



NEWHAVEN HERITAGE is recognised as a Scottish registered charity SC042050 - Newhaven Action Group

WELCOME! AND THANK YOU for supporting Newhaven Heritage by becoming a Friend.

The intention of the organisation is to build a heritage centre which will not only contain the successful museum that was closed in 2006 after Edinburgh Council cutbacks but will also be a place where local people and groups can meet to socialise, share ideas and work together to restore Newhaven's community spirit.

The Bow-Tow newsletter will be published twice yearly to update Friends with our activities, publish information about Newhaven's history that comes our way and to publicise any events that Newhaven Heritage is either attending or presenting.

Our guiding principle is about "working together to build a better future by learning from our heritage." We trust The Bow-Tow will not only encourage this mission but will do so whilst entertaining the membership.

UPDATE

by Dr George Venters
Clerk to Newhaven Heritage

The Road Ahint and Afore

IT HAS BEEN AN eventful year for the Group.

Firstly, we have lost Alex Tait, one of our original trustees and a major contributor to the development of proposals for the Heritage Centre. His expertise, commitment and energy gave us an appreciation of what we should look for in a building and how we might adapt available premises to meet our aspirations. He is a loss to us all as a person, a personality and a knowledgeable expert but most of all to Janette and their children as a loving husband and father. They have our deepest sympathy..

Given the unavailability of local premises and the clear lack of public amenity building as a component of the extensive Western Harbour development, there is a case to be made for our vision of a Heritage Centre as a core development around which old and "new" Newhaven could cohere.

We have discussed this with local politicians who have been helping us to clarify how we might take this forward and mediating on our behalf. As yet, the response from Forth Ports Authority has been negative. However we will continue to pursue this but more inclusively and comprehensively.

We have picked up on suggestions made at our first Annual General Meeting. These can be grouped into those concerned with increasing our local visibility, improving links with other relevant organisations and generating more funds.

We are currently seeking to re-establish ourselves as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation with approval from the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) and have revised our committee structures to allow this. We have identified a core steering group as the responsible committee and devised a category of "Friends of Newhaven Heritage" to engage with the wider public..

It is clear we have much work to do. We hope that collaboration with colleagues in other organisations and effective input from local politicians will strengthen our efforts but we are certain that it will be a long haul.



NEWHAVEN HERITAGE EVENTS

FOLLOWING LAST YEAR'S successful concert, Newhaven Heritage is hosting another:

Saturday 30th November at 7pm: Newhaven Church Hall, Craighall Road, Newhaven EH6 4ND

St Andrew's Night Concert — A celebration of Scottish music and song featuring Quern, and eight piece Scottish music group and the Music Department of Leith Academy. Add in a few recitations from Bert Heron and you have an enjoyable night of rich variety. Tickets £6 for adults, £4 for seniors and £3 for children 12 and under. Tickets available from the church cafe and Victoria Primary School or on the door.

Newhaven Children's Gala Day: A Saturday in late May or early June 2014. Time and date, tide dependent, tentatively 31 May at 1.30 p.m. — Watch this space!

Newhaven's Gala Queen and the Fisher King with their entourage arrive at the harbour and are escorted along Newhaven Main Street to the place of their Coronation. More details in the next Bow-Tow.

ACTION TIDY UP

Call to Action Produces Satisfying Results



ABOVE and RIGHT: Work in progress. Well over twenty bin bags were filled with rubbish and weeds.

FAR RIGHT: One of the two splendid new planters at the harbour beside a bench. Only another ten to go!



DECISIVE DIRECT ACTION was the result when a friend commented to Newhaven Heritage trustee, Janet McArthur, about the appearance of Newhaven Harbour. She roped in a number of her friends to gather together on the first Sunday in September and together collected over twenty bags of litter from the site as well as those unsightly weeds.

Janet writes, "This was only our first attempt at a tidy and it made a huge difference with many people passing by wishing that they had known about the clean up so they could have joined in too and wishing us well.

Thanks to Wiebke who brought the youngest tidy crew member too - Alexia. Jane had the right idea bringing a hoe and a strong teenager, Jamie, who did a fantastic job. Thanks to Hazel for the extra bin bags. Thanks to Sam, Kim and Pam for their extra persistence with those stubborn weeds! Also thanks to the lovely Leah who was just on an afternoon stroll and was roped in! It was super that Owen managed to take all the bags to the dump as well. With challenging weather conditions we did really well in only 1½ hours."

