



# Scottish Fisheries Museum

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

### Newsletter

Autumn 2020

In a year that has brought momentous change to all our lives, our museum staff and volunteers have been working to meet the challenges of 2020.

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

A great deal has happened since our last Newsletter at the end of 2019 when we were optimistically looking forward to the continuation of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations and Year of Coast & Waters in 2020. Unfortunately, the Coronavirus pandemic has dominated our lives and had a significant impact on our families, our work, and the Museum. We were forced to close our doors to the public on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 when we entered a period of national lockdown and this was a very sad day for the Museum.



We did, however, battle on behind the scenes with key members of our team either working from home or part-time at the Museum to carry out essential work. Everyone met the challenge and achieved a great deal during this difficult period. The Trustees and Directors owe a great deal of thanks to our wonderful museum staff.

We are also pleased to report that we have received some much-needed financial support from Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise and this has allowed us to continue to operate during difficult times. The *Reaper* restoration continues and as we head towards completion of Phase 2, our efforts are turning towards the final phase of works in 2021. Fundraising remains vital to the continued work of the Museum and we continue our efforts to obtain the necessary funds to develop our wonderful museum in the future.

Finally, thank you all for supporting the Museum and we look forward to a much better 2021 when life with our families and friends starts to gradually return to some normality.

#### We're Good to Go



After four months of closure, we got word from the Government in July that museums would be allowed to re-open. This ushered in a phase of tireless activity to order and fit new screens, signage, and sanitiser stations, to re-train and re-deploy staff and to implement new procedures and PPE. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of August everything was in place to allow us to safely welcome visitors back in – and we have been really pleased to see so many people coming, both to the Museum and tearoom, to enjoy a day out.

We have **full details** of our new measures on the museum website, plus our new features including a **virtual tour video** and an **app guide** which visitors can use on their own phone. We will be developing new features in the coming months to enhance our visitors' experience so that, while a visit to the Museum might be a bit different, it will still be a fun and engaging outing. See: <https://www.scotfishmuseum.org/visit-us.php> for full details.

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

We ended 2019 with a bang at our 1969-themed **Christmas Party** on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December and our **Light at the Museum Christmas Parade** on the 6<sup>th</sup> which turned the folly into Anstruther's own Christmas Market and was a huge success. If you missed it (or if you want to spot yourself in the crowd) watch the video at: <https://www.facebook.com/scotfishmuseum/videos/>



Unfortunately, many of our plans for 2020 had to be cancelled or postponed. However, our funding for the finale of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, the **Fèis Chala An t-struthair**, has been carried forward so we are working towards holding the event in June 2021 as part of the rescheduled *Year of Coasts and Waters* – keep an eye out for updates.

## Sea Change – on-site and online



On the 24<sup>th</sup> of January, we opened the second of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary special exhibitions: *Sea Change: how do we safeguard the future of our seas?* We worked with partners from across the fishing industry and marine science and industry to identify and address three main themes:

**The changing sea** – effects of climate change on fish and the marine environment

**Future fishing technology** – developments in boat and gear design and their impacts

**People and the sea** – who uses the sea, what for, for whom and who decides

With the museum forced to close on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March, we brought the exhibition online. We already had some exhibition elements (a *Fishing Boat of the Future* game and a podcast series) available via the museum website. These were added to with new and adapted content. The exhibition launched online at <https://www.scotfishmuseum.org/sea-change.php> on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April and consists of a mix of information, video, audio and fun, learning activities.

The on-site *Sea Change* exhibition re-opened on 26<sup>th</sup> of August. Originally intended to run until the 21<sup>st</sup> of June, it has been extended until the end of the year. Visitors can now get the best from both versions – although we have had to remove our on-site interactives, we are directing visitors via QR codes to the online counterparts. These can be accessed as part of the visit or as a follow-up activity.



## St Ayles Rowing Club – 10 Years of the St Ayles Skiff

The Rowing Club were looking forward to an active year, including the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association's RowAround Scotland. This was to be a relay in open rowing boats around the coast of Scotland with all 70 member clubs taking part, joining up their communities and promoting Scotland's wonderful coastline and waters along the way.



Instead, the **Virtual RowAround Scotland 2020** (VRAS) began on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and continued in real time around the coast. The St Ayles Rowing Club added their contribution to the daily virtual blog on the 18<sup>th</sup> of August (see: [https://www.rowaround.scot/virtual\\_legs/crail-to-anstruther-section-10-day-8/](https://www.rowaround.scot/virtual_legs/crail-to-anstruther-section-10-day-8/)), a lasting legacy in celebration of the tenth anniversary.

Actual rowing resumed, with restrictions, in late August and has continued into October as weather permits. The postponed RAS will take place next year - roll on 2021!

