

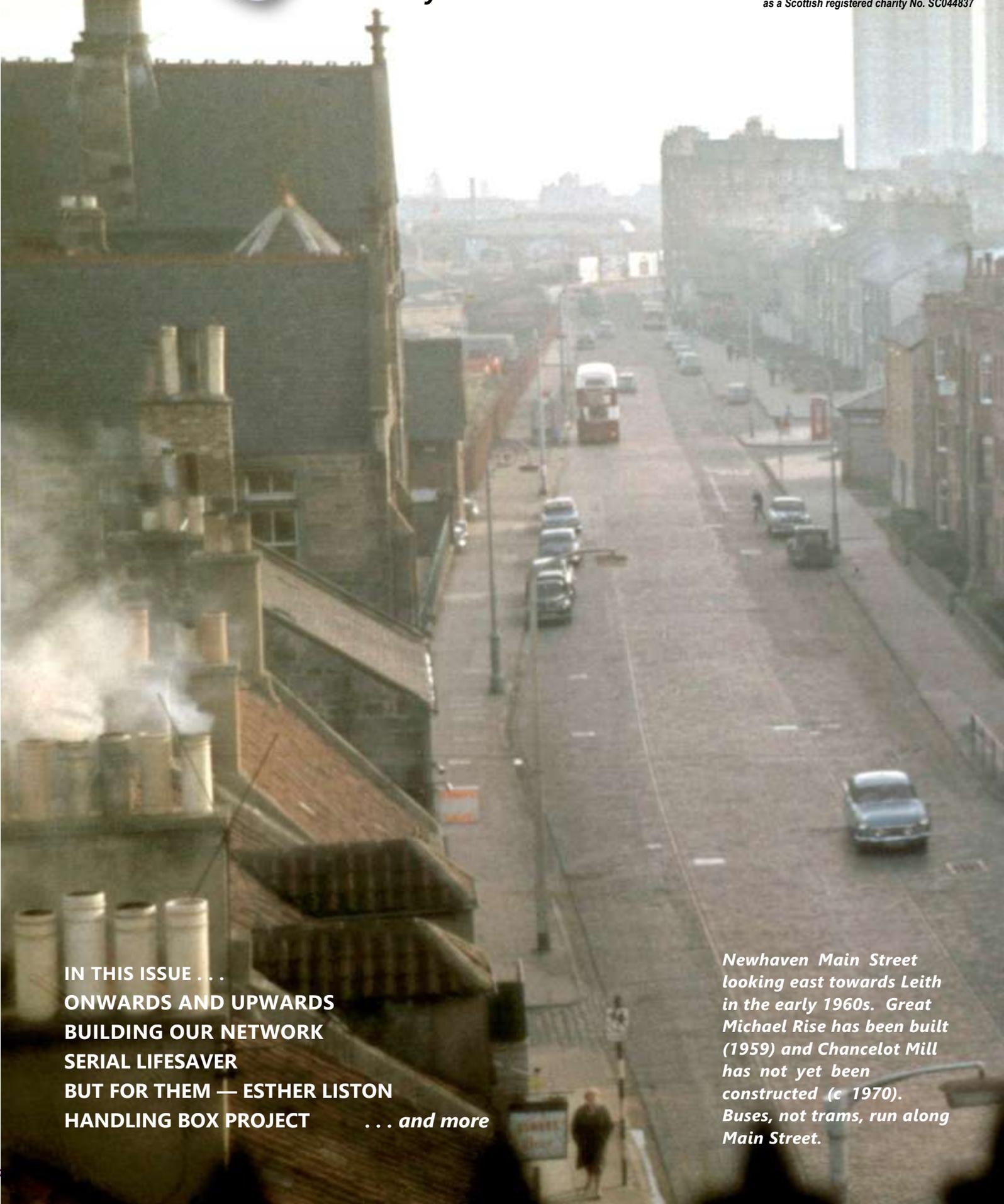
# THE BOW-TOW



Issue 16

January 2018 - March 2018

NEWHAVEN HERITAGE CENTRE is recognised  
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ONWARDS AND UPWARDS  
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BUT FOR THEM — ESTHER LISTON  
HANDLING BOX PROJECT . . . and more

