



Tay Road Bridge Joint Board

30th Anniversary

A special edition booklet to commemorate the
30th Anniversary of the Tay Road Bridge

WOD
W
19

1966

1996



Tay Road Bridge opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother August 18th 1966



CLARENCE HOUSE
S.W. 1

The Tay Road Bridge has been a great boon to people who live in Fife, Dundee, Angus and Perthshire and other places North of the River, who can now cross without the long wait for the ferry when going to work or visit their friends.

I remember so well that day thirty years ago when the road link between the two sides of the Tay was inaugurated and wish to express my congratulations to those whose vision and enterprise made this possible. Our thanks go to them and to those who maintain the Bridge, ensuring a quick and safe passage across the Tay for the many people to whom it has become an essential line of communication.

ELIZABETH R
Queen Mother

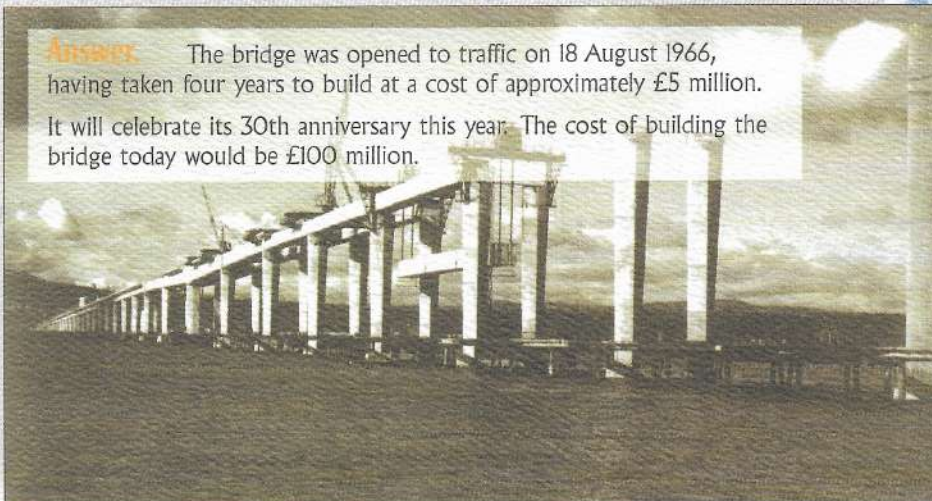
August 1996

30th Anniversary

2

Q. When was it built?

Answer. The bridge was opened to traffic on 18 August 1966, having taken four years to build at a cost of approximately £5 million. It will celebrate its 30th anniversary this year. The cost of building the bridge today would be £100 million.



Q. Who is responsible for the Bridge?

Answer. The bridge is the responsibility of the Tay Road Bridge Joint Board, which comprises of six councillors from Dundee City Council, five from Fife Council and one from Angus Council.

The Board appoints a Clerk, a Treasurer, an Engineer and a Bridge Manager to administer and manage its affairs and meetings are generally held once every three months to discuss business.

The Joint Board was first established in 1955 to raise money to build the Bridge.



TAY ROAD BRIDGE
OPENED BY
HER MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH
THE QUEEN MOTHER
AUGUST 18TH 1966

TAY ROAD BRIDGE JOINT BOARD

CHAIRMAN: MADRICE McMAHUS, CBE, JP
LORD PROVOST OF DUNDEE

ICE-CHAIRMAN: JOHN McWILLIAM, JP
POLICEMAN OF THE STURDY CORPS

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD REPRESENTING:
DUNDEE COUNTY COUNCIL: R.W.L. McCAIG, C.B.E.
H. DICKSON, JP
FIFE COUNTY COUNCIL: MACKENZIE O.B.E., JP
A.I. THOMSON, JP
ANGUS COUNTY COUNCIL: MAXWELL, JP, G. SHARP, JP

CLERK: GORDON J. WATSON, JP TREASURER: I.C. MILNE
ENGINEER: W.A. FAIRHURST, C.B.E.

3

Q. Who looks after the Bridge on a day to day basis?

Answer. The Bridge Manager is Mr John Crerar, BSc., C.Eng., M.I.C.E., a Chartered Civil Engineer. The Administration Offices are located at the Dundee end of the Bridge adjacent to the toll booths. Tel: 01382 221881.



Q. What does the Bridge Manager do?

Answer. The Bridge Manager is responsible for the staff who work on the Bridge, the collection of tolls, carrying out general inspections and routine maintenance works, dealing with emergencies such as accidents, snow, ice and high winds and for the general management and operation of the Bridge and other property belonging to the Joint Board.

Q. What other property does the Joint Board own?

Answer. As well as the main Bridge and the Dundee approach ramps the Joint Board is also responsible for the gardens and surrounding parkland at the Dundee end of the Bridge and the car park and surrounding parklands at the Fife end.

4

Q. How many people work on the Bridge?

Answer. The Bridge Manager has a staff of 41, made up of 5 Administrative staff, 5 Bridge Inspectors, 20 Bridge Officers, 9 maintenance staff and 2 part-time office cleaners.

