

# *Out of the Wardrobe*

## *Monthly Newsletter of the Costume Society Scotland*

May 2021

### **Costume Society Website**

The CSS website is now up-to-date with two talks by Judith Hallam, Accessories 1 and 2 plus next year's programme of lectures. Back copies of *Out of the Wardrobe* are also available.

[costumesocietyscotland.co.uk](http://costumesocietyscotland.co.uk)

### **Online Events with Edinburgh Museums**

#### **Online Lecture: Bright Young Things? Fashion in the 1920s**

The shortened hemlines favoured by the 'Flapper girl' of the 1920s were a logical next step in the 20th-century fashion revolution, but they bore the weight of social anxieties concerning the war's perceived effects on the relationship between the sexes.

Join Georgina Ripley, Senior Curator of Modern & Contemporary Fashion and Textiles at National Museums Scotland, to explore how the fashionable image of this era has reverberated throughout popular culture. Georgina is the editor of a forthcoming publication on the little black dress which will accompany a major temporary exhibition\* that opens with Coco Chanel's famous LBD of 1926, described in *American Vogue* as 'the frock that all the world will wear'. Georgina is responsible for the museum's collection of fashion post-1850 and was the lead curator for the Fashion and Style gallery, which opened in 2016.

Free but booking is essential - book online here. Attendees will be sent joining instructions in advance of the event.

\*We will keep members informed as details of this exhibition are released.

**Wednesday 12 May 2021, 2:00pm. Free, but booking essential @ [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk)**



#### **Online Lecture: Razzle Dazzle: 1920s Jewellery**

Influenced by the artistic movements that bookended the decade, jewellery design in the 1920s became more experimental and embraced new non-precious materials. With Art Deco leading the way with geometric shaped jewels that were rendered in plastics as well as precious stones.

Join Sarah Rothwell, Curator, Modern & Contemporary Design as she discusses the developing trends within jewellery throughout the decade. Sarah was one of five successful recipients in 2015 to be awarded the Art Funds New Collecting Award, with a project focusing on collecting, researching and disseminating Northern Modernist Jewellery with a particular emphasis on work designed and manufactured in Britain and Northern Europe. Booking essential @ [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk). This event will now be run online. All attendees will be sent joining instructions a day or so before the event.

**Thursday 20 May 2021, 2:00pm. Free, but booking essential @ [eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk)**

## **National Museum of Scotland**

### **The Galloway Hoard: Viking-age Treasure**

Bringing together the richest collection of rare and unique Viking-age objects ever found in Britain or Ireland, the internationally significant Galloway Hoard is transforming our understanding of Scotland's connections with the wider world during this period.

The Hoard was buried around AD 900 and contains over 100 diverse objects, from silver, gold and jewelled treasures to rarely surviving textiles, including wool, linen and Scotland's earliest examples of silk.

Discovered by a young metal detectorist in Dumfries and Galloway in 2014, the Hoard was allocated to National Museums Scotland in 2017, when a selection of items went on display as part of a fundraising campaign to save it for the nation. With generous public support, an intensive programme of conservation and research is now underway, uncovering the secrets of the Hoard for the very first time.

In this free exhibition, see recently cleaned and conserved objects from the Hoard, revealing intricate decoration not seen since the objects' burial more than 1,000 years ago. Then delve deeper and examine hidden details found in X-rays, CT scans and 3D models. Discover what innovative research and analysis have already revealed about the Hoard, and explore what future work might yet uncover about this unparalleled Viking-age find.



**29 May - 12 Sep 2021**

**Exhibition Gallery 1, Level 3**

**Free with pre-booked museum entry**

### **Virtual Display - Highland Threads**

Scattered about Scotland in the collections of small museums is an amazing array of costume history from a waistcoat and jacket belonging to Bonnie Prince Charlie to a child's knitted swimming costume from the Highland Museum of Childhood in Strathpeffer. Now fourteen museums have joined forces to put on an online exhibition of clothing through the ages. The virtual display, called Highland Threads, features a selection of historical garments some of which will also be on display at the museums when they open again.

You can view the exhibition @ [highlandthreads.co.uk](http://highlandthreads.co.uk)

### **Night Fever: Designing Club Culture @ The V & A Dundee**

Night Fever: Designing Club Culture is the first major exhibition exploring the relationship between club culture and design from the 1960s to today.

Delving into iconic clubs in New York, Paris, Florence, Manchester, London, Beirut, Berlin, Montrose – and other towns and cities across Scotland – the exhibition uncovers the progressive and subversive history of nightclub design, and its far-reaching influence on popular culture. As spaces for adventure and escape, nightclubs have always encouraged experimental and radical design – from Studio 54 to the Haçienda. Discover how architecture, art, fashion, graphics, lighting, performance and sound all come together to create an immersive sensory experience where design, music and technology meet on the dancefloor.

