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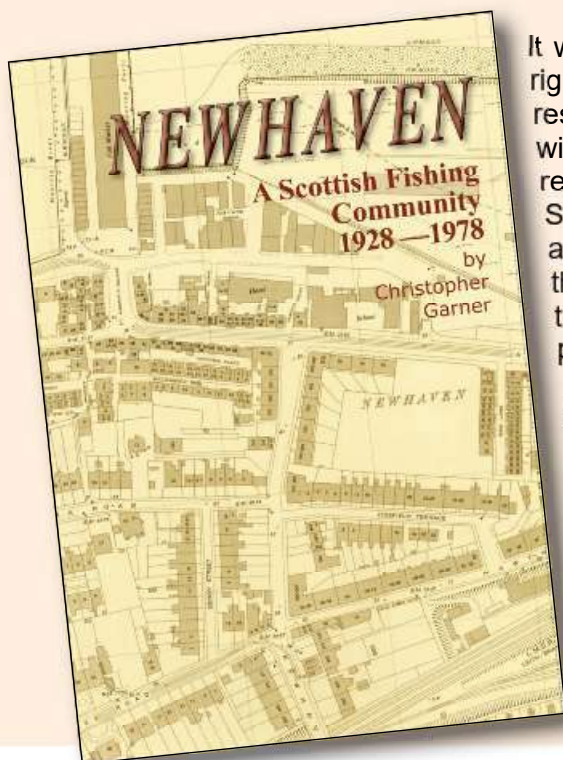


IT'S A DEAL!

Over the few years that Newhaven Heritage has existed (and its predecessor, Newhaven Action Group), the charity has produced prints, calendars and a book. There have been frequent requests to have some of these items mailed to members but, regrettably, we had no way of collecting the money if paid in currency other than sterling and no way of trading the items on a website. Now we can!

After going through a number of security measures that are necessary being a charity, Newhaven Heritage is now able to offer the facility of taking orders over the internet using Ebay or their own website, www.newhavenonforth.org.uk.

It is important to be able to trade for three good reasons. Firstly, income from these sales allows the charity to offer issues of the Bow-Tow newsletter and other literature without charge. Secondly, essential running expenses and administration costs are met from the profits of these sales, the occasional fund-raising concert and voluntary donations. And finally, it is imperative that Newhaven Heritage Centre builds up a war chest for when — not “if” — the day comes when Newhaven is able to build its own centre and museum.



It was an act of the utmost generosity when Chris Garner gifted the rights to the charity to publish his book that took ten years of patient research and interviews with many old Newhaveners sadly no longer with us. All profits from the book go to our funds. The book has been received with much acclaim and is available to buy at Leith Library, the Scottish and Edinburgh Room at Central Library at George IV Bridge, and Cafe Connections at Newhaven Parish Church. Now, it is hoped that that acclaim can become international when ex-pats, wherever they are in the world, can purchase the book on Ebay, priced at £15 plus carriage.

Similarly, the calendar can be bought, priced at £5.99, postage extra.

Currently work is being undertaken by Newhaven Heritage to develop an e-commerce area on the [newhavenonforth.org.uk](http://www.newhavenonforth.org.uk) website and, in time, other items will go on sale here.

Perhaps apologies should be made for turning the front cover over to an undisguised advert but, in true Newhaven style, the committee believes in working to increase the funds as much as possible in preference to passing the cap around.



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

By Dr George Venters

Introduction

In September this year, the Edinburgh local plan for the Western Harbour was modified to include a new primary school as part of its continuing development. One suggestion in this revision also proposes more “town houses” — instead of high rise blocks of flats — so that building could be done more quickly and which would also help with “placemaking”.

Now this is an interesting term. I presume it means creating a sense of distinction in the development — building a community. It certainly gives us some hope that we can convert the wilderness into a green and pleasant land.

Every reader of the Bow-Tow knows that Newhaven already is a community. But it is struggling to maintain its identity because it has lost so many of the amenities it needs to keep going as the integrated and supportive community it strives to be.

