

### Volunteers

You would be astonished just how much help an extra pair of hands can be, be they young or old, male or female, skilled or just enthusiastic, we can find work for them to do which will benefit the Museum or its setting.

We already have some great sewers and costume restorers but some IT skills would avoid the Chairman having to stay up to the wee small hours typing away with one finger, or trying to both tweet and sort the Facebook stuff.

Don't be shy we are very nice people dedicated to keeping the Mill open and successful. Whatever your skill or training we can use you to good effect.

Of the last three interns or volunteers we have had, one is now a Curator in Manchester, one is an Assistant Curator in Adelaide, South Australia, and the latest, Vicky, begins work as a Learning Officer with RCAHMS in Edinburgh, she goes with our thanks and best wishes.

Sadly Vicky has been doing the recording or accessioning of all incoming gifts together with labelling and packing them away, would any one like to take her place, please!

facebook

twitter

@DalgarnenMill

Our wonderful catering staff are stepping up to the plate and offering luxury Home Baked Christmas cakes and/or a choice of their wonderful sponges, Vanilla, Coffee, Carrot or Chocolate, or just think ten or twelve portions of great cake and you don't have to make it yourself.



I would like to give my thanks to the family members, staff and volunteers who have taken on extra tasks and duties. Without all of you, there might not be a Trust, Museum or Coffee Room for visitors to celebrate.

Rob Ferguson,  
Trust Chairman.

## DALGARVEN MILL



## THE LIVING PAST

THE MUSEUM OF AYRSHIRE  
COUNTRY LIFE AND COSTUME

NEWSLETTER 33  
WINTER 2014/15  
Scottish Charity SC 022937

### Memories of the Great War



We are grateful to the Legacy Fund for providing funds for new display lighting in the small Gallery, perhaps if you approve, we can seek more funds to extend it through other parts of the displays. It is our strength and our pleasure to talk to you before and after you wander through this terrific building and its collections, let us know your thoughts.

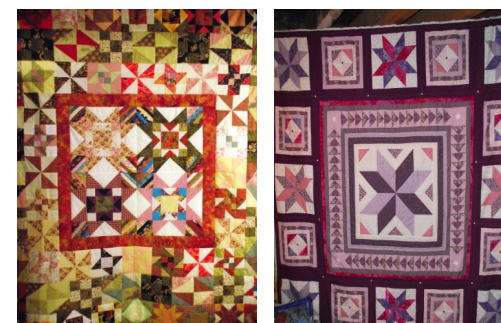
### Sew n' Sews Quilting Exhibition

From the 8th of November until the 8th of February 2015 Sew n' Sews will be holding an Exhibition of their work over the last two years. It will also contain their truly special prize winning Commonwealth Quilt, so don't miss it and tell all your friends about it. If you have an e-mail list of contacts let us send you a PDF of the Poster and you can send it on to all of them.

Sixty or more Quilts, wall hangings,



embroideries and some stunning items from the Costume Collection make a visit a Winter treat.





Needless to say it will be partnered by several costumes from the Collection here, the flyer shows some of the wonderful lingerie from the Twenties but we are usually guided by what the quilts tell us. If we have enough quilts for the Gallery upstairs, then visitors will enjoy the new lighting installation paid for by a 2014 Legacy Grant for which we were very grateful. The money was given to allow us to properly light the exhibition about my father and his life during and after the Great War, but by agreement this will now take place fully in 2018 although there is a taster on show now. Meantime there are excellent Memorial exhibitions about both wars in Largs, Irvine, West Kilbride and Saltcoats.

Those of you who use our riverside walk will be delighted to know that permission and the funding to extend it has been granted by NAC Landfill Tax fund. Our thanks to them.

It is interesting to read what others say about us in the Visitors Book and other publications. The most succinct says 12/10, and others "possibly the best Museum in the world", slightly over the top perhaps. We do sometimes wonder if there is a magic trick to turn such words into much needed gold, but so far it eludes us.

## Donations,

Most museums, and we are no exception, depend on the relationship they succeed in building with their public for both physical help and for additions to their collections. This summer we have been lucky to have been given the normal, for us, eclectic mix of things from a ferret carrying box, an udder support (for an Ayrshire cow) to the wedding dress of a lady who was in the Curator's class at school. However we have not yet managed to overcome our need to daily scan the visiting hordes, groups, car loads or even individuals, for the woman or man even, with the mythical box containing treasures beyond the dreams of avarice.

We did get a great box recently with the following in it. An Art Deco Shawl, black lace shawls and stoles and the most extravagant hair comb we have ever seen, one of the shawls is shown in the photograph below.



The wedding of Maris Dempster and Jim Dunn at Livingston Church, Stevenson in 1966.

Below is our new ferret carrying box traditionally used for rabbiting on moonlight nights And above on the right an udder board using for supporting full udders before dairy cows entered the show ring.



As the depth and quality of the Collection grows, we hope to have better luck in raising some grants or sponsorship to improve it further. Now is probably a good time to thank our colleagues in local museums for their help with the dreaded Accreditation process with which we still struggle. We have missed the October deadline but have been given an extension until the end of February, can I just say that without the help of Christelle Le Riguer there would be no hope of finishing the task.



Our thanks to Rosie Furlong for the gift of the above Quilts and our best wishes for her life in her new Highland home.