*Newhaven Main Street  
looking east towards Leith  
in the early 1960s. Great  
Michael Rise has been built  
(1959) and Chancelot Mill  
has not yet been  
constructed (c 1970).  
Buses, not trams, run along  
Main Street.*



# ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

by Dr GEORGE Venters



**As I wrote in the last BowTow, we've started on some projects to give Newhaven Heritage local visibility as well as show grant-giving organisations we can manage competently. Judy Crabb provides an update on what is happening later in this edition.**

Now we are picking up the pace. We are working towards agreeing what we, as a group, think should be the essential components of the Newhaven Heritage Centre and Community Hub. As our raison d'être is our heritage, we will be looking towards developing projects which safeguard this for the long term. Outlined below is one we will be working on. It sets out to help children to take charge of recording their own and the community's histories and having these made widely accessible via the internet.

It builds on work already done and in progress. We hope it will become an enduring educational and community asset worthy of the integral part the school has played in the life of the village over a hundred and seventy five years.

## ***The "Phoenix Project"***

**We will work with senior primary school pupils to set up an internet accessible archive of Newhaven image, oral history, written material, and to house Newhaven memorabilia in a museum in the building. Setting this up will be part of an educational programme that will be developed for senior primary school pupils.**

**A classroom for P7 pupils would be set aside in the existing school building. This will let them have direct access to the proposed Museum material and facilities. It will also allow them to have ready access to local "senior citizens" as well as other knowledgeable residents.**

**Pupils will organise themselves into pairs or groups and select a pupil who they find on the School Register archive. For this pupil they will create an historical record starting with official records held in National archives and expanding it by their own research, using the Heritage archive and speaking to well informed local volunteers. By doing this they, collectively, will create a local archive as a resource for the wider community. Further, the techniques they develop and their ways of working can show the way for other pupils. Also the set up we develop can be used as a training site for other schools seeking to learn how they could create this resource for their own communities.**

**We will be working to try to make this happen over the next few months,**





# BUILDING OUR INFORMATION NETWORK

**Newhaven boasts not one, not two, but three websites all supported by Newhaven Heritage. Each website is dedicated to a separate aspect of the work undertaken by the group. Not only are there three websites, there are also three Facebook pages and an Instagram presence.**

**[Newhavenonforth.org.uk](http://Newhavenonforth.org.uk)** was the first to be constructed over five years ago when Newhaven Heritage was known as Newhaven Action Group. It aims to tell the story of the people of Newhaven in words and images. It has pages on topics of historical interest and photo pages of images submitted by those who remembered the village as it used to be. On this website will be found links to back issues of The Bow-Tow newsletter.

**[Newhavenheritagecentre.org.uk](http://Newhavenheritagecentre.org.uk)** was created last year as a result of the highly regarded exhibition *Newhaven: Then and Now* sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This exhibition came about through the generosity of the Liston Family who provided access to the rich treasure of slides taken by George Liston during the period of the late 50s through to the early 70s. This was the time when large tracts of the old village of Newhaven were brought to the ground to be replaced by the townscape we see today. This was the time when the community of Old Newhaven was scattered and fragmented although, happily, not destroyed. It is to this end that Newhaven Heritage have avowed to build a space for the communities of "old" and "new" Newhaven to be able to come together.

In the absence of having a real museum and heritage centre at the moment, it was decided to create a website that will become a "virtual museum". Through the pages of this website, the visitor can wander from department to department and room to room. This is an ongoing project and is being constantly added to so it is worth visiting regularly. Our latest images to be added will be featured in our Instagram page at **[www.instagram.com/newhaven\\_heritage\\_centre/](http://www.instagram.com/newhaven_heritage_centre/)**

From the past, we now turn our attention to the future. This is dealt with by our very latest website designed to keep the public informed of our campaign to acquire the old Victoria Primary School to become our heritage centre and community hub once the new school is built around 2020. **[Newhavencommunityproject.wordpress.com](http://Newhavencommunityproject.wordpress.com)** is expressly built to disseminate the information which will gather apace once the starting pistol is fired. This will occur once the City of Edinburgh Council approve the budget in February and money is committed to building the new school.

