

Friends FOCUS



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The Newsletter of Friends of New Lanark
SUMMER 2013



Robert Owen: A New View of Society 200 Years On

2013 marks the Bi-centenary of the publication of Robert Owen's *A New View of Society*. To celebrate, New Lanark has created a fascinating new exhibition, *Robert Owen: A New View of Society 200 Years On*.

In 'A New View of Society; or Essays on the Principle of the Formation of Human Character, and the Application of the Principle to Practice', as in many of his writings, Owen argues for the reform of living and working conditions throughout Britain. Many of Owen's ideas were based on his experience at New Lanark, where he implemented a range of social and educational reforms that drew admirers from around the globe.

One of the highlights of the exhibition is a portrait of Robert Owen on loan from the Scottish National Portrait Gallery (right). The portrait, a colour pastel drawing by Mary Ann Knight, dates from 1799 when Owen was a young man of 28. It is of particular interest as many of the other portraits of Owen show him in middle or late life. The portrait

is known as the engagement portrait as 1799 was also the year in which Owen married Caroline Dale, the daughter of the founder of New Lanark, David Dale.

Jane Masters, the Trust's Heritage Manager, explained "Following on from the successful opening of our Search Room, we are delighted to be able to curate this exhibition and that we are able to display the engagement portrait alongside the Pickersgill portrait from our own collection. We hope the exhibition will be the first of many that showcase our fantastic collection."



Courtesy of Scottish National Portrait Gallery

In addition to the portraits, the exhibition includes original extracts from 'A New View of Society' as well as historical documents, artefacts and paintings relating to Owen's ideas on the creation of a better society.

Robert Owen: A New View of Society 200 Year On will run from June 1st – December 1st 2013. Entrance to the exhibition is included with a New Lanark Visitor Centre ticket.

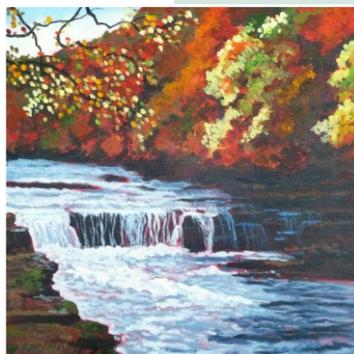
Landscape Painting Course

Join us in August for a chance to take part in a fun and informative landscape painting course with local artist Veronica Liddell. The course will begin with an introduction to the materials used, advice on colour mixing, drawing, composition and styles of landscape painting. If weather permits there will also be the opportunity to sketch outdoors. Step by step instructions will be provided for complete beginners and Veronica will demonstrate a variety of techniques throughout the course.

The course also includes a talk on History of Art in the Clyde Valley, a guided tour of New Lanark and an introduction to the New Lanark Search Room. All materials, lunch and tea & biscuits are also included. The course would usually cost £115 but is being offered for the fantastic price of £50!

Dates (Inclusive)

30th August 7.30-9.30pm (Talk)
31st August, 10am-5pm
1st September, 10am – 5pm



© Veronica Liddell

Talk Series 2013: History of Art in the Clyde Valley

Following on from this year's hugely successful Robert Owen Commemoration Lecture, New Lanark are happy to announce what will hopefully be the first in a series of free talks: History of Art in the Clyde Valley. From works by Alexander Nasmyth, 'the father of Scottish landscape painting', to contemporary artists, and from designed landscapes to public parks, Jane Masters, New Lanark Heritage Manager, will explore the history and legacy of art and architecture in and around New Lanark and explain how the Clyde Valley, and in particular, the Falls of Clyde, has acted as a source of inspiration for artists and designers for centuries.

Following the talk, guests can enjoy a glass of wine and the opportunity to explore the new exhibition, *Robert Owen: A New View of Society 200 Years On*.

Date

Friday 30th August, 7.30pm

Robert Owen's School for Children, New Lanark
Open to all, Free

The course and talk are generously supported by the Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA INTERNSHIP



In May, New Lanark was delighted to welcome Caylin Blockley, an intern from the University of Southern Indiana. Caylin was the second intern to visit New Lanark, following the creation of the intern programme between Historic New Harmony / The University of Southern Indiana and New Lanark Trust. Caylin's work on the Search Room project and around the site in general was invaluable and he proved himself a very able and friendly young man and the Trust wishes him every success for his future. Here is an extract from Caylin's account of his time in Scotland:

My first impression of New Lanark came when I arrived and got perfect view of the site before I made my way down. It was beautiful and I learned over my time here through seeing tour groups, school groups and visitors that it was in fact a large operation. My time here in Scotland was spent working, travelling and experiencing the true culture of Scotland. I tried to take advantage of every opportunity I was offered here and I believe I made the most of my time here.

