

Notes on HMG at the Hampshire Water Festival –

by Eleanor Yates

The Hampshire Water Festival in July was, as usual, marked by some steady Hampshire rain. The site at Staunton Country Park, West Leigh, Havant was already waterlogged by the Friday, so our displays had to be carried to and from the car park and on Saturday the ground became even muddier, even though the organisers had put down matting inside the marquee. Parts of the marquee were leaking so tarpaulins had been draped over the roof; the humidity was very unpleasant, even when the weather improved on Sunday.

Apart from our Hampshire Mills Group displays we were selling Eling Tide Mill stone ground flour and our own books and cards, and, offering free cake made from wholemeal flour. At the end of the weekend, the display all had to be cleaned and the yellow frilled slugs which had got into everything had to be sacrificed to the blackbirds.

Once again we are very grateful to Mick, Andy, Peter Mobbs, John Christmas & Carol O'Shaughnessy, plus John & Margaret Silman for their hard work. There were smaller numbers of visitors to the Festival than in earlier years and we all felt that the Festival has become more an arts and crafts fair and most of the water element has gone, so we will recommend that we don't do this Festival again.



Photos: Eleanor Yates, S.M. Viner