



# Prestonpans Sporting Heroes

*as featured in  
Tom Ewing's  
mural at the  
Pennypit Centre*

**Tom Ewing & Jan Holden**

SALLY CAMPBELL

BLAIR GLYNN

# THE GOTH



Bar Bistro & Function rooms  
Serving the community since 1908  
with award winning  
food and real ales  
Available for private family functions  
Celebrations & Conferences



**High Street, Prestonpans  
EH32 9BE**

**01875 819922**



## INTRODUCTION

The idea of a Prestonpans Sports Mural was put forward by Jim Forster about 3 years ago. Several years earlier Jim, a former sprinter, had written a booklet about the talented runner Tom Tait, and thought it would be a great idea to do a mural in his honour. The Prestoungrange Arts Festival, the organisation behind the Prestonpans Mural Trail, loved the idea and put it on their list of future mural projects.

Two years later the Prestonpans Community Council also put forward the idea of a Sport's Mural, celebrating the town's rich sporting history, and asked the Prestoungrange Arts Festival if they would take on the project. We said yes.

Sport has always played a huge part in the life of Prestonpans, and over the years many of the town's people have had great success in the sporting arena, a mural in their honour seemed only fitting. It seemed particularly apt that the mural be painted in 2012, the year the Olympics came to the UK, especially as Prestonpans was proud to have four athletes represent their country throughout the Olympics and Paralympics.

A few months later we secured funding from The Prestoungrange Gothenburg, through their profits for the Arts Scheme, and soon after we secured the outer wall of the Pennypit Centre for the mural to be painted on.

For years the Pennypit has been the spiritual home of sport in Prestonpans, being home to both Preston Athletic FC and Preston Lodge Rugby Club, and was therefore the ideal location for the mural.

As well as the football and rugby teams, the town has many other sports clubs and centres, including Castle Park Bowling Club and Prestoungrange Bowling Club, Prestonpans Cricket Club, two Primary School football teams, the Mercat Gait Swimming Pool, Meadowmill Sports Centre and The Royal Musselburgh Golf Club.

Following a public consultation and a selection process, the 17 sports men and women, who were to be depicted in the artwork, were decided upon. As there was so many to choose from, the process was very difficult. We decided to try and get as much diversity into the mural as possible, ranging from young and old, male and female, and able bodied to disabled athletes. We also felt it was important to depict as many of the wide range of sports that are enjoyed by "Panners" as possible. Every athlete on the mural had to meet two criteria, they had to have a strong connection to Prestonpans, and they had to have represented their country in their respective sport.

I started work on the mural in October 2012. The mural stands 10 feet high by 12 feet wide across on the outside wall of The Pitstop Café at the Pennypit Centre. It was finished in mid December 2012, taking ten weeks in total to complete.

Our hope for the mural is that as well as celebrating just some of the many excellent athletes that have hailed from the town, it acts as an inspiration to the younger generation, showing them what can and has been achieved by their Prestonpans' sportsmen and women over the years.

## Tom Ewing

### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Tom Ewing is an artist and muralist from Prestonpans. Tom has painted several of the murals in Prestonpans as well as murals in Humble, Dirleton, Livingston and Tasmania. Tom also paints portraits, vibrant landscapes of East Lothian, Edinburgh and Barga, Italy and shows his work in several galleries across the country.  
[www.tdewing.co.uk](http://www.tdewing.co.uk)

First published by Prestougrange Arts  
Festival 2012

The Prestougrange Gothenburg  
227 High Street

PRESTONPANS EH32 9BE  
Printed in Great Britain







## **Alfie Conn Snr, Footballer (1926–2009)**

**Position:** Inside Forward

**Played for Hearts and Scotland**

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Born and grew up here

**Youth Teams:** Prestonpans YMCA and Inveresk Athletic

**Senior Career:** 1944–1958 Hearts; 1958–1960 Raith Rovers; 1960 Johannesburg Ramblers

Alfie Conn had a glittering career with Hearts during the 1950s. He was known as one of the “Terrible trio” along with **Willie Bauld** and **Jimmy Wardhaugh**. During this time, Alfie won the League Cup and the Scottish cup, scoring against Celtic in a 3–1 win. Two weeks later Conn won his one cap for Scotland, scoring in a 1–1 draw against Austria.

