

# POLICE BOX

# FESTIVAL



Photographer: Chris Scott

**SATURDAY 4th July and SUNDAY 5th July**

THERE ARE TEN police boxes in the Festival and three of them are being used as art galleries (including the Newhaven Box). There will be a costume box, street entertainment at one, a florist box at Canonmills, 'Who Cares' will be promoting their work support young persons in care at box by Taylor Gardens in the New Town. There will also be a box giving away surplus books from the National Library of Scotland. Short films at the box on Middle Meadow Walk box will be shown from 9pm on the Saturday

The Newhaven box will have on display art work by Diana Carthlop. There will also be 'craft based story telling' for younger persons provided by local comedian Siân Bevan.



Visitors to the Festival will be able to meet Johnathan Elders, the owner of the Newhaven Box, who is intending to be at the box sharing information on history of the police boxes.

It is hoped that Newhaven Heritage will be represented at Newhaven Box too.

The festival is from 11-5pm each day on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th of July.

# UPDATE

by Dr George Venters  
 Clerk to Newhaven Heritage

THE GALA WAS a great success. The weather was fine and just windy enough to challenge the ingenuity of Heather Yang and Mary Clarke — our latest committee members — in making sure the leaflets on our stall didn't follow the gulls out to sea. The bairns were braw, the parents and teachers proud, and the whole affair fun for everybody as well as a colourful spectacle.

In the first Bow-Tow of the year we mentioned our interest in the "greening" of Newhaven. This led to a proposal for a Peace Garden in the old Cemetery in the Main Street but issues of access have forced us to reconsider it and where we might best focus our efforts in the immediate future. There is no shortage of other potential projects in which we can improve Newhaven green spaces and volunteers keep coming forward asking if they can help. However we need closer links with Edinburgh City Council to make it easier to keep abreast of plans for the locality and also work with the different agencies who could help us with our tasks.

In the past we have been included with other districts in combined Community Councils and matters of priority to Newhaven at times have taken second place in their discussion.

We feel that Newhaven merits a community council in its own right and setting one up would allow us declare our own priorities and make our own links with relevant agencies. Therefore we will work on this over the summer. If you have any views or advice on this, we would be happy to hear from you.

The Council has bought the Leith Customs House from its Common Good Fund and is working with the Scottish Historic Buildings Trust to develop a plan for its use by the community. It is an elegant but slightly dilapidated building and offers exhibition areas which could be used for display. Given our inability to find somewhere in Newhaven to show material from the Newhaven Museum archive, it is worth exploring whether we might organise exhibitions there on an interim basis until we have a Newhaven home of our own. I recognise that there are many differing points of view about this and would again like to hear from Bow-Tow readers what they think. You can contact me at [clerk@newhavenonforth.org.uk](mailto:clerk@newhavenonforth.org.uk).

# BRITANNIA MEETS BRITANNIA



The Royal Yacht Britannia, one of the UK's top tourist attractions berthed at Ocean Terminal.

Steve Daniels / Royal Yacht Britannia / CC BY-SA 2.0

THE MV BRITANNIA, owned and operated by P&O, is their latest cruise ship and has now become their flagship. She came into service in March of this year and was named by the Queen at Southampton's Ocean Terminal. It is significant therefore that the cruise ship will visit her namesake, the Royal Yacht Britannia berthed at Edinburgh's Ocean Terminal on **Wednesday 8th July**.

By any account, she is big — huge even. The statistics are impressive: 143,730 gross tonnage, the length of more than ten football pitches and rising over 200 feet above the water line. She boasts 15 passenger decks and can carry 4324 passengers in 1837 cabins and 64 suites. In all, it takes almost 1400 officers and crew to operate the vessel. A grand lady indeed!

The Britannia will berth off Newhaven and tender its passengers to shore at the harbour.

