

A Brief Guide to the New Lanark Visitor Centre Exhibitions

Within the conservation village of New Lanark, there are several different buildings which are open to the public as part of the New Lanark Visitor Centre. Our Passport Ticket gives you access to the following exhibition areas:

- The Institute, Engine House & Mill No.3 (including the Annie McLeod Experience, Textile Machinery and Roof Garden)
- The Millworkers' House in New Buildings – living conditions of the 1820s and 1930s
- The Village Store
- Robert Owen's House
- Robert Owen's School for Children (includes 4 exhibition galleries)

If you are *not* having a guided visit, you can visit the exhibitions in any order you like. Keep your ticket if you do not have time to see everything - it is still valid on a return visit for any area you have not previously visited.

The Main Visitor Centre

This is housed in three of the village's historic buildings: The Institute for the Formation of Character, the adjoining Engine House and Mill No. 3, which houses the Annie McLeod Experience and the textile machinery. Visitors enter the visitor centre at the Institute, greeted by life-sized models of millworkers. The Institute was opened by Robert Owen as a centre for education and recreation and housed the world's first infant school. On the ground floor you'll find the Reception / Information desk, and toilet facilities, including a Wheelchair Accessible toilet, and a baby-changing unit.

The Engine House and Gallery Room

From the Reception Foyer, the ramped walkway allows access for wheelchairs and baby-buggies through the rest of the centre. You pass by a water feature into the adjoining Victorian Engine House, where you can view a restored Petrie steam-engine. From here, visitors pass into the Gallery room, where several commemorative banners are displayed and an introductory video (The Story of New Lanark, about 8 minutes) may be viewed. If the Gallery Room is closed for a special function, the video can be viewed in the reception foyer.

The Annie McLeod Experience: – *Annie's back, from January 2009!*

Enhanced by special effects and innovative audio-visual technology, the Annie McLeod ride is both entertaining and educational, informing and inspiring all those who visit. Your guide is the ghost of a young millworker named Annie McLeod who takes visitors on a journey back to 19th century New Lanark. Discover what life was like in the village in the 1820s under Robert Owen's management. Commentary available in French, German, Spanish, Italian & Japanese. The Ride has an induction loop system.

Picking up the Threads /People and Cotton

Level 4 houses a working 19th century spinning mule, and other textile machinery; you can watch yarn being spun, twisted and wound into hanks. An AV show called People & Cotton gives an impressionistic view of people who were involved in the cotton industry from cotton-pickers in Virginia to mill workers in New Lanark. Find out more about the Spinning Mule and the Millworkers via the interactive Touchscreen exhibits. From this floor you can take the lift or stairs to the **Roof Garden and Viewing Platform on the roof of Mill No.2**

The Mill Pantry and Gift Shop

Refreshments are available all day in our Mill Pantry, located on Level 3, while the New Lanark Gift Shop is located on Level 2 (the ground floor of the mill as you approach from the village square). Both these areas are accessible to visitors at any time from 10am-5pm, whether or not you have a Passport Ticket. There are toilets, including two wheelchair accessible toilets and baby-changing facility on Level 3, next to the Mill Pantry.

Robert Owen's School For Children

Film Theatre - Taking advantage of innovative audio-visual technology, the theatre offers a memorable show for the new Millennium - Harmony, a time-traveller from the year 2200 highlights the issues that were important to Robert Owen, and which are still relevant to the citizens of the world in the 21st century. This programme is available in French, German, Spanish, Italian & Japanese.

Alternative films can be requested: a) A Quest for Universal Harmony featuring Robert Owen's life and his campaign for a better society (in English only). Annie McLeod's Story (available in French, German, Spanish, Italian & Japanese) - a theatre version of the Annie McLeod Experience. The theatre is equipped with an induction loop.

Historic Classroom - a reconstruction of a New Lanark classroom of the 1820s, based on the extensive illustrative and documentary evidence about Owen's innovative system of education. Striking features of the classroom are the original Musician's Gallery, the wall canvases, which were used as visual teaching aids, and the massive Terrestrial Globe. Visitors can listen to James Buchanan, one of the school's teachers, as he talks about schooldays at New

Lanark. Children will enjoy trying on the replica cotton tunic uniforms, and writing on slates.