In season 57/58 Alfie helped Hearts win the league before moving to Raith Rovers, where he ended his career.

After retiring from football as a player, Alfie went on to manage Johannesburg Ramblers in 1960, Gala Fairydean 1960–1962 and Raith Rovers 1962–1963





## **Sally Campbell, Archer, age, 64**

**Current Club:** Wolfstar Archers, Pencaraig Woods, near East Linton

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Grew up here and lives here

**Sporting Achievements:** Has won the World Championships 3 times (Gold)

**World Field Archery Championships:** Miramar, Argentina (2012); Dahn, Germany 2010; Australia, 2006

Has won European Championships 3 times (Gold), France 1991; Wales 2009; Portugal 2011

### **1. At what age did you start archery?**

I was 31 when I went to Meadowbank for lessons in 1979 and entered my first International competition in 1980 in Wales

### **2. What or who inspired you to start archery?**

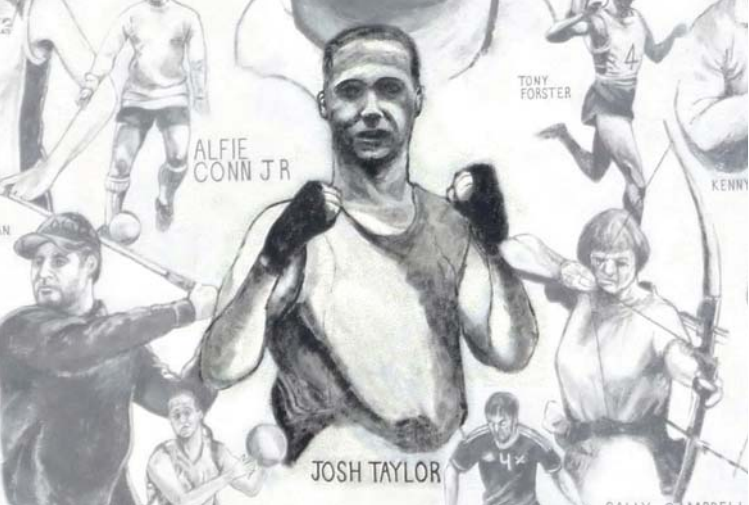
My husband liked sailing but I didn't like the water so we looked for another sport which all the family could do.

### **3. Do you have any advice for young people getting into the sport?**

Join a club and get proper coaching. A bow is not a toy. The coaches can also advise on what equipment would suit the individual. Most of all enjoy the sport and they will get great personal satisfaction.

### **4. What is your most memorable sporting moment?**

As president of The Scottish Field Archery Association it was my privilege to welcome over 400 archers and their families to Arndean in Clackmannan for the 2002 World Championships.



## Josh Taylor, Boxer, age 21

2012 Represented Team GB at Olympics (London); 2010 Silver Medallist at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi; 2008 Youth commonwealth Games bronze – Pune, India

**Class:** Lightweight

**Current Club:** Lochend ABC, Edinburgh, Scotland

**Age started boxing:** 15 years old

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Grew up here, attended Preston Lodge High School

### 1 Did anything or anyone inspire you to get into boxing?

I loved to watch boxing when I was really young with my Dad. Then when Alex Arthur started to train at my Mum's work, I used to go and watch, I knew then that boxing was for me.

### 2 Do you have any advice for young people getting into boxing?

Just to train hard, believe in yourself, show lots of determination and dedication and DO NOT GIVE UP.

### 3 Most memorable sporting moment

Qualifying for the Olympics.

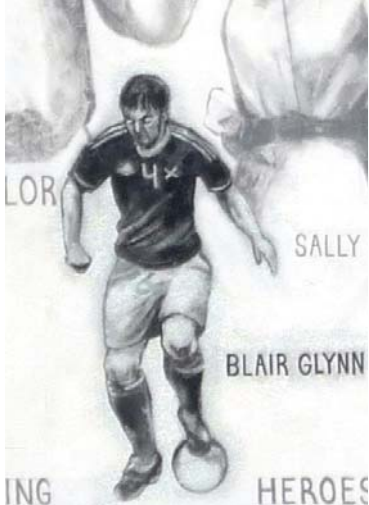
### 4 What is your next personal goal in boxing?

I have been picked to represent GB in the WSB (World Series Boxing) British Lionhearts, and I am aiming to do really well at this as it is a great opportunity for me.

