

Press Release



Fermanagh District Council

5 November 2007

Charlie Lawson to Open Taylor-Woods Exhibition at Fermanagh County Museum

THE NEWS THAT CHARLES LAWSON IS TO RETURN TO THE TELEVISION SCREENS THIS DECEMBER IN HIS FAMOUS ROLE AS JIM MCDONALD IN CORONATION STREET MAY BE OF INTEREST TO SOME. HOWEVER, FOR FORMER EMPLOYEES OF TAYLOR WOODS LINGERIE AND HOSIERY FACTORIES, THEY ARE MUCH MORE EXCITED TO HEAR THAT CHARLES WILL BE TRAVELLING TO FERMANAGH TO OPEN A NEW EXHIBITION AT ENNISKILLEN CASTLE ON SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER.

CHARLES IS THE SON OF MR. QUINTON Y. LAWSON, WHO WAS ONE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES OF THE TAYLOR-WOODS FACTORIES IN ENNISKILLEN.

THE EXHIBITION IS ENTITLED **A STITCH IN TIME: THE TAYLOR-WOODS STORY, 1946 – 1966** AND RUNS FROM 3 DECEMBER UNTIL 29 FEBRUARY, 2008.

The setting up of the Taylor-Woods factory in Enniskillen was a key event in the manufacturing history of Fermanagh. It was also to have a major impact on lingerie and hosiery design and production internationally. Taylor-Woods merchandise was in great demand, supplying high fashion outlets such as Harrods in London.

The story of Taylor-Woods began in the years just after the Second World War, with the continuing culture of 'make-do and mend'. The availability of luxurious lingerie and stockings in such colours as 'Pearl' and 'Topaz' must have caused great excitement and pleasure. The 'up-to-the-minute' designs, developed under the direction of Mme H el ene Walster, provide an insight into the prevailing fashions of the time.

Taylor-Woods had a reputation for looking after its staff. Its forward-thinking practices could provide lessons to many companies today. The affection of the staff for their work place and the associated social events is very evident in the surviving photographs and the many fond memories that have been told.

These photographs and fond memories form an integral part of the forthcoming exhibition.

For more information telephone 028 6632 5000 from NI or 048 6632 5000 from ROI.

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For more information please contact:

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