



The Combe Dard

Newsletter of the Combe Mill Society



January 2019

Season's Greetings for 2019

Best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all our members, volunteers and friends.

Christmas Grand Draw Prize Winners

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our Grand Draw. We raised £845 from ticket sales plus a few exceptionally generous donations amounting to £189. Prizes were drawn on Wed 19 December.

By the time you read this John Sylvester will have notified all prize winners listed below:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| • Ryobi 18v Lion Battery drill driver | Terry May |
| • Blacksmith Experience Voucher | Richard Khosla Stevens |
| • Beam Engine Driving Experience Voucher | Jake Ashworth |
| • Family Ticket voucher to Combe Mill | Hazel Bailey |
| • Bottle Whisky | Ian McDonald |
| • Bottle red wine | Mrs Bill Faulkner |
| • Bottle red wine | John Sylvester |

Many thanks to Chas Rich for encouraging us to go ahead with the raffle and to Tony S for administering it. This is a lot of money towards our waterwheel repair costs.

New storage shed

Manpower was depleted this last month with illness, holidays and other work, in addition to the Christmas break, but we have continued on fitting out the new shed. Most of the internal cladding is now in place and the electrics are moving ahead. The next stage will be to start building the dividing partition.

Terry Bailey

Waterwheel Update

Since the last Newsletter, the gudgeons from the Waterwheel have been subjected to non-destructive testing. Both passed the testing although the one from the Waterwheel end of the shaft requires repair to a broken wing which we knew about. An attempt was made to re weld the broken wing but this failed. David Empringham, our Millwright, is currently working up the cost for either a fabricated or a cast replacement gudgeon.



The team have returned to site and started preparing the ends of the shaft for repair. The rings around the shaft ends have been taken to a Blacksmith to be altered to fit the current diameter of the shaft.

We now await the return of the gudgeons and rings so that repairs/reassembly can take place.

Unfortunately since the rain before Christmas, the river level rose, although now receding, this may hamper progress once the Millwrights return. Further progress will be reported in the next newsletter.

Richard Newman

Tombola at Combe Mill

For many years Ann Winfield has organised and run the Tombola on Steaming Days raising valuable funds for Combe Mill. Ann is happy to continue with this and has offered to have the Tombola at the Easter Market on Sunday 20 April in addition to the Steaming on the next day.

To be successful, a Tombola needs a good variety of prizes. So, if you have anything which would be suitable as a prize, for Adults or Children, please would you be happy to donate it?



Items can be delivered to the Mill on any Wednesday or at the March Steaming Day. If you have anything to donate but are unable to deliver it, please leave a message on the Mill phone number, 01993 358694 with your contact details and address so that a Mill Volunteer living near you could make a collection.

If you do not have any suitable prizes but wish to support Combe Mill, please consider a financial donation which would be given to Ann to purchase prizes. Please make cheques payable to Combe Mill Society.

Thank you to everyone who has donated prizes previously and special thanks to Ann and Ron for their dedication with the Tombola, also to the Volunteers who help Ann on Steaming Days to make this valued contribution to Combe Mill.

Richard Newman

Steam boiler testing

Despite earlier concerns only a small amount of solids was ejected from inside the boiler using the high pressure jet washer - see here in use by Chas Rich. Chas and Richard really got wet and dirty during this exercise while others observed!

Boiler inspectors Dave and Matthew Wothers visited on Thursday 20 December and performed the non-destructive and physical testing of the boiler. The tests passed and they are due back in the new year for pressure testing.



Front steps woodwork

The Iroko woodwork of the front steps railings and banisters have been sanded back to remove old varnish that was used by Beards and re-treated with one coat of an oil-based timber treatment.

