

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

### **Sponsored Walk for Scarborough Swimming Pool - Mrs Armitage**

Mrs Armitage recalled her younger days when there was no swimming pool in Scarborough and while the Lido and South Bay sea pools were adequate in summer, they wanted an indoor facility for the rest of the year. The Council were prepared to fund part of the cost but wanted the community to offer some match funding. She cannot say how a sponsored walk was suggested but it was Jimmy Saville who seemed to have become a focus for a sponsored walk from Scarborough to Whitby and back, a distance of 40 miles in total.

Sponsorship was sought by the participants for the number of miles which were walked. The walk started from Scarborough railway station and there were checkpoints every 5 miles along the way and anyone who couldn't manage to go the full distance could get their card officially marked to show how many miles they had travelled and abandon the walk at one of these checkpoints. They were at Cloughton, the Falcon Pub, the Flask Pub and then finishing at Whitby Abbey. Jimmy Saville was a celebrity in Scarborough, his mother lived there and no one knew anything about his offences which were revealed after his death. When that news came out, people in Scarborough were horrified. The Council had just named a street after him and they had to reverse that pretty quickly. Anyway, because he was undertaking the walk, it attracted a large number of people, mainly children and raised a lot of money.

Mrs Armitage's parents owned a Ford Anglia and they drove up and down the route papping their horn when going past her which was very embarrassing. The swimming pool was eventually built using the money raised and a lot of Scarborians feel aggrieved that the pool was recently demolished with no replacement being commissioned.