

Meeting Report, 5 March 2016

Alison Stott

General Meeting of HMG held at Emsworth on 5 March 2016

Members gathered at the Hewitt Centre in Emsworth on the Saturday afternoon. There was a short **General Meeting** before our talk began.

Andy Fish welcomed everyone. He had the sad news that Edwin Course had passed away on 16 February at the age of 93. His funeral was held at Southampton Crematorium on 1 March.

John Silman has been in Winchester Hospital for the last 7 or 8 weeks; he had an infection which is now under control but it has left him very confused.

Ros Plunkett has decided to retire after two stints as editor and Andy thanked her on everyone's behalf for the hard work she had put in. Members were very pleased to learn that Ruth Andrews has agreed to take on the editorship of the Newsletter for the time being.

Mick Edgeworth said he had gift-aid and standing order forms available.

Arrangements for the study trip to Cornwall from 19-22 May are being finalised by Andy.

News from mills:

At **Longbridge** milling demonstrations continue as usual but due to the new food labelling regulations the flour will no longer be sold to the public.

At **Winchester City Mill** some structural repairs are being undertaken. There is some lovely footage taken at the mill of the mother otter and cub which can be found on Facebook.

At **Hockley Mill** Ivor has designed and done work with Mick on new sluice gates. (*See major report in this Newsletter.*)

Alderholt Mill will be open once again this summer for cream teas at weekends and bank holidays.

At **Whitchurch Silk Mill** they are working hard on the design for their HLF project. There will be a new extended café and shop and a lift will be installed. They have many activities planned for the summer. They would be grateful for gifts for their raffle.

Richard Ellis said that at **Headley Mill** the shaft has sunk and a support for the bearing is needed.

Patrick Appleby told the meeting that the centre section of the roof at **Botley Mills** is under repair.

Eling Tide Mill has 6 or 7 different contracts to be done. There is a hold-up to work on the Heritage Centre. They may put in drop boards upstream of the

sluice gates on the bridge to enable work to be done for a longer period between tides. The mill will not open until 2017.

Andy then welcomed Peter Hill, retired Chairman of Sussex Mills Group. This year his talk was entitled **“Harnessing the Power of Wind, Worldwide”** (*see below*). Members thanked Peter for a most interesting and entertaining talk and the afternoon concluded with coffee/tea and biscuits kindly organised by Eleanor.