

25th Flax Mill OPEN DAY

Saturday, September 8th, 2018

At Derrylane Flax Mill from 10am to 6pm

Flax Mill
Textiles The Irish Linen Weavers

Programme

The cream of crafters - unique demonstrations

- **Louise McLean** is returning! The basket-weaver from Coleraine has no match on this island. Not only will *“Northern Ireland’s craftiest woman”* put up her beautiful stall - she will demonstrate basket - weaving live and all day. Louise and her products alone would make a trip to the Open Day worth anybody’s while!
- **Jackie Arrell** (Magherafelt): Give him a good piece of wood and he’ll turn it into a beautiful item (turn in the true sense of the word!). One of the longest-standing crafters at our Open Day is known to fulfil orders for our visitors from many countries. A great pleasure to have one of the country’s best wood-turners back!
- **Deborah Toner**: The Belfast-based embroiderer has been one of the most talked-about and show-cased textile workers in Ireland during last year. Her picture embroidery on linen woven by Flax-Mill is gaining a huge international reputation - for good reason: Her work is spectacular!
- **Ruth Walker** isn’t just returning to take her amazing stall. The Welsh-born glass artist with a base in N. Ireland is designing and manufacturing a new range of jewellery to go with the new garments we are showing on the cat-walk (see separate flyer)
- An Open Day without **Brendan Cosgrove** is hard to imagine! The metal worker from Co. Antrim will certainly have a large selection of forged and welded one-offs at his stall. He is also demonstrating ring-making from recycled raw-materials such as silver cutlery.
- **3 spinners working on 3 spinning-wheels** - where would you get it? One of the most exciting demonstrations in 2018! **Christine, Sarah and another surprise guest** will be producing both linen and woollen yarn. We asked them to bring plenty of their top-of-the-range-yarns, they were sold out last year and we predict the same this time!
- **Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers** were *“new kids on the block”* last year their stall promises to be one of the very interesting ones again. The voluntary group with a base in Ballykelly, Co. Derry are aiming to *“...research local genealogy”* and tell us: *“The Roe Valley is so rich in culture yet many visitors don’t know this as there is a distinct lack of information for this area...”* Living and working here, we couldn’t agree any more – the RVAR – activists are very welcome guests at the 25th Open Day.
- **Toni Whiteside** is one of the real outstanding crafters in Northern Ireland. Toni origins from the Roe Valley and owns the *“Abonos”* (=Gaelic for bog oak) company. She designs and manufactures most amazing delicate pieces of jewellery from oak which she takes from her bog, one of the oldest in Ireland. The wood (over 8,000 years old!!) is finished with real gold, silver and copper. Toni Whiteside will also supply some pieces for the Fashion Show (see separate leaflet). *“Irish Linen and bog oak - a meant to be relationship”* (Marion Baur).

- **Sinead Black** is returning! The interior designer and lecturer in design at the University of Ulster owns “*Bricolage Quilts*” studio in Hollywood. She has been very media - present recently, not least due to her bespoke quilts having been short-listed for last year’s “*Irish Made*” awards. She exhibited in Canada (see our web – page www.flaxmill.eu) - her linen table ware is now used by top-restaurants like the ever prize-winning “Ox” in Belfast.
- **Ireland’s only female Blacksmith** is coming back to make sparks fly! **Danna Heron and her father David** will stage a large Demonstration with their hand-pumped bellows in the centre. Alongside the working forge they will display classic tools and many items from their workshop. Anything made from iron you could possibly want - if they haven’t got it they will make it for you on the spot. Great to welcome them again!
- **Jill Gourney**, Textile - crafter from Aghadowey and owner of “*linen lane*”, is also returning. Perfectionist work and great designs got the industrious lady into the “*designery*” in Bushmills. Jill, who uses linen made at Flax - Mill for her work will run a stall and demonstrate how to make a lampshade - great to have her back!
- **Dianne McCloskey** is a newcomer at our event. Based in the neighbouring townland of Gortnahey she manufactures both Kefir from organic milk and Combuca - tea. Both products are of the highest quality and get a lot of healing – power attributed to them. Dianne, a student of natural science will make for a great addition to our Open Day.
- **Maria Cardenas**, 3rd generation tailor from Colombia with a base in County Down will be showing some of the bespoke clothes she manufactures and one of her amazing creations will be on the cat-walk during our fashion show (see separate flyer). Maria calls her products “*clothes with simple and subtle shapes*”. We call them “*simply beautiful*” - great joy to have her at the 25th Open Day!
- **John Martin** is showing his bespoke clay pots. He will also demonstrate pottery - making while you watch! New to our Open Day, John’s product will cause huge interest. He manufactures according to old designs for pots from this area, some of the patterns are created with strands of flax.
- Also new to the Open Day is **Frank Cammock** with a very special book-stall. When his wife Heather gave us a “yes” to model in the fashion show (see separate flyer) we asked him and got a “yes” as well. Frank offers a selection of historic books, literature on the trade union movement and worker’s struggles which is unique in Ireland. He will find a very interested audience at the 25th Open Day!
- **Marta Kocon** is one of the finest textile – workers in Ireland. A part-time employee at the Flax Mill she runs her own little manufacturing business as well. Marta often uses a combination of Irish linen and fabric from her country of birth, Poland. She’ll be at the Open Day with a stall full of high-quality treats, many of them made from linen!
- Needles to tell you that **Marion Baur and Liz Corrigan** will be running a large stall with both finished products and cloth made here at the Flax Mill as well as some of the amazing garments Liz creates from our fabric. The “*mill stall*” has become a hub for textile-workers, designers and lovers of good clothes over the last few years, Marion, Liz and their team will be present all day to give advice and welcome new and old friends. Missing the Flax-Mill - stall is like missing the Open Day!