## Farewell to Athene



In early September, after major restoration in the Museum Boatyard, the *Athene*, donated to the Boats Club by the late Gordon Scobie, departed for her new home port. *Athene* has now been sold, and we hope that the work done in the boatyard will contribute to a successful future. Given the large number of hours of work that Boats Club volunteers have willingly put into the project, there is no doubt the new owner has secured a bargain!

However, the Boatyard and volunteers have also benefitted from preserving traditional techniques, learning new skills and having the satisfaction of seeing the job through to completion and knowing, by all accounts, that the *Athene* has gone to a good home.

## Knitting the Herring

The Scottish Fisheries Museum is delighted to announce the launch of our **Knitting the Herring** website!



Over the summer, we have been busy creating the initial workings of a national database to showcase Scottish historical ganseys. The ganseys held by the Scottish Fisheries Museum and others, combined with historical photographs, knitting patterns and online events, will unravel the connection between fishing and knitting communities.

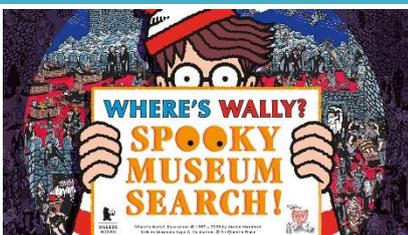
In the coming months, we will reach out to museums, family homes and our project partners in Fife, the Outer Hebrides and beyond to gather and share information on historical ganseys that were knitted for, and worn by, fisherfolk from the 1800s to the 20th century. This national collection will create an online hub of information and skills. Find out more at: <https://scottishgansey.org.uk/>

As part of *Knitting the Herring*, we are creating **Shoal!** You can knit your own herring or bunting at home and contribute to a collaborative exhibition. Shoal will be exhibited online to showcase the shared passion for Scotland's National Gansey network. Visit the website for details, instructions and the **herring pattern**.



Our *Knitting the Herring* **events programme** will also include online knitting demonstrations, talks, knit-alongs, book readings and storytelling, and a specially designed comic: *Kipper the Cat's Gansey Adventure*. Full details of our programme will be revealed online.

## Where's Wally? Spooky Museum Search



Not everything is online – there are some things to do on-site! This Halloween, Wally is travelling the UK, appearing in over 75 museums, including the Scottish Fisheries Museum.

The **Where's Wally? Spooky Museum Search** is an activity trail organised by Walker Books and Kids in Museums. Find Wally as part of your pre-booked museum visit – collect a puzzle and *I Found Wally* bookmark to take home, and enter the draw to win more prizes.

## Learning in Lockdown and Beyond

Like many museums faced with closure, the Scottish Fisheries Museum had to adapt quickly to the world of virtual teaching and home-schooling. In addition, our new Learning and Engagement Officer, Carolyn Cluness, had the added challenge of having been in post for only one week!

Rising to the challenge, Carolyn took inspiration from our **Sea Change** exhibition to create content for our social media channels where features such as our **Teach Me Tuesday videos** used themes from the exhibition to support home-schooling activities. The weekly videos covered science, history, arts and crafts, and even home baking.

This year the **school art competition** also became a home-schooling activity. We were so impressed with the artwork created at home, and the competition was extremely close. We were amazed by how all entrants were inspired by the topics of climate change and plastics in the oceans.

We are extremely grateful to the Scottish Seabird Centre, the Anstruther Fish Bar, the Fisher Studio and Pittenweem Arts Festival for sponsoring us: thank you all so much. And congratulations to our overall winner, Sophia-Rose Marwick-Scott, of Newport who turned her home into an artwork!



## Anchored Podcast



Despite the closure of the Museum, we have been working to collect material relating to lockdown and its impacts. Andrea Elder, our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Officer, invited people to contribute to a podcast series and the response has been fantastic.

The first episode of **Anchored: Marine Life** in Lockdown launched in September. The podcast series documents Scotland in lockdown from the perspective of the fishing and seafood industries, coastal communities, the marine science and conservation sector, and more. Through this project, we are aiming to explore how these challenging times are affecting people involved in maritime industries.

We have heard from a wide range of people from across Scotland who have shared the challenges, concerns, uncertainties and opportunities they have encountered due to the Covid-19 pandemic. No two stories are the same and the series will provide an insight into how the maritime sector is coping and evolving to stay afloat.

Listen to *Anchored*, or other Museum podcasts at: <https://anchor.fm/scotfishmuseum/>.

There is still time to take part in the project - to learn more, please email [andrea@scotfishmuseum.org](mailto:andrea@scotfishmuseum.org) or get in touch via the Museum's Facebook page.

## 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>  
<https://www.instagram.com/scotfishmuseum/>