



The Combe Yard

Newsletter of the Combe Mill Society

September 2019



August Steaming Model Engineering

What a fantastic weekend, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Saturday morning a good team of volunteers turned up to erect five marquees, just finished in time when the tables arrived, soon the tables were in position with names on ready for the exhibitors to arrive early Sunday morning.



Sunday morning final electric cables & socket were in position, then the exhibitors started to arrive and soon the marquees were buzzing with activity, people setting up their tables, sharing stories and looking for an exciting day.

Then down came the rain, and it poured, dodging the drips that came down the side of the marquees made for a bit more excitement. The rain soon stopped and out came the sun.

There were twenty one exhibitors supported by *Witney Model & Collectors Club* and *Lechlade Collectors Club*, all wishing to come along again next year and thanking us for inviting them.

John Bagwell & Rob Woodcock very kindly brought along their miniature steam engines, Rob said he felt like royalty with a supplied table, chair and gazebo.

Ray Pitts brought along four marquees, with the one owned by Combe Mill, (it made a total of five) 22 tables & 10 chairs, courtesy of Lechlade Collectors Club.

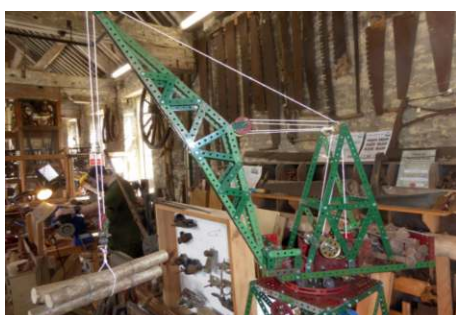
Ann, Ron & myself, completed the promoting, planning, organising, contacting, and providing tea for all the exhibitors and generally bringing the event together.

Ann as usual organised the tombola generating £12.00 on sale items and £73.00 on the tombola all together £85.00 well done Ann.

The whole weekend was a complete success, and the sunshine stayed on our side all day, the visitors were very interested in all the exhibits, with over 200 visitors we achieved our aim.

Thank you to all the support from members and volunteers in all the departments at Combe Mill, you all supported the success of the event, well done and thank you all.

Margaret Gruber



August Steaming Event

Once the rain storm was over, everything went very well, all Witney Modellers enjoyed their day and would like to come along next year (that's a good sign).

Glad to say the Tombola and Sales went very well too, £85.00 I'm very happy with that, still hoping to do better with generous prize donations from the volunteers.

Thank you all very much.

I just want to make sure everyone knows for the past 17 years that Ron and I have always done the best we could to keep Combe Mill going.

Ron is a great help with, carrying, loading and unloading of the Tombola Boxes, equipment and helping me with setting up at the Steaming events. Unfortunately my health restricts me in this way, this is my way to help raise money doing the Tombola and Sales for Combe Mill.

Every penny I take goes to support Combe Mill and I hope I can continue for as long as you want me to. I do it because I enjoy it and love meeting interesting people.

I have explained this because someone thought I was doing it to raise money for myself, this is not true, it's quite the opposite I donate things myself.

I would like to thank Ray & Margaret for the Key Rings given to the Exhibitors thanking them for coming along.

Thank you to all the Volunteers that made August Steaming event so successful.



Ann Winfield

Our BBQ service is back

We are delighted to welcome Andy Binks and Linda Gaskell as new volunteers who have taken on the job of running the BBQ for us. Andy decided to go for high quality ingredients that buyers would relish. Indeed on their first outing in August buyers snapped up the bacon rolls before most of us had woken up!

The early rain prompted putting up an old gazebo which helps struggle with in the rain. We are hoping to get a modern pop-up one ready for the September steaming that will last a few years, and can be erected easily by a couple of people.



Photo Linda Gaskell

Andy and Linda plus helper Jasmine

The BBQ made a profit of about £120 with some surplus ingredients in the freezer for next time.

Thanks Andy and Linda - we look forward to September.

Tony Simmons

Activities and visitors this school holiday

Weekly Wednesday sessions included making pots and planting seeds, drawing pictures of the Mill, making wooden medals and necklaces, making bug houses, making Millie-the-cat masks, making model water wheels from K'Nex.