### 5 Favourite pastime outside his sport

I love to spend time with my family, my dog and my friends as I don't get a lot of time to catch up with them. I also enjoy going to the Bike Racing as I used to compete when I was younger and I love it.





## Joanne Morgan, Volleyball Player, age 29

**Position:** setter

**Age started playing volleyball:** 15, for East Lothian Falcons

**Current Club:** DMK Dwingeloo

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Grew up here. Attended Preston Lodge High School

**Sporting Achievements:** Won 3 league and 3 cup titles with Team Edinburgh; Played in World Cup; Played in European Championships; Played for Team GB in 2012 Olympics

## Blair Glynn, Footballer, age 26

**Position:** Defender

Started playing football at age 8

**Current club:** Tranent Athletic

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Father is from Prestonpans. Blair worked in Prestonpans.

**Sporting Achievements:** Represented Team GB in the Para-Olympics (London 2012); Won silver for Scotland in European Championships (disabled) 2012 BT Paralympic World Cup, Manchester, UK; 2011 CPISRA World Championships, the Netherlands (representing Scotland) Came 6th; 2010 European championships, representing Scotland. Came 5th

**Blair's most memorable moments in football are:**

scoring his first goal for Scotland against Canada; His first caps for Scotland and Team GB; Captaining Team GB and the opening and closing ceremonies at the Paralympic Games.

Blair's favourite past time outside of football is spending time with his family and friends, and watching sport.

Blair has an HND in Sports Coaching and Development from Telford College



## **Rose Anderson, Basketball Player, age 24**

**Clubs:** Edinburgh Kool Kats; UWIC Archers

**Sporting Achievements:** Won Basketball Scholarship at Oklahoma 2006; Won 1st Division with UWIC Archers 2011/12; Represented Team GB Basketball Player at Olympics London 2012

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Parents live at Meadowmill Rose's brother is boxer Kenny Anderson. Rose also considered becoming a boxer, before deciding on basketball.

## **Kenny Grieve, Bowler, age 49**

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Grew up here

**Sporting Achievements:** Won 2 gold and a bronze at Special Olympics; Won the Lothian Regional Carpet Bowls Championship; Competed in the National Carpet Bowls Championship

Kenny is from a keen sporting family, his brothers having been involved with the local cricket, rugby and football clubs through the years. As well as bowling, Kenny was also a talented goalkeeper, having played football at different levels throughout his playing career.



## Jane Connachan, Golfer

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Grew up here

Jane started playing golf at the age of 4, and played her first British girls open at the age of 10.

Jane turned professional in 1984, and was one of the best female golfers of her era, winning 5 times on the European ladies tour, including the European Open.

After retiring from tournament golf in 1992, Jane qualified as a PGA teaching professional and soon became one of the top female coaches in Britain.

Jane was also coach of the National Scottish ladies golfing Association from 1995 to 2002, during which time she also worked for the BBC, as an on course commentator.



## **Alfie Conn Jr, Footballer, age 60**

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Grew up in Prestonpans

**Position:** Midfielder

**Teams:** 1968–1974 Rangers; 1974–1977 Tottenham Hotspur; 1977–1979 Celtic; 1979 Derby County; 1981–1984 Motherwell

Son of the great Hearts player Alfie Conn, Alfie Jr was a fine footballer in his own right, winning two international caps.

As well as playing for Spurs, Alfie Jr is probably most well known for being the first post World War II player to play for both Rangers and Celtic.

## **Eddie Connachan, Footballer, age 77**

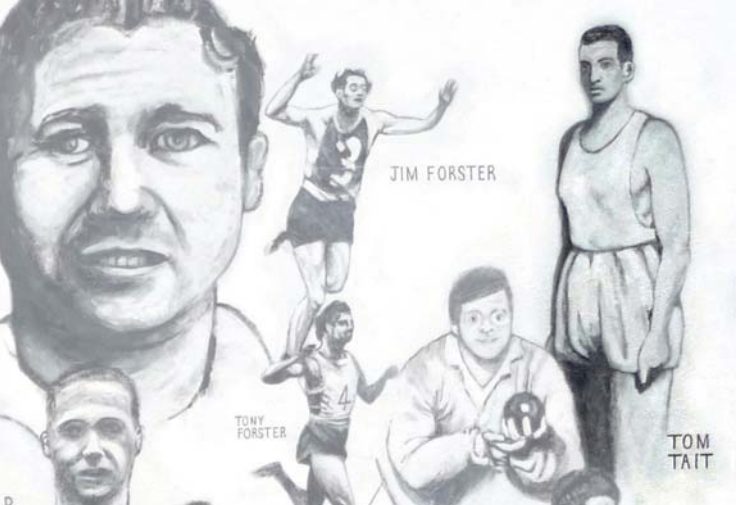
**Clubs:** Dalkeith Thistle; Dunfermline Athletic; Middlesbrough; Falkirk

