

# A journey through Scarborough and Whitby and the railway in between

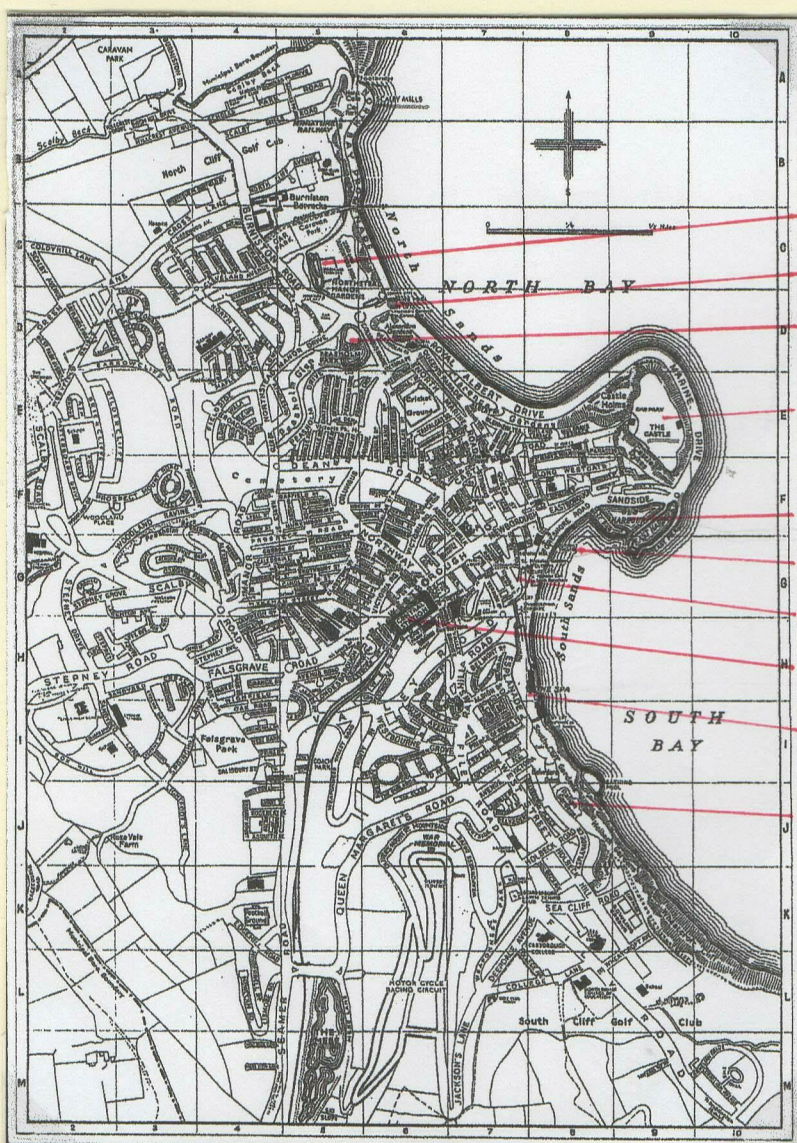
## Introduction

This exhibit takes us on a journey from our arrival at Scarborough Central Station, through this seaside resort and on to Whitby and the Abbey via the Scarborough and Whitby Railway which closed to passengers on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1965. On the way there will be opportunities to see some of the major features and attractions and to consider some of the towns' history and social life.

## Plan

- Part 1 Scarborough
- Part 2 The Scarborough to Whitby Railway
- Part 3 Whitby

Map of Scarborough showing some of the major features



Northstead Manor Gardens

Corner Café

Peasholm Park

Scarborough Castle

Harbour

Lifeboat Station

Grand Hotel

Central Station

The Spa

Italian Gardens

## Note on rarity

Two items are marked \*\* and are considered uncommon; so too some of the village and early Whitby items.

## References

Research at Scarborough Museum and the Maritime Centre.  
The Scarborough and Whitby Railway  
Robin Hoods Bay as it was

J Robin Lidster

J Robin Lidster



Ja - Ja Heraldic Series

Scarborough's coat of arms with its motto of: De scardeburg sigillum commune burgensia.



