

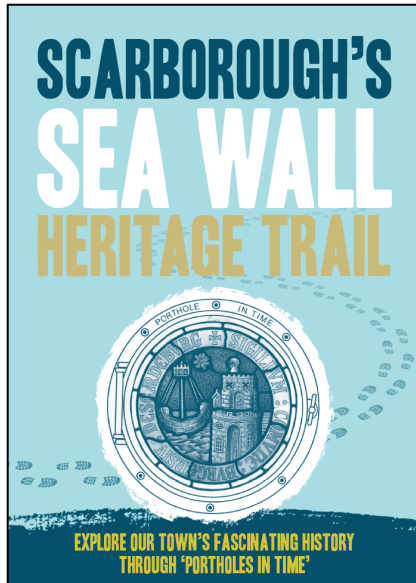


# SCARBOROUGH MARITIME HERITAGE CENTRE

Autumn 2023

## New booklet published

As part of the National Lottery Heritage Fund Sea Wall Heritage Trail project we have published a 60-page guidebook that accompanies the Marine Drive trail. It contains images of the 29 'Portholes in Time', along the sea wall, with extra information about each topic. This information is also on our website and on a new 'Love Exploring' app with audio player for sight-impaired people. The booklet is priced at £4.



## New Exhibitions

In October & November our exhibition will be about Anne Bronte, who wrote about Scarborough. In December & January the exhibition will be about our Boxing Day celebrations including the firemen & fishermen football match, raft race, penny mile etc.

## Tributes

It is with great sadness that we attended the funerals of two members of our maritime family. Tom Rowley passed away age 76. He came from a family of fishermen spanning back several generations. Tom helped the Maritime Centre right from our early days being very supportive and informing the 'landlubbers' of the team what a fishing life is all about. He volunteered in the Centre passing on his enthusiasm for life at sea but also warning about the great risks involved and the many friends he had lost at sea. Tom had his own trawler, 'Our Margaret', that he was extremely proud of. It was sadly cut up due to new fishing quota restrictions in the 1990s. Tom volunteered at the lifeboat station and helped out at Seafest every year showing youngsters how to mend nets and make crab pots. Tom often spoke to community groups with his wife Lindy. He was a larger than life character with a great sense of humour and will be greatly missed by the whole team. His son, Tom, spoke at the funeral saying his last dad's thoughts about life were about 'Time, Tide and Taxes'. Time and tide wait for no man so get on and do things, don't wait around. Monetary taxes are inevitable but we also have a duty to put back care and love for one another, a life tax. One of Tom's legacies is his book 'A Netfull of Memories', available from the SMHC for £8. Donations from the 'standing room only' service at St Mary's church went to the SMHC and St Catherine's Hospice.



Tom Rowley

1947 - 2023

Ex merchant navy man, Jim Spencer, was a director, trustee, committee member and volunteer at the SMHC. Jim grew up in Scarborough, attending the Graham Sea Training School. He travelled the world in the merchant navy and ended up retiring and living in Paradise House, the same building as the GST school. Jim spoke regularly at the lifeboat disaster memorial day and was a font of knowledge about maritime matters. He will be missed by us all.

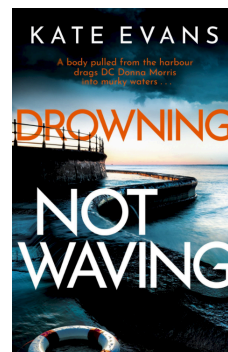


Photo courtesy of the Scarborough News, Jim at the sunrise Bombardment Centenary commemoration in December 2014.

Richard (Richie) Oakes has also passed away. He was a regular visitor and knew an awful lot about Scarborough harbour and its history. There is a tribute and a recording of him in 2005 on our website. Our condolences go to his family and friends.

### Restoration of Street Signs

SMHC volunteers have been helping restore some of the old town's rusty street signs. If you see any that need doing, let us know?



£9.99 online or in bookshops

Local author, Kate Evans, has a new crime novel set in the heart of the old town fishing community. A body is pulled from the harbour and it drags DC Donna Morris into murky waters. The lives of Scarboroughians have always been tied to the sea but when a body is pulled from the harbour the police investigation has to dive into the tightly knit fishing community. Is the killing to do with old rivalries or more contemporary enmities? Donna does her best to navigate the tides and currents of the place she calls home but finds people are prepared to muddy the truth if it means preserving the past, and old reputations.

### Anne Bronte

At our AGM in April, SMHC volunteer Lauren, gave a presentation about setting up an Anne Bronte appreciation society linked with the Maritime Heritage Centre. If you are interested in helping please contact us by dropping in, by phone, by post or email.

### Scarborough Memories Project

Thanks to those who have sent us some fantastic memories about Scarborough in days gone by. You can still contribute to the archive by writing to us with your memories or family stories. See our website page '[Porthole in Time: Public Memories](#)'.

**We are run entirely by volunteers and public donations.**  
We always need volunteers. No special knowledge or skills are required.  
Please contact us if you can spare a few hours a week?



### Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre

Charity number: 1144532

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Website: [www.scarboroughsmaritimeheritage.org.uk](http://www.scarboroughsmaritimeheritage.org.uk)

# APPEAL

After 14 years in cramped premises we hope to buy a larger building to welcome school groups, hold talks & larger exhibitions. The extra space means we can welcome in more of the local community, provide disabled access, a warm welcome for the lonely and facilities for mothers with young children.

**If you can donate** please send cheques to 45 Eastborough, YO11 1NH or pay direct to Virgin Money Bank, sort code 05 07 47, account 26556936

Thank you

## Our achievements so far:

- Supported by the local community since 2009
- Over 50,000 visitors welcomed
- Queen's Award for Volunteering in 2016
- Put on over 40 exhibitions covering the whole of Scarborough's history including profiles on important local people.
- A social space for young and old to come together, share and learn.
- Helped BBC TV and Independent TV companies produce shows.
- Hundreds of artefacts donated by local people.
- Website, Facebook and Google hits total over 400,000 a year.
- Work with Civic Society, Historical Society, SBC & Museums Trust.
- Integrated with UK Maritime Heritage Forum & Heritage Open Days.
- Thousands of positive comments recorded from visitors.
- Key exhibitor at annual Seafest & Armed Forces Day events.
- Installed Sea Wall Heritage Trail around the Marine Drive.
- Created the 'History Box', a red telephone box with local history in.
- Major outlet for local history books published by local authors.
- A Children's University venue for learning.

## Our strengths:

- Strong governance team & volunteer base.
- Project is embedded in local community.
- Clear demand with written support, membership and pledges.
- Tourist demand for cultural / heritage experience is proven & growing.
- Potential building identified and business plan in place.
- Clear demand from educational institutions for school group visits.
- Registered UK Charity & Company Limited by Guarantee.
- Public liability insurance in place.

## Our justification:

- The Centre is located in the Castle ward, which is in the 10% of the most deprived wards in the country by the Index of Multiple Deprivation. We can provide community cohesion and support.
- The Centre helps revitalise and regenerate the old town, harbour and Seafront.
- We are in danger of losing our valuable town and harbour history as older members of the community pass away.