We have three Facebook pages covering aspects of our busy-ness. **[Facebook.com/NewhavenOnForth](https://Facebook.com/NewhavenOnForth)** covers all things Newhaven; **[Facebook.com/NewhavenHeritageCentre/](https://Facebook.com/NewhavenHeritageCentre/)** chooses pictures from our archives for people to comment on and, hopefully provide interesting insights too; and finally our busy community gardeners led by Lucy and Judy (see page 11) keep everyone engaged with their Facebook page at **[Facebook.com/Newhavenheritagecommunitygarden/](https://Facebook.com/Newhavenheritagecommunitygarden/)** Lucy and Judy have now taken over from Heather Yang and lead the team of stalwarts who tend the garden spaces around the village to enhance its environment.

We have sadly lost Kathie Pollard who went to Inverness with work commitments. Kathie was developing our Facebook presence and the Project website although she currently has input from afar. If you are enthusiastic about community engagement, are savvy with social media skills and have experience with creating exciting content, we'd love to hear from you. We're looking for a social media volunteer to help out with the Newhaven Community Project. Get in touch for more information by emailing **[info@newhavenonforth.org.uk](mailto:info@newhavenonforth.org.uk)**

# SERIAL LIFESAVER

## THE STORY OF JOHN LISTON (born 1850)

*Submitted by Andrew Grant*



**Provost Lindsay had a very pleasing duty to perform on Tuesday, when before the assembled members of the Town Council he presented Mr John Liston with the Humane Society's certificate and £1, and with an honorary certificate and £10 from the Carnegie Hero Fund Trustees, for saving a boy from drowning at Newhaven in August.**

Born and bred in the "fishing toon," John Liston is a fine specimen of the sturdy man who carry on the staple industry of Newhaven, and we congratulate him upon the well-deserved recognition of his pluck and bravery. It is a noteworthy fact that he has saved the lives of nineteen persons, either by his own individual exertion or in conjunction with others – the majority being "off his own bat," so to speak. Years ago, when he was a much younger man than he is now, he saved a woman who had fallen into Greenock Harbour. On another occasion he was instrumental in saving a man from drowning at Dunbar, and he also saved a little boy who was in danger of losing his life in the water at Anstruther. Mr Liston has likewise saved on different occasions no fewer than twelve boys, who had fallen into Newhaven Harbour – a splendid record, and one to be proud of, but John Liston thinks nothing of what he has done in this way.

On one occasion, when fishing up Queensferry way on a squally night, he saw the sail of another boat rather quickly disappear from view. Suspecting trouble, he ran his craft before the wind in the direction indicated and speedily came up with a boat on the point of sinking, and four men in dire trouble. Their boat had been struck by a sudden squall and he was the means of rescuing them from death. On yet another occasion, while at Dunbar, he was one of a crew of eight who volunteered to go out in a boat to the aid of a ship that had stuck on the sands. It was a dark and stormy night, but the boat succeeded in getting alongside the wreck and bringing ashore several women and children who were on board.

Mr Liston, who lives in the house at 7 Wester Close, in which his great-grandfather resided, received his schooling at Madras School, and at Victoria School – not, however, the present handsome building of that name, and has practically lived in Newhaven all his days. He is now sixty-seven, and is still hale and hearty, gathering in the harvest of the sea with the zest and skill of the born fisherman. He is married, and has a family of five; one son was unfortunately killed about four years ago by an accident on board a trawler. The oldest son is in Government service on board a lightship. The husband of Mr and Mrs Liston's daughter, Private P. Toileith, R.S.F., is at present serving in India. He went through the Boer War.

A Good Templar for forty-six years, Mr Liston has been a staunch tee-totaller all his life. He has served in various lodge offices, and was Chief Templar during several years. He is the proud possessor of handsome regalia presented to him by members of the Hope of Newhaven Lodge, No. 392, in 1911 in recognition of his service to the lodge for forty years. Another of his treasured possessions is a silver medal presented by the late Sir Donald Currie, commodore of the Royal Forth Yacht Club, and won by Mr Liston as a prize at Granton Regatta in 1905. It may be mentioned that Mr Liston is a staunch adherent of the "Auld Kirk" and for years has been an elder of Newhaven Parish Church.

