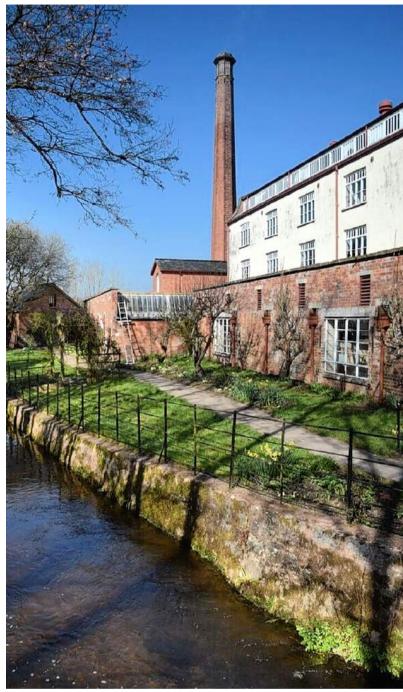
20 TUESDAY DECEMBER 19 2017 WESTERN MORNING NEWS WESTERN MORNING NEWS TUESDAY DECEMBER 19 2017 21

Vintage working woollen mill

Industrial Devon



The imposing mill exterior (Picture courtesy of Coldharbour Mill Museum)

mechanical carders – large rotating cylinders of needles teasing the wool into strands that were then fed into, and woven by, the looms. Coldharbour Mill originally em-

itage lives on – run by a core of 60 volunteers with a team of about 20 on duty at any one day. Here visitors are not just able to relive the sights and sounds of the industrial revolution but also see

craftsmen and women making tradi-tional textiles, beautiful knitting arn and hand woven rugs.

Only after learning the process from sheep's wool to finished product can you fully appreciate the effort that goes into a pullover.

"We are here to educate people about the industrial revolution and why it was so important to today's society" says Hilary Clements

"We hope that we enrich people's understanding by showing the role a place like this has played in our social

Compared to many industrial from initial cleaning and combing

bour Mill were treated well as the Foxes were Quakers.

Fox Brothers developed a cottage industry into large scale factory proployed 300 workers. Now its rich herduction and was central in bringing the industrial revolution to the South West – with textile products distributed throughout the world.

'They made their money by

making puttees," says Hilary.
The mill created 850 miles of cloth in World War I – and more than 12million pairs of puttees during the wars. making it one of the key suppliers.

"The puttee steaming saved many soldiers from trench foot," says

'But there was a dilemma for the Quaker family – should they support the soldiers by making puttees or should they be conscientious object

day evenings to carry out mainten Visitors can see the floor where puttees were made on an industrial evel – different colours for different branches of the military. The process of creating textiles,

"We are on a journey. There are plans such as bringing more of the factory back into production. It is all about going forward," says Hilary.

original machinery.

motes 'buy once buy well'," says

factory as well as running work-shops, teaching people how to weave,

spin and enjoy the steam experi-

From 1865 until its close in 1981

Coldharbour Mill was powered by

steam. Much of this equipment can be

seen powered by steam on special

dates throughout the year. This is

organised by members of the Steam

Volunteer Group who meet on Tues-

"Today we continue to make and sell the yarn and textiles made in the

raw fleece to yarn and spun yarn, contains a number of stages. Each is Her father. Pat Salter, worked as a steam engineer at Coldharbour Millbrought to life using much of the which helps explain her own special enthusiasm for becoming involved in "We want to appreciate how things

ensuring its future success.

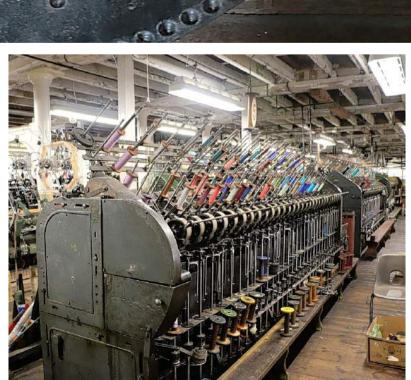
"It gets into your blood," says are made and value them. It is about quality, not throwaway items – it pro-Hilary, who is keen to kindle enthusi asm among a younger generation of

"Then when people do retire it is as if you have already sown the seed to come here. We encourage volunteers
– and play to their strengths. Some people make cake, others run tours. There is so much potential here.'

With its restaurant and shop selling an array of textiles made at the mill this is a heritage venue well worth visiting.

■ The next big event is New Year's Steam Day on January 1, 2018 from 10.30am to 4pm. There is a similar event on Sunday February 11 and Sunday March 11 and the mill opens again to visitors at Easter with an Easter Steam Special on Monday 2nd

. www.coldharbourmill.org.uk



Steam Curator and Trustee John Jasper b the boilers. Below, steam team voluntee David Sprague attends to the steam



