

Annual Report of Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society

2021-2022

This Annual Report covers the Society's year of 1st April 2021 until 31st March 2022

Registered Charity Number

1108962

Address

c/o 4c Dunslow Court
Eastfield
Scarborough
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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 2021-2022 the Trustees are Trevor Pearson (Chair of the Trustees), Martin Bland, Christopher Hall, Keith Johnston, Vanessa Milner, Simon Temlett and Sue Ogilvy.

The Trustees held their annual meeting on 2nd February 2022 when they examined and agreed the draft accounts for the financial year 2020-2021. The policies on Privacy, Safeguarding, Complaints and Reserves were reviewed and formally re-adopted.

Committee 2021-2022

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

Gareth Davies
Elaine Jamieson
Stewart MacDonald
Sue Ogilvy
John Oxley MBE

Alison Spencer
Emma Temlett
Andrew Volans
Dan Wilson

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 course of the year, John Oxley was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for his services to heritage during his 30 year career.

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

The ongoing pandemic and uncertainty as to what restrictions would be in place at the time of any lecture meant the committee decided that the first half of the lecture programme would be live streamed. As it became clear that restrictions would remain into the New Year, the Spring 2022 programme was also live streamed. The recordings of these lectures now form part of the Society archive and are available to view for members 'on demand'. It is intended that future 'in person' lectures will live streamed and recorded due to the popularity of the format.

ii) Field excursions and other activities

Once again, uncertainty over the pandemic curtailed planning for 'in person' activities, however on a very wet 21st May 2021, two groups of 20 Members were shown around the archaeological excavations at Eastfield by Paula Ware and Al Cross of MAP Archaeological Practice.

A book launch for *Scarborough at War* was held in the Old Parcels Office in August. The artefacts found at the renovations at the Esplanade Hotel were on display along with some World War 2 memorabilia. Stewart MacDonald gave a short introduction to his book and signed copies for the attendees. The event was very well attended and received by both Society members and the general public. Over 100 copies of the book were sold at the event.

iii) Publications

During the year, the Society published two new books.

The first, *Scarborough at War*, by committee member Stewart MacDonald explores the impact of the Second World War on Scarborough. The book looks at how the town shared in the national struggle but also had its own unique stories of community endurance. The book has been exceptionally well received and the Society has just commissioned a second print run of 500 copies as the first run (again of 500) is close to selling out. A launch event, as detailed above, was organised to publicise the book.

The second book, *Rosedale Mines and Railway* is a substantially updated and expanded edition of the original 1974 publication featuring full colour photographs, illustrations and substantially revised content. The edition was compiled and edited by Tom Mutton as part of the Land of Iron Project, but substantial contributions were made by several members of the Society. The cost of printing was met by the Land of Iron Project but published by the Society and an initial print run of 2,000 copies was commissioned. It had been agreed that approximately 500 copies would be provided free of charge to local history groups in the Rosedale area and collaborators on the project on the understanding that they would not be sold.

The monies received for the sale by the Society for the balance of the print run would be held by the Society in a Reserved Fund in lieu of a fund being setup by the North York Moors National Park Authority for the preservation of kilns at Rosedale. The Society is responsible for distribution and promotion of the publication but would be reimbursed for distribution costs. After the existing print run is exhausted, the Society can choose to reprint the book, at its own expense, and retain all monies received.

The Society has ceased selling its publications via the Amazon channel as the fees, long disbursement times and restrictive distribution requirements meant that it was no longer viable. Publications, such as *Scarborough at War*, could not be offered via Amazon as they would have had to be sold at a loss.

The Society's SumUp credit card device comes with a simple online store which is now used for online book sales. Visitors to the Society website public are redirected to the store where they can purchase publications.

The new publications have proven to be very popular both online and through independent book sellers. Regular orders are received from several bookstores 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 previous version of *Transactions* was provided to members in an electronic PDF format but the easing of Covid restrictions has meant that a physical printed volume can be produced. A survey was conducted via a membership email survey and 65% of respondents indicated that they would like to receive a printed copy. On that basis, and the number required for distribution to copyright institutions, a print run of 150 was determined and is in the process of being produced.

It is anticipated that the Society's *Guide to Historic Scarborough* will be re-printed in the coming year due to low stock.

The coming year marks the 75th anniversary of the Society and in addition to a forthcoming edition of *Transactions*, a platinum edition is planned to be produced for the end of the anniversary year.

iv) Web site and social media

The Society's Facebook page has 2,711 'likes' and 2,900 followers, this is an increase from last year 1,829 'likes', 1,922 followers. The Society's YouTube channel has 243 subscribers, and the publicly listed videos have a total of 5,730 views. The back catalogue of 26 online lectures now forms part of an archive available to members and the combined total of views for all talks is currently 9,000.

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. The website is planned to be substantially updated and revised as part of the 75th anniversary project.

The Society maintains a mailing database for both members and those with an interest in Society activities. 403 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. Some posts do exceptionally well; a recent post on the discovery of limekiln that used elements from the medieval town wall received just under 23,000 views and 4,300 engagements.

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. The 2021 AGM was again held virtually so no speakers or members were present. The Society has also featured in several local newspapers in articles publicising the lecture programme and events.

The Society is now providing more regular updates via the Twitter account. Regular tweets are made during Society activities, such as the Brompton excavation, so followers can be kept up to do on the latest activities.

b. Research

Archaeological fieldwork

During the course of the year, as Covid-19 related restrictions were lifted, the field team became progressively more active commencing in early June with a long weekend of excavations at a possible bloomery site near Saw Mill Bank Foot, in Raincliffe woods. In the event, carbon 14 dating gave a Bronze Age date - a report on this excavation has been prepared and is available on the Society's web

site. We propose to do more work here during 2022 to try to establish more about the nature of this site.