**Position:** Goalkeeper

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Grew up here. Played for St Gabriel's Boys Team.

**Sporting Achievements:** Won the Scottish Cup with Dunfermline in 1961, known as "Connachans' Cup"; Won 2 caps for Scotland; Inducted into Dumfermline's Hall of Fame in 2007

Eddie moved to South Africa to play for East London Celtic, before retiring. He still lives in the African State.



## Tom Tait, Sprinter (Born 1905 )

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Grew up here. Attended Cuthill Primary School and the Red School. Worked at Prestongrange Pit.

**Age started running:** 13

**Clubs:** Prestonpans Boys Club and Boy's Brigade

Tom Tait was one of the greatest sprinters of his day, winning a number of prestigious events including the Powderhall sprint. In his later years Tom went on to train other runners as well as becoming coach of Preston Athletic Football Club.

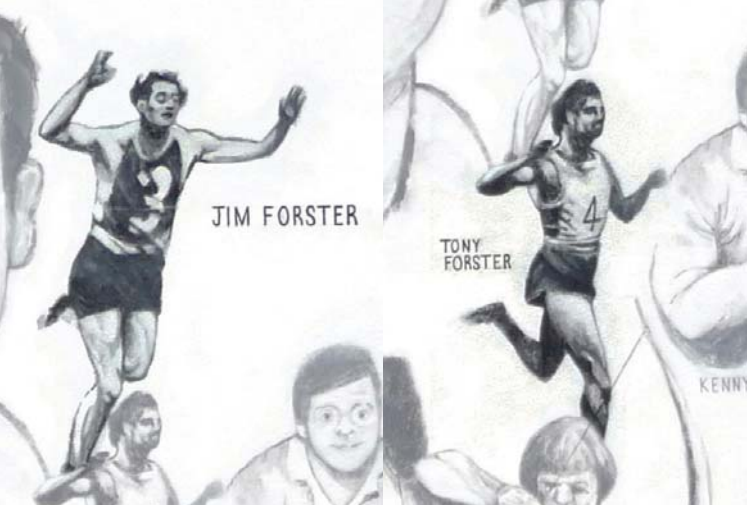
Won 1920 Cuthill Gala Sport's day sprint in Prestonpans

Won gold medal at £60 at Shawfield in Glasgow (1926)

Won gold medal and £100 at Powderhall New Year's Sprint (1931)



*Jim Forster, Tom Tait and Tony Forster with their awards*



## Jim Forster, Sprinter, age 86

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Moved to Prestonpans in 1960. Started The Prestonpans games at Preston Lodge grounds. Worked as a gardener in Prestonpans.

**Sporting achievements:** Won the Powderhall half mile in 1950; Coached many outstanding runners including Graham McNeill from Tranent and Powderhall winner Douglas Burgess.

Jim is a much loved and inspirational sportsman and athlete who has lived in the same house on Prestongrange Road for the past 53 years. His son Tony has also won the Powderhall Sprint, one of the oldest and most prestigious races in the history of the sport, now in its 144th year.