Gordon Munro, the local Councillor, has also been busy in response to a meeting with Janet and her friends. Work was undertaken to replace the broken railings damaged in a road traffic accident some months previous and a new rubbish bin has been promised to replace the dilapidated one within the harbour area.

Ultimately, it is the responsibility of Forth Ports Authority to keep the harbour in good order and pressure is being applied by both the Council and local residents for the organisation to comply.

To further enhance the area, Janet arranged to place two half-barrels on the seafront beside the benches and planted them up as gifts from Newhaven Heritage. Once we have had an opportunity to see that these planters are respected and not vandalised, Newhaven Heritage will add more.

It is hoped to get youth groups, Duke of Edinburgh Award participants and schools involved in this project, too, as we engage with the local wider community.



MEET THE STEERING GROUP - I

* See article on page 3

George Hackland: Title - Preses* of Newhaven Heritage



GEORGE HACKLAND IS a key figure in Newhaven. To the children of Victoria Primary School, he is "Our George". To the members of Newhaven Heritage, he is the steadying influence that anchors the group's decisions.

Born and bred a Newhavener in 1920 in 34a Main Street, he went to school at "Vicky" Primary. He still attends the school from time to time but now it's

to engage with the children about "The Olden Days" and to help them understand some of the items in the school's "Wee Museum". George, who is a Director and Trustee of the Living Memories Association, also helps elderly people recall their life and times.

George's clear goal is the re-establishment of the museum for the benefit of all living in Newhaven and tourists alike. He is not alone. Like a number of other villagers, he was proud to be a museum guide. Indeed, George or Cathie, John or Mary could be seen taking groups of visitors a walking tour around the area. He continues to keep the steering group on the right path.

FREE FISHERMEN'S SOCIETY

GD265/15/1 SCOTTISH RECORD OFFICE Extracts from the Articles and Regulations of Free Fishermen's Society of Newhaven, 1817

1. It is resolved that the management of the Society's affairs should be vested in the following office-bearers, viz a Preces, Boxmaster, 2 key-keepers, an officer and 8 more as a committee who shall be elected from the whole body of the Society upon the day of the year.

2. The Preces shall have the casting vote in case of equality and to him all speeches must be addressed. He is likewise to keep order in the Society and to take care that the whole transactions be in conformity to the spirit and intent of these articles. The Boxmaster and key-keepers shall each of them keep a key of the box and visit sick members in rotation along with other members of the community . . .

6. Resolve that each member who in consequence of sickness or misfortune not occasioned by excessive debauchery shall be unable to work shall receive 4 shillings per week for his subsistence during the first 20 weeks of his illness and inability to work and that thereafter so long as he continues in the same state he shall receive at the rate of 2 shillings per week in name of subsistence and his increase shall be made to these rates of supply unless by the unanimous voice of the Society.

. . . 7. Resolve that at the death of any member the Society shall pay to his widow £5 sterling and at death of any member's wife the Society shall pay to her husband the sum of £4 out of their fund to defray the charges of the respective funerals and all members of 21 years of age and upwards shall attend such funerals in decent apparel . . .

8. Resolve that the widow of each member during her life and as long as she remains unmarried shall receive £1:10s per year upon condition of her paying 6d per quarter but if such widow refuse or neglect to pay the said sum regularly or at every quarterly meeting or if she be found railing, scandalising or upbraiding any of the Society concerning the regulations or management thereof she shall forfeit and be excluded from the benefits of it forever.

ONE OF THE STEERING GROUP members of Newhaven Heritage, Sophia Abrahamsen, provided the full transcript of the Rules and Regulations of the Free Fishermen's Society. She describes below how she obtained them.

RALPH HARLEY was a lecturer in Art History at KENT STATE UNIVERSITY, in Kent, Ohio. He found a collection of HILL AND ADAMSON photographs in the University and decided to come to Scotland to see if there was sufficient information available about the locations in the photographs for him to write a thesis for a Ph.D.

He went to Glasgow and St Andrews and had almost decided it was hopeless, when he came to Newhaven. When walking along MAIN STREET, he bent down to tie his shoelace. A woman asked him 'Are you the gas man?' He said 'No, but I'll tell you what I am interested in'. She said she wasn't a Newhavener, but would take him to meet her neighbour, JEANIE HOATSON. When he mentioned he was interested in the photos with DR FAIRBAIRN and members of his church in them, she, in turn, referred him to the CHURCH OF SCOTLAND at 121 GEORGE STREET to meet ANN MANT, who worked there at that time.

