



SCARBOROUGH MARITIME HERITAGE CENTRE

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2018

Happy New Year to all our readers and supporters. As we enter our 9th year of operation we can look back in amazement at what we have achieved as a community. 2018 holds another year of opportunities for us and especially with the centenary commemorations of the end of World War One to be held in November. If you have any stories or information you would like to share with us about family or relatives who lived through or died in WW1, then please contact us. We would love to include your stories on this important occasion. (April 6th to 8th: an exhibition, event and trail will take place in Scarborough to commemorate the WW1 poet, Wilfred Owen, who recuperated here).

NARROW ESCAPE

On October 14th the Maritime Centre had to be evacuated due to a huge fire next door in Harry Ramsden's fish and chip premises. Within an hour the fire was brought under control and the smoke cleared. Fortunately, no lives were lost in the blaze or damage done to our premises. It is not known when Harry Ramsden's will re-open.



Thanks go to a Maritime Centre member, Suzanne Middleton, who has written a new book about one of her Scarborough born ancestors. The book is called 'John Dean, Only Survivor of the Ship Sussex'. John was born in Scarborough in 1716. The book tells the tale of this merchant seaman, of humble origins, who became famous throughout the UK for his remarkable survival after becoming shipwrecked off the coast of Madagascar. He was central to the legal proceedings that the East India Company instigated against the ship's Captain, who had deserted the ship Sussex on her maiden voyage. For his integrity and resolve John was rewarded with a company pension and had his portrait painted by a famous artist of the time. The book tells us about the extraordinary life of a seaman during the prime years of the East India Company. Available for £5 from SMHC or online at: <https://www.feedaread.com/books/John-DeanOnly-Survivor-of-the-Ship-Sussex-9781784070540.aspx>



Our winter exhibition on fishermen's ganseys was well received. It was put together by Lindy Rowley, shown below, with help from Deb Gillanders of 'Propagansey' in Whitby. Deb held a drop-in workshop one Sunday afternoon.



The Maritime Centre's chairman, Mark Vesey, was interviewed by Michael Portillo for a new TV series of 'Great British Railway Journeys'. Tom Machin, Captain of the Regal Lady, kindly took them out to film from the coast whilst they talked about the 1914 bombardment of Scarborough. The programme is due to be shown early in 2018.



As we reached the end of the second year in our new premises, Maureen Robinson, who contributed £50,000 to the project came in to see us. We are still paying our Charity Bank loan and are very grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund and everyone else who contributed to make it all possible.



Our next exhibition, starting at the end of January will look back at the past **110 years of the Marine Drive and its construction**. Like many projects it was controversial, over budget and over time. However, the town has never looked back and continues to benefit from this amazing feat of engineering today.

In October, the Maritime Centre chairman and vice chair attended the UK Maritime Heritage Forum in Hull. Representatives from maritime museums came from all over the UK to discuss issues and ideas relating to our museums. Hull Maritime Museum will receive £27 million as part of the UK city of culture year. Updates were given on the Viola-Dias steam trawler recovery project and the national maritime skills apprenticeship scheme. Tours of the Arctic Corsair, Humber Keel, Trinity House and Hull Archives were included in the programme. Next year's conference is the 10th and will take place at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London.



Thanks go to everyone who has donated objects, pictures, books and information to us in the past few months. Chris Manning gave the wonderful large-scale framed photo shown above right.

We are run entirely by volunteers and public donations.
Please help us in any way that you can. Thank you.



Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre

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