



North Queensferry Heritage Trust

Newsletter – Summer 2021



Chairman's message...

As we all know, 2021 has been a very difficult year to make any definite future plans... so far! All of our proposed 'talks' have had to be cancelled and it is only now with the prospect of better times ahead that we can plan with, hopefully, some degree of confidence.

Visitors have started to come back to both the Heritage Centre/Gallery at the station as well as the Light tower. Our visitor books continue to record positive experiences in both venues.

I'm afraid that year began with the very sad news of the death of one of our founding trustees John Clemmens who, as you will read further on in this newsletter, contributed so much to the work of the trust and whose legacy, I am sure, you would wish to have recorded in some meaningful way..

However the remaining trustees and management board are delighted to welcome Barbara McKechnie, whom many of you will know, to help with the forward planning of all our projects and activities.

Marketing plan...

As mentioned in the previous newsletter the marketing plan commissioned by the trust to comment and make recommendations on all NQHT heritage interests and activities. This has now been completed and circulated to key members of the community and others involved in forming a new local action plan for the North Queensferry area.

StudioArc, an Edinburgh based company, was asked to take an independent view and report on the use and sustainability of the Heritage Centre at the Station, the Light Tower, the K6 Telephone Kiosk. Also the support given by existing printed brochures, our social media and probably most important our website.

The aim was to help identify recommendations on how the trust should manage its ongoing plans for our collections of heritage displays and storage, as well as events, walking tours and identify recommendations to make our website and social media more sustainable and integrated with other similar organisations. We were also looking for ideas on the development of new printed brochures.

Regular meetings of the trustees are now taking place and plans are developing along the lines recommended in the marketing report. Discussions with all interested parties, including Fife Council's

Local Area Plan team for North Queensferry are ongoing, and I am sure more news for members will be available later in the year.

The Fife Council Local Area Plan is underway and we would encourage all to complete the questionnaire online or on paper as supplied by the local-area planning team.

With best wishes for a safe 2021

James Lawson - Chairman

Village Show - 2021...

It is disappointing that the 'village show' has again had to be cancelled this year.

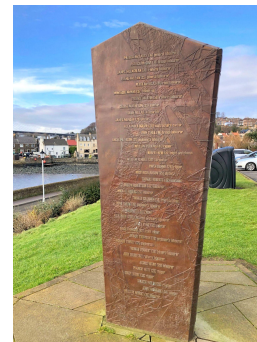
However, this year we are working with the Primary School and will be holding the annual children's Art Competition in September as usual. It will be largely held in the school with help from the Heritage Trust.



Garry Irvine - Secretary

Forth Bridge Memorial...

Next year, the 18th May 2022 will mark the 10th anniversary of the unveiling of the memorial to the 73 men who lost their lives during the building of the Forth Bridge 1883-1890.



In September 2006 the Forth Bridge Memorial Arts Trust (FBMAT) was formed, as a registered charity, with two trustees representing the north side and similar for the south side with the aim of creating a suitable public memorial or memorials.

Discussions started with Network Rail who agreed that a suitable public memorial should be sited on a community area at both ends of the bridge. The new research undertaken by the Queensferry History Group also enabled an accompanying 'book of remembrance' to be produced.

Forth Bridge Memorial Arts Trust prepared a Questionnaire for residents of North Queensferry on the siting of a memorial with the following

specification supplied by the architect appointed to the project.

'The proposed memorial is about 2.5 metres high on a base of about 1.5metres. It is envisaged that the memorial would be produced from a plum coloured slate with the names of those who died etched into the stone. The words 'In memory of...' would be painted in the same colour as the bridge. It is also proposed that whinstone taken from a North Queensferry quarry be incorporated into the memorial site.

Two identical public memorials are proposed, one in North Queensferry and the other in South Queensferry, 'representing the communities at each end of the bridge'.

Four sites were suggested and the preferred choice was a site within the car park area at Battery Road.

Funding for a project of this size and complexity was always going to be difficult as the areas of local authority responsibility were equally split between Fife and Edinburgh, but nevertheless with the help of some public subscriptions, and donations from the Barr Family Trust and Network Rail the decision was made to have the memorials cast and books of commemoration printed.

On a rather stormy day on 18th May 2012 both memorials were unveiled resulting in positive publicity for the project that was finally completed which gave a long awaited tribute to those that sacrificed their lives The book of commemoration for North Queensferry not only lists all those who died but also gives background information on the 'briggers', the history of the bridge and other important landmarks. The book, held by the Heritage Trust, is usually available for viewing within the 'fisherman's hut' next to the light tower. The book for South Queensferry is held at their museum in the High Street. Nearly 10 years on, some cleaning and maintenance is required which is being undertaken by Powderhall Bronze from Edinburgh, who originally cast the memorials. This vital work was supported by a generous donation from Balfour Beatty.

To avoid high maintenance costs in future it is hoped that regular cleaning to remove salt spray can be undertaken by volunteers on both sides of the river with assistance from expert help.

Any member or resident who is interested in helping to maintain this heritage icon on behalf of FBMAT should in the first instance contact the Heritage Trust via email nqhtinfo@gmail.com
James Lawson - Chairman

John Clemmens 1935 - 2021

Another stalwart of the Heritage Trust, John Clemmens, died on 6th February 2021 after a sudden illness. His enthusiasm and work for the trust through his photographic skills and knowledge on all matters of steam locomotives and rail matters will be greatly missed. The trust is planning to preserve his legacy in an appropriate way later in 2021.



We are pleased to say that John's 'Steaming Forth' photographic exhibition is still available to view in the



Station Gallery waiting room. For your safety, we encourage all visitors to the Gallery to use the hand sanitizer, and floor markings to keep everyone safe.
Garry Irvine - Secretary

Heritage Trust Talks....

We are pleased to say that planning for face-to-face and mixed online talks are being planned for the autumn. This year's talks will include Submarine Miners at Port Laing and The Drove Roads of Scotland that eventually became the railway network.

The idea is to host a few talks in the Meeting Room - with socially distant seating - and have a live link to allow others at home, and even speakers at home, to participate. More news will be on Facebook and the Website when plans have been firmed up.
Garry Irvine - Secretary



NQHT Information Point

The refurbishment of the K6 1936 Telephone Kiosk is almost complete. In addition to its main role, a free book exchange has been suggested but that needs help to run it. If you are willing to help or have a suggestion we'd be interested in hearing from you... please email

NQHTinfo@gmail.com
Garry Irvine - Secretary

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

Thanks to everyone who donated articles and photographs.