The Bridge Inspectors and Bridge Officers work a three shift rota system, with one Bridge Inspector and 6 Bridge Officers generally on duty at any one time to collect tolls and deal with breakdowns and emergencies.

The 9 maintenance staff include 7 fully trained boatpersons/gantry drivers, an Electrician and a Mechanic.

Q. Does the Bridge have its own plant and equipment?

Answer. The Bridge has a patrol van, a maintenance van, a de-icing lorry, a safety boat and two inspection gantries (two large crane-like machines which are suspended beneath the Bridge to provide access for inspection and maintenance).

The safety boat is called the 'Fifie', a 35ft steel-hulled vessel which must be on station when any work is being done on the Bridge.



5



Q. How long is the Bridge?

Answer. The Bridge is 2250 metres long (7400ft), or approximately one and a half miles. It has 42 separate spans and rises at a gradient of 1 in 81 from Dundee to Fife.

Q. Why do we pay tolls?

Answer. The Joint Board had to borrow money to build the Bridge and the tolls are levied to pay back the borrowed money, to pay for day-to-day administration and maintenance and for funding major repairs.

The tolls are now less, in real terms, than when the Bridge was opened. The toll for a car in 1966 was 12 1/2p in each direction which is equivalent to £1.20 at today's prices. Today, the toll is 80p southbound only (i.e. 40p in each direction).



Q. Will the tolls ever be removed?

Answer. Unless the Government abolishes the tolls they will continue to be levied until at least 2016 (50 years from the opening of the Bridge) when all the borrowed monies will be paid off. It is possible that loan repayments could be accelerated once all the major repair works on the Bridge have been completed. This would bring forward the date by which the debt would be extinguished. At that point the abolition of tolls could be considered.

6

Q. Why are the tolls charged in only one direction?

Answer. Charging tolls in the southbound direction only has solved two problems:

- There are no tailbacks on the northbound carriageway first thing in the morning so there is a free flow of traffic into Dundee.
- There was insufficient width on the Bridge to build modern toll booths on both carriageways.

Q. How can I pay the tolls?

Answer. You can pay the tolls by cash or voucher.

Vouchers for cars, H.G.V.s and buses can be purchased at the Bridge Manager's Office, at the Dundee City Council Office in the City Square, Dundee or at Fife Council's Offices in Newport, Tayport, Cupar and St Andrews.

Q. What if I have no money to pay the toll?

Answer. You will be issued with a Non Payment Invoice for the toll due, plus a £2 administration charge which you must pay within seven days.

Q. Is anyone allowed to cross the Bridge without paying tolls?

Answer. Yes. The Police and emergency services, Crown vehicles and Orange Badge holders (registered disabled), motor cyclists, pedestrians and cyclists.

7

Q. How many vehicles cross the Bridge each day?

Answer. On average, about 20,000 vehicles cross the Bridge each day, i.e. 10,000 in each direction. The record number of vehicles on any one day was approximately 26,000 during the 1995 British Open Golf Championship at St Andrews. In 1966 the average daily traffic was about 6,500 vehicles (3,250 in each direction), which was about twice the predicted traffic figures.

Q. Is there a speed limit?

Answer. Yes. On the main Bridge the permanent speed limit is 50m.p.h. and on the approach ramps at the Dundee end it is 30m.p.h. On the main Bridge a temporary speed limit of 30m.p.h. is often introduced when works are being carried out or when dealing with emergencies, breakdowns or severe weather. Tayside Police are the Police Authority for the Bridge.

Q. Can I stop on the Bridge?

Answer. No. It is an offence under the bye-laws to stop on the Bridge. There are no hard shoulders or lay-bys.

Q. What happens if I break down on the Bridge?

Answer. You should immediately switch on your hazard lights and then wait by your vehicle until rescued by the Bridge Patrol van.

- Closed circuit television cameras will detect that you have stopped on the Bridge and the Bridge Patrol van will immediately be called out to investigate.
- If you have a car phone you can call the Bridge Control Room on Dundee 221881.
- Alternatively, there are eight emergency phone locations on the central walkway and the Bridge Control Room can be contacted simply by lifting the phone.
- The Patrol van will tow cars off the Bridge either to the Fife car park or to the Dundee Administration Office at no charge.
- Heavier vehicles which require to be towed off by breakdown recovery services will be charged the going rate.

Q. Is the Bridge ever closed?

Answer. The Bridge is open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

The only time the Bridge would be closed would be in the event of a major accident or emergency or during periods of high winds when it is considered to be too dangerous for vehicles to cross.

High winds blowing across the Bridge pose a particular problem to high sided vehicles. In the interest of public safety and to prevent vehicles overturning, the following procedures are adopted:

- At wind speed of 45 m.p.h. and rising the Bridge is closed to double decker buses.
- At wind speed of 60 m.p.h. and rising the Bridge is closed to all high sided vehicles.
- At wind speed exceeding 80 m.p.h. the Bridge is closed to all vehicles.



Q. Why are there often lane closures on the southbound carriageway?

Answer. The Bridge has undergone a major programme of repair work over the past 10 years costing approximately £15 million.

