North Queensferry Heritage Trust
Newsletter – Spring 2022

Chairman's message...
Happy New Year and best wishes to you all for 2022. Welcome to this Spring edition of your newsletter.

Optimism is at long last starting to return as the pandemic is continuing to recede and we look forward with confidence to 2022. The Trustees have been meeting regularly to put together a programme that suits the circumstances of the moment - see later. The Village Show will be restarting on Saturday 10th September with more details available later in this Newsletter.

Good progress has been made in restarting our popular winter series of talks and demonstrations with dates for your diaries in another section. This year is designated the Year of Stories 2022 and the trust intends to participate with, perhaps some forgotten, stories from North Queensferry and around the Forth.

New publications will be available for those that come to the various sessions held in FHBC at the railway station and the Light Tower and Pierhead Museum.

Recommendations from the Marketing Plan are being implemented and those of you who follow social media will have seen changes with regular updates on Facebook and Instagram.

In the meantime I hope you enjoy this newsletter. The Trust is always open to ideas for new articles as well as any feedback from our published articles.
James Lawson - Chairman

Art Competition…
The Heritage Trust and the Primary School, in 2021, held what is hoped to be an annual Art Competition with prizes for the successful winners. The Trust is delighted to announce that the overall winner, Ben Muschamp, had his drawing accepted by the 'Young Academy of Scotland- Coastal Knowledge for inclusion in their Exhibition Map.
The Young Academy is a division of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The Trust thanks all the entrants to the competition for their vision on carbon reduction and what COP26 meant to them. Details for this year's competition are under discussion which we hope to announce shortly as part of the Village Show..

Forth Bridge Tourism Strategy - Zoom Talk Thursday, 17th March 2022
Fife Council's Forth Bridges Area Tourism Strategy Manager, Karen Stewart will talk to us about the plans for the area that the village is an integrated part of.



These plans include: Forth Bridges Forum; Tourism Strategy; Key Activities; Marketing Plan; Forth Bridges website & Social Media; Tourism Signage Forth Bridges Trail; Network Rail Forth Bridge Experience in South Queensferry; Cruises; UNESCO National trail; and the Year of Stories 2022.
As this is a Zoom talk - please register via our email… NQHTinfo@gmail.com

Fife Council - Local Action Plan…
The Trust, along with an encouraging turn out from the community, took part in the NQ Local Action Plan (LAP). Short and long term action points have not yet emerged at time of writing this newsletter but the Trust hopes information will soon be available.

Update on the Heritage Trust's Activities…
FBHC at the Railway Station:
The Trust is pleased to announce that the storage and display grant was successful.
Work on this important next step in the Trust's plans is well underway to upgrade the display and particularly the storage space in the station using the potentially large storage area in the basement. We expect the first phase of the basement conversion should be ready for use by the end of March.

Pierhead Museum:
The Trust is delighted that many positive comments continue to be received in the visitor book justifying





the decision to re-design the interior of the "Fisherman's Hut" and turning it into a small museum open to all visitors. Both the Pierhead Museum and the Light Tower are open daily, weather permitting.

Village Show:
This is our biggest event this year. We are still planning for the event to be held on 10th September, however, there may well be other considerations which we are not aware of at this point. Please look out for the latest news via Facebook and the Website.



FBHC at The Station: the Station Gallery is now open. The Gallery also acts as a waiting room with a children's corner and book swap area. The Steaming Forth exhibition is on display with a new display cabinet and information videos. A fully accessible Toilet facility is still being made available to the public.

