



We have said goodbye to our four Future Job Fund workers and we miss them already. In their six months they have done some great work and we thank them for it.



At the forefront was Lee Jamieson who not only restored the barrel cart, the gig but rose to the occasion by carrying out an exceptional restoration of our 1959 Ferguson Tractor. Soon you may see it chugging around the site. Our thanks to Lee, Mike, Simon, Tony, Gavin, and John Dickson, our Mentor.



The long awaited official opening of the new building will take place in late spring, and then if we can get anyone to man it, we can let the public in to admire both building and its restored contents.

We discovered that it does get cold in winter, so we will be trying to raise some more money to get some form of heating in it for next year.

### Museum Accreditation

We are pleased to announce that we have finally been awarded full Museum Accreditation. This guarantees donors, sponsors, Grant givers, and visitors that we do everything that Museums should do.

In a coming issue of Scotland Magazine you will see Dalgarnen Mill named as one of the ten best small Museums in the country. Not bad eh! We admit that we are quietly chuffed.

## DALGARVEN MILL

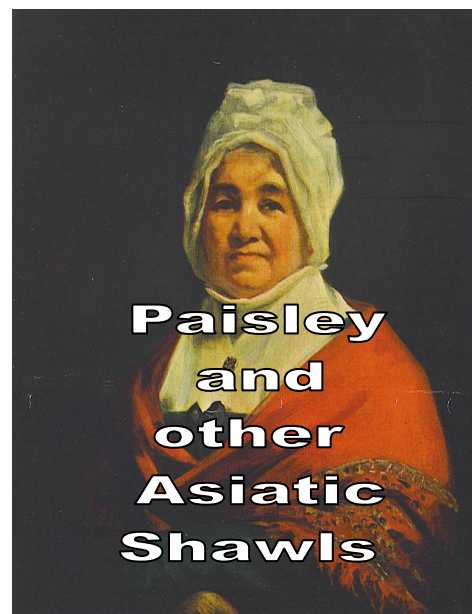


## THE LIVING PAST

THE MUSEUM OF AYRSHIRE  
COUNTRY LIFE AND COSTUME

NEWSLETTER 26  
Winter 2010

### The Current Exhibition



This is a little exhibition of our outstanding collection of shawls, it will run until the end of March, so do try and see it.

Since we showed them some two years ago, we have had five more shawls donated, our thanks to the generous donors.



## The Summer Exhibition

### THE WEDDING IN COLOUR: Eight pages



Princess Alexandra and Angus Ogilvy



There can be no better excuse for showing some of our remarkable Collection of wedding dresses and Royal memorabilia than the forthcoming Royal wedding. Since we have wedding gowns from 1865 until the 1970s, we are struggling for space, so we are thinking of extending it to the small upstairs gallery. This may disadvantage some of our less able visitors but we can solve that problem electronically. The Exhibition will open on Good Friday, and run until the end of October. We hope many of you will come to see it as it will include photographs, gifts and general wedding memorabilia.



## More trouble ahead !



The Dam under attack from the ice, and some of the sheets thrown up on the river banks

In one of those mysteries of our climate, this winter, although the cold wasn't as severe or as long lasting as last year, the ice on the river and especially the Mill Dam was thicker than last season. Added to this the thaw was quicker, and as the photographs above show, great sheets of ice built up behind the dam breast and after a few hours, the pressure was so great that the dam broke and some twenty feet of it was carried away. The noise of grinding ice and rolling rocks was frightening in the extreme.

The river now flows through the gap and there is little hope of us having a store of water to feed the water wheel this summer. We need to raise about five thousand pounds to effect repairs, and will have to throw ourselves on the mercy of Land Fill Tax Fund. Heritage Lottery Fund and anyone else we or you can think of to sort it .

Just occasionally we feel that it would be nice to have a year where we were free of disasters both natural and man made so that we can get on with doing what we enjoy doing, namely making the Museum and the site a great place for all visitors, both local and foreign.

We have approached The Ayrshire Rivers Trust and SEPA and maybe we can combine the fish ladder the former want with the funds of the latter.

If there is anyone out there who would like spend some time chasing grants on our behalf, and release the Curator to do his real job, please let us know



Finally the snowdrops !