



Helensburgh Heritage Trust

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NEWSLETTER - MAY 2018

Hello everyone!

First, a couple of dates for your diaries.

Saturday 26 May – 10:30 AM to 4:00 PM – Geilston Garden History Day. The Friends of Geilston are holding a Garden History Day at Geilston Hall, Cardross. Olivia Lelong of North Light Heritage Study will be speaking on the history of Geilston. This will be followed by a guided tour of the garden. After a light lunch, participants will have an opportunity to contribute their thoughts and ideas about the garden, and Simon Jones, responsible for the National Trust for Scotland's gardens and designed landscapes in the west, will give a concluding talk "From Pandas to Phytophthora - An Unexpected Horticultural Journey".

The purpose of the Garden History Day is to celebrate the garden, to understand its past, enjoy its present beauty, and imagine what it might be in the future. Tickets cost £15 for members of the National Trust for Scotland and £20 for others. They can be bought from Mike and Sue Thornley. Contact them either by email at masthome@btinternet.com or by phone on 01436 820493.

Friday 1st June at 2:30 PM - Battle of Glen Fruin Monument. A few years ago the Board of the Heritage Trust had become increasingly concerned about the area around the monument. With financial support from (amongst others) Luss Estates and with help from Community Payback, the access to the monument has been improved, the land around it has been cleared of scrub, and a bench has also been installed. In addition a board explaining the battle and its significance has been erected.

Come and see these improvements on 1st June, when Sir Malcolm Colquhoun will be in attendance. The monument is located at the north-west end of the Glen just as the road starts to climb up the hill to leave the Glen, and just past the former Admiralty Hydroballistics Research Establishment (which is now part of the Garelochhead army training camp). Please note that parking is limited in the area so, if possible, please travel with a friend!

Subscriptions and gift aid. Many thanks to all those members who have paid their subscriptions by standing order in April, and to the others who have been paying since then. The trust is able to claim gift aid on subscriptions from HM Revenue and Customs but, **if you are no longer a British taxpayer, we cannot make this claim and so it is important that you let me know.**

Email addresses. The Heritage Trust has email addresses for almost all members but, if you are receiving a printed version of this newsletter, please let me know if you do now have an email address – this would make administration much simpler!

Data protection. New legislation with regard to this has just come into force and it is important that the Heritage Trust comply with this. Consequently we shall be contacting you shortly by email (or by letter

if you do not have an email address) to ensure that we have your consent to hold the information about you which we do.

The Mackintosh Club. Bruce Jamieson has just had an article about the building published in the Spring magazine of the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland. He has kindly agreed that this can be made available to members, and it is attached to this email. If you do not have an email address, please let me know if you wish to see a copy of the article, and I shall send one to you.

Comparative map. Robert Ryan has recently made me aware of an online facility provided by the National Library of Scotland. It is basically a modern map but, if you move the circle on it around, you can see what was there at around the mid-1890s. It is only available online, and it covers the whole of Scotland; if you wish to see what Helensburgh was like then and now, have a look at <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/spy/index.cfm#zoom=17&lat=56.0035&lon=-4.7295&layers=168&b=1&r=30>

Display cabinet in the Civic Centre link corridor.

On display is the magnificent collection of silverware presented to George Maclachlan when he had completed 60 years of service as town clerk of Helensburgh. A copy of his portrait is also in the cabinet.

This display cabinet also contains the official robes worn by the Provosts of Helensburgh, and portraits of former provosts which used to be in the Municipal Buildings are now located on both sides of the link corridor and above the display cabinet.

Other displays in the Civic Centre. All the other cabinets have displays which celebrate the long history of the Helensburgh and Gareloch Horticultural Society. Our Provost's lamp is located between two of the cabinets, and paintings from the Municipal Buildings are now at the south end of the main hall.

Permanent displays in the Library. Our fine model of the Comet is now on display at the entrance to the Library, along with various items relating to the vessel and its owner Henry Bell.

The John Logie Baird Room upstairs in the Library contains the "Unknown John Logie Baird" display, the original televisior which belongs to the Library, the Heritage Trust's working replica TV kit, and a copy of a letter signed by John Logie Baird. Some work still remains to be carried out in this room.

Displays on the Balcony of the Library. René Taverne was a French Second World War hero who came to live in Helensburgh following the war. After his death his collection of medals (which includes the Légion d' Honneur) was given to Helensburgh Heritage Trust. It is appropriate that we are marking the 75th anniversary of some of his exploits with a display in one of the cabinets.

The subjects in other cabinets on the balcony include china with the Helensburgh coat of arms, Jack Buchanan, Deborah Kerr, some of the Anderson (Local Collection) Trust paintings, some bottles and jars, and old photos and other memorabilia on loan from the Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club.

Amazon Smile. Lastly, if you shop online at Amazon, you can help to benefit the Heritage Trust by joining Amazon Smile. It costs nothing and Amazon will donate to the Heritage Trust a very small percentage of each of your purchases from them. To register just go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk> and follow the instructions. Thank you!

