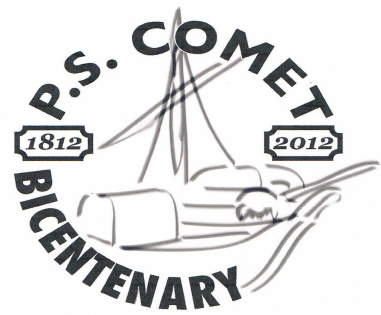


COMET BICENTENARY NEWSLETTER



June 2012

It is now roughly two and a half years since planning for the Comet Bicentenary started, and some of the events connected with it have already taken place -- how time flies! The main celebrations for the Comet will be taking place in Port Glasgow and Helensburgh, and the main events in Port Glasgow will be at the end of this month -- more later!

Website - www.comet-2012.co.uk

The principal source of information on what is happening is the Comet Bicentenary website. It went online just shortly after the January newsletter and it can be found at www.comet-2012.co.uk. As events get closer, e-mails will be sent out to you giving details on dates, times and locations. If you receive both these and newsletters as a representative of an organisation with interests in the Comet, **please forward these e-mails and newsletters** on to all the members of your group.

If you've not already had a look at the website, you really should now, as it contains a wealth of information not only on what is happening this year, but also on the history of the Comet and the life of Henry Bell -- it is a valuable resource.

What's happening in Port Glasgow



Because the Comet was built in Port Glasgow and because the working replica of the vessel is sited near the entrance to the Tesco supermarket there (very close to where John Wood's Shipyard stood), there has already been a tradition of Comet Festivals in Port Glasgow for 25 years. However this year will be something special.

A Festival Day will take place on Saturday 23rd June and a Comet King and Queen have already been chosen from the pupils of St Francis Primary School - so Deacon Loy and Dawn Allan will preside over a packed programme of events that day, and thus will have an experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives! With the theme of 'Anchors

Aweigh', the festival will include a fairground, tea and home baking, pirate workshops and puppet shows and plenty of children's entertainment.

What's happening in Helensburgh

Saturday 4th August will be the big day for celebrations in Helensburgh. Not all of these have been finalised and, as in Port Glasgow, we are praying that the weather will be kind to us! A visit from small Victorian-style steamboats will take place that day and a radio-controlled model of the Comet will be paddling round close to Helensburgh Pier. In addition a sailing event will be taking place out on the Clyde.

The Waverley

..... and on the 4th August the paddle steamer Waverley will be paying one of its regular summer visits to Helensburgh, having called at Greenock en route from Glasgow. 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. In particular its cruise on Sunday 5th August from Glasgow to Loch Long and calling at Helensburgh, Largs and Dunoon is advertised as "Comet 2012". For full details and booking arrangements, have a look at the Waverley's website, which is www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk/timetables.htm



Mementoes for sale

Prints (size approximately A4) of a painting of the Comet off Helensburgh by Neil Macleod have been made, and these

can be bought for £25 (postage paid) -- phone Stewart Noble on 01436 675484 for details on how to pay. Postcard size versions of the same print, as well as a cardboard cut-out model of the Comet, are available from a number of libraries and museums in Inverclyde, Helensburgh and Dumbarton.



Finance

The last newsletter contained a plea for more money, and some has been forthcoming. In addition to some individual donations, Argyll and Bute Council has made a further grant of £3,000 and Love Loch Lomond (the local tourism association for the Helensburgh area) has given us £300. Likewise we have received £1,000 from the Glasgow Dean of Guild Court Trust, £500 from the Merchants House of Glasgow and £200 from the Incorporation of Wrights in Glasgow -- this last gift is particularly appropriate as a certain Henry Bell was a member of the Incorporation of Wrights!

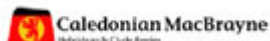
And finally

Helensburgh's Henry Bell obelisk stands on the West Esplanade at the foot of James Street. Just a few days ago JD Wetherspoon opened a new pub no more than 100 yards up James Street from the obelisk, and its name is "The Henry Bell"!





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