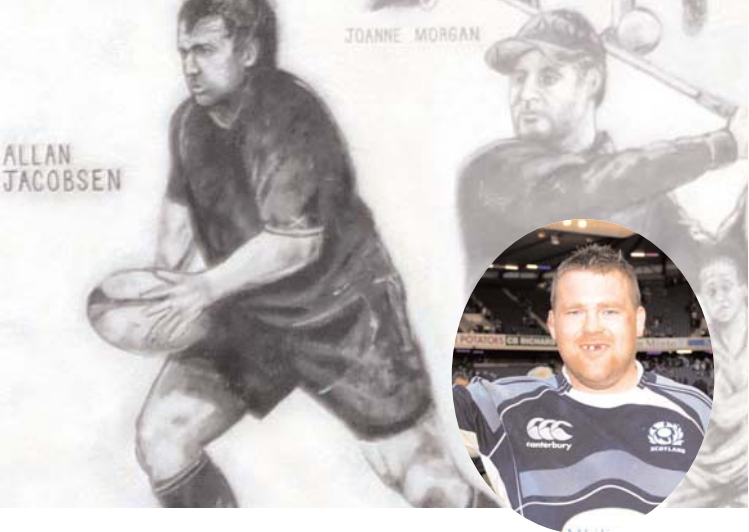
## Tony Forster, Sprinter, age 58

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Moved to Prestonpans at the age of 5. Attended Preston Lodge High School. Played rugby for Preston Lodge.

**Sporting achievements:** East Lothian Champion; Came 2nd in Powderhall sprint 1978; Won Powderhall sprint 1979 at Meadowbank

Tony is the son of runner and coach Jim Forster. He started running in his early teens and quickly became school champion. As well as training with Olympic champion Alan Wells, Tony was asked to appear in the Oscar winning film *Chariots of Fire*.





## Allan Jacobsen, Rugby Player, age 34

**Nickname:** Chunk

**Current Club:** Edinburgh Rugby

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Lives in Prestonpans. Attended Preston Lodge High School. Played for Preston Lodge Rugby Club

**Age started playing rugby:** 6

**Position:** Prop

**Sporting Achievements:** Started playing for Edinburgh in 1997 at age 15; Represented Scotland at Rugby Union (65 caps); He retired from international rugby on 19 November 2012; Has played for Edinburgh Rugby Union since 1997 (290 caps)

### 1 What or who inspired you to play rugby?

I would say when I started out I was inspired by the Scotland team of that time such as David Sole and Kenny Milne, as I grew older it was more about my family and more recently my daughter Maisie who is my biggest inspiration.

### 3 Do you have any advice for young people getting into the sport?

The main thing is to enjoy it and listen to your coaches so you can learn as much as you can.

### 4 What is your most memorable sporting moment?

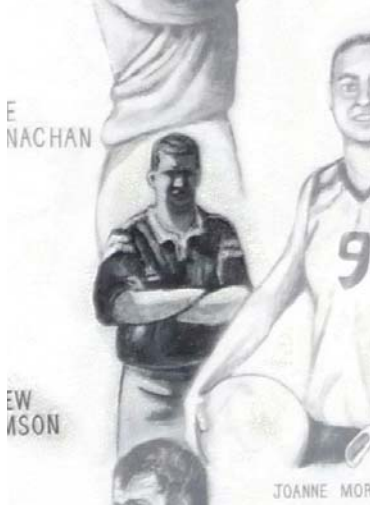
I'll never forget the first time I played against England in the Calcutta Cup at Murrayfield and won.

### 5 What is your next personal goal – are you working towards a particular competition or event?

Now that I have retired from playing for Scotland my main goal is to play well for Edinburgh and to help the team improve.

### 6 What is your favourite pastime outside your sport?

I spend most of my free time playing with my daughter Maisie, I also have a 1980's BMW which I like to tinker with.



## Scott Murray, Rugby Player, age 36

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Attended Preston Lodge High School

**Age started playing rugby:** 16.

**Position:** Lock

**Clubs:** Preston Lodge RFC; Edinburgh Academicals; Bedford; Saracens; Edinburgh; Mont de Marsan, France. Represented Scotland 87 times. 5 as a captain and 3 at World Cup.

From 2007 to 2008 Scott was Scotlands most capped player, before being overtaken by Chris Paterson. Scott won Scotland player of the season 3 times and toured with the British Lions. He is now moved into coaching.

## Andrew Adamson, Rugby Player age, 37

**Position:** Forward

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Grew up here.

**Clubs:** Ross High; Preston Lodge; SDIRT

From a sporting family, Andrew plays for Preston Lodge Rugby Club, and the Scottish Deaf International Rugby Team (SDIRT). Officially backed by the SRU, the SDIRT play their international matches alongside the IRB 6 Nations Championship. Andrew is currently taking time out from rugby whilst recovering from an operation. He plans to return to rugby in August.



