

## **Scarborough Sea Wall Heritage Trail Project – Scarborough Memory**

### **Benelux Festival - Mrs C of Leeds**

Mrs C had grown up in Scarborough and was in the town to attend a reunion of pupils who attended Scarborough's High School for Girls in the 1960s. Mrs C shared a particular memory of growing up in Scarborough.

One special memory she had was what came to be called the Benelux Festival but most people referred to it as the Dutch Festival. It was a bit like a carnival. It was held on one day in the year and I think it was there to encourage trade between Yorkshire and the Benelux countries. There were loads of Dutch people over for it and many of them had really wonderful colourful floats as part of the procession. She couldn't remember which month it was held but it was definitely not in the school holidays. She thought it might be in June. The High School for Girls was closed for a half day so that the pupils could see and possibly take part in the procession, and it was expected that you did at least attend.

It was a really big deal for Scarborough. She remembers that there were lots of Dutch flags flying. There were two really great floats every year from the town. One was the Rowntrees float and the other was Marshall and Snellgrove which was a really posh department store in the town centre. The Dutch also had some great floats.