

The Voice



Queensferry Heritage Trust

March 2019



Shackleton's famous (but probably mythical) advert for the Trans-Antarctic Expedition in 1914

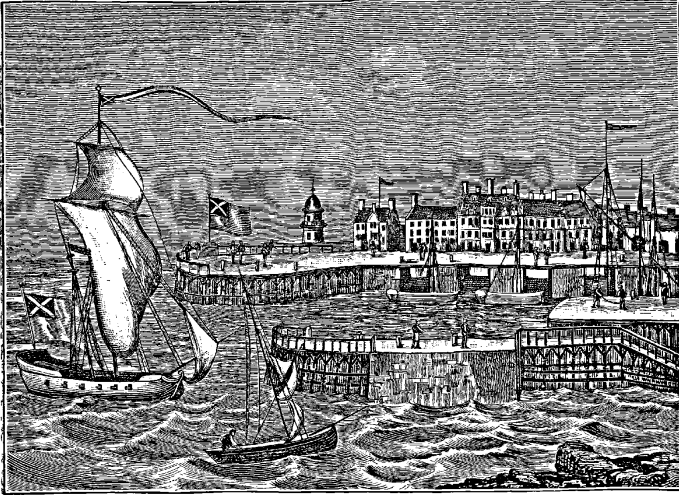
Queensferry Heritage Trust runs a programme of talks, events, and projects throughout the year aimed at promoting and preserving our heritage of buildings, natural beauty, traditions and culture. We are not just concerned with the past, we are eager to see how our rich heritage can live on as Queensferry continues to develop and thrive.

Our talks are increasingly popular, but we want to do more, and we have lots of exciting ideas. To make these happen, we need help from a broad range of people who share our passion and interest in looking after the past and working to improve the future.

We need to expand our committee, but if that is not your interest, we also need help in running our events and in specific project teams. You can decide where you get involved and how much time to put in - just coming 30 minutes before a talk as part of a welcome team would make a big difference. If you are interested please contact any of the committee to have a chat about our plans or post a message on our [Facebook Page](#) or our [Website](#) . Committee phone numbers are on the back of your pink membership card.

Dates for your diary

Wed. 13th March Jenni Calder: The Forth: Gateway to Edinburgh



LEITH HARBOUR ABOUT 1700. (From an Oil Painting in the Trinity House, Leith.)

Walter Elliot, Secretary of State for Scotland in the 1930s, described the Firth of Forth as ‘the gateway to Scotland’. It was equally the gateway to Edinburgh providing Scotland’s capital with essential routes for raw materials, goods and people, and linking it with Europe and later the New World. Drawing partly on her book *Essence of Edinburgh: An Eccentric Odyssey*, this talk

explores the ways that the Forth was essential to sustaining the life of the city. Coal from the Forth shore kept Edinburghers warm and fuelled industry. Timber from the Baltic was essential for construction. Claret from France lubricated the Enlightenment luminaries. Rice, rum and sugar from the Caribbean transformed eating habits. Iron ore from Russia and Sweden supplied the ironworks at Cramond. The whalers out of Bo’ness helped to keep the lights on. The Forth was also a gateway out, for goods, for merchants and scholars, for the Scottish soldiers who fought as mercenaries all over Europe, and for the ships of the disastrous Darien expedition which almost ruined the capital.

Jenni Calder ne’e Daiches was born in Chicago, but has lived and worked in Scotland since 1971. She formerly worked for the National Museums of Scotland where she held numerous positions including Head of Publications. Most of her work has been in areas of literary and social history and biography, with recent topics including Scottish emigration, particularly to North America, and questions of identity. Other key interests include Scottish literature, particularly R L Stevenson and women writers. She has been publishing poetry consistently for over twenty years and is now also writing fiction. She writes fiction and poetry as Jenni Daiches.

Forth Bridge Heritage Management Group



The FBWHMG's Management Principles include:

Presentation

- to implement sustainable visitor management to improve the attractiveness of the property and the surrounding area to visitors without detriment to its *Outstanding Universal Value* and to the quality of life of the communities living around the bridge; and
- to develop improved interpretation to foster wider understanding and appreciation of the property and present its values to a wide range of audiences.

Community Benefit

- to improve the local transport and infrastructure of the areas around the bridge not only to facilitate tourism and other business opportunities, but also for the benefit of the local communities.

To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must have *Outstanding Universal Value* (OUV) and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria.

Two criteria were accepted by UNESCO for the Forth Bridge:

- Criterion (i): The Forth Bridge is a masterpiece of creative genius because of its distinctive industrial aesthetic, which is the result of a forthright, unadorned display of its massive, functional structural elements.
- Criterion (iv): The Forth Bridge is an extraordinary and impressive milestone in the evolution of bridge design and construction during the period when railways came to dominate long-distance land travel, innovative in its concept, its use of mild steel, and its enormous scale **Frank Hay**

Forth Bridge Heritage Management Group

On behalf of QHT Clare Meredith continues to attend quarterly meetings of the Forth Bridge Heritage Management Group.

In order to maintain UNESCO status for the Forth Bridge, UNESCO requires, that forward plans for maintenance, promotion and access are agreed and developed by a range of stakeholders. Queensferry is well represented at these meetings not only by QHT, but also by Jenni Meldrum for Queensferry History Group and Frank Hay for The Briggers. Also in attendance at the most recent meeting on 13 February were Keith Giblett and Graeme McKinley for Queensferry District & Community Council.

