



The Combe Yard

Newsletter of the Combe Mill Society



June 2025

Broxholme family memorial bench

On Thursday 8 May Nigel Evans and Tony Simmons met with Jeff Broxholme's family to receive a commemorative bench for the family.

Jeff grew up next door to the Mill when his father Leonard was one of the last sawyers in charge. Jeff is now well into his nineties and sadly has lost his memory which he used to good effect over the years to help us reconstruct the history of the Mill. He has been a regular visitor to the Mill over many years and it is fitting that his family have chosen us as the location for this commemorative bench.

In the meantime Jeff continues to receive our newsletter and enjoys hearing about us though reports from his son John Broxholme and daughter Ginny Crossfield (wife to Steve Wain).

We wish Jeff and his family all the best.



Jane Nolan (Marina's (Jeffs sister) daughter with daughter Ginny Crosskey and John Broxholme (Son)



Family dedication on the back of the seat



Jeff Broxholme

National Mills Open day

We held an extra open day on Sunday 11 May to coincide with the National Mills Open Weekend. Banbury Amateur Radio Club were present on both the Saturday and Sunday and they successfully made contact with various other Mills around the world.

We attracted about thirty visitors which made the effort of opening the Mill worthwhile.



Classic Cars

The theme of our May steaming event was classic cars with the exhibitors mainly from the Fairford Classic Car Club. Seventeen cars attended and there were seven market stalls in action.

It was good to have Andy Binks back as our BBQ chef; he has been missed over the past months.



The event attracted 150 visitors and a further seventy exhibitors, stallholders and so on, meant the mill was a busy place to be.

We managed to persuade over forty visitors to upgrade to an annual pass which was a good achievement by the ticket office and meet and greet teams.

Tatra streamliner visit

On a recent Wednesday we were visited by the owners of this rare 1930s Tatra aerodynamic streamline car.



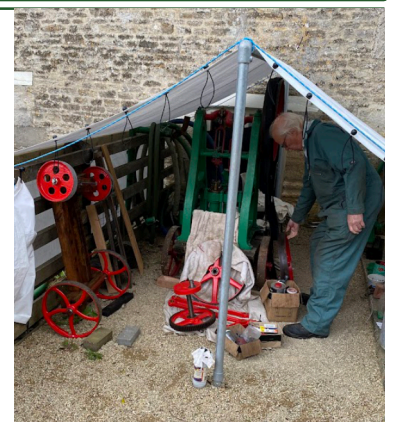
The Tatra brand was Czechoslovakian and founded in 1850. The design concepts and styling strongly influenced the design of the Volkswagen Beetle emerging from the war years in Germany.



Work continues on barn engines and pumps

With the canvas cover in place, work on the barn engine/pump area has been gradually progressing. Richard Stone, George Farmer and Derek Goddard have been refurbishing the water pumps and the engine trolleys both mechanically and cosmetically.

The parts are starting to look smart and we look forward to the whole area up and running fully before long.



Derek Goddard touching up paintwork

Non-steaming Wednesdays

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.

Date	Ticket Office Clerk	School Hol
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		

Better access to display panels

With the marquee in place for most the the season it became obvious that half of the display panel was inaccessible. Recently Keith Johnson altered the mountings so that both panels can be seen adjacent to one another. Why had we not thought of this before! Thanks Keith.



Forthcoming events - 2025

Monday 2 June - 11.30am - Oxford Rotary Club visit

Wednesday xx June - 10.30am - Members presentation of Forward Plan - **date t.b.a**

Friday 6 June - 19.00- 01.00 Paranormal investigation

Monday 14 July - 2pm - Board Meeting @ Mill

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

Date	Title
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

New on-line shop

We are changing the on-line web shop and Tony Simmons and Dave Ralphs are busy finishing off testing with feedback from other members. Watch this space.

Safety at Combe Mill

Maintaining a safe operation at Combe Mill is of vital importance as we have working heritage equipment and an age range of visitors and members that spans a 100 years. To replace Philip Hawtin, who was our DRS, is proving impossible. Three of our members, Les Allen, Clive Stayt and Nigel Evans, all have National Certificates in Occupational Safety and Health and have held H&S roles in industry and education. They have agreed to form a Safety Group answering to the Board and will handle all aspects of the safety needs of Combe Mill and support the membership in the complying with current UK legislation. One of the advantages for CMS is that there should be one of the Group at the mill every time the mill is open. The Safety Group have agreed to meet monthly and will be initially reviewing all the Risk Assessments with the HTAs as most have now passed their review date. The Safety Group would remind every member that they each have a duty of care for themselves AND also for each other, and it is not up to the Safety Group to enforce but to advise and support.

Coming up next month

- Visit of Oxford Rotary Club on Monday 2 June
- New 'advanced' blacksmithing experience now on offer
- New products from the forge

