

## **STROUDWATER TEXTILE TRUST**

### **Chairperson's Report 2014**

A large part of the Trust's efforts this year have been devoted to developing the process of establishing a textile centre at Longford's Mill and a fuller account is given in a separate report. We have been assisted in this and other work by generous grants from the Architectural Heritage Fund, the Worshipful Company of Dyers, Stroud Preservation Society and individual members.

We have also had our website completely redesigned and it is now far better looking, more informative and is being regularly updated.

While all this has been going on, the usual activities of the Trust have been progressing well, with good visitor numbers at all our sites and events. All these activities mean a great deal of work for the trustees, the Heritage Committee and all the volunteers. If we are to move forward we are in need of more members and, in particular, more members who will take an active part in one or more of our activities.

One important innovation this year is the creation of a Longford's Foundation Fund. We are all aware that developing Longford's is likely to be a costly business and a bequest by the late Terry Eldridge has enabled us to start a fund to help meet the cost. A number of other donations have already been received and I hope that we will see the fund grow significantly over the next few years.

I should like to add a personal note. This is my last year in the chair and as a trustee. As a founder member I have had the satisfaction of seeing the Trust grow and develop year by year. I have always believed that organisations need change if they are to thrive and after two stints as chairperson I feel that now is the time to stand down and I hope my successor enjoys the role as much as I have done. Tony Preece has also resigned as both treasurer and trustee. He joined us at a difficult time and has been a huge help in setting us on a sound financial footing – as well as being a forthright voice of good sense throughout our discussions. He will be greatly missed.

Anthony Burton