

## A Brief Guide to the New Lanark Visitor Centre Exhibitions

Within the conservation village of New Lanark, there are several different buildings where visitor facilities and exhibitions are open to the public. Our Passport Ticket gives you access to five different areas:

- The main Visitor Centre (including the New Millennium Experience and Textile Machinery)
- Millworkers House exhibitions of past living conditions in New Lanark
- The Village Store exhibition
- Robert Owen's House
- Robert Owen's School for Children (including various exhibitions and attractions)

If you are *not* having a guided visit, you can visit the exhibitions in any order you like. Keep your ticket if you do not have time to see everything - it is still valid on a return visit for any area you have not previously visited.

### The Main Visitor Centre

This is housed in three of the village's historic buildings: The Institute for the Formation of Character, the adjoining Engine House and Mill Three, which houses the ride and the textile machinery. Visitors enter the visitor centre at the Institute, greeted by life-size models of millworkers. The Institute was opened by Robert Owen as a centre for education and recreation and housed the world's first infant school. On the ground floor you'll find the Reception / Information desk, and toilet facilities, including Disabled Persons and a baby-changing unit.

### The Engine House and Gallery Room

From the Reception Foyer, the ramped walkway allows easy access for wheelchairs and baby-buggies through the rest of the centre. You pass by a water feature into the adjoining Victorian Engine House, where a Petrie steam-engine has been restored to working order. From here, visitors pass into the Gallery room, where several commemorative banners are displayed and an introductory video (about 8 minutes) may be viewed. If the Gallery Room is closed for a special function, the video can be viewed in the reception foyer.

### The New Millennium Experience

Enhanced by special effects and innovative audio-visual technology, the new ride is both entertaining and educational, informing and inspiring all those who visit. Your guide will be a young girl named Harmony. Her voyage through time starts with the present day visitors to New Lanark village. Together they travel back in time to discover what life was like in New Lanark in the 1820s. Disobeying the rules of travel she tells us a little about the world of the future, and also encourages us to consider some of Robert Owen's ideas to make a better future, which he pioneered at New Lanark. Commentary **available in French, German, Spanish, Italian & Japanese**. An induction loop is also available.

### Picking up the Threads

Level Four houses a massive working 19th century spinning mule, and other textile machinery; you can watch yarn being spun, twisted and wound into hanks. Here too you will find information about Robert Owen's Quest for universal harmony and social reform. There's even the chance to play "peevers", popular with both children and grannies!

### The Mill Pantry and Gift Shop

Refreshments are available all day in our Mill Pantry, located on Level 3, while the New Lanark Gift Shop is located on Level 2 (the ground floor of the mill as you approach from the village square). Both these areas are accessible to visitors at any time from 10am-5pm, whether or not you have a Passport Ticket. There are toilets, including a disabled/baby-changing facility on Level 3, next to the Mill Pantry.

### Robert Owen's School For Children

**Annie McLeod's Story**- Enter the spirit world of New Lanark in our state-of-the-art theatre where you can hear Annie's Story. Taking advantage of innovative audio-visual technology, Annie's "ghost" will appear on stage, as a life-sized figure, to tell her story of early 19th century life in New Lanark. The programme lasts 15 minutes and is available in French, German, Spanish, Italian & Japanese. An induction loop is also available.

**Historic Classroom** - a reconstruction of a New Lanark classroom of the 1820s, based on the illustrative and extensive documentary evidence about Owen's innovative system of education. Striking features of the classroom are the original Musician's Gallery, and the painted wall canvases which were used as visual teaching aids. Visitors can listen to James Buchanan, one of the school's teachers, as he talks about schooldays at New Lanark. Children will enjoy trying on the replica cotton tunic uniforms, and writing on slates.

**Saving New Lanark**- an exhibition chronicling the conservation of New Lanark, with large projected "before and after" images of individual buildings. Using the "Saving New Lanark" touchscreen programme, visitors can access information and photographic records of the conservation and restoration work that has taken place over the past 25 years. Why not try the touchscreen jigsaw game and help bring New Lanark back to life!

*21<sup>st</sup> C Library* – A database of digitally-stored information which can be accessed from a computer in the School for Children by prior arrangement with our Education Officer.

Documents include:

- Selected extracts from New Lanark's Conservation Plan
- Architects drawings of buildings at New Lanark
- Transcript of Work's Manager's Report Book c.1880-1904

**Interactive Gallery**- A unique experience of light, sound and colour. Special areas within the room include colourful wigwams where you can feel the emotional effect of colour, and hear gentle birdsong as you walk inside, a series of metal sails which sound when touched, and a ripple wall which reflects coloured light to the sound of running water. As they move around the room, visitors influence the sequences of visual and aural 'display' and therefore change the atmosphere of the room. General visitors and groups can enter the Interactive Gallery with their Passport Ticket-provided they are willing to take their shoes off! School groups can visit the Gallery with a tour guide, and should discuss their requirements with the Education Officer.

**For wheelchair access to the School for Children please see "Info. for visitors with mobility problems"**

### **The Millworkers' House**

At No 1 New Buildings, below the bell tower, you can go into a New Lanark tenement and see what living conditions were like in the past. We have re-created two homes, one in the 1820s with set in beds, and one in the 1930s, complete with "stairheid cludgie", a reconstructed Victorian wash-house, and displays about the village restoration, can also be viewed. Around 180 people now live in these beautifully-restored Georgian tenements. (NB. For wheelchair access to the Millworkers House, please ask the member of staff on duty to direct you to the alternative entrance).

### **The Village Store**

In the far corner of the Village Square, you will find the Village Store, which Robert Owen established as part of his plan to improve the standard of living for his workers. Entrance is via the 1920s style Village Store, where visitors can purchase traditional goods and gifts - soor plooms, rhubarb rock and delicious preserves to name but a few. In the exhibition next door, you can see the range of goods which were available to the millworkers in Owen's day, and learn how this became the inspiration for the internationally famous Co-operative movement. (The 1920s Village Store is accessible to visitors every day from 11-5, whether or not you have a passport ticket).

### **Robert Owen's House**

Overlooking the gardens in the centre of the village is Robert Owen's House. Having married Caroline Dale, whose father David Dale founded the village, Owen set up home in New Lanark, before moving to Braxfield House on the edge of the village, in 1808. The refurbished rooms give an impression of the Mill-owner's life with his family- study, sitting-room, nursery and kitchen in the basement. We also answer the question - What did Robert Owen do after he left New Lanark in 1825? Read about Robert Owen's endeavours to establish a Utopian community in the New World, in the New Harmony room. We regret that only the ground floor of this Grade A listed building is accessible to wheelchairs. Please ask the receptionist for assistance.

*All of the above- mentioned areas are included in your passport ticket*

### **The New Lanark Power Trail**

You can follow the New Lanark power trail by purchasing the booklet of that name for £1.45 from the gift shop, Village Store, Millworkers' House or School for Children. It will help you trace the fascinating story of the development of power from waterwheels to hydro-electricity. A short video presentation can be seen outside the Mill Three turbine-house on the lower mill walkway.

### **The Falls of Clyde Wildlife Centre**

This is run by the Scottish Wildlife Trust (telephone 01555 665262) and is located in the old mill Dyeworks. For more information on guided tours for schools within the beautiful Falls of Clyde Wildlife Reserve, contact New Lanark Conservation Trust on 01555 661345.