



decide to get a closer look at its inscription  
 'BORN LINLITHGOW 1766  
 DIED HELENSBURGH 1830'  
 please be very careful crossing the busy main seafront road.

This would be especially necessary if you were to visit 'The Henry Bell' - a pub restaurant opened in May 2012 by J. D. Wetherspoon! [7]

Helensburgh Library is on West King Street. This is two streets inland from the sea and near to the corner of John Street. Using great care again, walk along the shops and up John Street and you will come to the glass fronted library.[8] Inside, on the wall of the balcony is mounted a 'half-ship' model of Comet which was commissioned by Norman Glen in 2002, sadly Norman died before it was finished, but his family presented it for display. Nearby is the Heritage Room which contains a



changing exhibition of Helensburgh's past and will certainly have something more about Henry Bell, probably including a life size bust from 1824.

The final visit is to the village of Rhu two miles along the shore of The Gareloch.

Its prominent church and churchyard face Rhu Bay. Henry Bell's grave is here, and there is a large monument with himself seated on a plinth. [9]

In the same churchyard is buried Captain Robert Bain who commanded the first and second Comets for 16 years, according to the Iron Memorial placed by Henry Bell in 1829.



We hope that you have enjoyed this leaflet, and have a continuing interest in this area.

**Helensburgh Heritage Trust**

has established a centre in the town, within Helensburgh Library in West King Street where a local history exhibition and collection may be viewed.

We invite you to become a member, to receive our Newsletter and attend our regular meetings on subjects of local interest.

Contact the Chairman at  
 28, East Abercromby Street  
 Helensburgh G84 7SQ  
 or e-mail  
 dsf@btinternet.com

or see our web sites

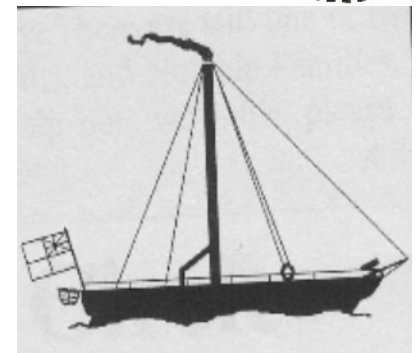
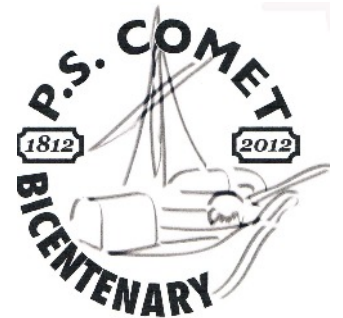
[www.helensburgh-heritage.co.uk](http://www.helensburgh-heritage.co.uk)

[www.comet-2012.co.uk](http://www.comet-2012.co.uk)

Stewart Noble  
 Chairman

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# Henry Bell Trail Helensburgh



## Helensburgh Heritage Trust

A Company Limited by Guarantee No. 162677

Scottish Charity No. SC 024603

Enter the town on the main road A814 from Cardross. Go under the West Highland line railway bridge and over the electric railway line to Helensburgh. There are then a number of splendid houses on the left, and a few more modern houses. Beyond an Apartment Block is the car park and courtyard of the Queen's Court apartments. The central building here was originally the Baths Inn, built by Henry Bell in 1807, subsequently it was run by Mrs Bell for another 50 years and then later changed its name to the Queens Hotel, much loved in Helensburgh. After the hotel closed the extensions were built on each side and round the corner,



and the interior of the hotel and extensions were turned into private luxury apartments. The front is

original. however, with its castellated roofline and "Queen's Hotel" name high up on the wall, under the castellations. [1]

Two street lamps outside the front door, are original Provost Lamps placed there by the

local authority and which indicate that Henry Bell was the first provost of Helensburgh and lived in the Baths Inn and the other refers to Norman McLeod Glen, who was the last Provost 1970-75 and had an apartment in Queen's Court overlooking the Firth of Clyde.

Moving on, along East Clyde Street, very soon a view



of the Clyde opens out at the East Bay Esplanade and in the middle is the original fly wheel from Comet and also an anvil donated to mark its centenary in 1912 to the Town Council by the Grandchildren of Bell's

blacksmith Daniel McMurrich .[2] Resuming, walk along East Clyde Street, the town centre traffic lights are the next stopping point, on your left within the tower of the Old Parish Church is the Tourist Information Centre.[3] Looking ahead, one can already see, in the distance, the very large granite memorial to Henry Bell erected in 1872. [4] Now, it would be an idea to leave the seafront, crossing the road by the traffic



lights and heading up Sinclair Street, a main shopping area, to the next lights and crossing again, because, immediately on your right are the Municipal Buildings, and over the front door is an excellent bust of Henry Bell himself, obviously intended to keep a watchful eye on successor Councillors! [5]

Next, cross at the lights but go along West Princes Street to Colquhoun Square. Facing you are two Celtic Crosses; the far one marking the 1902 centenary of Helensburgh Burgh Council's charter and the near one, on your right, marking its bicentenary in 2002. Round the rear of this, you will find a complete list of all of the provosts of Helensburgh, starting with Henry Bell and finishing with Norman Glen. [6] Before continuing further look up at custom made street lamps bearing replicas of 'Comet.' Then go along West Princes Street to James Street and look south to the Firth of Clyde, again the granite obelisk is prominent,[4] If you

