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Research & References – United Kingdom & Ireland

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FORM Traditional Lace Making



The Lace Guild publishes a subscription-based quarterly digital magazine, called Early Days In Lacemaking, for new lacemakers who are members of the guild. Covered topics include bobbin winding techniques, basic stitches, and embellishment techniques, while also providing comprehensive tutorial videos for learners to practice simple patterns.



The Royal School of Needlework, based at the Hampton Court Palace, London, offers an education program teaching traditional lace making across the UK, in London, Bristol, Rugby, Durham and Glasgow. Their renowned Embroidery Studio creates stunning bespoke embroidery for fashion, art and royalty, while also expertly restoring and conserving valuable historical embroidered pieces.



Established in 2016, the Headford Lace Project is run by a dedicated committee of textile and embroidery artisans from diverse backgrounds. They conduct several lacemaking workshops through the year with instructors teaching enthusiasts about Irish laces, needlepoint, needle run, tatting, applique, and embroidery techniques.



An institute for advanced study of the cultural history of textile materials, Bard Graduate Center offers MA & PhD degrees in Decorative Arts, Design History, and Material Culture. The BGC Lacemakers' Studio—a collaboration between Bard Graduate Center & Brooklyn Lace Guild—celebrates the history of tradition and innovation in lace making.



Research Journals Published Globally

Heritage and Conservation of Nottingham Lace through Collaboration

Wool and cashmere introduced into traditional lace making

The Teaching of Lacemaking in the East Midlands

The Lace Bobbins Of East Devon

(Media link) Initiatives By Art & Culture Bodies

Threads of Power

Lace Market

The Lace Market and Hockley

Strawback Chair Making



The National Trust for Scotland is actively involved in preserving Scottish furniture (including strawback chairs) through a Vernacular Furniture Program. This program emphasizes the conservation and study of culturally significant furniture pieces, and conducts regular exhibitions to showcase the history of traditional chair-making.

Read more

The Scottish Furniture Makers Association is a membership body which promotes and supports independent furniture designers and makers across Scotland, celebrating their art, craft and creativity. It promotes the beauty and diversity of furniture designed and made in Scotland today.



Bard, a commercial store and gallery for Scottish craft and design, based in Leith, Edinburgh, is all about stories and ideas, around people and objects that forge Scottish cultural identity. The studio's Cubi Chair, an evolution of the traditional Fair Isle Strawback chair, is a simplified and refined form of the classical strawback chair, that retains the vernacular character while incorporating functional attributes suited for contemporary lifestyles.



An exhibition of Fair Isle Chairs, in collaboration with the Shetland Museum and Archives, provided an insight into the history, traditional craft and distinctive qualities of Fair Isle chairs. The exhibition featured historic chairs from the Shetland Museum and Archives collection which made this exhibition truly unique.



Research Journals Published Globally

Chairs of the Northern Isles

A History Of Collecting Vernacular Furniture In Scotland

The Making Of Modern Scottish Craft

The History Of The Shetland Chair

(Media link) Initiatives By Art & Culture Bodies

Fair Isle Chairs Exhibition - A virtual tour with Eve Eunson and Dr. Ian Tait

A Conservation Primer: Caring for Historic Furniture

The women keeping alive a traditional Scottish craft at risk of disappearing

A Passage To Fair Isle



Sporran Making

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Existing Global CSR Initiatives



The Scottish Tartans Authority (STA) has initiated heritage projects that focus on traditional Highland apparel, including sporrans. These projects promotes the transfer of knowledge through craft workshops that highlight the techniques of leatherwork and other crafts associated with sporrans. This initiative actively preserves the cultural identity tied to traditional Highland apparel, with sporran-making being its integral component.

Read more

National Museums Scotland houses a significant collection of Highland dress, including tartan clothing and sporrans, from the early 18th to the 20th century. The collection is particularly rich from a time when tartan was emerging as a popular fashion fabric in Britain and when Highland dress established its fame as the national costume of Scotland through its association with the Romantic movement.

Read more

The Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center, Inc. was established to be a center for reliable information on Scottish Highland dress traditions in the USA, and to serve the Scottish-American diaspora. Originally established in Highlands, North Carolina in 1988, the museum moved to Franklin in 1994, and has been serving as a general Scottish Heritage Center for the region since.



