



# The Voice

Queensferry Heritage Trust

November 2019

## Report on High Street Steering Group Meeting

Wednesday 13 November 2019

At the High Street Steering Group meeting held on Wednesday 13 November, it was reported that the full Construction package, Bills of Quantities and Specification was now complete. They will be issued to six Framework Contractors at the beginning of December with a view to tender acceptance at the end of January. The 42-week contract will run from March to December 2020 involving phased sections of the High Street and the construction of a turning circle at the west end of the Hawes promenade.

It will be the responsibility of the contractor to programme the works to allow for the Ferry Fair and Christmas celebrations in the High Street, as well as Bridge Abseils, RNLI Open day and Liner visits at the Hawes.

The design proposals remain the same, with new granite slabs to pavements, and blocks to roadways. A two inch (50mm) drop kerb remains in place along sections of the roadway despite QHT's request to provide a more dominant pedestrian space with a completely level surface throughout. It remains to be seen whether the colour and materials, despite a kerb drop, will give the impression of a more pedestrian friendly environment.

As far as the Terrace railings are concerned, no positive evidence has been found to confirm ownership, and the work of re-instatement remains outside the scope of the project. However, the need to carry out repair work is acknowledged, and progress will be made.

In the next few weeks the design proposals will be on display to the residents and traders. There will also be drop-in events and noticeboards to describe the works. There is also an intention to hold a public exhibition in February which will show the Contractor's phasing proposals.

Mike McDowall

## A Sense of Place, 2018

QHT hosted a well attended meeting and very lively discussion about “A Sense of Place” on 26th April, 2018.

Mike McDowall, opened the discussion providing a short introduction to the history and development of Queensferry in terms of its built environment. The Place Making concept, completed in 2014 was explained by Will Garrett and Will Tunnell then provided more detail on these results.

The discussion highlighted several issues including:

- Queensferry High Street being disconnected from the majority of Queensferry residents
- Report after report highlighted the issues of traffic congestion, parking, lack of connectivity, pinch points and practical problems such as pedestrian crossing on The Loan
- With housing development continuing rapidly and an anticipated increase in tourism, there is an urgent need for a joined-up strategy for the development of Queensferry
- Will Garrrett suggested that a new initiative from Edinburgh Council on “Place Plans” could act as a catalyst and encouraged Queensferry to be at the forefront of this
- The High Street refurbishment programme. This is now scheduled to begin in March 2020. It needs to be viewed in the context of a larger vision for the development of Queensferry

Queensferry Heritage Trust believes that resolution of these issues is important to the community and will continue to provide a public platform for discussion and to lobby elected officials and Edinburgh.

### *Date for your Diary*

11 December

Urban Places, People and Spaces

Ian Spence

Ian will provide some additional observations on the proposals for the High Street, with a discussion on the process of Urban Evolution with a particular look at Edinburgh City

*Electric Gritter* A new electric gritting machine, thought to be the first of its kind the world, will be trialled on the Queensferry Crossing and Forth Road Bridge.

## *Remembrance Sunday*



Fabian Ware, who was in command of an ambulance unit in the First World War, grew increasingly anxious about the remembering of the dead and it was his efforts which led to the creation of the Commonwealth War Graves commission, dedicated to looking after the memory of those who had lost their lives.

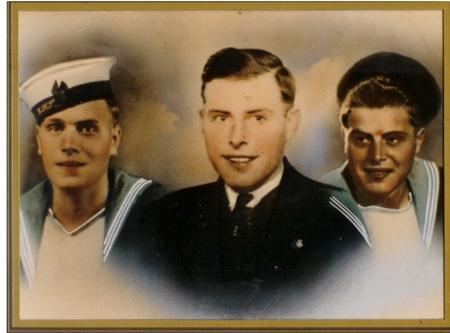
November is the time of national remembrance and 2019 marks the passing of a century since the first parade passed the Cenotaph. In the run-up to this first parade British authorities learned France had organised a focus for their commemorations, so the British government had Edwin Lutyens create the Cenotaph as a similar memorial. It was made of white painted plasterboard. In November 1919 veterans marched down Whitehall. Afterwards there was a huge spontaneous laying down of flowers and wreaths which continued for days until so many poppies were piled round it looked like a pool of blood. Sensitive to the significance of a place where the grief of thousands had been observed the government had the plasterboard replaced with white Portland stone. All over the UK communities raised money and commissioned artists to create war memorials for their towns and villages.

