

Hockley Mill Open Day

Eleanor Yates

A day of two halves.

As part of Heritage Open Days, on Sunday 17 September Ivor New, Ruth Andrews, Rob Fish, Mick Edgeworth, and myself opened to several interested groups of visitors, about 40 in the morning. Ivor, Ruth, and I did guided tours, Mick did his excellent history of the mill, and Rob had his first experience of an open day.

Then the heavens opened, visitors vanished into their cars, and HMG members into the mill. After lunchtime the weather improved and we had another 30 to 40 visitors. Donations of £37 were gratefully received.

Visits

HMG visit to Chilcomb, 5 August 2023 *Mariana Perry-Zoupanou*

It was a super visit today to **The Hampshire Cultural Trust** at Chilcomb seeing all that was going on in **Nigel Spender's engineering workshop**. We really appreciated his, and Hannah's, hospitality throughout a very wet afternoon. The detail to which Nigel described his conservation and restoration work was very impressive and we certainly appreciated seeing our beloved Whitchurch Silk Mill photos of its renovation works and how they relate to various agencies that fund it and so on.

Editor: About 16 HMG members attended this interesting visit. Thanks to Peter Mobbs for arranging it.



Lowfield Heath Post Mill

Barry Duke reports that he visited this mill which was originally built in 1737. By 1980 it had become derelict and was at risk of being demolished to make way for the expansion of Gatwick Airport. Just before the great gale of 1987 it was dismantled and taken to a barn where every piece of woodwork was carefully repaired. In 1989 it was re-erected in Charlwood just to the west of the airport. It is open on the last Sunday of each month from May to August, plus heritage open days: see lowfieldheathwindmill.co.uk.

Botley Mills Heritage Centre *Ruth Andrews*

Keith and I called in at Botley Mills where the Appleby family have opened a free exhibition about roller milling. It is open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm,. Parking is free for 1 hour, then £1 per hour; it is accessed through the arch and up the steps to the mill head on the left. If you have not seen it I really do recommend a visit. It is very professionally presented and interesting, and showcases a few examples of the roller milling machinery used at Botley. I hope that the rest of the machinery is preserved, if not on display.



A rare example of a Turner roller mill



This wheat conditioner consists of a water tank and rotating metal jugs which can be moved across to pour just the right amount of water into the wheat

See 'Heritage' at botleymills.co.uk .