## Raymond Russell, Golfer, age 40

**Connection to Prestonpans:** Grew up here. Attended Preston Lodge High School.

After winning the Scottish boys under 16 championship in 1998 and the Scottish youth championship in 1992, Raymond became a professional golfer in 1993, and won a European tour card in 1995.

**Sporting Achievements:** Won Air France Cannes Open in 1996; Tied fourth at the 1998 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale; Represented GB and Ireland in the Walker Cup in 1993; Represented Scotland in the Alfred Dunhill Cup and World Cup in 1996 and 1997

## **More Sporting Heroes**

Prestonpans has had more than its fair share of superb athletes, too many in fact to include all of them in a 12 foot mural. So here is a list of just some of the other great sports people who have hailed from Prestonpans and the neighbouring area ...

### **George McNeil, Sprinter**

From Tranent, George won the Powderhall sprint in 1970. In his prime, George broke many records and was generally regarded as the best sprinter in the world. Unfortunately he was unable to compete in the Olympic Games, due to the fact that as a schoolboy he had signed a professional contract with Hibs, rendering him ineligible.

### **Willie Park Snr, Golfer (1833–1903).**

1st winner of the Open Golf Tournament in 1860, he went on to win it a further 3 times. His brother Mungo also won the tournament in 1874. He was one of the first golfers to make a professional living out of golf. He produced, developed and exported golf equipment such as golf balls and putters. Willie was a member of the Royal Musselburgh Club in Prestonpans.

### **Willie Park Jnr, Golfer ( 1864–1925)**

Son of Willie Snr, Willie Park Jr was a double winner of the Open Tournament. Later, he developed a career as an architect of golf courses in Britain and America. Like his father, Willie Jr was a member of the Royal Musselburgh Golf Course in Prestonpans. He is to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2013.

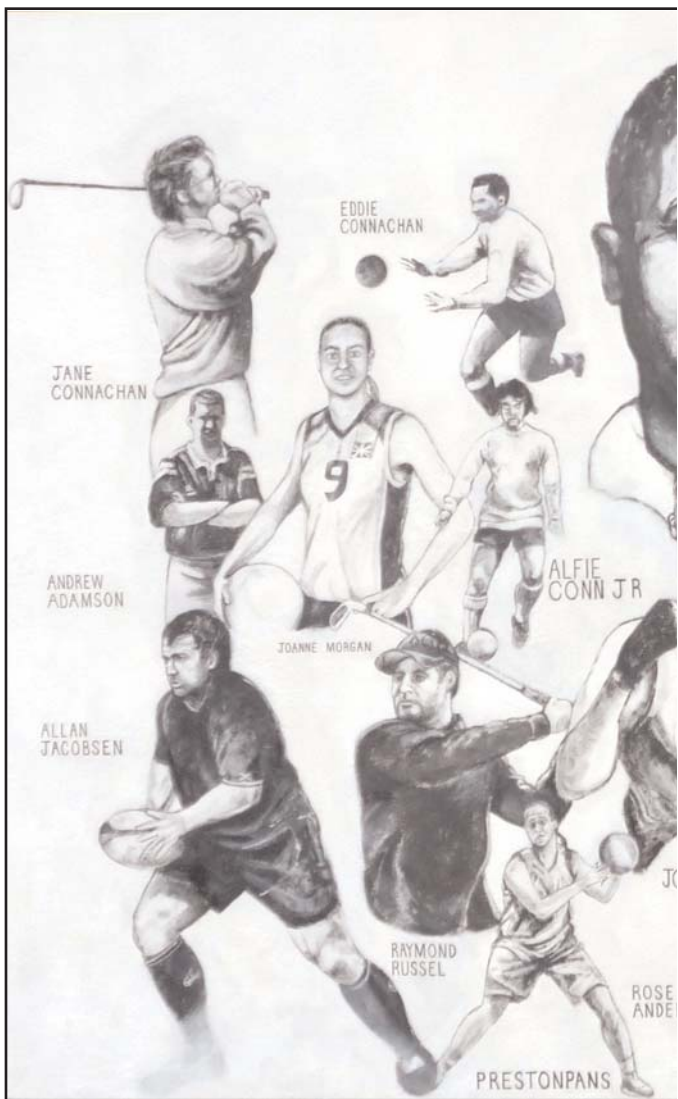
### **Kenny Anderson, Boxer**

Big brother to Rose Anderson, featured in the mural, Kenny is the current British super middle weight champion. Kenny also won gold at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, in the light heavyweight class.