Remembrance Sunday falls on the second Sunday in November every year. On this day there are ceremonies at war memorials, cenotaphs and churches throughout the country and abroad.

A focus of Queensferry's Remembrance Day last year was the poppy drape which resulted from the History group and members of the community spending months knitting and crocheting poppies which were attached to a large drape as a tribute to all the local men who lost their lives in the First World War. The poppy drape has been displayed at the two exhibitions produced by the History group. Now the history Group have a choice as to whether the drape should be on permanent display at a local venue or should it be used at the Remembrance service.

Please contact the group at [queensferryhg@gmail.com](mailto:queensferryhg@gmail.com) if you have suggestions as to how you feel the poppy drape could best be used.

*Kathy Whittley, a Queensferry resident, remembers the courage of her father Murdigan Maciver and his brothers Murdo and Kenny*



Murdigan was in the Merchant Navy. He crewed aboard the Empress of Canada when during World War II she was sent to capture Spitzbergen, a mission ordered by Churchill to show his support for Stalin. It was the start of the Arctic Convoy system which the government took a long time to acknowledge. Murdigan was torpedoed twice in the North Atlantic and escaped death on five different occasions. He was posthumously awarded the Arctic Star medal.

Murdo served in the Royal Navy. Whilst clearing waters in Livorno his motorboat hit a mine and was blown up. A flying boat was sent to rescue the survivors but as there wasn't room for everyone Murdo volunteered to remain behind. He was rescued after spending 18 hours in choppy waters.

Kenny crewed minesweepers and on June 5th celebrated his 19th birthday whilst clearing the sea approaches to Juno beach, prior to the Canadian Normandy landings on D-Day. Fortunately, all three brothers survived their ordeals and Kenny married the nurse who had brought him back to health.

It is important to remember those who died in these terrible conflicts and recognise that we enjoy our freedom because of the courage of those young men.

Today we should remember that Victory and peace was won by a union of nations and a unity of purpose.

*Trevor Whittley*

## *Avoiding Plastic*

Plastic often seems inescapable. Avoiding it and trying to live more sustainably can be quite difficult. As the scale of plastic pollution becomes increasingly problematic governments and businesses are re-evaluating plastic production and investing in alternatives.

Everyday people have been one of the main driving forces behind this shift, demanding legislative bans on certain types of plastic and compelling businesses to invest in sustainable alternatives.

### **YOUR INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS DO COUNT**

The actions listed below can help to make a real difference and if adopted widely would accelerate the movement towards a zero waste future. The usual ones about bottled water, tumblers etc are not included.

1. Give up chewing gum, all gum is made of plastic
2. Cook from raw ingredients
3. Avoid polystyrene pizza discs, look for cardboard ones.
- 4 Support businesses that sell takeaway food in biodegradable boxes
5. Buy loose leaf tea, most teabags contain plastic or buy teabags which are biodegradable.
6. Support supermarkets who are trying to reduce plastic by buying loose produce
7. Complain about items which use excess packaging.

### *Toxic Scents in Cleaning Sprays*

Government scientists from the air quality expert group have reported that the pine and lemon scents added to cleaning sprays to create a fresh smell are toxic to consumers. The scents, alpha pinene and limonene break down to produce benzene and formaldehyde. Benzene attacks bone marrow and red blood cells and formaldehyde damages eyes and lungs. Both raise the risk of cancer. The report found many homes have pollution levels higher than the busiest streets. It means each Britain using these sprays are releasing 2.3kg of volatile chemicals into the air.

## **Some subscriptions are still to be collected**

The subscription rates are: **Full Member £10, Family member £15,**  
**Talk £5 if not a member**

If you intend rejoining you can either send a cheque or cash to:

**Mike McDowall , Treasurer QHT,**

**41 Echline Park, Queensferry EH30 9XQ**

**or**

**if you use on-line banking**

**pay direct to Clydesdale Bank (with your name) .**

**Sort Code 82 68 00. Acc NO. 00103341**