

New Lanark 2021: A Living Legacy

From Robert Owen to World Heritage and beyond: legacies of social reform and heritage-led regeneration

Call for Papers

New Lanark Trust seeks proposals for papers for a special anniversary conference marking three important milestones in the World Heritage Site's history:

- The 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Owen, the site's most famous advocate;
- The 20th anniversary of UNESCO World Heritage Site inscription,
- The completion of the restoration of the former millworkers' housing in the village.

These anniversaries present the perfect opportunity to reflect on the legacy of the New Lanark in the contemporary world, and to look at the ways we can shape this legacy for the future of our World Heritage Site.

Background

New Lanark was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in December 2001 as a result of its Outstanding Universal Value: an exceptional example of a purpose-built 18th century mill village which became famous due to the enlightened management and social reforms of Robert Owen. Following the closure of the Mills in 1968, the site has undergone nearly five decades of ongoing restoration and conservation. The most recent restoration phase of this work- the Townscape Heritage and Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme programme- is due to end in 2021, bringing the physical restoration of the site full circle.

New Lanark Trust is the Registered Scottish Charity responsible for the management of New Lanark World Heritage Site. The Trust's values are authentic, responsible, industrious and ambitious. We:

- Conserve New Lanark's heritage, site and environs
- Contribute socially and economically to the area
- Evolve to stay relevant to our people and the world

The Conference

New Lanark World Heritage Site will host the conference from 12th – 14th October 2021 with both in-person and virtual attendance and presenting opportunities. We are working in line with Scottish, and UK, government guidelines on COVID-19, and will regularly review these options.

During the conference, we aim to provide a platform to foster discussion and address questions such as:

- How do we commit to our contemporary ideals whilst also preserving the historical authenticity and integrity of the site?
- How do we respond to global issues whilst remaining grounded in our local community?
- What can we learn from other World Heritage Sites around the globe?

Conference Themes

Subject areas addressed may include, but are not limited to:

- Utopianism, Model Villages & Planned Communities

- Social, Educational and Industrial Reform
- Co-operation
- World Heritage
- Industrial Heritage Conservation
- Housing Rehabilitation
- Sustainability in heritage
- Community Engagement and Volunteering
- Culture, Health & Wellbeing

The conference will provide opportunities for research academics, heritage professionals, students and subject enthusiasts to interact, share research, and debate. We welcome contributions from a range of potential speakers, including those whose work is not primarily devoted to Robert Owen, World Heritage or conservation, and who can offer differing perspectives. We are keen to encourage both experienced, and new speakers, with and without an institutional affiliation.

Responses

Anyone interested in participating with a 20 or 45-minute paper should send an abstract in English (250 – 500 words) and a short CV to Jane Masters – jane.masters@newlanark.org -by Friday 7th May 2021. Please specify the length of your paper. PowerPoints may be uploaded in advance, and please specify any other media you wish to use, such as video.

You should also indicate whether you intend to present in person (COVID guidelines allowing), or virtually. Sessions will be timed to allow for international participation. The official language of the conference is English and so only submissions in that language will be accepted.

All those who submit proposals will be notified whether they have been selected to present by the end of May 2021.