It is an interesting fact that Mrs Liston's brother, who settled in Vancouver many years ago, heard the call of the Motherland at the outbreak of the war, and although he was sixty years of age, volunteered for service with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, and came over with his four sons. They are now serving on the Western Front, and "Old Bill" – as he is called – is the life and soul of his platoon, and is often the subject of a story in the Canadian papers.

# — The **ANDREW GRANT** Collection —

Further to some research into family history I discovered one of my wife's uncles was killed in the First World War. We visited his grave in a small cemetery in France. Following that this led me on to uncover other family involvement and, in due course, I ended up getting some information in the "Leith Observer." Later I was involved in the display of the Leith Roll of Honour in Leith Library and was amazed when details of a number of Leith casualties were not in this Roll. I then took it upon myself to find out more and eventually discovered some 450+ additional casualties. All of this I collated alphabetically and included details of each. Having found these I trawled through the "Leith Observer" for the war years' photographs in all the obituaries with images and edited these. There are more than 1200 such entries. I also became involved with the War Graves Photographic Project and this led me to go round all the Leith cemeteries and photograph headstones of casualties and also family burials where there is a mention of a family member who died during the conflict. There were hundreds of them!

Whilst extracting obituaries from the "Leith Observer" I became interested in some of the accounts that Leithers were sending from the front and other war related articles. This inspired me to go through all the newspapers and photograph such accounts as took my interest. These I have transcribed and edited, filing copies of some interest each week from the start of the war. I will continue to do so for the rest of 1918 and beyond (e.g. return of P.O.Ws and location and opening of memorials etc.) I also became interested and have transcribed poems written by Leithers at home and at the Front and have a collection of over 350 of them. All the above material except the poem collection which I have researched is available in Leith Library and is available for anyone to consult.

In addition I have carried out some 20 Powerpoint presentations about the war and Leith folk who were involved. These have been well received by the organisations which have requested my talks. As a result of all this work I have had many requests from local, national and international people requesting information on relatives. You can see examples of my work elsewhere in this edition of "Bow Tow." This research has been a part of my life over the past eight years or so. All this stemmed from one individual who died in that horrific conflict.

## **AB SEAMAN THOMAS MITCHELL, DSM**

*Submitted via SOPHIA Abrahamsen, Presses, Newhaven Heritage Centre*

Every November, I research some of the names on our church, the Ebenezer UF Church, WW1 Memorials to read a piece at our Remembrance Service. Andrew Grant, who has spoken a few times at the Newhaven Community History Group, has collected a substantial number of obituaries from the now defunct "Leith Observer". I have identified some of them as "ours". This is one that I read out at the last Remembrance Sunday.



### *AB Seaman Thomas Mitchell, DSM*

The death occurred on the 11<sup>th</sup> inst., on board ship of A.B. Seaman Thomas J. T. Mitchell. Death was due to asphyxia. The deceased was nineteen years of age, and the only son of Thomas and Agnes Mitchell, 18 Hill Street, Selkirk, formerly of 19 George Street, Leith, which town they left about three years ago, Seaman Mitchell obtained his schooling at Victoria School, Newhaven, and later was employed by Mr D. Milne, baker, Main Street. He enlisted in the Army at the age of sixteen, and went to France. Subsequently he was sent home, as being too young for the firing line. On attaining the age of eighteen

he joined the Royal Navy, and had some exciting experiences on a "mystery ship." During one engagement with the enemy, he was wounded, and received the D.S.M.

We are indebted to the "Southern Reporter," Selkirk, for the use of the portrait block shown.

*Some footnotes from Sophia:- As Thomas went to Victoria School, I thought the above might be interesting to readers of the Bow-Tow. My mother talked about all the bakers shops in the village she was sent to as a child and I think she spoke about "Davie Milne's".*

*His ship was HMS DIDO and he died on 11 November 1918, ironically the day the Armistice was signed. He is buried in Shawfield Cemetery, Selkirk.*

