



The Combe Dard

Newsletter of the Combe Mill Society



April 2021

Beam engine room and its walls

Jeff Broxholm has kindly pointed out that my assumption in the last newsletter about horse hair in the lime plaster at the Mill may have been incorrect. Jeff says that cow hair was generally used as it is softer than horse hair. The hair was added to build strength into the plaster and needs to be strong, long and free from grease and other impurities. Human hair is relatively fine and of poor strength so would not be used.

Although horse hair plaster is nowadays only used on old buildings to retain the historical aspect, there are still other limited uses of horse hair today. One of the most obvious is in the manufacture of horse hair paint brushes, but there are still surviving traditional horse hair weavers.



Terry Bailey at work - clip from video by Wendy Foster



John Boyd's specially built factory in 1851

One of the last surviving weavers in this country is John Boyd Textiles who have been making horse hair fabrics in Castle Cary for over 100 years.

Returning to the Mill's beam engine room, Alan Dear and I have completed filling any obvious cracks and holes in the walls with lime mortar, and now we have given all the walls a 'quick' coat of white clay paint, which is breathable, unlike modern paints. I say 'quick' because we do not have the manpower or the time to do a professional job, but this is a working mill so should reflect the Mill in its working life.

I am pretty certain that Edward Nash would have said 'Get that job finished... ...and look sharp about it... ...I want to get the beam engine running again!'

Terry Bailey

Easyfundraising receipt

We've been paid £17 by Easyfundraising for the last six months! Thanks to everyone who's helped make a BIG difference during this difficult time by raising donations for us. If you're not supporting Combe Mill Society yet, please sign up now. It takes 2 minutes & 4,500+ shops will donate to us for free every time you shop with them! Visit:

easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/combemill/payments/60537b0af62fd200266cbd30/

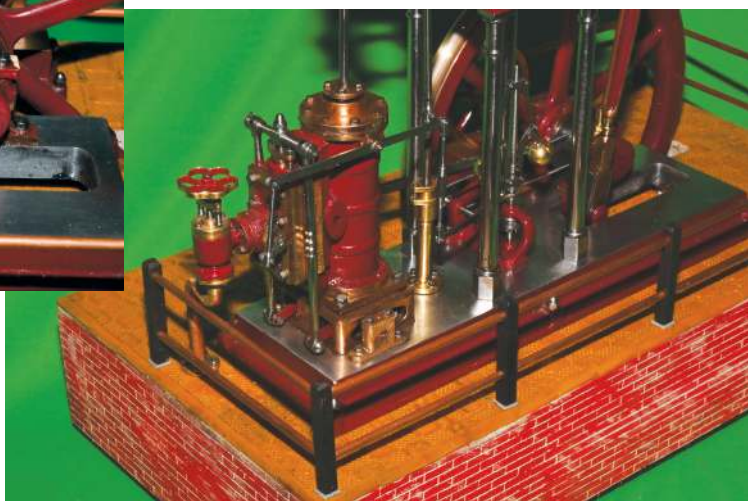
Model beam engine 'MARY' completed

Bob Wheeler has sent these photographs of his completed beam engine model 'MARY'.

We look forward to seeing 'MARY' in action before long.

Bob certainly has a nice souvenir of the COVID lockdown!

Tony Simmons



Forge floor refurbished

The risk of people tripping on the uneven surface of the forge and small engines area had been identified as a potential hazard. Thanks to recent work done by Chas Rich this is no longer the case.

Many thanks for putting this right.

Tony Simmons



Forthcoming events

Monday 12 April - 18.00hrs ZOOM Board meeting

Member update

Les Burford (aka Edward Nash) has had a difficult time recently with several extended visits to hospital. The efforts of the NHS have been well rewarded and Les says that he is now feeling better than for a long time, and Edward Nash is looking forward to being there at the next steaming.

Another Mill regular, Terry May, is in the wars at present and is waiting a knee replacement later in the year. With summer coming and plans coming together for re-opening, Terry will be sorely missed, as he and Alan Dear have been stalwarts in keeping the picnic area well maintained.

Terry Bailey

New souvenir badge



Tony Simmons has used his laser cutter to produce a batch of Millie brooches to raise funds. They are cut from 3mm ply and hand painted. The fixing is a pin clasp.



David Jones

The funeral of David Jones is due to take place on Friday 9 April 2021 at 4pm at the North Oxfordshire Crematorium. Several of his friends from the Society have indicated they will attend. We understand that Mike Hallam has agreed to deliver the eulogy.

Membership renewals

I would like to thank all our friends and members for renewing their association with the Mill for another year with very few deciding to leave us. It is especially pleasing as visitors have been hardly able to visit the Mill for the past year.

Terry Bailey

IMPORTANT REMINDER

It is still very important to put your name in the signing-in book on arrival at the Mill every time you visit. The log book is located in the Tea Room.

WE CAN BE FINED FOR NON-COMPLIANCE