Dennis & Holloway, Scarborough

A view showing the Valley Bridge foot bridge, Grand Hotel and on towards the castle and harbour

The journey through starts on arrival at Scarborough Central which opened in July 1845 as the eastern terminus of the York to Scarborough line built by the York and North Midland Railway Company, having taken only a year to complete the line with its relatively flat terrain. This view of the station dates back to the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



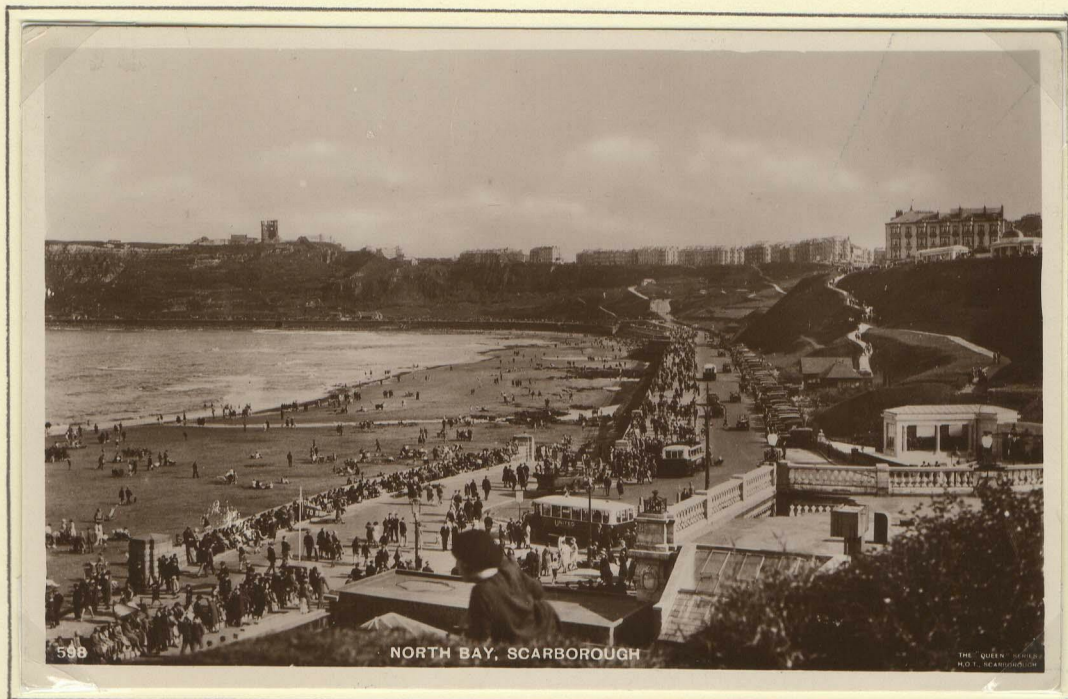
R T W Dennis & Sons, London & Scarborough

By 1906 the North Eastern Railway which now ran the region's railways, started to run a **charabanc service** with 4 full day services and 8 half day runs. After the First World War these services were **offered by Robinsons** and this vehicle will take to the road to the Corner Café as the trip begins.



Q Scott, Photographer, Gladstone Lane, Scarborough

This is a general view of the North Bay overlooking the **Corner Café** which is to the right of the bus, with the North Bay Promenade leading to Royal Albert Drive. In the far distance stands the castle, while to the right of the Promenade is a row of buses which have brought in hundreds of day trippers.



The Queen Series, H.O.T. Scarborough

Turning round to face north shows us the continuation of the **North Bay up to Scalby Mills** and the village of Scalby in the distance. On the left is the **miniature railway** which travels from Northstead Manor Gardens to Scalby Mills. The train is pulled by the **oldest operational diesel hydraulic locomotive in the world**, built in 1931 and carrying the running number 1931.



A few yards inland of the Corner Café is the **heated freshwater swimming pool** and just beyond it is the water powered **funicular railway** which allows holiday makers an easy ride to and from the heights above North Bay where many of the better hotels and guest houses are situated.



H. Webster, Helvellyn House, Keswick

North Bay on a less than welcoming day but an exhilarating walk is still to be had. It was this sort of weather which finally brought about the demise of **Scarborough's pier** built in 1869 to receive passenger steamers bringing tourists in for the day from other resorts. It was 1000 feet long but the sea was often too shallow at low tide and many of these vessels damaged the pier. It was finally wrecked in 1905 by a severe storm.