Miles Oglethorpe, of Historic Environment Scotland and known to many QHT members, chairs the meetings. Current invited organisations are Transport Scotland, Network Rail, North Queensferry and Kirkliston Community Councils, North Queensferry Heritage Trust, Fife, Edinburgh and West Lothian Councils, Help Our North Queensferry, Visit Scotland and Bidwells (Crown Estate). Amey provides the Secretariat.

Issues discussed on 13 February included:

- **The question of control of vegetation around FB viewpoints; Local Authorities have responsibility and each Authority has been asked to provide information on regulation and inspection of vegetation control.**
- **The brightness of lighting of the Queensferry Crossing: North Queensferry residents complain that FB lighting is being eclipsed. We were advised by Transport Scotland that Crossing lighting will be dimmable in the future.**
- **It was reported by Network Rail that the FB lighting is now 25 years old and only 60% active due to damaged lighting boxes and general decay. Balfour Beatty is looking to either refit with variable LED lighting or to replace the damaged lighting boxes. A decision will be made within the next few months and with a strong business case to install variable LED as it will be cost effective in a comparatively short time.**
- **Official launch of the Tourism Strategy is scheduled for 24 April with the document then available online.**
- **Burry Man sculpture: sculptor Gordon Muir presented a project to instal a bronze sculpture on the foreshore in front of the Three Bridges (Lord Rosebery has given permission as it is his land). Q&DCC have been involved and local support is growing for the**

outline proposals. Approval was sought (and given) from stakeholders present at the 13 February meeting. This project is at a very early stage and Gordon Muir welcomes comment and feedback.

Dates for diaries:

- **Thursday 18 April is 2019 World Heritage Day, with each of Scotland's six World Heritage Sites planning separate events. No information is yet available for the FB programme.**
- **Tuesday 19 March, 7 pm, Forth Bridges Forum Public Meeting at FRC Contact & Education Centre, Ferrymuir Gait, EH30 9SF. Agenda: Tourism Strategy update; Queensferry Crossing update, Road Bridge major works update; Network Rail update, Heritage Management Group update.**

Clare Meredith

Dalmeny Station Waiting Room Project



Dalmeny Station is one of two rail access points for visitors to the Forth Bridge (the other being North Queensferry Station). Currently, Dalmeny Station has no information regarding the Forth Bridge or its World Heritage status. The south bound waiting room (Platform 1) provides an opportunity to present the Forth Bridge and its World Heritage status to ScotRail passengers and visitors. A Forth Bridges Walk, involving both rail access stations, is also included and the project will encourage Forth Bridge visitors to use public transport.

The initial proposal is to have six ScotRail size posters on the rear wall of the waiting room. These would display relevant Forth Bridge information and images which could be updated periodically as required. The following initial six posters are proposed to explain the Forth Bridge and its World Heritage status:

- A Forth Bridge overview and explanation of World Heritage
- The story of the Forth Bridge - focus on OUV criterion (i)
- The story of the Forth Bridge - focus on OUV criterion (iv)
- The people who designed and made the Forth Bridge
- The maintenance of the Forth Bridge including the major restoration programme
- The proposed Forth Bridge Experience

This project is managed by The Briggers (a South Queensferry Forth Bridge research and presentation group). The station is a category B listed building. The posters will require Listed Building Approval and Advertisement Approval from Edinburgh Planning. Current status: planning approvals and poster designs are being prepared; the next stage will be funding. ScotRail, Network Rail and the FBWHMG have approved the project.

Historical note: The original waiting room (see below) was destroyed by fire in 1980 and replaced with the current building.



Frank Hay

Planning Application

On behalf of QHT Mike McDowall submitted the following objection to the planning application for the proposed installation of a 15m high monopole, accommodating 1No antenna within a GRP shroud; and 1No equipment cabinet on the footway adjacent to 29 The Loan, Queensferry, Edinburgh, EH30 9SD (NGR: 312895, 678309)

"Queensferry Heritage Trust herewith submits an objection to the above proposal on the grounds that the installation, immediately adjacent to the conservation area, will introduce an unacceptable visual intrusion into the view outwards from the town. On that basis, the Trust regrets that the Council did not have the resources to have a pre-application meeting with the applicant, where there would have been an opportunity to propose alternative sites for further investigation.

The proposed installation will have a detrimental effect on the amenity of the town, contrary to the principals described in the Conservation area appraisal."

Mike McDowall

Queensferry High Street

Following the three public consultations in 2018 the proposals were expected to be finalised and presented in February 2019. It is expected that the main stakeholders of the project will meet very soon and, following this, a discussion about any further consultation, project timescales and implementation will begin. The design proposal is available to view and download from:

<http://queensferrycommunitycouncil.co.uk>

Hawthorn Bank

A representative from Greenferry attended our committee meeting and we discussed the Hawthorn Bank Project. Approval has been granted by E.C.C. for the erection of the Mosaic at Hawthorn Bank Garden which consists of 25 panels measuring approximately 12 metres. It is hoped that the gardens will officially open in May. John Murphy will attend the next meeting of the above and report back to the committee.

Street Lights

City of Edinburgh Council plan to upgrade the lights in Queensferry to energy efficient ones in April and May. These lights will reduce light pollution, give a clearer light and should last up to five times longer than the existing lights . It is anticipated that this will save £54m in energy, maintenance and disposal costs over 20years. They are also installing a street lighting control system which will enable quicker identification of faulty lights.

AGM

Wednesday 10 April

