

Annual Report of Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society

2022-2023

This Annual Report covers the Society's year of 1st April 2022 until 31st March 2023

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 2022-2023 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 30th January 2023 when they examined and agreed the draft accounts for the financial year 2021-2022. The policies on Privacy, Safeguarding, Complaints and Reserves were reviewed and formally re-adopted.

Committee 2022-2023

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

Dan Normandale (resigned during the course of the year)

Sue Ogilvy

John Oxley MBE
Alison Spencer
Emma Temlett
Andrew Volans
Dan Wilson (resigned during the course of the year)

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.

2022 marked the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Society and so a number of activities and events were organised to promote and raise the profile of the Society. These are detailed in the sections below, but the anniversary year started on the 22nd June with a presentation by Chris Hall about the founding and early years of the Society. This was followed by a special lecture by Professor Nicky Milner from the University of York entitled '*After the Ice Age: hunter gatherers in the Vale of Pickering*'. After the talk, attendees enjoyed complimentary refreshments with photographs from the Society's archives available to view along with 3d printed replicas of finds from the Star Carr excavations. The event, held at the Old Parcels Office art space was both well attended and received and was also live streamed. It has since been watched over 1,200 times on the Society's YouTube channel.

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 lifting of restrictions meant that the Society could return to 'in person' lectures for Winter 2022 / Spring 2023 programme. Where possible, the lectures were also recorded to be uploaded to the Society's YouTube channel to provide an ongoing archive and resource.

ii) Publications

To mark the 75th anniversary, the Society had 50 of its publications that were no longer in print digitised and made available on the Internet Archive website. All publications are free to download, and the archive is fully searchable. The Society receives enquiries throughout the year for re-prints or copies of its historic reports and publications and this resource is now available worldwide and for free. The Society is indebted to Trevor Pearson and all in the Society who helped and worked to make this possible.

During the course of the year, it was decided not to re-print the Society's *Guide to Historic Scarborough* as it was felt the publication needed substantial revision and updating.–The Society is looking to make this publication available via the Internet Archive

The Society's use of the SumUp online store replaced the Amazon sales last year and provides an ongoing source of sales 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 and the Ryedale folk Museum. 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 and subsequent survey revealed most members would like to receive a printed copy. 150 copies were printed, and members were able to collect copies at the resumption of the in-person lecture series.

iii) Web site and social media

The Society's Facebook page has 3,050 'likes' and 3,300 followers, an increase of approximately 10% from last year's totals. The Society's YouTube channel has 298 subscribers, and the publicly listed videos have a total of 9,100 views. The back catalogue of online lectures now forms part of an archive available to members and the combined total of views for all talks is currently over 10,000.

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 Society maintains a mailing database for both members and those with an interest in Society activities. 425 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.

As part of the 75th anniversary, the Society collaborated with Patrick Argent for a feature in the local Scarborough News; this article appeared both as a double page spread in the printed version and also on the website. The article was also picked up and re-published by the Yorkshire Post. A PDF copy of the article was made available to the Society by Patrick and Scarborough News to use for future publicity for which the Society expresses its thanks.

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

b. Research

Archaeological fieldwork

Although a proposed further season of excavations at Brompton Castle Hill did not go ahead, the field team has had another active year. The opportunity was taken to begin to develop a wider research project for the Brompton area including drawing in the work of a member who is a metal detectorist, geophysical survey using equipment on loan from Historic England, drone survey and other research. It is hoped to take this project forward during the coming year.

At the end of May/early June 2022, 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 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'.

In August the Society continued its long association with the Lake Flixton area by collaborating with the Universities of Chester and Manchester in excavations at No Name Hill. As well as participating in the actual excavation, the society helped to organise and run a very well attended open day and also administered some of the funding. The excavation appeared in an episode of Digging for Britain and further filming took place with Professor Nicky Milner and Ray Mears.

We undertook weekend excavations at Thorn Park in April and October, investigating two cropmark features mapped by Historic England. We are currently seeking grant aid from the North York Moors National Park for some carbon 14 dating. Also involving the National Park, we completed our walkover survey of the Ness Head part of their Levisham Estate in January 2023.

At Aldby Park, Buttercrambe the survey of the park has been completed and a report is currently being prepared. Historic England helped with the fieldwork by undertaking a drone survey of part of the area. This work at Aldby is carried out in conjunction with the Yorkshire Gardens Trust.

