

Coetmor Mill Trust

Newsletter June 2019

Introduction

Where does the time go...? It seems only yesterday that the Trust decided to take over the management of the Mill; in fact, it was back in February 2017, and then opened for business on 12th May 2017.

The Trustees want to give an update on the Mill and the work that has been completed to improve the experience and accommodation for all users.



When the last Newsletter was issued in June 2017, we needed the help and support of all our “Friends and Past Users”, to ensure that we could gather the funds to invest in the Mill. The work completed to date has been possible thanks to donations and general cashflow. We are still keen, and there is still a need, to encourage people to donate to support the Mill for its continued operation.

For those that have already contributed and made donations or have booked the Mill since opening, the Trustees would like to extend a big **Thank You** for their help and support, which has been gratefully received and invested back into the Mill.

2017/2018 and looking ahead

We are pleased to report that bookings for 2017 and 2018 were good, which has been a great justification for the Trust taking on the management of the Mill.

The Trustees took over the property from a pretty much standstill position in 2017 and did not really begin to “open for business” until the middle of that year; there was a need to ensure that everyone knew that the Mill was under new management and it was extremely satisfying to find that 2018 saw 82% of available weekends booked.

Bookings have been predominantly weekends so there remains good opportunities for bookings on a week-days, particularly during the summer months, so please spread the word as this is something we would like to encourage. If groups want to mix things up along with hill-walking, mountain biking and canoeing, there are now some other big attractions in North Wales, including our neighbours in Bethesda **Zip World** (the longest in Europe) (<https://www.zipworld.co.uk/location/penrhyn-quarry>) and not too far away, in Dolgarrog, **Surf Snowdonia** (<https://www.surfsnowdonia.com/>).

2019 is showing a steady flow of weekend business, but we need to spread the word and encourage both new and past users to come forward to book their visit to the Mill to ensure that it continues to prosper and provide an excellent base to explore Snowdonia.

Update on the Mill Development

Since taking over the management of the Mill, the Trustees have been busy looking to make a difference to user’s experiences, without taking away the somewhat uniqueness that this bunkhouse property offers.

Central Heating



The most significant news is that, as of November 2018, the Mill now has **Central Heating!** Yes, no more storage and fan heaters; for the first time the winters should warm and snug in the Mill. This was a considerable investment but feedback from users was that the lack of efficient heating and the cold over winter months was the biggest criticism and one which the Trustees wanted to address. It's in and it's operational, so we hope that this is a further encouragement to users for winter 2019 and spring 2020, as well as those sometime cold and wet summers that we get in North Wales. Come and try it for yourself.

The Snug

Keen to make better use of the area many would know as "The Snug", and to provide activity leaders with some privacy when needed, the Trust has now upgraded the Snug. The area now has upholstered seating, heating, LED lighting and even curtains at the windows. Feedback has been good and the changes welcomed.



Other Works

In addition to the preliminary works carried out prior to opening, mentioned in the June 2017 Newsletter, the other works completed include:-

- New booking system;
- WIFI is now installed and available to users;
- Electronic/Internet Locks on the access doors, which has removed the need for the passing of keys between users and Booking Secretary;
- Kitchen/dining area:-
 - New LED lighting
 - Beam support made and fitted
 - Cooker hood made and fitted
 - Coin meter replaced and now collecting correct amounts
 - Cooker repaired and cleaned
 - Utensils and cooking pots / pans replaced where needed
 - New bins, dustpans and brushes
- All upstairs sleeping accommodation now has LED lighting;
- Staircase has been repaired and PIR lighting fitted in main stair wells;
- Drying Room lighting & power sockets upgraded to IP rated fittings;
- Back Door repaired;
- Gents toilets - new cisterns and toilet roll holders have been fitted;
- All emergency safety lighting upgraded;
- Fire alarm has been serviced and upgraded alarm points have been fitted.

In short, 2018/19 has been a busy year, culminating with the central heating project. The Trustees welcome any feedback on the facilities along with ideas that can be considered for future works within the Trust's means. The schedule for 2019 works is in course of preparation but rest assured the investment will continue, as appropriate, to the benefit of users.

Longer Term Development Plans

Outlined in the June 2017 Newsletter were plans to:

- Upgrade showers;
- Improve toilet facilities and the kitchen;
- Reconfigure the large dormitory to cater for mixed groups and smaller groups;
- Provide Leaders Room.
- Rewiring the Mill

The Trust still plan to implement these plans, subject to having access to available funds. Those following the Mill may recall that this was going to require a minimum of c£45,000. These funds will need to be found to commit to this work, in part or whole, over the longer term. In the meantime, where work can be accommodated from available funds, steps will be taken to move forward on these longer term goals.

In Summary

It's been a successful 18 -22 months, the Trustees would like to thank all those who have supported the Mill either financially or in kind over the period.

We need to see 2019/20 bookings attain a level as good if not better than 2018 so please spread the word, there are plenty of dates available at this time.

Work is planned to continue, subject to available cash, the Trust welcome ideas that it is felt might benefit other users or offers of assistance when required.

We would like to see greater use made of the Coetmor Mill Trust Facebook, a sharing of experiences at the Mill, walks, activities or just encouragement that we are doing the right things and meeting the need.

Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/coetmormilltrust/>

Join the Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1413792172033193/?source_id=946732028796723

The Trustees make no apologies for once again asking for your help by way of donations; we are keen to continue to invest in the Mill, to improve user's experiences and encourage repeat bookings as well as to spread the word.

Please make use of **Wonderful** ([HTTPS://WONDERFUL.ORG/CHARITY/COETMORMILLTRUST](https://wonderful.org/charity/coetmormilltrust)), Gift Aid or else please contact the Trustees, email below.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Trustees

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