North Queensferry Heritage Trust
Newsletter – Autumn 2020

Greetings from the Chairman...

Schools have reopened and what's left of the traditional family holiday season is coming to a close. We are being encouraged to go back to work with ever changing instructions!

However, whatever you are doing please stay safe and maintain appropriate social distancing.

Chairman - James Lawson

We're Good to Go: The Trust has been very active since the last newsletter with the opening of our two visitor attraction venues since the beginning of August. We have also been approved by the national guidelines. Social distancing is likely to be with us for the foreseeable future and being out in the 'fresh air' for a walk has proved very popular with many visitors and local residents with many arriving at the Town Pier and the Light Tower.

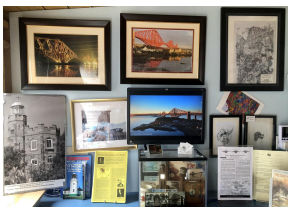
Visitors: Our visitor book reflects many visitors coming from England, many parts of Scotland and a few from overseas. All expressing positive comments in our visitors' book on what the Light Tower & village has to offer.





Along with the **World's Smallest Working Light Tower** we also have the **Smallest Forth Bridge Museum** located beside the Tower.





The museum has lots of memorabilia, photographs about the Forth Bridge but also for the Light Tower and the Old Pier built by John Rennie in 1812.

The **Gallery**, at the station, has the Steaming Forth photographic exhibition. Many unique steam engine memories are on display. It has less visitor numbers but nonetheless the comments in the visitor book have also been positive and encouraging.



The Toilets continue to be open 24x7 with regular cleaning thanks to our local volunteers. All donations are gratefully received.

St James Chapel is also available for visiting - just let a volunteer know via NQHTinfo@gmail.com to arrange a mutually convenient time.





Classic Red Phonebox: Members may have already heard that the Trust has acquired from British Telecom the K6 Telephone Kiosk-grade B listed-located on Main Road.





Our initial plan for this iconic phone-box is to be completely repainted as it was in 1936. We also plan to internally refurbish it to become a North Queensferry information point and possibly a book swap 'library' - have you got another idea? Then send email to NQHTinfo@gmail.com. There is much work to be done before it can become operational. We need Listed Building Planning Consent and this is currently in progress. So far, inside the kiosk you will see the map of our new Self-Guided Walks brochure. The Trust hopes to have more information on our plans in our next newsletter.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP SUPPORT OUR RICH HERITAGE, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO NQHTinfo@gmail.com… *Thank You!*

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The future: Looking forward and planning for next year the trustees are exploring ways in which the station, light tower, St James Chapel and now the Classic Red Phone Box can be improved to encourage visitors to appreciate the village's many heritage-gems. The Trust was successful in obtaining a small government grant to install the necessary self distancing signs and hand sanitizer units in all premises including the toilets. Further grants are also available to approved museums and galleries to help 'adapt to changing circumstances and again the Trust hopes to have more news in our next newsletter.

NQHT Website: In keeping with changing times we are re-organising the website. Rest assured that all of the valuable existing content will be retained. The idea is to make it easier for national & international visitors to find more information on the many points of interest we are fortunate to have in the village.

Zoom Meetings?: Many organisations across the world, the Trust are turning to online conferencing. The Trust would like to ask members if they would be interested in participating in future 'online' meetings. It may also be possible to have a small number of people (with suitable social distancing in place) present in the Station's meeting room for some who are not online. Please email NQHTinfo@gmail.com your thoughts and views on this matter.

NQHT Talks: As above, the presence of Covid-19 our talks will have to change and the advantages of online conferencing may well be an answer. Of course, this makes it impossible for our non-online members to attend. However, as above, it may still be possible to have a combination event where a few attendees can be physically present in the Station's Meeting Room, while others view the talk online. The good news about this arrangement is that we would hope to get a wider variety of topics and speakers to present their talk from their homes.

Fife Pilgrim Way: This traditional walk along the Fife Coastal Path from North Queensferry is very popular.

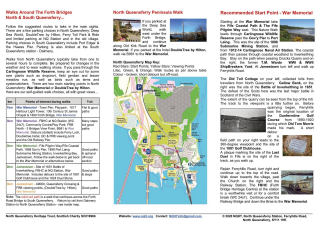


Starting on the Old Pier beside the Light Tower and winds its way to the start of the Fife Coastal Path under our Grand Old Lady - The Forth Bridge. Look out for the attractive Fife Pilgrim Way Plaque amongst the cobbles at the foot of the Brae.

New Self-Guided Walks: In the next week or so, keep a lookout for the all new Self-Guided Walks brochure. It is rather unique as it covers walks on both sides of the Forth - that is around North Queensferry as well as South Queensferry. It has a number of start points with parking. The walks also include a section across the world famous Forth Rail Bridge - Scotland's 6th World Heritage Site.

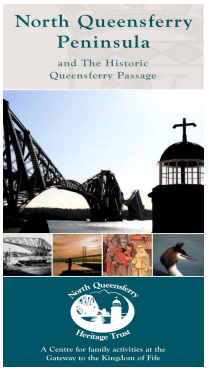






For visitors who complete the loop via the Forth Bridge, a special certificate will be available to mark the occasion. Visitors should leave their name and address in any of the donation boxes along with a donation and we will send the certificates out when they become available.

Updated Village Brochure: We are also working on an updated North Queensferry brochure similar to the previous version… but with new photographs and information.





Lighting the Lamp: Visiting the Light Tower and 'Lighting the Lamp' continues to be an experience that is unique and with the certificate, presented on completion, you can join an elite band of previous participants. The tourism section of Fife Council promotes the experience on their website 'Discover Fife' making it an ideal gift for someone to learn about the 'world of lighthouses'.

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