

## **LAUNCH OF TRUST FOR FORTH BRIDGE MEMORIAL**

The creation of an official memorial to those who lost their lives in the building of the Forth Bridge has taken a step closer with the formation of the Forth Bridge Memorial Arts Trust.

The Trust aims to launch a major public arts project in September that will involve the communities of both North and South Queensferry in every stage of the development of a fitting tribute to those who died. It is planned to site the memorial in the vicinity of the Bridge. The project is currently being finalised, but it is likely to involve a team of two artists-in-residence working with both communities to develop and carry through the work of creating the Memorial. This is intended to be of a scale and international importance worthy of the scale and importance of the bridge itself.

The project has the enthusiastic backing of:-

Queensferry and District Community Council,  
Queensferry History Group (which has been researching the names of those who died),  
North Queensferry Community Council,  
North Queensferry Heritage Trust,  
North Queensferry Arts Trust and others.

The Trust has already had practical advice and encouragement from Network Rail, Fife Council, The City of Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Arts Council and most importantly, it has the support of the local communities from both sides of the Forth.

Len Saunders, a spokesman for the Forth Bridge Memorial Arts Trust and Chair of Queensferry History Group said:

“Most people do not appreciate the magnitude of the achievement of the men who built the Forth Bridge. They worked twenty four hours a day, six days a week for seven years, in all weathers, on the seabed and later hundreds of feet above the sea, pushing beyond the bounds of what had previously been thought possible.

What they created is now so familiar to us that it seems always to have been there, and we so easily overlook the heavy price that was paid for it in human lives – more than 60 men and boys were killed and hundreds more were crippled for life.

Sadly there is no public memorial anywhere to these individuals and the Forth Bridge Memorial Arts Trust is proud now to announce this major public project to give proper recognition to those who lost their lives.

The Trust aims to be innovative in its approach to realising a significant work of 21<sup>st</sup> century art, worthy of the great bridge itself.

The Trust believes that by taking this approach it has the best opportunity to create a Memorial that will be as deeply rooted in the soil of Scotland as is the bridge itself.

The Forth Bridge Memorial Arts Trust has applied for charitable status and, once granted, will begin to seek business sponsorship, public donations and grants from arts bodies.

## Notes to Editors

1. The Forth Bridge Memorial Arts Trust was created by the Forth Bridge Memorial Committee which, under the chairmanship of John Barrett MP, has worked over the last 18 months to bring forward the plans which the Trust has now announced. The Trust comprises local individuals and organisations who share the view that an official public memorial is needed to recognise the loss of life in the construction of the Forth Bridge.

For further information, please contact:

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For more information see our website [www.forthbridgememorial.org](http://www.forthbridgememorial.org)

The Trustees of The Forth Bridge Memorial Arts Trust are: -

Murray Grigor

Tom Martin

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