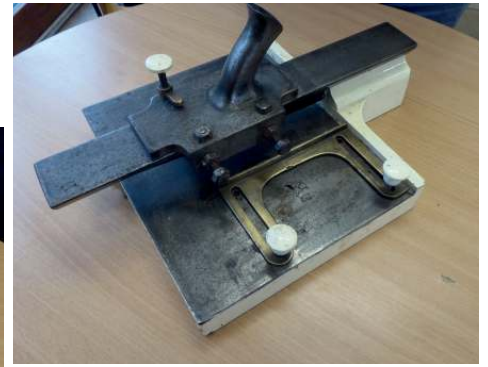
Tony Thurlby told us that hard woods of this kind should be oiled not varnished. Amy's hard work has given us a fresh start and we shall be following Tony's expert advice in future.

What was this tool used for?

Member Phil Riley recently bought this tool at a boot fair. We have been speculating about its purpose.

The sliding blade indicates it is a form of cutter or trimmer but we wonder what craft, trade or business it was used in.

Do any readers have an idea?



Inventory Update

The pace of work on the initial inventory list for the mill has moved up a gear since Julie Stuart-Thompson joined the team at the end of last season. Areas now completed are: Foreman's Office, Woodworking, Pattern Making, Tinkering and Exploration. Interesting objects recorded recently include these two decorative hand-cranked Singer sewing machines.



Luckily, Margaret Gruber was on hand that day and thanks to her we learned about the International Sewing Machine Collectors' Society, whose web site lists the model and dates of all Singer models by their serial number. So we know that the model with the simpler domed "bentwood" case is a model 99k made in the second half of 1949, while the more decorative "coffin top" cover belongs to a model 28k made in 1906.

This older machine was bought by Bob Wheeler who kindly donated it to the mill in 2016; thanks Bob.

Peter Trowles

Barbecue Operator Needed

We need a volunteer to run the barbecue on Steaming Event days this season. This is a popular offering to our visitors, members and exhibitors. We have a modern gas-fired BBQ unit and it would be a shame if this asset remained unused this coming season. Please get in touch with someone on the committee if you could do this worthwhile job. It's only eight times each year.

Thanks

Your news item could appear here next time!

Forthcoming events

Thursday 7 March 7.30pm Board Meeting

Sunday 17 March - Machinery in Steam

Saturday 20 April - Easter Market

Sunday 21 April - Machinery in Steam and Easter Egg Trail

Friday 26 April - Annual General Meeting - details tbd

Sunday 19 May - Barn Engines and Horticultural Machinery

Saturday 8 June - Singer Car Club visit

Sunday 16 June - Machinery in Steam

Sunday 21 July - Machinery in Steam

Wed 31 July - Visit from Horsley U3A Group details tbd

Sunday 18 August - Model Engineering at the Mill

Sunday 15 September - Country Crafts and Skills + Morris Side

Sunday 20 October - Wood Crafts at Combe + Morris Side

Saturday 7 December - Xmas Market

Non-steaming Wednesdays and Sundays

Date						
March	Wed 20	Wed 27				
April	Wed 3	Sun 7	Wed 10	Wed 17	Wed 24	
May	Wed 1	Sun 5	Wed 8	Wed 15	Wed 22	Wed 29
June	Sun 2	Wed 5	Wed 12	Wed 19	Wed 26	
July	Wed 3	Sun 7	Wed 10	Wed 17	Wed 24	Wed 31
Aug	Sun 4	Wed 7	Wed 14	Wed 21	Wed 28	
Sep	Sun 1	Wed 4	Wed 11	Wed 18	Wed 25	
Oct	Wed 2	Sun 6	Wed 9	Wed 16	Wed 23	Wed 30

Please make a note of these dates so as to keep them free for our demonstration and stewarding activities

Membership 2019

May I wish all of our members and friends a happy New Year and gently remind everyone that it is time to renew your subscription for the year ahead. May I also thank those of you who have already paid their subscription, even before I asked.

Terry Bailey

Colour brochure stuffing

It's that time of year when we have to prepare the colour brochures to mail out. We will need all hands on deck so watch out for the call.

Isabel Whitfield has kindly offered to manage the mail-out this year and the artwork has already been sent off to the printer.

Tony Simmons