



The Voice

Queensferry Heritage Trust

August 2017

The Queensferry Heritage Trust (QHT) was inaugurated in April 2015 as a charitable body to advance greater understanding and appreciation of the heritage of Queensferry, the conservation area and its surroundings.

COMMITTEE

Chair:John Murphy, **Treasurer:** Mike McDowall, **Secretary:**Eleanor Sneddon Jenni Calder, Liz Carson, David Learmond, Jenni Meldrum, Clare Meredith, Cat Rothwell

Talks

Although there haven't been any talks over the last few months the committee have been busy making arrangements for our new season. It is hoped that you will enjoy the programme and renew your subscription for 2017 -2018

Subscriptions will be collected at the first talk. The subscription rates are: **Full Member £10, Family member £15, Talk £5.**

If you cannot attend the first talk, you can pay at the next one or send a cheque or cash to:

Mike McDowall , Treasurer QHT,

41 Echline Park, Queensferry EH30 9XQ

or

Pay direct to Clydesdale Bank (with your name) .

Sort Code 82 68 00. Acc NO 00103341

Please remember to include:

Name _____ **Address** _____

E-Mail _____ **phone** _____

PROGRAMME

Talks will be held in the Masonic Hall on Thursdays at 7.30. They are free to members or £5 at the door.

28th Sept. 'Putting Queensferry on the Map' – The Ordnance Survey. Illustrated talk by Frank Hay

19th Oct. 'Reformers and Rebels' – the Scottish Reformation. Talk by Dr Donald Smith, on the impact of the Reformation of 1517.

26th Oct. National Records of Scotland - Thomas Thomson House, Sighthill. 2-4pm.

9th Nov. Hopetoun Ranger Service- talk by Maree Morison, ranger

23rd Nov. 'Guardship' Queensferry and the Royal Navy. Illustrated talk by Mike McDowall

14th Dec. Brewing in Queensferry Past and Present. Mark Moran, Ferry Brewery.

11th Jan. Local Government, Past, Present and Future. Presentation and discussion forum

1st Feb. Scotland's Pilgrim Journeys. Talk by Dr Donald Smith on pilgrim routes through Queensferry.

22nd Feb. Shale Mining and the Dalmeny Shale Company. Dr Robin Chesters, Director of the Scottish Shale Mining Museum

15th Mar. The Islands of the Forth. Dr Geoffrey Stell.

19th Apr. 'Flowery Frocks' – the Story of Scotland's Suffragettes. Enacted by storyteller Nicola Wright.

Here are dates for your diary

Sunday 24th September: 10a.m until 4.00pm.

We are delighted that our application to the Cockburn Trust to host a “Doors Open Day” was accepted and that we will be able to give the public access to The Vennel Churchyard



The Churchyard, between the Old Parish Church (now a private house) and the Masonic Lodge, is usually locked and only accessible by application, or glimpsed through the bars of the gate. However, as part of Edinburgh Doors Open Day 2017, the Vennel Churchyard will be open Sunday 24 September, 10 am - 4 pm.

Queensferry Heritage Trust is working in partnership with both Queensferry History Group and the Masonic Lodge to facilitate the event, and visitors are invited to assemble at the Masonic Hall where there will be the opportunity to learn about the work and activities of the Lodge. Queensferry History Group members will lead groups around the Churchyard, pointing out points of interest from early 17th Century headstones to recesses in the wall known as ‘bee holes’, in which straw beehives or ‘skeps’ were kept. Make sure you get a copy of this year’s Edinburgh Doors Open Day programme. There’s a weekend full of opportunities to gain free access to properties not usually open to the public, or which normally charge an entry fee, from heritage landmarks to the city’s newest architecture. And of course come and find out more on 24th September about Queensferry’s own event at The Vennel Churchyard and Masonic Hall

Tuesday 5th September

Sir Jack Stewart Clark has invited Heritage Society members to visit Dundas Castle on Tuesday 5th September at 2pm. The maximum number is 20. If you would like to be included in the group contact John Murphy at artsmurphy@hotmail.com

Thursday 28th Sept. ‘Putting Queensferry on the Map’ – The Ordnance Survey. Illustrated talk by Frank Hay

In 1855 the Ordnance Survey arrived in Queensferry. This was the first survey of Queensferry and it defined our local place names, mapped accurate boundaries for the first time, calculated land areas, and also recorded our history. The talk will also explore the Scottish origins of the O.S. and the characters involved.

