

Maintenance



You will have heard me railing against the waterwheel before, and no doubt will hear me do it again. Just before Christmas I managed to drop the sluice gate and it hit the wheel, breaking a paddle and tearing itself apart in the process. Tony designed brackets to hold the bloody thing together and they did the trick, again she turns, but what other tricks does she have up her sleeve or axle, I don't sleep at night worrying about the vengeance of the waterwheel to come.

The good news is that the engineering volunteers from the Maritime Museum have offered to come and listen to the unbalanced noise of the pit wheel and see if they can cure it. We also hope that they could put our alternator to good use and maybe produce some electricity for



The young man above is my father John Ferguson of Dalgarnen who joined the Scots Greys Regiment in 1914 and lived through the Great War. Although he was wounded twice and hospitalised in France, he survived, deaf in one year and with shrapnel pieces still visible under his skin.

The photograph above marks him out as a cavalryman with puttees and spurs, the French Eagle badge of the Scots Greys was something he venerated all his life, I grew up with a print of the famous painting "The Charge of the Light Brigade", over the mantelpiece.

We will use his history as our contribution to the 2014 Great War Commemorative Exhibitions. It will open modestly in November,

DALGARVEN MILL THE LIVING PAST

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Our thanks to those of you who visited Rosalie Furlong's Retrospective Quilting Exhibition.



It was hugely admired and we have passed your glowing comments on to the creator. The Trust have to thank Rosie for the gift of two Burns related pieces, "My love is like a red red rose" and "To a daisy or Daisy Chain" we have also fallen heir to a poetic Mouse, which you will understand when you see it, look out for it on one of the upper floors. No exhibition has been as well photographed as this one, and we thank all of our friends and visitors who have been kind enough to send us copies such as the one above by Elizabeth Bell.

Sew n' Sews Autumn 2014

We seem to have built a reputation for Quilting exhibitions, and as part of our Community outreach, the Sew n' Sews group will be holding an Exhibition of probably over a hundred quilts from November on. If you would like more details please leave your e-mail or address and watch the Quilting magazines for times and dates. If you are wise come and grab a quilt as a different and cherished Christmas present.

THE VICTORIAN AGE THE SUMMER EXHIBITION

By overwhelming demand, we repeat the Victorian Fashion exhibition. The Costume Collection here is now acknowledged as one on Scotland's finest, and we have great pride in displaying this period of the two thousand pieces dating from 1775 to virtually the present day. We have already seen the Exhibition, as it was on the last day of March, reduce a visitor to tears, and a gentleman at that, So if you think you are man enough take the ladies in your life through to look at it. It will be here until the end of September so plenty of time for return visits,



The crinoline petticoat was a fertile source for the cartoonists of the day.



An exceptional photograph of the Blairs of Blair showing them enjoying sport and allowing their petticoats to be exposed, with the dress over adjusted for freedom of movement. A change from the stiff studio portraits of the middle class.



A group of natty dressers.



MUSEUM CHAT



In common with many other Visitor Attractions and cultural venues, we have suffered from the fact that we are, in these straightened financial times, a luxury. However we have been here, through thick and thin, for twenty seven years and we will soldier on, come what may. Sadly, Byre Antiques have decided to move on, we wish Shane well, and hope you will welcome our new tenant who will be revealed shortly.

This has been a difficult time for Moira and me personally, and we would like to thank the many family and friends who have stepped up to the plate and given Moira a chance to recover. They include Tony and Caroline, Gavin and, Joanne, Ellie, Sophie, Chris, Shirley, Gillian, and Martha on the Coffee Room side, and Rachel, Millie and Christelle on the Costume and Exhibition side.

It would be remiss to not mention the Trustees and colleagues from The Maritime Museum, North Ayrshire Council, and others who have offered their support, it is greatly appreciated.