have met and discussed work done by participants on aspects of the history of Scarborough and district. One, now disbanded because it has done all that it usefully can, was on the relationship of Scarborough's visitors to the sea. The other was intending to update the society's publication on *Rosedale Mines and Railway* but was unable to do so because of copyright difficulties. However valuable work has been done and it is intended to publicise this in the future.

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

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 and finds processing

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

Fridaythorpe- Fimber 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, Festival of Archaeology

The Victorian Society – involvement in its AGM Weekend at Scarborough

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).

Membership

The Society has 128 paid up members at present and 111 visitors have paid to attend lectures so far. There are 10 life members and 3 institutional members. 138 members paid in 2019, 140 paid in 2018, 120 paid in 2017, 114 paid in 2016. This shows a slight decrease on the previous year.

Signed:

Trevor Pearson

President of the Society

Chairman of the Trustees

Dan Wilson

Chairman of the Society