

Friends FOCUS



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The Newsletter of
Friends of New Lanark
Spring 2012



NEW SEARCH ROOM

You've seen the buildings, you've walked the landscape and you've experienced Annie McLeod - soon you will have the opportunity to delve into the history of New Lanark through the photographs, documents and objects that help to tell its stories. Jane Masters, Heritage Manager, explains about the Trust's new project to open up its collections to the public.

During the course of the restoration of New Lanark Village, from 1974 to the present day, New Lanark Trust has acquired and amassed an extensive collection of fascinating photographs, maps, drawings, documents, artefacts and books that document the history of the site and the surrounding area. To help make this collection more readily available to the public and to ensure its preservation for future generations, New Lanark Trust is developing a public search room to house the physical collection material and an online collections database to provide remote access to the collections.

One of the major phases of the project, and the first to begin, will be the complete cataloguing of the collection to UK Museum Collections Management standards. This process is fundamental to the development of both the search room and the online database but will also be the most in-depth and time consuming aspect of the project. For this reason it was decided that the cataloguing work provides New Lanark Trust with the perfect opportunity to develop its capacity in working with students and local volunteers.

Volunteer positions for the project were advertised through Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire (VASLan) and six local volunteers have now been selected to assist with the project. These volunteers, who are scheduled to start in mid April, will bring a wealth of expertise, knowledge and enthusiasm to the project and we hope it will be a rewarding project for them all. The Trust is also working with Dr Ian Anderson, Director of Museum Studies at The University of Glasgow to offer work placement opportunities for students on the Museum Studies and Information Management & Preservation courses. Students taking up the placements will work alongside the volunteers gaining valuable experience in researching, cataloguing and correctly storing New Lanark's archive material & collections.

Also involved in the development of the project will be a student intern from the University of Southern Indiana (USI). The internship is being sponsored by USI as a way of helping to strengthen the relationship between New Lanark and Historic New Lanark, which is a unified programme of USI. The internship was advertised by USI as part of their Global Engagement Programme and we were delighted to hear that 17 applications were received. Following Skype interviews with the top 4 applicants, the panel from USI and New Lanark selected Catherine Carver as the successful candidate. Catherine is a History student who would like to work in archaeology and museum interpretation and she will be based at New Lanark during May and June. For the first two weeks of the trip Catherine will be accompanied by her Faculty Mentor, Kristalyn Shefeland PhD, Assistant Professor of History. We look forward to welcoming Catherine and Kristalyn and hope they will enjoy their stay at New Lanark.

As part of the project the Trust will be working closely with Susanna Hillhouse, an independent Museum Consultant, to develop a Collections Management Policy for the site to ensure that the collection is catalogued and managed in a way that



Just two of the thousands of archive photographs that will be available

is sustainable for the future. Susanna will also be providing staff, volunteers and students with training in cataloguing and collections management and handling, helping to raise the profile of New Lanark as a skills provider as well as a research institution.

On completion of the cataloguing, the collection will be made available to the public in the search room and also via the online collections database. The Search Room, which will be free to use, will be located in Mill 3 and will include archive storage facilities, study areas and Wi-Fi access. The database will form part of the New Lanark Website and will be fully searchable and also free to use. It will provide the public with digital images of items in the collection, information on the item and links to material relating to New Lanark that is held in other cultural institutions including Lanark Museum, Lanark Library, Glasgow University Business Archives, Historic New Lanark, the Robert Owen Museum and the Co-operative College, strengthening the Trust's relationships with these organisations and making it a 'hub' for information.

One of the key aspects of the project will be marketing the new services provided by the search room and database to the public. To help promote these, a 'New Lanark Search Room' leaflet will be produced. This will provide users with an introduction to the search room and the type of collection material held at New Lanark as well as guidelines for visitors carrying out research on how to find, use and handle items. We also hope to hold a public launch event for the project- stay tuned and spread the word!

Following its launch, the search room will be used to house any new collection material produced or acquired by New Lanark and both the physical space and online database will provide a sustainable and long term repository for information on the site and wider local area. We hope both of these features will stimulate public interest in New Lanark, encourage the use of the archive collection by a wide range of people and prove an invaluable addition to the World Heritage Site.

Want to know more?

If you would like to find out more, or would like to support the project, please contact Jane Masters, Heritage Manager on 01555 661345 / jane.masters@newlanark.org.

The project is being generously supported by South Lanarkshire LEADER's Rural Community Heritage Fund and Border Biscuits Community Support.

