

# Annual Report of Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society 2017-2018

This Annual Report covers the Society's year of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

## Registered Charity Number

1108962

## Address

c/o The Street

12 Lower Clark Street

Scarborough

YO12 7PW

## 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

Trevor Pearson (Chairman of the Trustees), Martin Bland, Christopher Hall, Keith Johnston, Vanessa Milner, Simon Temlett, Linda Kemp

## Committee 2017-2018

President Trevor Pearson

Vice-Presidents Christopher Hall

### Executive Officers

Chairman Simon Temlett

Vice-Chairmen Vanessa Milner, Mark Vesey

Secretary Keith Johnston

Treasurer Martin Bland

Committee  
Gareth Davies  
Linda Kemp  
Emma Temlett  
Mark Franklin  
Mike Widdas  
Marie Woods

Stephen Gandolfi

Daniel Wilson

Alison Spencer

The Committee appointed members to the following posts:

Editor of Transactions	Keith Johnston
Fieldwork	Christopher Hall / Marie Woods
Membership	Simon / Emma Temlett
Minutes	Emma Temlett
Programme	Trevor Pearson
Publications	Emma Temlett
Publicity	Mark Vesey
Social Media	Gareth Davies
Web master:	Linda Kemp

The Committee met formally on five occasions during the year. Daniel Wilson and Alison Spencer were co-opted onto the Committee during the course of the year.

During the course of the year the Society received the very sad news of the passing of former Committee member and stalwart of the Society, Steve Bence. Steve was a prominent member of the digging team and his contributions to the Society, the High Wolds Heritage Group, the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society and CBA Yorkshire will be sorely missed. It is testament to the high esteem in which Steve was held that, despite truly atrocious weather conditions, his funeral was exceptionally well attended.

## 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*

During the autumn of 2017 seven lectures were delivered on a variety of archaeological and historical topics and since the New Year began a further six have taken place. 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 and on 5<sup>th</sup> February the Annual Members' Evening took place and talks were given on a variety of topics:

Stewart MacDonald    Scarborough in World War II

Chris Evans                Sleights Moor

Stephen Gandolfi        One or two Italian Cities

In addition, Alison Spencer provided an update on the FFWAP (Fridaythorpe, Fimber and Wetwang Archaeological Project) excavations to which the Society provided assistance and Mark Vesey outlined the Maritime Heritage Centre's plans for the commemorations to mark the end of World War I.

Prior to lectures, the screen and projector are utilised to show forthcoming Society activities to members and visitors alike in case they may have previously missing announcements.

#### *ii) Field excursions and other activities*

On 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August, members of the Committee manned a stand at the Rotunda Birthday Event which helped publicise the Society and its activities and the event was well attended by the public. The feedback from those attending the event was fed back to the Committee to review the materials, methods used to promote the Society.

Over the weekend of the 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September the Society was once again actively involved with Heritage Open Days, organised locally through the Heritage Forum. This year the Society produced its own leaflet to be included in the Annual Lecture Programme mail out and for distribution at local venues. Chris Hall provided a talk around the model of medieval Scarborough in association with St Andrews United Reform Church and also led tours around Ayton Castle in association with the Friends of Ayton Castle. This was also linked with the Ayton Village Open Day. Trevor Pearson and Marie Woods led guided walks in Raincliffe Woods on the archaeological discoveries therein in association with the Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise. As in previous years, all activities were over-subscribed with excellent feedback from the participants.

On 16<sup>th</sup> September the Society attended the annual Local History Fair at the Library and although numbers attending were not high, the mini digs and hands on activities proved popular. Vanessa Milner's reconstructed pottery samples found by the Society were very well received.

#### *iii) Publications*

The Society's publications continue to be available for sale through Amazon and provides a small number of sales. 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 1,700 unique visitors per month which is an increase on last year (previously 1,500) and the Society has received a number of requests for information and help. The mailing list maintained by the Society has been utilised to help with these enquiries as they were previously limited to members of the Committee. Where

required, enquiries are circulated to all those on the mailing list. Mailing list members can easily opt out of such emails whilst still choosing to receive notifications on events and lectures.

The Society's Facebook page has 1,018 'likes' and 1,011 followers; the page promotes the Society's activities but also shares other news stories with an historical or archaeological aspect. As an inducement to convert 'likes' into attendance to lectures, the Society's pre-Christmas talk, given by Keith Johnston, was publicised as being free to non-members with free tea / coffee and mince pies (the mince pies being donated by members).

The previously produced Society leaflet is used at Society events and is used to promote the Society and information on the history of Scarborough.

#### *b. Research*

In May 2017 a small excavation was conducted in Brompton following on from work undertaken in 2016. Although only a small excavation, it set in motion the development of a larger field project which will include the Brompton Local History Society.

