North Queensferry Heritage Trust
Spring Newsletter 2026

Chairman's message...

As we approach spring, with hopefully warmer weather the Trust's members and our new student volunteers are all looking forward to the coming season. The Trust, with help from MGS, has recently had many applications from university graduates wishing to apply their skills to help the Trust to obtain accreditation status for our 2 museums. Much work has already been done transferring the old files and collections data to digital format.

Over the winter months the Trust has had an increasing number of lamp lighting sessions which, without exception, were enjoyed by all, including our volunteer Light keeper. With the help of our new volunteers the Trust is expecting to see an increase in requests for this unique "lamp lighting experience", as well as from those completing the Forth Bridges Walking Trail and claiming a certificate for crossing 'a world heritage site".

Last year in October we had a very successful 'Talk', judging by the attendance, in October from Jackie Sangster, the manager of the Learning and Inclusion Team at Historic Environment Scotland. In November Boyd Williamson gave a Talk, again to a packed audience, on his research into the fascinating history of the 'Forth Submarine Miners'. Much of the detail can now be found on the Trust's website www.nqht.org.

This year an extended 'Talk' programme is underway with more details below. I have to report there has been a delay with the installation of the solar panels on top of the fisherman's hut largely due to problems with obtaining planning permission in a conservation area. However with guidance from Fife Planning this matter should be shortly resolved.

On a positive note I am pleased to announce that the Trust has recently been awarded another grant towards installing 'tap and donate' boxes together with funding for additional museum display panels.

The Village Show this year is planned for Saturday 29th August with a theme to be announced! Please put the dates in your diary, for both the Talks and the Village Show. We hope to see you all there.

James Lawson - Chairman

Early Warning… Village Show - 2026

Saturday 31st August

Spring is here - or so we are told, although it may not feel like it!! However, the Heritage Trust's Ladies Group has already started their planning for the next Village Show. They are alson planning some workshops on gardening to help your efforts in producing the best fruit & vegetable, pot-plant, flowers or preserve.



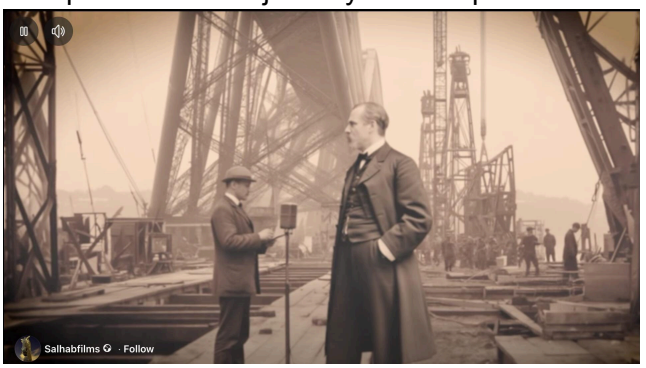
The theme this year is still to be decided but will encourage the children to take part. Good luck!

Next Talk at the Station

Thursday March 19th - 7:30PM

The Forth Bridge by *Walid Salhab*

This talk will illustrate how AI - artificial intelligence - is being used to create a life-like view of the past and in this instance the construction of the Forth Bridge. A fascinating and quite emotional journey into the past!



March 31st, 7 pm

"Scots Women who Chose to Challenge."

by Jackie Sangster

An Online Talk in the Station

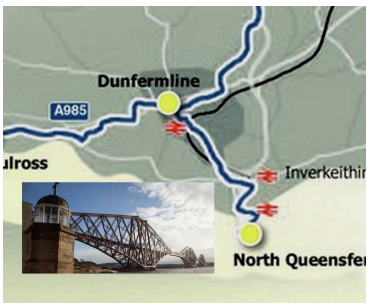
Jackie takes a wander through the archive material to meet Scots women who have made their mark in their respective fields whether in politics, law, medicine, the arts or the world of sport. She will introduce you to some well known faces and perhaps you'll meet a few lesser known, but nonetheless inspiring individuals.

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April 16th, 7:30 pm The Fife Pilgrim Way by *FPW Pastor Simon Hessett*

The famous historical route for Pilgrims described by Simon. This overland route is again becoming popular for walkers of all ages looking to "enjoy the journeys" while reflecting on the many pilgrims that walked the same paths in the past.…



September 3rd, 7 pmThursday Sarah Brown on "Life after #10"

As you will hear, Sarah has been fully occupied making global contributions to children's education.
She is the chair of *Theirworld,* the global children's charity. It is dedicated to unlocking big changes for global education to give children the best start in life, a safe place to learn and skills for the future. She is also the *Executive Chair of the Global Business Coalition for Education*.
Her current focus is an Early Years Summit in 2027 that aims to raise over $1billion for investment in pre-school children.
Sarah is the author of her best-selling book *Behind the Black Door* about her years at 10. Also she has hosted the podcast 'Better Angels' with Sarah Brown speaking to successful campaigners for change around the world. She is Chair of the Brown Archive Trust which is assembling the papers and records from her and Gordon's time in public office.
As I am sure many of you will know, Sarah lives in our community with her husband, the UN Special Envoy for Global Education and former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

Fife Museums Forum (FMF)... 25th February - St Andrews

The Chairman, James and Secretary, Garry and a volunteer, took part in a Get-Together Day at St Andrews. Attendees were from around Fife from large and small museums. FMF also invited attendees to a tour - with an excellent guide - to the ancient St Andrews Cathedral.

Save the Albert - an update from ACG Ltd



First good news! The appeal by the NQ Community Trust (NQCT) was successful!
The Sheriff has directed NQCT and The Albert Community Group Ltd (ACG) to respond to the 'strident' criticisms made by the owners and the Ministers on the business plan submitted as part of the Community Right to Buy Part 5 application. A limit of 30 days was set for our response. The campaign to 'Save The Albert' is now in its seventh year!
The Scottish Ministers are then directed to 're-consider' our application. We are uncertain as to what effect the May elections will have on the time course for further action - apart from further possible delays.
Alastair W.S. Ritchie - ACG Ltd

Museums Gallery Scotland (MGS) Accreditation Status

As mentioned earlier, the Heritage Trust has gained "working towards" accreditation status. To help the effort to gain accreditation we have been able to engage with a number of student and post-graduate volunteers. They bring a whole range of experiences from guiding at Roslyn Chapel, and a west of Scotland Light House, archiving and cataloging.
The cataloguing of our files of old Trust documents, our donations and displayed artefacts are well under way. This cataloguing is fairly complex as we have to meet quite stringent requirements to meet the accreditation rules. We are finding that today's latest technology is helping a lot. For example, AI (Artificial Intelligence), and Google image search help a lot.
If you think you can help, do get in touch as we have a few roles that you may well enjoy. We are still keen to use other volunteers as we continue our efforts in documenting and digitizing our collections. As payback, we provide great references for schemes such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, as well as enhancing our volunteers' resumes.

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