

NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2019

Well, Midsummer has already been and gone, and plans for next winter's events at Helensburgh Heritage Trust have already been finalised – see below for details. Meanwhile however, enjoy the rest of summer!

Subscriptions. Many thanks to all who have paid their subscriptions. **If you have not paid your subscription, this will be the last correspondence that you will receive from the Heritage Trust.** If you are not sure whether you have paid your subscription, please contact me.

Annual Return and Accounts to 31 March 2019. These have now been drawn up and approved by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). They can be seen on the OSCR website but, if you wish a paper copy, just let me know. To view them online go to www.oscr.org.uk, enter the name of Helensburgh Heritage Trust or the number 024603, then scroll down to Annual Return Submission History, and the annual report can be found by clicking on the bottom right box.

War Memorial Families Project – Volunteers Wanted! Helensburgh Heritage Trust is co-operating with the Friends of Hermitage Park in a project to provide more information on the people who are listed on the war memorial as having died during the First World War. A grant has been received from the Heritage Lottery Fund for this, and the results will be available online and in the form of a book, one copy of which will be held in the new Pavilion in the Park. Sadly, there are a considerable number of names on the war memorial, and so volunteers are sought to help with this. If you feel that you can help, or if you have a relative named on the memorial, or if you know of someone who has, please let me know.

Winter programme. As in recent years, our winter meetings will again be held in the Marriage Room of the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre at 38 East Clyde Street, G84 7PG, starting at 7:30 PM. Here is the programme:

Wednesday September 25 — Kirsty Millican: Scotland from the Air

Wednesday October 30 — AGM; then Sandy Kerr: Origins of Helensburgh street names

Wednesday November 27 — David Clark: History of Golf Clubs in Lennox

Wednesday January 29 — Richard Williams: National Trust developments at the Hill House

Wednesday February 26 — Trust members: brief talks on items from the past

Wednesday March 25 — Tony Belk: Coastal defences of the Upper Clyde

Displays in the Civic Centre. The display about the Royal Northern and Clyde Yacht Club will remain in the main hall until 9 September, and will be replaced in October by a religious heritage exhibition.

Displays in the Library. The display about Henry Bell and the Comet is still at the entrance to the Library, while the Library's own televisor and the Heritage Trust's replica TV kit are both on display upstairs on the balcony. The balcony also contains displays on war hero René Taverne, old bottles, and china with the Helensburgh coat of arms. On various locations around the ground floor you can see displays about John Logie Baird, Jack Buchanan and Deborah Kerr.

Scottish Submarine Centre. As reported in the last Newsletter, the Scottish Submarine Centre on West King Street was shortlisted in the Innovation of the Year category at the 2019 Museum and Heritage Awards for its 'Inside Out' project. Despite missing out on claiming the top prize - finishing runner-up to the Imperial War Museum's documentary "They Shall Not Grow Old", directed by Peter Jackson no less - it was highly commended for its enlightening exhibition.

The Pier and the Waverley. As also reported in the last Newsletter, marine craft remain prohibited from berthing alongside the wooden section of the pier. However despite this the whole pier has just been given C-Listed status by Historical Environment Scotland, on the basis that it is an unusual example of a stone pier with a wooden section at the seaward end. Meantime Helensburgh has not been receiving calls from the Waverley – not (as expected) because of the condition of the pier, but because of the poor condition of the Waverley's boilers. In order to be able to sail again over £2 million will have to be spent on new boilers for the Waverley. Needless to say an appeal has been launched for this money – see <https://www.waverleyexcursions.co.uk>

The Hill House has been totally transformed by the construction of The Box around it which will be there for as many years as it takes for the building to dry out. The Box is a remarkable structure and may well become a visitor attraction in its own right. Consequently the National Trust for Scotland have set up an intermittent system of booking by timeslot – advance planning of visits is therefore recommended. To find out more go to <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/the-hill-house/planning-your-visit>

Books and All That. Firstly, thanks must go to Chris Sanders who generously gave to the Heritage Trust over £300 from the sales and royalties from his book "Helensburgh and Rhu Through Time". Secondly, we still have copies of "200 Years of Helensburgh" for sale at £15, and we may also be able to produce more copies of the DVD which recorded the memories of local people who were here during the Second World War. Please let me know if you wish to buy either of them.