

## HMG Christmas Party, 11 December 2021

### *Keith Andrews*

The HMG Christmas Meeting and Party was held at Tubbs Hall, Kings Worthy, and 25 members attended. Despite the ever-present coronavirus threat, that meant that all those who said they were going to come did in fact come to the meeting.

To kick off, Ashok Vaidya welcomed everybody on behalf of the committee, and outlined the situation that HMG finds itself in. He observed that HMG was now nearly 40 years old, having grown from just 12 members at the start. In that time it had gained a good reputation for gathering information about mills, giving advice, and carrying out practical work. But now with the secretary and chairman having stepped down, and with replacements yet to be found, plus the ability to do practical work much reduced, the group is at somewhat of a crossroads. So the committee would be writing to all members early in the new year to seek views on how we should go forward. He concluded by sincerely thanking Alison Stott (as secretary for 26 years) and Andy Fish (as chairman) for their service.

A very enjoyable Christmas lunch buffet followed, prepared by Ruth Andrews and Eleanor Yates; see the pictures and comments below.

There was supposed to be a 'penny reading' afterwards with songs and readings about mills, and indeed a series of mill songs prepared by Sheila Viner and Eleanor Yates was played in the background during lunch. But with everybody very happily chatting and talking with each other it was thought that it would be a shame to curtail that, and so we never got to have the penny reading.



*Hi Ruth,*

*Thank you, Eleanor and team so much for the brilliant buffet on Saturday which we both enjoyed very much.*

*Hoping all have a very enjoyable Christmas time.*

*Kind regards,*

*Barry Duke & Judy Melliush*



*Dear Ruth and Keith and Eleanor,*

*Many thanks for such a really good occasion – lots of lovely food and drink and the hall looked very festive. I think everyone enjoyed it and it was so nice to see everyone again - so many thanks once again for all your hard work.*

*Best wishes, Alison*