North Queensferry Heritage Trust
Newsletter – Autumn 2019

Our Chairman's Message…
This is our second Newsletter and packed with information on both Natural and Cultural Heritage matters on our 'doorstep'. Details on our next exhibition and Talk series in October and November this year are also listed.
North Queensferry is right in the centre of the 3 Bridges area which is now designated an important Scottish visitor destination to be supported by the main tourism agencies. Visually the Forth Bridge is continually in the media and features as a backdrop to the latest BBC children's series "Molly & Mack".
Our next exhibition on the Forth Bridge will be in the Gallery at the station over the winter months to be part of the 130th anniversary of the bridge on 4th March 2020.
Details on the planning for events and exhibitions in 2020 will feature in future editions of the Newsletter but if you would like to become a member of NQHT and help the committee then full details are on our website. Membership forms are also available in the Gallery at the station or in the Light Tower at the pier. (completed forms can be returned via our postbox at the station).

Thank you for your support
James lawson - Chairman

NQHT Talks & Events
With the Trust losing their long term secretary we have struggled a wee bit this year. However, we now have a programme that is also getting firmed up for next year.
Venue: The Meeting Room at the Railway Station for 7.30pm.

- October 22nd: The Engine Shed Introduction - Vanesa Gonzales, HES
- November 19th: Fife Historic Buildings
- January: Winter Nature Walk
- February: Dunfermline Linen
- April: Rossy Estate - Andrew Thompson
- May 5th: Submarine Miners - Duncan McNiven & Boyd Williamson

Fife Doors Open Day… 15th September
The FBHC at the station, Light Tower and St James Chapel will be open for visitors. Check out the brochure for other openings in west Fife.

Tarmac - a caring company - *Pam Bell, Trustee*
Last year I contacted Cruicks Quarry, Tarmac to see if they would permit a memorial stone in Cruicks Quarry Cruickness for my father-in-law, John Bell. He died at the tender age of 42 while working there on the 3rd July 1944, 75 years ago. As the only surviving child of seven siblings, Mrs Christine Clark, I thought now would be an appropriate time for a memorial.

The reply we received from Tarmac Company was in complete support. Two representatives from Glasgow, Tarmac representatives, Jack Marshall and Leanne Taddei (PR), arranged a site visit when they gathered details of the accident. They were also willing to take on-board our ideas and on the 3rd July 2019, 75 years since the accident, we unveiled the memorial stone, close to the coastal path, with a fitting plaque.





Our family celebrated the occasion with a lovely picnic along with representatives from the Tarmac Company. This memorial was greatly appreciated by the family for the shortened life of a hard-working family man.

Heartfelt thanks to the Tarmac Company - a "caring company" - from the Bell family.
Pam Bell

The natural world in North Queensferry
North Queensferry maintains its diversity although it is probably a bit confused by the hot weather we have been having. Most of the birds, both resident and visitors are quite quiet just now although the terns on Long Craig can be noisy at times.

Breeding birds are quiet because they need to moult after they have nested although there is a robin somewhere on The Brae singing regularly. As a sign of the changing seasons West Bay has been re-occupied by at least 40 redshanks and a few curlews and oystercatchers.

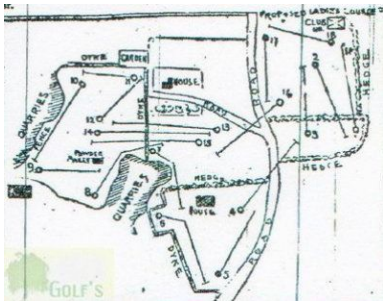
Plant-wise the reserve at Carlingnose has done well. About 6 dropwort flower heads were a great display and there were more in the water tank field. Other plants on the reserve included kidney vetch, bloody cranesbill and lesser meadow rue. I also found a few field gentians coming into flower in the middle of August. There should be more by now. Wild carrot is abundant by the recently built section of the coastal path in the lower village.

The next Nature Walk will be on the same day as West Fife Doors Open Day, starting at the station from around 1 PM, on the 15th September.
John Done - Trustee, North Queensferry

Village Show 2019
The Village Show sub-committee have done an excellent job this year again. We hope everyone enjoys the event. The NQHT display table will include our newsletter, talk schedule, videos of past & present, details of our Famous Artists exhibition with copies of the past event information. In addition, a copy of a special 1856 Names Record will be on display along with other heritage material including some Forth Bridge memorabilia.
The acclaimed short film by North Queensferry Primary School - From a Railway Carriage - that was based on Robert Louis Stevenson's story will also be playing. If your child was part of it, come and see them!

Ferryhills Golf Course – 1890 to 1940
From 1890 to 1929, Ferryhills was the golf course of the prestigious Dunfermline Golf Club who are currently located at Pitfirrane since 1953.
However, during an earlier move to their new course at Torrie in 1929, some of the existing members formed the Ferryhills Golf Club and took over the old Ferryhills course. The Ferryhills Gold Club lasted until the early 1940s when it closed down. Remnants of the various greens were used to build skate ramps on in the mid-1980s. Here is a potted history of this little bit of North Queensferry heritage from 1890.

The course was so popular mainly due to its accessibility from the newly built North Queensferry Station, that in 1892 additional land was leased and the course extended to the full 18 holes. Its popularity continued and in 1893 the club added all of the Cruicks estate to expand the course. In 1894, the original course was then modified by Old Tom Morris.



In 1897, Cruicks House was leased as a new Club House, but the world was changing! In 1909 the original lease expired and the Tilbury Contracting and Dredging Company leased all the land of Ferryhills, and grants the Dunfermline Golf Club a sub-lease. Tilbury's clear intention was to quarry the land due to opportunities initiated by The Admiralty who were preparing for a potential major conflict. In 1912, the Admiralty also leased land at Port Laing for Carlingnose Royal Naval Air Station.

By the outbreak of WWI in 1914, there was a huge Royal Navy presence in the Forth and for R&R the ships' officers got special privileges to play on the Ferryhills course. Several pieces of silverware were also donated by both the Royal Navy and United States Navy. Today, these cups are on display by the Dunfermline Golf Club at Pitfirrane.

During the war, Cruicks Club House was occupied by the Admiralty and trenches dug on the course, but reinstated the house and grounds! In 1921 the Admiralty purchased the lands of Ferryhills and issued a new lease to Tilbury who again subleased the course to the Dunfermline Golf Club. However, lease conditions this time included rent reductions in the case of quarry encroachments!

Unfortunately for the golf club, these encroachments began immediately and the course was rearranged to include new land leased at Gallowbank from Lord Elgin. Quarry incursions continued and in 1924 the course was re-arranged yet again to include new land overlooking Port Laing. By 1927 further incursions continued and now they were approaching the club's ClubHouse! So in 1929, Dunfermline Golf Club decided the cost of acquiring new land and a new clubhouse was too great. They abandoned the course and moved to Torrie, in the Parish of Torryburn.



In 1929 the Ferryhills Golf Club was formed and took over the Ferryhills course for local members. They maintained the course and in 1931 even added new holes to replace further holes lost to quarry incursions. At this time, the course was still well-regarded nationally, and in 1934 the new Club made further improvements.

However, in 1939, the outbreak of WWII caused the membership to dwindle. Interestingly, a spy was caught on the course making notes from the vantage point of the course, about the Navy in the Forth! In 1940, a special meeting was called in an attempt to avert closure, but sadly the Ferryhills Golf Club and course were finally closed.

Boyd Williamson, North Queensferry