This is the first of five confirmed visits of cruise ships to Newhaven in 2015 and the Britannia is the largest of the ships to tender passengers to alight at Edinburgh's historic fishing village. Following last year's successful trial by Cunard's MV Victoria, which

carries half the amount of passengers, Forth Ports Authority are working hard to ensure that everything goes smoothly. As has been reported in the previous Bow-Tow, extensive dredging has been undertaken within the harbour and at its entrance to allow the tenders access over a prolonged period of tides. Forth Ports hope that this will be the start of regular cruise ship visits which would open up the cruise companies' options in addition to berthing at Leith Docks, Rosyth lying below the Forth Bridge and bringing passengers to shore at South Queensferry.

The other ships due to visit Newhaven are:

**Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th July (overnight)**

Celebrity Silhouette — 2850 passengers

**Friday, 24th July**

Oceania Marina — 1250 passengers

**Thursday, 20th August**

Regent Seven Seas Voyager — 700 passengers

**Sunday, 4th October**

Norwegian Star — 2348 passengers

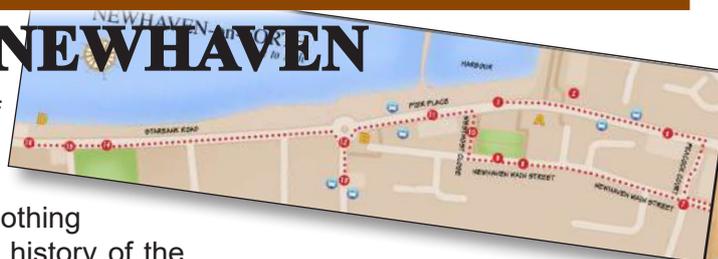
Whilst it is acknowledged that many of those coming ashore will join organised excursions or go straight to Princes Street or Ocean Terminal, a number will linger in the village and benefit local businesses as a consequence.

It is to be hoped that the increased number of visitors to Newhaven will result in strengthening the case for a museum and Heritage Centre which will benefit the community as well as tourists.

## WALK AROUND NEWHAVEN

WITH THE IMMINENT arrival of cruise ship passengers plus, of course, visitors to Edinburgh, Newhaven Heritage realised there is nothing in Newhaven to indicate the significant history of the area, the unique artefacts that are dotted all around the village or the stories behind the interesting landmarks.

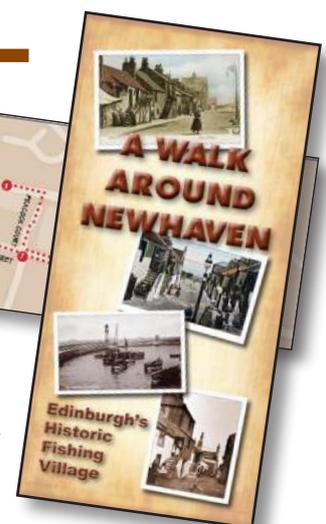
The committee decided to remedy this oversight with the utmost haste. Fortunately, a number of past volunteers from the Newhaven Community Museum had conducted guided walks when the museum was open and this included trustee, committee member and our historian, Sophia Abrahamsen, who provided the valuable notes for the text. The cost of producing this leaflet was largely met by local businesses — The C-Shack, The Haven, Porto & Fi, The Old Chain Pier and Johnathan Elders, the owner of the old police box



on Pier Place. We are very grateful for their support.

You can follow the walk by picking up a leaflet from any of these businesses or from Victoria Primary School. Leaflets will be handed out to cruise passengers that land at Newhaven and at Leith by volunteers from Cruise Forth.

It is hoped to produce a more comprehensive booklet in 2016



## BOW-TOWS TO THE RESCUE

The mailing list for Friends of Newhaven Heritage is now in the low hundreds — we hope to raise the numbers over time. There is much accumulative knowledge amongst you all, this much we know. Consequently, we publish two appeals for information from two organisations that are representative of both the “old” Newhaven and the “new”. Please help if you can by writing what you know about their respective projects to Moyra of Starbank Park and to Margaret of Platinum Point Owners Association (email addresses provided.)

