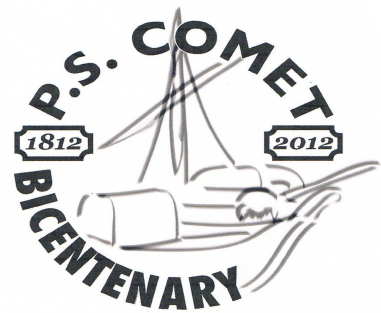


COMET BICENTENARY NEWSLETTER



August 2012

Helensburgh - Saturday, 4th August 2012



The day starts at 12:15pm with a visit from the Waverley-- see below for more details. Then at 1:45pm a procession of boats will start from the mouth of Rhu Marina, heading for Helensburgh Pier. Taking the lead will be HMS Pursuer, to be followed in complete contrast by some Victorian-style steamboats; then will come yachts and sailing dinghies, and the RNLI lifeboat will be in attendance. They are due to arrive at Helensburgh Pier at around 2:30.

At about the same time a radio-controlled model of the Comet will be taking to the water behind Helensburgh Pier, escorted by some other radio-controlled models. Once the vessels

coming from Rhu Marina have arrived, the RNLI lifeboat will put on a demonstration rescue. And there will even be a visit from a certain Mr Henry Bell!



In addition a leaflet showing a Henry Bell Trail in the Helensburgh area will be available free of charge on the day; afterwards it can be obtained from the Helensburgh Tourist Information Centre. Also, opening in Helensburgh Library (51 West King Street) on Saturday 4th August will be an exhibition on Henry Bell and the Comet; this will be open to the public every day except Sundays until Saturday 29th September during normal Library opening hours -- for details phone 01436 658833 or go to www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/node/30907

A plywood replica of the proposed Comet Archway will be on display as well. As you know, we are now looking for a new location for this, and so this replica will give a good idea of how it will look, albeit not mounted on posts. Although we have some ideas as to where it might go, we will also be open to suggestions and offers.

In the evening a barbecue will be held in the Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club in Rhu starting at 6:00pm -- there are no tickets, so just turn up and pay on arrival -- the cost is £3.50 per head.

As I'm sure you will have realised, most of these celebrations will be dependent on good weather -- so please put up a prayer for us! A friend recently told me that he could guarantee good weather on 4th August -- but he didn't know which year!

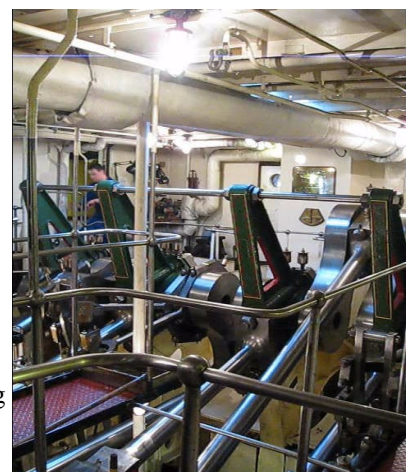
The Waverley

As the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world, the Waverley can of course trace its ancestry back to the Comet, and its timetable reflects this. For full details and booking arrangements, have a look at the Waverley's website, which is www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk/timetables.htm

On Saturday 4th August the Waverley will leave the Glasgow Science Centre at 10:00 am, calling at Greenock at 11:45 and Helensburgh at 12:15, before heading to Dunoon, Rothesay and Tighnabruaich, and then retracing her route to Glasgow.

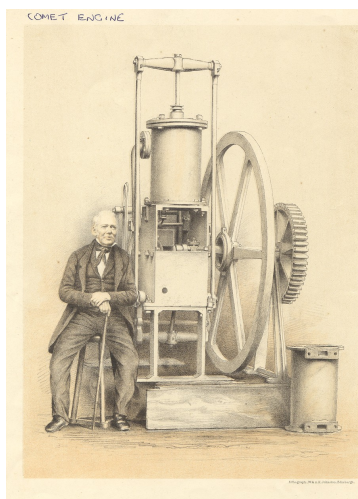
On Sunday 5th August she comes straight from Glasgow at 10:00am to Helensburgh at midday, then on to Largs, Dunoon and Loch Long, returning along the same route.

On Friday 10 August, almost the actual anniversary of the Comet's first sailing,



there will be a special programme to retrace the journey of the Comet. Waverley will depart from Helensburgh at 4:00pm and Greenock half an hour later, bound for Glasgow. She will then set off again from Glasgow at 7:00pm for Helensburgh (arriving at 9:00) and Greenock (9:30). There will be a Jazz band on board for this sailing - Henry Bell would have approved as the Comet usually carried a piper!

John Robertson



Henry Bell was not of course the only person involved in the construction of the Comet. Neilston-born John Robertson made the engines for Bell, and an obelisk there commemorates his achievement -- not only has this been recently cleaned as part of the Comet Bicentenary, but a silver replica of it has also been put on permanent display in Neilston Library - see www.ercblogs.co.uk/portal/

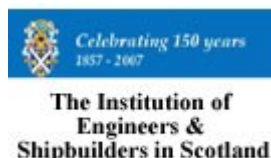
An audience with Mr and Mrs Bell- this is the title of a play in the form of a "This Is Your Life" interview that has been written by Dave Dewar of Kilmun. It is being performed in both Dunoon and Helensburgh Libraries on



Wednesday 22nd August and on the following day respectively, with doors opening at 7:00pm. Although there is no charge for the performances, entry will only be by ticket and these are now available from both Libraries - phone 01369 708682 (Dunoon) and 01436 658833 (Helensburgh).

Website - www.comet-2012.co.uk

As always the principal source of information on what is happening is the Comet Bicentenary website. Please look at it and **please forward Comet e-mails and newsletters** on to family, friends and colleagues.



Newsletter produced by Stewart Noble of Helensburgh Heritage Trust (noble84@btinternet.com or tel 01436 675484).
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