



The Combe Dard

Newsletter of the Combe Mill Society



August 2023



Wildlife on the Evenlode

Our steaming event on 16 July was enjoyed by over 180 visitors and supported by many exhibitors and market stalls.

BBOWT had a stand as did Everyone's Evenlode - Rowan and team talking about the Evenlode.



Hedgehog Club area

Mandy Warwick's Hedgehog Club entertained children with activities including marshmallow toasting around the fire pit.

Bat Lady - Angela Mills - author of Bobby the brown long-eared bat chatted with visitors and sold copies of her book.



Angela Mills stall



Everyone's Evenlode stand



Andy Binks

Artist Liz Corley displayed her wonderful artworks and bee keeper. Martin Butt brought along his fascinating display of working bees.



Martin Butt



Liz Corley - artist

Andy Binks and his team ran a successful BBQ and Margaret and Ann ran their usual Gift Shop and Tombola stalls. The Tea Room also did a brisk trade.

Steam Car Visit

On Friday 21 July members of the Steam Car Club of Great Britain visited the Mill from their touring base at Chipping Norton. People came from far flung places including:

Luton, Bosham, Chippenham, Norfolk, Marlsbury, Doncaster, Leeds, Cornwall, Durham and Gloucester.

We enjoyed seeing both Stanley and Willis steam cars and some were adorned with expensive brass lighting accessories.



Visitors attended a talk about the Mill given by Clive Stayt in the Foreman's Office and bought refreshments from the Tea Room.

Near miss on the beam engine

Near misses are accidents that never happened. They are real events. Chance ensured they never got to release their full potential. They are one of the most powerful learning aids we have. We ignore their messages at our peril.

A near miss occurred on the beam engine at the June Steaming. It was formally reported and investigated, as required by the Mill's Safety Arrangements. A member sitting /leaning on the beam engine handrail whilst the engine was operating came within inches of experiencing a life-threatening blow to the skull from the moving parallel motion linkage hanging underneath the beam.

Four preventive actions were identified and endorsed by the Board. As well as revising the Engine's Risk Assessment, they include the need to emphasise the danger of distractions and most notably more severe prevention of unnecessary access to the more dangerous areas, when the Mill is in steam. Before the next steaming I shall be writing to the HTAs concerned to remind them that the safe operation of the plant they control lies with them and the staff they control. It is the person at the controls that determines who shall or shall not be admitted.

This near miss did not involve foolish or ignorant people. It could have been you or it could have been me.

I remind every member that we all have a duty of care to others. If we see a hazard we must either remove it or report it immediately.

Philip Hawtin

Memorial brass plaque renewed

Bob Wheeler has cleaned the brass plaque in memory of Elisabeth Hawtin that has been in place since 2010. It looks good again - many thanks Bob.



Job List



A list of jobs that need doing has been prepared and is often added to. The list has been prioritised and those requiring immediate attention (category I) are the ones to be tackled before any unapproved new work or projects are undertaken. The list can be seen in the Ticket Office.

*Terrys Bailey and May
repairing the shed siding*

PAT testing

After doing the work of PAT testing at the Mill for many years, Peter Hirst has now handed over the role to Colin Boyles. Many thanks Peter for all your dedicated work behind the scenes.

Membership Cards

All Members and Friends should be in possession of a membership card such as shown on the right.

If you have not received yours or have mislaid it, please ask our Membership Secretary Terry Bailey for one.



Gift Aid agreements

The society gets a tax rebate from Gift Aid associated with membership fees, donations and annual passes. If you are a tax payer as most of us are, and have not already completed one of our Gift Aid forms, would you please do so and return it to the treasurer.

Standard Forms

Would members please be aware that our standard forms for expense claims, check list and so on, can be down-loaded from the members' website.

Ticket Office Roster

Date	Ticket Office Clerk	School Hol
August		
Wed 02 Aug	Colin Boyles	
Wed 09 Aug	Tony Simmons	
Wed 16 Aug	Mike Stockbridge	
Wed 23 Aug	Bob Wheeler	
Wed 30 Aug	Clive Stayt	

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

Sunday 20 August - Models and Collections - Steaming Event

Monday 04 September - 7pm ZOOM Board Meeting

Thursday 07 September - 10.30am - Witney Probus Club

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

Forge item now lives in France

Derek Plunkett commissioned a saucepan hanging rail shown in the photo.



It was made in our forge by David Ralphs under the guidance of Bob Kitchener and Robin Bowl.

Derek has kindly sent photos of it in its new home.

Nice one!

