

Membership Form

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Please enclose a cheque payable to **Paisley Thread Mill Museum** for £5.

Paisley Thread Mill Museum keeps your details in an electronic database but will not pass your details on to any third party. We may occasionally send out information on behalf of similar institutions. If you do not wish to receive this information please tick here

Open Wednesday & Saturday
12 to 4pm

Check our website for details
of Winter opening times

Paisley Thread Mill Museum

Paisley Thread Mill Museum
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Paisley Thread Mill Museum is a
Registered Scottish Charity No SC028745

Paisley's thread manufacturing stretches back just under 300 years, with its roots in the Bargarran Thread Company, beginning in 1722.

Bargarran linen thread jump started the Renfrewshire and Paisley linen thread industry, so much that by the 1730s there were around 30 linen thread manufacturers in Paisley alone.

By the 1750s Paisley's linen thread industry had grown and the Carlyle family had established the first large scale linen thread mill in Paisley on the banks of the River Cart, at what is now Carlyle Quay.

By the time of the Napoleonic Wars, Paisley's other main business - weaving - was undergoing major change. Silk was used for the heddles, threads that form an integral part of the weaving loom. Napoleon stopped the export of raw silk to Britain, and weavers sought other materials for their heddles.



Early 19th century
Ferguslie Mills

James Clark, a weavers' furnisher, experimented using cotton to produce heddle twine and was very successful. Originally he made cotton heddles for his own use, but soon realised that there was a greater demand for his product.



Anchor Mills
after a fire.

About 1812 two sons of James Clark (James & John) formed a firm called J & J Clark and established the first cotton mill at Seedhill. This mill grew into a complex stretching from the Hamills with a finishing mill to the Mile End Mill where the museum is based.

About the same time James Coats, a Paisley weaver, observed changes in fashion, especially the arrival of Canton Crepe shawls from China. James Coats worked with Mr James Whyte and for many years dominated the Canton Crepe production in Scotland.

***"Paisley made thread
and thread made Paisley"***

One part of the Crepe production required the twisting of silk threads. Mr Coats entered a partnership with them, and after the contract ended, he built a small thread twisting mill in Ferguslie. The small Ferguslie Mill was the beginning of the World wide company - J & P Coats - or Coats Group plc as it is know today.

Coats, Clarks, and many other thread producers joined forces around 1890, forming a partnership that would dominate world thread production with mills all over the world. Paisley Thread Mill Museum seeks to preserve the memories of the Paisley mills, and the other firms associated with the thread industry in Renfrewshire.



***Become a member &
support the museum***

For £5 per year you can become a member of the Museum.

We rely on the support of members to stay open annually, with the majority of our income coming from one off grants. Members receive updates on our events and invitations to special events during the year.

