



Henry Marshall's Amusements

Jason Marshall's great grand father was an elephant trainer and his great grandmother a sword swallower. They worked in a travelling circus as did Jason's father. Their life was about moving from town to town week after week. Eventually the travelling circus became a travelling fairground. In 1979 Henry Marshall decided to settle in Scarborough and rented the Windmill site, now an empty piece of ground. The building had amusements and a fantastic model railway on the top floor. Henry Marshall owned and operated other sites including the Olympia, now Fantasy Forest, a ghost train where Maynard's sweet shop/Gilly's Amusements is and in 1987 they purchased the last building on Sandside at the foot of the castle opposite Lunar Park. They spent a lot of time refurbishing the amusements and in 1994 invested £1 million in a waxworks exhibition called "The Millenium". It was a walk through experience showing 1000 years of Scarborough's history. In 2002 the exhibit closed due to a lack of visitors. Jason feels the prosperity of the town has fallen along with the visitor numbers. Many families come to Scarborough for a day rather than staying a full week. Computers in many households means that people can play video games at home. At one time, 50% of the machines used to be video games, now there are only a few in the arcade. Most of the machines are mechanical slot machines, penny falls, one arm bandits etc.