Night Fever: Designing Club Culture features an exclusive section on Scotland's unique and distinct club scene, revisiting legendary club nights from across the country. Explore how Scottish club culture is built on an ethos of DIY attitude, togetherness, humour, and a tightly knit network of DJs, clubs and promoters – often holding closer ties to the music and influences of Detroit techno and Chicago house, than to neighbouring scenes south of the border.

V&A Dundee is the only UK venue for Night Fever: Designing Club Culture, which was developed by the Vitra Design Museum and ADAM – Brussels Design Museum.

So break out the minis, the rar-ra skirts, the platforms and the lurex shorts (for men) and strut your stuff!

## V&A Dundee

Opens Saturday 1st May then Thursday to Monday, 10.00 – 17.00.

Booking essential, £6.00 - £12.00.

More details and booking @ [vam.ac.uk](http://vam.ac.uk)



### Wish You Were Here

Scotland has dedicated 2021 to the celebration and appreciation of its plentiful coasts and waters. The Coastal Communities Museum, North Berwick is participating with a special show of seaside postcards, some of which have never been on display before, along with historic stories of the coast and its people. Sending picture postcards to friends and family became an essential part of a seaside holiday from the 1890s and reached its peak in the years leading up to the First World War. There were several different types of picture postcards e.g. some drawn by artists, like Reginald Phillimore, photographs, novelty designs and jokey ones.

Explore the history of the community, take a journey through the exhibition celebrating coasts and waters where each exhibit presents a piece of the unique story. Travel back to the days when a steam engine puffed its way to the coastal villages of Aberlady and Gullane, step inside an Edwardian beach hut and even light up the original Bass Rock lighthouse lamp.

*As an avid collector of beach fashions I was asked to contribute to this exhibition. In three case I have tried to show the development of style and propriety on the beach from 1900 to the present day. From Edwardian bloomers to Beauty Queens and the pschaedlic scene I have included, bathing suits, men's truncks, swimming hats, sunglasses and beach cover-ups. At time of issue this exhibition is still being set up so I hope to include photographs in the next edition.*

### Costal Communities Museum, North Berwick

Opens 8th May 2021

Booking is essential, please check the website for the latest information @ [coastalmuseum.org](http://coastalmuseum.org) or telephone 01620 894 313

### Opening Up Again!

As of 26th April many museums and galleries are opening up again and we are also able to travel outside our areas. Please check with each venue as many require advanced booking.

### Going for the Messages: A History of Shopping in Perth

From the medieval craftspeople who gave their names to streets like Skinnergate and Fleshers Vennel (for leather-workers and butchers), to Victorian arcades, department stores, and 20th century retail parks, Perth's streetscape reflects the changing ways people purchase goods. The Covid-19 crisis has brought new pressures to city centre shopping, accelerating the decline brought about by economic recession, the growth of online shopping and the development of out-of-town retail parks.

As high streets across Scotland face the challenge of how to appeal to visitors, attract residents and once again become economically viable spaces, this exhibition explores a time when Perth's streets and shops teemed, and its bars and tearooms bustled.

Opening 30 April

Perth Museum and Art Gallery, 78 George St, Perth, Perth & Kinross, PH1 5LB

Tel: 01738 632488

Free



### **Online talk - Same Sea, Different Boat**

Same Sea, Different Boat tells the epic story of the worldwide pandemic that put the world into lockdown through textiles, print and thread.

During this 30-minute talk, the artists behind the project, Harley Studio artist Louise Asher (Hope & Elvis), textile artist Liske Johnson (Littleheath Barn Studio) and artist Sue Brown (theyard: Artspace, Cheltenham) will discuss how they engaged a community of participants to contribute towards a textile installation that reflected personal experiences during the Covid-19 outbreak. Little did they know, it would become an international textile storyboard

telling the stories of a historical moment in the 21st century.

Over 400 individuals have contributed a printed, stitched or drawn textile square for inclusion, resulting in a large installation of five quilted textile panels that will be on display at The Harley Gallery post lockdown.

**To register your interest, please email [info@harleygallery.co.uk](mailto:info@harleygallery.co.uk)**

**The Harley Gallery**

**On 28 May 2021, 12pm**

**Free to all**

### **The History Wardrobe Online**

**Historian Lucy Adlington and historical seamstress Meridith Towne explore professional and occupational clothing**

#### **What is woman's work?**

Is it the valuable traditional roles of caring, education and entertainment, each with their own outfits and ensembles? Or the myriad jobs beyond these spheres, both manual and mental, sometimes requiring specialist workwear? Or unpaid household labour, characterised by aprons and overalls? Women's work in history is wonderfully diverse. It encompasses a broad spectrum of industrial, technical, administrative, academic, agricultural, medical, retail, artistic and entrepreneurial skills.

