

The Trustees and volunteers at Bunbury Mill wish you a
Happy New Year
and we hope to see you at the mill very soon!

**Long time - No see!
We're hopefully opening again soon.**

We plan to re-open the mill to visitors on **27th March** every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday until 30th October 2022.

With Covid precautions we shall take every measure we can to ensure the well-being of visitors and staff alike. In the meantime, you are still more than welcome to visit the mill grounds to enjoy the peace and quiet of the surroundings and see nature at its best for yourself - it won't be long before the spring flowers awake from their winter rest.

The tea room will, initially, be serving light refreshments.

Guided tours start from 1:00 pm and will last about 40 minutes.

Tour prices for 2022 are:

Adult £4.00

Child £2.50 (aged 5 to 11)

Child Free (aged under 5)

Family £12.00 (2 adults + 2 children)

We now accept payment by Credit/Debit card.

Watch our NEW FORMAT website for updates -
www.bunburymill.com

Additionally, bookings for private and group events at the visitor centre are now possible - further details are on the 'Visit Us' tab on the website or please email to discuss your requirements at event-hire@bunburymill.com.

Check out the rest of the newsletter to see what's happened in the mill's locale, plus details of some of the great work that's been happening over the last few months to maintain and improve the site.

Schools' Educational Visits

We are currently re-formatting and trialling our education sessions to ensure compliance with any Government Covid-19 guidelines and regulations which may be in force during our opening period.

Please keep checking our website for more information of when we are able to provide an environment which will ensure the safety of children and adults attending these education days.

The "bakery" dig



Photograph courtesy of Bunbury's "The Paper"

In April 2021, an archaeological 'dig' took place next to the old surgery behind St Boniface Church. The site had been purchased for development as a small housing estate, and the land, as legally required, was surveyed. A collection of stone blocks was discovered, and soon became a point of interest for the archaeological team.

Initially a small trench had been dug, but after sandstone blocks and burned clay were found, a wider area was excavated. Grinding stones, burned clay and the remains of what might have been an oven were discovered. Carbon dating would be needed to officially date the discoveries, but the suspicion was that it was probably medieval and may represent a communal or manorial bread oven.

There were, in fact, very few artefacts from the site aside from the fragments of rotary quern stones (grinding stones) which had been set into the base of the oven or used as post-hole fillers. There was one almost complete lower stone and parts to at least three upper stones. By the time they were used in the construction of the oven floor they were already broken and at least one has evidence for secondary use as a grinding stone.

Two Carbon14 dates suggest the ovens were in use in the Middle Saxon period between the 8th and 9th century AD. Analysing the soil samples taken from the various phases of the oven revealed both burnt animal bone (including fish (Herring)) and charred plant remains including cereals (Rye) and pulses (Pea). Given the date of the activity, these environmental remains are very rare for Cheshire and warranted further analysis.

The most likely interpretation of the results is that we have evidence for a 'kitchen' attached to a high status establishment which may have been either the early pre-conquest church at Bunbury or a hall belonging to a local lord.

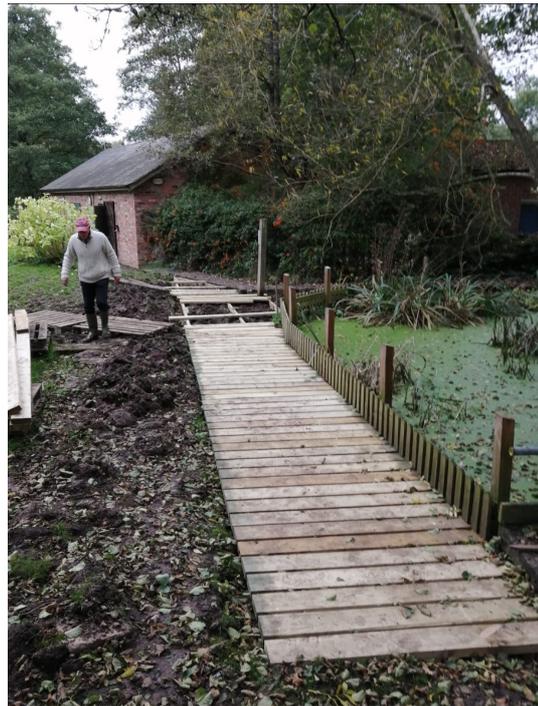
Once the artefacts have been fully dated and logged, they will be returned to the housing developer who has promised they will be passed to Bunbury Mill for safe-keeping and display, giving everyone a chance to see them.

[Click here to view drone footage of the dig site](#)

Fancy volunteering?

During the lockdowns and normal 'closed' seasons, we continue to carry out essential maintenance work to keep the machinery and the grounds in good condition (socially distanced, of course!). The Trustees are always very happy to see new faces as volunteers who may like to join the various teams in the upkeep of the mill in whatever way they can. No experience is necessary - just an enthusiasm for the Mill, its surroundings and the Bunbury village heritage. For more information see "How Can I Help" on our website www.bunburymill.com. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please do contact us at info@bunburymill.com or, better still, just call in at the mill on a Wednesday morning (after 10.00am!) ... we will be down there and even if it's too miserable to work we just have a chat over a cuppa!

and - we're a fun gang!



8th October - "Look at all this wood! What are we going to do with it?"

We'll build a new boardwalk!

It links the Visitor Centre to the dipping pond. - Finished 15th November.



Not much further to do - just round the corner to the door.

"You can see where I've done the cleaning. Have I missed anywhere?"

Around the World in 80 Days



As always, it was a tremendous performance from Rain or Shine! The Bunbury audience is one of their favourites to play to! We were all certainly in need of a good laugh to cheer us up, so congratulations to all those who braved the sleet and rain in getting to the Village Hall on the 4th December evening.

Inevitably, the cast gave their best in this rip-roaring success and enjoyed the appreciation of the audience. Proceeds are shared between the Village Hall and Bunbury Mill funds.

Our thanks must be extended to Henry and Steve from the "Nags Head" pub next door to the Village Hall. They were so helpful setting up the bar and drinks for the event as they have done on previous occasions. Thank you so much guys!

Rain or Shine have already been booked for their "Picnic in the Park" Summer performance at the **Bunbury Cricket Club** on **Sunday 19th June, 2022 at 4.00pm**. Put the date in your diary and then watch this space or the "Coming Up..." page on the website for further details of this "nor-to-be-missed" show!

 Web: www.Bunburymill.com

 Instagram: [bunburymill](https://www.instagram.com/bunburymill)

Supported by



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You can contact us at info@bunburymill.com

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