ROBERT OWEN MEMORIAL LECTURE

This year's Robert Owen Memorial Lecture will be given by Iain Macdonald on the subject of "Co-operative enterprises build a better world". The lecture takes place on Friday 18 May at 7.30pm, to reserve your place contact the Trust office on 01555 661345 or trust@newlanark.org

Many people have written much of Robert Owen – countless books and articles are testament to that. He has variously been described as a scholar, entrepreneur, social reformer, economist and trade unionist! But for some he was the original co-operator. He is acknowledged by most as one of the founders of the British co-operative movement.

It is therefore most appropriate that in this UN Year of Co-operatives, we celebrate his unique contribution to social and economic life which continues to this day – possibly now more than ever. The International Year strapline bears witness to that.

At long last there is a growing realisation that co-operative enterprise could be one of the main solutions to the current economic crisis. Just compare the ability of co-operatives to survive the crisis as opposed to their investor-owned capitalist counterparts.

Why are we prepared to go to war to defend democracy but not expect it to operate in the business sector? We wouldn't dream of allowing our politicians to behave in the uncontrolled, irresponsible and selfish manner of senior bankers – would we?! We demand a say in the running of the judiciary, the police and education systems but not in business!

With millions of co-operative businesses, owned by one billion members and providing 100 million jobs throughout the world, it is time for the proven success of co-operatives, their unique values and principles, and the legacy of Robert Owen to be properly recognised.

Iain Macdonald was Director General of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) in Geneva from 2002 to 2010. He was directly involved in persuading the United Nations to declare 2012 as the International Year of Co-operatives. He is a member of the New Lanark Board of Trustees, a GlobalScot and a member of the advisory board of Co-operatives Development Scotland. In 2005 he was President of the UK Co-operative Congress. He is currently acting as consultant to the third global co-operative trade fair, ICAEXPO, taking place in Manchester in October.

The ICA is an independent, non-governmental association which unites, represents and serves co-operatives worldwide. Founded in 1895, the ICA has 267 member organisations from 96 countries active in all sectors of the economy.

NEWS FROM THE TRUST

New Lanark flies the flag for British Yarn

With so much celebration of everything British in 2012, from the Queen's Diamond Jubilee to the Olympics, New Lanark Mills is delighted to be flying the flag for British wool. New Lanark has been awarded membership of the Association of the British Wool Licensees. The British Wool Marketing Board (BWMB) provides accreditation to wool spinners and manufacturers who produce products which meet the its exacting requirements. The BWMB also works alongside the textile industry to raise the profile of British wool.

Alan Barrowclough, Textile Consultant at New Lanark Mills commented:

"Textiles and spinning are important aspects of New Lanark's history. It's a small and dedicated team that work in the yarn department and we're all delighted to be working in partnership with the British Wool Marketing Board to promote a superb British product."

New Lanark now produces yarn to standard UK weights in Aran, Double Knitting, and Chunky, which are ideal for hand knitting. The yarn is available in over 45 colours, so there's plenty of choice, plus it's available to buy online from www.newlanarkshop.co.uk or from New Lanark Gift Shop.

Gift Vouchers - New Lanark Mill Hotel

New Lanark Mill Hotel has introduced a wide selection of Gift Vouchers, which are ideal for the many occasions that we each celebrate throughout the year. The Gift Voucher options include Afternoon Tea, Wine and Dine for 2, a selection of overnight packages and for those who want to unwind a Pamper Taster Day at New Lanark Health & Fitness Club. If you're undecided about which gift to purchase then there is also the opportunity to buy a voucher for a value of your choice. It's really easy and simple to purchase your Gift Voucher online from www.newlanarkmillhotel.co.uk. You can then print them instantly to post or include with a card, or email them straight to your chosen recipient. If you prefer you can select for the hotel to print the voucher and send it to the recipient in a gift card.

EVENTS AT NEW LANARK

CD & RECORD FAIR

Sunday 29th April, 11am - 5pm

The CD & Record Fair is the ideal opportunity to browse through a wide selection of music and add to your collection. Free entry to the Fair.

HOLIDAY MONDAY FOOD & GIFT FAIR

Monday 7th May, 11am - 5pm

With over 50 stalls, indoors and outdoors, our Food and Gift Fair offers an ideal opportunity to get food, drink, gifts and crafts. Fill up your cupboards with fresh farm produce and indulge yourself with everything from handmade luxury chocolates to jewellery. You'll also have the chance to enjoy some Arbroath Smokies. Entry to the Fair is free!

