
Report To: Regeneration Committee **Date:** 11th March 2010

Report By: Corporate Director **Report No:** R/LAM09/06/SJ/SM
Regeneration and Resources

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Regeneration

Subject: Scotts 300th Anniversary

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to raise awareness of the 300th anniversary of Scotts Shipbuilding and Engineering Company in 2011 and to ask Inverclyde Council for support in celebrating this milestone.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 2011 will mark the 300th anniversary of Scotts Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, which was established in 1711 by John Scott, in a yard at the West Burn. At one point it had the distinction of being the being the oldest family firm to have been continuously in business anywhere in the world.
- 2.2 A number of senior managers from Scotts have formed a group called the Friends of Scotts and have approached the Council to support a visit to the Clydeport terminal by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel the "Fort Rosalie" from 29th-30th January 2011. A grant application has been submitted by this group to the Grants to Voluntary Organisations to allow them to produce a commemorative calendar depicting Scotts history in pictorial form. This would be available from September 2010 to promote the visit of the Fort Rosalie.
- 2.3 A meeting was also held in the Watt Hall with interested parties on 20th January 2010 to explore how best to co-ordinate any anniversary celebrations. It was agreed that Museum staff will produce panels for display on board the Fort Rosalie and that these panels are then used as part of a bigger exhibition to be held in the Watt Hall through June and July 2011.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Committee agrees to support the activities planned during 2011 to mark Scotts' 300th Anniversary.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The firm of Scotts has a long and unique association with Greenock. Established in 1711 at the West Burn by John Scott, the family had a record of two and a half centuries connection with shipbuilding. Starting with herring buses and small craft, the firm played an important part over the centuries in the history of marine construction, and built clippers, merchant steamships, all types of warships including submarines and vessels for the oil industry. The Scott Group amalgamated with Lithgows in 1970 and in 1977 became part of British Shipbuilders. In 1984, as part of the Government's privatisation plan, Scott Lithgow Ltd was sold to Trafalgar House plc, to become a non-trading branch of that company's off-shore engineering division. The Port Glasgow yard was placed on a care and maintenance basis in 1986/7 and in 1993 Scott Lithgow ceased to trade. It also had the distinction of being the oldest family firm to have been continuously in business anywhere in the world.
- 4.2 A number of senior managers from Scotts have formed a group called the Friends of Scotts and have been exploring the possibility of organising an "open" visit for the public on one of the ships built by Scotts. They have secured agreement from the MOD(N) and Clydeport that the Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel the Fort Rosalie (formerly Fort Grange) will dock at Greenock Ocean Terminal on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th January 2011. This vessel has been in service for 32 years since April 1978 and is expected to remain in service until 2020. Along with its sister ship, the Fort Austin, these are commonly regarded as two of the finest ships ever built by Scotts.
- 4.3 The Friends of Scotts have identified the following benefits of such a visit:
- a live shipbuilding heritage story of Scotts is hosted locally
 - the MOD(N) has an opportunity to show their recognition and appreciation to Scotts for its contribution to the Royal Navy over nearly 300 years
- 4.4 A grant application has also been submitted by this group to the Grants to Voluntary Organisations to allow them to produce a commemorative calendar depicting Scotts history in pictorial form. This would be available from September 2010 to tie in with the visit of the Fort Rosalie. It was agreed to link the visit of the Fort Rosalie with the 2011 Anniversary Exhibition by creating panels, prepared by staff at the McLean Museum, giving historical detail about Scotts : these panels will initially be displayed on board the Fort Rosalie during her visit to Clydeport and then incorporated into the 2011 Anniversary Exhibition in the Watt Hall. It is also proposed that Inverclyde Council's Events Team assist with the event management within their existing budget in connection with the Fort Rosalie's visit. This is likely to include identifying sites for catering and stalls and working with Inverclyde Tourist Group to support the visit.
- 4.5 A meeting was held on 20th January 2010 in the McLean Museum for all parties interested in contributing to the 300th anniversary celebrations. This included representatives from Inverclyde Council, the Friends of Scotts, and the Scott Family. It was agreed to apply a co-ordinated approach and bring together film footage, photographs, artefacts, models and information relating to Scotts in one exhibition – including a database of all ships built by Scotts.
- 4.6 The exhibition will be staged in the Watt Hall during June and July 2011 – and will run over the Tall Ships weekend on 9th – 12th July. The costs of funding the exhibition will be built into the McLean Museum's existing Exhibitions Programme for 2010 and publicity for the event will be added to the Tall Ships programme.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no implications for Finance, Legal or Personnel Services.
- 5.2 Equalities: Equality and diversity processes and procedures have been embedded in service planning and key officers have received training as Equality Champions.