

Annual Report of Scarborough Archaeological & Historical Society 2009

This Annual Report covers the Society's 'year' of 1 April 2008 until 31 March 2009

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER

1108962

ADDRESS

PO Box 378
Scarborough
YO12 4WS

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 the members of the Committee, constituted by clause 6.0 of the Constitution, and by the Trustees.

TRUSTEES

John Rushton (Chairman of the Trustees), Colin Barnes, Bryan Berryman, Jack Binns, Martin Bland, Sue Ogilvy

COMMITTEE 2008/09

President John Rushton Vice-Presidents Bryan Berryman, Jack Binns

Executive Officers Chairman Colin Barnes, Vice Chairmen Keith Johnston and Colin Langford, Secretary & Treasurer Martin Bland

Committee, Robin Boddy, Farrell Burnett, Rachel Cubitt, Kate Flounders, Chris Hall Linda Kemp, Ron Lewis, Vanessa Milner, Gail Nicholls, Sue Ogilvy, Trevor Pearson, Mark Vesey, Sue Wood.

The Committee appointed members to the following posts: -

Editor, Electronic Publicity Officers, Librarian, Membership Officer, Minutes Secretary, Publications Officer, Programme Secretary, Field Officer, Projects Assistants (2), Publicity Officer, Social Secretary.

The non-committee post of Projectionist remained vacant.

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

Lectures –

The year started with a well attended lecture on 14 April 2008 by Jack Binns on 'More Scarborough Heroes Rogues and Eccentrics' which was also a 'fringe' event for Scarborough Literary Festival

The society hosted a lecture in July 2008 as part of National Archaeology Week and in collaboration with the Scarborough Museum Trust. Nigel Melton gave the lecture on the subject of Gristhorpe Man. The lecture was attended by over 100 people many of who were not members of the society.

The 2008/09-lecture programme started on 6 October 2008 and in all 12 lectures were given at Scarborough Library. The lectures were well attended and the average attendance at the lectures was around 75. A wide range of themes were covered from recent work in the town to the archaeology of Lawrence and the Arab Revolt in southern Jordan. As well as archaeology and history the society also heard lectures on architecture and geology.

The full list of lectures is annexed

Guided walks – A number of guided walks were undertaken during the spring and summer of 2008. Chris Hall led a guided walk at Saltwick Alum Works and Whitby Abbey House in April and led similar walks for The Rotunda Geology Group (jointly with Professor Pete Rawson), and Cleveland Industrial Archaeology Society. In July, there was a tour of Barton on Humber attended by 22 people including staff of the York Archaeological Trust. Keith Johnston led a walk in July looking at the work of Harry Smith on South Cliff. Chris Hall led a further walk at Weaponness looking at the work of several nationally renowned architects. In August, Tom Mutton led a walk through Peasholm Park looking at rare trees rediscovered there. All of these walks attracted an average attendance of 30 many of whom were not members of the Society.

Heritage Open Days - The Society worked in partnership with the Civic Society and Scarborough Borough Council to organise several local events. Heritage Open Days is a national event which celebrates England's architectural, historic and cultural heritage by offering free access to interesting buildings that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission, and tours and activities that bring local history and culture to life. The open days were held between 11 and 14 September 2008.

Talks to other groups/organisations - Members of the Society gave talks about our work and the results of our research to various groups including Brompton Local History Society, Scalby Wives Group, Probus (twice), Friends of the Art Gallery, Orchard Care Homes and Castle Ward Tenants & Residents Association.

Publications – The Society published Trods of the North Yorkshire Moors: A Gazetteer of Flagged Paths by Chris Evans. The book was the result of many years of research by Chris and the Society is grateful to the North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority for their technical contribution. Over 250 copies have been sold. The book has been featured in the regional press.

In February 2009 the British Association for Local History awarded one of its Publications Awards for 2009 to the article 'A hypothesis on the origins of St Oswald's church and Lythe parish 650-1100' by Christiane Koebel, published in Transactions 40. This is the first time that an article from Transactions has won such an award. Congratulations are due to Christiane and the editor of Transactions, Keith Johnston. The Society hopes to publish Transactions 41 shortly.

The website continues to be an important way of disseminating information and was expanded to include more items on the excavations database, more information on excavations and news items. The web site generated a number of enquiries on the history and archaeology of the area that were answered by our members.