These changes in development plans can give us — all of us — the chance to make good the losses and build a better Newhaven. This note outlines the first steps on how we might seize the coming hour.

Initial Assumptions

Building a new primary school building is in the pipeline and needed because the population has grown and is set to increase. This has to be built to a specification that the school approves of.

The community must mobilise to make sure this happens..

As the new school is built, then the fate of the existing school becomes an open question.

The future with the greatest potential general benefit would be for it to become a Community Centre for “Greater Newhaven”. Our task is to make this a reality

Without your strong and enduring community involvement, it will not happen.

Next Steps

There is a lot of work to be done and the first thing we have to do is organise a team to set the ball rolling. Our first step, then, is to establish a core group to undertake necessary tasks. The school will be the key partner.



How the group might work is open for discussion. Because of the focus on a specific project, setting up a dedicated Development Agency might be the best way to go. Certainly it seems to be an acceptable way ahead to Edinburgh Council and we are looking into how best to do this.

We see the Newhaven Heritage Centre as the initiating agency for the group but only as a partner. Its members would be drawn from the steering group with such other significant local organisations as we can persuade to join.

Our main purpose is to keep the history of Newhaven living and relevant so that the community remembers, and draws strength from, its roots to remain a vigorous active community containing people with diverse origins and interests. Therefore the interests of the different groups and organisations also have to be safeguarded in any plan.

We can think of other local voluntary or community organisations which should be members of the action group. Some of these are housing/residents associations, the Church, the Scouts, the Community Choir, etc, but there will be others of which we are unaware.

Anyone reading this article who feels they should and would like to be included, can contact Newhaven Heritage through clerk@newhavenonforth.org.uk.

Other Relevant Interests

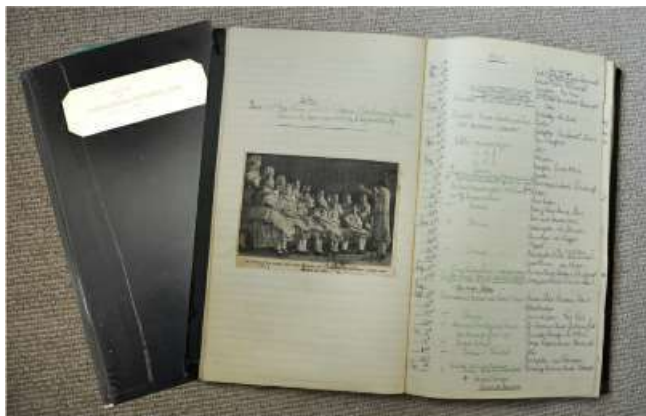
We also will have to make contact with the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and other providers of services so that we can learn who is who and what their views are. In terms of the Council, Education, Recreation and Leisure, Social Services and Planning are key agencies. It is encouraging that CEC Planning is showing some commitment to community benefit.

Given that Government, at all levels, is trying to get local communities to take an interest in local issues, we also have to tap into Government and Voluntary Organisation resources which can help.

Our local politicians also have to be involved to support our cause and already some have been extremely helpful. We hope to have a series of statements on this matter from the prospective candidates in the May issue of the Bow-Tow as we did for the Scottish Parliamentary elections.

Conclusion

A lot has to be done — starting now — and will need a broad base of abilities and expertise to do it. Setting up the working group should allow us to tap into the wealth of talent that exists in the people who live in or have a commitment to Greater Newhaven.



A TREASURE INSIDE THESE PAGES

Newhaven Heritage came into possession of an interesting book when the belongings of the late George Hackland were being sorted, the Diary of the Scottish Newhaven Fisherwomen's Choir, dated 1927 - 1977. It is full of interesting facts, photos and newspaper clippings of the time which gives real insight into how popular the choir was in its heyday.

