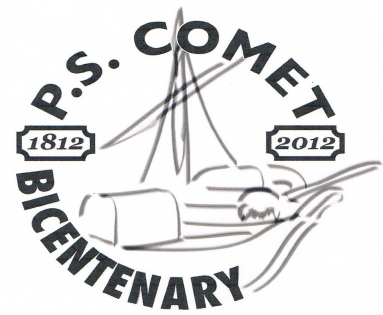


COMET BICENTENARY NEWSLETTER



July 2012

First the good news.....!

The Heritage Lottery Fund has decided to award a grant of up to £6200 to Helensburgh Heritage Trust towards the Comet Bicentenary. Needless to say, we are absolutely delighted with this award and it will help us to carry out all the activities which we plan -- indeed it would have been extremely difficult otherwise.

Then the second bit of good news.....!



Both the Royal Navy and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution will be participating in events at Helensburgh on Saturday 4th August. Details have yet to be finalised, but HMS Pursuer, a P2000 class patrol boat will be in attendance near Helensburgh Pier, while the lifeboat will be carrying out a mock rescue. See the website for fuller details in due course - www.comet-2012.co.uk

And then the bad news.....!

At the beginning of the year Argyll and Bute Council granted planning permission for the Comet Archway to be located at the foot of Sinclair Street in Helensburgh - the picture shows how it would have looked. It was always the intention that this Archway would be gifted to Argyll and Bute Council once it had been erected. Because of this the Council attached various conditions to the planning permission; these were principally to do with stability in a very exposed location and with the issue of future maintenance costs.



A considerable amount of time was spent in calculating the size of foundations required to give

stability to the Archway, and answers were given to the queries concerning maintenance. Consequently the relevant officials of Argyll and Bute Council recommended to the councillors that the final go-ahead for the Comet Archway should be given. However to our surprise and disappointment it was rejected by the councillors.

However all is not lost. Babcocks are still keen to push ahead with the steelwork as a project for their apprentices, and so we are now considering a number of possible alternative sites. To assist with design, Babcocks had already made a plywood template of the silhouette; it is intended to paint this and have it on display near Helensburgh Pierhead on Saturday 4th August, date of the principal celebrations in Helensburgh.

How the Port Glasgow celebrations went

Unfortunately some things are uncontrollable, and the weather is one of them. While Friday 22nd June was at least dry for the celebrations in Port Glasgow, unfortunately the same was not true of the following day. Nevertheless the Greenock Telegraph could report that "Hundreds of Port Glasgow folk put on their waterproofs to ensure they didn't miss out on the fun of the annual Comet Festival." So, although numbers attending were down, a good time was had by all.



***Now put the afternoon of 4th August at Helensburgh Pier in Your Diary!
And see the website for details in due course - www.comet-2012.co.uk***



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