



Comet Bicentenary Newsletter

May 2011

In December 2009 you were invited to attend a meeting in Glasgow Museum of Transport to discuss how the Bicentenary of Henry Bell's Comet in August 2012 might be celebrated. At this meeting a group of interested parties was then set up, and you will see below what we are proposing.

However, for these events to happen **we need MONEY** and we should be very grateful for any donations that you could send, or we should be delighted if you wished to sponsor any of the proposed events or our proposed website.

Events We Are Planning

Visit of small steam launches to Helensburgh — and perhaps further, depending on the weather!

Exhibitions — in a number of museums around the west of Scotland

Regattas and/or fun sailing events — both sides of Clyde

Talks — on Henry Bell — his life and his work, and on steamboats before and after Bell

Schools programme

Book launch

Working model of the Comet — unfortunately not steam powered!

Port Glasgow Annual Comet Festival — various activities

..... and perhaps more!

What's happening with the 1962 Comet replica?



You may have noticed that the working replica of the Comet which was built for the 150th anniversary in 1962 has been missing from its plinth beside the roundabout at the entrance to Tesco in Port Glasgow for nearly the last six months. During that period it has been in Fergusons shipyard undergoing restoration. However, although the appearance of the replica has been much improved, and although the renovation work should ensure its survival for many years to come, the restoration has not been carried out in a form that would make it seaworthy. Inverclyde Council, the owners of the replica, have decided that it will be best for the replica to remain on its plinth once the boat is returned there.

Would your area like to become involved in the events?

The programme of events so far is centred almost exclusively on the Inverclyde and Helensburgh areas. However the working group would like to see its activities being spread further. After all, the first scheduled services of the Comet were from Glasgow. Although the working group has had a representative from Glasgow Museums, their current focus is understandably on the opening of the new Riverside Museum. So, is anyone interested in trying to organise events in Glasgow or in the West Dunbartonshire area, including schools participation? Volunteers, please contact Stewart Noble — see details below.

Who is on the working group?

The membership of the working group fluctuates a little from time to time, but it has included representatives from the following organisations:

Argyll and Bute Council (including Provost William Petrie)

Inverclyde Council (including Provost Michael McCormick)

Helensburgh Heritage Trust (Registered Scottish charity No. SC024603)

Helensburgh Modellers Club

Caledonian MacBrayne

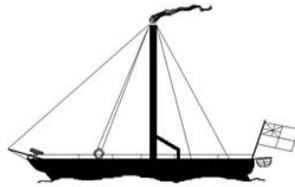
Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland (Registered Scottish charity No. SC011583)

Scottish Maritime Museum (Registered Scottish charity No. SC007133)

Please remember that we need money — both donations and sponsorship.

Who to contact

For all enquiries, including financial, or if you no longer wish to receive information about the Comet Bicentenary, please contact Stewart Noble (Chairman of Helensburgh Heritage Trust) either by e-mail to nobleg84@btinternet.com or by phone to 01436-675484.



Helensburgh Heritage Trust



The Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland



Inverclyde
council

