

# Cowbridge Sawmill newsletter number 15 – August 2021

😊 We are Back 😊

## PROGRESS REPORT BY OWEN RUSH

As you will all be aware, the Corona virus has put paid to everyone's plans for some 18 months. We must all be hopeful that the relaxation of restrictions will not put us back in the Doo Doo.

I firstly want to express my sincere appreciation to the volunteers for all the efforts they have made to come and help whenever they could. Unfortunately, Eric decided to retire early in the winter of 2019. Fortunately, Mike Saunders and Keith Downing have both joined us and worked tirelessly on the Spindle Moulder, Small Reciprocating Saw and "Pencil Sharpener". They have also been instrumental in restoring the Garage Office to something like its former glory.

Partly due to Lockdown and mainly due to my increasing age, I spent a great deal of time, with help from my daughters, clearing out the house loft and cellar to get numerous items for our next garage sale. I have also tried to re-organise the garage and made a small attempt to tidy the workshop.



The Planer/Thicknesser restored by Gordon and Martin



The Automatic Lathe being restored by Martin and Gordon

On a much better note, I must thank Gordon and Martin for completing the restoration of the Planer/Thicknesser and getting on well with the Semi-Automatic Lathe, in addition to other projects.

Our biggest setback has not been Covid but the very sad loss of our dear friend and Chairman Tony Webb (see article below).

I want to thank Martin very much for volunteering to take on the role of Chairman.

I am hoping that we will be able to hold our Open Weekend on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September and that it proves successful but beyond that, weather, planning, and resources permitting, I would very much like to concentrate efforts on the crane (which Adam is patiently progressing with), the Large Bandsaw (hidden in the tin garage) altering the tin shed and building new gates. Already planned for immediately after the Open Weekend is for the rear wall of the Mill and House to be limewashed and a big leat clearance – volunteers welcome!!

My sincere thanks to you all, including of course, all those not present.

Owen Rush

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TONY WEBB



I am very sad to inform you that Tony Webb, chairman of FORCE, passed away peacefully at his home in Timberscombe on 28th April 2021, aged 81. He will be sadly missed at Cowbridge Mill by all the “Friends”, volunteers and visitors.

On behalf of everyone connected to Cowbridge Sawmill I would like to record our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the tireless work, effort and enthusiasm shown by Tony over so many years.

Tony was not only responsible for the formation of FORCE but also its guidance and leadership through the lengthy legal action against our troublesome neighbour. His wisdom and clear thought processes certainly helped me to keep focussed during a very stressful period and his ability to identify the important word or phrase and to know when to use it were an inspiration.

The fact that his wife Lesley was there working alongside him and collating, filing and retrieving masses of data was, of course, a massive bonus which he knew he could rely on 100%.

Tony also spent many hours greeting visitors on open days, providing them with useful information and giving them an insight into the work carried out by our fantastic team of volunteers.

He will be greatly missed by everyone at the Mill and in the village of Timberscombe and he will certainly never be forgotten.

Owen Rush.

Future Events: National Heritage Days

### **COWBRIDGE SAWMILL OPEN DAYS**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Open 11am to 4.30pm each day**

**Guided Tours and Displays throughout the  
weekend. Refreshments available.**

***Free Admission but donations welcome.***

***Please wear face coverings to protect our volunteers.***

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We continue to hold tours for local groups, all free of charge - although a donation is always welcome! If you are a member of a group which would like a tour, or would just like to see how things are progressing yourself, please contact Owen Rush on 01643 841744

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The Yarn Market Hotel is willing to give all Mill visitors a 10% discount off their accommodation booked directly with them which **MUST BE CLAIMED** by saying **COWBRIDGE MILL 10% DISCOUNT**. The hotel will also give 10% to Cowbridge Sawmill so if you have the Mill weekend down on your calendar for a visit, why not give them a call. Bookings can be made by email at [hotel@yarnmarkethotel.co.uk](mailto:hotel@yarnmarkethotel.co.uk) or by phone to 01643 821425