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Website: www.nqht.org **Facebook**: NorthQueensferryHeritageTrust

The Light Tower: This is still our most popular venue and has been open for some time, with visits from many countries, including Ukraine..
BT Phone Box: The Phone Box, or more correctly, the **Information Box** has now been fully refurbished and is being used as a book swap and information point for the village.
NQHT website: Updates are underway with a new look and enhancements with new information, including; Admiralty House; Ferry Barns Kite Balloon Station; Port Laing Submarine Mining Station; and Carlingnose Air Station.
Additions: Ancient Defences of the Forth; 20th Century Defences of the Forth; War - time defences in Collessie and Fife; Carlingnose Barracks; The Creation of Rosyth Dockyard; Interior of Barracks 17 AA Coy North Queensferry; First Air Raid of WWII; Barrage Balloon Sites around North Queensferry; Reference Library and Military Sites around North Queensferry.
Website enhancements: The military heritage material is more accessible; articles on Carlingnose Battery; Coastguard Battery and Lights; the impact of two world wars on North Queensferry School; and the ship-breaking at Jamestown. A new section on the Queensferry Passage, including:early crossings attempts; Bouch's designs for bridges at Charlestown and Queensferry; the 1936 proposed Queensferry road bridge; and the Forth Road Bridge 1964; updates on the history of St James Chapel.

2022 The Year of Stories…

If history were taught in the form of stories it would never be forgotten - Rudyard Kipling

We are also looking forward to Visit Scotland's 2022 theme for this year - 'the year of stories'. The Trust's plan is to have 3 main themes with stories and demonstrations held at the Pierhead Museum, and the FBHC at the Station.
The theme, Masons of the Forth - harbours, piers and lighthouses will include demonstrations of stone working in North Queensferry. Stone working was a large part of the local community in the past. A planned event will be held at the FBHC at the Station and include a practical demonstration of stone working with public participation. Booklet publications are being planned on all 3 themes which will be available to participants on 'Event Days' with detail on Facebook and the website.

"Queensferry North"
Author unknown… mid-1800s

This place is situated on a promontory on the north shore of the Frith of Forth, and derives its name from an ancient ferry connecting it with the town of Queensferry, on the south side of the Frith. It once belonged to the abbots of Dunfermline, who had a chapel here endowed by Robert I.; and is noticed by the Scottish historian Buchanan under the appellation of *Margaritæ Portus*, from its having been the place where Margaret, Queen of Malcolm III., frequently embarked and landed on her passage to and from her palace of Dunfermline. After the Dissolution, the ferry became the property of the Earl of Rosebery and Sir Archibald Dundas, of Dundas, the latter of whom erected a strong castle on the rocky island of Inchgarvie, in the Frith, which subsequently was converted into a place of confinement for prisoners of state. The fortifications were repaired during the last war, and the battery mounted with cannon; but since the peace it has been altogether neglected, and is now in a state of ruin. To the west of the castle, and near the extremity of the rock on which it is built, are the remains of a circular redoubt, and to the east are those of a battery, both of which are said to have been erected by the forces of Cromwell while encamped on the Ferry hills.



The Frith is here a mile and a half in breadth. The passage has been greatly facilitated by the erection of a commodious low-water pier, and other improvements, effected partly by means of a grant from government of above £13,000; and the ferry has been vested by act of parliament in trustees. At one period subsequent to these improvements, it produced an annual rental of £2300, which, however, afterwards diminished to £1500.

The village of Queensferry North is beautifully situated, directly opposite to Queensferry, is small but neatly built, and is principally inhabited by boatmen and persons connected with the ferry. It has an excellent inn for the accommodation of passengers from the opposite shore; and from the salubrity of the air, and the numerous objects of interest in the immediate vicinity.

It has become a place of great resort for sea-bathing during the summer season. The surrounding scenery is strikingly beautiful and romantic; and the Ferry hills, which stretch into the Frith, command extensive and diversified views. Facility of communication is afforded by good roads; and steam-boats to Leith, Stirling, and all the intermediate ports, sail regularly from the pier; the landing-place is well constructed, and is accessible to vessels of considerable burthen during spring-tides.



A signal-house has been built on the rocks on the north shore, containing an apartment, also, for the meetings of the trustees above-mentioned, and the requisite accommodation for the boatmen and superintendent of the ferry.
Unknown author

STOP PRESS *- Watch out for details of our next talk on the 26th April - Submarine Miners by Boyd Williamson.*