



North Queensferry Heritage Trust

Newsletter – Summer 2025



Chairman's message...

We are halfway through 2025 and NIGHT volunteers are busier than ever with increasing demand for 'lighting the Lamp' and those completing the Forth Bridges Walking Trail and claiming a certificate for crossing 'a world heritage site now celebrating its 10th anniversary since inscription in 2015.

Plans are well underway for this year's Village Show, with the 80th anniversary of the end of the war with a theme of WW2 Memories. Anyone who has any artefacts that can be used for the display please contact a member of the VS Ladies Group. More information on the show's details are listed further on in the newsletter.

Organisation for the Trust's 2 potential museum collections have been proceeding, not as fast as the Trustees would like, as volunteers are required to help with transferring the required data to electronic format. The Trust has secured 'working towards accreditation' status for the names 'Forth Bridges Lighthouse Museum' and the 'Forth Bridges Heritage Centre'.

Highlighting the rich heritage of the North Queensferry area for both residents and visitors is constantly being discussed by the trustees who are much encouraged by the positive response and would like to thank all those who have renewed their subscriptions for the current year. This

is much appreciated allowing our heritage to be recorded and available to all.

The Trustees are also pleased to announce the restart of the 'Talks Programme' for later this year and for 2026 - details on the various speakers and their talks are outlined below.

James Lawson -Chairman

NQHT Talk Programme... 2025-2026

Last year we had a number of last minute cancellations, and finding other informative speakers was very difficult at such late notice.

However, this year we have excellent speakers including:

Jackie Sangster, Learning Manager at Historic Environment Scotland (HES);

Boyd Williamson, WWI and WWII researcher and NQHT's excellent website developer.

Our 2026 programme will have **Lloyd Blyth**, a North Sea saturation diver and manager of the e-sailboard company ([e-foil Scotland](http://e-foilScotland.com)) in east Scotland; **Jackie Sangster**; **Sarah Brown**; and **Katie MacDonald**, archivist from the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE).

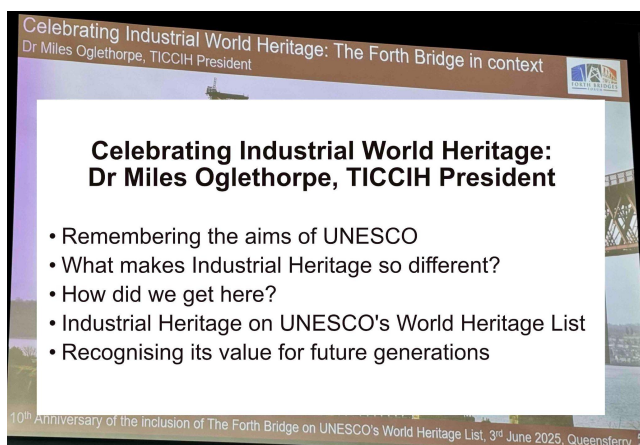
Forth Bridge - 10th Year UNESCO World Heritage Anniversary

On the 3rd July in the Forth Bridges Customer Education Centre (CEC) in South Queensferry, an exhibition of Forth Bridge artefacts followed by a number of talks on the Forth Bridge.



The first talk was from John Andrew - Transport Scotland, who gave us an in-depth view of the mammoth task of scaffolding and sand-blasting the Forth Bridge, and painting it with new North Sea technology paint that is said to last 25+ years, and by one estimate, up to 40 years!

Dr Miles Oglethorpe, who retired from HES and Industrial Heritage is now President of TICCIH – The International Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage.



He gave a talk celebrating the Forth Bridge and added many other industrial heritage sites throughout the world. Worthy of note, is that the successful management plan for the Forth Bridge has been adopted as an

exemplary document for new proposed sites across the world. Miles enjoyed showing off the "Forth Bridge Bridgery" as an example of day-to-day use of the iconic bridge.



Miles was followed by Kenny McAlpine, from Network Rail, who



gave us an update on the ongoing maintenance and support plan for their one and only, Forth Bridge.

