



Cobham Mill — Christmas 2025 Newsletter

Cobham Mill Preservation Trust

Keeping heritage alive on the River Mole



A Year of Flourishing Volunteers & Visitors

2025 has been a truly wonderful year at Cobham Mill — and it's all thanks to our amazing volunteers, visitors and supporters!

We began the year with a few challenges, but with teamwork and determination the mill was soon back in action. Even the winter floods only tickled our toes without causing damage.

Visitor numbers were strong throughout the season, with queues forming on open days as people gathered to hear our guides and watch flour being made just as it was over 200 years ago. To make the experience even better, we moved the video presentation outside **under cover of our new gazebo** — giving everyone more space inside the mill while keeping them dry and comfortable.

From our Open Days and VE Day celebrations to the annual Duck Race and private group visits, it's been a joy to welcome so many friendly faces.



The Mill Team & Volunteers

Our volunteer family has grown to 37 strong this year — each bringing unique skills and boundless enthusiasm. Together, we've kept the mill turning and the heritage alive.

At present, the Trust is overseen by **five trustees**, and we're always keen to welcome new faces to the board. If you'd like to find out what's involved, please get in touch!

We continue in partnership with the **Environment Agency**, who own the mill, under our renewed **20-year lease agreement running through to 2044**. Under this

arrangement, the Agency cares for the building and grounds, while the Trust looks after the machinery and its public demonstrations. This long-term lease ensures that Cobham Mill will remain a living piece of Cobham heritage for generations to come.



Mill Machinery: A Year of Repairs & Successes

This has truly been the **busiest year in 35 years since the mill was refurbished**. Our engineer volunteers rolled up their sleeves and tackled some major challenges:

- Designing custom scaffolding to support the main axle
- Replacing **rotten beams** with carefully crafted old oak to avoid shrinkage
- Refurbishing the **main bearings** to keep everything running smoothly



- Realigning the **gears** for perfect operation
- Replacing a quarter of the 64 **paddleboards** and strengthening their supports



The result? The mill now runs beautifully, grinding flour properly once again.

As winter arrives, the team has carefully **prepared the mill for its seasonal rest:**

- The running stone has been raised
- Flour cleared out from the machinery
- All boxes lifted above potential floodwater



These steps ensure the mill is safe, dry and ready to start afresh in spring.

🎨 Looking Ahead to 2026

We can't wait to welcome you back for our monthly Open Days (2nd Sunday, April–October) filled with demonstrations, learning, and of course, homemade cakes & scones.

If you missed out on our new souvenir mugs and tea towels, don't worry — they'll be available again next year!

Stay connected with us on Facebook ("Cobham Mill") for updates, stories and photos and visit cobhammill.org.uk.

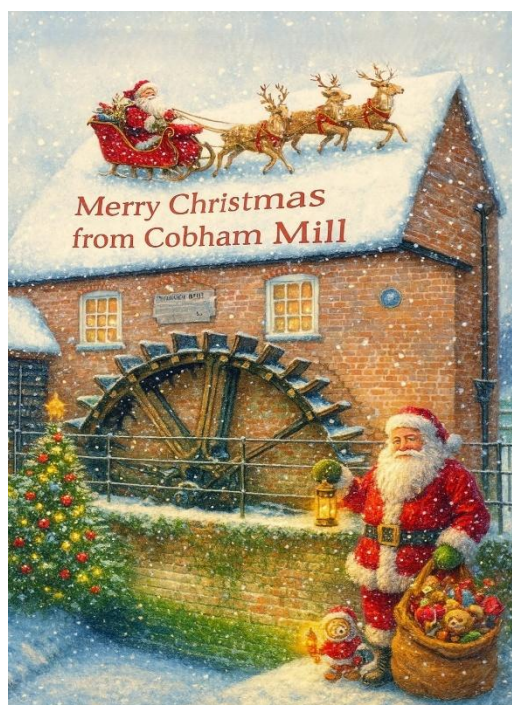
🎅 Season's Greetings

As we gather with family and friends over mince pies, festive feasts, and twinkling lights, we want to thank you for your continued support.

On behalf of the Trustees and Volunteers, we wish you:

- 🎄 A very Merry Christmas
- ✨ A Happy New Year filled with joy and discovery

We look forward to welcoming you back in 2026!



Warmest wishes,
Cobham Mill Preservation Trust