Day School – In October 2008 the Society hosted a day school 'Publishing in the Community'. The event was organised by Publications Officer Farrell Burnett with contributions from Society members, Colin Barnes, Trevor Pearson and Chris Hall. The aim of the day was to provide local groups with the information they need to prepare and publish their own material and reports. Several groups from across the region were represented and 18 delegates attended. The feedback given by them shows that the day school was well received. No charge was made for the day but the Society did receive donations from those attending.

b) Research

Excavations - The Society continued survey work at Seamer Moor using geophysics equipment to record ground resistivity and magnetometry. This work was carried out with the assistance of John Kenny the York Community Archaeologist and Frank Clough of Tadcaster. Further excavations are planned at this site as a result of the data obtained. In November 2008, an opportunity arose for excavation at the site of the former Scarborough Marine Engineers on Quay Street. John Hinchcliffe and Chris Hall have led excavations with the assistance of a number of volunteers. A report on the work at this site will be published in due course.

Post Excavation Group – the post excavation group examines, records, researches and archives artefacts produced from excavations and prepares them for deposit with the Museums & Gallery Service.

c) Sites and archives

Scarborough Library Archives Cataloguing Group

This group of some fifteen members was formed to contribute to the effectiveness of Scarborough Library's local history collection (the Scarborough Room). Each week members work on maps, illustrations, newspapers, journals, programmes, manuscripts and printed works to create checklists, databases, digital images and published research papers.

Scarborough Community Archive Network

The Society continues to collect images to be stored digitally and to be available through the Commanet website.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Working in partnership with other organisations and community groups is important in the delivery of our Objects. During the year we worked in partnership with: -

Scarborough Borough Council Parks & Countryside Services and The Friends of Peasholm Park – guided walk

York Archaeological Trust, Rotunda Geology Group and Cleveland Industrial Archaeology Society – guided tour

North Yorkshire County Library and the Friends of Scarborough Library – Archives Cataloguing Group and Local History day.

Scarborough & District Civic Society, English Heritage, Scarborough Borough Council Planning Services – Heritage Open Days

Scarborough Maritime Heritage Group – handling archival material

Scarborough Museums & Gallery Service – Heritage Open Days and excavation archive

North Yorkshire County Library – literary festival

The Scarborough Branch of the East Yorkshire Family History Society – Collaboration on medieval Scarborough names.

MEMBERSHIP

The Society has 147 members – this is a slight drop on last year though we have recruited 14 new members. Of the 147 members 6 are life members and 5 are institutional members.

The Society is a member of the following organisations: -

- Council for British Archaeology
- Council for Independent Archaeology
- Coast & Moors Voluntary Action
- Yorkshire Archaeological Society

Signed.....
John Rushton Chairman of the Trustees Colin Barnes, Chairman of the Committee

APPENDIX 1- LECTURES

The lecture meetings are held on Monday evenings at 7:30pm in the Concert Room, Central Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough,

14 April 2008

More **Scarborough, heroes, rogues and eccentrics**

Jack Binns

14 July 2008

The **Gristhorpe Man** Project: a case study in archaeological and forensic science

Dr Nigel Melton

6 October 2008

York's **Hungate** Excavation Project

Peter Connelly

20 October 2008

The Archaeology of **Lawrence and the Arab Campaign 1914-1918**

Susan Daniels

3 November 2008

The Yorkshire Museum: **Archaeological Mysteries and Surprising Stories**

Andrew Morrison

17 November 2008

Cawthorne Camps Recent Excavations and Research

Pete Wilson

1 December 2008

Underwater Discoveries in the North Sea

Andrew Jackson

15 December 2008

Tunny Fishing at Scarborough

Keith Johnston

12 January 2009

Recent Fieldwork in Scarborough

Chris Hall

26 January 2009

Scarborough: The First **250 Million Years**

Peter Rawson

9 February 2009

Treasures from the Library and Archives of the **Whitby Museum**

Christiane Kroebel

23 February 2009

Recent Survey and Research at **Ayton Castle**

Ed Dennison

9 March 2009

Book Illustrators of 19th-century Scarborough

Anne and Paul Bayliss

23 March 2009

Francis Johnson: Architect

Diana Tasker