

Cowbridge Sawmill newsletter number 16 – March 2022

PROGRESS REPORT BY OWEN RUSH

First, a heartfelt thank you to everyone for continuing to work so hard to keep this ship afloat, it is very much appreciated. I know that the end results are worth all the effort you have so kindly given. We have had a few recent enquiries about volunteering. Will Ballantyne started with a baptism of fire. Along with Mike and Keith, who also started back after a break, they retrieved some exceptionally large and heavy pieces of the bandsaw from the tin garage. This was brilliantly achieved, and the bandsaw is now at last on display. The move was possible as Ben had removed his heavy Circular Saw from in front of the bandsaw and paid us £100 for the privilege!

I would like to record my sincere thanks to Gordon Pilgrim, who left us before Christmas after many years of sterling service and friendship. His cheerful demeanour and his engineering abilities will be sorely missed.

I am still not sure whether Adam will return to work on the Crane, having changed jobs and moved to Devon, let us hope so. With regards to the future, I am hoping that the rear wall of the Mill and house will be limewashed before the May Open weekend. I am also considering fitting solar panels to the Mill roof, as a move toward energy sustainability. I had a meeting with Dean Kinsella of ENP relating to changing the appearance and usability of the tin shed. We discussed all the extra costs, including more architects' costs, that this will involve.

This only makes me appreciate even more the time and effort that everyone here puts in with no thought of reward. Very many thanks to you all.
Owen.

Future Events: National Mill Weekend

COWBRIDGE SAWMILL

OPEN DAYS

Saturday and Sunday

7th / 8th May 2022

Open 11am to 4.30pm each day

Guided Tours and Displays throughout the weekend. Refreshments available.

Free Admission but donations welcome.

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 and would like a group tour, or would just like to see how things are progressing yourself, please contact Owen Rush on 01643 841744

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 or by phone to 01643 821425

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Our Volunteers



Our featured volunteer this issue is Belle Cole. Belle is a professional metal artist based at the Cowbridge Sawmill Forge. She is always willing to give her time for free for our open days and tours where she demonstrates her skills for visitors to enjoy.

Belle's introduction into the metalwork industry began 8 years ago at a friend's custom motorbike workshop. Alongside working on motorbikes, she studied for an Engineering Diploma in Welding and Sheet Work Fabrication.



In 2018, shortly after her son Jonty turned 2, Belle started her own business, BCWMA. She has created a diverse portfolio of commissions and designs for customers in the UK and worldwide. Inspired by nature, these pieces range from tea light holders to ornate water features. Belle uses stainless steel to create high-quality pieces for customers. She recycles stainless steel offcuts from engineering firms and online

auction sites as much as possible. Stainless steel is made from up to 60% recycled stainless and it is non-degradable and 100% recyclable. Being a green product, it is one of the most environmentally friendly materials in the world.

As well as her metal artistry business, Belle is also an emerging Environmental Conceptual Artist with collections at Devon Sculpture Park. Her work was also featured on an episode of Scrap Kings for the Discovery+ network, her son Jonty joined her in the workshop this episode.



Bella loves living in Exmoor and feels fortunate to be based at Cowbridge Forge. She feels that the sawmill site is a wonderful example of a community based historic site, where Owen and the volunteers have preserved an important part of a local history for generations to come. We love to have her here 😊!

