

Some Recent Guests



Thanks to Glasgow South cyclists who give our scones a savaging every second Sunday morning



Thanks too, to BBC Antiques Road Trip, for bringing all the local people who have lived here all their lives, but didn't know we were here.



If you take some fabulous automobiles, great food, and a wonderful setting, who could ask for anything more. a recent visit by the Morgan Owners Club.

A special mention of the American Guild of Embroiderers whose enthusiasm made us look again at what treasures our Chinese Mandarin Silks are.



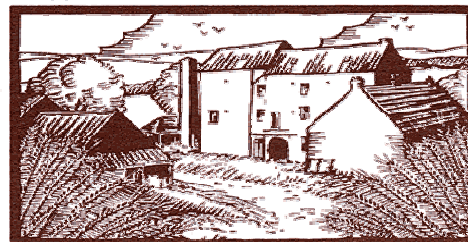
The Third Biennial "Sew n' Sews" Quilt Exhibition



You have loved the first two, and this promises to be even better, if possible.

Begins **10th November, 2012** until the end of **January, 2013**, with a break for Christmas and New year. Fliers for it will be available here soon..

DALGARVEN MILL



THE LIVING PAST

THE MUSEUM OF AYRSHIRE
COUNTRY LIFE AND COSTUME

NEWSLETTER 28
Spring/Summer 2012
Scottish Charity 022397

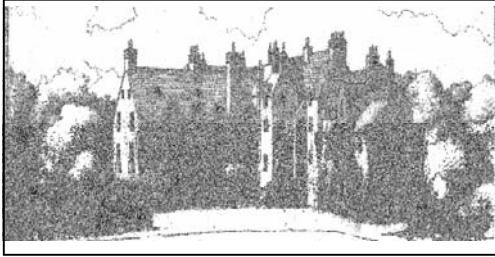
Current Costume Exhibition



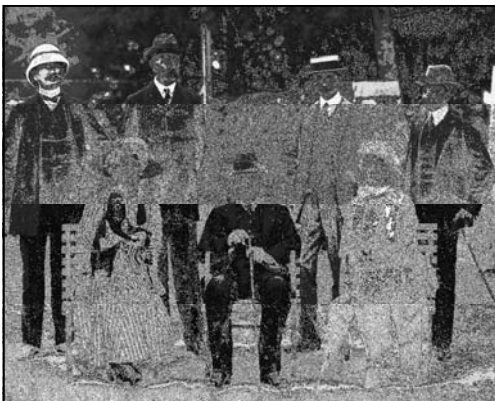
This exhibition is one of the best we have ever offered to visitors. It contains not only some of the most elegant pieces of Edwardian costume which we have had for some time, but also some outstanding purchases and gifts from the recent disposal of the contents of neighbouring Blair House.

The period from 1900 until 1920. saw some of the most transformative years ever for women's clothing. The industry, which we now call fashion, drew it's ideas from all over the world, and from huge changes in social and political life. On display are wonderful feathers and furs, beading and embroidery, and exquisite fabrics from silk, satin, organza, tulle, peau-de-soie, tussah, and nainsook, to name but a few. To be honest it is heartening to see the open mouthed reaction to the exhibition, our sincere thanks to the many donors whose generosity has made it possible.

Farewell to Blair House



Many of our local visitors will already be aware, that Blair Estate whose owners purchased the Mill in 1622 and sold it to the Curator's family in 1922, has been sold, including the contents of the mansion house. The Trust has received excellent donations from the family over many years, and are happy to acknowledge the gifts of costume pieces received recently. Our thanks to the supporter who offered a gift of £1000 to secure an embroidered screen with close connections to the locality. Sadly it sold for four times the estimate.



Prime Minister Asquith at Blair in 1910.

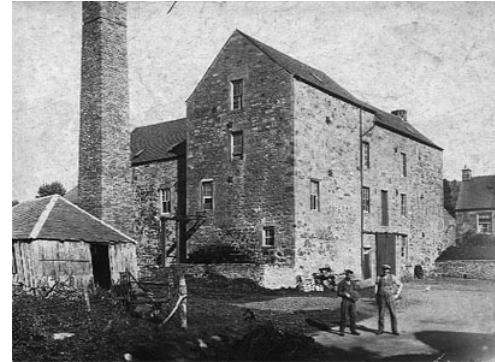
Museum Intern



You may see a new young face around the Museum, this will perhaps be Sarah, our new Museum intern who we are sharing with the Scottish Maritime Museum in Irvine. Sarah is cataloguing our lace collection and will have the unique opportunity of creating an exhibition of it in the Textile Gallery in August and September. As always we are dependant on external experts for advice, and we are happy to record our thanks to Jean Leader for her visit and her expertise. If you are a lace person, you might have been as overwhelmed as we were originally, by the differences between bobbin lace, machine lace, chemical lace, embroidered net, and all the other sub sets of tatting, crochet, drawn thread work et al, above is a little taster of what we have in our modest collection.

The internships, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, have been such a success that they are to be repeated next year.

A Happy Anniversary



The Mill in about 1922, a working Meal and Saw Mill.



Virtually the same elevation today.

On the eight of May, 1987, The newly restored and converted Dalgarn Mill opened to the public as the new Museum of Ayrshire Country Life. Little did we know that twenty five years later we would still be here on a daily basis.

Now would be a fitting time to thank the family, friends, volunteers and above all the donors who have helped us to realise our dream. However we do still need volunteers in all facets of the Museum's life. If you are interested please speak to one of us.

Our New Building

The new building is living up to it's purpose, of being a store, workshop, education space and it's presence has brought some donations which would not have been possible before. Included in these is the Cheese Press reputed to be the one with which the first Dunlop Cheese was made. Our thanks to SAC for entrusting it to us. It has also allowed us to build the large display cases we were gifted, to safely show both the Chinese and Japanese embroideries.



Our Scissors Sister.

We are happy to thank Rachel, our new costume conservator, whose skills with a needle and thread have to be seen to be believed. She has done outstanding work on the Chinese Imperial gown above, and on many other garments and textiles.