From mill workers to fast jet pilots, they explore some of the ways in which women's work has been reflected in their clothing across the 19th and 20th centuries, showcasing unique garments from the History Wardrobe collection.

**Sun, May 16, 2021, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM**

**£8.14, book on Eventbrite**



#### **What's in the Bag ?**

What do you keep in your bags or pockets? What stories would they tell about you? Beautiful or a bit battered, practical or delightfully decorative, bags are full of possibilities... What do we carry in them? Where do we take them?

In this unique presentation the Two Lucys showcase the stories of bags and their hidden contents, from original Georgian reticules to 1980s clutch bags (perfect for dancing round in your white stilettos). As we open each bag we catch glimpses into past lives through the objects revealed - all the paraphernalia of ordinary items for travel, vanity, security, sanitary needs and assignments.

We see how bag fashions have changed, and discuss the ways in which lives are linked through luggage large and small.

**Thurs May 27th - 7 - 8.30 PM FREE, book on Eventbrite**



### **Online Event - Translating Pictish Key Patterns into Cable-Knitting**

This talk will focus on the stranded colour-work key pattern jumper designed by George Bain and Lucy's reconstruction of this design into cable-knitting. The event will include a practical demonstration of the unique knitting techniques Lucy has developed and pioneered. Lucy Hague is a knitting designer, originally from Orkney and currently living in Edinburgh. She specialises in complex cable knitting patterns inspired by Celtic and Pictish art. She is the author of two books, *Celtic Cable Shawls* and *Illuminated Knits*. Her work featured in the 2019 Groam House Museum exhibition 'Crafting the Celtic'.

**Groam House Museum**  
**6 May 2021 @ 7.30pm**  
**£6.00, book through Art Tickets**

### **Online Event - My Favourite Object: The Langley Pattern Book Collection**

Macclesfield Museums design archive contains over 1,000 pattern books, dating from the late 1800s - 1990s. Delve into the collection and find out why these books are some of curator Kathryn Warburton's favourite objects in the museum's collection.

Through exploring the Langley pattern book collection you will discover Macclesfield's lesser known history of block and screen printing. It's a chance to see how society and politics influenced designs and a great opportunity to gain some creative inspiration.

Grab a cup of tea and join Kathryn for this online talk. The talk will be held online via Zoom. 'Give what you can' donations are welcome.

**Macclesfield Silk Museum**  
**19 May 2021 @ 5.30-6.30pm**  
**Free, book through Art Tickets**



### **Insider Insights—Textiles Revealed**

Join a Metropolitan Museum conservator to learn how X-rays, microscopy, and other advanced imaging techniques help tell the stories of textiles in The Met collection. Discover how The Met's Department of Textile Conservation uses new scientific discoveries to understand historic textiles. A fascinating insight into their work.

Watch @ [Insider Insights—Textiles Revealed | The Metropolitan Museum of Art \(metmuseum.org\)](https://www.metmuseum.org/insider-insights-textiles-revealed)

### **London Re-opens**

I go to London every year and try to soak up as many costume exhibitions as I can, the V&A and the Fashion & Textile Museums have been sadly missed. They are all now opening up but don't forget that fashion and costume also feature in other museums in the metropolis.

### **Fashioning Our History**

Fashioning Our History is a project and exhibition developed by Brent Council. The work, from participants ranging from ages 12 to 22, explores the rich history and culture within Brent through a range of media and viewed alongside a hand-illustrated fashion installation piece. Elements of participants work are illustrated onto an eighteenth-century inspired dress, created by the projects Creative Director, Warren Reilly and Garment Technologist, Nicola Cummings. By

reclaiming this style of dress (originally associated with the aristocratic elite) the installation piece represents a symbol of social change.

The 'dress' and the work that went into the exhibition is available to view on line @ [brentfashioningourhistory.com](http://brentfashioningourhistory.com)

**Visit the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens at the London Museum.**

If you have been watching Bridgeton you might remember that in one of the episodes, we caught a glimpse of London's Pleasure Gardens, one of THE places to be seen in aristocratic regency society. Step inside an immersive recreation of the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens to discover a world of glamour and fashion at the London Museum - watch out for cads and pickpockets!



**Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN**

**Booking is essential please consult the website for the latest opening times and Covid regulations @ [museumoflondon.org.uk](http://museumoflondon.org.uk)**

**We are always happy to report any exhibitions/collections/events that members come across.**

**Email [jim.annie@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.annie@btinternet.com)**

**Send to: Annie Scanlon 4/2 Links Gardens, EH6 7JH or Tel: 0131 555 1829**

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