

Some of our visitors are finding it difficult to understand why Glasgow Museums sent the gift of Costumes here. Firstly, they felt that it would be more likely to find an audience here than in Glasgow where it was languishing in one of many stores. Secondly, having no provenance or legal transfer to them they were perfectly within their rights to pass it on to another suitable organisation. The knock on effect is that two other collectors have followed suit and chosen to bring things with an Ayrshire provenance to this Museum .



Recently we dressed Captain Betsy Miller for North Ayrshire Council's formal opening of the restored Saltcoats Town Hall by the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. We hope they were well received.



We have also been on our travels, we took seven vintage bridal dresses to The Wedding Fair at Culzean Castle, and they were so well liked there, that they are now upstairs here for visitors to see.

The Quilts are coming in November



For those of you who have been pining for another Quilting exhibition will be rewarded in November when the "Sew n' Sews" return with another tour de force.

DALGARVEN MILL



THE LIVING PAST THE MUSEUM OF AYRSHIRE COUNTRY LIFE AND COSTUME

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Even in winter we have been able to welcome groups both old and new, and some like the walking group below have both begun and ended here with some of our great soups and home baking. If you are going to be more than twelve, do please give us a ring first.

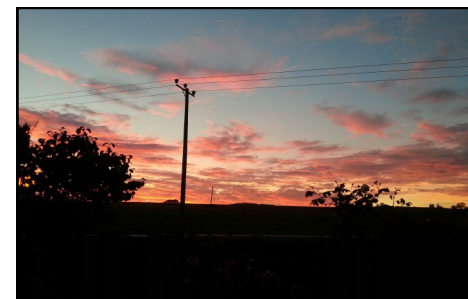


Living in the country is never without its pleasures, storms in November, sunsets to die for in December and snow in January, add the odd gale and you have all our weather since the last newsletter.

Our thanks, to all the customers, old and new who fought their way off the main road to keep us company.



Storms and flooding November 2015



Sunsets in December 2015



Snow in January 2016

THE CONTINUING SAGA OF THE COSTUMES GIFTED BY GLASGOW MUSEUMS



When we received the boxes from Glasgow, we were advised to put them into quarantine for three months, and that we did. Having got through that period, we sorted through the boxes and put those that contained potentially displayable costumes into pre prepared new racking. These would go on to augment and even improve our existing collections of four thousand plus pieces of clothes and textiles.

Now, after months of repair and conservation, we are ready to offer you an exhibition of costume of the period from 1900 to 1930.



Please consider going to see them, and wonder at their beauty and quality, but remember that almost every garment has been repaired in a small or sometimes in an extreme way. Our thanks to Rachel and the other involved volunteers for their painstaking work. In keeping with our policy of not using reproductions, the few shown here had already been made and used by Glasgow Museums, and are so described.

We are also pleased to welcome back the first school to see costumes supporting the Titanic theme in this year's curriculum.



Talking about the Titanic reminded our Curator that in the bottom of a trunk that somebody brought many years ago, he discovered the hessian bag on the right. It had lain covered for a century and dated back to before the sinking. For the first time he became aware that the steerage fare from Liverpool to New York was only £4.00, which would explain the many hundreds who perished from the lower decks. In addition to the interest of the prices quoted, who was aware that bags with advertising slogans on them went back that far.

Should visitors wish to see it, it is on currently on display in the Museum.



The Mill and Museum in the rural setting which is so much part of its charm and appeal. It is therefore sad that yet again some rogue unidentified lorry has damaged the railway bridge above us and taken out fifty or sixty metres of verges, hedges and fences, without, apparently, having any remorse or responsibility for the repair costs that will fall on the Trust. Damn all Sat Navs! But do go and explore the weir and the riverside path. Seats and perfect peace are available there all year.