

Cowbridge Sawmill News Summer 2023

THE FORCE PROGRESS REPORT FOR MEETING ON 7TH JULY 2023

Firstly I would like to say a very big thank you for all the support you have shown me since the passing of dear Ange only four days after the last meeting, it is much appreciated.

Many thanks are also due for the very successful **May Open Weekend**, both in attendance and income generated. We would also like to say a huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Tilke , at Duddings Holiday Cottages for the loan of their field for parking on our open days. If you are staying in the area and want to book a cottage please see www.duddings.co.uk

We have made various major steps forward, the first being that the Exmoor National Park in their wisdom have at last given us permission to alter the Tin Shed, ie re-clad in timber and put a pitched slate roof on.

Martin, with help, has managed to get the old Shaft out and thanks to Brian Scott and his Manitou we have a new Oak Trunk ready to be made into a new shaft, something I did not think we would have to do again in my lifetime.

My daughter Lisa has kindly donated numerous slate slabs which we have laid as a decent floor in the old Tin Garage and with some new doors this should prove a useful store. Keith has now finished restoring the Winnower and has started on stripping the Tenoning machine. The delivery of the Oak tree that John and Pippa donated is "imminent" which may mean that we can think about making some new gates. Brian and his Manitou have also been instrumental in allowing progress toward installation of the Large Stenner Bandsaw, another major project that will take some time.

On the Volunteer front we have mixed fortunes as we have been very lucky to welcome our new neighbour Lesley Davies to the fold. Young Johny Johnson had a nasty fall a while back but thankfully seems to have recovered and is back at the Mill and Clive is often going above and beyond by taking things home to work on at nights, thinks, should I take the Stenner Saw around?

We have been invited to attend the **Seed to Sawmill** event at Exford again on 17th August but as my two girls want to take me for a holiday that week then hopefully the two Lesley's and Clive will cover for me, it is not too arduous and it would be nice to meet some of you there.

My sincere thanks again for all that everyone does to keep this old Mill ticking over, it really is appreciated.

Owen Rush

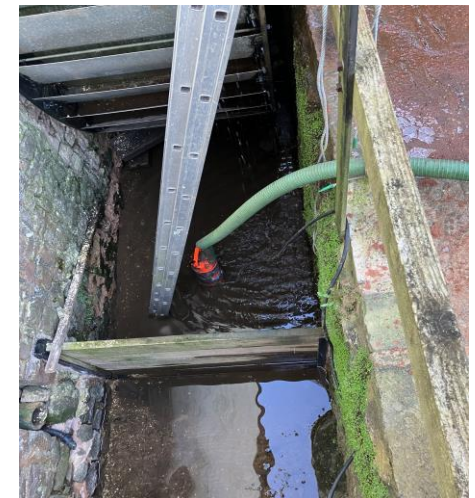
Cowbridge Sawmill Waterwheel Shaft Removal

The first action upon identifying the requirement to replace the shaft was to stabilise the pit wheel by supporting it underneath and then bracing it against the building.



Next, all the internal bearing support metalwork and associated wedges holding the wheel to the shaft had to be removed. Not as easy as it looked! Here the shaft is supported by a trolley jack whilst wedges are removed.

On the outside, to gain access to support the water wheel from underneath, we had to pump out the wheel pit, after putting stop logs in place to prevent the pit refilling too quickly.



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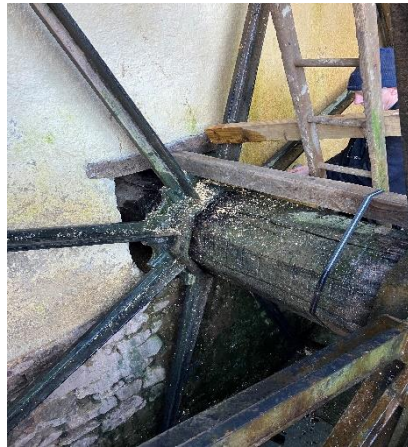
After supporting the wheel we could remove the outside bearing and its associated metalwork. You can see that this end of the shaft has a flat face. This is because the original bearing cruciform section of the shaft had previously rotted and been removed.



At the same time as removing the outside bearing we had to prevent the wheel from rolling forward. To do this we fixed a wooden brace across the spokes. This was then tied to the steel lifting stanchion above. This stanchion is mounted in the mill wall above the water wheel.

Once all the wedges that had been holding the wheel to the shaft were removed, we were ready to push out the old shaft using jacks, from the outside towards the inside. This was achieved whilst supporting the shaft with a temporary strap and wooden plank.

The old shaft can now be viewed in the mill basement showing the amount of decay present that necessitated its replacement.



COWBRIDGE SAWMILL OPEN DAYS

Saturday 9th and Sunday
10th September 2023

Open 11am to 4.30pm each day

Guided Tours and Displays throughout the
weekend. Refreshments available.

Free Admission but donations welcome.

We continue to hold tours for local groups, all free of charge - although a donation is always welcome! If you are a member of a group which would like a tour, or would just like to see how things are progressing yourself, please contact Owen Rush on 01643 841744

The Yarn Market Hotel is willing to give all Mill visitors a 10% discount off their accommodation booked directly with them which **MUST BE CLAIMED** by saying **COWBRIDGE MILL 10% DISCOUNT**. The hotel will also give 10% to Cowbridge Sawmill so if you have the Mill weekend down on your calendar for a visit, why not give them a call. Bookings can be made by email at hotel@yarnmarkethotel.co.uk or by phone to 01643 821425