

Helensburgh Heritage Trust

Newsletter

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The Newsletter is edited and published by Kenneth N Crawford at 'Ardlamont' 3, Loch Drive Helensburgh G84 8PY. kn.crawford@ntlworld.com Contributions and suggestions are welcome

New Director. The Board of the Heritage Trust is pleased to announce the appointment of Miss Jean Hamill as a Director in succession to Joe Craig who has resigned on health grounds.



The Maclachlan Dynasty of Town Clerks

When the Trust received a donation of silverware which had been presented by the townspeople to mark George Maclachlan's 60 years of service as Town Clerk it was agreed that an early opportunity should be found to put it on display. Meanwhile, valuation, storage and insurance were a priority! It became apparent that it would be entirely proper to set up the display in December 2006 as that would be One Hundred Years since the presentation. It seemed a natural thing for me to volunteer as Exhibition Organiser, when the call came, as I had served the local government legal service (in England) for 43 years and it might be nice to pay tribute to an earlier generation, even though I knew nothing about the subject locally! Study of the Illuminated Address revealed that, although the Burgh Council had coordinated the presentation, it was 323 local residents who had contributed the funds. My experience was that it would be rare for the 'ratepayers' to mark the retirement of a paid official, though they might recognise an elected Member of the Council.

Just putting the items in a display case seemed inadequate, - the tale would have to be told.

The superb web-site of 'Scotlandspeople' very soon revealed George's origins in Paisley, and his setting up in business as a Solicitor in Helensburgh at the age of 26. Census records showed the growing family at various addresses, and I had the makings of a leaflet. Then Alistair MacIntyre came up with much information from the 1911 Obituary reports, and I was able to do a biography as a second leaflet.

What I had no idea of at the start was that the job of Town Clerk had been carried on from the Solicitors' Offices, and was effectively handed down from father to son through three generations! Truly a Dynasty. We were delighted when Mary Greenwell and Fiona Forrest let us know that they would attend the opening, as Councillor Petrie said "The event had brought together representatives of many of the older and well known Helensburgh families; Allen, Bryden, Kidston, and Maclachlan."

KNC



**STOP
PRESS!**

The Display will remain on view in the Library until the end of January 2007

FOOTBALL IN HELENSBURGH

BEFORE 1886

Although Helensburgh Football Club was only founded in 1886, football was being played in the town at least 10 years earlier. On 3rd October, 1874 a Helensburgh team played a friendly against Glasgow Rangers; Rangers won 1-0 despite using only ten players! A year later on 18th September another friendly was played against Rangers, this time in Glasgow, with the score being a 1-1 draw. This game is reported in the Dumbarton Herald of 23rd September, 1875. The same edition of the paper also reports the first ties for the Challenge Cup for which 40 clubs had entered. Helensburgh was drawn to play away against Star of Leven.

These teams were presumably all scratch teams, as the Helensburgh Football Club was only founded 11 years later. Some sources also state that a team by the name of Hermitage Former Boys played against Rangers. However Rangers have no trace of this in their records and I have been unable to find out anything about it.

The demise of Helensburgh Football Club in 1926 was largely due to the expense of travelling to away games throughout Scotland.

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RETROSPECTIVE - INTROSPECTIVE!

A welcome note of Christmas and general Greetings was recently received from our founder! Mrs Betty Humphrey was the instigator of all of the activity which lead to the holding of a Public Meeting in the Court Suite of Municipal Buildings on Thursday, 19th February 1996. Sponsored by the Helensburgh Community Council the meeting was very well attended and approved the proposal that the Trust be formed as a Company limited by guarantee and registered as a Scottish Charity. The first issue of this Newsletter was on the 4th June 1996, but it sadly recorded that Betty and husband John were moving to Tewkesbury to be near their family. However, as a life member she has kept her eye on our progress (or lack when thinking of a permanent heritage centre!). On her departure, the Rotary Club of Helensburgh awarded Betty their Annual Service to the Community Award.

The Trust has in the ten years recognised and recorded much heritage work by exhibitions and books published and, of course, the permanent Bicentenary Cross in Colquhoun Square. Restoration work has been instrumental in saving the Glen Fruin Battle memorial, the St Bride's windows and a Stained Glass Door Panel from the first hospital. Continuity has certainly been achieved for, of the ten first Directors and promoters, Dr Anne Gray has been elevated from Honorary Secretary to Vice-President, and only Mrs Cecelia Dunlop remains in office as Membership Secretary. New Directors have been available when required!

Incidentally, a new Membership Application Form has recently been produced for the current exhibition, and should be returned to her at 12, Edward Drive, Helensburgh G84 9QP

KNC

Monthly Meetings

Helensburgh Lawn Tennis Club, Suffolk Street

Wednesday 31st January Adjourned Annual Meeting at 7.00p.m. **followed by** "Making a Record of Rhu Parish Church and its contents" at 7.30 p.m.

Speaker:- John Johnston

Wednesday 28th February - 7.30 p.m.

Scottish Screen Archive

Speaker:- Allan Mackay

No doubt with illustrations of local interest

Wednesday 28th March - 7.30 p.m.

Wildlife of Helensburgh and District

Speaker:- John Simpson

April

Exhibition - Gregor Ian Smith - a retrospective exhibition of his Art works and talent at Helensburgh Library