



SCARBOROUGH MARITIME HERITAGE CENTRE

Spring 2023

AGM

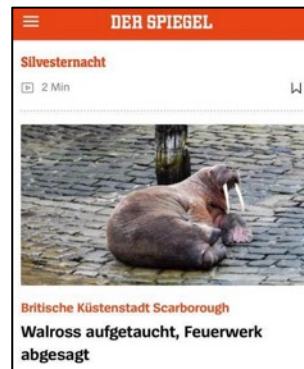
Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 25th April at 7.30pm in in the Angler's Club, Friars Way, Scarborough. We will also have an interesting presentation on 'Anne Bronte and Scarborough'. Download our annual report, accounts and agenda from our 'AGM' webpage. Please join us.

Next Exhibition

From May to September our exhibition will look at the Scottish herring lasses, their lives and their work, where they came from and where they ended their journey along the east coast.

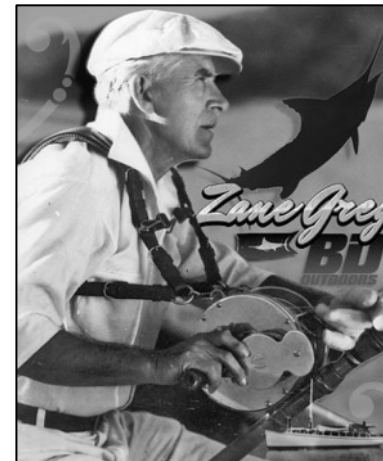
Unexpected visitor

On New Year's Eve Scarborough harbour received an unexpected visitor, Thor the walrus. The local council had to cancel the fireworks so it would not distress the animal and that news spread around the world. Thanks to Claudia Hempel, from Berlin, for the German report below.



Donations & Loans

Our thanks go to Tom Steanson, who lives near Newcastle, for organising a loan of a 1930s tunny fishing rod. The rod has the initials WWD and belonged to William Walter Dowding who caught a 429, 505, 511, 581 & 587lb tunny fish in 1937 and 38. The rod is a Zane Grey saltwater rod capable of pulling in big fish. The reel is a Zane Grey stainless steel reel made by Hardys of Alnwick. Zane Grey was an American writer and was a best selling western author in the early 20th century. He held many deep-sea angling records for tuna, swordfish, dolphin, shark and marlin. Big fish could often take a few hours to reel in.



Zane Grey



Tom Steanson

With help from Keith Johnston we managed to search the Internet and find more information about William Dowding, including photographs of him, his wife and children. William was born in 1903 and married in 1927. He caught a 922lb Thresher shark in New Zealand in 1937 and became a major in the Welsh Guards in WW2. He and his wife enjoyed shooting and they had some expensive guns made for them by Wilkes of London.

The tunny fishermen wore a harness to help them pull against the fish with their bodyweight and the reel could be used on the topside or on the underside of the rod. Tom has kindly given us a life-sized cut-out of an 831lb tunny fish that he had made to go with the rod and reel.



W. W. Dowding in NZ



Frances, Camilla & Caroline

Further research into the Dowding family line revealed connections to the famous Sir Hugh Caswell Tremenhere Dowding, Air Chief Marshall in WW2, who is generally credited with playing a crucial role in Britain's defence, and hence, the defeat of Adolf Hitler's plan to invade Britain. Sir Hugh's brother was Vice Admiral Sir Arthur Ninian Dowding. He gained the rank of Captain in 1926 in the Royal Navy and held the office of Aide-de-Camp to HM King George VI in 1936. He was appointed Companion, Order of the Bath (C.B.) in 1938. He was Admiral Superintendent of the Devonport Dockyard between 1938 and 1945. He gained the rank of Vice-Admiral in 1940. He was awarded the Officer, Legion of Merit U.S. He was appointed Knight Commander, Order of the British Empire (K.B.E.) in 1945.

Following the family line back in history we wanted to understand where William inherited his wealth? We found that his father was the 'Sheriff of Calcutta', his grandfather a Vicar and his great grandfather was a banker and joint owner of the Salisbury & Winchester newspaper. In the male line going back to the 18th century, we found a 'Surveyor of roads' and 8 to 10 generations ago, in the 16th & 17th centuries, they were Yeomen in Dorset. Our website contains the full story, search for 'Dowding'.

New website pages

Please visit our 'Featured Articles' page on our website to see new information added recently on topics such as the Warwick Tower, Peasholm Water Chute, HM Submarine G3, Hispaniola, Grand Turk, Sea Car, and Baltic Timber.

Spring Clean



Thanks go to our dedicated volunteers who came in at the start of the year to dust, clean and polish our venue and all the artefacts on display.

Scarborough Memories

Our project to gather people's memories of old Scarborough is still ongoing. Thanks go to Colin Scales, Barbara Jackson and Dick Brearley who have sent us some fantastic memories of growing up around the harbour in the 1960s. See our website page '[Porthole in Time: Public Memories](#)'. Please send your memories to us by email or post so we can preserve and share them with others.

We are run entirely by volunteers and public donations.
We always need volunteers. No special knowledge or skills are required.
Please contact us if you can spare a few hours a week?
Thank you



Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre

Charity number: 1144532

45 Eastborough, Scarborough, YO11 1NH

Tel: 01723 369361 Email: scarboroughmaritime@yahoo.com

Website: www.scarboroughsmaritimeheritage.org.uk