



# Scottish Fisheries Museum

## *Boats, fish and folk...*

### Newsletter

Autumn 2019

As we near the halfway point in our Anniversary Celebrations, we look back over the year so far and ahead to the rest of our exciting programme.

#### A word from our Directors, Ian and Simon



The exciting year continues at the Museum with the *Reaper* safely back in Anstruther Harbour and looking wonderful moored against our brand-new pontoon. Phase 3 of the restoration is now in the planning phase with our funding application to National Lottery Heritage Fund to allow us to complete the project and get the *Reaper* back out to sea as soon as possible.

We have also been busy preparing our major fund-raising plans for launch in Jan 2020. This will aim to raise substantial capital funds for museum development. More details of these exciting plans soon!

Our team at the Museum continue to give fantastic support and have worked tirelessly throughout a busy summer especially with our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. Sincere thanks to all our staff, clubs and volunteers. Congratulations to Margaret Leask, Sean Dooley and Minna Kajaste-McCormack who have all successfully completed an intensive 4-week course in advanced health & safety.

With 2020 fast approaching, it promises to be very exciting year for the Museum with the continuation of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations and Visit Scotland's celebration of "Year of Coast & Waters (#YCW2020)". We look forward to welcoming all our visitors old and new to share our continued journey of development at our wonderful Museum.



#### Volunteering – Behind the Scenes

Our fantastic MGS Trainee Thomas finished his year-long traineeship in August, leaving a vacuum in the weekly collections tasks. Luckily, we have since recruited new volunteers from the University of St Andrews!

Lacey Smith from the Museum and Gallery Studies course and James Rodgers, a third year Art History student, have taken on a variety of collections care duties. Lacey and our Assistant Curator Minna Kajaste-McCormack are conducting a costume review, whilst James helps with digitisation, collection database work as well as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary social media campaign "Fifty Fridays".



Lacey says: "It has been so exciting getting a behind the scenes look at SFM".

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2019 - 20

After a successful 2019 looking back and celebrating the last 50 years of the museum and launching our new beer **St Ayles Ale**, we are rounding it off with our **Light at the Museum Christmas Parade** with food stalls and fun for all on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December from 5pm, and our 1969 themed **Christmas Party** on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December from 6:30pm which you can book through the museum.

Looking into 2020 our theme moves into the future of the museum and its content and thinking about how the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary can leave a legacy for the museum. There will be more academic events and other events that look into nature, the environment and science in a fun and creative way as we ask where will the museum and fishing industry be in 2069?.



We also have planning for a **St Ayles Skiff Regatta** underway and for the Year of Coasts and Waters 2020, we have been awarded money to collaborate with the Anstruther Harbour Festival on **Fèis Chala An t-struthair** for a bigger and better festival than in previous years.

We are looking forward to celebrating the rest of the anniversary and the next 50 years of the museum.

## Golden Gift for Model Boat Club



On Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, a small presentation of a Model Boat that is over a century old took place at the Scottish Fisheries Museum.

Mr Stephen Younger, son of the brewing family who had their family seat in Craigtoun House with Craigtoun Park as its garden, visited the museum for the formal handing over of a steam launch to the Model Boat Club.

Research has shown that this boat is around 120 years old and was a fully functioning steam launch, complete with steam engine and boiler. The vessel belonged to Mr Younger's father. Unfortunately, when brought to the Model Boats Club it was looking very worse for wear.

The vessel required extensive renovation which was carried out by club members Bill Horsburgh and Alan Whitfield. Countless hours of stripping back old varnish and polishing up and repairing the brass fittings have left the boat gleaming as it was on the day it was first launched. They did a marvellous job and Stephen was more than pleased at how the piece of his family history turned out.

A smaller vessel was also donated to the Model Boat Club by Mr Younger. This was refurbished by club member David Tod. Both vessels will now take pride of place in the Model Boats Club display within the Museum. The Club hopes to return to sail at Craigtoun Park next season.

## St Ayles Rowing Club – Trophies Galore!

The Rowing Club have had a really great year with lots of trophies, medals and personal bests for both individuals and for the Club. Main event was the World Championships in Stranraer where they came 7<sup>th</sup> overall from 55 Clubs worldwide. Around 30 members attended throughout the week and even some ducks! A party was also held there which kicked off celebrations of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the St Ayles skiff.



