



Coldharbour Mill Trust Ltd  
Uffculme, Cullompton, Devon. EX15 3EE  
Registered Charity No: 1123386  
Company Reg No: 06389577  
[www.coldharbourmill.org.uk](http://www.coldharbourmill.org.uk)  
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Dear Supporter,

*Important please read and help if you can. We are asking for your urgent assistance to secure the future of Coldharbour Mill*

As you will know the Mill does fantastic work to preserve and make our shared heritage accessible to all. We are looking to raise £30,000 by the end of March 2023 in order to protect the progress we have made over the past few years. We are very thankful to our donors who have already donated £17,000, meaning we have another £13,000 to raise.

We are asking our supporters to make this happen. We are asking for donations, or alternatively interest free two-year loans in multiples of £250 with other options available. You can donate or provide your loan by going to our website and clicking 'donate' on the Main Menu or by sending a cheque made payable to Coldharbour Mill Trust Ltd. We are able to claim gift aid on the whole value of any donation made by you, allowing us to extend the reach of your generosity, if you are planning to donate, please fill out the Gift Aid Declaration enclosed.

We do hope you will already be aware of the work we are looking to protect but below you will read more about the brilliant work done by our team of staff and volunteers and we hope you will be able and willing to help protect this work too.

Since 2020, Coldharbour Mill has established our Family Access to Heritage programme which has been giving vulnerable families assistance with transport, food and entry to the Mill to encourage children to widen their horizons, learn and be inspired. Coldharbour Mill has supported and continues to support a range of individuals via our Rural Skills Programme allowing access to new skills and training, combating loneliness and providing social interaction using our outdoor spaces increasing employability for participants.

Additionally, we have created many more opportunities for access including:

- A new Conservation room dedicated to Kathleen Sprague MBE, a huge supporter and dedicated 'champion' of the Mill. This will allow us space to preserve and exhibit our hugely significant pattern books, training more volunteers in Textile Conservation and Curation.
- We now offer Multimedia and British Sign Language guides to visitors to use free of charge providing opportunities for many more people to experience our history.
- We have developed Vision 2032 in more depth and gathered data from the public. We have also developed a great team of staff who have laid the foundations to really move the charity forward to deliver Vision 2032 supported by Martin Halse from MRH MS Ltd.
- We have implemented a Virtual Tour of our Working Factory floor, opening the Mill to individuals who are not able to visit in person, this allows the opportunity to experience the sounds and sights of our heritage machinery and production process remotely.

- Since 2020, We have welcomed over 1500 school children to the site through our Victorian Drama, History Tours and Material & Fibres workshops. With plans for new workshops in 2023.
- We have also involved 83 volunteers in our work allowing them to socialise, learn, and share their knowledge while they support the Mill's work and the Trust's Vision.
- We have successfully applied for and received just over £1 Million through grants and funding over the past 5 years all of which has been used to make progress to our work to provide greater access to Coldharbour Mill and to repair, maintain and improve Coldharbour Mill's physical accessibility for the ease of our visitors, local community, schools and volunteers.
- This funding has included Cultural Recovery Funding in 2020 & 2021 to support us through lockdowns and on to a successful re-opening, funding from the Scottish Power Foundation to Develop our new Heritage Skills Programmes as well as numerous other successful projects which have been supported with grant funding. Many of these projects have focussed on providing access to those who may encounter many barriers whether physical or financial.

We have a hugely dedicated volunteer team involved in every aspect of the Mill, from Production, to Steam, to our café; they all play a massive part in the success of the Mill. Two of our volunteers have even received the Queen's Award for their service to volunteering which is a massive achievement. Our Steam team also received an award from The Heritage Alliance for their effort and commitment to enabling mill machinery to continue to be powered by steam and successfully preparing for and satisfying boiler inspections. Volunteering at the Mill also provides participants with a way to learn new skills, make new friends and get involved in all the exciting projects we have across the site.

