

## **NEW CHAIR FOR NEW LANARK TRUST**

Over the summer, the New Lanark trustees have been busy recruiting to vacancies on the board, including that of chair which fell vacant on the resignation of Willie Macleod who has presided for the last 4 years over considerable change in the village and the organisation of the Trust which owns and runs it. Willie's experience of the tourism industry and of hospitality in particular has proved invaluable in leading the Trust through some challenging times.

He has been replaced by Bill Howat, new to the Trust but a long-standing follower of the fortunes of New Lanark both professionally and personally. After a career spanning nearly 50 years and covering academia, the civil service, local government, consultancy, and voluntary work, Bill now describes himself as a 'Lad o' Pairs'!

He retired in 2005 as Chief Executive of Comhairle nan Eilan Siar (Western Isles Council) and led the review of the (then) Scottish Executive's budgets published in 2007. Having served as adviser to government offices and to the Scottish Parliament and provided consultancy services to several local authorities and private sector firms, he comes to New Lanark with connections which will assist its partnership with public authorities at the highest level to maintain and manage the World Heritage Site. He has also chaired charitable organisations engaged in promoting volunteering and supported employment, close to the ethos of Robert Owen's model industrial village.

Bill will oversee the forthcoming organisational review of the Trust which will include the role of the Friends of New Lanark which he hopes will revive in a form suited to supporting the growing number of volunteers at the site as well as our worldwide membership of enthusiasts for the values of Owenism and modern conservation led regeneration.