

# Annual Report of Scarborough Archaeological and Historical Society

2025-2026

This Annual Report covers the Society's year of 1st April 2025 until 31st March 2026

## **Registered Charity Number**

1108962

## **Address**

c/o 4c Dunslow Court  
Eastfield  
Scarborough  
YO11 3XT

## **Administration**

The Society and its property are administered and managed in accordance with the Constitution adopted at the Annual General Meeting on 4 April 2005. The Society is administered by members of the Committee, constituted in clause 6.0 of the Constitution, and by the Trustees.

## **Trustees**

The Trustees have the ultimate responsibility for the good governance of the Society, proper financial management and to ensure the Charitable objectives are met.

For 2025-2026 the Trustees are Trevor Pearson (Chair of the Trustees), Martin Bland, Christopher Hall, Stephen Gandolfi, Keith Johnston, Vanessa Milner, Simon Temlett

The Trustees held their annual meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 when they examined and agreed the draft accounts for the financial year 2024-2025. The policies on ~~Privacy~~, Safeguarding, Complaints and Reserves were reviewed and formally re-adopted. The policy on Privacy was extensively reviewed in the light of the need to improve data protection and a revised document was approved and issued along with a Data Protocol.

The Trustees held a special meeting in line with its Complaints Policy to review a complaint about the standard of re-instatement following one of the Society's excavations. A robust rebuttal was issued and the complaint was dropped.

## Committee 2025-2026

**President** Trevor Pearson

**Vice President** Keith Johnston

### Executive Officers

**Chair** Vanessa Milner

**Vice Chair** Mark Vesey

**Secretary** Simon Temlett

**Treasurer** Martin Bland

### Committee

Rebecca Abberstein

Gareth Davies

Stephen Gandolfi

Elaine Jamieson

Stewart MacDonald

Emma Temlett

Andrew Volans

Lynda Welch

The Committee appointed members to the following posts:

**Editor of Transactions** Keith Johnston [Keith resigned in January 2025]

**Fieldwork** Elaine Jamieson

**Membership** Rebecca Abberstein

**Minutes** Lynda Welch

**Programme working group** Simon Temlett, Elaine Jamieson, Keith Johnston, Andy Volans

**Publications** Emma Temlett

**Publicity** Mark Vesey

**Social Media** Gareth Davies

**Web master** Simon Temlett

The Committee met virtually on 6 occasions during the year.

The Society is deeply saddened to have to report the passing of Life Member, Chris Evans, during the year.

## Objectives

The Society's objectives are set out in clause 3.1 of the Constitution and are: To advance the education for the public benefit in the archaeological and local history of Scarborough and the surrounding area by the following:

To increase and disseminate knowledge of and interest in the same.

To undertake and support research into sites and archives of archaeological, architectural and historical interest, and the publication of the results of such research.

To encourage the identification, protection and preservation of such sites and archives.

How we carried out our objectives.

### a. Dissemination of knowledge

#### i) Lectures

Lectures throughout the year were held at the Salvation Army Hall and the switch to monthly meetings did not have any detriment to attendances.

When speakers were amenable, lectures were recorded and put on the website. Members were notified first, granting them private access followed by a public release which was publicised via Facebook and the mailing list.

#### ii) Field excursions and other activities

The Society organised a trip to Sewerby Hall and gardens for members and their friends on 13 June.

#### iii) Publications

The Society receives requests for articles published in past editions of Transactions. These enquiries are now redirected to the Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/details/sahs>) where almost the entire back catalogue of Society publications is preserved and available for universal access.

The Society continues its use of the SumUp online store to facilitate purchases from across the country. Visitors to the Society website public are redirected to the store where they can purchase publications.

Regular orders are received from several bookstores, including ones across the country, and the Society notes its gratitude to Chris and Frances Hall for making deliveries to numerous outlets in the Rosedale area, including the Ryedale Folk Museum. Once again, the Society is grateful to the Maritime Heritage Centre for their ongoing support in stocking Society publications.

#### iv) Web site and social media

The Society's Facebook page currently has over 6,100 followers. The Society's YouTube channel has 432 subscribers, and the publicly listed videos have a total of 15,180 views. The back catalogue of previously streamed online lectures forms part of an archive available to members.

The main updates to the Society website are provided by the fieldwork team and to provide details on the Lecture Programme. Visitors to the website can make enquiries to the Society for help or information and such requests have been received from all around the world. Enquiries are circulated first to the Committee and then if required to the wider Society membership via the mailing list.

The Society maintains a mailing database for both members and those with an interest in Society activities. 538 individuals are subscribed to the mailing list. Every mailing sent by the Society contains an option to unsubscribe from the mailing list for either events or information in accordance with current GDPR legislation.

The Facebook page promotes the Society's activities and advertises the Lecture Programme but also shares other news stories with an historical or archaeological aspect. The Society is extremely grateful to Gareth Davies in providing daily content to followers on Facebook, the number of which has grown to over 6,000. Facebook posts regularly achieve several thousand views with many hundreds of engagements including valuable historical personal recollections and information from members of the public.

## b. Research

### Archaeological fieldwork

The fieldwork team continued its association with the 'Big Ideas By The Sea' environmental and creative festival through its involvement in the Big Dig. An excavation was once again carried out on an open area at Paradise with Society members excavating a large trench. Community engagement was a major component with a number of local schools visiting and pupils participating in the excavations. The public could also sign up to work alongside members of the field team and all of the available tickets, for which there was no charge, were taken up in very short order. As part of the event on 27 May Chris Hall gave a guided tour of the excavation and the historic surroundings.

