

Annual Report of Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society

2023-2024

This Annual Report covers the Society's year of 1st April 2023 until 31st March 2024

Registered Charity Number

1108962

Address

c/o 4c Dunslow Court
Eastfield
Scarborough
YO11 3XT

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 2023-2024 the Trustees are Trevor Pearson (Chair of the Trustees), Martin Bland, Christopher Hall, Keith Johnston, Vanessa Milner, Simon Temlett and Sue Ogilvy (resigned during the course of the year).

The Trustees held their annual meeting on 28th November 2023 when they examined and agreed the draft accounts for the financial year 2022-2023. The policies on Privacy, Safeguarding, Complaints and Reserves were reviewed and formally re-adopted.

Committee 2023-2024

President Trevor Pearson

Vice Presidents Christopher Hall, Keith Johnston

Executive Officers

Chair Simon Temlett

Vice Chairs Vanessa Milner, Mark Vesey

Secretary Keith Johnston

Treasurer Martin Bland

Committee

Rebecca Abberstein – formally co-opted during the course of the year

Gareth Davies

Stephen Gandolfi

Elaine Jamieson
Stewart MacDonald
Sue Ogilvy - resigned during the course of the year
John Oxley MBE
Alison Spencer
Emma Temlett
Andrew Volans

The Committee appointed members to the following posts:

Editor of Transactions	Keith Johnston
Fieldwork	Christopher Hall / Elaine Jamieson
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 virtually on 10 occasions during the year. During the year, Sue Ogilvy stood down from the Committee and from her role as Membership Secretary for personal reasons. The Society would like to record its thanks for Sue's extremely valuable contribution to the Society in multiple roles over many years. Rebecca Abberstein was co-opted to the Committee and was appointed to the role of Membership Secretary.

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

Due to refurbishment, the Library was unavailable for a period to host lectures. After investigating a number of possible venues (the Society expresses its gratitude to Mark Vesey for leading on this) the Scarborough Salvation Army Hall was ultimately chosen as an alternative. Following a survey of the

membership and discussions within the committee, it was decided to return to the Salvation Army Hall for the 2023/24 lecture series.

The Society invested in a new laptop and also enrolled in a Microsoft Programme for Non Profits which provides software, at massively reduced cost, to charitable institutions. Visiting speakers therefore have access to the latest version of Powerpoint running on suitable hardware in order to present their talks.

ii) Field excursions and other activities

iii) Publications

In association with the Land of Iron Project in 2021 the Society re-published a heavily revised version of *Rosedale Mines and Railway*. The National Park incurred the entire production cost for the publication with the Society responsible for the sale of the book. Contractually all profits would be donated back to the National Park following the Society being re-imbursed for legitimate costs such as storage, publicity and distribution. The first print run netted a profit of £7,500 and these monies are currently held by the Society and designated as Restricted Funds. This money is to be dispersed to the National Park at their request once they have created the necessary mechanism for its use.

As part of the contract, subsequent print runs of the book can be made by the Society at its own expense and all profits retained. The Society has now produced a second print run of the book, ordering an additional 2,000 copies and these are currently held in the Society's stores. The cover price of the book was raised to £10 (previously £8) as the stock held will last the Society for some years to come. All revenues derived from the sales are retained by the Society for its own use.

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. During the course of the year *The Guide to Historic Scarborough* was also added to the archive following the decision not to reprint.

The Society continues its use of the SumUp online store to facilitate purchases from across the country. Visitors to the Society website public are redirected to the store where they can purchase publications.

Regular 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.

The Society published a summary on its fieldwork projects in 2022 and 2023 in Volume 11 of the Council for British Archaeology Yorkshire (CBAY) digital annual publication series called *Forum*. Restricted to members of CBAY for a year, the volume will be freely available to the general public to download after February 2025.

iv) Web site and social media

The Society's Facebook page has 3,100 'likes' and 3,400 followers. The Society's YouTube channel has 327 subscribers, and the publicly listed videos have a total of 11,200 views. The back catalogue of previously streamed online lectures forms part of an archive available to members. With the return of in person lectures, it was intended to record these and make them available online. A number of

lectures were made available to view but the time required to edit and publish the videos proved unsustainable.

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. A new version of the website is currently under development and the intention is to release this later in 2024.

The Society maintains a mailing database for both members and those with an interest in Society activities. 441 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.

The Facebook page promotes the Society's activities and advertises the Lecture Programme but also shares other news stories with an historical or archaeological aspect. Facebook posts regularly achieve over 1,000 views with many hundreds of engagements.

b. Research

Archaeological fieldwork

The field team has again had a busy and fulfilling year

Over a four-week period at the end of April/early May 2023, 15 members of the field team assisted at the University of York training excavation at Skipsea castle working on both Mesolithic and early-medieval parts of this complex site. We contributed over 600 hours of work on this project

At the end of May 2023, we continued our association with the Big Ideas By The Sea environmental and creative festival through our active involvement with the Big Dig which was again carried out on the open area at Paradise, a site we have been involved with before. In addition to excavating a large trench, Society members helped with the schools and members of the public participating in the community aspect of work at this site. We helped with an open day, including guided tours and 'mini-digs'.