Thank you.



**Friends of Starbank Park**

# STARBANK PARK'S HISTORY – CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

CELEBRATING  
**125**  
YEARS

STARBANK PARK CELEBRATES a big birthday next year – 2016 will mark 125 years since its opening.

The Friends of Starbank Park will ensure that the gardens are looking at their best. But we'd also like to celebrate the Park's history. We aim to have an exhibition of photos (with huge thanks to Newhaven Heritage). We're also gathering information about the Park's foundation, Starbank House, the Devlin Fountain, and some of the activities which took place there.

Can you help us please? We'd like to hear about:

- Events - Easter egg rolling; galas; concerts
- Starbank House, the Devlin Fountain and the flagpole
- Community links – the Friends are delighted to have plants growing in boats, but we'd like to know more about any fishing industry links
- Wartime role
- Courtships and wedding photos
- Garden layout and planting
- Characters and humorous incidents

Please do get in touch if you or your friends and families have memories we may all share.

**Moyra Forrest**

0131-551-3002

[moyra@mforrest.go-plus.net](mailto:moyra@mforrest.go-plus.net)

## PLATINUM POINT — 10 YEARS OLD, A HISTORY IN THE MAKING

**by Margaret Rooney**

Platinum Point development has been on the Western Harbour peninsula for ten years and a little more.

I am the Platinum Point Owners Association website forum administrator and am developing a section on the owners' only forum devoted to the history of the peninsula.

In particular I'd be interested in hearing about what was here on the actual site before Platinum Point was built. If anyone has photos or stories about the area that they would be willing to share for inclusion in my PP history section, please contact me at [admin@ppowners.com](mailto:admin@ppowners.com)

I intend to make the information available to Newhaven Heritage and the Newhaven Community History Group in due course, crediting contributors and sending them a compilation of the information I collate if so requested.



# BEYOND THE GATE

IN THE PREVIOUS ISSUE of the Bow-Tow, a suggestion was mooted about creating a Garden of Peace on the site of the Old Burial Ground, a living memorial to those Newhaven fishermen who were drowned at sea, frequently with their bodies not recovered. This may well yet go ahead over time albeit not in any “open garden” sense. However, during our research about the desirability of the proposal, it is clear to members of the Newhaven Heritage committee that there are many newer residents of Newhaven unaware of the significance of this site.



The Chapel of St Mary and St James was constructed in 1506 and completed 1508. The remains show of rectangular-plan chapel; flanked by Lamb’s Court to the east and Westmost Close to west. It was in ruins by 1611, acquired for use as graveyard by the Society of Free Fishermen in 1766 and used as such until 1848. A 3-metre high random rubble wall in Westmost Close has a single window to the centre with chamfered jambs to the outside and a heavy stone lintel above; the opening shows holes for vertical bars. On the east in Lamb’s Court a similarly constructed wall of irregular stone has a 17th century opening. There is evidence of long and short bull-faced quoins (masonry blocks) to the openings

An extract from the Charter of Chaplaincy reads “At Holyrood, 18th February 1506. The King confirmed for mortmain the charter of George, abbot of Holy Rood, granting to the chaplain and his successors that shall offer the Holy Sacrifice at the altar of St Peter Apostle in the new church of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St James in Newhaven, and hereby presents and appoints Sir James Cowie to be chaplain at the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St James”. Originally built for the shipwrights and mariners involved in the construction of the Great Michael, the chapel lost much of its congregation when the Royal dockyard was abandoned after the fall of the Scots at Flodden, 1513. Whilst there is little evidence, the building is said to have suffered greatly at the hands of the English during the Siege of Leith, 1544. By 1560 and the Scottish Reformation, the chapel had been abandoned as a place of worship and by 1611 was in ruins. In 1766 the site was acquired by the Society of Free Fishermen for use as a burial ground - a function it was to fulfil until 1848.

