

**26<sup>th</sup> Flax Mill OPEN DAY**  
**Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**At Derrylane Flax Mill**  
**from 10am to 6pm**

**Flax Mill**  
**Textiles** *The Irish Linen Weavers*

## **Programme**

### **The cream of crafters - unique demonstrations & talks**

- **Louise Mc Clean** is returning! The basket-weaver from Coleraine has no match on this island. She will not just run her beautiful stall but demonstrate basket-making live and all day! Louise and her products alone - many of them went to places far away last year - would make a trip to the Open Day worth anybody's while!
- **Hannah Dass** from Belfast is a newcomer to the Open Day. The very gifted textile-artist and painter will make for a great addition, her work deals with the Northern landscape and "*it's ever changing colours*", her latest creation "*Rathlin*" is absolutely spectacular. Great to welcome the "*new kid on the block*"!
- **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). Jackie has been many times at our Open Day and turned many visitor's heads, his creations go all over the world, great to have this true master crafter back!
- **Yolande Shannon** is another new crafter who will take a stall and demonstrate at this year's Open Day. The Limavady based spinner and weaver (she is the weaver in residence at the "*Designery*" in Bushmills) is one of the very few Saori - weavers on these shores. She will not only bring some of her amazing products but will also work her loom which origins from Japan, the home-land of Saori weaving. We are very excited about her stall and demonstration!
- **Deborah Toner**: The Belfast - based embroiderer has been one of the most talked about and show-cased textile workers in Ireland recently. Her picture-embroidery on linen woven by Flax Mill is gaining a huge international reputation. The simple reason: Her work is spectacular!
- An Open Day without **Brendan Cosgrove** is hard to imagine! The metal-worker from the Glens of Antrim will have a range of his unique forged and welded pieces with him. You can also watch him making rings from recycled raw materials such as silver cutlery.
- **Sarah Logan** is coming for the first time! Being one of our "*special guest designers*" during the Fashion Show (see separate flyer), the master tailor and - dress maker from Rasharkin will also exhibit a number of her bespoke creations.
- **4 spinners working on 4 wheels in tandem** - where would you get it? In one of the most fascinating demonstrations 2019, **Christine, Sarah, Lorna** (see details in Fashion Show Flyer and Invitation) **and Johnny Shields** who manufactures and

restores spinning wheels, will be spinning wool and linen. We asked them to bring as much of their bespoke yarns as possible - they were sold out last year, we predict the same for 2019!

- **Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers** are taking a stall again. The voluntary group with a base in Ballykelly are aiming to research "*local genealogy*". They created a pile of interest at our Open Day last year 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...*" After running Flax Mill here for almost 30 years we couldn't agree more. Great to have RVAR back.
- **Ruth Walker** is a "*one of a kind*" when it comes to kiln - fused glass. The Welsh master crafter with a base in Ballyclare will not just have her beautiful and usually very busy stall - she is designing a new range of jewellery to go with the new garments shown in the Fashion Show. Local manufacturing at its best!
- **Bruce Clark** is returning! One of the best orators on these shores, historian, journalist, Bruce will give us a talk: "*Linen and Poetry through the Ages*". If you want to see and hear Bruce - book your place immediately - his talk will be totally packed (see details in Invitation and Fashion Show Flyer).
- **Toni Whiteside** is one of the really outstanding crafters in N. Ireland. She originates from the Roe Valley, owns the "*Abonos*" (=Gaelic for bog oak) company. She manufactures most amazing delicate pieces of jewellery from bog oak which she gets from her bog, one of the oldest in Ireland. The (over 8,000 years old) wood is finished with real gold, silver and copper. Toni will also supply some accessories for the Fashion Show (see separate flyer).
- **Samuel Logan**, Ireland's youngest full-time blacksmith is coming back to make sparks fly! The 16 (!! ) year old from Doagh impressed our visitors last year with his large and very energetic demonstration. Great to have Samuel back, he will take orders for forged products on the day and have a selection of his creations with him.
- **Farewell to David Herron**. One of Ireland's most profiled smiths and engineers, David Herron is no longer with us. David, who demonstrated several times at our Open Day died late last year. Our thoughts are with his daughter Danna who is keeping the forge going.
- **Frank Cammock** from Belfast is returning with his very special book stall. He offers a great selection of literature on working class history, trade unions and their struggle, women's problems and on international themes. A real one - off, Frank will have an interested audience at our 26th Open Day.
- **Jill Gurney** is back, no doubt her stall will be one of the most interesting and attractive ones this year. The industrious textile-crafter from Aghadowey who is involved in the "*Designery*" in Bushmills has been exporting her amazing lamps with linen lampshades to many countries recently. She will show our visitors how to make a lamp shade. Orders for Jill's bespoke products can (and have already been) placed with us.