During the Summer, members of the Society again worked with the High Wolds Heritage Group to conduct a third season of excavations at the scheduled site of Hanging Grimston. Twenty-six members of the Society participated in the excavation providing a wealth of experience and expertise. 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. On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017, a Finds Day was held in the Old Parcels Office Artspace to work on finds from Hanging Grimston 2016 along with those from Brompton. Plans are already in place for a fourth season of excavation in Summer 2018. A report on the work carried out in 2017 has been posted on the Society's web site. In January, our partners, the High Wolds Heritage Group (HWHG) learned that they had been successful in being awarded funds from the Aviva Community Fund of £1000, the full amount. The Society supported HWHG in the bid and helped publicise and raise awareness of the project which relied on a public vote. This means that the 2018 work at Hanging Grimston is likely to be self-funded. In addition, the site director, Marcus Jecock, has obtained grants of £1000 from the Royal Archaeological Institute and £500 from the Medieval Settlement Research Group which will be used for the extensive post excavation work necessary.

There are currently 39 active members of the field team which represents over a quarter of the Society's membership.

Extensive research and survey work has and continues to be conducted by members of the Society in Raincliffe Woods including geo-chemical sampling of some of the platforms and plans are in place to now open this work up to the wider Society; previous work has required only a small team. A report on the work conducted is available on the Society's website.

The Society is working with the 'This Exploited Land of Iron' project to provide opportunities for members. A grant application has successfully submitted and the Society is looking to purchase its own resistivity meter along with the requisite training. This equipment, if purchased, is intended to be used in connection with the Raincliffe Woods project. Work is also planned to take place with the 'This Exploited Land of Iron' project at Goathland and

elsewhere. It will also be used in the wider landscape around work in Brompton on the castle there with a large degree of community involvement.

Society and Committee member Alison Spencer has initiated a project at Green Lane Farm, near Wetwang through the Fridaythorpe, Fimber and Wetwang Archaeology Project (FFWAP). Although this is not a Society project, being located in the East Riding, the Society has been happy to be involved by providing support, equipment and some team members.

The major historical research project conducted by the Society, led by Keith Johnston, into the relationship of Scarborough's visitors to the sea continues with regular meetings. A good number of people are involved and are pursuing a variety of lines of research.

During the year, the Society has started work on the intended re-publication of the Rosedale Mines and Railways book. This was first published by the Society in 1974 and has been a regular seller. Since publication, significantly more information has come to light and a revision is overdue. A sub-committee, led by Keith Johnston, has been convened and is developing a plan with the aim of producing a revised version of the publication.

### *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. There has also been some exploration of the newspaper collection of the Scarborough Museums Trust.

During the course of the year, the Society has received a small number of enquiries, through the website, soliciting information in order to formulate objections to planning applications. The Committee has taken the view that the Society needs to remain independent on such matters. The nature of the information that has been requested is that which is already available in the public domain and enquirers are therefore re-directed to resources where this can be found.

### **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:

High Wolds Heritage Group – excavation and finds processing

Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise – ongoing project work, Heritage Open Days

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

Friends of Dean Road and Manor Road Cemetery – World War I, Heritage Open Days

Friends of Seamer Village

Fridaythorpe, Fimber and Wetwang Archaeological Project – loan of excavation equipment

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

Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre – publications

Scarborough Museums Trust – excavation archive

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 (Dr Pete Wilson); on the North Yorkshire Moors Archaeology Group (Chris Hall) and the North Yorkshire Moors Land of Iron Partnership Group (Chris Hall).

### Trustees Fund

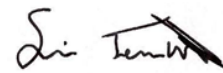
During the course of the year, the Trustees took the decision to close the Trustees Fund and not accept further applications directly to the Fund. Applications for funding for projects would still be welcomed by the Society and each assessed on its own merits.

### Membership

The Society has 140 paid up members at present. There are 10 life members and 3 institutional members. 120 paid in 2016, 114 paid in 2015, 122 paid in 2014, 129 paid in 2013, 137 in 2012 and 151 in 2011 & 2010. This encouragingly shows an increase of over 10% on the previous year. 71 visitors paid to attend lectures to date.

Signed:

Trevor Pearson  
President of the Society  
Chairman of the Trustees



Simon Temlett  
Chairman of the Committee

## Annex 1 – Lectures

- 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 **The Work of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust**, Yvonne Boutwood
- 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 **The Antiquities of Yorkshire: viewing and displaying the past in the eighteenth century**, George Sheeran
- 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 **‘Lawson Lies Still in the Thames’: The extraordinary life of Vice-Admiral Sir John Lawson**, Gill Blanchard
- 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 **The 1984 fire at York Minster and the restoration of the roof**, John Toy
- 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 **The Roman Roads Research Association**, Mike Haken
- 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 **The Anglo-Saxon origins of the churches and parishes of the Scarborough area**, Steven Bassett
- 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 **Scarborough invaded – brewery trips to the town**, Keith Johnston
- 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 **The development of Eastfield**, Stephen Gandolfi
- 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 **The history of the Scarborough Amicable Society**, David Sutcliffe
- 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018 **Members’ Evening**
- 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 **What might have been – the 1930 proposals by S D Adshead**, Chris Hall
- 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 **From Quintus Petillius Cerialis to Elizabeth II: 1950 years in the life of York city walls**, John Oxley
- 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018 **The Neolithic in the Yorkshire Dales**, Yvonne Luke