

WALKS around PORTOBELLO

Description: This walk gives a quick impression of Portobello – what it's like today, and a bit of its history.

Length: ~3½ miles

Time: as a stroll: 2 hours; as a route march: one hour. The walk is circular, comprising independent halves.

Terrain: standard town streets; some gentle climbs; OK throughout for wheelchairs.



The information board beside the old kilns illustrates how the pottery was made for which Portobello was renowned throughout Scotland.



THE TOWER
BUILT c1199 AS A SUMMER HOUSE USING MEDIEVAL CARVED STONES

The Tower: built around 1785 as a summer-house, using medieval carved stones from Edinburgh



This information board illustrates some of the entertainments available to the thousands of visitors who flocked to Portobello in its heyday.



Features of the Fife coastline.

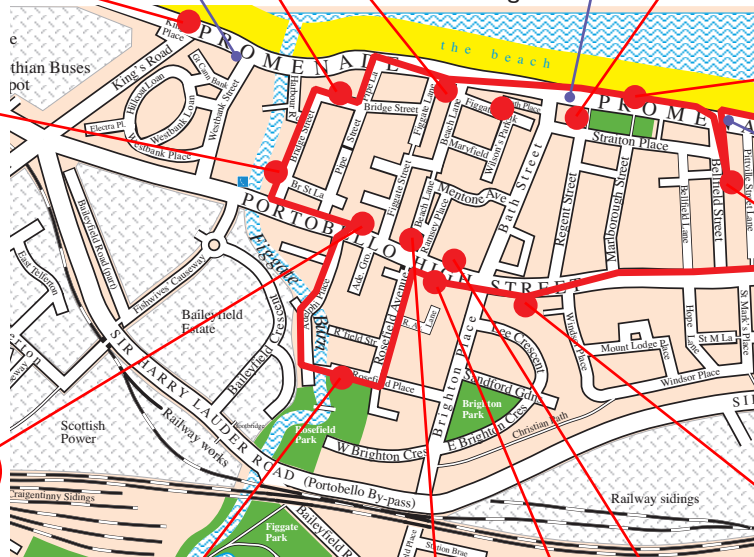


'Tumbles' gym and soft-play



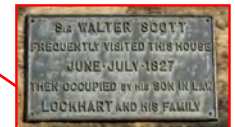
Ned Bernie was the first Scot to swim the English Channel and the first person ever to swim it in both directions.

Sir Harry Lauder, regarded by many as the first global superstar, was born in Portobello on 4th August 1870.



Portobello Sailing Club

Portobello Swim Centre



Walter Scott was a frequent visitor to this house; his son-in-law John Gibson Lockhart who stayed here wrote a definitive biography.



Hugh Miller was one of the founding fathers of modern geology, a gifted writer, and the formidable Editor of *The Witness*, through which he fought a valiant rearguard action in defence of his God. He spent the last two years of his life in Portobello.



Portobello's first purpose-built Town Hall is now the Baptist Church.



The artist William Russell Flint grew up here.



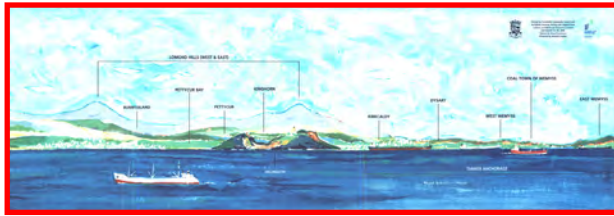
The old Town Hall, now our police station. The new Town Hall, across the road from here, is a theatre.



A small memorial garden celebrates Sir Harry Lauder's connection with Portobello.



Helen Hopekirk was a gifted composer, pianist and music teacher who found fame in the United States.



A landscape painting helps to identify the places and features along the far side of the Firth of Forth.

This information board depicts some of the many seabirds which can be seen on Portobello's shore.



William Hay transformed St Giles, the High Kirk of Edinburgh, and designed several important buildings in Canada.

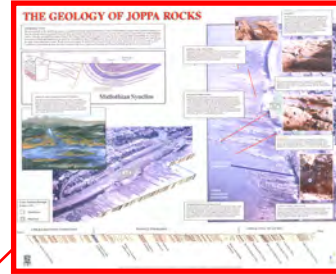


These early 19th century Coade Stone pillars once stood elsewhere in Portobello, and now grace the Community Garden.

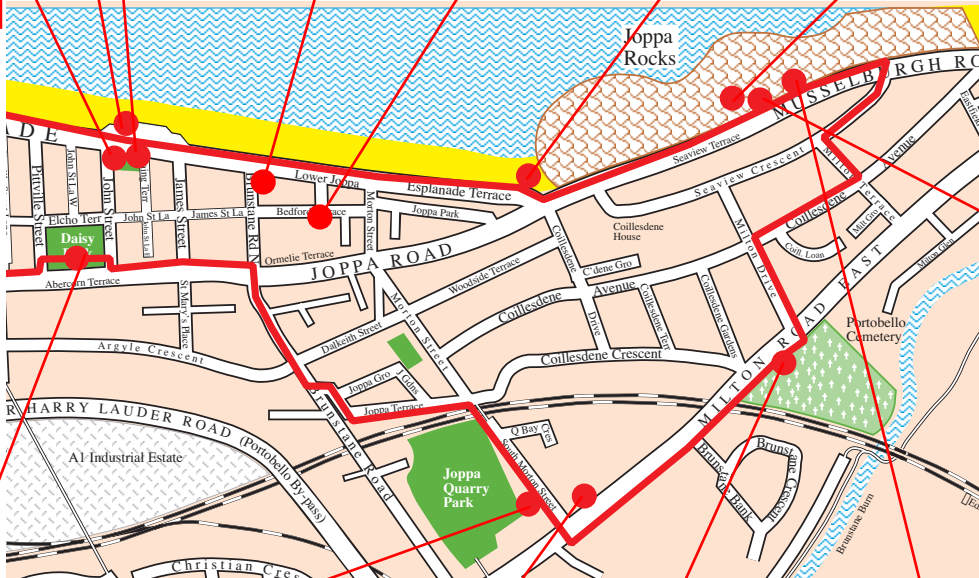


David Laing was Librarian of the Signet Library and a key figure in the Scottish literary establishment.

Eric Lomax grew up in Joppa. His account of his wartime experience and subsequent befriending of one of his torturers attracted global admiration.



Interpretation board explaining the origin of Joppa Rocks and this key local geological site, much admired by Hugh Miller.



The oldest house in the Portobello area, pre-dating the town itself; site of three centuries of salt-making – at first under the supervision of monks.



This memorial fountain was erected by his grateful patients to honour the memory of well-loved GP Dr Hugh Dewar in 1914 – after he had committed suicide because he felt responsible for the death of one of his patients.



William Speirs Bruce was a naturalist and oceanographer who organised and led the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition in 1902, participated in several scientific and commercial expeditions to the Arctic, helped to found Edinburgh Zoo, and founded the Scottish Ski Club.



The Scaliger railing "Verona" 1380. This exact copy was made at Portobello, Midlothian, 1890, by James Ross, Blacksmith, along with David Greig, his assistant in the work.



Portobello's cemetery was opened in 1877 and contains many fine Victorian monuments. Notable burials include Ian Charleson, star of Chariots of Fire and a noted Hamlet; William Robertson, who won the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery in the Boer War in 1899; 25 servicemen who gave their lives in the World Wars; and a Muslim cemetery.



Information board showing some of the creatures that are to be found in the Joppa Rock pools.

