



The Combe Dard

Newsletter of the Combe Mill Society



January 2022

We wish everyone a Very Happy New Year. Our eight steaming events for 2022 have been agreed and each has a named person in charge of arrangements.

Following our successes last year we look forward to everyone's support for the coming activities.

Christmas Market 11 December 2021

On Friday 10 December the marquee arrived, a great team of volunteers helped to erect and set out the tables and fit coloured lights to the ridge, Santa's Grotto was readied with presents donated by Burnside Partnership solicitors and lots of preparation was completed.

The Christmas tree donated by Blenheim was put in situ and was decorated with fairy lights and decorations.

Saturday morning came, seventeen stall holders arrived with various products to sell, all with the Christmas spirit.



Santa's Grotto



At 11.00 visitors started to arrive. Gift shop and tombola, along with Christmas music in the marquee, with hamper raffle and Combe Mill's Grand Raffle were ready to go – thanks to members and local businesses who donated prizes for these.

With the BBQ, mulled wine and mince pies, tea room, blacksmiths and Santa's Grotto were all very busy. The Busker - Matt Russ - arrived and entertained us with live carols and songs. We are sure that we have never seen quite so many visitors at one time at the Mill and they kept coming even late in the afternoon.



Matt Russ

This must have been due to all the extra signs that were put out sponsored by our neighbours ADS Creative Solutions

All of the stall holders are asking to come back next year which is good.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in making the Christmas market so successful which was very rewarding for us all. It was great to see many of our new volunteers looking as though they had been at the Mill forever. Thank you all very much.

Julie & Margaret

Thanks Everyone

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR EMAIL! I WILL DEFINITELY BE BACK FOR NEXT YEAR AS IT WAS A SUCCESSFUL EVENT FOR MY SMALL BUSINESS. I WILL GET THAT NOTED DOWN IN THE DIARY NOW TO ENSURE I DO NOT OVERLOOK MYSELF. THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR SUCH A SUCCESSFUL EVENT.
CHARLEY
MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR DRBOMB

Firstly thank you to you both for inviting me this year, I had a great day and my sales were fabulous, so thank you! The spot I was in (right at the entrance to the car park and next to the Ox Brewery was a great spot thank you!)
I would definitely like to go ahead again next year.....
If you could please confirm the date for Combe next year either the first Saturday or the first Sunday in December, that would be great, I can then block off in my diary!
Thank you again ladies, hope you managed to warm up after Combe!
Look forward to hearing from you
Vicky

I had a lovely day and sold a good amount. Well done on such a well organized event. Everyone was so lovely. I am glad that all your hard work paid off. I would love to come back next year.
I hope you have a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.
Best wishes,
Amanda



Evening, it was a lovely day thank you so much for letting us be part of it. Hope you have a lovely Christmas and a happy new year and will love to come back
Becs & Jo x

Comment as Combe Mill

Charlie Arnold

Thank you for a lovely morning out. Friendly stall holders, and volunteers. Happy Christmas!

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Combe Mill

Published by Richard Newman · 3 hrs ·

Thank you to all Visitors, Stall Holders and Sponsors for supporting our very successful and friendly Christmas Market last Saturday.
Thanks also must go to the Combe Mill Volunteers who planned, organised, set up, staffed Mill initiatives on the day and cleared up after the Event.
Well done to every one, thank you and Merry Christmas.

Good Evening,
We had the pleasure of visiting Combe Mill today. I just wanted to say Thank you for putting on such a lovely event. The volunteers, Santa and the elves were all so wonderful and friendly. My two children had a great time and it was a really enjoyable day.
We had a great chat with the man that was on the door to the entrance of Santas grotto. He told us lots of really interesting facts. We will definitely be back to visit in the

Our 2021 Christmas Market attracted more positive responses via social media than past events. The above array was posted on the website front page.

Everyone's efforts also resulted in a successful financial outcome - from a turnover of £2,542 we made a surplus of £1,929 - excellent.

Tony Simmons

Christmas Market 11 December 2021

Another big big thank you to all the volunteers/members that came along on Friday 10 December to assist with erecting the marquee, fitting the Christmas lights, placing the tables, erecting the floodlights and assisting with the setting up.

