

# Flax mill TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

spinners, weavers and finishers  
of FINE IRISH WOOL  
and Linen.

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## **Flax-Mill-News-Flax-Mill-News-Flax-Mill-News-Flax-Mill**

### **Flax – Mill on the Catwalk**

**Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> will see the return of an event to the Roe-Valley, which has been drawing visitors from far and near in previous years. Derrylane Flax – Mill is going to host what has been called “Northern Ireland’s only really alternative fashion show”.**

Marion Baur, chief-weaver at and owner of County Derry’s only active linen-weaving-mill has just returned from Berlin, where she introduced the show to customers and the media. “Last year our fabric and finished products were on show in various parts of the world. Here at Derrylane where we manufacture, we were so busy that the initial showing of our new line of garments did not happen. I think that was a big mistake and we are going to ‘make up’ for not organising a fashion show in 2015 by putting on a real cracker this year.”

Marion Baur –she has just received an invitation to show-case Irish linen at the famous ‘International Linen Days’ in Dresden later this year – has teamed up with an exclusive tailor and designer for the March event outside Dungiven. **Elizabeth Corrigan** who lives and works in Antrim uses cloth woven at the Flax Mill for her bespoke dress-making. The photograph of her 11 year old daughter **Eimear** modelling an Irish linen communion dress caused media-attention around the globe last year. Marion Baur is delighted to have Elizabeth Corrigan on board: “Liz is one of the best tailors and designers I have ever met. She is extremely busy and in the process of opening a shop for her unique textiles in Randalstown. It’s a pleasure and a great honour that she has found the time to design and produce some of our new creations.” The differences between the Flax-Mill fashion show and others are striking;

- All raw materials are from pure natural fibres with linen being the central one, accomplished by pure wool and locally produced alpaca.
- All cloth and finished products have been made locally, no imported fabrics, no products from “cheap” labour and sweat-shop-production.
- The models are not professional; Marion Baur has her very own criteria for choosing them: “If fashion has a meaning at all – to me it is that of enhancing the beauty of the human body and creating a good feeling when wearing a garment. Our models are people who like good clothes and can connect to the beauty of natural fabrics.”

In March 2 women and one man will do most of the modelling; several surprise guests will be announced later. **Lorraine Hartin** (Dungiven) is returning to the cat walk. The mother of 5 who stunned visitors at several previous Flax-Mill fashion

shows is going to be accompanied by her daughter **Dearbhla Mc Taggart** this time. The up-and-coming Irish harp player won't show clothes, she will provide the music for the evening. Marion Baur: "Irish linen is in a league of its own as a fabric, so is the harp as an instrument. This will be an aristocratic connection. To have our long standing friend Lorraine back as a model is a delight – our new friend Dearbhla playing the music is sure to set one of the highlights of this year's show."

**Mary Smithson** (Limavady) will share showing the female garments with Lorraine. The "new kid on the block" at a Flax-Mill event caught Marion's attention recently: "Mary is a very natural and beautiful lady who likes good textiles. I am sure she will turn our visitor's heads – here in March and elsewhere later on."

The "cream on the cake" of the 2016 event will be a man who isn't normally a model at all. Marion tells the amazing story: "**Darrel Clark** is a resident of the Isle of Man. His roots are in Northern Ireland – indeed he is an off-spring of the Clark family. The owners of Ireland's oldest linen-mill finish the cloth we weave here. Darrell who is known for bespoke interior design for yachts purchased some linen from us a couple of years ago. It was natural unbleached cloth which we got finished by Clarks using the ancient technology of beetling. Darrell gave the fabric to a master tailor on the Isle of Man. The draper who had previously worked on the Saville Row in London made a completely hand-sewn suit from the linen. He was aided by a German tailor in making this unique one-off piece which took almost 2 years to complete.

Our friend Bruce Clark asked his cousin about the possibility of having the priceless garment on show at Flax Mill. Not only did he agree, he is personally travelling over from the Isle of Man to model the suit and indeed other men's clothes from Liz's and my own production."

The showing of the suit alone will obviously draw a lot of attention from both designers/makers and linen lovers from far and near. Asked whether the Flax-Mill isn't too small to stage an event of this calibre Marion Baur left no doubt: "There is no place more suitable than the old mill. Where the cloth and most of the finished garments have been made where our sweat and energy was flowing is where the pieces should be shown first – after that they can go 'the world over'. It has never been easy to make space for so many visitors here but we have always managed. The ambience of the 250 year old place and its setting in beautiful nature are worth more to us than big fancy venues."

With designers, fashion-lovers and media-folk from various countries coming to the event which will start at 7 pm on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, the organisers urge interested people to get in touch as soon as possible. Marion Baur: "It is invitation only. We will try and accommodate as many as possible but we have to know soon. It will be well worth the effort of giving us a ring or sending a mail."

To get in contact with Flax Mill: (0044) 2877742655 or [Flaxmill@gmx.net](mailto:Flaxmill@gmx.net)

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Notes for editors:

This press-release is free for immediate publication.

We have attached some photographs which are also free for you to use.

For all further details, interviews, up-front photo- or film sessions, please contact Flax Mill Textiles, Hermann Baur will gladly try to deal with your wishes.

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