

## **Castle Foot Swim**

The Castle Foot Swim originates from about 1910 and has continued with breaks for the wars until 2003. The building of the new sea wall means that the starting point is no longer accessible. Originally the swim was for personal achievement only but over the years it developed into a race but still with participants who entered purely for the satisfaction of completing the swim. The racers liked to have calm conditions so that they could maintain their stroke whereas the stronger swimmers preferred rougher conditions. The date of the race has varied over the years and has occurred in the months of June to October.

After the Second World War the Castle Foot Swim was restarted in 1950 by the efforts of the Feather family who were training for an attempt to swim the channel. During the 1960's and 70's the swim attracted swimmers from as far away as Rotherham and the Huddersfield areas. Pam Morgan who provided much of this information has competed some 20 times from 1952 to 2003, the last occasion of the race. In 1998 the Centenary anniversary of the Scarborough Swimming Club many swimmers from the 1960's and 70's came out of retirement to take part.

The youngest swimmer of the Castle Foot is David Morgan, the son of Pam Morgan, who swam the Foot at 8 years of age on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 1972. David went on to become the youngest person to swim the English Channel. He also completed a four way swim of the Castle Foot, one lap breaststroke, one backstroke, one butterfly and finally a lap of crawl.

The photo shows the swimmers for the race in the late 1960's. From left to right Norman Abraham, John Cooper the donor, Ken Young, Peter Nightingale, Mick Emerson, Barbara Devonport, George Vasey, Sam Greetham, John Mitchel, Bill Cryer and Ted Pearson.