

Scarborough Sea Wall Heritage Trail Project – Scarborough Memory

Bond Mini Near Miss - Mrs Smales (nee Broadbent) of York

Mrs Smales lived in Scarborough as a youngster. She recalls being taken to the beach by different people while her mum and dad both worked. She has a photograph of herself and her brother both as toddlers all wrapped up and located quite near the beach but with adults who appear to be looking after them but she has no idea who they were. She thinks they may have been friends of their parents and they were low cost child carers.

The story that Mrs Smales is fond of telling relates to her uncle. He was the proud owner of a Bond Mini, a three wheeled, two seater car dating back to the 1950s (see photo overleaf). Her uncle was driving the car down Eastborough one day, a steep road linking Scarborough town centre to the harbour and sea front in south bay. When he applied the brakes to slow down, there was no response and the car started to career down towards the Foreshore Road. There is a sharp bend to the right at the bottom of Eastborough and the a T-junction. His brother who knew the road well was in the passenger seat and he shouted for him to turn right again at the T-junction to avoid driving into the harbour. They both had to bank to the right to take each of these bends. There were not many cars on the road in those days and fortunately nothing was driving along at the junction with Foreshore Road when they arrived. Mrs Smales' uncle drove over the road and straight onto the beach which acted as a sand trap to slow them down. The car eventually stopped with its wheels sunk into the sand and the belly resting on the sand. Lots of people were attracted to the spot, some having seen the incident and other passers-by who stopped to find out what had happened. Many of them helped to get the car off the beach. To Mrs Smales' knowledge the car was not damaged and the only thing that needed to be fixed were the brakes.



A photograph of a Bond Mini which dates back to the 1950s