



The Combe Dard

Newsletter of the Combe Mill Society



July 2023

Classic Wheels

The theme for our June steaming event was Classic Wheels and was well supported by car owners and other exhibitors. The threatened thunder storms held off until the evening and just under two hundred and fifty visitors supported us.



A combination of sickness and Fathers' Day commitments meant that we were very stretched to run the event. The BBQ was run by Peter Trowles and his wife Julia.

Colin Boyles demonstrated the model engines instead of Bob Wheeler. Colin's wife Brenda helped Chris Maycock in the tea room. They were kept exceptionally busy despite the BBQ also selling food.

In the ticket office Tony Simmons was well supported by Pat Bowker. Doreen Turner staffed the reception table until Cliff Manyon took over in the afternoon. Margaret Gruber ran the Gift Shop and Ann Winfield the Tombola and both generated a good income on the day.

Congratulations to everyone for your exceptional efforts on the day.



Happy visitor exits our gift shop



Some of Ray Pitts' collection of models



New volunteers

We have been joined by two more new volunteers since the last newsletter:

Mark Richmond and David Matthews

You are both very welcome and we look forward to seeing you for as much time as you can spare.

Vist from Standlake WI

On Thursday 15 June we welcomed fifteen members of the Standlake Womens' Institute for a talk, tour and tea package.

Clive Stayt provided the usual excellent talk and afterwards the visitors were divided into two parties for the tour.



Bob Kitchener talks about blacksmithing



Clive Stayt chats with visitors

Clive and Peter Trowles were the guides and plenty of members attended to demonstrate their various domains. Wendy and Steve served in the Tea Room.



Nigel Evans explains our steam engines



Good use was made of the veranda area

This was another very successful event and we should all be grateful the those who made the day possible.

Thanks from Standlake WI

Dear Richard & the Mill's team

Thank you, to you and all the volunteers who made our visit really interesting.

From the moment that we arrived everyone was so helpful, and the whole afternoon so well organised.

With your support the most disabled were able to get around the Mill.

The cream teas at the end were enjoyed by everyone. We all really enjoyed the day and you could have requests from other WI groups, the visit was reported on the Oxfordshire Federation WI Facebook!

Many thanks,

Gwenfair

Curryer family open evening - Thursday 6 July

Usual format of the gates opening whenever people get here, lots of engines and things to see (and get involved with if you feel like mucking in!). Free food and soft drinks/tea/coffee as always. The sunshine has been ordered, so please come and enjoy our collection and the friendly atmosphere!

Thanks

Joe & Darren Curryer

Weishaupt oil burner commissioned

The oil burner for our steam-raising boiler needs regular servicing to ensure good efficiency and minimise emissions. Weishaupt have chosen Combe Mill as the only UK charity it supports and therefore we get the service free of charge. This is very generous service and we are extremely grateful.



Another forge product

The photo shows Peter Mandeville holding a three-pronged toasting fork he completed during our last steaming event.



He should be justly proud of this item because it took a lot of skill and effort to complete.

Similar forks will be available to buy at £35.



Follow the 'green' brick road across Julie's Meadow

Over the last couple of years, Alan Dear and Terry May have laboriously attacked the undergrowth covering the footpath across Julie's Meadow to the pond, regularly strimming back the growth to widen the pathway,



rolling the ground to try to make it more level and mowing the grass. It's been a strenuous task in all weathers, and work only ground to a halt when the meadow was flooded and impossible to walk on, let alone use any equipment. In deference to the 'Wizard of Oz', we now have a yellow (no green!) brick road that winds across Julie's Meadow to the pond, and it looks great.

Thanks go to Alan and Terry who have done a marvellous job and enhanced an attraction of Combe Mill and made it more accessible to our visitors. The only problem now is that we have to keep it in the same condition in the future.

It's nice to know that their efforts have already been appreciated by some of our visitors (see below) and it also has the unexpected benefit of allowing limited wheelchair access, although I must stress that this should only be attempted with sufficient suitable people accompanying the wheelchair.

Ros Marsden of the Everyone's Evenlode team that regularly brings schools to the Mill for wild life activities wrote a special message recently:

"I don't know the name of the volunteer who was carefully mowing the path to the pond on Wednesday 28th last week but his efforts meant that a student in a wheelchair was able to join us for the beginning of the walking tour around the Blenheim estate path and he got to learn about the water meadow, habitat management and infiltration in the field as a result.

We were exceptionally grateful for his care and industry in getting the long path mown."

Terry Bailey

Ticket Office Roster

Date	Ticket Office Clerk	School Hol
July		
Wed 05 July	Colin Boyles	
Wed 12 July	Derek Goddard	
Wed 19 July	Nigel Evans	
Wed 26 July	Peter Trowles	
August		
Wed 02 Aug	Nigel Evans	
Wed 09 Aug	Tony Simmons	
Wed 16 Aug	Mike Stockbridge	
Wed 23 Aug	Bob Wheeler	
Wed 30 Aug		

Date	Ticket Office Clerk	School Hol
September		
Wed 06 Sept	Cliff Manion	
Wed 13 Sept	Peter Trowles	
Wed 20 Sept	Keith Johnson	
Wed 27 Sept		
October		
Wed 04 Oct		
Wed 11 Oct	Tony Simmons	
Wed 18 Oct		
Wed 25 Oct	Mike Stockbridge	

We still have gaps to fill that are shown in yellow in the table.

Tony Simmons

Forthcoming events

Sat/Sunday 8/9 July - Private Booking

Sunday 9 July - Wychwood Forest Fair - we have a stall

Friday 14 July - Private booking

Sunday 16 July - Wildlife by the Evenlode - Steaming Event

Monday 17 July - 7pm ZOOM Board Meeting

Saturday 22 July - Private Booking

Friday 4th August - 10.30am - Haddenham U3A. Technical Interest Group

Sunday 20 August - Models and Collections - Steaming Event

Thursday 31 August - Provisional morning booking - Witney Probus

Sunday 17 September - Crafts and Skills - Steaming Event

Monday 02 October - 9am Abingdon Prep School visit

Sunday 15 October - Wood Crafts - Steaming Events

Wednesday 25 October - Final Non-steaming Open Day

Sunday 03 December - Christmas Fayre - not in steam

New of the board

No members offered themselves for election to the board at the last Annual Meeting. However, we are pleased to say that Nigel Evans has allowed himself to be co-opted to the board. He will be subject to re-election at the next Annual Meeting alongside other retiring directors

Steve Foster stepped down as a board member at its last meeting.