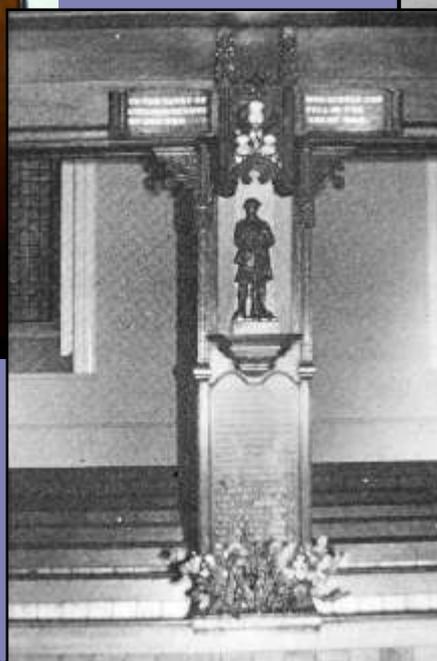
*Victoria School would be the nearest Primary School then as North Fort Street School was a Secondary School for boys at the time. George Street, Leith is now part of North Fort Street.*

# WAR MEMORIALS IN THE PAST



ABOVE: THE WAR MEMORIAL ABOVE USED TO BE SITUATED IN THE VESTIBULE OF NEWHAVEN PARISH CHURCH PRIOR TO ITS REMOVAL TO ITS CURRENT SITE IN THE CAFE AREA OF NEWHAVEN CHURCH. THE SMALLER PLATE AT THE FOOT LISTED THOSE WHO WERE KILLED IN WORLD WAR II.

RIGHT: THE WAR MEMORIAL IN ST ANDREW'S CHURCH TO THE FALLEN OF THE 14-18 WAR WHO SERVED IN THE NAVY. ORIGINALLY IT WAS MOUNTED TO A BALCONY SUPPORT PILLAR WITHIN THE CHURCH BEFORE BEING PLACED IN THE FOYER OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH (NOW ALIEN ROCK).

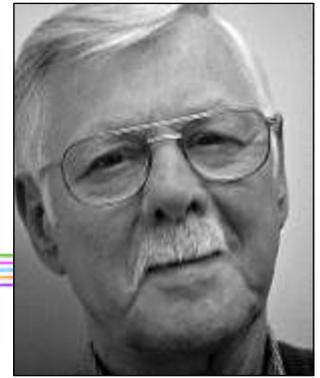


LEFT: THE WAR MEMORIAL IN ST ANDREW'S CHURCH (NOW ALIEN ROCK) TO THE SOLDIERS KILLED IN THE GREAT WAR OF 1914-18 WHERE IT WAS TO BE FOUND MOUNTED TO A BALCONY SUPPORT PILLAR WITHIN THE CHURCH. IT WAS LATER PLACED IN THE FOYER OF NEWHAVEN CHURCH.



by DOUGIE Ratcliffe

# CHOIR NOTES



Following our Scottish Storytelling gigs the choir were once again involved with Jan Bee Brown, this time recording the shanty, Leave Her Johnny Leave Her. This was to tie in with a project she had with the 7th Leith Sea Scouts and telling the story of the sailing ship *Kobenhavn*. Built at the Ramage & Ferguson yard in Leith, she was lost without trace during a voyage from Buenos Aires to Australia in 1928.

On 4th December some of the choir were singing at the switching on of the Christmas lights at Victoria Primary School. The 13th was the final night of the year for us and the usual Christmas party which went with a swing and was enjoyed by all.



ABOVE: TOO LATE FOR THE LAST ISSUE, THIS PICTURE SHOWS THE CHOIR IN FINE VOICE AT TRINITY HOUSE ON OCTOBER 29, 2017, ONE OF THREE VENUES THEY SANG AT THAT DAY.

The first session of 2018 will be on 17th January, 7pm at Victoria Primary School, when we will be busy perfecting the set list for our next big gig. This will be a Burns Supper at the Leith Dockers Club on 25th January, the annual fundraiser for the Leith Festival. After what must be considered a successful debut there last year, we've been asked back once again to provide some music and songs.



Following that gig on the 25th, there will be a major change in the choir. Jed has decided that he will stand down as leader and devote more of his time to his family and his other work. To this end the choir have voted in our new leader, Lawrence, who is currently a member of the choir.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jed for all his hard work and enthusiasm over the past years since the choir was formed and wish him well in the future. Also to welcome Lawrence to his new post and assure him of our support.

