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NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2020

New trustee. I am delighted to say that Chris Sanders was co-opted as a trustee last September, and that this was ratified at the AGM in October. As you already know, Chris has generously given to the Heritage Trust over £300 from the sales and royalties from his book "Helensburgh and Rhu Through Time".

An extra date for your diaries – the Scottish Submarine Centre. You are invited to come along for a special visit to the Submarine Centre at 7:30 PM on Wednesday 8th April.

In September 2018 Mark Stephen of the Out of Doors programme on BBC Radio Scotland visited the Submarine Centre and interviewed the founder of the Centre, Brian Keating. At the end of the interview, back at the BBC studios Mark said "I visit a lot of museums, I visit a lot of attractions. I have to say this is one of the cleverest, most impressive sites I think I have ever seen anywhere in Scotland - it's extraordinary!"



The cost of the visit is by donation and £5 per head is suggested. The Centre is located on West King Street, just round the corner from Sinclair Street.

... and just to remind you of the other dates that should be in your diaries! Here is the programme for our monthly meetings this winter:

Wed 29 January - Suzie Reid: National Trust work at The Hill House.

Wed 26 February - Three for the Price of One!

Chris Sanders: Unused photos from "Helensburgh and Rhu Through Time".

Donald Fullarton: An interesting person from the Burgh's Past.

Stewart Noble: An 1879 Railway and Steamer Timetable.

Wed 25 March - Tony Belk: Coastal Defences of the Upper Clyde.

As usual these meetings will be held in the Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre, East Clyde Street at 7:30 PM.

Helensburgh Memories – is a Facebook page which anyone with a Facebook account can join, and which does what it says! It is a place where people can share memories of life in the town, and of people who lived here. In addition members of the group can be good at answering queries from

other members. Helensburgh Memories was set up by Helensburgh Heritage Trust trustee Robert Ryan, who still moderates it. Well worth joining!



28 Sinclair Street. Until October 2018 this shop was occupied by Helensburgh Heroes, an organisation which is now basically defunct. The shop still belongs to Prof Michael Baker and, as you may have read in the local press, he has plans to bring it back to life, but in an altered form.

Prof Baker has set up a company called Helensburgh and Lomond Cultural Centre Limited, and he has also recently lodged a planning application with Argyll & Bute Council for a sign to go above the shop. The name which will appear on the sign is "Helensburgh Heritage".

For the avoidance of confusion, it should be stated that Helensburgh Heritage Trust are not involved in either the ownership or the management of this shop, although it is very probable that we will be asked from time to time to put on displays there. It is intended that the shop will be an outlet for local artists and will also function as a much-needed information centre, as well as continuing to celebrate some of Helensburgh's heroes, and I am sure that you will join the trustees of the Heritage Trust in wishing success to this venture.

War Memorial Families Project – an update.

Work is proceeding apace, but if you have an artefact related to the First World War, or if you have a relative named on the memorial, or if you know of someone who has, please let Fiona Baker know – she can be contacted by email at fiona@scottish-archaeology.com or by phone to 01436 820334.



Request from LiveArgyll Archives. These were formerly the Archives of Argyll & Bute Council and Jackie Davenport who runs the Archives has written to me saying "that it would be handy if someone from Helensburgh was happy to transcribe [the Helensburgh Committee minute books] for us. Is there anyone within Helensburgh Heritage Trust who might be interested?"

She goes on to say that the handwriting is not always easy to read, but "you do get your eye in

eventually!"

If you are interested in getting involved in this, could you please contact Jackie Davenport direct? She can be reached by email at jackie.davenport@liveargyll.co.uk or by phoning 01546 605522 and asking for her.

The Waverley and the Pier. The good news – and the not so good news! As you know, the paddle steamer Waverley did not sail last summer because its boilers were condemned. However the good news is that the sum of over £2 million which was required to replace the boilers has already been raised. Removal of the old boilers has started this month and it is estimated that the work will last 4 months, so the Waverley should be back in service this Summer.

And of course the not so good news is that the repairs which are required to make Helensburgh pier once again usable by the Waverley currently show little sign of materialising.

K13 memorial in Colquhoun Square. In the last few months the Submariners Association have been responsible for placing an artwork on one of the plinths in Colquhoun Square which make up the Outdoor Museum. The K13 was a submarine which sank in 1917 while undergoing trials off Shandon, and 32 men lost their lives. You can read more about it on the Heritage Trust website at <http://www.helensburgh-heritage.co.uk/index.php/heritage/military/569-k-13-submarine-disaster-part-one>



The new memorial is located in the south-east quadrant of the Square, alongside West Princes Street and not far from the cash machines of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Town Centre conservation area. In the last few months Helensburgh's third conservation area has been established. It is an irregularly shaped area covering much of the town centre between Maitland Street and James Street. The designation of the conservation area will assist Argyll & Bute Council in preserving or enhancing special architectural or historical features in the town centre. It is also hoped that the designation will give access to funding which previously was not available. Unfortunately the pier, although in the town centre, is not included in the conservation area.

The existing two conservation areas cover much of the older parts of upper Helensburgh to the north of Argyll Street, as well as the area surrounding the Hill House. If you wish to find out exactly where these conservation areas are, maps can be seen on the Argyll & Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/conservation-areas

Display in the Civic Centre. A wide range of very interesting artefacts to do with local Christian heritage is on display and will be there until March. Thereafter an exhibition on scouting will take its place.

Displays in the Library. The display about Henry Bell and the Comet is still at the entrance to the

Library (with some new material), 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.



HELENSBURGH
TREE CONSERVATION
TRUST

Helensburgh Tree Conservation Trust. In the last few months you may have been aware of new planting by the Tree Trust. It now has over 270 members, which includes the Heritage Trust. If you wish to become a member yourself or to report a problem with any of the street trees, have a look at their website which is www.treetrust.co.uk/information

Hermitage Park. The contractors have finished their work there, the pavilion has also been completed and a tenant has been found for it – and Cranberry, the old rocking horse which many will remember, has been restored and is now back in place! Sadly, for reasons of safety it appears that he will not be rocking in the future.



Needless to say there is always more to do and, if you wish to support the Friends of Hermitage Park, you can do so either online at www.justgiving.com/friendsofhermitagepark or by sending a cheque to the Treasurer of The Friends of Hermitage Park, 2 East Montrose Street, Helensburgh G84 8EP.

Persuade friends to join the Heritage Trust! Either bring them to one of our meetings – visitors are always welcome – or direct them to the application form on our website - http://www.helensburgh-heritage.co.uk/pdfs/HHT_application_to_join.pdf

Stewart Noble - Treasurer, Helensburgh Heritage Trust