



The Story of Scotland's Suffragettes

Enacted by storyteller Nicola Wright



Thursday 19th April 2018. 7.30pm
Masonic Hall, Stoneycroft Road

Free to Members
(Full member - £10, Family membership - £15), or £5 at the door

Votes for Women

In December 1918, shortly after the war to end wars came to an end, there was a general election in the UK. It was an easy victory for David Lloyd George's coalition government. But there is a special reason for remembering it – it was the first election in this country in which women could vote. Not all women, and not all men – it was another 10 years before there was universal suffrage. And 'votes for women' didn't mean that in 1918 there were any women to vote for. But this was a hugely important

milestone all the same. The voters' register at the end of 1918 looked rather different from that of four years before. It included women, but many of the men were no longer there. It had been a long, difficult and often painful road to the moment on 6 February 1918 when the Representation of the People Act gave women over 30 who were property occupiers or married to property occupiers the right to vote. It had taken half a century of campaigning, intensified in the late 19th and early 20th centuries by the suffragettes and the less militant suffragists, and Scottish women had played their part. One of the most prominent was Flora Drummond from Arran, who led on horseback the 1909 march and rally in Edinburgh which flooded Princes Street with women and banners. The march was splendidly commemorated a hundred years later.

Throughout the war women had demonstrated their ability to take on jobs that were formerly considered beyond their capacity, and this probably helped their cause. But there are those who argue that in 1914 they were close to victory, and that the war and the politics of war delayed it.

We don't know if there were any active women's suffrage campaigners from Queensferry, but it is fascinating to speculate on the impact of that 1918 election. How many Queensferry women were eligible to vote and how many actually voted? How many were from households that had lost their menfolk? What were their hopes and fears when they went to the polls? What were their feelings when for the first time they marked their ballot papers?

We'll never know all the answers, perhaps not any of them, but in the meantime come on 19 April to hear storyteller, Nicola Wright recreate the Scottish suffragette story. It's going to be both enlightening and entertaining.

Jenni Calder

"Their Work will not be Forgotten"

This is the name of the exhibition which will run for four months at the Museum of Edinburgh in honour of the participants in the 1909 demonstration which brought the city centre to a standstill. It will focus on the high profile protests staged by women around the city. On the 10th June thousands of women and girls are expected to parade through the capital to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote. Participants will be urged to wear green, white or violet-the suffrage colours.

Greener Homes



The South Scotstoun housing development project application was heard by the City of Edinburgh Council Development Management Sub-committee.

Despite the issues some residents, QDCC, ward councillors and some of the committee councillors raised Taylor Wimpey has now secured permission from Edinburgh Council to build 341 new homes in South Scotstoun. As part of the latest 2016 building regulations the roofs of all the houses will be fitted with solar panels. The development will include footpaths and cycle routes. Discussions are ongoing with the council which will see Taylor Wimpey make community contributions of around £7million towards education, health and transport infrastructure.

High Street

The first meeting of the Queensferry High Street Project Group, held on Wednesday 7th March, was attended by Mike McDowall representing QHT, Keith Gibley of the Community Council, two local Councillors and officers of the City of Edinburgh Council.

Dave Sinclair, Locality Transport and Environment Manager chaired the meeting and introduced Gillian Smith, Technical Director with Ironside Farrar, the project consultant.

At this stage no options have been ruled out with regard to traffic management although it was pointed out that pedestrianisation or one-way traffic was not realistic without being able to address the

wider issues that would arise. Gillian described the project programme which proposes a contract period of mid February 2018 to end of October 2018. Surveys and questionnaires to businesses and residents are already underway, with consultation workshops proposed for April, June and September this year.

The first drop in consultation event is on:

18th April from 3 until 8pm at the Registrar's Office.

Residents are invited to go along and give their thoughts on key issues and their aspirations for the town centre.

AGM

The AGM of Queensferry Heritage Trust is to be held in the ST. Margaret Masonic Lodge at 7pm on Thursday, 26 April . The formal meeting will close at 7.30 to allow for the start of the "SENSE of PLACE" discussion on the changing face of Queensferry.

Sense of Place

This year the AGM will be followed by an open discussion on the changing face of Queensferry entitled "A Sense of Place". We've already heard, in a discussion last year, that many people believe that the Planning system is broken. One of the key components of the Government's 'fix-it' strategy is the process of 'Place-making'. Queensferry was one of the first communities to undertake such an exercise.

We have invited several influential speakers versed in concepts of urban design and planning, including the "Placemaking" planning approach to growth and new development, to inform and equip people with knowledge and understanding which will enable them to engage in a meaningful way in the on going and inevitable change process. But more fundamentally, to open up discussion on the whole subject of 'Place'. - what does it mean to you and me? What does it require of the built environment? What does it mean for Queensferry?

This could be one of the most important open debates that Queensferry has had.

This will be just a start. The Trust is considering ways of facilitating more debate on how the people of Queensferry may retain their strong sense of history, identity and community whilst engaging in a positive and constructive way in future development.

Committee Members

The Heritage Trust would appreciate it if you could nominate someone to join the committee or indeed volunteer yourself to bring fresh ideas to driving the Trust forward. The Trust will also need a new secretary. Is there a member interested in taking on this job?