

Chairman's message...

We are coming near to the end of 2021 with the pandemic starting to recede. Visitors to the village are returning and rail travel is showing a slight increase. In other words optimism, and confidence for planning in 2022 is starting to increase. During the past months the Trust has been carrying on as usual with regular Trustee meetings and forward planning. Recommendations from the Marketing Plan are being implemented and those of you who follow social media will have seen changes with regular updates on Facebook and Instagram.

Art Competition As you can read below, the Heritage Trust and the Primary School are holding the annual Art Competition for 2021, with prizes.

Pierhead Museum As a first step the Trust was successful in obtaining grant funding from Museums Galleries Scotland to internally upgrade the display and security facilities within the 'hut'. The work has



been completed with the hut renamed 'Pierhead Museum' focusing on the story of the 'Queensferry



Passage' and is now open to locals and visitors. The many comments received in the visitor book testify to the positive reaction from visitors. It is also a great "selfie" opportunity for an intriguing "ghost ship" picture with



the Forth Bridge!

Website... www.nqht.org A considerable amount of new research into the heritage stories that have taken place in North Queensferry and these are being added to it. We would certainly recommend that you visit it regularly.

FBHC & Light Tower Another important recommendation from the Marketing Plan was to forge a unique identity between the Forth Bridge Heritage Centre at the station, the Light Tower, and the adjacent 'fisherman's hut' by altering the display of the collections that are currently held.

The next step in the Trust's plans is to upgrade the display and particularly the storage space in the station using the potentially large storage area in the basement. The work required is subject to a new grant funding application, with the result known by mid-October.

Fife Council - Local Action Plan The Trust took part in the NQ Local Action Plan (LAP) discussion organised by Fife Council with many opinions being received. Short and long term action points will no doubt emerge later this year. The Trust hopes that this new process will lead to better management of car parking, visitor facilities both high on the priority list as were the lack of toilets, and reinstating some paths west of the village to St Margaret's Marches, shown here.



2022 The Year of Stories We are also looking forward to Visit Scotland's 2022 theme - 'the year of stories'.



This year's theme is 'Sea Change is Coming'. As climate change advances, our oceans, rivers and coasts have a critical role in meeting the goals of the COP26 conference. Heritage knowledge of the local Forth coastal areas need to be fully engaged with marine policy if the more challenging and contentious aspects of climate change are to be resolved. The Royal Society of Edinburgh has a system in place for the submission of stories and photos on matters of concern. The Heritage Trust is happy to forward these if you wish to send them to us via email, or post your feedback in the Station's letter box on Platform1. As most of us feel, time must not be wasted as time is not on our side.

Best wishes for the winter months and 2022 when we hope we will be able to have a fuller programme of events. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy this newsletter. If you have any feedback or ideas for articles, please get in touch.

James Lawson - Chairman

Village Show - Art Competition - 2021...

We are all disappointed that the 'village show' has also been cancelled this year.

However, with considerable help from the Primary School the annual Art Competition will go ahead. The exhibits are currently being judged, and they will



shortly be on display in the Station Waiting Room for all families and visitors to appreciate.

Congratulations to Maisie Allen for winning the NQHT Shield, and to Jude Fraser for winning the Jubilee Cup. This year, prizes, with an Amazon Gift Card from the Heritage Trust will be presented by the School.

Special thanks to Gill Brown, Fiona George and Mary Dempsey for their invaluable assistance.

James Lawson - Chairman

NQHT Information Point...



As many of you will have seen, the outside refurbishment of the Telephone Kiosk in Main Street has been completed. We've received many positive comments regarding the high standard of the refurbishment that has been achieved from both local residents and visitors.

Many thanks to Fine Arts, Renovations and Gardens by Robert Irvine for the time he took in getting the many details right, and in particular for the gold crowns.

The current plan is to use the kiosk as a local source of information, and also as a book exchange.

However, you have time to make other suggestions for its use before the interior fitting goes in. Send any suggestions to ... NQHTinfo@gmail.com

Garry Irvine - Secretary

An Old Road-Book "Itinerary of

Scotland-1820"... Published in Glasgow it was a road-book on very much the same lines as those of to-day, and gives descriptions and mileage of roads all over the country with wonderful accuracy and often quaint phraseology.

At that time, the steam-boat was then rapidly attaining its place as a regular means of sea transit, and the "Itinerary" gives a list of no fewer than: 27 steamers. plying on and from the Clyde, including the well-known pioneers, Comet, Rob Roy, and Sir William Wallace.

The "itinerary" also finds it necessary to reassure travellers as to this comparatively novel mode of transport, and tells them that by its aid they "can now enjoy the pleasures of a water excursion with all the expedition, and nearly all the certainty of a mail coach ride."

However, steam power on the Queensferry Passage had not been applied to the propulsion of the boats. The Queensferry Passage at that time was still dependent on sails and oars. The larger boats must have been of considerable size and were capable of carrying waggons and carts exceeding two tons in weight.

The "Itinerary" gives full details of the freights and regulations applying to the Queensferry Passage in 1814. These regulations were drawn up by "the Committee for managing the concerns of the Passage, appointed by the Trustees named by an Act of Parliament "for the Improvement of the Queensferry Passage". It was signed by the Earl of Moray, the Earl of Elgin, and five other members of the Committee, North Queensferry, 4th April 1812.

Some of the Regulations Extracts from the Regulations are of interest: "The boats consist of four large Boats, in one of which there is a convenient cabin; three large Pinnaces, and three Yawls." "A large Boat shall regularly leave each shore at six o'clock A.M. from 1st April to 1st October; and at 8 o'clock A.M. during the remainder of the year; and shall continue at the expiry of every hour afterwards, until sunset, to leave each shore. "

Each Boat to be navigated by at least five men, or four men and a boy; and each-Pinnacle and Yawl by at least four men; or two men and two boys." Carriages, waggons, and livestock were conveyed only in the large boats, while each pinnace could take a maximum of ten passengers, and each of the yawls, which varied in size, from three to six passengers.

Amongst other regulations are those providing for the making of "blazes or signals" from either side of the Forth, for the purpose of summoning boats, pinnaces or yawls for special hire; and it is specified that " a person is to be kept at the signal-house on North Ferry Pier, constantly on the look-out for blazes and signals, day and night."

Garry Irvine - Secretary

Based on an article by W. Pitcairn Craig 1934