

### **Lifeboat Disaster of 1954 - Mr M of Scarborough**

Mr M was connected to the fishermen's community in Scarborough. His uncle was Bill Sheader who had been involved in the great lifeboat disaster of 1954. In that incident on 8 December, the lifeboat had already been out in the morning to help in the rescue of the crew of the small motor boat, 'Venture', which had broken down in Cayton Bay. Later that day the fateful storm began while six fishing boats were out at sea and overdue. The lifeboat went out in search but received the message that the overdue boats were sheltering in Whitby harbour. They were making the turn into the harbour when they were hit by two huge waves resulting in five of the crew being thrown overboard. Two of these managed to get back onto the lifeboat but the three others did not including Jack Sheader. Bill Sheader managed to get the lifeboat engine re-started and delivered the boat into the harbour whilst unsuccessful attempts to rescue the missing three were made from the beach.

Mr M was educated initially at Lower Graham School and then Graham High before leaving Scarborough. He remembers his young days growing up in the town with fondness. He just loved to walk in the town, play in Peasholm Park, winking on the beach and football. There were so many places to play football and other games. He still believes that Scarborough is almost unique in that regard.

He followed Scarborough Athletic for many years at the Seamer Road ground and felt very honoured to be chosen as a ball boy on match days.