- Needless to say that **Liz Corrigan and Marion Baur** are going to run a very large stall in the mill, offering both cloth and finished products made at Flax Mill and some of Liz's bespoke creations. Also some very special guests like famous quilt-manufacturer **Sinead Black**, dress maker **Sarah Logan** (see Fashion Show Flyer) and our demonstrating weavers and spinners will display some of their bespoke products in the mill.
- **Catherine Thompson**, Dungiven based Tailor and expert in children's clothes will not only run a stall (amazing one last year!), she will show a unique piece in the Fashion Show and is also involved in some creations for our grown-up models this year. Great to see the owner of "*All Sewn Up*" back.
- **Darts with N. Ireland Master Travis Baur!** 14-year-old Travis (he was born at the Flax Mill) has just won the N. I. Masters again and is going to compete at the World Championship! Great to have "Shooting Star Travis" to show and share his skills Limited space - you must book beforehand for this!
- Dyeing (cloth and yarn) demonstration and talk by **Christine Casey and Sarah Foster-Jarden** (see spinners and Fashion Show). No doubt, the demonstration by our two visiting spinners (who are also commission - spinners to Flax Mill) will attract huge interest - the talk will take place at their stalls in front of the weaving - shed.
- **"Earthed"** - the world's most unusual fabric at our Open Day. Regulars at Flax Mill know that we promote and stock the digitally printed linen, a new product by **Wm Clark, Upperlands**. We are expecting its creator, **Duncan Neill** at the Open Day.
- Special stall with beetle - finished linen. See the supplement "*In Praise of the Wooden Block*" for details on the world's oldest and unsurpassed finishing - technique. For the first time we offer hand-woven cloth (all designs and weaving by **Marion Baur**) which has been beetled!
- **Mallon is back! Helen Keys and Charlie Mallon** are completely in a league of their own on the crafts - scene. Charlie runs "*Mallon's Foundry*", the country's only bronze - casting works. Rumours have it that he will soon be taking on the casting of a textile-worker's statue. Helen has made some outstanding table-ware from linen woven at the Flax Mill. Together they grow flax on their farm near Pomeroy, not just using the fibre but also the seed. Their linseed oil and beeswax polish is unique. We are very honoured to have these great makers back at our Open Day!
- **Gloria and Will Kennedy** own the "*animal crafts*" label. Bespoke horn-handled walking sticks (a particular example will be shown during our Fashion Show), candle-holders and other horn - based pieces of art are part of their unique range. It has to be said that they don't kill animals for their production, both are animal - lovers. Their stall should be one of the highlights of the 26th Open Day.

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

Homemade **CAKES** • locally roasted **COFFEE** • a good drop of **TEA**

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

**OLD MACHINERY** • **IRELAND'S OLDEST COMMERCIAL VEHICLE ON THE ROAD**

the only surviving **HAND-BREAKER** for flax in operation • exhibition of **BICYCLES**

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 event**

*(ask us for the separate programme):*

**13m long buffet**

**GERMAN BEER - DINNER** beyond compare by our **Berlin Catering Brigade**

**On stage:**

**Isabel Neuenfeldt** (Berlin) • **Sal Hanvey** (Cultra) • **Paddy Anderson** (Belfast)  
**Bernard S. Davis** (Birmingham) • **POETRY** • **Dearbhla Mc Taggart** (Dungiven)  
+ **VERY SPECIAL** (and very famous) **GUESTS**

**IRELAND'S BEST SESSION** after the gig in the gas – lit barn!

**Setting Trends, not following them:**

**Northern Ireland's only real alternative cat-walk**, the event of the year:

**Flax Mill Fashion Show 2019!**

*For all details - see our separate Flyer.*

**1 Showing only @ 1pm in the separate Marquee behind the mill-cottage.**

Booking essential, no exceptions!

For all other details, programmes, booking, hard copy-programmes, etc.

send us a mail: [flaxmill@gmx.net](mailto:flaxmill@gmx.net) or give us a ring: **(0044) (0)28 7774 2655**

**Important note:**

**Open Day, Yard Fest and Fashion Show are PRIVATE events**

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

Film - makers and photographers are welcome, so are interviews and reporting journalists. *You must tell us that you are coming though!*

For details contact Hermann at the mill, he deals with all media.