In May the Society was given the opportunity to purchase a second-hand electronic theodolite which we followed through. Having this instrument will improve our ability to geo-locate our geophysical work and excavations and to carry out topographical survey. We based a training day at Aldby Park for four SAHS members this March and more training opportunities will be offered for potential users at locations to be agreed.

During the year four archaeological reports (known as grey literature) were published and deposited with the relevant Historic Environment Records, with Historic England library at Swindon and on our web site. A backlog of 15 grey literature publications has been uploaded to the OASIS portal for inclusion in the Archaeological Data Services searchable site

Finally, in March, a social media posting of a structure which had appeared at Speeton sands was identified by a field team member as a possible coprolite mine. This site is being investigated.

There have been some recent recruits to the field team which now numbers over 40 emphasising that field archaeology remains a dynamic aspect of the Society's activities

Historical research

Because of Coronavirus no research groups have met. However, it is intended that such groups will be active in 2023-2024 in order to investigate the history of Scarborough's pubs and to take the bombardment project further.

Members of the society did contribute to the scheme to put on the Marine Drive tablets relating to the history of the town and these are now in place.

Outreach

On Wednesday 18th January 2023 Chris Hall gave a talk to the East Riding Archaeological Society on the 75th Anniversary of the Society. Following the talk, £60 worth of the Society's publications were sold. Subsequently, he also gave similar talks to Derwent Valley Bridge Library and Brompton Local History Society.

In May, Chris Hall gave a guided tour of the Rosedale Bank Top area to members of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society looking at some of the features in the Rosedale Mines & Railway publication. A donation was made to SAHS.

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 has worked 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 was awarded Heritage Lottery Funding and a number of Society members were present at the opening and unveiling of the discs by Sir Alan Ayckbourn.

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 & District Local History Society - Brompton Castle hill excavations

Castle Ward Tenants and Residents Association – Big Dig

Friends of Ayton Castle – represented on the Committee

Heritage Adventures – Big Dig

Historic England – Aldby Park survey and loan of magnetometer

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

University of Chester – No Name Hill Excavations

University of Manchester – No Name Hill Excavations

Yorkshire Gardens Trust – Aldby park survey

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) and with Yorkshire region of the Council for British Archaeology (Trevor Pearson).


Membership

The membership year runs from 1 September to 31 August each year. Membership fees were retained at the 2021-2022 level for the 2022-23 year.

The Society currently has 163 paid up members and 8 life members. Thirty-one new members have joined so far this year (2022/23). The membership total compares with 154 members in 2021/22, 128 in 2019/20, 134 in 2018/19, 140 in 2017/18 and 120 in 2016/17. Subscriptions were not requested during the pandemic in 2020/21. 78 visitors have paid to attend lectures to date, some of whom have subsequently joined as members

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 – 2022-2023 Programme

10th October 2022	Ancient Egypt by the Sea <i>Dr Joann Fletcher</i>
17th October 2022	Tiger Skins, Tapestries and Tree-planting: The work of a National Trust Curator <i>Jonathan Wallis</i>
7th November 2022	75 Years of the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society <i>Chris Hall</i>
14th November 2022	Mapping Viking Settlement in Eastern Yorkshire <i>Stuart Wrathmell</i>
28th November 2022	The Work and Collections of the Bronte Parsonage Museum <i>Ann Dinsdale</i>
12th December 2022	Before the Bombardment: MI5 and the German Invasion of Britain <i>Nicholas Hiley</i>
9th January 2023	Superintendent Pattison and the Scarborough Police 1865 - 1898 <i>Keith Johnston</i>
23rd January 2023	Nazi / Hitler Youth Propaganda Board Games <i>Patrick Argent</i>
6th February 2023	Members Evening
20th February 2023	The History and Archaeology of Skipsea Castle and its Landscape <i>Elaine Jamieson</i>
6th March 2023	The Historical Arthur, a sixth-century North British hero <i>Andrew Breeze</i>
20th March 2023	Recent Fieldwork by the Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society <i>Trevor Pearson</i>
3rd April 2023	AGM followed by Harnessing History: the Chariot Burials of Yorkshire <i>Melanie Giles</i>
17th April 2023	Yorkshire Landscape Buildings in Context <i>Ray Blyth</i>