The book was entrusted to George Hackland by the executor of the estate of Rev Dr James Scott Marshall, minister of the Kirkgate Parish Church from 1947 to 1973. It must be assumed that Dr Marshall, a well-respected antiquarian, had, in turn, been given the diary for safekeeping by one of the daughters of the founder, Mrs Marion Ritchie.



ABOVE: THE CHOIR POSES OUTSIDE THE DOOR OF THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LEITH BEFORE THEIR PERFORMANCE THERE IN SEPTEMBER 1928.

Founded, or rather re-established in 1927 by Mrs Ritchie — she was always referred to as Mrs David Ritchie in attendant publicity such was the tradition of the times — the engagements pages start in 1928 with nine concerts, one of which is annotated that Sir Hugh Robertson, founder of the Glasgow Orpheus Choir, visited the Newhaven concert given by the Fisherwomen. Chris Garner reports in his book, "Newhaven, A Scottish Fishing Community 1928 - 1978", that Sir Hugh called Newhaven "a nest of singing birds." He further went on to declare "If ever I feel I am getting above the world I live in, I shall go to Newhaven to be inoculated . . ." for the ladies there ". . . sing straight from the heart".

Within five years, the Newhaven Fisherwomen's Choir was performing around 40 concerts per year, all for charity, as well as singing at a number of church services. All this was on top of the daily duties and responsibilities of working in professions connected with, or in, the fishing trade as well as keeping house and home together.

In 1935, the choir was invited to London to perform on BBC radio. This was the second time that they had performed in London having performed in a number of venues two years previously. On Saturday, 23 March the ladies were in front of the microphone to be "In Town Tonight". Mrs David Ritchie was invited to introduce the choir.

"All the women in our choir belong to Newhaven — a fishing village on the Forth, near Edinburgh. The average age of the choir is fifty years, and quite a number of them are grandmothers. Many of the women still carry the creel. Although the choir was formed eight years ago, there are hardly any new faces — we are just a big happy family. The women are taught by ear only and yet have a repertoire of over two hundred

songs and ballads — every note and word of which is memorised accurately.

I know that many of the husbands and sons of the women who are out at sea tonight are listening, so I won't talk any more. Let us give them a verse of a real fisherwomen's song: "Caller Herrin . . ."

This was one of a number of appearances on BBC Radio, some of which were in London, that appear to figure in the diary every other year or so. On Wednesday 16 February, the choir made a recording in St Andrew's Church for the BBC for a later broadcast listed in the diary two days later.



ABOVE: A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY FOR FISHERWOMEN'S CHOIR WHEN IN LONDON, TAKEN AT BILLINGSGATE FISH MARKET

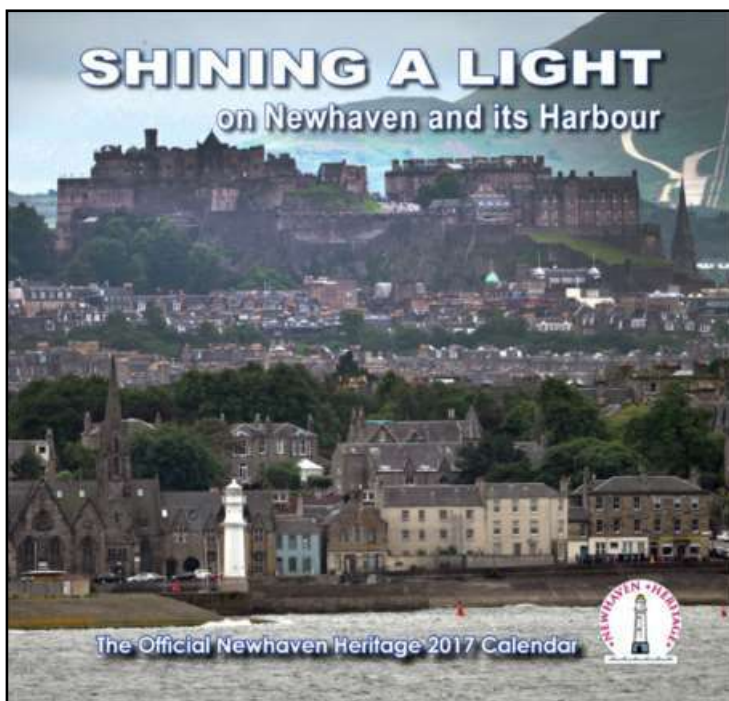
Two diary listings are interrupted by noteworthy events. On 20 February, 1936, King George V died and a boxed annotation states "SEVERAL DATES CANCELLED for KING GEORGE V's DEATH R.I.P." as the nation went into mourning. The choir did not perform until January 31 when in Strathaven they had the great surprise of seeing Sir Harry Lauder in the front row along with his niece. Newly resident in the town, this was Sir Harry's first outing and he asked permission to say a few words, complimenting the ladies on their fine singing. He finished with a rendition of "I love a lassie" before shaking every one of the 28 strong choir by the hand. A memorable evening indeed for the Newhaven Fisherwomen's Choir.