Thursday 26th October 2017. 14.00 - 16.00

A visit to Thomas Thomson House, Sighthill has been arranged. Thomas Thomson House was designed to provide space for the National Archives of Scotland until the mid 21st century. It provides over 37 kilometres of environmentally controlled record storage, and also houses records, reception and sorting areas, staff offices, a purpose-built conservation unit and digital imaging facilities. The building is not normally open to the public and we are limited to a maximum of 15 people. Please contact Clare at clare.meredith@btinternet.com if you would like to attend.

Linda Ramsay, Head of Conservation, will talk about the work of her Department and we will be shown items being worked on and have the technical processes explained. Jane Brown, Head of the Maps & Plans Unit, will also discuss the work of that area of the archives and there will be a display of Queensferry related maps.

Other Activities of Q.H.S.

Priory Church

The Priory Church has applied to Replace two semi-derelict portacabins erected in 1999 within the curtilage of the Priory Church with a single storey system building 6m x 8m on a 100mm concrete raft foundation. Rendered walls, slate effect roof. Windows and doors to be white UPVC. The doors on the south elevation to be toughened glass framed in UPVC.

Mike wrote the following objection to the planning proposal.

On behalf of Queensferry Heritage Trust (this application was discussed at our committee meeting on 6th July) we advance the following objections to the application.

“The proposal does not enhance or preserve the character of the conservation area or the building to which it relates; it is not compatible with the historic context; it does not employ the highest standard of materials or workmanship, all contrary to the Local Plan requirements.”

Flight paths Edinburgh Airspace Change Programme

John has received replies from Andrew Haines, the chief executive of the Civil Aviation Authority and Wendy Nicol who replied on behalf of Transport Scotland regarding the letters he wrote highlighting the concerns of Q.H.T regarding the proposals of Edinburgh Airport's Airspace Change which aimed to upgrade the airspace above Edinburgh Airport to accommodate growth and introduce RNAV navigational technology.

Replies indicated that Edinburgh Airport Ltd finished their consultation process on 7 May and that the information was now being collated and analysed before a decision could be taken as to whether or not there was clear evidence about the impacts of the different options which would enable a formal airport change proposal to be submitted to the Civil Aviation Authority which could then clarify whether the change of route could be operationally justified. A copy of John's letter was passed to the regulatory assessment team as evidence of public consultation.

Update on Consultation

Overall Edinburgh Airport received 3921 responses to the consultation, from South Queensferry 52% were negative, 28% were positive and 20% were neutral.

In Edinburgh there were 794 responses.

64% were negative, 23% were positive and 13% were neutral.

Concerns were raised about noise, the process of the consultation, the impact on local communities and health.

Airport Officials are to take the proposals to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) later this summer.

A final decision by the CAA is expected at the end of the year and if the routes are approved they could be in place by April 2018.

The report published on Wednesday revealed that the freepost address for responses was incorrect

Rosebery Clock



The historic clock at the top of the Rosebery Hall which has been selected as the logo of the Heritage Society has been out of action for some time. However, repairs have now been carried out to the clock.

In February 1720, Henry Cunningham of Boquhan, MP for the Stirling Burghs which included Queensferry, offered to finance the building of a steeple and of erecting a clock on the Tolbooth Tower. The steeple was

built and the clock with its one dial facing the high Street was erected. The steeple was remodelled in 1887 when the present clock, known as the Jubilee Clock, was erected to mark the jubilee of Queen Victoria. The clock was purchased for nearly 200 pounds sterling, raised by public voluntary subscription. The final cost was 227 pounds seven shillings and six pence! The clock was lit with gas until some time in the mid 1920's when electric light was introduced.

Queensferry Crossing



A third walk across the Queensferry Crossing has been announced. The crossing will be devoted to local schools and communities and will take place on September 5th. As a result of the extra day, an additional 10,000 people from local schools and community groups on both sides of the Forth will have the chance to walk onto the bridge. Then, from 6 September onwards, the bridge will re-open to traffic, with no further pedestrian access. Transport Scotland and VisitScotland also revealed details of additional support for local communities to make the most out of the weekend of celebrations, including funding for South Queensferry and North Queensferry to host events, entertainment, screenings of the celebrations, and a flotilla on the Forth, in the run up to and during the official opening on 4 September.

It is hoped members who were successful in the ballot enjoy this unique experience in good weather!

