

## **WHOTT moves to Coldharbour Mill**

The West Country Historic Omnibus and Transport Trust (WHOTT) has established a permanent base at Coldharbour Mill, near Tiverton Parkway Station in East Devon. Their extensive archive has already been transferred from Plymouth and a display will be mounted in the mill.

Robert Crawley, Chairman of WHOTT, said: "We are very grateful to the Trustees of Coldharbour Mill for providing us with excellent accommodation and scope for expansion in a well-known industrial archaeology site which has exciting plans for the future. We believe this will be to our mutual benefit with the mill providing an established tourist attraction in return for which WHOTT will organise transport events."

Coldharbour Mill relaunches at Easter 2016 with expanded facilities for the new season. In addition to normal opening, there will be ten steam days for which WHOTT will provide a free bus service to Tiverton Parkway Station. One of these will be enhanced to include a transport rally and bus running day.

In addition, by popular demand, WHOTT will recreate its 2015 running day at Dorchester in an expanded format and with new routes.

## **Notes to Editors**

Coldharbour Mill was established in Saxon times, and the current buildings dating from 1799 include a water wheel and two steam engines. Commercial operation ceased in 1981 and it is now a working wool museum using original weaving machinery, and the products are available for sale. English Heritage describes the site as one of the best preserved textile mill complexes in the country. An added attraction is a scale model of the Culm Valley Light Railway. The mill is signed from M5 junctions 27 and 28, and local buses run from Exeter daily and Taunton on weekdays.

WHOTT was formed in 1998 to establish a museum devoted to the history and development of public and commercial road transport in the West Country. It became a charitable trust in 2000 and now has sixteen vehicles in its care, covering the period from 1929 to 1998, including traditional half-cab single and double-deck buses, luxury coaches, minibuses and commercial vehicles. It also has a growing archive facility that can be visited by appointment and has published a number of definitive transport histories. From 2003 to 2014 the Trust organised an annual transport rally in Exeter and in 2015 at Dorchester.

Anyone who shares the aims of the Coldharbour Mill Trust or WHOTT is invited to become a member of either organisation. Further details about the mill can be found at [www.coldharbourmill.org.uk](http://www.coldharbourmill.org.uk) or on 01884-840960, or about WHOTT at [www.busmuseum.org.uk](http://www.busmuseum.org.uk) or from Robert Crawley on 01395-567795.

## **WHOTT Events 2016**

Coldharbour feeder bus timetables will be posted on the WHOTT website about a week before each event.

1st Jan – Coldharbour Mill steam day with WHOTT feeder bus

14th Feb – Coldharbour Mill steam day with WHOTT feeder bus

27th Mar – Coldharbour Mill steam day with WHOTT feeder bus

1st May – Coldharbour Mill steam day with WHOTT feeder bus

29th May – Coldharbour Mill steam day with WHOTT rally

14th Aug – Dorchester 2nd WHOTT running day

28th Aug – Coldharbour Mill steam day with WHOTT feeder bus

25th Sep – Coldharbour Mill steam day with WHOTT feeder bus

23rd Oct – Coldharbour Mill steam day with WHOTT feeder bus

27th Nov – Coldharbour Mill steam day with WHOTT feeder bus

1st Jan 2017 – Coldharbour Mill steam day with WHOTT feeder bus