The Scarborough Big Dig which had been cancelled in 2020 was revived and took place over a long weekend in July. This Community Archaeology event was part of the Big Ideas By The Sea cultural and environmental festival and was a partnership between SAHS, Big Ideas by the Sea and Heritage Adventures. As well as the excavations by Old Town residents in their back gardens and by the SAHS field team on land owned by Beyond Housing, there was a hub at the Market Hall with displays and hands on activities for children. Professor Carezza Lewis spent some time with us, looking at the trenches and on the Friday gave a very well attended lecture at the Rainbow Centre. The Big Dig events also formed part of the national Festival of Archaeology and attracted widespread publicity. Planning is currently underway for Big Dig 2022.

At Brompton Castle Hill the excavations which had been cancelled in September 2020 were able to go ahead at the end of September 2021 when we opened a 10 metre by 10 metre trench. A successful open day was held during the last weekend when we gave tours of the excavations. This was in association with Brompton Heritage weekend – a Heritage Open Days event. A report on this excavation has been prepared and is available on the Society's web site and we are currently looking at developing a wider project in the Brompton area.

At Aldby Park, near Buttercrambe, a small team have been carrying out earthwork and geophysical survey – this work is subject to a report is available on the Society's web site.

During the year, some old geophysical equipment was donated to the Society and as a result of this several members of the field team have been undergoing training in magnetometry and refresher training in resistivity using equipment we already had. The training has been provided by James Lyall a professional geophysicist and has also involved our friend from The Fridaythorpe, Fimber, Wetwang Archaeology Project with whom we hope to work more closely in the future.

It is pleasing to note that there are some 40 Society members active the Field Team and that field archaeology remains a dynamic aspect of the Society's activities.

Historical research

The continuation of the pandemic has, unfortunately, delayed further the proposed working groups on Scarborough's pubs and on the history of the harbour as well as work on the bombardment project, all of which were referred to in last year's report. It is hoped that it will be possible to get all these projects properly underway in the autumn of 2022. Keith Johnston will give some details in a brief talk at the 2022 AGM.

However, a new project has begun and has made some significant progress. Working with Dr David Abrutat, the GCHQ historian, members of the society have contributed to the Sandybed Project, an attempt to discover more about the history of the old RN/Admiralty signals site at Sandybed Lane. Some of this work was referred to in a talk David gave to the society in early March 2022. The project will continue in the hope of finding further information.

At Members' Evening in February 2022 Keith Johnston appealed for information about Yorkshire war memorials, particularly those to do with the First World War, to help him with his research for a proposed book. Several members of the society have provided him with useful information and documents. It has been a valuable example of co-operation.

Outreach

On 15th September 2021 Trevor Pearson gave a presentation to the Annual General Meeting of Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise about our work in Raincliffe Woods.

On 6th October 2021, Trevor Pearson gave a lecture to Brompton local History Group about our work at Brompton Castle.

On 11th February 2022 Chris Hall gave a lecture to Scarborough Railway Society about Rosedale Mines and Railway based around the Society's new publication on this topic.

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 working as a partner in a project led by the Maritime Heritage Centre to install 29 granite discs on the Marine Drive seawall identifying significant aspects of the town's heritage. The project has recently been awarded Heritage Lottery Funding and the Society is looking forward to participating and contributing to this project.

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:

Beyond Housing – Big Dig

Big Ideas by the Sea – Big Dig

British Association for Local History – publicising Society work and events

Brompton Local History Society - Brompton Castle hill excavations

Castle Ward Tenants and Residents Association – Big Dig

Council for British Archaeology – Festival of Archaeology

Friends of Ayton Castle – represented on the Committee

Heritage Adventures – Big Dig

North York Moors National Park - Ness Head survey

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

Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise – ongoing project work

Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre – publications

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 waived for the 2020 membership but were re-instated for the 2021-2022 year.

The Society has 151 paid up members and 8 life members. This compares to 138 members in 2019, 140 in 2018, 120 in 2017 and 114 in 2016. This is an encouraging increase despite the adversity of the pandemic.

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 facilitating and administering this procedure.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Temlett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Trevor Pearson
President of the Society
Chair of the Trustees

Simon Temlett
Chair of the Society

Appendix 1 – 2021-2022 Programme
All lectures were delivered online

4th October 2021	House to Honeypot: 300 years of history at Sewerby Hall <i>Robert Chester</i>
18th October 2021	Revising Pevsner in the North Riding <i>Jane Grenville</i>
1st November 2021	World War 2 Posters: Information, Persuasion and Propoganda <i>Patrick Argent</i>
29th November 2021	Civic disturbances in Scarborough in the early fourteenth century <i>Robin McCallum</i>
20th December 2021	From the Beerhouse to the Micropub: the modern history of Scarborough's pubs <i>Keith Johnston</i>
10th January 2022	A ring fort, a sanctuary and Roman town in East Yorkshire <i>Dr Peter Halkon</i>
24th January 2022	The medieval wall paintings of Pickering and the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society connection <i>Kate Giles</i>
7th February 2022	Members Evening
21st February 2022	Trio Grande: Scarborough's Royal, Pavilion and Grand Hotel <i>Karen Averby</i>
7th March 2022	Uncovering Scarborough's Secret Sites David Abrutat
21st March 2022	Eastfield and Middle Deep Dale: A Complex Multi Period Landscape <i>Paula Ware</i>
4th April 2022	AGM