



Coldharbour Mill Trust Ltd

Coldharbour Mill Working Wool Museum, Uffculme, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3EE

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Project Splash update – creating a new community space and wildlife haven

Dear Stakeholder,

We have been working hard during the last few months on ideas to continue to develop our Splash project which has focused on the old millpond and adjacent field and had hoped to be able to run a community event to share some of our thoughts and get ideas from the community but Covid-19 has put this on hold. Our aim for the site remains the same – to create a new community space and a haven for wildlife and we have begun applying for funding and bringing in experts to keep the project on-track.

We heard in May that an application to the Woodland Trust's woodland creation scheme was successful and in November we will take delivery of 450 native trees that will be planted in the field below the millpond (adjacent to old railway path). Look out for details later this year about a community tree planting event! Our vision for the field over the next 12-18 months is to create a new woodland with a network of paths, seating and an open space for events. Longer term, we have plans to develop an exciting arts project focusing on the industrial revolution that may see a number of sculptures and information boards added to the woodland.

Our plans for the mill pond are to create more open and deeper water to benefit wildlife and also to ensure the Mill gets enough water to keep the water wheel and the steam engines in good working order and to feed properties, mills and the environment further downstream which are suffering at the current time through lack of maintenance of the waterway. We currently don't know when or how this will happen but we plan to start getting expert advice soon. We also aren't planning any further major vegetation or tree clearance but our volunteer team will keep on top of any regrowth from felled trees this autumn and winter (after the bird nesting season). This will ensure that when we have the funding and all the necessary Environment Agency consents are in place the job will be a little easier.

The whole Splash site will soon be surveyed by wildlife experts from Devon Biodiversity Records Centre (Part of Devon Wildlife Trust) to ensure our plans will enhance the site for wildlife and not have any detrimental effects on species already found there, in addition to previous studies. Our volunteers started back this week and one of their first jobs has been



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to start controlling Himalayan Balsam that has colonised the edges of the old millpond. This non-native invasive species spreads easily along river banks where seeds are easily transported. Pulling up the balsam in June/July before it seeds can stop it spreading, and over time we hope to be able to eradicate it from the site.

Please let us know if you have any feedback about the project and our plans or if you would like to be involved in helping shape the design of the site. We are really excited about the potential that the site offers as a new community space and we hope you are too!

You can comment on our Splash Project Facebook page or email info@coldharbourmill.org.uk

Thank you for taking the time to support this community project.

Yours sincerely

Martin Halse

Chief Executive