The other break in their busy diary was between mid-July and late October 1939 due to the fact the "2nd Great-WORLD WAR INTERVENED". This would have included a trip to Liverpool had it gone ahead.

However, during the war years, the choir spent much of its time entertaining the troops or raising funds for the war effort throughout the years of the conflict. But that is for another time.



BELOW: THE CHOIR ASSEMBLES ON THE ROOF GARDEN AT SELFRIDGE'S, LONDON IN 1933 FOR AN OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH WITH SIR GORDON SELFRIDGE



Introducing THE 2017 CALENDAR

12 Stunning Images of Newhaven Lighthouse and Harbour

JANUARY: A Storm Looms

FEBRUARY: Spring Tide Submerges The North Jetty

MARCH: The North Quay To The Lighthouse

APRIL: An Interesting Sky Over The Old St Andrew's Church

MAY: A Cruise Ship Tender Brings Passengers To Port

JUNE: Newhaven's Gala Queen Arrives At The Harbour

JULY: The Yacht Club Pontoon Points To The Lighthouse

AUGUST: A Striking Picture Of Newhaven And The Castle

SEPTEMBER: Dusk — And The Fishermen Return

OCTOBER: Illuminated for Bow-Tow, The Musical In 2014

NOVEMBER: A Quiet Sunset

DECEMBER: Lighthouse Reflection



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Masons the Bakers, 8/1 Starbank Rd

Cafe Connections, Newhaven Church, Craighall Road

Porto and Fi, 47 Newhaven Main St

The Haven, 9 Anchorfield

and from Ebay (Search for 2017 calendar newhaven)

JIM PARK REMEMBERS . . .

Chris Garner's thoroughly researched book, "Newhaven, A Scottish Fishing Community 1928 -1978", is full of reminiscences of old Newhaveners (see Page 1). Chris also refers on a few occasions to Jim Park's book, "Newhaven-On-Forth, my story of the living village", published in 1998 and now sadly out of print. A copy recently came into our possession thanks to the generosity of one of the Friends of Newhaven Heritage.

We thought that on this occasion we would quote from the book about Jim's recollection of the annual parade to raise funds for Leith Hospital which, before the National Health Service came into existence, relied on public subscriptions and donations.

THE LEITH HOSPITAL PROCESSION

The Leith Hospital in Great Junction Street was used by all, and was essential for all the illnesses and accident treatment required. We arrived and sat on a row of benches at the back, moving forward in our turn.



This hospital relied on donations for its funds, and an annual procession (as we called it), was organised. Shops like Thomas Lipton, who had a shop in The Kirkgate, would put a dressed float (lorry) in and I remember people throwing money to stick in a huge circular cheese on it.

