



Helensburgh Heritage Trust

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NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2018

Trustees. In the summer of last year Trudi Tompson was co-opted to the board of trustees, and her appointment was ratified at the AGM at the end of last September. Unfortunately Trudi has now had to resign on the grounds of ill-health, but her husband Geoff remains as a trustee.

Programme of meetings. As always we look forward to welcoming you to our meetings which will be held in the marriage suite of the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre at 38 East Clyde Street, starting at 7:30 PM.

Wednesday 26 September – The Mackintosh Club : Bruce Jamieson

Wednesday 31 October – How Helensburgh ended the Great War : Rev David Clark. This meeting will be preceded by the AGM

Wednesday 28 November – Helensburgh and the Peace Movement : Eric Thompson

Wednesday 30 January – Take a Photo : members of the Trust speak on an image from the past

Wednesday 27 February – Loch Lomond islands by canoe : Robert Ryan

Wednesday 27 March – The Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club Story : Jon Reid

Store. I am delighted to say that we once again have a good storage facility in Helensburgh. Furthermore it is extremely unlikely that we shall be forced to lose the store and find somewhere else. All that remains to be done now is to arrange it in some form of order!

First World War centenary exhibition. Helensburgh and district memorabilia relating to the end of the First World War are wanted for an exhibition which will be held in the Civic Centre from this October. If you have anything which could be borrowed, Nigel Allan would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact him by phone on 01436 671875 or by email at n.allan@hotmail.co.uk

Projector screen for sale. Now that we are holding our monthly meetings in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre, we no longer require the free-standing projector screen which we used when the meetings were being held in the Tennis Club. Does anyone wish to buy it? The price is a donation to the Heritage Trust. The screen itself is 134 cm high by 122 wide, and it can be extended to a maximum height of 212 cm; when rolled up, it is 152 cm high. Please contact me if you want it – first come, first served!

Annual report and accounts. These will be forwarded to all members before the AGM but, if you wish to see them now, they are on the website of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). To view them go to www.oscr.org.uk and then enter the charity number which is 024603. You will now see the screen for Helensburgh Heritage Trust. Scroll down until you reach a table entitled "Annual Return Submission History", and then click on "2017-18 report_Redacted.pdf".

Burgh Charter. You may recall that in a previous newsletter I was looking for a volunteer who might be prepared to translate the last couple of pages of the burgh charter from Latin into English. I am delighted to say that Niall McKinnon, a retired teacher of Latin, has completed the task - and of course we are very grateful to him for this. Consequently you can now see an English translation of the burgh charter on the Heritage Trust website, along with an introductory note and a glossary of the more obscure ancient legal terms used in it – just go to http://www.helensburgh-heritage.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1485:test&catid=89:places&Itemid=463 Alternatively if you do not have access to the Internet, please contact me and I shall print out a copy for you.

Display cabinet in the Civic Centre link corridor. This contains the magnificent collection of silverware presented to George Maclachlan when he had completed 60 years of service as town clerk of Helensburgh as well as a copy of his portrait. You can also see the official robes worn by the Provosts of Helensburgh.

Other displays in the Civic Centre. All the other cabinets have displays which celebrate the long history of the Helensburgh and Gareloch Horticultural Society. This will be replaced at the end of October with a display about the First World War. Our Provost's lamp is located beside the cabinets.

Permanent displays in the Library. Our fine model of the Comet is 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, and some bottles and jars.

Website. The Heritage Trust website currently has over 1,100 articles on the town and district's past, and nearly 2,000 images in the photo gallery. Possible contributions always welcome — email to dsf@btinternet.com.

Restoration of The Hill House. As I am sure you will be aware, the Hill House will over the next few years undergo a major restoration to cope with the problems of damp in the building. If you want to learn more about this or to make a donation towards the work,

please look at <https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/donations-reach-1-million-for-hill-house-appeal>

Hermitage Park. Work on the restoration of Hermitage Park is proceeding apace, and the children's play area is now open and proving very popular. However even once all the work is complete more funding will be required to continue developing the park and ensuring that it is sustainable long into the future. The Friends of Hermitage Park are now looking for new members who might be willing to pay a regular subscription – until now a one-off donation has been welcome but it remains free to be a Friend. If you wish to join the Friends of Hermitage Park, you can find an application at Facebook # Helensburgh Hermitage Park. Alternatively please phone the Secretary, Alison Holliman on 01436 673187.

Doors Open Day. With one exception this is not being held in the Helensburgh area this year. The one exception is the office of Organic Architects at 140 West Princes Street which will be open to the public between 10am and 5pm on Saturday 22 September. Many will remember this building as having been the Christian Science Church.

Doors Open Days within Argyll and Bute this year are concentrated in the Dunoon area and are being held on 22 and 23 September. For more information see <http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk/find-a-building/?area=7498#>

Proposed new Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre. As many will know a planning application for this new building beside Helensburgh pier has now been lodged. Given the prominence of the site, it is fair to say that this will be the heritage of the future. If you wish to learn more about it and perhaps also comment on it, go to <https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/home> - then scroll down to "find and comment on a planning application", then go to Planning Applications and enter the reference 18/01614/PP