Founded in 2016, the goal behind Edinburgh Kiltmakers Academy was simple - to standardize the practice of highland clothing to the highest possible level and secure the future of handmade kilts and sporrans. Gordon Nicolson devised EKA in a bid to keep the skill going, bring it out of the shadows and train up new, talented kiltmakers who would set the standard. Here, a new generation of kiltmakers is successfully being trained and the skill upheld at the highest level, ensuring a solid future for this beautiful craft.



(Media link) Initiatives By Art & Culture Bodies

Traditional Crafts at Risk of Extinction Find a New Lease on Life With Travelers



St Fagan's offers clog-making demonstrations as part of its commitment towards preserving traditional Welsh crafts, collaborating with local clog-makers to provide hands-on workshops and exhibitions for visitors. The museum has a clog maker's workshop where the museum's designated clog maker is at work.



Trefor Owen is a renown traditional Welsh clogs-maker specializing in crafting clogs for dance, leisure and work. He is the last remaining full time professional (non museum demonstrator) clog maker in Wales.



The Smug Soles Co believe sustainability should come as standard, not as an inconvenient add-on for companies. In their clog making workshops, only vegetable tanned leather is used, which is sustainably sourced, or chrome tanned leather from industrial waste destined for landfill.



Research Journals Published Globally

From Clog Making To Conservation

Clog Dancing in Wales

The World of Clogs

(Media link) Initiatives By Art & Culture Bodies

Prince Charles hands lifeline to Gwynedd clogmaker

Clog maker hot-foots to new home

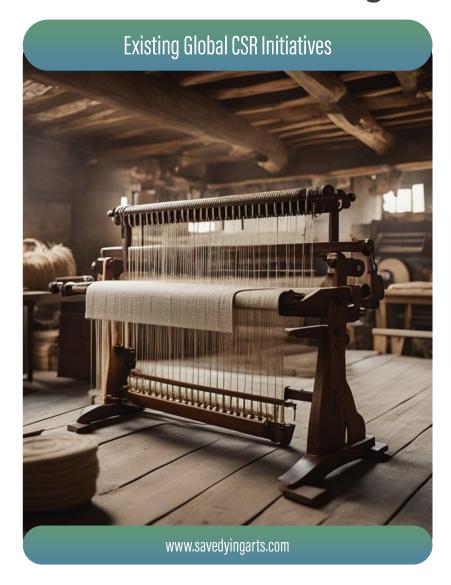
Welsh Clog Makers

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Research & References - United Kingdom & Ireland

FORM Linen Weaving



Originally a museum focusing on local history, the Lisburn Museum expanded in 1994 with the opening of the Irish Linen Centre. The museum and its collections are housed in the old Market House, a reconditioned late seventeenth-century building. The Market House gallery hosts regular displays and exhibitions on local history, from '17th-century Lisburn', to highlights from the Museum's collections in the 'Curator's Choice'.

Founded in 1928, the Irish Linen Guild is the official promotional organization of the Irish Linen industry, it is the global authority on Irish linen and the owner of the Irish Linen Guild trademark.

Read more

Read more

The Linen Guild is a discretionary charity founded in 1912 in Dublin at The National Maternity Hospital, to provide emergency assistance for patients (mothers and babies) in extreme poverty. A sewing room was made available in the hospital each Friday afternoon where volunteers could cut out, sew and prepare the required garments. The Linen Guild continued operating for years, with some members dedicating as much as 30 years to the service.

Read more

The Linen Biennale first took place in 2018 to provide a platform for awareness about linen and its role in shaping Northern Ireland. During this international conference – thousands of visitors and contributors participated in a new 'conversation' about flax and linen – recalling, rethinking and reforming. Subsequent years have seen the conversations reach greater heights.

Read more

Research Journals Published Globally

The secret life of design in Ulster's interwar linen industry

The Wee Blue Blossom

(Media link) Initiatives By Art & Culture Bodies

The Rise and Fall of Ireland's Linen Industry

Linen's Irish Lineage

Linen History