THE ROBERT OWEN COMMEMORATION LECTURE

Friday 18th May, 7.30pm (doors open from 7pm)

The Friends of New Lanark - in association with the Open University - are delighted to announce that the Robert Owen Commemoration Lecture for 2012 will be delivered by Iain Macdonald, Former Director General of The International Co-operative Alliance. Admission is £3 per person.

FATHER'S DAY FUN!

Sunday 17th June, 12 - 4pm

Free entry to New Lanark Visitor Centre for dads with every full paying child! Kids' craft and colouring activities will be available in the Visitor Centre.

MIDSUMMER ON THE ROOF GARDEN

Sunday 17th June, 5pm - 8pm

Join us for this special evening event on Scotland's largest roof garden and enjoy seeing the garden in full bloom. There will be live musical entertainment, talks by the Scottish Wildlife Trust and solar-gazing. Admission is only £5 per adult (£2.50 per child) and includes a glass of wine / soft drink.

CD & RECORD FAIR

Sunday 8 July 2012, 11am to 5pm

The CD & Record Fair is the ideal opportunity to browse through a wide selection of music and add to your collection. Free entry to the Fair

CLYDE STRIDE ULTRA MARATHON

Saturday 21st July 2012

The Clyde Stride 40 Mile Ultra Marathon follows the course of The Clyde Walkway along the River Clyde from Glasgow through Hamilton, Strathclyde Park, Lanark and New Lanark. The finishing line is in New Lanark World Heritage Site (adjacent to the entrance to SWT Falls of Clyde Wildlife Reserve). The race starts in Partick, Glasgow at 9am with the runners expected to be crossing the finishing line in New Lanark from around 1.30pm onwards. Come and welcome them across the finishing line

VICTORIAN FAIR

Sunday 2nd September, 12-5pm

This huge annual Street Fair offers a wide variety live entertainment including music, singing, dancing, Birds of Prey display, juggling, face-painting, a wide range of craft and gift stalls and much, much more! A fantastic family day out and great value too – only £5 per car parking fee with funds raised going to support local charity!

AT THE MILL HOTEL

MICHAEL BUBLÉ TRIBUTE NIGHT

Friday 11th May 2012

Fans of Michael Bublé will thoroughly enjoy the entertainment provided by our tribute act, plus a superb 3-course dinner.

Price per person £29.00. Package price per person £69.00

Murder Mystery Dinner

Friday 19th October 2012

Enjoy a 3-course dinner whilst solving the crime, which dramatically unfolds before your eyes. This is an ideal event for groups of family, friends or colleagues to enjoy a fun evening together.

Price per person £32.00. Package price per person £65.00

For more details contact the Hotel on 01555 667200

ROBERT OWEN MUSEUM AT NEWTOWN

The Friends recently donated £200 to The Robert Owen Memorial Museum in Newtown, Wales for the restoration of a historic print of Owen in its collection that is in dire need of some TLC. The following letter was received from Pat Brandwood, the Museum's Curator

Dear Ian,

I just wanted to send a thank you for the generous gift which the Friends of New Lanark have made to the Robert Owen Museum in Newtown.

As you know, we had a major, professional review of pictures and papers last summer. And though the collection got a good bill of health there were -inevitably in such an old collection- a few items that need some investment.

One of those was our distinctive image of Owen in his 50s, possibly by Comerford, and your gift will be used to restore that and conserve it for the future. The conservator's report says this:

"There has been repair work before but not of a high standard....the proposed treatment is to ...fit new and less visually intrusive repairs ...clean and [stabilise] the lithograph in an acid free housing"

I think there will be a real visual benefit from this work and I will ensure that it is credited to the Friends of New Lanark in our display.

Finally, let me say that, as valuable as the gift is, the continued moral and intellectual support from New Lanark is priceless. Although the world heritage site is far removed from our small Museum, it is a real boost to know that we are united in our appreciation of the historic value of Owen's vision of social responsibility.

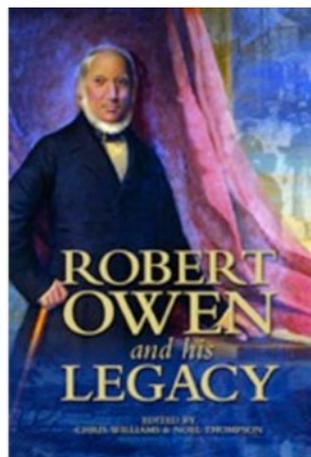
Your sincerely,

Pat Brandwood
Curator



FRIENDS AGM AND BOOK LAUNCH

Don't forget the AGM on Sunday 24 June, starting at 2.30pm. Following the formal proceedings we are hosting the launch of 'Robert Owen and His Legacy' a volume of 12 essays from leading scholars and younger researchers on various aspects of the life, work and legacy of Robert Owen



Editors Noel Thompson and Chris Williams are travelling from Wales for the event and two other contributors, Bob Davis, and Frank O'Hagan will be there from Glasgow, so this is an ideal opportunity to get a signed copy of the book.