During my time at New Lanark I attended various meetings on new projects across the site, received training with other volunteers on Search Room etiquette, helped in the preparation and delivery of the Clearburn Picnic and Play Area consultations and helped to develop content for the new collections website. I was also able to spend 2 days working with the Marketing Department, 2 days working in the Visitor Centre and 2 days working in the New Lanark Mill Hotel. My work in these departments included putting together press releases as well as a suggestion sheet for New Lanark's social media, how multiple buildings are open, run and closed, going on tours with school groups and helping prepare and run a wedding ceremony. I believe these experiences will set me apart in my future and only have a positive experience in my future career. I look very much forward to being able to say "I did this, this and this...in Scotland."

Travelling was one of my favourite parts on my time in Scotland. I made it to many different places including Glasgow, where I visited Glasgow Cathedral, the Necropolis, Kelvingrove Museum and the Transport Museum; Stirling where I visited the Castle and experienced the spectacular views from the William Wallace monument; Hamilton and Blantyre- the Low Parks Museum was one of the best small-scale museums I had ever been to, and Bothwell Castle; Inverary and finally Great Cumbræ. All of these experiences have their own unique memories and I will remember my time traveling around Scotland for a very long time. Each place I visited I would think to myself, "This country gets more beautiful every place I go."

From work, social and travelling, Scotland was everything I thought it was going to be and so much more. I never expected to be welcomed and greeted by so many great people and truly have a special place for New Lanark in my heart. I look forward to presenting on my experience at USI in the fall and also helping with the recruiting process for the upcoming year. The connection New Harmony and New Lanark has is unique and special and deserves recognition for the great things both organisations are doing.

NEW LANARK EVENTS

ROBERT OWEN: A NEW VIEW OF SOCIETY 200 YEARS ON

1st June - 1st December

Saving New Lanark Room, Robert Owen's School for Children

Entry with a New Lanark Visitor Centre Ticket

See adjacent article for details

LOCAL & FAMILY HISTORY SHOW

Saturday 24th August 2013, 10am - 4.30pm

Motherwell Concert Hall and Theatre • £2 payable at the door

New Lanark will have a stall at this fantastic event which includes over 70 exhibitors as well as talks and family activities.

FERMTOUNS TO NEW TOONS

28th March 2013 - 26th January 2014

Low Parks Museum, Hamilton

www.Facebook.co./FermtounstoNewToons

A joint exhibition by South Lanarkshire Museums Forum, of which New Lanark is a member, and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Museums.

DAILY SUMMER TOURS

July & August, 2pm

Tours leave from the Institute • Free

A fantastic guided tour free to those with a visitor centre ticket.

Limited numbers and subject to availability, arrive early to avoid disappointment.

HER & HIM EXHIBITION

6th-25th August

The River Room, Institute for the Formation of Character • Free

Her & Him is an exhibition by Lillias Douglas and Jim Jordan, two friends who love painting.

SUMMER NIGHT IN THE ROOF GARDEN

Sunday 18th August 5pm-7:30pm

Entry through New Lanark Gift Shop

Come along to our fantastic roof garden and enjoy an evening of music, garden cocktails and entertainment.

UNISON & CO-OP FUN DAY

Sunday 25th August, All Day • Free

UNISON are once again holding their annual family fun day at New Lanark, this time in conjunction with Co-op members, with lots for the kids and whole family to do.

LECTURE: HISTORY OF ART IN THE CLYDE VALLEY

Date: 30th August, 7.30pm

Theatre, Robert Owen's School for Children • Free

Contact Jane Masters on 01555 661345 /

jane.masters@newlanark.org to book

Join us at New Lanark as we explore the history and legacy of art and architecture in and around New Lanark.

LANDSCAPE PAINTING COURSE

30th August – 1st September

Corra Linn Studio / around site, New Lanark

Course fee £50 for 2 days

Contact Jane Masters on 01555 661345 /

jane.masters@newlanark.org to book

See adjacent article for details

THE ART ROOM EXHIBITION

31st August – 28th September

The River Room, Institute for the Formation of Character • Free

Come and share the passion of this small group of enthusiastic painters, who meet at Ferniegair Community Hall, with no resident tutor.

DOORS OPEN DAY & SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH CELEBRATION

7th & 8th September, 10am-4pm

Across Site • Free

Hidden gems in the village whose doors will be opened include

The Museum Stair, The Counting House and the Village Hall.

Family activities include printmaking workshops, character tours and an activity trail.

Book Launch, Britain's Industrial Revolution

On Monday 17th June, New Lanark welcomed renowned historian Barrie Trinder to launch and present a talk on his new book, *Britain's Industrial Revolution*. During the event, Dr. Trinder explored how New Lanark, as an exceptional example of enlightened philanthropy, influenced the social development of British industrial communities. Dr Trinder's new book has already attracted a great deal of praise and guests at the event were able to purchase signed copies.



