

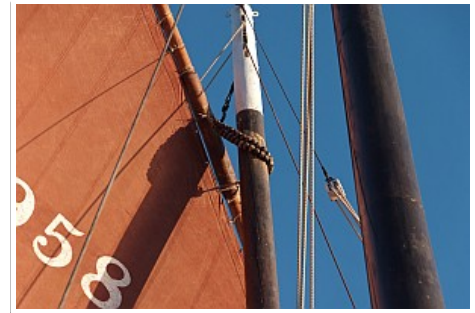
# Boats Club Review of 2013

## Reaper and White Wing in 2013

After a very busy 2013 season, the flagship of the Scottish Fisheries Museum, in Anstruther, Fife, the 111 year-old Fife herring drifter *Reaper*, has been made ready for her winter maintenance.

### Highlights of 2013

During 2013, she sailed approximately 1,200 miles, visiting harbours as far south as the Folk Festival in Whitby, in Yorkshire, and as far north as the Traditional Boats Festival in Portsoy on the Moray coast. During her busy outreach programme her crew welcomed over 16,000 visitors aboard, and also hosted a number of receptions and Boats Suppers for local fishing groups and coastal communities. A highlight for *Reaper* during the year were long runs at sea under sail, with favourable winds on voyages from Portsoy and to Whitby driving the boat along in excess of 11 knots.



### Schools Programme 2013

In May, *Reaper* successfully completed her fifth “Schools Programme”, visiting harbours in Eyemouth, Dunbar, Port Seton and Leith, where over 1,100 Primary and Special Needs school children and other youth groups were welcomed aboard. They were taught about the methods of herring fishing in the early and middle 20<sup>th</sup> century, and allowed to experience how the fishermen lived aboard and handled the boat, including using their strength to hoist the big mainsail by hand! In Leith, *Reaper* lay in the inner basin close to *Britannia*, and for three days next to the big German sail-training ship *Alexander Von Humboldt II*, with whose crew the Boats Club shared much hospitality.

### Visits to other harbours

*Reaper* together with her smaller Fife sister *White Wing* also visited harbour and sea festivals in Dunbar, Portsoy and Arbroath, as well as

participating in events at local harbours such as the local Fisher Lass & Lad celebrations, and both boats were honoured to be guests at the splendid 200<sup>th</sup> Sea Box celebrations at Port Seton in September.



## Maintenance

In October *Reaper's* masts were lifted out for their annual inspection and preservation, after the sails, blocks, rigging and the exhibits in the hold had been taken out for refurbishment and winter storage. Early in 2014, the boat will be taken up to the boat yard in Arbroath for the annual inspection and maintenance of her hull in preparation for what promises to be another busy outreach programme for the Museum. Early in 2013, Museums and Galleries Scotland kindly helped the Museum fund the purchase of a new set of sails for *Reaper* to replace the current 26 year old set which are coming towards the end of their life. These should be ready for the boat's 2014 season.

## Boatbuilding

During the year, members of the Museum's Boats Club which maintains and crews *Reaper* and *White Wing*, also undertook in the Museum's Boatyard the rebuild and restoration to sea-going condition of *Rose Leaf*, a small Fifie owned by Boats Club members. She is expected to be back in the water by Spring 2014, and the Club will then be looking for other heritage fishing boats for the Club's chippies and other members to restore and get back in the water to join other recently restored fishing boats in the Forth and North-East England.



## Future plans

Next year's plans for *Reaper* and *White Wing* are already being prepared, and another busy year seems in prospect. The Schools Programme is planned to visit Stonehaven, Montrose, Arbroath and Tayport, where local Primary schools will be invited to send their pupils to board the boat, to be told about life at sea in olden days in their local coastal communities. Visits to festivals in other locations are also being planned, and the regard

in which the Museum's sea-going boats are held means that visits are also in the schedule for 2015.

News of the activities and visit plans of the Museum's boats and its Boats Club are regularly posted on the Museum's developing website where [Reaper](#) has its own pages. The Boats Club welcomes new members, and if you might be interested in joining the volunteer group, then please come to meet us at the Museum at 10.00 on Monday, Thursday and Saturday mornings; visit the [volunteer pages](#) on the website; or [contact the Museum](#) on 01333 310628.

## Thanks

At the end of this busy year the Boats Club thanks all our members and the Museum for support. We especially appreciate the financial and in-kind support generously provided by our corporate sponsors over 2013, including Muir Homes Ltd, Forth Ports Ltd, Ocean Terminal Ltd, Craig Group (North Star) Ltd, James Jones & Sons Ltd and Britannia Industries Ltd. A special thank you goes to Paul Wilson for the magnificent new waterproof cover for the fish room hatch and the main companionway that he made, fitted and donated : *Reaper* has never looked so smart.

We are also grateful to the local community groups in Dunbar, Eyemouth and Port Seton for their financial support to the Club and the boats, and for the friendship and hospitality given to us during our visits. These generous sponsors and supporters, together with the thousands of visitors who filled our donation boxes, ensure that we can keep the boats in A1 sea-going condition and deliver our outreach activities on behalf of the Museum. Thanks to you, the 2014 programme can be planned with a degree of confidence.

November 2013