Other fieldwork has been undertaken at two prehistoric enclosures in the local area. The enclosure at Coomb Hill in Wykeham Forest was surveyed in April along with five adjacent burial mounds while members helped LS archaeology with an excavation within the enclosure.

In the summer the Society undertook earthwork and geophysical surveys of an enclosure near Raincliffe Farm followed by an excavation in October.

The Society continued its programme of archaeological research at Brompton by excavating test pits and undertaking geophysical and earthwork surveys in the grounds of Brompton Hall School in August. An open day for local villagers was held during the excavation.

Reports on the two enclosures have been published for download from the Society website and from the Archaeology Data Service while the report on the work at Brompton Hall School is not publicly available due to sensitivities connected with the site.

### Historical research

Chris Hall's revised and updated version of Architects and Civil Engineers of Scarborough: 1800 to 1914 was published by the Society at a launch event held at the Old Parcels Office on 12 September attended by about 50 people.

The Society has several members active in undertaking individual historical research with several making presentations at the annual Members' Evening and by submitting articles for publication in Transactions.

## Outreach

The Society participated in the Big Day Out at the Castle in May where Gill Hodgson assisted by members of the Society put on the ever-popular mini digs, whereby children can undertake a miniature excavation to discover real archaeological artefacts.

The Society was represented at Armed Forces Day on 28 June and at the Spa Cliff Lift 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 5-6 July,

On 24 August around 80 villagers came on tours around the excavations taking place at Brompton Hall School.

On 14 September Society attended the Dean Road and Manor Road Cemetery Heritage Fair. The Society is grateful for Gill Hodgson for facilitating the mini-digs for children at this event and to Chris Hall who gave guided tours of the cemetery looking at monuments connected with individuals featured in his book on Scarborough Architects and Civil Engineers published by the Society.

The Society ran two events at the Beeforth Hive on the South Cliff - one a workshop on finds processing and the other on understanding lime mortars, wall finishes, and stone tooling in historic building conservation

The Society also receives enquiries via Facebook and the website. These are circulated to members of the committee and responded to where possible.

## c. Sites and Archives

The Society has continued to work closely with the Scarborough Library Archives Group, continuing to catalogue its collection of local history resources.

### **Partnership working**

The Society works in partnership with other organisations and community groups, and this is important in the delivery of the Society's Objectives. During the year the Society worked in partnership with:

- Big Ideas by the Sea – Big Dig, the *Big Day Out* at Scarborough Castle
- British Association for Local History – publicising Society work and events
- Brompton Local History Society – Ongoing work in the Brompton area
- Brompton Hall School - test pit excavations
- Council for British Archaeology Yorkshire Group - institutional member
- English Heritage - ROC bunker excavation, Scarborough Castle
- Forestry England - Coomb Hill survey and excavation
- Heritage Adventures – Big Dig
- Historic Towns Trust - several members are contributing research to the project to produce an authoritative large-scale map of Scarborough. The research is being coordinated by Chris Hall and the Society has donated to the cost of producing the map.
- John Buglass Archaeological services - ROC bunker excavation, Scarborough Castle
- LS Archaeology - Coomb Hill survey and excavation

- North York Moors National Park - Coomb Hill survey and excavation
- North Yorkshire County Library and the Friends of Scarborough Library – Archives Group
- Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise – Outreach events and ongoing project work
- Scarborough Maritime Heritage Centre
- Venn Academy - text pit excavations at Brompton Hall School
- The Society is represented on the local Heritage Forum (Chris Hall and Keith Johnston); on the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society (Keith Johnston); on the North Yorkshire Moors Archaeology Group (Chris Hall).

## Membership

Membership fees were retained at the 2022-2023 level for the 2025-26 year.

The Society currently has 185 paid up members and 8 life members. This compares to 168 members in 2023/24, 163 in 2022/23, 154 in 2021/22, 128 in 2019/20, 134 in 2018/19, 140 in 2017/18, and 120 in 2016/17. No membership subscriptions were taken during pandemic 2020/21.

The Society notes its gratitude to Rebecca Abberstein and Martin Bland for once again facilitating and administering the membership processes.

## Signed

Trevor Pearson,  
*President of the Society*  
*Chair of the Trustees*

Vanessa Milner  
*Chair of the Society*

# Appendix 1 – 2025-2026 Programme

12 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	<b>Escape to Germany – The Persecuted Parson and the Vicious Soldier</b> <i>John Dodsworth</i>
13 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	<b>New Light on Early Medieval Lindisfarne; recent excavations on Holy Island</b> <i>Dr. David Petts</i>
10 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	<b>Anglian Odyssey / Long Awaited Recovery</b> <i>Don Graham</i>
15 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	<b>Christmas Magic Lantern Show</b> <i>Dr Nick Hiley</i>
12 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	<b>Gala Land</b> <i>Austen Sleightholme and Vanessa Milner</i>
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	<b>Recent Discoveries From Roman York</b> <i>Dr. Paul Flintoft</i>
2nd March 2026	<b>Members Evening:</b> <b>1. Lost Pubs of Filey</b> <i>Catherine Welch</i> <b>2. Fred's Fishy Tales</b> <i>Fred Normandale</i> <b>3. The History of Medicine in Scarborough</b> <i>Andy Volans</i>
16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	<b>Architects and Civil Engineers of Scarborough</b> <i>Chris Hall</i>
13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>

## OTHER EVENTS

27 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Tour of the Big Dig Excavation
13 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Sewerby Hall and Gardens Visit and Talk
12 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Architects and Civil Engineers of Scarborough Launch