### **John and Charles Murray, Weightlifters**

Father John and son Charles are both champion weightlifters from Prestonpans. Coached by his father, Charles became British junior and under 23 champion.

There are of course many other people from and around Prestonpans who have achieved success in the sporting arena, both at a local and international level. What we have tried to do in the mural and this booklet is to give a taste of the towns rich sporting heritage, and hopefully inspire future generations to carry on this tradition.



## Thank You

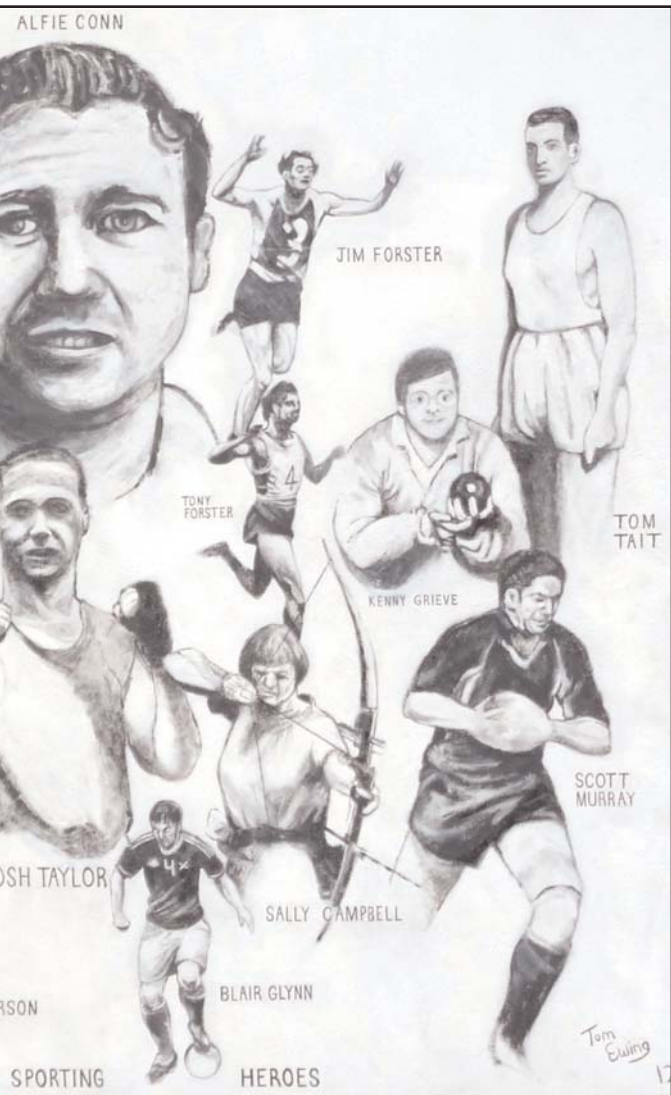
I would like to thank the following people and organisations for their contributions to the creation of the Prestonpans Sporting Heroes Mural:

Prestonpans Community Council, for their support and funding for this booklet.



East Lothian Council, for allowing the use of the wall at the Pennypit Centre as the home for the mural and for providing funding for this booklet.

Councillors Willie Innes and Steven Brown for helping with the selection process.



June Coull, for helping with the research.

Jim and Tony Forster, for their help with research, especially regarding Tom Tait.

Jimmy Yule, for his help and support.

The Prestoungrange Gothenburg and the Prestoungrange Arts Festival, for funding the mural.

The Pennypit Trust for backing the mural.

All the regulars and staff at the Pennypit and Pitstop Café for their help and support.

And finally a big thank you to all the athletes and their families for helping with the mural and the booklet, as well as being the inspiration behind the work.





**The Pitstop Café is located within the Pennypit Centre, Rope Walk Prestonpans and is open to all customers.**

**Our friendly staff and trainees provide a wide range of snacks, meals and drinks and in-house and outside catering.**

**The centre is fully accessible and wheelchair friendly.**

**Open 9am–3.30 Monday–Friday**

**Phone: 01875 819635**

**[pitstopcafeprestonpans@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pitstopcafeprestonpans@yahoo.co.uk)**

**Suggested Donation £2 please**