Noel Thompson is Professor of History and Pro Vice-Chancellor at Swansea University. Chris Williams is Professor of Welsh History and Director of the Research Institute for Arts and Humanities at Swansea University.

More details will be sent with the AGM papers

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

1812, as I pointed out in a recent article in *History Today* (Feb. 2012), was a highly significant year in the history of New Lanark, since it saw the start of Robert Owen's campaign of promoting the community as a model for social and economic regeneration. David Dale's legacy was considerable, of course, so Owen could build on the established celebrity of the place for its humane treatment of its workers. To this Owen added his ideas about workplace, community reforms and education – and so began the essays on *A New View of Society* which were to make New Lanark world famous.

So it's appropriate that earlier this year FNL helped the Robert Owen Memorial Museum in Newtown with the conservation and display of a fine Owen portrait that needed some TLC. It's after John Comerford (c1770-1832) and seems to date from around the 1820s. You can read more elsewhere in this newsletter.

Another significant development we are helping is the creation at New Lanark itself of a public search facility, both physical and on-line, making available a substantial archive of material relating to the history and restoration of the community to World Heritage status. The village and its families over many generations will likely feature, since there is an extensive record both at New Lanark and elsewhere that can be tapped into. This is a move of considerable importance which will not only provide a valuable facility attracting visitors, but also linked to other Owen-related resources globally.

Certainly the links to New Harmony are being sustained by American guests from the University of Southern Indiana, now planning with New Lanark staff and others, for US student residence and internships. I believe this is an important initiative and once established could become a valuable platform for other courses in heritage and heritage management based at New Lanark.

As I write we are looking forward to our Owen Commemorative Lecture, appropriately dealing with co-operative enterprise, and presented by Iain Macdonald, a distinguished international co-operator (and now a NL trustee), details to be found elsewhere. We also anticipate our AGM (24 June) and an associated Book Event to celebrate the publication of *Robert Owen and his Legacy* edited by Noel Thompson and Chris Williams, both of whom we hope to welcome in June. Friends and all other readers are warmly invited to all three events.

My grateful thanks once more to the committee members and trust staff who work so hard for the Friends.

In community

Ian

FAREWELL...

Peter Whyman 20.8.1920 – 7.1.2012

Friends, villagers and New Lanark staff were saddened by the sudden death of Peter Whyman just days into the New Year. Peter was the oldest village resident, at 91, and was always an active member of the Friends – indeed he was instrumental in the formation of the Friends as Chairman of the original steering group. Peter lived in New Lanark for more than thirty years and he will be greatly missed. This obituary was written by Peter's family and is followed by a few personal recollections from his daughter, Alison.

The youngest of five children, Peter was born in Cheshire, and studied architecture at the Manchester School of Art. At the outbreak of World War II, he and a group of friends volunteered, realising that they would soon be conscripted. They took a course in morse code and Peter hoped to join the Navy, but his colour blindness ruled this out. Peter joined the Royal Corps of signals, was recruited by MI6 and worked undercover as a wireless operator, in Turkey, Cairo, and Ethiopia. He had a small suitcase radio set, a very advanced piece of technology for the time, with which he was able to communicate directly with Bletchley Park. He was a man of his word, and having signed the official secrets act, he waited for fifty years before writing a vivid account of his war time experiences for his children and grandchildren.

On his return from the war, Peter completed his studies, and then went on to teach architecture at the Manchester School of Art. In 1951 he married Margaret, and they had three children – Alison, Hannah and Mark. In 1967 Peter took up a research post at Strathclyde University, joining a group researching into the design of comprehensive schools and later went on to become Reader in architecture. He enjoyed teaching and often came up with imaginative ideas - such as starting a lecture on acoustics wearing his son's toy space helmet! He also took students on trips within the UK, and to France, Scandinavia, Poland, and Czechoslovakia.