Now let us treat you to some real gems during our Open day 2018: Besides the unique 18 stalls and 9 live demonstrations we are pleased to offer:

- **Paintings by Margaret Gerhardus** on exhibition! Many regular visitors know Margaret as an ingenious soap-maker, her great paintings (shown at many exhibitions recently) are not as known in the North-West. We are delighted to host an exhibition - her pictures will be placed throughout the mill-building. Let her surprise you!
- **Dyeing yarn with natural dyes** - a demonstration and talk by **Christine Casey!** The master-spinner (see above "spinning on 3 wheels") and owner of "*Kiri Cottage Crafts*" will not only show spinning alongside **Sarah Foster-Jarden**, she has committed herself to a dyeing - demonstration and talk. Christine is an active member of the "*Ulster Guild of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers*" and her wealth of knowledge will attract many interested people - it's one of those events you should announce your interest in before the day!
- **Louise McLean** is an accomplished designer basket maker and willow artist who lives on the outskirts of Portrush. Living by the sea has contributed to the inspiration and influence of the work she produces. With an almost 17 years background in traditional heritage craft skills, basketry is her specialist area. Her work has sold internationally and has been part of a New York exhibition. She has had several solo exhibitions, her most recent was 2017 entitled "*Bogland Branches and the Beach*". Louise has appeared on national television including This Morning and RTE Craftmaster. Louise continues her study and works with many mediums including Willow, Rush, Straw and NZ Flax and for the past 5 years has been part of the Ulster Beekeepers Association Conference at Greenmount where she demonstrates on making heritage Bee Skeps (medieval straw hives). Louise teaches basket making provincewide to a wide range of groups including Mens Sheds, schools, colleges, community and Festivals.
- **Darts with N. Ireland Master Travis Baur!** 13 year old Travis (he was born here at the Flax Mill) has just won the N. I. Masters under 18 for the second time. He will be competing in the coming World Championship in England. Great to have "shooting star Travis" to show and share his skills! Limited places – you must book beforehand for this!

THE EVENT OF THE YEAR:

Flax-Mill Fashion Show 2018 - setting trends, not following them!

We are producing a separate leaflet with all the details of the Fashion Show (E-mail and hard copy version). Ask us for this detailed flyer, it will be out from July 10th! Here are some bullet points on "Ireland's only really alternative Cat-Walk":

- **4 Models plus two "surprise guests" on the cat walk:**
Fiona Baur, Annie Press, Heather Cammock and Tony Hiley.
- **Creations in Irish Linen** (some in wool and silk) by **Marion Baur and Liz Corrigan.**
- **3 Guest-Designers** showing one piece each: **Chris Tyndal** (Loft design, Belfast), **Maria Cardenas** (see above under stalls and demonstrations) and **Fiona Smyth** ("*Tea and Madeleine*", Limerick).
- **Jewellery and accessories by Ruth Walker, Toni Whiteside and Marta Kocon.**

1 showing only @ 1pm in the marquee!

Limited spaces and a strictly "*first come first take*" policy - it's the only fair way to organise this capacity-show. Please book your place as soon as possible!

• **“Earthed” the world’s most unusual fabric at the Open Day!**

Insiders know that Flax Mill is stockist and promotes “earthed”, the digitally printed linen, a brand-new product by William Clark, Upperlands. The brain child of Clark’s creative director **Duncan Neil** who will be at our Open Day was originally designed for home-interior and upholstery - still is that but has found another spectacular use: German tailor **Georg Bünger**, while doing work-experience at Clarks, made a jacket from one of the designs.

It will be first-time shown during our fashion show! We guarantee you: You have not seen a garment like it! The jacket only exists once, it is owned by Duncan Neil and we have commissioned a male model of the right size to show it.

For all details on “earthed” see our web-page (www.flaxmill.eu) or search for www.earthedbywmclark.co.uk

• **WHO else • WHAT else • WHO else • WHAT else • WHO else?**

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The best of **CRACK!** • Classic and vintage **CARS** galore

IRELAND’S OLDEST COMMERCIAL VEHICLE ON THE ROAD

OLD MACHINERY - the only surviving **HAND-BREAKER** for flax in operation ...

All our **WEAVING LOOMS OPERATING ALL DAY, TOURS OF THE MILL!**

Guests from ALL OVER THE WORLD, NO STRANGERS,

JUST FRIENDS you have yet to meet!

For those who stay for the evening concert (*ask us for the separate programme*):

• **13m long buffet** - **GERMAN BEER** - **DINNER** made by the **Berlin Catering Brigade**
- the concert of the year with:

• **Isabel Neuenfeldt** (Berlin), **Willy Drennan** (Ballymena), **David McLean** (Belfast), **Diane Wilson** (yes the Diane Wilson, master of the musical saw!!!), **Dearbhla McTaggart** (Dungiven), **Bernard S. Davis** (Birmingham), **POETRY** + many **SPECIAL GUESTS**

IRELAND’S BEST SESSION after the gig!

Some important notes:

Open Day and Yard Fest are PRIVATE events

- the owner reserves the right to refuse admission at all times.

There is NO ENTRANCE FEE for the Open Day,

for the evening concert, dinner etc. ... you need an invitation,
ask us for details.

We recommend booking before.

Give us a ring: (0)28 77742655

or send us an **email: flaxmill@gmx.net**

For all details, hard-copies of the programmes etc. contact the mill at the above number, Hermann deals with the bookings.