



March 2022 - v1

NHS Test and Trace update

As of 24 February 2022, most of the remaining COVID-19 guidance in England ended.

We are no longer required to:

- ask every customer or visitor aged 16 or over to 'check in' by scanning the NHS COVID-19 QR code poster using the NHS COVID-19 app, or by providing their name and telephone number
- keep a record of all staff working on your premises, including their shift times and dates, and contact details
- keep records of customers, visitors, and staff for 21 days to support NHS Test and Trace

We have therefore removed any NHS COVID-19 QR code posters or any systems that we used to collect contact details (for this purpose) at the Mill.

Tony Simmons

COVID precautions

We have softened our approach to keeping members and visitors safe while at the Mill.

From now on we encourage everyone to wear a face mask inside the building and to respect social distancing in crowded spaces. Our entrance sign has been altered accordingly.

The one-way system within the building remains in place during open days.



Tony Simmons

Sisson engine repainted

As you have read in the last newsletter Nigel Evans and Colin



Boyle have been preparing the Sisson engine for repainting.

The photos show the completed work and the bright brass accessories.

This is probably the first time the engine has been painted for thirty years and what a difference it has made.

Well done team!



Tony Simmons

Head race machinery

Over recent months Derek Goddard, Ray Pitts and Andrew Denmark have been overhauling and repainting the barn engines and water pumps that occupy the head race area.

A remaining problem is replacing the high tension lead on the Ruston Horsby engine but work is proceeding well and everything will be ready for our March opening.

Tony Simmons



Event Brochures for 2022

The 2022 events inserts have now arrived to go in the Combe Mill brochures we already have in stock.

New volunteer Lizzie Bishop has helped with putting the inserts in the brochures and help from others will be appreciated.

Volunteers are also needed to distribute a few of these brochures around. It would be good to cover local pubs, libraries, information centres, garden centres, museums, places of interest, caravan parks and friends - anywhere you think of.

Please ask Margaret or collect the brochures from the Foreman's Office. We have plenty to pass around and use. Thank you.

Margaret Gruber

Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC)

The HAC recently held another regular meeting to review progress on dealing with various item disposals and to review any ongoing projects that could impact on the integrity of the Mill and its contents.

Can we please ask everyone to refer any proposed changes to the appearance, function or location of an object to the HAC for consideration.

Tony Simmons

Tea Room

The tea room has continued to open every Wednesday during the winter and we have had some members of the public popping in as well as volunteers and local staff from the offices on site.

We are still doing a roaring trade in scones and cream teas as well as bacon rolls and soup which have become favourites.

Our plans for decorating the tea room are going well and we now have paint and new furniture all ready for use! Offers of help are welcome and we will have the tea room ready for a relaunch on our March steaming day!

Wendy Foster

Education Update

I have been in communication with Blenheim Education who are relaunching their programme and plan a joint geography venture to be trialled from July onwards.

There have been school enquiries and we now have visits booked for Thursday 31 March and Thursday 7 April.

If you are available on these days or if you would like to join our education volunteers please email me on education@combemill.org. The days will include a tour of the Mill, a social history session in the Foreman's Office and an environmental session outdoors.

We will be assisted on school visits by Ros Marsden and the team from the Evenlode project.

Wendy Foster

Safety procedures

We have procedures in place to ensure the Mill is a safe place to work and visit. These deal with minimising the risks of fire and accidents.

Before we open for visitors on any steaming event the Mill is checked using a detailed check list to ensure there are no trip hazards, sources of fire and unguarded machinery etc.

At each entrance to the buildings we have posted simple notices to remind of the location of fire extinguishers and of the assembly point.

A new notice has been erected in the car park beyond the ticket office to advertise where the assembly point for Mill occupants is. A fire marshall is being trained who will advise members of their responsibilities in the event of an incident.

There will be a briefing for everyone on Wednesday before we re-open to remind us of our procedures.



Tony Simmons

Steam raising boiler ready for inspection

The physical inspection was successfully completed on 17 February and the boiler re-assembled and fired up on 23 February to confirm it is ready for pressure testing later this month. The boiler is still 'in ticket' from its last inspection which means we are currently able to 'legally' raise steam.

Richard thanks everyone who has assisted in doing the recent work on the boiler.

Tony Simmons



LAST REMINDER - 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.

Failing to renew this month will mean your membership will lapse.

Membership Secretary Terry Bailey

Forthcoming events

Wednesday 16 March - Safety briefing for volunteers
 Sunday 20 March - Volunteer Recruitment Day - Steaming Event
 Wednesday 23 March - First Non-steaming Open Day Wednesday
 Thursday 31 March - Europa School Visit
 Monday 4 April - 19.30hrs ZOOM Board Meeting
 Thursday 7 April - Europa School Visit
 Sunday 17 April - STEM - Steaming Event and a Morgan car club visit
 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 Wednesday
 Sunday 04 December - Christmas Market - not in steam
 NOTE - **no** non-steaming Sundays are currently planned.

Stewards roster for 2022

These are the assigned duties for this season. Any questions to Tony Simmons but please arrange your own swaps.

Date	Steward	School Hol
March		
Wed 23 March	Tony Simmons	
Wed 30 March	Peter Trowles	
April		
Wed 06 April	Derek Goddard	
Wed 13 April	David Knight	
Wed 20 April	Gordon Lord	
Wed 27 April	Bob Wheeler	
May		
Wed 04 May	Colin Boyles	
Wed 11 May	Nigel Evans	
Wed 18 May	Brian Layt-WV	
Wed 25 May	Clive Brimson	
June		
Wed 01 June	Cliff Manion	
Wed 08 June	Colin Morris	
Wed 15 June	Clive Stayt	
Wed 22 June	Julie Stuart- T	
Wed 29 June	Keith Johnson	

July		
Wed 06 July	Cliff Manion	
Wed 13 July	Derek Goddard	
Wed 20 July	Gordon Lord	
Wed 27 July	Clive Brimson	
August		
Wed 03 Aug	Brian Layt-WV	
Wed 10 Aug	Philip Riley	
Wed 17 Aug	David Knight	
Wed 24 Aug	Colin Boyles	
Wed 31 Aug	Nigel Evans	
September		
Wed 07 Sept	Peter Trowles	
Wed 14 Sept	Bob Wheeler	
Wed 21 Sept	Clive Stayt	
Wed 28 Sept	Philip Riley	
October		
Wed 05 Oct	Julie Stuart-T	
Wed 12 Oct	Tony Simmons	
Wed 19 Oct	Colin Morris	
Wed 26 Oct	Keith Johnson	