Although Peter was not gregarious, he and Margaret had many deep, lifelong friendships, which sustained them through the years. Peter had many interests. He loved sailing, and once he could no longer haul a dinghy up the beach, owned a Folke

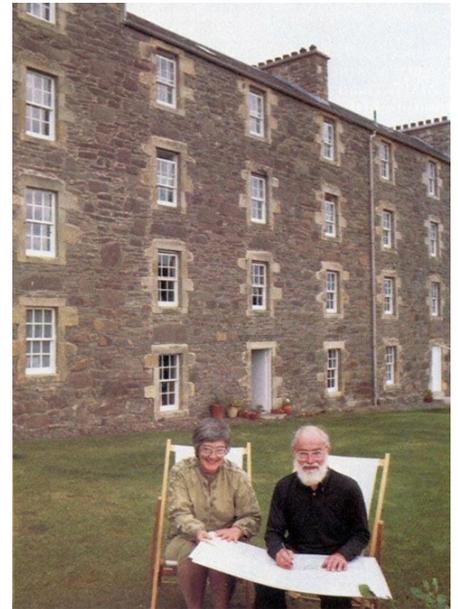
boat which he cruised around the west coast of Scotland. He particularly enjoyed early music, and opera and for many years he and Margaret had season tickets for Scottish Opera and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

Peter was interested in historic buildings and their preservation and spent much time recording and surveying buildings for Historic Scotland. He and Margaret, also an architect, moved to New Lanark just before he retired. They bought their house as a shell and lived in Caithness Row for a year while renovating the house. Peter enjoyed practical tasks and did much of the work himself, relishing the chance to implement his designs to the last detail. Peter and Margaret were both interested in the modernist movement and Scandinavian design, and this was evident in their house. Through sheer hard work they cleared the steep slope opposite the house of scrub and perennial weeds and created a beautiful terraced garden. Influenced by Hamilton Findlay, Peter introduced some sculptural elements such as his Column of figures. He had a dry wit and this was evident in a sculpture he created in the stairwell of the house – which he called the futility of human endeavour - three maquettes climbing on each other's shoulders to put up a picture up, upside down!

After his retirement Peter found time to sketch and produce water colours, initially on holidays in France and Italy, but later in Scotland. He loved the wild and varied landscapes of Scotland. Peter enjoyed walking in the Clyde Valley and beyond, and once this was no longer possible, continued to ramble on his "ranger", tackling unsuitable terrain often with one or more wheels off the ground, to the horror of any observers.

Peter was a strong believer in standing up for what was right, and this led him to campaign for many causes. He was a life long member of CND, and was involved in many campaigns to preserve historic buildings and the natural landscape. Even at his death he was passionately committed to opposing the proposed extension of the Cemex quarry which borders New Lanark.

After Margaret's sudden death four years ago, Peter showed his determination and resourcefulness, by managing to continue to live independently in the house he loved so much. He retained a strong interest in the world, read avidly, learned to use a



Peter and Margaret outside their home in Braxfield Row

computer, and his love of good food led to him becoming a fan of Nigel Slater's recipes, though he confessed he did not really like cooking.

It was a great comfort to his children to know Peter was living in a community with good friends and neighbours who were ready to provide support when needed, without any fuss. As he loathed funerals, Peter wanted to leave his body to science. Peter had huge integrity and provided a good example of how to live a full and rewarding life, he will be much missed.

From Alison:

I cannot comprehend what life will be like without my father, he has always been such a mainstay in my life, to use an appropriately nautical term. My parents gave us huge freedom to do what we liked, whilst teaching us sound principles. Now that I have children myself, I am amazed that they let me go to Sweden for a year at the age of seventeen, without any fuss. I hope I will have the courage to trust my children, and give them similar freedoms. My parents taught us tolerance. There cannot be many parents who are atheist and quaker, whose children married a jew, a catholic and a muslim, and this was never an issue! Religious belief was seen as a personal matter to be respected. If more people took that approach, the world would be a better place.

My father had huge integrity, I don't know anyone else who would check their supermarket bill, find that they had not been charged for an item and return to pay for it. The manager was so astounded he gave him a bottle of whisky!

We also say goodbye to Margaret Nicol, another life member of the Friends.

Margaret Nicol 14 July 1922 – 30 January 2012

Margaret's father John was Mill Manager from 1911 till after the Second World War, and Margaret was born and brought up in David Dale's House. Trust Director Lorna Davidson had many interesting conversations with Margaret about her young days in New Lanark, which were recorded for the Oral History archive. Margaret was a mine of information and she donated some of her father's papers and booklets, for which the Trust is extremely grateful, and which will soon be lodged in the new Search Room.

Margaret was spared a long decline, she was totally active and driving her car up to the middle of December, and died after an illness of about six weeks. She was a regular visitor to New Lanark throughout her long life.