Contractors working on the Bridge require safe access for labour, plant and materials and the only available space is on the carriageway.

Most of the work has been carried out underneath the Bridge and although numerous boats have provided access via the river, this is generally unsuitable for heavy plant and equipment due to the 20ft rise and fall of the tide and the difficulties of working in stormy weather.

Lane closures are now almost always restricted to the Southbound carriageway where the effect on traffic flow is minimal, and closures are generally not permitted during the winter months.

10



Q. Why has the work taken so long?

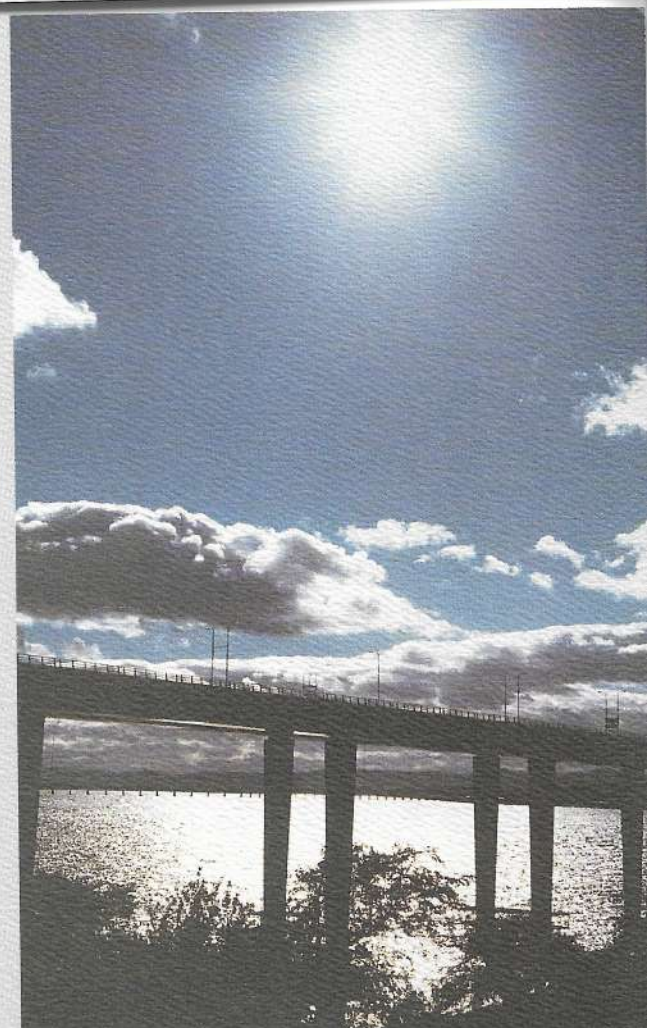
Answer. There are two reasons for this:

- The Bridge Board is governed by the same rules as a Local Authority and it is restricted by the amount of money it can borrow annually to finance the works.
- All of the work could not be carried out at the same time because that would result in contractors working on top of each other. As an example, the works on the carriageway were generally completed before the repainting was carried out underneath.

Q. When will the works on the Bridge be finished?

Answer. After 1996 the only other major works to be completed will be the refurbishment of the central walkway at a cost of £3 million.

It was hoped that this would have been carried out during the two summer seasons of 1996 and 1997, but the works have had to be postponed until the 1997 and 1998 seasons due to technical and legal problems.





Members.....



Mr F Christie
Mr J Corrigan
Mrs F M Grant
Mr B D Mackie
Mr C Rennie
Mr M J Rolfe



Mr George Allan
Miss Joyce Smith
Mr James Young
Mrs Edith McFee
Mr Gordon Pay

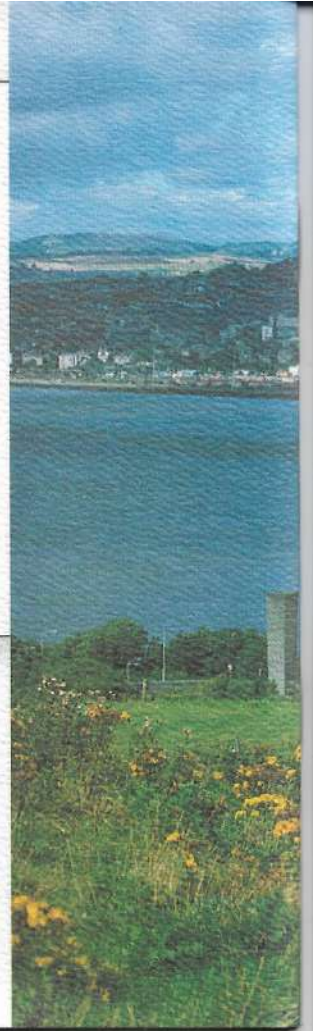


Mr A Shand

For further information please contact :

John Crerar, Bridge Manager, Tay Road Bridge Joint Board, Marine Parade, Dundee DD1 3JB
OR
Telephone: 01382 221881 Fax: 01382 201529

Designed by the Public Relations Office, Dundee City Council, DD1/7/96



air
M m
WOOD
ng
19