

Queensferry Business Association

for membership information info@qba.org.uk
website www.qba.org.uk

Members News and Update

January 2008

Welcome to the first Queensferry Business Association newsletter of 2008.

The QBA has been active on your behalf over the past year, but not quite at the prodigious levels of previous years. You'll understand when we say that last summer, Dawn & Simon Carvisiglia moved to Bristol and so we lost our chairperson and web-master. Wil Tunnell stepped down due to his role in 'Queensferry Ambition' (more of QA later). Our Secretary, Janette Anderson, stepped down for personal reasons, followed by Paul Hart, our Vice Chairman, taking critically ill in the summer. Paul is recovering slowly in hospital, but is unlikely to be home for some time. His illness has meant closure for his prominent business in the High Street. We all wish Paul well and a full recovery.

Then, in recent months, our Events Secretary, Moira Cunningham, was taken ill and underwent a serious operation. Moira had the additional job of leading the '**Christmas in Queensferry**' team after Paul's illness. This was their first year as an independent committee and they organised a bigger and better Christmas event this year which was greatly appreciated by the town. Well done, Moira and team.

Charles Blackwell kindly stepped in to join the committee in September and at the November AGM, we were joined by Lucy Scillitoe and Fiona Christie. The QBA committee meets ten times a year and **the new, revitalized committee consists** - Joanne McDonald, Secretary; Kirsty Hodge, Treasurer; Kay Blair, QDCC Link; Rona Martin, Membership Secretary; Moira Cunningham, Events; Gerardine Durkin, Events; Fiona Christie, Website; Lucy Scillitoe, Charles Blackwell, Newsletters; Douglas Flett, Chairman

Thanks to those who gave their time for you: This is our 8th year of operation and we continue to build upon the excellent work done by committees and chairpersons over the years. We want to thank the past chairs - Peter McKinney, Charles Fletcher, Paul Hart and Dawn Carvisiglia, who all contributed hugely of their time to the community and to the QBA. And we are also grateful to past members who have served on committee over the years - Calmyn Lamb, Jim Anderson, Jean Bryden, Josie Bonnar, Colin Hart, Arnold Bark, Jimmy Liddell (no longer with us), Alex Lauder, Kate Gibb, Fraser Kerr, Donald Ford and Colin Aston.

Members Meetings: We had two very social and successful meetings in 2007. One at the Rosebery Hall and another at the Dakota Hotel **attracting over 60 folk!** Networking and social events are, for many, the only opportunity to meet other local business people. With the committee logistics problems this year we did not have a Summer Ball, but there has been suggestion of the re-emergence of the former Balfour Ball. Any thoughts?

School Awards: 2007 was the 4th year of this business link to local schools, with a awards event in June at the Orocco Pier and presented by Lady Rosebery. The children's presentations were brilliant, and a big 'well done' to the teachers.

Queensferry Ambition: We have lift-off! Following presentations to the City of Edinburgh Council we received seed funding of £6,000 to begin a forward-looking study of South Queensferry. Wil Tunnel a local architect and QBA member made presentations to the Community Council, QBA members and to City Council Officers. Look out for information and meetings to tell you what is happening and of the forming of a Stakeholder Group to help bring together **your vision for the town's future**. You will be asked about planning issues, traffic, parking, tourism, traffic, sport, recreation, retail, amenities, environmental,

landscaping, design, paths and signposting and the entire town. We have also lobbied successfully for South Queensferry to be included as part of the Waterfront plan for the City.

Essential Queensferry: An A5 booklet with advertising and business listing; also given to visitors and distributed - a real success, produced for the cost of the advertising. We are considering a re-run in 2008/9 especially with the **Homecoming Scotland year in 2009**.

Website & News: Because of changes in the committee we have not kept up our usual flow of news and reports to members and the website was not up-to-date after Simon left and before Fiona joined us. But you will now see changes and updates on the QBA website. We will provide regular news and look forward to hearing your views and news. Please accept our apologies for the gaps in information over the year and please give us your views.

Bridge Construction Impact: We have asked Transport Scotland for information which we will pass on to you – about the location, timing and general impact of this major construction which will dominate the area for the next 10 years. This information will go on the website alongside a date and venue for **our upcoming, networking Member's Meeting**.

ISSUES

Here are just some of the day by day issues and other activities engaged on your behalf -

High Street Parking and representations made to the CoEC Roads Dept.

Business Refuse Bins and bin lorries and deliveries holding up traffic.

Business Rates reduction for High Street closures was also addressed

Cruise Ships visiting the Forth and communication with CoEC on related issues

Roads repairs, Promenade upgrading – delays and loss of trade; Signage and Parking.

Planning liaison with Keith Giblett of QDCC and the City Planners and other local groups

Jacob's Ladder still dragging on – but the new CoEC Communities department onboard.

Forth Crossing Tunnel versus Bridge and the work of ForthTAG.

Port Edgar, Orocco Pier and other local developments

Queensferry Gazette updates and occasional news

Please feel free to pass any issues that concern you to Charles Blackwell at charles.blackwell@edwardjones.com

BENEFITS of QBA

Our members' gatherings were very successful and people really appreciate the networking - but, yes, communications in 2007 were not at their best and we will to do better in 2008. Some have asked why they have not heard as much from us. This letter should explain the reasons for this. We will keep QBA members advised about a wide range of matters that affect the town and our businesses.

But most of all, we are here to PUT SOMETHING BACK into the community. QBA is your vehicle, not simply to serve you, but **to enable the business community to put something back into the town**. We mentioned the 25 business folk who have spend one or more years on the committee over the past 8 years. Other members serve the community in other ways. Together, we hope to promote an atmosphere of mutual support and service in Queensferry to make this a better place to live and work. We want to provide and encourage a culture of **putting something back** and not just working in business for personal benefit.

With a new and bigger committee this year, you will see exciting developments. You are part of the Queensferry business community – join us, we need your support to make it better.

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Best wishes,

Douglas Flett, Chairman