

Chairman's message...

Welcome to this Summer edition of our newsletter. Yes, we're having a typical Scottish summer consistent with the ever changing climate around the globe. Fortunately, we do not have it that bad, so much has to be said for our dreich weather!

Our Ferries talk by Captain Stephen Reid, and First Mate Robert Reid was a sell out. We are still hopeful of developing a full transcript from that talk, but as you all appreciate it is easier said than done... so we'll call it "work in progress" for the time being.

We are still in discussion with Museums Gallery Scotland about accreditation. That is also progressing slowly. We hope to have good news shortly.

To those of you who use the Census Records you will be pleased to hear that the 1921 records are now complete and are on the website. Many thanks to Boyd Williamson, who has published them and has done a lot of work to make the records much easier to research..., in fact, the records you find on the website will be featured at the Village Show where you can look up these latest sets of records.

Those of you who follow social media will see regular updates on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

In the meantime I hope you enjoy this newsletter.
James Lawson - Chairman

Northern Lighthouse lights...

Many of these marvels of lighthouse engineering, were built by generations of the Stevenson family. They are often situated in places that are difficult to access or are not easy to access such as the Bell Rock!

However, one of the exceptions is our 1817 Light Tower built by Robert Stevenson. Here you can climb the spiral staircase and get up close to the "World's Smallest Working Lamp" admired by young and old, from across the world.



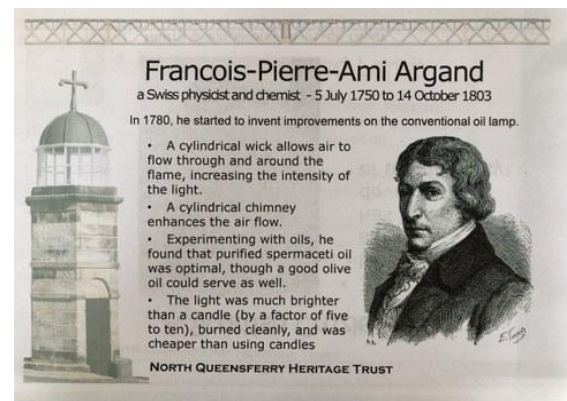
The story of these unique icons of 'Northern Lights', largely designed and built by the Stevenson

family up to 1971, is told in the Forth Bridges Lighthouse Museum, at the Town Pier, North Queensferry.

The Town Pier or "Signal House Pier" is the oldest pier in the village. It was rebuilt in 1810-1813 according to plans drawn up by the famous civil engineer John Rennie. One can still see the huge beautifully-fashioned stone blocks by stone-masons used to build it from the local quarries. At the top of the pier stands a small hexagonal light tower and south west of it stands the Signal House with its large octagonal tower built on its west side. The building has now been converted to a dwelling, although the original octagonal tower can still be seen from the end of the Town Pier.



The light room of the light tower was originally commissioned by Robert Stevenson in 1812 and placed on top of the nearby Signal House to form a lighthouse. It gave a wide visual light to ships from and to St Margaret's Hope, then a very important safe anchorage prior to Admiralty building RN Rosyth, to Hounds Point on the south side of the Forth.



Starting in 1780, Francois-Pierre-Ami Argand, a Swiss physicist, started to invent improvements to the conventional oil lamp that had been in use since Roman times. Patented in 1784, his lamp became a standard lighting system for Stevenson who used 24 in an array on his most famous Bell Rock Lighthouse in 1811.

No surprise that the Signal House was the nerve centre of the Queensferry Passage in the days of sailing ships, although less successful for the ferries!



STOP PRESS!

VILLAGE SHOW THIS WEEKEND!

Delivery of exhibits on Friday, 1st September between 7:00 & 8:00 pm,
and on Saturday between 9:00 & 10:30 am.



Prior to 1809, the operators of the Queensferry Passage were an unruly lot charging what they could for passage. In 1809, an act of the UK Parliament established a Superintendent for the Queensferry Passage. The first Superintendent was Captain Scott, a former captain for Nelson during the Second Battle of Copenhagen in 1807.

[North Queensferry Heritage Trust](#)

The Forth Bridges Lighthouse Museum



The light tower was refurbished and brought up to its former operating condition in 2010 by North Queensferry Heritage Trust with technical

assistance from Historic Environment Scotland, the Northern Lighthouse Board, and engineers from the Heritage Trust.

As part of the refurbishment, the Trust endeavoured to make the restoration as authentic as possible by following the original instructions listed by Robert Stevenson to the trustees of the Queensferry Passage. These instructions included a reference to the need for nearby storage for fishing equipment. This was replicated, and a small 'fisherman's hut' was built. This hut now houses our museum containing additional information on early lighthouses, maritime souvenirs as well as memorabilia from the opening of the Forth Bridge in 1890. You will also find an introduction to the UK-wide renown Queensferry Passage - a ferry system that operated across the Forth in one way or other for over 1000 years ago.

As part of the Heritage Trust's objectives of educating visitors, we offer a unique opportunity of lighting an Argand lamp, that was created as part of the refurbishments of the Light Tower. You can request an appointment using our email address: nqhtinfo@gmail.com. For this, we request a donation to help us maintain this unique service.



To Donate
Please Scan Me

When lighting the lamp, one is reminded that this Light Tower can rightly be said to be the guardian of the innovative flame lighting system that saved countless lives and guided ships to safer waters for over 200 years.



The light tower and museum have the same opening and closing times but are normally open daily (subject to weather and availability of volunteers) between 10.00am until 5.00pm.

[North Queensferry Heritage Trust](#)

Barnardo's Children Charity

- Your View 2023, 22-24th September

During the weekend lucky ticket holders will be visiting the top of the Fife Tower of the Forth Bridge.

West Fife Doors Open Days...

- 23rd - 24th September

As part of this years events, the Heritage Trust will also be opening its doors - including...

- [Forth Bridge Heritage Centre](#) at NQ Station with a "Steaming Forth", a photographic exhibition along with our Forth Bridge collection;
- Our resident artist's [multi-craft exhibition](#);
- [St James Chapel](#) will be open for appreciating this 11th century chapel and 17th century graveyard;
- [Forth Bridge Lighthouse Museum](#) at the top of the Town Pier;
- and of course our Red Phone Box or [Information Kiosk](#) available 24x7 for the usual Book swap!

Volunteering with the Heritage Trust

- got some time on your hands?

Volunteering with the NQ Heritage Trust has many engrossing topics that need attention as well as archiving. We are fortunate to have amongst our volunteers High School students who find our volunteer activities help their development. We also provide references for other activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. So. if you are at a loose end, or know of someone who would benefit from volunteering, do get in touch!

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This newsletter was created and edited by NQHT Trustees. Comments/feedback to NQHTinfo@gmail.com

Thanks to everyone who donated ideas, articles and photographs.