



The Combe Dard

Newsletter of the Combe Mill Society



May 2022

April steaming event

The theme for our April steaming event on 17 April was STEM. Derek Goddard organised the event that fell on Easter Sunday. This meant that several of our usual members were unable to attend and we are very grateful to Bob Wheeler for taking over the BBQ with the assistance of Colin Boyles, and to Julia Trowles and Nigel Evans who ran the Tea Room. Nigel's son David Evans lent a hand organising visitor parking.



We had 177 visitors and this included the owners of the nineteen Morgan cars from SWANMOG and OXMOG - the Morgan sports cars groups for Swindon and Newbury and Oxford respectively.

One owner had made a working toy Morgan based on an electric disability chair chassis.



Morgan sports car visitors



Cliff Manion and Gordon Lord

Several members exhibited STEM related displays. Colin Boyles showed his model jet engine, Cliff Manion showed a selection of movie cameras alongside Gordon Lord who looked after a mathematics themed display.

Derek Goddard put out various cams, pulley and lever demonstration panels and also his working experiment of friction properties of various materials.

Ray Pitts brought along the late Les Burford's model showman's engine he is currently repairing.

Wendy's Easter Egg trail and childrens' quiz were very popular, too.

The day was very well supported and enjoyed by all.



Cams, levers and pulleys with experiment on friction in foreground



Mechanical models by Tony Thurlby

River water pump

Work continued to install the new submersible pump in the river. It was believed that the old red pump had sat on a solid paving stone. Probing with sticks had suggested that a layer of silt had built up and so a water jet was used to flush away the silt. However, Peter Trowles and Keith Johnson discovered no sign of a paving stone but a rather 'deep' hole in the river bed that has been scoured out by the old pump.



Peter Trowles in waders where the pump will sit



Keith Johnson and Alan Dear work to locate new paving slabs

Suited up in waders, Peter spent much of one day overseeing the placement of hard core to fill in the hole and placement of two paving slabs to form a flat base for the new pump.

The photograph on the right shows Keith and Peter preparing the underground pipe that will protect the pump's electrical cable.



Easter half term events

During the Wednesdays before and after Easter we welcomed many families. Children enjoyed winning prizes on the Easter Egg and Millie the Cat trails. The winners of the Children's Quiz were drawn on the last Wednesday and all won large chocolate eggs.



The egg decorating table

Grace Morris helped children with the egg painting and some great colourful creations were seen.

Thank you Wendy for arranging this fundraiser.



Children proudly showing their decorated eggs

Decking repairs

We will be fitting non-slip edging around the leading edge of the tea room decking to warn against trips. However, the decking itself was dropping, and in their attempt to strip the slats back until they encountered solid timber, Terry Bailey and Alan Dear finished by taking up all slats as far back as the start of the metal railings. The job has to be done by is expected to cost a fair amount as non-slip decking is very expensive.

Thanks for taking it on!



BBC Countryfile filming at Mill

A forthcoming edition of Countryfile will feature apprenticeships being offered by Blenheim and they are featuring the historic tradition of apprenticeships followed by past sons of workers at Combe Mill.



The photographs show Peter Trowles talking through our social records particularly those concerning John Smart - stationary engine driver - and James Coombes - carpenter.

How we organise our steaming events

So as to spread the load between members and retain control of what happens on a steaming event day, a new method of working was introduced at the start of this year. We are still learning to work within the new system.

Here are some key points:

An **event planning form** has been created on which each organiser records details of event requirements.

One person is responsible for each event - he or she must be informed in advance of the number and nature of any exhibitor and stall holder.

No exhibit or stall shall be allowed on site if not agreed in advance with the event organiser.

This person is responsible for defining what marquees and gazebos will be used on the day. Preference is given to using our own marquees/gazebos and furniture before we hire from outside. When we do hire from outside, usually from Ray Pitts, the requirement must be arranged with him well in advance and costings agreed. The 'ground crew' must be asked to assist with set up and shut down work on the day.

The names of the event organisers are shown in **BOLD** on the list of Forthcoming Events on the last page of the newsletter.

Tony Simmons

Forthcoming events

Sunday 15 May - Barn Engines - Steaming Event - organiser RAY PITTS/ANDREW DENMARK

Friday 20 May - 7.30 pm Annual General Meeting - Foreman's Office

Monday 13 June - 19.30hrs ZOOM Board Meeting

Sunday 19 June - Wheels - Steaming Event organiser RAY PITTS

Thursday 7 July - 11am - Visit from Weston Turville U3A - tour and talk

Sunday 17 July - Birds, Bees, Bats and Badgers - Steaming Event - organiser JULIE STUART-T

Tuesday 19 July - 13.00hrs - Visit from Longworth History Society - in steam

Thursday 4 August - 11am - Visit from Fetcham U3A

Sunday 21 August - Models and Collections - Steaming Event - organiser RON & ANN WINFIELD

Sunday 18 September - Crafts and Skills - Steaming Event - organiser MARGARET GRUBER

Sunday 16 October - Wood Crafts - Steaming Event - organiser DAVID KNIGHT

Wednesday 26 October - Final Non-steaming Open Day Wednesday

Sunday 04 December - Christmas Market - not in steam

NOTE - **no** non-steaming Sundays are planned for 2022.

Annual Meeting

Every member should by now have received a notice of our forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Do please try to come along.

Stewards roster for 2022

These are the assigned duties for this season. Please arrange your own swaps.

Date	Steward	School Hol
May		
Wed 04 May	Colin Boyles	
Wed 11 May	Brian Layt-W	
Wed 18 May	Nigel Evans	
Wed 25 May	Gordon Lord	
June		
Wed 01 June	Cliff Manion	
Wed 08 June	Colin Morris	
Wed 15 June	Clive Stayt	
Wed 22 June	Derek Goddard	
Wed 29 June	Keith Johnson	
July		
Wed 06 July	Cliff Manion	
Wed 13 July	Julie Stuart-T	
Wed 20 July	Gordon Lord	
Wed 27 July	Colin Boyles	

August		
Wed 03 Aug	Brian Layt-W	
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	