

Hockley Mill Open Day, Sunday 14 May

Eleanor Yates

About 60 people visited Hockley Mill on the open day, which was as clean and spider free as possible. Guided tours were given by Ashok Vaidya, Mick Edgeworth, Ivor New, and myself.

Many visitors were with us for over an hour, taking photographs and checking details. Some were just passing and had the dog with them, but promised to come back in September for Heritage Open Day on Sunday 8th.

We set up a display of leaflets, our three *Mills & Millers of Hampshire* books, Guy Blythman's book *Windmills of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight* and HIAS' Journals which include articles about mills. We made no sales but lots of information leaflets were taken and donations of £38.55 were received.

Ivor cleaned some of the worst rubbish out of the mill race and went upstream to see what the river keeper had done to lower the levels of the water. There are now two cuttings so that extra water can go into the old mill pond and flood plain on the Winchester side of the river.

There was excitement at the discovery of a jackdaw's nest on the creeper behind the mill where we saw the chick and two eggs baking in the sun. Luckily the mother was nearby so we were careful not to disturb her.

During the cleaning session prior to the Open Day, there was a very photogenic swan with 4 cygnets waiting to be included in the newsletter!



Ruth Andrews