[NQHT](#)

Village Show - WW2 Memories Saturday 30th August 2025

The Village Show this year is at the end of next month. The theme this year is "WW2 - Memories", so if you have, such as, any memorabilia of photographs, uniforms do bring them along on Friday evening so we can set up a "WW2 Memories" quiet area. Also on Friday, 29th August, between 6 and 8 PM, please bring along your exhibits. You can also bring them along on Saturday morning between 9:30 and 11 AM.

The show will as usual be held in the



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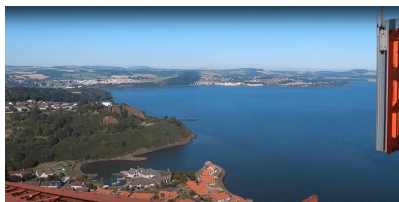
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large hall of the Community Complex. At the moment we are not planning to use the small hall this year.

Barnardo's & Balfour Beatty "Your View" 2025 - September 19-21, 2025

Over this weekend the 2025 Your View event will take place. If taking part, please take public transport and consider (depending on weather) gaining a FB Trail Certificate by completing the Circular trail via the Forth Bridge, and South & North



Queensferry. See our free FB Trails

Walk brochure for more details.

As usual, for this event the Heritage Trust will be hosting an exhibition table to show off our activities. If you can help by volunteering (over 18), please let us know by emailing...

NQHTinfo@gmail.com

Occupations of Old - 23 Oct, 2025 **Jackie Sangster**

This talk will use archive photographs to explore working lives and professions from the past. Looking at jobs we used to do, from bus-conductors and onion Johnnies, to switchboard operators and lighthouse keepers. Technology and shifts in society have rendered many of these roles to history, so we shall look back and celebrate the people who served their communities in different ways.

Submarine Miners - 11 Nov, 2025 **Boyd Williamson**

Boyd will be presenting his research into the war-time activities at Port Laign Beach. During the first world wars it was the location of the Royal Naval Air Corp when it used the Forth to help develop aircraft carriers. In 1918 it was absorbed into the RAF. There was also a submarine mine manufacturing facility that some in the village remember either playing in the ruins or along the old railway lines going to the Gov'y Pier.

Above & Below the Forth - TBA **Lloyd Blyth - e-Foil Scotland**

Lloyd is a saturation diver, and spends a lot of his work under the sea at depth in the North Sea.

His "home" or on-shore work, is running e-Foil Scotland, a company based in Burntisland that teaches enthusiasts how to fly or cycle over water - today.



e-Foil is now the Leading eFoil School for Fife and Edinburgh.

This is a great chance to hear Lloyd's fascinating stories of below and above the Forth!



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The Forth Bridge - Date TBA Jackie Sangster

The Forth Bridge, recognised the world over, this unique piece of Victorian engineering formally opened in 1890 to connect the Lothians to Fife and allow the rail network to travel north. Join us for this *riveting* 😊 talk as we explore the fascinating photograph archive which documents its construction and the development of a Scottish Industrial Heritage icon.

Save the Albert - an update from ACG Ltd



For those of us who are concerned about the state of The Albert Hotel, here is an update:

The North Queensferry Community Trust submitted the second part of a Community Right to Buy Part 5 application in October 2023. The application was deemed valid and was categorised as 'Pending' on the Register of Applications by Community Bodies to Buy Land. After a delay of 17 months, the application was refused by the Scottish Ministers

on the recommendation of the Community Land Team. Notwithstanding the delay, prolonged by the requirement of time for a secret postal ballot before the application could be submitted, a period of only 28 days were allowed for an appeal via the Sheriff Civil Court. An appeal against the refusal has been started but the court hearing will not take place until September 2025.

An important consequence of the delays in the community right to buy process, is that the projected costs of renovating the neglected hotel have spiralled.

Alastair W.S. Ritchie - ACG Ltd

Our latest Honorary Light Keepers

Iona-Alexis & Scott - both thoroughly enjoyed their history lesson of the Queensferry Passage and the unique experience of lighting the one and only working Argand oil lamp in the world!



Singing for Fun - Elizabeth Ramsay

Tuesdays between 7 and 8:30 PM in the Meeting Room. First session free, then £5/session. Interested, then email..

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