



The Combe Dard

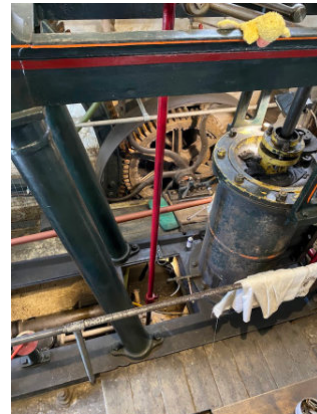
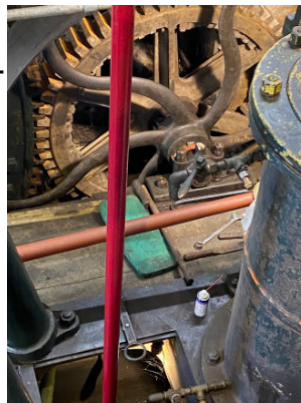
Newsletter of the Combe Mill Society



March 2025

Repair to beam engine take-off gear/pulley

There has always been a noise from the beam engine take-off pulley. Recently George Farmer and Stuart Bridger have tackled the issue and found that the wedging for them to the engine shaft had become extremely loose. They have made adjustments and will hope for quieter running when the engine next runs.



Spring is here and white tarpaulins have appeared

Visitors will have noticed that members have put up the marquee again and that a permanent tarpaulin cover has been put over the barn engine and pump area.



The barn engines cover can be retracted when the equipment is being run.



Developments in the forge

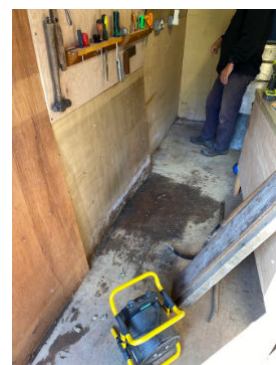
The new document holders on the safety barrier now contain photos of blacksmith examples that customers can browse.

The 'cat' bottle holder was created by Robin Long based on idea he saw elsewhere. It is for sale.



Water damage in riverside shed

Recent flooding put at least four inches of water into the shed nearest to the river. Terry Bailey and his team have been removing the plywood lining to take out the very wet insulation. While doing this they have also discovered an area of floor under the workbench that has severely rotted. This cannot have been caused by the recent flood and they are investigating the reason.



Another children's activity

One of Mark Richmond's other skills is rope making and knots. We asked Mark recently if he could devise a childrens' activity.

The result is that children can now be offered the chance to make a length of rope from cotton and to then use knots to make an animal ornament such as on the right. These can be used as zip tassels for instance.



Annual Boiler Examination

Each year, our steam-raising boiler has to be examined twice by a qualified boiler inspector. The first examination is with the boiler empty of water, stripped down and cleaned.

The second examination is with it in the working condition and up to full pressure. The controls are then overridden to increase the steam pressure such that the safety valves on the top of the boiler will open to expel the steam.

The preparation of the boiler for these examinations and checking that the automatic controls within the boiler are serviceable, is carried out on Wednesdays by the Mill Volunteers so takes about two months.



I am grateful to the following who give time and or equipment to help me carry out the work: Keith Johnson, Terry Bailey, Terry May, Alan Dear, Peter Trowles, Richard Stone and Nigel Evans.

The Combe Mill Society also appreciates the stringent examination and provision of advice by Matt Wothers from D J Wothers Inspection Services.