We also have a devoted team of staff who work tirelessly to ensure our visitor experience is the best as it can be, we have recently been announced by the South West Tourism Awards as a winner in the Small Attraction of the Year category and a finalist for the Tech Champions' Choice Award in the 2023 Digital Culture Awards by the Arts Council, both are fantastic achievements. This team has also been vital to many of the projects across the past two years, to provide greater access, improve the site and lay the foundations for our further development through Vision 2032.

**This shortfall in immediate cash flow has been brought about by very challenging conditions as we emerge from the effects of the pandemic years putting this hard work and our achievements in jeopardy.**

Over the last decade we have secured the immediate future of the Mill, preserved, restored and improved facilities across the estate, but in the last 12 months, we have encountered several expenses that could not have been foreseen:

- Professional Fees – these were essential for our application to The Museums and Estate Development fund. If successful this will return almost £600,000 of money for further restoration works including replacing the fire escape, resurfacing the Mill yard, replacing the condemned lead bridge and staircase to the carpenter's workshop offices - £15,000
- Repair work and additional lightning protection for the Mill Chimney - £12,570
- Additional costs on our new conservation room, essential to stabilising and restoring our one-of-a-kind pattern book collection, which could be lost without swift action. - £4,000
- Essential repairs to our Cherry Picker vehicle, which is used for maintenance around the site - £4,000
- Emergency Roof Repairs – required due to storm damage in 2022 - £4,000

- Emergency repairs to our passenger lift - £1766  
**This is a total of £41,336 unforeseeable expenditure.**

Added to which our massive increase in gas costs rising from £3200 a year to £14,700, though thankfully, this has been reduced by about £1500 until March 2023. The winter period is always extremely challenging for the charity, with less visitors we see our income drop, and that provides serious challenges to our cash flow, the situation will become self-sustaining once we get the seasonal visitors in numbers from April, however the next year will be challenging in the current financial climate.

In order to secure the Mill beyond April 2023 and though into the future we have actioned the following:

- We have reduced all expenditure by 30%.
- We are providing opportunities for additional tenants at Coldharbour Mill, this will increase revenue by up to £16,000 in 2023, and £28,000 in 2024 also creating new spaces for office and artist studios within the Estate (the latter being a key part of Coldharbour Mill Vision 2023).
- We have invested in a part-time Fundraiser who will work with our volunteer fundraisers in order to increase the level of Grants and Funding received in 2023 and beyond. We never budget for considerable upswings in grant funding, these would be in addition to the income we have budgeted for.
- We have gone out to competitive tenders for services such as insurance which could reduce our costs significantly.

We will continue to strive to reduce costs and increase our potential revenue streams throughout 2023, but we need your help in the meantime to ensure we do not lose any of the significant progress we have made in the past few years.

We are looking to raise an additional £13,000 by the end of March and so we are asking supporters to make this happen with either a donation or interest free two-year loans in multiples of £250 or whatever you can afford. You can donate or provide your loan by going to our website and clicking 'donate' on the Main Menu or by sending a cheque made payable to Coldharbour Mill Trust Ltd and filling out the form enclosed. We can claim gift aid on the whole value of any donation made by you, allowing us to extend the reach of your generosity, if you are planning to donate, please fill out the Gift Aid Declaration on the form enclosed.

So please help us, we have weathered many challenging times as a very small charity with a big, listed estate. Whilst this is an extremely tough period for us, with your help, we can move forward to a more secure future. We do hope that as a supporter, you will appreciate the improvements we have been making to our site and the development of our work and wish to support us to continue this.

Best Wishes,

Bryher Mason  
Chair of Trustees, Coldharbour Mill Trust Ltd

# Providing and Donation or Loan



## My Details

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name or initial(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Full Home address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to:

Donate  Provide a Loan:

Amount I am donating/loaning: £ \_\_\_\_\_

If providing a loan, please tick to confirm that you understand that this is a non-interest-bearing loan which is repayable after 2 years.

If donating, you are able to additional support us by filling out a Gift Declaration below

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## Charity Gift Aid Declaration – single donation **Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate**

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

**In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:**

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ to:

**Name of Charity** \_\_\_\_\_

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

**Please notify the charity if you:**

- want to cancel this declaration
- change your name or home address
- no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains
- If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.