A total of 37 children visited from Stonesfield, Witney, Carterton, Harrogate, Chadlington, London, Long Hanborough, Sunningwell, Aston, Freeland, Chadlington, Deddington, Appleton, Wooton, Bladon, Sutton and Eynsham. £27 in donations was received which more than covered our costs.

The K'Nex building activity worked well as seen in the photographs. Youngsters also discovered interesting activities inside the Mill including making wood shavings with Mervyn and making pokers in the forge.



Photos Colin Morris



Photo Wendy Foster

Half term activity in October will include a pumpkin trail and perhaps a pumpkin carving day as we can get a store to donate some pumpkins. Mervyn is busy making wooden pumpkins and we will add letters to form a phrase that the children can discover.

Wendy Foster

Rope splicing expert needed

We have recently had to replace the bell rope in the tower adjacent to the foreman's office. The rope has a loop at the bottom end so that it can be hooked out of the way when not in use, but unfortunately we have not been able to finish off the loop in a suitable manner. So I would like to ask whether any member has or knows of someone who has the necessary knowledge to be able to bind the end of the rope and then bind the rope into a loop.



Terry Bailey



New photographer

Our thanks are due to new volunteer Colin Morris who has been taking a series of excellent images of activities at the Mill for publicity purposes. Richard Newman is making good use of this fresh material on Facebook and several are being used in this newsletter and currently on our website.

Members of the public are always asked by Colin if they mind their photograph, or those of their children, being taken.

If any member or volunteer who is captured in any photographing session would rather their image not be used, please tell our membership secretary Terry Bailey.

Tony Simmons

Wychwood Forest Fair

Once again the Society made its presence felt at the annual Wychwood Forest Fair this year held at Cornbury Park, Charlbury, on Sunday 1 September.

Thanks are due to Robin Long, Derek Goddard, Robin Bowls, Julie Stuart-Thompson, Peter Trowles, Wendy and Steve Foster who helped to set-up, pack away and staff the stall throughout the day. Plenty of contacts were made with potential visitors and groups.

Apologies if I have omitted anyone!

Tony Simmons



Photo Wendy Foster

Christmas is coming!

Saturday, 7 December Christmas Market will need a whole team effort to make it as successful and profitable as the Easter Market, both before and on the day itself.

Could you be available for the whole or part of the day?

We will need help in the following areas:

Before 7 December

- Making reindeers or other items for sale on Mill stalls
- Links to friendly businesses who might give us raffle prizes or other sponsorship support
- Links to potential stall holders who might like to book a stall

On 7 December

- Car parking/setting up on the day – early attendees
- Chestnuts cooking volunteer and mulled wine maker
- Sales people to run our Mill stalls
- Help to pack everything away at the end of the day – late attendees

Many thanks in anticipation.

Julie Stuart-Thompson



Events planning for 2020

With our current season nearly ended plans are being made for next year's events. Thanks to the efforts of several members we now have some events that are robust enough to be rolled out again in 2020.

These are:

- Barn Engines and Horticultural Machinery - scheduled for May
- Model Engineering - scheduled for August
- Country Crafts and Skills - scheduled for September
- Wood Crafts - scheduled for October.

For our April steaming we are planning a new event with the backing of local re-enactors that will celebrate the VE Year and remember the 1940s Home Front at Combe. We expect this to be a very popular event and it will be a ticket-only event with tickets for sale online through Ticket Source.

Another new event being planned is a Beer and Music Festival to be held on the second Saturday in June when the Mill building will be shut.

We do need fresh ideas, however, for event themes for March, June and July steaming days. Your ideas will be greatly appreciated.

Tony Simmons

Blacksmithing Commissions

The photograph shows a recently completed house name that has been made for a visitor and awaits collection. It took a lot of work by several members to achieve the end result.

Pye Homes (now owned by Blenheim) have asked us to quote for providing house numbers for the new Woodstock East development. Prototype numbers have been made.



We have also just agreed to make a memorial tree bench for a family in Long Hanborough to celebrate their daughter who recently died young. A prototype is going to be made to develop a working design. Well done to our blacksmiths whose skills increase all the time.

Tony Simmons

Christmas Market and Raffle

The article elsewhere by Julie tells about our Christmas Market arrangements and as part of this fund-raising we will be running our Grand Draw raffle again. We have a good range of prizes already and further contributions will be welcome if you can persuade any local trader to donate a prize.

The photograph shows Julie and Richard preparing the signs promoting the market.