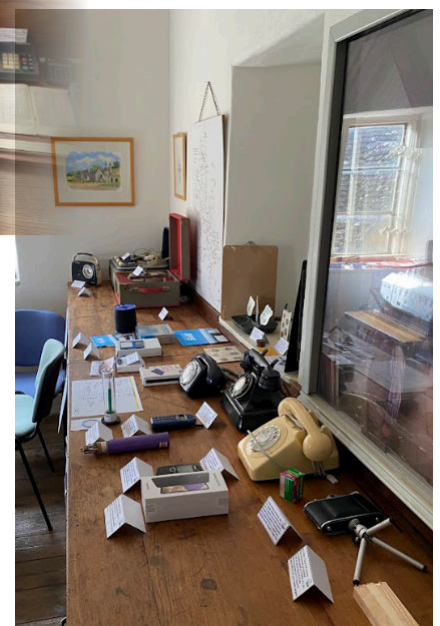
I can confirm that the final examination and testing of the safety valves were carried out successfully on Thursday 6 March, allowing us to safely and legally operate the boiler for the coming season.

Richard Newman

Ready for Change and Adapt

Nigel has spent a great deal of time and effort in setting up the display for the forthcoming Change and Adapt steaming event. Many members have loaned objects for which thanks.

Full report in next newsletter



Thanks to those members who have signed up to this roster. Gaps will in future be filled from the membership list and YOU will need to arrange any swaps that may be necessary.

Please arrange any swaps yourself

Non-steaming Wednesdays

Date	Ticket Office Clerk	School Hol
March		
Wed 19 March	Cliff M	
Wed 26 March	Nigel E	
April		
Wed 02 April	Rose R	
Wed 09 April	Tony S	
Wed 16 April	Derek G	
Wed 23 April	Peter T	
Wed 30 April	Alan B	
May		
Wed 07 May	Rose R	
Wed 14 May	Richard S	
Wed 21 May	Peter T	
Wed 28 May	George F	
June		
Wed 04 June	Rose R	
Wed 11 June	Derek G	
Wed 18 June		
Wed 25 June	Alan B	
July		
Wed 02 July	Tony S	
Wed 09 July	Derek G	
Wed 16 July		
Wed 23 July	Alan B	
Wed 30 July		
August		
Wed 06 Aug		
Wed 13 Aug	Alan B	
Wed 20 Aug		
Wed 27 Aug		
September		
Wed 03 Sept		
Wed 10 Sept		
Wed 17 Sept		
Wed 24 Sept		
October		
Wed 01 Oct	Cliff M	
Wed 08 Oct		
Wed 15 Oct	Alan B	
Wed 22 Oct		
Wed 29 Oct		

Forthcoming events - 2025

Saturday 22 March - 11am - Volunteer recruitment session

Mon/Tue 24/25 March - Europa School visits - year 8

Mon/Tue 31/01 March/April - Europa School visits - year 7

Friday 25 April - 7.30pm in Foreman's Office - Annual General Meeting

Thursday 1 May - 11.30am - Classic Car club visit

Monday 12 May - 2pm - Board Meeting @ Mill

Monday 2 June - 11.30am - Oxford Rotary Club visit

Wednesday 16 July - 1pm - Vintage Motor Cycle Club visit

Date	Title
16 Mar	STEM - Change & Adapt + Spring Market
20 Apr	Military Vehicles incl Easter Egg trail
11 May *	National Mills Weekend
18 May	Classic Wheels
15 June	The Mill at Work
20 July	Wildlife by the Evenlode
17 Aug	Models & Collections
21 Sep	Crafts & Skills
19 Oct	Woodcrafts + Autumn market
30 Nov *	Christmas Fayre

* Not in steam

Please respect our tea room facilities

The board have been made aware that two local visitors to the tearoom left disappointed and will not return again. Whilst they were most satisfied with the tea, cakes and service, they were not happy with their overall experience in the tea room. We must ensure that this does not happen again.

In view of this the following rules have been put in place.

- No dirty/oily overalls, gloves, aprons or clothes covered in wood shavings.
- No machine parts, tools or workplace equipment to be brought into the tearoom.
- Between 10.30am-4.00pm, please ensure that there is adequate room for visitors.

The newly renovated foreman's office has been equipped with tea, coffee, mugs and cutlery, so please use this area as a working restroom, as appropriate.

Thank you Nigel