The Co-operative Societies (Leith Provident and St Cuthbert's) had horse drawn vans, coalmen's horses and carts, and others with carts all brightly painted with coloured paper on the wheels, the horses' harnesses and brasses

polished to perfection, gleaming on the huge Clydesdale horses' magnificent heads and bodies as they tossed their heads to the music of the many bands as they clip-clopped over the cobbled streets, driven by their proud drivers, some of whom had their families on board as well.

The pipe bands, marching with swinging kilts, arrogantly playing the stirring tunes that make us all proud to be Scottish and swell up with the pride of it all, thinking, "Wha's like us? Not many and they are all deid."

Brass bands, silver bands, including the police wearing their special uniforms, marching the long distances that the parade covered, with everyone in sympathy with the usual red faced man beating the big drum.

The hospital doctors and nurses in their uniforms were warmly applauded as they passed by. All the characters dressed up as clowns, men dressed as comical men, all for a good cause, and rattling collecting tins under our noses, and the shouts of delight as we spotted Sandy Pringle or any other local capering along and coming amongst us.

These were red letter days and they were enjoyed by all, as was apparent by the laughter and smiling faces. Just as suddenly the procession approached, it was gone for another year.

(Reproduced by kind permission of Margaret Fell (sister) and Colin Park (son) of Jim Park.)



WELCOME

PHOTOGRAPHS

VIDEO AND CINE

PEOPLE'S STORIES

ARTEFACTS

PHOTO CAT 1.9

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Search

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LINKS

01 Photographs



The on-line catalogue for the Photography Exhibition is available by clicking on the above panel. The catalogue is segmented into main categories. Each category link will reveal a subset of categories listing the photographs available.

Alternatively, the search facility in the top pane may be utilised.

Please visit this exhibition regularly as more images are constantly being added.

02 Video & Cine



The on-line catalogue for the Audio-Visual Archive is available by clicking on the above panel.

Alternatively, the search facility in the top pane may be utilised.

Please visit this archive regularly as more cine or video footage becomes available.

Please note that some links are external over which the Newhaven Heritage Centre has no control.

03 People's Stories



The on-line catalogue for the Audio Archive is available by clicking on the above panel. The catalogue is segmented into main topics. Each topic will reveal a subset of categories listing the soundtracks available. In addition each soundtrack has a link to its transcription.

Alternatively, the search facility in the top pane may be utilised.

Interviews continue to be recorded and transcribed.

04 Artefacts



The on-line catalogue for the Exhibition of Artefacts is available by clicking on the above panel. The catalogue is segmented into main categories. Each category link will reveal a subset of categories listing the photographs of each item available and along with its description.

Alternatively, the search facility in the top pane may be utilised.

Please visit this archive regularly as more artefacts become available.

05 Maps



The on-line catalogue of available Maps is available by clicking on the above panel.

Alternatively, the search facility in the top pane may be utilised.

Please visit this archive regularly as more maps become available.

Please note that some links are external over which the Newhaven Heritage Centre has no control.

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by learning from our heritage



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NEW WEBSITE

COMING SOON TO A SCREEN NEAR YOU!

For some time, Newhaven Heritage has discussed creating a virtual museum in the absence of a real museum that the public could visit — something that an online surfer could visit, look around and linger in the same way as visitors to the old Community Museum were able to do.

Our successful exhibition, Newhaven: Then and Now, which was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, created an extensive library of slides from the late George Liston's archive that added to our already growing stockpile of images. It was a condition of the grant that these images be made available to the public online as well as the exhibition. And so the stimulus to create a new dedicated website, www.newhavenheritagecentre.org.uk, was created.

By the end of November, the site should be up and running. With over 4000 slides to file, correct, index and prepare, this will not be an easy or quick task but the intention is to put up onto the internet what we can and keep adding until the task is complete.

For ease of navigation, there are five departments that will allow the viewer to home into what interests them at the time — Photographs, Video and Cine, People's Stories, Artefacts and Maps. Each of these departments will have areas of specific interest and an index, where appropriate, to help to go to the correct section.