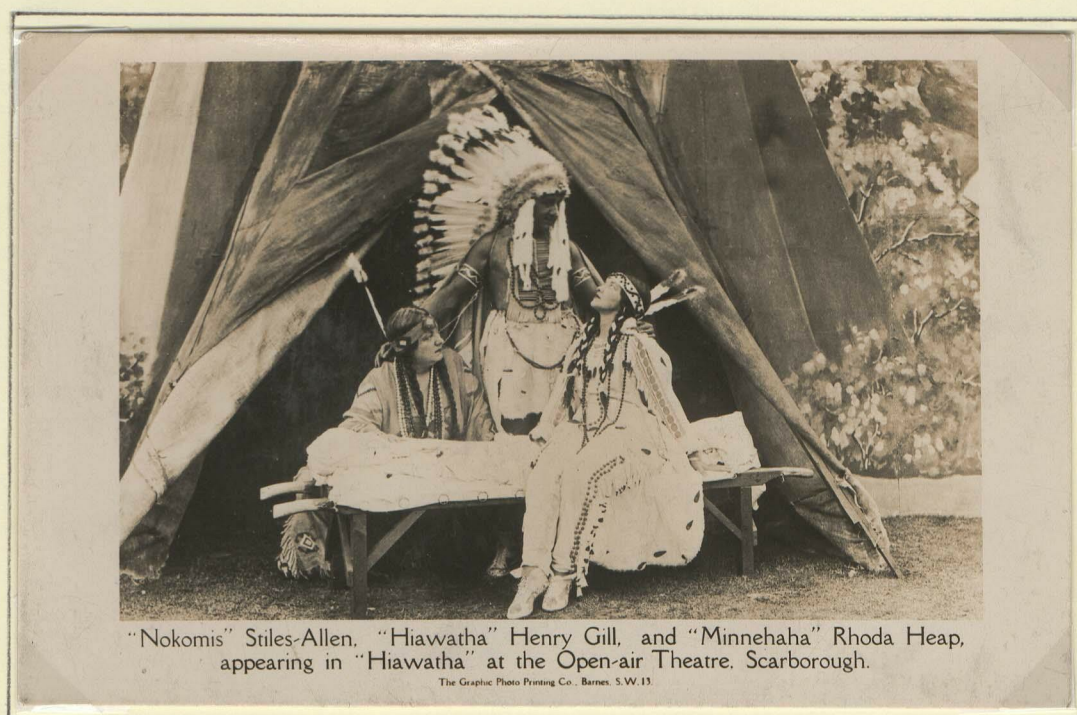
Rotary Photo. E.C.

Inland of the open air swimming pool is **Northstead Manor Gardens** famous for its **water chute** and **Open Air Theatre**. The stage is situated on an island in the middle a boating lake and has permanent seating for up to 6000 people, but bring your own cushion!



H.O.T. Scarborough

Musicals were performed during the summer season at the **Open Air Theatre** including such titles as 'Chu Chin Chow'. Another production was that of Hiawatha as can be seen below.



Graphic Photo Printing Co., Barnes. SW13

**Peasholm Park** was created by Scarborough Borough Council and is situated opposite Northstead Manor Gardens. It was based on an **oriental theme** with Chinese style pagodas and tea houses with an appropriate footbridge to match. It was **opened in 1912** and the lake thus formed has been the scene of re-enactments of the **Battle of the River Plate** with manned miniature scale models of the battleships for about 70 years.



H. Webster, Helvellyn Hose, Keswick

Here is another view of **Peasholm Park** which was taken during the 1930s. This was a pleasant spot for evening walks when many paths were lit creating a romantic atmosphere.



H. Coates, Wisbech

This is an Edwardian view of **Queen's Parade** looking round towards the Castle with 'taking the air' very much in evidence in the late afternoon or evening. Only one car in sight and the horse and carriage rides were available for hire by the hour.



Alfred Siebel & Co Ltd, The Local View Series

Moving up **Queen's Parade** brings us to the **grass tennis courts** which because of wear and tear and the cost of maintenance were soon replaced with hard courts and other activity spaces such as bowls. The road sweeping round the promontory on which the castle stands is **Marine Drive** and was built by the town council in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. When completed it linked the North and South Bays and for several years both vehicles and pedestrians were charged a toll to help pay for its construction.



Valentine's Post Card

As our journey takes us up towards the castle we reach **St Mary's Church**. The building is half the size of its predecessor having been **rebuilt in the 17<sup>th</sup> century** and further restored in the mid-1900s. It is here that **Anne Bronte** is buried after she was brought to Scarborough by her sister, Charlotte, to try to improve her poor health.

Re-building had been necessary as during the **Civil War** the adjacent castle was bombarded with cannon fire from the churchyard and return fire destroyed the original church.



Queen's Series, T.T. & S, Scarboro

**Scarborough Castle** has a long history and the site, itself, shows **4000 years of occupation** including Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age remains; the Romans built a fortified signalling station here, followed later by Saxon and Viking settlements. **Scarborough is not mentioned in the Domesday Book**, probably because it had been destroyed by the Norsemen. The name, Scarborough, is thought to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon for 'the hill with a fort'.