Prior to that they'd taken part and won the Forth Midsummer Challenge at Newhaven and also a very successful joint first place with North Berwick at the Royal West (Greenock) regatta. The Cellardyke Sea Queen celebrations in August were a great social day where they transported St Ayle and Bishop Kennedy to the ceremony. North Berwick and Pittenweem skiffs joined in with St Baldred and St Fillan taking main parts.

Back to serious rowing and next up was Portsoy, sadly not retaining the trophy on this occasion, but second overall with lots of medals. Off they then went to London in September where the crew, 'Scots Wha Hae' won the *Great River Race* trophy for the fastest St Ayles skiff, now on show in the museum: 22 miles under 28 bridges from Greenwich to Richmond.

A week later three crews in our three skiffs tackled the *Castle 2 Crane* race on the Clyde. This was a hand blistering, bum ripping 13 miles from Dumbarton Castle to Finneston Crane, into a headwind with no help from the tide, a real marathon!

Every inch of pain was worth it however to come home with 3 trophies for Women's 50+, Women's Open and Men's Open races.



2020 is the year of the St Ayles Skiff 10<sup>th</sup> birthday and amongst other events the Club will be going to Holland, Ullapool and taking part in the Row Around Scotland relay to commemorate this milestone.

## Boats Fish and Folk: 50 years of Scottish fishing

There is still time to see our anniversary exhibition where we focus on our local community to illuminate the last 50 years of the fishing industry charting the changes to the fleets, the harbours, the livelihoods and the lives of those who work to put fish on our tables.



Since 1969, the number employed on Scottish fishing boats has halved. Many smaller harbours, including Anstruther, have been converted to use as yachting marinas. And yet, today, seafood is celebrated as one of Scotland's finest natural products. Those who work in the industry have to be adept at navigating complex technology, international politics and environmental issues to do a demanding yet rewarding job.

We draw on our unparalleled collection of information, photographs, objects and oral history to dive beneath the surface of this hidden story of change and renewal (to 12 Jan).

## Multi-Sensory Museum welcomes Children with Autism

We are delighted to share with you some new resources that Eilidh Lawrence, our Learning and Engagement Officer has developed specifically for children with autism visiting the museum. These new resources include a family-friendly, interactive Visual Story to help families prepare for their visit. The Story can be downloaded from our website ahead of a visit to the museum, outlining what can be expected, and all the resources and support available during a visit to the museum.

Alongside the Visual Story is a Sensory Backpack that can be borrowed during a visit. The backpack contains a range of sensory resources to support and enhance a visit to the museum: including ear defenders, a compass, miniature telescope, tangle toy, a Puffin guide to keep you company, and Aroma Cubes – scented cubes that use another sensory approach to interpreting our collections. The backpack can be borrowed from Reception on arrival to the museum.



We would welcome any feedback on these new resources - please email [eilidh@scotfishmuseum.org](mailto:eilidh@scotfishmuseum.org) with any comments that you may have. We are also looking for new guides to join our team to show pre-booked groups of adults and/or children around the museum. If you think you might be interested, please get in touch – full training will be given.

## Raise a Glass to SFM!



As part of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations we've invested in some high quality glassware from Glencairn Crystal. Marked with our anniversary logo, these crystal glasses are an ideal way to sip our St Ayles Golden Ale – or another tippie of your choice!

If you would like to support the museum, and give a lasting gift to a fellow volunteer, member or friend, you will find the glasses (and many more fantastic Christmas gifts), in our shop.

Why not pop in for a cuppa and a browse?

## SFM @ 50

Through November and December we invite you to travel down Memory Lane to the earliest days of the museum. Do you remember the aquarium? Did you know Gordon Clarkson, or Garth Sterne? Did you know there was a murder weapon in the collections? Or a Chinese junk?

Come and see them all in the Merchant's Room until 8<sup>th</sup> January where we cast an eye over the museum's own history over the last 50 years.



## Keep in Touch

You can find more information on our events and activities past, present and future at: [www.scotfishmuseum.org](http://www.scotfishmuseum.org). Check the *News* and *What's On* pages.

Or follow us on social media for glimpses behind the scenes and details of forthcoming events:

<https://www.facebook.com/scotfishmuseum/?ref=hl>

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