She introduced him to me since I worked in the Registers of Scotland at the time. I suggested various sources of information he might try. He came back several times and on one occasion he had permission to dictate any material in the Scottish Record Office he was interested in on to a tape recorder. He lent me the tape with the rules of the Fishermen's Society, drawn up in 1817, for the transcript that is fully reproduced on our website, www.newhavenonforth.org.uk.

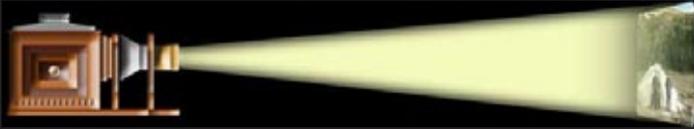
He did write his thesis, he did get his Ph.D and delighted in telling his students how it had all started by saying 'It was all done on a shoe string!'

. . . 16. Resolve that every boat belonging to Newhaven that goes to sea on the Sabbath day and for which the owner receives freight or any other consideration shall pay 1/- to the Boxmaster of the Society on the first Wednesday following and if he refuse or neglect to pay this sum he shall be fined a 6d. more for each offence.

17. Resolve that every boat that goes to drag mussels for bait to strangers shall be obliged to pay 1/- to the Boxmaster of the Society and shall only go in regular rotation under penalty of forfeiting the whole of the cargo to the Society.

The whole transcript can be found on our website, www.newhavenonforth.org.uk/history as a page under Free Fishermen's Society.

HISTORY FOR SALE



EARLIER THIS YEAR Newhaven Heritage was given the loan of over 80 lantern slides for their use by Anna and Alasdair Mackenzie. Our grateful thanks is extended to them for their generosity.



As a result, we have selected six interesting subjects to sell as prints. You have an opportunity to acquire a piece of history by

buying one (or more, of course) of these print in a hand-cut mount measuring 11"x11" for the square or circle and 14"x11" mounts for the rectangular photographs at a cost of only £8 each. Subtly sepia-toned, these make splendid additions to a home's decor once framed.

Calendars, too, are a useful item in any busy household. We have built on the success of last year's issue by producing a 12-page calendar with provision for notes and complete with envelope for £5 - superb value. Some of the pictures have not been published before so far as we are aware. Two of the images were supplied by Newhaven stalwart, George Hackland who has a sizeable library of photographs taken from the late 50's and early 60's onwards.

We are delighted that Andrew at Porto & Fi, Main Street, Newhaven, Karen at Welch the Fishmonger located in the Old Fishmarket beside the Harbour, Fiona of Cafe Connections (Newhaven Church) and also The Old Chain Pier Bar and Restaurant have agreed to sell the prints and calendars on our behalf.

Members of the Friends of Newhaven Heritage are entitled to a 10% discount when purchasing from a Newhaven Heritage sales stall at a number of events we will be attending. See elsewhere in the Bow-Tow for information about forthcoming events.



FISHER WOMEN AT WORK

ONE OF THE MOST popular prints now on sale is this group of fisherwomen hard at work. A boat has been dragged out of the water and a net is draped over the prow to dry. A grandmother attends her grandchild whilst the mother is shelling mussels to bait the line for her husband's use. These fishing lines could contain up to hooks. Two other women in the photograph are doing similarly for this was an important task. Washing is on the clothes rope. All the people in the picture are women only. Personal appearance was important to Newhaven fishwives. The ladies are carefully coiffured and the baby is neatly and finely dressed. The young girl in the picture is bare-footed. The photograph was taken to become a postcard around 1890.



ANTIQUE CORNER

NEWHAVEN'S OLDEST ARTEFACT

THE SHORE OF THE Forth around what we now know as Newhaven had been populated since the end of the Ice Age. Fresh water streams used to run into the river at Anchorfield and Granton. The sea provided a valuable source of food and the climate was relatively temperate in Lowland Scotland.

In 1488, King James III built a chapel dedicated to The Blessed Virgin and St James in the hamlet of a few fishermen's houses and called it "Our Lady's Port of Grace". His son, James IV, established a harbour and shipyard in 1508 to build his great navy with the flagship, The Great Michael. But that's another story!

One wall of the chapel still remains in Newhaven. The wall, which is down Westmost Close, is the original wall built 525 years ago. The chapel is adjacent to the ancient cemetery in Newhaven and this area will be covered in the next edition of The Bow-Tow.