

## Eling Tide Mill Experience News

***Helen Robinson***

Pictures by Brian Pain

Eling Tide Mill Experience (ETME) said 'goodbye' to 2018, which saw us re-open following our major refurbishment, having been officially opened by the Duke of Gloucester. We have welcomed both new and previous visitors, who have been very impressed by everything that has been done, particularly the glazing in the mill, which now allows visitors to view the machinery.

2019 got straight off to a busy start, as over the Christmas and New Year closure the mill got a new set of mill stones. The works were overseen by specialist local millwright Ian Clark and means that Eling Tide Mill can continue to mill for many years to come. Ian said "I'm really happy with how these works have gone, with old machinery and buildings, despite planning, you never really know what might happen".



Matt Painter the miller was one of the team who watched the stones being carefully lifted into the mill and he is really happy with the quality of the flour from them.

The old stones have been retained in the building and are on open display for the public to view

The team have also been really busy in January and Helen, Matt, and Ruth attended a local produce show at St Mary's stadium organised by Business South to promote our flour. Delivery is the main issue and we are looking to try and secure a couple of outlets that can take our flour in bulk. We can then build our smaller customers around those.

Although we have a core team of part-time paid staff, we can't run the site to its full potential without the support of volunteers. Ruth and Helen along with some volunteers attended the annual New Forest Volunteer Fair in Lyndhurst to promote the ETME to new volunteers. We followed this up with a volunteer open day on site. We have around 9 interested new volunteers who Helen will be meeting shortly and hopefully will join the team.

We have a lot planned for 2019. We are opening 7 days in February half term and offering a programme of events as we do in all our school holidays. We have a monthly talks schedule. We are also planning for our one year anniversary too, so let's hope everyone's hard work pays off and we have our most successful year to date.