Our neighbours ADS Creative Solutions has kindly agreed to provide fresh road signage for the market, too.



Tony Simmons

Secondhand books

We are always glad to accept secondhand books which are offered to members and visitors in exchange for a donation. Please no partial sets.

Thanks to those who have already donated.

2019 Stewarding roster look ahead

Date	Steward
Sun 01 September	Philip Hawtin // Clive Brimson / Gordon Lord
Wed 04 September	Peter Trowles
Wed 11 September	Terry Bailey
Wed 18 September	???? // Tony Simmons
Wed 25 September	Derek Goddard
Wed 02 October	Richard Newman
Sun 06 October	Steve Page //Peter Hirst/ Doreen Turner
Wed 09 October	Brian Layt-Williams
Wed 16 October	John Sylvester
Wed 23 October	Ron Winfield
Wed 30 October	Peter Hirst/ Doreen Turner

Tea Room catering

Bob and Jan continue to run the Tea Room on Wednesdays. Below is the roster for steaming Sundays.

Sunday	Morning	Afternoon
15 September	Gillian, Debbie	Debbie, Jan
20 October	Gillian, Debbie	Debbie, Diane, Jan

Curryer Open Day

We'll be holding our annual Open Day on Saturday 14 September this year.

Usual format of stationary engines and steam engines out and running at Railway Cottage, Pear Tree, Oxford

from noon, so come have a nose round, a chat or get your hands dirty.

Please come and join us, and as usual all are welcome so please spread the word to anyone you think would be interested in coming over.

There are some interesting videos of our previous events that can be found on YouTube under titles like '**curryer open day**' to whet your appetites! (Do take a look - Ed)

If you want to know more or have questions please drop me a message to my new email dazzla1893@gmail.com.

Darren Curryer

Defibrillator for Combe Yard

We have been seeking support from our neighbouring tenants in Combe Yard for the purchase of a defibrillator and have received pledges from four tenants totalling £450. Three others need authorisation before committing an amount.

The estimated cost of the outdoor wall-mounted defibrillator unit in a suitable weatherproof enclosure is £1500.

I am delighted to report that I have just received confirmation from Blenheim Estate that they are willing to make up the difference in cost.

The project can therefore go ahead.

Tony Simmons

Forthcoming events

Sunday 1 September - Wychwood Forest Fair - Cornbury Park - help staff our stall

Sunday 15 September - Country Crafts and Skills + Morris Side

Sunday 20 October - Wood Crafts at Combe + Morris Side

Tuesday 22 October - PGCE Field Day - private

Friday 01 November - Autumn Social - The Lord Kitchener, Curbridge - see Margaret Gruber's article

Saturday 2 November - Meeting of Oxfordshire Bodgers

Saturday 7 December - Xmas Market

Sunday 19 April 2020 - Combe Mill at War - the Home Front

Sunday 10 May 2020 - MG Car Club Y-Register event

Saturday 13 June 2020 - Beer and Music Festival - charity fund raiser (in planning stage)

Autumn Social Evening 1 November 2019

I now have 19 members coming along to the Autumn Social Evening, I have secured the booking, and the menu has come through. (See below) there is still room for more members and their guests that would like to come along and join us.

I will be at Combe Mill most Wednesdays and both September & October Steamings, to take your menu choices. I will email members that I don't see. Menu choices have to be in by 20 October 2019.

Any additions or suggestions for the menu please let me know. I will make inquiries with The Lord Kitchener.



THE LORD KITCHENER at Curbridge OX29 7PD

Combe Mill Autumn Social Evening

Special Two Course Lunch Menu £17.95 per person



Mains

- Roast Beef with Potatoes twice-cooked in Duck Fat, Oven-roasted Root Vegetables, Cabbage, Peas and Homemade Gravy
- Roast Chicken Breast with Potatoes twice-cooked in Duck Fat, Oven-roasted Root Vegetables, Cabbage, Peas and Homemade Gravy
- Nutroast with Potatoes twice-cooked in Vegetable Oil, Oven-roasted Root Vegetables, Cabbage, Peas and Vegetable Gravy

Desserts (All with Ice Cream, Cream or Custard)

- Sticky Toffee Pudding with Toffee Sauce
- Decadent Chocolate Brownie
- Three scoops of Winstones Cotswolds Mixed Sorbets and Ice Creams.

Margaret Gruber