

**Edinburgh Cape Society Manor to Dunbar followed by BBQ
at Chéz Beer, 29 Glenview, Thurston Manor Leisure Park**

Saturday, 30th June 2012

Meeting Point: John Muir's Birthplace Museum, 126 High Street Dunbar (~12:30)

Born in Dunbar in 1838, John Muir's family emigrated to the USA in 1846 where he went on to found the US National Park system.



John Muir's

Birthplace Museum

Opposite John Muir's Birthplace is Dunbar Town House, now a museum.

The historic Dunbar Town House, built towards the end of the 16th century, is considered Scotland's oldest functioning Council Chamber. Spanning a history of more than 400 years, the building has recently been given a 21st century refurbishment and is now open to the public (13:00-17:00), complete with a brand new museum and gallery exhibition space managed by the Museums Service.



Dunbar Town House

The north end of the High Street leads directly to Lauderdale House. An unusual building for such an urban setting, it was extended by the Adam brothers for the Earl of Lauderdale before being converted to barracks in 1859, and more recently into flats.

Lauderdale



House

Down the hill from this end of the High Street is Dunbar's Victoria Harbour, built in the 1840s and the final death knell for most of the remains of Dunbar Castle. But if Dunbar's origins owe much to its castle, so do its later fortunes and misfortunes. The castle was repeatedly besieged from the 1200s to the 1500s, and whether or not the attackers took the castle they usually burned down the town to make the trip worthwhile. Coupled with this, its position as a handy port on the English side of Edinburgh has made it well worth capturing in its own right. This remained true as recently as September 1650, when Cromwell used it as his supply base prior to his defeat of the Scottish Royalists at the Battle of Dunbar. The opposite corner of the harbour is occupied by a fortified artillery battery.

Victoria



Harbour

Lifeboats have been launching from Victoria Harbour for nearly 200 years and Dunbar has the second oldest RNLI station in Scotland. The crews have been honoured with 12 awards for gallantry. Today, the station operates two lifeboats – an inshore D class and an all-weather Trent class lifeboat.

Dunbar



Lifeboat Station

Further to the south east is the Cromwell Harbour. The completion of this in 1730 led to Dunbar's dramatic growth as a fishing and, for a time, whaling port.

Cromwell



Harbour

With a natural harbour protected by a large defensible outcrop of rock, Dunbar was an obvious place for early settlement along this north east facing coast. The rock on which the remains of Dunbar Castle now stand has been fortified for the better part of 2000 years; and there is every chance that Dunbar itself is just as old.

Dunbar



Harbour

On the way back up to the High Street, the Volunteer Arms is on your left if you wish to explore a good local pub.

