

Enjoy | Respect | Protect

A History of Winterton Fishing, Sheds and Dunes

For decades Winterton's Longshore fishermen have fished off Winterton Beach in their small boats for the 'catch of the day'. This would usually be silver darlings (Herring), the staple diet here in the 1800's and early 1900's. The fishermen stored their fishing gear in the beach sheds in the dunes, and there would have been hundreds of them to the north and south of Beach Road, but that's another story to be told!



The fishermen's sheds we see today are the remaining few. They house the longshore boats and fishing gear, as well as the tractors that pull the boats up and down the beach into the sea.

The Fisherman's Rest is the last remaining original beach shed and is owned by Shilo (Paul Sheales) grandson of Mattie Sheales (pictured left), third generation. Shilo is the last of Winterton's longshore boat owners to fish off Winterton Beach with a commercial license, which gives you a quota of the various fish to be caught and allows you to sell your catch, bringing longshore fishing into the 21st century.



Mattie Sheales talks to BBC Radio Norfolk in the 1980s about the changes he has seen to the fishing industry and the village over his lifetime. (C)BBC Radio Norfolk.

The ENDURE project

The ENDURE project (ENSuring DUNE RESilience against climate change) has been working with partners in Winterton to help protect the sand dunes and the health of its Marram Grass.

ENDURE has a particular focus on the Fore Dunes, which are in the first 50m from the beach's high water mark.

The project has also worked with the Friends of Horsey Seals to protect seals and dunes from high levels of visitors, which can cause 'trampling'. Marram is a keystone species, a dune 'champion plant', and it's vital for dunes to be able to grow seaward. But it only takes approximately 10 people to kill a clump of Marram Grass.

Find out more on www.endure.eu.com

The good news? We surveyed Winterton Dunes to establish the health of the marram grass here, and on the Ness (that big bank of sand sticking out into the sea), the embryo and yellow dunes are very healthy!

ENDURE is an EU project, funded by the Interreg 2 Seas programme and the European Regional Development Fund. The project ran from January 2018 to December 2021.



Rachel Thomas

A professional contemporary artist, who lives in the village, was inspired to paint this basket of fish when learning more about the villages' fishing heritage.

Winterton Hill

This image is of the South Beach dunes circa 1905, showing a longshore boat, sheds and fishing gear. In the background is the Lifeboat Shed which housed Winterton's lifeboats The Edward Birkbeck (1886-1924) and The Eleanor Brown (1909-1924). The foundations of the Lifeboat Shed can still be seen behind the toilet block today.



Winterton Rocket Pole

The rocket pole, or to give it its full name, The Rocket Brigade Practice Pole, was erected in 1905. It is affectionately known as The Totem Pole today by visitors and is situated north-east of the village on the dunes.

A mortar fired a rocket and line across and into the rigging and mast of ships in distress which enabled the crew to be rescued.

The local brigade and later the Coastguard used the rocket pole to practice this difficult and dangerous manoeuvre.



Moveable Estates

Set at Winterton-on-sea, Moveable Estates takes the form of a 30-minute audio guided walk, starting on the pad of a recently relocated fisherman's shed overlooking the beach at Winterton.

This sign was funded by the ENDURE project, which is funded by the INTERREG 2 SEAS programme and the European Regional Development Fund. The project has also received match funding from Great Yarmouth BID and the work was carried out as a partnership of all stakeholders below.