Photographs

As you might expect, photographs have the most sections — currently 44 of them — and this may well grow over time. Clicking on each section will take the visitor to a slide show of that topic, such as Section 2.2 Forth Pilots, or 2.3 Fishwives, or 3.1 Harbour, or 6.6 Uniform Organisations. Hopefully, it should all be clear when it's up and running.

Video and Cine

There are two areas in this category: cine or video footage that we have been given and have had digitised; the other section is links to footage of Newhaven or Newhaven-related film available elsewhere on the internet that would be of fascination to those with an interest in Newhaven such as the creation of Western Harbour.

People's Stories

We were extremely fortunate to record the reminiscences of the late George Hackland whose sharpness of memory and conciseness of delivery brought a depth to the exhibition at the David Lloyd Centre. You will be able to listen to these stories in the environment of our virtual museum. More people's stories will be added as they are recorded.

Artefacts and Maps

Finally the sections on Artefacts and Maps will depict what we have access to at present. It is anticipated that these areas will grow over a period of time.

Visit www.newhavenheritagecentre.org.uk from, appropriately enough, St Andrew's Day, 30 November 2016. Do let us know what you think. Your feedback will be used to improve the experience of visitors to the virtual museum and, who knows, the real museum, too, when it opens!

CHOIR NOTES

By Dougie Ratcliffe, Newhaven Community Choir

The choir has been going along at a steady pace but with no real increase in numbers attending. As with most choirs, male singers are in the minority so any guys out there that like to sing, please come along to our Wednesday sessions and swell the numbers. Ladies, too, of course.



ABOVE: PERFORMING AT THE DUDLEY STREET PARTY

An invitation to sing at the Dudley Street Party on Sunday 4 September was accepted and a small group went along to entertain the crowd. Once again the music was enjoyed by both the audience and the choir. Good weather prevailed to make this another successful outing.

The Tuesday evening song writing workshops, funded by the Edward Marshall Trust, has given some members the opportunity to wax lyrical and let their imaginations run riot culminating in the production of two new songs. Both songs are Newhaven related and will be performed publicly in the near future.

On Sunday 18 September, some choir members took to the road and travelled to Anstruther in the lovely Kingdom of Fife. They were taking part in Following The Fleet, which is a series of events touring Scotland's major herring fishing ports. This event was a showing of John Grierson's silent film about the herring fishing called Drifters. The choir performed suitably fish related songs and were well received.

Two future events are in the offing. The first is a ceilidh on Monday 5 December. A night of music and dancing, new songs, raffle and lots more. Keep a look out for further info about the venue and prices.

The second event was a result of us singing at the Leith Festival Dazzle Ship event earlier in the year. The organisers have invited the choir to provide music and songs as well as The Immortal Memory, Toast Tae The Lassies, etc. at their annual Burns Supper on 26 January



ABOVE: A QUICK RUN THROUGH AT THE DREEL HALLS, ANSTRUTHER BEFORE THE CHOIR'S MAIN PERFORMANCE

2017. This will be in the Leith Dockers' Club in Academy Street and should prove to be an entertaining night.

We continue with our Wednesday rehearsal nights In Newhaven Victoria Primary School, 7pm-8.30pm. Come and join us, everyone is welcome.



LEFT: WHAT IS A VISIT TO ANSTRUTHER WITHOUT SAMPLING A FISH AND CHIPS TEA!



STARBANK PARK IN 2016: BIG IMPROVEMENTS AND GREAT COMMUNITY EVENTS



autumn. All the bulb planting at the end of 2015 paid dividends with a glorious spring colour across the Park (above left). The new borders down the side of the slope (prepared by TCV last autumn) are a great improvement, giving bright spring colour.

2016 has brought changes too. Starbank Park was always renowned for its roses and we have planted over 100 new roses in two borders so the Park retains its tradition of beautiful roses. However, the biggest new development in 2016 has been the Hans Christian Andersen-themed Nature Trail that we are building with the help of Victoria Primary School. The path is laid, bird boxes, bat boxes and insect hotels have been put up and we have a small children's library. Explanatory notices are being put up along the trail and, now the winter is coming, we will really able to get on with planting.



