

LOCAL TOURISM

Recently a Joint Ayrshire Tourist body was set up, with a brief to try to integrate the Tourist offerings across all three existing authorities. We are delighted to see it bearing fruit, with a proposed collection of signage such as the one proposed for here, which will thank visitors and suggest like minded attractions nearby. We have chosen the Scottish Maritime Museum and Dundonald Castle for our sign, let's hope someone chooses us !



You may have noticed that some motorist took out a gate, thirty feet of hedge and our only allowed advance notice sign. Did they come and say sorry and offer to pay for the damage? Well of course not, if you thought they would, you are living in cloud cuckoo land. Given our policy excess, we have again had to fork out for the replacement.

On the positive side, local households have had a free Newspaper delivered by the Community Wind Farm which contains a good article about the Mill and Museum, containing this exhibition.

We have put them on our list of possible sponsors, anyone think of any others?

On the left is a photograph of a piece of Eastern costume which is contained in the Quilt exhibition.

DALGARVEN MILL



THE LIVING PAST

THE MUSEUM OF AYRSHIRE
COUNTRY LIFE AND COSTUME

NEWSLETTER 31

WINTER 2013/14

Scottish Charity SC 022937

A Retrospective Exhibition of the Textile Art of Rosie Furlong.



No you're not seeing things, this is the blue version of the stunning quilt on the Coffee Room wall

Give yourself a treat, come and see a comprehensive celebratory retrospective exhibition of sixty plus Quilts and Textile pieces designed and made by Rosie Furlong. There are many new, previously unseen works, and some of her sketch books and other memorabilia.. Our aim is to celebrate this remarkable artist and also acknowledge the valuable time she has given to her community by sharing her skills in schools, with groups and in workshops.

FEATHER FILLED GLASS TARGET BALLS

Perhaps once in a lifetime a Curator finds something that's almost mythical. Such a thing is the hand blown cast glass ball which was developed in 1860 to replace live birds, they themselves were largely replaced by clay disks in 1880. In Scotland the North British Glass Works in Perth went on producing them for some further years.



Made in three moulded parts, and in colours such as green ,yellow and dark and light blue then filled with feathers or chalk they were often shot at over water to avoid broken and missed examples injuring live-stock. Examples turned up recently in the River Tay when work was being done on a bridge..

The Museum is fortunate to have one of the few original firing mechanisms which ultimately threw the target balls up to sixty metres into the air.

Our thanks to retired gamekeeper Mr Docker of Oban for the generous donation.

REPLIN TAPESTRIES



John Edmonston's designs for Replin have been on display upstairs all summer, they have been much admired, and our thanks to those who bought the examples on offer. Every little helps in straightened times.!

ENTENDE CORDIALE



Last year a rather eccentric French photographer arrived in a hand made corrugated iron caravan and a very vintage RANGE ROVER. He slept in it overnight and then took copious black and white photograph of inside, outside, staff and volunteers. Today we received copies and the news that we are on show in France.



MORE RIVERWALK



Three photographs of the Riverside walkway in infancy, maturity and old age. Hopefully work may begin shortly begin to extend it a little, and give it a short back and sides. I am told this is a rare "mast" year, ie there are more seeds and berries than those who feed on them can eat, so more will germinate next year.