

PRESS RELEASE

On Friday 18 January Combe Mill Society welcomed local MP David Cameron to Combe Mill to see and hear for himself their plans for its future.

The Society explained plans for the conservation and improvement of Combe Mill once negotiations for a 35year lease from Blenheim Estates have been finalised. Chairman Ron Rutherford said "now that we are increasing the amount of time we will be open to the public we are also looking forward to hosting school visits for which we already have some bookings."



Volunteer trustees have drawn up a business plan for the Mill's future and have begun fund-raising to pay for the surveys of the building and a visitor centre. An urgent ambition is to reconnect the waterwheel to the river while construction work is ongoing to convert surrounding buildings into office accommodation. Money is needed to pay for consultancy and to obtain the necessary permissions to proceed.

David Cameron was accompanied by two research assistants and independent local Councillor, Derek Millard. Mike Hallam was the tour guide and David Cameron was presented by Ron Rutherford with an iron poker with apple-wood handle made by Society members Bill Keen and Steve Nichols at the Mill. Refreshments were provided by Paul Downer from the nearby Cock Inn at Combe.

The Society is encouraged by the support and co-operation it has already received from Blenheim Estates, West Oxfordshire District Council cabinet members and local parish councillors.

The next public steaming at the Mill is on Sunday 16 March but other visits can be booked via the website www.combemill.org.

NOTES FOR EDITOR

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Alternative photographs are available from Barry Clack (Oxford Pictures)