ABOVE: THE HERBACEOUS BORDERS AROUND THE PARK ARE PAYING DIVIDENDS FOR THE WORK OUT IN.

We did well in external Park assessments. We retained our Green Flag. We were rated "Excellent" in our "It's Your Neighbourhood" assessment. The Council QA score increased this year. All reflect the ongoing development and improvement of Starbank Park. The Friends have put in many, many hours but neither awards nor improvements are possible without the support and help from the Council. Special thanks to Julie, Jen and Ritchie.

It has been a big year for Community Events in the Park. The highlight was our 125th Anniversary Gala in June, opened by Jean Haigh, the 1953 Victoria School Coronation Pageant Queen of the Sea, Ben MacPherson, our MSP, and Councillor Allan Jackson on a glorious summer afternoon. The Edinburgh Brass Band played brilliantly. There was a Park history stand, lots of stalls and lots of visitors. It was a great afternoon. But there were other successful events in the Park. The Easter Egg Hunt and the Cherry Blossom Tea Party were highly successful. But the Halloween Party topped them both with a huge attendance, almost 1000, on a spooky autumn afternoon! The successes of the events reflect the huge amount of time generously given by Janet and all our volunteers.



ABOVE: THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY GALA EVENT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS. EVEN THE SUN CAME OUT IN SUPPORT,

GREENING NEWHAVEN

By Heather Yang

It all started with a desire to improve the vista and environment in Newhaven and fortunately with the backing of the Newhaven Heritage Centre it has been possible to bring colour to the streets, windowsills and playground of Newhaven, the small hidden gem in Edinburgh where the old meets the new with a community spirit.

ABOVE: THE CHILDREN OF THE AFTER-SCHOOL CLUB LOVE TO HELP WITH THE RAISED BEDS

Working with Victoria Primary School and the After School Club we planted bulbs that were donated by Leith Rotary Club and RHS Greening Grey Britain to create carpets of purple crocus in the spring as part of

Rotary International's End Polio Now initiative. The children are looking forward to seeing purple everywhere, around the bus stops, in the playground, along the paths, it will be wonderful.

The City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) granted access to the Old Burial Ground so we have planted in there too and renewed all the raised beds in the school playground with children helping with the weeding at play time and after school. What an amazing community spirit was forged! Donations were received from Action Earth and some trees from the Woodland Trust so more delights will be popping up as we were able to plant a fabulous array of plants. It has been with a lot of good will and help from local people that change has happened as well as support from Friends of Starbank and wonderful local volunteers that are real gems. Every time we are out planting someone stops by to chat and the pleasure people gain from the gardens is immeasurable as well as the improvement in well being. For just over £2000, the change is immense and there is now a little haven of delight in Newhaven for people, birds butterflies and the bees.

The next task is to take forward the creation of art in 2017 as well as more planting with the funds from *Leith Decides* and it is hoped that the successful funding from the Neighbourhood Environment Programme will see work starting soon in conjunction with CEC.

What we did in a year really transformed Newhaven with a combination of support from a variety of sources and many acts of kindness. We are all giving colour to Newhaven and bringing it alive.

We are always looking for volunteers. We have the tools, please offer the odd hour as it is so rewarding and health improving. It is remarkable therapy after work or at the weekend or just when you have a spare moment and folk will stop to chat. We are also hoping for some help with the art projects in 2017,

See us on Facebook at Newhaven Heritage Community Garden or email :-

greenfingers@newhavenonforth.org.uk

NEXT ISSUE — Published at the end of December 2016

Sincere apologies to all readers of the Bow-Tow. This issue is late due to a number of circumstances that were unforeseen. We will be returning to our planned schedule of January, April, July, and October. 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. The deadline for this next issue is Monday 12th Dec, 2016.