Claudine Bows Out

After a long association with the Friends and membership of the management committee, Claudine Rozenberg has decided to demit office. At the last AGM in June, tribute was paid to her drive, enthusiasm and hard work for New Lanark. Her contributions, always with a strong international perspective, particularly of heritage developments in France, were invaluable. She played a major role (with David McLaren) in the long running project to place the Dale commemorative plaques in Glasgow.

The presentation was also attended by Claudine's ever supportive husband, Colin, himself another loyal supporter of New Lanark. We are enormously grateful to both and hope they'll maintain their links with the Friends and the trust for many years to come.

Ian Donnachie, Chair

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

It's a pleasure to greet you once more - following an eventful season for the Friends and for New Lanark this far in 2013. We've seen and been represented at numerous events including several book launches, heritage conferences, the opening of the new Search Room/archive, our annual Owen Commemorative Lecture, an exhibition on Owen, and a major international conference on Utopian Studies.

Sadly I need to say, for those who do not know, that Annie Bell was taken ill a few months back, really quite unexpectedly, but has since continued her recovery. We are all concerned and she is much in our thoughts. Annie has played a key role in our work, and we hope that can continue, but it needs to be thought about for the future.

After many years as a loyal Friend and committee member, Claudine has decided to stand down. As I say elsewhere, and you will know yourself, she's been a tireless worker for New Lanark, and will be very hard to replace.

I reported on much of this at our recent AGM. There's no doubt what we do we do pretty well, witness our support of many developments at New Lanark for which we have provide funding or part funding. But to maintain the momentum we need more Friends and further thoughts about our funding. We've been looking at both issues - and welcome any views you may have.

Once again my thanks to all of you, particularly our management committee and the hard working staff of the Trust for their help.

In Community
Ian Donnachie

Ancient Tree Hunt

The Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership recently held an Ancient Tree Hunt at New Lanark. The Ancient Tree Hunt is a Woodlands Trust initiative which aims to document ancient trees across the UK and record them on an online database.

Volunteers at New Lanark made good use of the new Search Room to find likely sites for ancient trees in the New Lanark Woodlands and the Falls of Clyde National Nature Reserve. They then headed out on site to find and survey as many ancient trees as they could. These trees have now been verified and you can search for them at www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk

If you are interested in taking part in the next Ancient Tree Hunt, please contact the Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership on info@clydeandavonvalley.com



Topographies of Harmony: Utopian Studies Society 14th International Conference

This summer, New Lanark was privileged to host the annual international conference of the Utopian Studies Society. The Society was returning to its spiritual home, one might say, as it was in 1988 that it was formed by a group of British-based delegates to the International Communal Studies Association conference which visited New Lanark that year. Since then, USS has become a European wide group, and has returned to New Lanark on two previous occasions in 2001 and 2005. This year 2013, was felt to be an appropriate time to revisit New Lanark, as it marks the bicentenary of the publication of the first of Robert Owen's essays written while he was managing the New Lanark Mills, and published under the title of "A New View of Society".

In the event, around 100 delegates from all over the world gathered in the village during the first week in July. The programme was organised by Greg Claeys and Lorna Davidson, both founder members of the Society. It featured presentations and papers on a wide range of issues relating to the concept of Utopia, from the perspective of architecture, sociology, literature, music, ecology, politics, communitarianism and history. Greg himself delivered a keynote address on the development of Robert Owen's ideas in the period around the publication of A New View of Society, and Friends Chairman Ian Donnachie spoke on the possible influences on Owen of the Scottish Enlightenment. Two direct descendants of Robert Owen also participated in the conference. Caroline "Docey" Lewis and her son Owen from New Harmony offered a fascinating presentation entitled "Threading Our Way". This explained the application of David Dale and Robert Owen's principles of enlightened capitalism to their textile workshops in New Harmony and Nepal and in their partnerships with fair trade organizations in Senegal and Bangladesh.

Delegates were full of praise for the accommodation and catering provided by the staff of New Lanark Mill Hotel. Some specially themed items were even included in the menus, inspired by Fourier's recommendations for recipes and meals in a Utopian society, as outlined by one of the conference delegates!

A highlight of the week was the Reception and Conference Dinner which was held in the Institute for the Formation of Character, with music provided by a piano trio and string quartet from Scottish Opera's Music Co-OPERative. New Lanark Trust is extremely appreciative of the donation from Friends of New Lanark which



Above: Docey Lewis and Mike Russell; Below: Docey Lewis during her talk



helped to support this delightful musical entertainment.

Guest speaker was Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning in the Scottish Government. In a well-received address, he recognised the huge international significance of New Lanark, and paid tribute to Owen's enormous commitment to education. In a surprise announcement, he intimated that the

Scottish Government's new annual award for innovation in education is to be named the Robert Owen Award.

If you would like more information about the Utopian Studies Society or the recent conference, or if you would like to be included in the USS e-mailing list, please contact Lorna Davidson in her capacity as Hon. Secretary of the Society. E mail: Lorna.Davidson@newlanark.org.