We have expanded our work at Brompton by looking at the wider landscape. In July we held a successful weekend of test pitting in gardens and we are working on plans to repeat that by opening up trenches in a new group of gardens in the coming months. The discovery of Roman and medieval pottery in several gardens in 2023 encourages the hope that we might be able to locate the early areas of settlement within the village. In September/October we also carried out trial excavations to the east of the village in an area called Eastanby to test the degree of archaeological survival adjacent to an area where there was a concentration of cropmarks.

Following on from our work on the manor site at Brompton Castle Hill, we have developed a project to survey the other known medieval manor sites on the north side of the Vale between Pickering and Seamer to create the first detailed record of their layout. In January 2024 we completed an earthwork survey of the manor site at Allerston, a site the society was first involved with in the 1960s

During the year we produced reports on archaeological surveys at Aldby Park near Buttercrambe, Gillingwood Hall and a Coprolite mine at Speeton. As usual our reports are available on the Society's web site and are deposited with the relevant Historic Environment Record and the Historic England

Library in Swindon. We have finished uploading a back log of our reports to the Archeological Data Service

Historical research

The results of recent historical research can be seen in the latest volume of *Transactions*.

There have been no projects carried out by groups of SAHS members in the past year, though some members are researching individually, for example Keith Johnston on Scarborough pub history. All the Society's contributions to our knowledge and understanding of the past of Scarborough and district have been made by archaeologists.

Keith Johnston is standing down as Secretary of the Society in order to be able to spend more time on his own research and on the editing of *Transactions*. At the forthcoming AGM he will outline plans for research projects involving members of the Society in order to promote historical research and writing.

Outreach

As reported above, Members of the Society took an active role in the two-week Scarborough Big Dig held at the end of May 2023. The Big Dig is part of the annual 'Big Ideas by the Sea' event, and aims to give local residents and school groups a chance to try working on an excavation and learn about the history and archaeology of the town.

On 28th May 2023 Society members gave a guided tour to a group of Ukrainian refugees as part of the Scarborough Sunflower Appeal's initiative to help introduce these families to their new adopted home in Scarborough. That same day some of the Ukrainian children eagerly participated in the Society's Big Dig.

On 19th August 2023 members of the society took part in the Secret Wood event in Raincliffe Woods. The Society had a stall on which was displayed publications and some finds from past excavations giving us the opportunity to explain to visitors something about the archaeological discoveries we have made in the woods. Our ever-popular mini-digs attracted a great deal of interest from families attending the event.

On 23rd March 2024 members of the Society gave a tour of Raincliffe Woods organised by Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise and advertised to the general public as a 'Walk into the Past'. This gave an opportunity to visit a number of archaeological sites discovered by the Society's survey work in the woods.

On the 9th September the Society was the lead organiser for the Ayton Castle open day as part of the national Heritage Open Days including min-digs, a display of 3D imagery and publications sales. 105 people took the opportunity to have a guided tour inside the Castle tower and 29 participated in a Guided walk of wider archaeological landscape.

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 – Partners 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 – Heritage Open Days 2023 and represented on the Committee

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 2022-2023 level for the 2023-24 year.

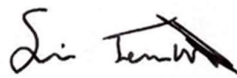
The Society currently has 168 paid up members and 8 life members. This compares to 163 members in 2022/23, 154 in 2021/22, 128 in 2019/20, 134 in 2018/19, 140 in 2017/18, and 120 in 2016/17. No membership subscriptions were taken during pandemic 2020/21.

Members are now supplied with a printed membership card and number to help with the processing of membership payments. Members can opt to pay direct in the Society bank account and payment reconciled with the membership number. The Society notes its gratitude to Sue Ogilvy and Martin Bland for once again facilitating and administering this procedure.

Signed:



Trevor Pearson
President of the Society
Chair of the Trustees



Simon Temlett
Chair of the Society

Appendix 1 – 2023-2024 Programme

2nd October 2023	Artefacts and activities of the Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre <i>Mark Vesey</i>
16th October 2023	Blood from a Stone: Lipids, Pottery and Science in the Northern European Mesolithic <i>Andrew Langley</i>
30th October 2023	Footmarks: A Journey into Our Restless Past <i>Jim Leary</i>
13th November 2023	Medicine in World War One <i>Andrew Volans</i>
27th November 2023	North York Moors Association and The North York Moors – Their History <i>Raymond Clarke</i>
8th January 2024	The Battle of the Braes and the Isle of Skye crofter's revolt 1882 <i>Stewart MacDonald</i>
22rd January 2024	Ancient Monument Conservation in the North of England – York Bar Wall and Beyond <i>Stephen Gandolfi</i>
5th February 2024	Members Evening
19th February 2024	A Yorkshire Year: 365 Days of Folklore, Customs and Traditions <i>Catherine Warr</i>
4th March 2024	Local churches in the Anglo-Norman Landscape <i>Aleksandra McClain</i>
18th March 2024	A celebration of the work of local historian Dr. Jack Binns <i>Various speakers</i>
8rd April 2024	AGM
22th April 2024	When the American War of Independence came to the Yorkshire Coast <i>Kim and James Hodgson</i>