Another challenge was to dismantle and tidy up the site at the end of the day. This became an impossible task as the rain set in and darkness was upon us. It was agreed to put things away that would spoil, and dismantle the marquee and lights on Wednesday 14 December.

Again volunteers/members all pulled together to dismantle the marquee, remove the Christmas lights, put tables away and load the trailer to bring it all home.

A great team to be sure, thank you all again.

Margaret. and Ray

Remember last year?

Looking back through our newsletters shows what a lot was accomplished during 2021 despite the COVID restrictions. A limited amount of project work was done during the lockdown and our first event was in June when we sought more volunteers. We followed with a successful run of four Steaming Events. During the school holidays we ran three well-supported activity Wednesdays - bees, vehicles and pumpkin carving..

Tony Simmons



Boiler passed its second 10 yr inspection



Engine room wall painting was completed



Wendy re-opened the Tea Room



Bee keeping and military vehicle events were popular



Water pump display completed



Chimney repairs completed



Our main river water pump failed and is away being repaired



Re-launched Gift Shop did very well



Fun with pumpkin carving

Gift Shop update

Since June 2021 the gift shop has become established again with extended opening on every Wednesday along with Steaming Sundays as usual, now situated in front of the Tea Room. The assistance from the volunteers to erect the gazebo and place the tables on Wednesdays is much appreciated. It has been a tremendously rewarding season.

Blacksmiths have made a great contribution with pokers, toasting forks, candle holders, hearts, numbers, spade scrapers and much more. Our volunteer woodturners have provided us with key holders, coasters, bowls, ring holders, vases and other items. Other donated items have also made a financial contribution.

All the fleece jackets have been sold. At the start of the season we had five embroidered jackets in stock but now we need to order more. Polo shirts have not been quite so popular. We still have some left.

Final figures after the Christmas Market for 2021 is:

Gift Shop £1032.65, Woodturners £46.00, Blacksmiths £323.50, Total £1402.15

Margaret Gruber

Forthcoming events

Monday 7 February - 18.00hrs ZOOM Board Meeting
Sunday 20 March - Volunteer Recruitment Day - Steaming Event
Wednesday 23 March - First Non-steaming Open Day
Sunday 17 April - STEM - Steaming Event
Sunday 15 May - Barn Engines - Steaming Event
Sunday 19 June - Wheels - Steaming Event
Sunday 17 July - Birds, Bees, Bats and Badgers - Steaming Event
Sunday 21 August - Models and Collections - Steaming Event
Sunday 18 September - Crafts and Skills - Steaming Event
Sunday 16 October - Wood Crafts - Steaming Events
Wednesday 26 October - Final Non-steaming Open Day
Sunday 04 December - Christmas Market - not in steam



Mystery tool

Blacksmiths used these to grip round objects. Possibly also convenient for use to grip the tires for cartwheels when heated for shrinking to a wheel.

Tony Simmons

2021 Year of new volunteers

Our first event last year after COVID restrictions were lifted was a Volunteering Event when the Mill was in steam but the event not widely promoted. Posters were displayed explaining all the various volunteering roles that existed. The day gave us all good practice after the long shutdown on how to go about running an event again.

For the first time in ages, our aim of attracting fresh volunteers actually worked and since last June we have been pleased to welcome the following people:

Eileen Cleaver*, Nigel Evans, Barry Horn, Chris Jones^, Colin Boyles, Andrew Denmark, John Wright, Ann Browne, Jo Jackson, Nick Speller, Keith Johnson, Cliff Manion and Freddie Bishop & family.

(*Eileen has been unable to visit until she recovers from a fall, ^ Chris plans to join us from March once he has retired)

We are aware that several recent recruits can only spare time at weekends and we will be arranging some work days to cater for their needs.

The grade of Friend was created for those who cannot participate regularly at the Mill.

If you have ideas on how we could improve the event this year, please speak with Tony.

Tony Simmons

Membership renewals

Many thanks for those of you who have already paid your subs for 2022. For those who have yet to do so, please either send a cheque made payable to Combe Mill Society or else by bank transfer to sort code 30-19-83 and account no. 00213458. To remind you, fees are individual £8, family £12 and for friends, we request a minimum of £20. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the monthly newsletter posted to your home address, please add £10 to cover packing & postage. Thanking you in advance.

Membership Secretary Terry Bailey