Lastly, as usual, if you like to sing please come along and join us on Wednesday evenings at Victoria Primary School where you will be made very welcome.

LEFT: JED MILROY, LEADER OF THE NEWHAVEN COMMUNITY CHOIR SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2014

The series celebrates the lives of the ordinary men and women who personified the hardy existence that made the community of the Bow-Tow what it was. In this issue, we celebrate the life of The Last Newhaven Fishwife.

BUT FOR THEM.

# Esther Liston

By Jane Ann Liston

**Grandma was born Esther Murray in 1896 in Newhaven. Although her mother carried the creel, she did not want her daughters to follow such a hard life. The younger daughter, Robina (Bobbie) was even spared the horrible task of black-leading the kitchen fireplace, a sort of early range; that task was left for her big sister. Esther went to Couper Street School, rather than the high school Trinity Academy, because she wanted to stay with her friends.**

One of the subjects she studied was dress-making, and after leaving school became apprenticed to a dress-maker along at Starbank. However she did not actually continue in that profession after completing the apprenticeship; instead she worked in the British and Argentine butcher's shop in Ferry Road. This change of direction must have coincided with the First World War and indeed that may have been the reason. I did hear that one of the services offered by this shop was the neutering of tom cats round the back!

Esther was young and strong, and used to swing the sides of meat on to her shoulder. 'You'll be sorry, my girl,' warned the butcher, and indeed she did displace her collar-bone, which injury was probably to be exacerbated later by the creel.

A few years later, in 1923, she married George Liston, another Newhavener. He worked at the Edinburgh Stock Exchange, although his parents were fisherfolk too; strange, then, that Esther felt she wasn't considered 'good enough' by his family, and their wedding took place at the manse away up at Morningside in the south of Edinburgh, although they lived in Newhaven.

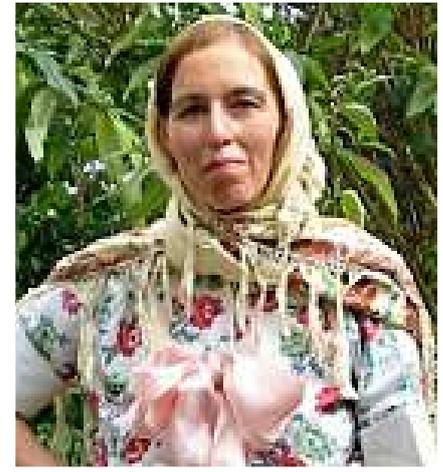
The marriage did not last long. George fell a victim to tuberculosis. Advised to get plenty of fresh air, he swapped the stock exchange for his father's fishing boat, the trawler *River Tweed*. It was not a good idea, and he died in 1932, leaving Esther a widow at 36, with two boys at primary school. TB was rife in those days; her sister Bobbie, who had a job in the office of the smart shop Greensmith Downes, 'where she got notions' also died, aged about 30. A talented pianist, she



ABOVE: ESTHER IN THE 1950S, CREEL UPON HER BACK

used to play at concerts then come home and hang her washing out at night, which was blamed for her early death.

That was when Esther took the creel, involving an early start to buy the fish at the market, then selling it to her customers, and a career of over 40 years. I well remember her coming round in the 1960s in the navy working-dress, with the creel on her back, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and watching her fillet the fish on a board so expertly that there was hardly a bone left in it. This spoiled me so that I am wary of fish from any other source. The usual fish were haddies (haddock), sole and whiting, also halibut, turbot, dory and herring. Occasionally she had partans (crab) for customers, very much 'alive, alive-o' which I watched warily from a safe distance as they gripped a piece of newspaper. Saturdays she came round just to a few select customers, and in civvies with the fish in a message-bag rather than the creel. So as a child I ate fish three times a week, which, according to a recent study, suggests I am liable to a stroke; however I simply do not believe that fresh fish, as opposed to salt fish, could possibly be detrimental.



ABOVE: ARTICLE AUTHOR, JANE ANN LISTON, IN HER GRANDMA'S COSTUME

Esther stopped carrying the creel around the end of the 1960s, but still visited a small number of customers until she retired in 1976. As she lived until she was 92, with hardly a day's illness, the lifestyle cannot exactly have been harmful to her, and she certainly never had a stroke!