An excavation of the site was carried out by Edinburgh University’s Department of Educational Studies in 1972. Randomly dispersed skeletons (probably moved during the construction of the flanking closes) were discovered alongside pottery, ashes, shells, iron coffin handles and a coin dating from the time of Charles I. It was concluded that the original building (with an internal length of 192m and breadth of 6.2/6.4m) had heavy stone foundations laid in mortar. The north and south walls were 69cm deep, the east and west gables 86cm deep. Evidence of inner facing was discovered in the form of mortar which was not present on exterior surfaces. No traces of flooring were found, neither any trace of an altar or doorway. Although officially a graveyard from 1766, skeletons were found at lower levels than expected both outside and inside the chapel. Thus, it was concluded that burials must have taken place at an earlier date than originally thought.

The site was part of Compulsory Purchase Order of 1971 from the Free Fishermen Society of Newhaven and is now Council owned. It is listed by Historic Scotland, ID number 27475

*(Information with thanks to The British Listed Buildings website)*

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## NEWHAVENERS *of* HISTORY

THE CENTENARY OF the Quintinshill (Gretna) Rail Disaster was held on May 22nd. This dreadful accident involved five trains and resulted in the deaths of 226 people, of which 216 were soldiers of the 7th (Leith) Battalion Royal Scots, and injured 246 others becoming the worst train disaster in the United Kingdom. We focus on one, a resident of Newhaven, as representative of the many young lives lost at the crash that terrible morning and the resultant fire that meant that some of the victims were never identified. A monument to the event stands in Rosebank Cemetery.

## DANIEL McNAIR FREW

Daniel Frew was born in Kinghorn to William and Isabella (Mackie) Frew on 20th May 1898. William was a ships caulker, and eventually work brought him and his family to Newhaven to live at 4 Starbank Road. Daniel was an apprentice ships plater with Messrs Ramsay and Ferguson, Shipbuilders. He had joined the 7th Battalion Scots Greys which was a territorial battalion and had been on coastal defence duties until ordered to go to Galipoli. And so he was on that train that fateful day when he was killed just two days after his 18th birthday.

# NEWHAVEN ON THE WEE SCREEN

NEWHAVEN HERITAGE received an e-mail from a London production company which had been engaged to make a BBC2 series on portraiture with art historian Simon Scharma. One of the programmes was to feature the photography of Hill and Adamson's seminal work on the Fishermen and Women of Newhaven. We were asked to provide additional information about the Newhaven of the 1840s and possibly some other photographs of the period.

Always happy to promote the heritage of the village, Sophia Abrahamsen, on behalf of Newhaven Heritage met with the series producer, Charlotte Sacher, in early June who was there to recce the area for filming.

The Bow-Tow asked Sophia how the meeting went. "I explained how my interest in Hill and Adamson began when helping Ralph Harley collect information for his PhD thesis. Charlotte decided to write to Kent State University and request a copy of his thesis. I recommended she read "Hill and Adamson - The Fishermen and Women of The Firth of Forth" produced by the Scottish National Portrait Gallery but she had already bought a copy!

"To learn what life in Newhaven was like in the 1840s, I recommended she read "Chrissie Johnstone" by Charles Reade. The minister described there is Rev Dr James Fairbairn and I gave her copies of several obituaries relating to him.

"I showed her the old postcard of the harbour and explained that was what Hill and Adamson would have seen. We then did a tour of the village and she took many photographs - the manse where Dr Fairbairn lived for most of his ministry and where he died, the two churches, several views of the harbour, each of the Closes, The Peacock from both sides and the view from the top of New Lane looking down (to contrast with "old" New Lane which is what Hill and Adamson would have seen). She was very interested to learn that the Fishmarket and everything on that side of the road was built on reclaimed ground and in front of the Peacock would have been sand.

"Charlotte has since written to thank me so she must have found it useful."