Unknown publisher

In the **12<sup>th</sup> Century Henry II** demanded that Scarborough Castle, among several others, were returned to him. He proceeded to build a town below the castle and constructed the Great Tower between 1159 and 1169. **King John** visited the castle several times maintain it well, as did **Henry III** and later **Edward I**.

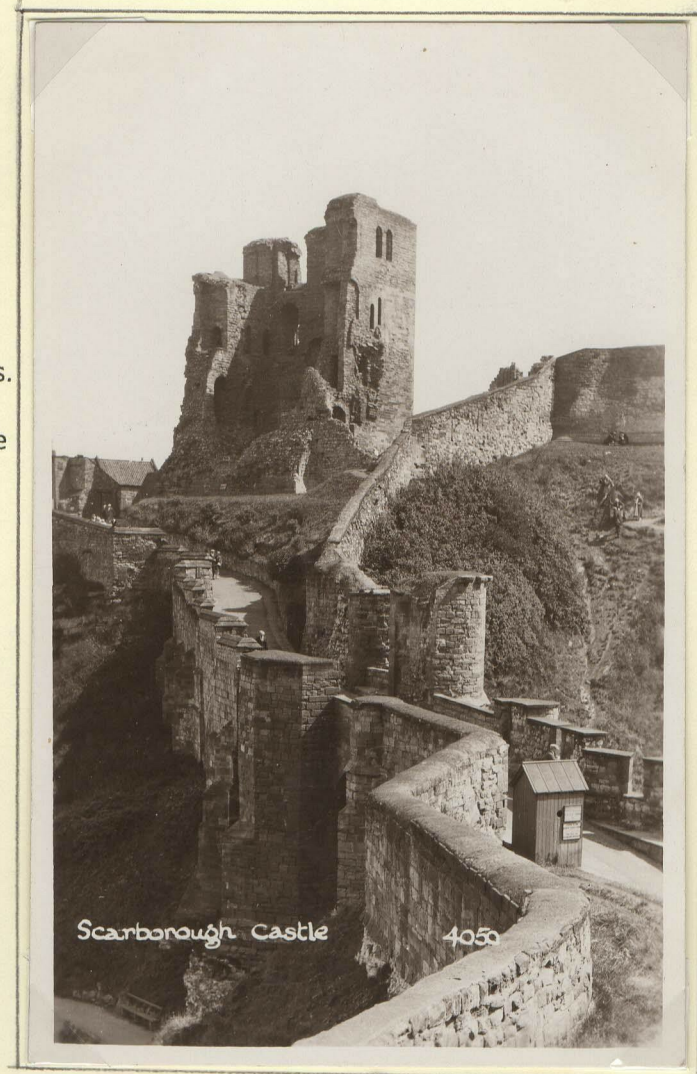
In **1275** it was used to detain prisoners from the Scottish Wars.

Edward II's favourite, **Piers Gaveston**, took refuge in the castle in **1312** causing it to be besieged. After his capture he was taken to Warwick Castle, without the King's knowledge, and later executed.

**Richard III** was the last King to stay here in **1484** while assembling a fleet to resist the anticipated invasion by Henry Tudor, later Henry VII.

Though by then becoming dilapidated, the castle played a part in the **Pilgrimage of Grace** against Henry VIII in **1536**.

The castle was further involved in **1557**, when **Thomas Stafford** tried to raise a revolt against Queen Mary.



Unknown publisher

During the **Civil War** the control of the castle changed several times. Parliamentary bombardment in **1645** led to half the Great Tower to collapsing. **From the 1650s** the castle was used as a prison, and during the **Jacobite rebellion** in 1745-6 a barracks block was constructed and this remained in use until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. During the **Napoleonic War** French prisoners were kept here and the site was used as a **listening post in World War II**.



Valentine's Series

A view from part way down from the castle on **Castle Dykes** with fishermen's cottages in the foreground and many hybrid –fishing boats, powered by sail and steam in and around the harbour. To the far right is the **Grand Hotel** while in the distance is the hill known as **Oliver's Mount** before the erection of the World War I memorial.



Kingsway Real Photo Series

**Scottish trawlers** travelled up and down the North Sea to catch **herring** as they migrated north during the summer months. For many years the catches were enormous until depletion due to overfishing in the 1950s. The wives and daughters of the fishermen – known as **fisher girls** - dealt with the landed fish, gutting and trimming them and salting them in barrels. Here they are hard at work on dock side of the inner harbour in an **early 20<sup>th</sup> century** scene with only sailing vessels present.