She was a member of the Newhaven Fisherwomen's Choir, which I was delighted to discover was founded as the Newhaven Liberal Women's Choir in 1927 to support the parliamentary candidate, Ernest Brown, who became MP for Leith. The women all wore the gala-dress for concerts, and in the early 1960s visited Norway and sang before the King. Coincidentally, their conductor, Menie Addison née Ritchie, was married to my mother's uncle, so the choir was connected with both sides of the family.

So there is quite a lot of history in that Newhaven fishwife's costume, with all its pins and ties, stripes and bustle, although it is probably a good thing that such a hard career has been consigned to history, leaving only a colourful relic. I don't think I could manage two stone or more of fish on my back!

*If you have any tales of Newhaven's families you wish to share, please submit them to The Editor of The Bow-Tow at [newhavenheritage@gmail.com](mailto:newhavenheritage@gmail.com)*



ABOVE: ESTHER IS ON THE FAR RIGHT MENDING THE NET AS THE FISHWIVES CHOIR PERFORMS



# Friends of Starbank Park

## LOOKING FORWARD

by *CHRISTINE Shepherd*



**Friends of Starbank Park wish readers of The Bow-Tow a very Happy New Year!**

Our main event since the last edition of The Bow-Tow was the annual Hallowe'en Party, which just gets bigger and better every year. The park was filled with mini-witches, ghosts, black cats, etc who enjoyed all the usual Hallowe'en activities and a few more besides! We were very pleased to be able to have the use of the refurbished and now fully functional toilets at this event.



Friends of Starbank Park were ecstatic to be short-listed for "Friends Group of the Year" at the Fields in the Trust awards in London. Stan and Janet went to London and, as you can see from the picture on the left, had a lovely time representing all the Friends of Starbank Park at Lords Cricket Ground dinner. It was 65 years since Stan had last been in London. They had a tour of the grounds, then attended the Awards Dinner and met lots of interesting people from other organisations. FoSP were so proud to be one of only four groups in the UK to be short-listed for this award and the only park in Scotland; this was a huge achievement for a group which has only been together for four years.

We finished off 2017 with a busy festive wreath making workshop using lots of local foliage (images right and below). The workshop was held in the Bothy; however the weather was so good that some people made their wreaths in the winter sunshine. We then made festive swags and table decorations for Laverock House with the remaining foliage.



We had our annual Friends Christmas lunch at the Old Chain Pier which was well attended and that everyone enjoyed (top image).

We look forward to a fun packed 2018 starting with our AGM on 12th January at 7pm to be held in our newly renovated Bothy building. As well as re-commissioning one of the toilets, the second toilet has been turned into a storeroom. This has enabled the Bothy to be cleared of a lot of gardening equipment with the result that it is now much more spacious.



Events already planned for 2018 include a Good Friday Easter Egg Hunt, Cherry Blossom Tea Party and Starpark Gala Day, Halloween Party and wreath making workshop. Watch out for more news of these in future editions of The Bow-Tow.

We run two volunteer sessions a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays 10-11:30am with refreshments afterwards. Come and volunteer as you can or help out at our events. We thank everyone who has supported us in 2017 and look forward to further improvements in 2018.



helping newhaven grow

By LUCY Metcalfe

All enquiries to [greenfingers@newhavenonforth.org.uk](mailto:greenfingers@newhavenonforth.org.uk). Like us, and share, at [www.facebook.com/NewhavenHeritageCommunityGarden](http://www.facebook.com/NewhavenHeritageCommunityGarden)



# SPRING FORWARDS

Even in the depths of this icy winter, the Community Garden has been making its demands and receiving some care and attention. Winter is also the time for making plans, and we have been hatching them too.

But it feels as if the main event in recent weeks has been the departure of Community Garden founder, organiser, fund-raiser, labourer and all-round inspiration, Heather Yang. She will be a very hard act to follow, but Judith Crabb and I will be doing our utmost to build on her amazing legacy.