Saving New Lanark - an exhibition chronicling the conservation of New Lanark, with large projected 'before and after' images of individual buildings. Using the 'Saving New Lanark' touchscreen programme, visitors can access information and photographic records of the conservation and restoration work that has taken place over the past 25 years. Why not try the touchscreen jigsaw game and help bring New Lanark back to life! A virtual tour of Robert Owen's House is also available here.

Interactive Gallery - A unique experience of light, sound and colour. Special areas within the room include colourful wigwams where you can feel the emotional effect of colour, and hear gentle birdsong as you walk inside, musical strings and a ripple wall, which reflects coloured light to the sound of running water. As they move around the room, visitors influence the sequences of visual and aural 'display' and therefore change the atmosphere of the room. General visitors and groups can enter the Interactive Gallery with their Passport Ticket, provided they are willing to take their shoes off! School groups can visit the Gallery with a tour guide, and should discuss their requirements with the Education Officer.

For wheelchair access to the School, see separate 'Information for Visitors with Mobility Needs'.

The Millworkers' House

At No 1 New Buildings, below the bell tower, you can go into a New Lanark tenement and see what living conditions were like in the past. We have recreated two homes, one in the 1820s with 'set in' beds, and one in the 1930s, complete with 'stairhead cludgie', a reconstructed Victorian wash house, and displays about the village restoration, can also be viewed. Around 180 people now live in these beautifully restored Georgian tenements. (*N.B.* For wheelchair access to the Millworkers' House, please ask the member of staff on duty to direct you to the alternative entrance).

The Village Store

In the far corner of the Village Square, you will find the Village Store, which Robert Owen established as part of his plan to improve the standard of living for his workers. Entrance is via the 1920s style Village Store, where visitors can purchase traditional goods and sweeties - soor plums, rhubarb rock and delicious preserves to name but a few. In the exhibition next door, you can see the range of goods which were available to the millworkers in Owen's day, and learn how this became the inspiration for the internationally famous Co-operative movement. An interactive display has audio-visual sequences recreating scenes from the 1820s, and a "Beat the Cheat!" game.

(N.B. The 1920s Village Store is open to visitors every day from 11- 5, whether or not you have a Passport Ticket).

Robert Owen's House

Overlooking the gardens in the centre of the village is Robert Owen's House. Having married Caroline Dale, whose father David Dale founded the village, Owen set up home in New Lanark, before moving to Braxfield House on the edge of the village, in 1808. The refurbished rooms give an impression of the mill owner's life with his family study, sitting-room, nursery and kitchen in the basement. We also answer the question – 'What did Robert Owen do after he left New Lanark in 1825?' Read about Robert Owen's endeavours to establish a Utopian community in the New World, in the New Harmony room and view "A Quest for Universal Harmony". We regret that only the ground floor of this Category A Listed Building is accessible to wheelchairs. Nevertheless, an alternative virtual tour of the building is available via a touch-screen kiosk in the *Saving New Lanark* exhibition in Robert Owen's School for Children.

All of the above- mentioned areas are included in your passport ticket.

The New Lanark Power Trail – guide-book available from the Visitor Centre or by Mail Order

The original mill lade is still operational and New Lanark Conservation Trust continues to generate hydro-electricity from a 1930s water turbine in Mill No.3. A short video presentation can be seen at the turbine-house on the lower mill walkway. It takes about 5 –10 minutes to walk up the riverside to the mill weir, starting at the gateway at the far end of the Mechanics' Workshop. (Unfortunately this path is not suitable for wheelchairs)

The Falls of Clyde Wildlife Centre – www.swt.org.uk/falls-of-clyde-visitor-centre

This is run by the Scottish Wildlife Trust (telephone 01555 665262) and is located in the old mill Dyeworks. A CCTV link has been installed, allowing visitors who are unable to walk up through the Reserve to view the Falls and Peregrine Falcons' nest site from the Visitor Centre. For more information on guided tours for schools within the beautiful Falls of Clyde Wildlife Reserve, contact New Lanark Conservation Trust on 01555 661345.