We, too, are grateful to Sophia for her efforts. Her knowledge is deep and unerringly accurate.

How much or how little of Newhaven will be featured in the programme is unknown as is the date of the series being broadcast but we have written to ask to be kept informed. We will pass on any information when we get it.



## MEET THE STEERING GROUP

*Sophia Abrahamsen: Trustee of Newhaven Heritage*

**Despite my name, I am a Bow-Tow (my great-grandfather was Danish). Both my parents were born in Newhaven - Willowbank Row and Ann Street (now Annfield Street). Genealogy is a passion of mine. Carnies, Combes and Youngs have lived in Newhaven for centuries. The earliest recorded birth of a Carnie in Newhaven I have been able to trace was in 1617.**

**Music is another of my passions. The Newhaven Community Choir is good fun. It meets in Victoria Primary School on a Tuesday evening although only in term time.**

**When I was growing up in Newhaven, there were two places where organisations could meet, The Fishermen's Hall and the hall belonging to Shaw, the baker. More and more people are moving into the area but there is nowhere for groups to meet and develop a sense of community — something that was very strong in "old" Newhaven.**

**I was a volunteer at the Newhaven Museum and know how much it was appreciated by a great number of people. Our visitors' book contained many names from many countries, even comments in Chinese!**

**A community centre, including a museum, so that future generations can learn of the remarkable history of the area they have moved into, must be the way forward.**

# TUNEFUL TIMES



**An update on  
Newhaven  
Community  
Choir  
by Dougie  
Ratcliffe**  
*(centre of  
picture, left)*

**T**HE CHOIR HAS been going from strength to strength in this our second year, with membership standing at around the thirty mark, and we can usually get about twenty, give or take a few, attending each session. Aply led by Jed Milroy, these rehearsals take place every Tuesday at 7pm until 8.30pm, in the new building at Victoria School. During the school holidays we are usually found at the same time, at the Edinburgh Sculpture Workshops in Hawthornvale. Because we are such a sociable choir, the last Tuesday of each month we try to meet at The Old Chain Pier in the conservatory.

To date this year we've sung at the Newhaven Gala Day with a slightly different format to last year's performance, where this year we did three sets as opposed to the one on stage. We did one at the harbour, prior to the Gala Queen landing, then one on stage and an impromptu set amongst the crowd, which seemed to be received quite well.

On the 20th June a small group from the choir sang at the Newhaven Coastal Rowers' regatta which was held at the Forth Corinthians Yacht Club at Granton. Again well received and it was good to support another Newhaven initiative.

Spreading our wings a little more and moving to Portobello, the 24th June saw us at the Dalriada pub for a combined session with the Edinburgh Gaelic Choir. An enjoyable evening and it was good to meet other choristers from such a well established Edinburgh choir. Their beautiful sound has inspired us to work a little harder on our harmonies.

**Forthcoming events see us back in Newhaven in September, with the choir performing at the Newhaven History Group monthly meeting, then further afield again to the National Library of Scotland on George IV Bridge where we're singing at a one hour family friendly event called, Caller Ou! Bow Tow Tales and Fishy Songs. This is on 1st November at 3.00pm and is free.**



## **NEWHAVEN HISTORY GROUP**

NEWHAVEN CHURCH HALL, CRAIGHALL ROAD  
7.00 pm prompt

### **NEXT ISSUE — Published early October 2015**

*This issue was supposed to have had articles about childhood in "old" Newhaven But we have run out of space. I do hope this is going to be an ongoing problem! However, with a following wind, Issue SEVEN will have these features. If you have any memories you wish to share of school holidays, uniform organisations, or sports activities or, better yet, photographs taken at the time, do please get in touch with us at Newhaven Heritage at [archivist@newhavenonforth.org.uk](mailto:archivist@newhavenonforth.org.uk). The deadline for this next issue is Saturday 19th September, 2015. Thank you.*