Wherritt's Eastboro Series

Moored to the outside of the inner harbour, **Vincent's Pier**, is the small paddle steamer, **the Cambria**, which gave tours around the bay and as far as Flamborough Head to the south. The **lighthouse** was built between 1801 and 1806 to guide shipping into the harbour. Originally brick built, it first flew a flag during daylight and had a coal brazier at night. Over the years this was upgraded through large candles, to gas and eventually electricity. It was badly damaged in the bombardment of 1914 and had to be pulled down. It was not replaced until 1931.



Bon Marche, 12, Westboro', Scarborough

Looking out from the harbour entrance or **Pier Head**, into South Bay the large hotels in the distance are dominated by the Grand Hotel and visible also is the **Valley Bridge foot bridge** linking South Cliff with the main, older part of the town.



Valentine's Series

Scarborough was one of the first ports to have its own **lifeboat** when a rowing boat was based near where the Spa is today, in **1801**. Sixty years later the rescue service was taken over by the R.N.L.I. Since then hundreds of lives have been saved and some 35 medals awarded for courage. The craft, shown below, dates from the time of World War I and is being launched onto a calm sea, probably an exercise. Today the station has two lifeboats, a 13 metre Shannon, all-weather vessel powered by water jets and an inflatable D class inshore boat.



Valentine's Series

For many years the motor vessel **Coronia** gave pleasure trips up and down the Yorkshire coast. She was launched in May 1935 and was finally laid up in 2015. At 130 feet long and 26 feet wide she could carry up to 500 passengers at speeds of up to 13 knots.



Publisher unknown

On 25<sup>th</sup> August 1913 Harry Hawker landed his **Sopwith water plane** on Scarborough's South Bay. He was part way through the first day of his attempt to win £5000 in the **Daily Mail's Circuit of Britain Air Race** to be flown over the sea. Within 72 hours he had to fly around Britain, including Ireland, starting and finishing at Southampton. Unfortunately engine trouble forced him to retire when nearing Dublin on day 3. He was awarded £1000 for his valiant effort. He was the only competitor to reach the start line, two entrants having un-airworthy aircraft, while the fourth competitor, Colonel Cody, was killed in an accident in practice. \*\*



Real Photo Post Card, publisher unknown

A view of **South Bay** taken from the Esplanade, posted in **August 1919**. Little has changed since before the war, with bathing machines still in use and the hybrid trawlers still going off to the fishing areas. The addition of the bi-plane may well be an early version of photoshop in use!



R.T.W. Dennis & Sons Ltd., London & Scarborough

At about 8 o'clock **on the morning of 16<sup>th</sup> December 1914** a small German naval flotilla opened fire on Scarborough. The battle cruisers **Derflinger** and **Von der Tann** together with the light cruiser **Kolberg** and support craft were to target the gas works, water works, railway station, the coast guard station and the 'fortress' of Scarborough Castle. A heavy swell meant that **the majority of some 750 shells fired missed their targets**. In all 15 residents lost their lives and dozens of properties were damaged or destroyed.



COASTGUARD STATION , SCARBOROUGH . DEC. 16<sup>th</sup> 1914.

J. Ashworth & Son, Scarborough

The **coast guard station**, above, and the **Grand Hotel**, below, were two of the buildings hit during the bombardment along with the town Hall and railway station. **The German Navy also hit Whitby and Hartlepool** that day. The justification for this raid was that the three towns were military strongholds and so legitimate targets under the Hague Convention. Scarborough had four 18<sup>th</sup> century cannon guns, three of which faced inland! With regard to armed forces there was an army cadet unit and a recruiting centre.



GRAND HOTEL RESTAURANT , SCARBOROUGH . DEC. 16<sup>th</sup> 1914.

J. Ashworth & Son, Scarborough

This view of the south side highlights the prominent position of the **Grand Hotel**. It was designed by the architect **Cuthbert Brodrick** and building started in 1863 and was completed 4 years later. At this time it was **the largest brick built building in Europe** at the time.

The design was based on the theme of 'time', there being 12 floors (months), 4 towers (seasons), 365 bedrooms (days) and 52 chimneys (weeks). Furthermore, the hotels two wings were constructed in the shape of a 'V' in honour of Queen Victoria.



Queen Series, T.T.S.

Standing in front of the Grand Hotel and looking south shows the **Valley Bridge foot bridge** leading to **South Cliff** and below that, the approach to **the Spa**. Earlier in the foot bridge's life a ticket barrier was used to collect money from holiday makers.



Valentine's Series