As far as gardening is concerned, we have been working to keep all the various plots around the village as weed-free and tidy as possible, whilst also planting LOTS of bulbs. Look out for many more daffodils and tulips coming up this Spring, thanks to all those, especially Jade and the Victoria After-School Club children, who helped get them into the freezing ground before Christmas.

One of Heather's many parting shots was to install a shed in the 1588 Garden (the plot on Main Street, which was the first we developed) which now houses all the tools, while the After-School Club also has its own set of mini-tools. Another of her achievements was to persuade Waitrose to make the Garden one of its "green token" charities in December, and the money raised will neatly pay for this year's insurance premium.



As for plans... Judith and I are holding a meeting for current and potential volunteers this month and hoping to have a regular team out in the gardens from Springtime onwards. There has been so much publicity in recent times about the mental and physical health benefits of sociable gardening that we are really hoping to get more people involved this year. Funding has already been secured to sort out the dreaded "bindweed plot" with a combination of membrane and raised beds, and perhaps most excitingly of all, we have a project in the pipeline to create a mural for Newhaven!

We have long felt that the 1588 Garden would have a much greater impact if it were not surrounded by dreary grey walls, and now we have an opportunity to change that. The idea is to create a mural as a community, involving residents and schoolchildren at all stages, under the expert guidance of a professional artist. Art students from the Granton campus of Edinburgh College visited the village with their tutors last October, learned about its rich history and went away inspired. Although their project was an academic exercise, the results were truly impressive, and give an idea of what could be achieved.

**Anyone who is interested in finding out what is proposed, and, of course, contribute to the discussion, is invited to a presentation, which will include a display of the students' work, on Saturday 24th February, from 2-3pm in the Anchor Building, Victoria Primary School.**



# THE NEWHAVEN PROJECT

**2018 promises to be an exciting and busy year as we develop and deliver activities that will support our aim to acquire Victoria Primary School as a Heritage and Community centre. We are exploring the many opportunities the building can offer to all generations to learn, be creative, be inspired, socialise and care for our area and those who live in it.**

As soon as the Council confirms that funding for the new school is in the budget (expected in February), we will have a clear timetable to work to.

In the meantime—

January sees the start of our Handling Box project. 46 children from Victoria Primary School will visit the Living Memory Association and be introduced to the importance of reminiscence.

Between February and April the children will be having conversations with local older people about our three themes, Fishing and Fishwives, Victoria Primary School and Newhaven, and Newhaven during wartime. To help to ensure future generations of children can understand and enjoy talking about Newhaven heritage we are going to ask everyone who takes part to choose objects that reflect the conversations they have had. These will be included in the three themed handling or memory boxes (actually they will be in the form of fishwives 'pockets') These resources can continue to be used by pupils in years to come.

We will also be creating a fourth 'pocket' that will be available for use by families, carers, community groups who would like 'prompts' to unlocking memories. We will aim to have all the resources created on show at the Newhaven Gala Day.

We are also developing new projects including the digitisation of Victoria School rolls and log books from 1870 - 1917. School log books and registers from schools across the City have been lodged by Edinburgh Archives. These unique documents giving an insight into daily life at schools as well as means of tracing family ancestors are only available to view by visiting the archives. It is therefore difficult for communities in general to benefit from the richness of experience and understanding of local social history the documents offer. We are working in partnership with the History of Education Centre and Edinburgh archives to ensure these archives are able to be easily accessed by individuals and communities from around the world.

We will be looking for volunteers to help with data entry — more details to follow soon.

What else?

Over the next few months we will be running a number of events. Each activity will be an opportunity for community consultation on ideas so far but if you have ideas you would like to discuss or would like to talk about how you might get involved please get in touch.

Newhaven Community Project has a new website: [www.newhavencommunityproject.wordpress.com](http://www.newhavencommunityproject.wordpress.com). We hope this will help to make the project more visible and the place to go to for regular updates.



*by JUDY Crabb*



**NEXT ISSUE** — **Published at the end of March 2018.** If you have any suggestions for features that you would like to see in future Bow-Tows, do please get in touch with us at Newhaven Heritage at [newhavenheritage@gmail.com](mailto:newhavenheritage@gmail.com). This is also the same email address to use if you wish to be put on the free subscription list. The deadline for the next issue is Monday 12 March 2018.