



## **PRESS RELEASE**

March 2006

### **Summerton Mill – ‘classic’ children’s animation series elevated to stand-alone status by the BBC**

*Following a successful launch within Tikkabilla, this charming stop-frame animated series is about to return to our screens. Due to its popularity during the first screening in the autumn of 2005, the BBC have given Summerton Mill its own transmission slot. Destined to be a timeless classic, Summerton Mill is set in a pretty rural valley and centres around an old watermill. It is similar in style to such classics as Bagpuss, Trumpton and Camberwick Green and has been winning a place in the hearts of young children and parents alike with its magical setting, endearing characters and innocent appeal. The success story of Summerton Mill follows the path of Morph and The Simpsons, both of which started life within other programmes before becoming series in their own right.*

Summerton Mill was featured on CBeebies in the BBC’s flagship programme, Tikkabilla, from September to December, 2005. The series was then repeated on BBC2. The new stand-alone series will be transmitted on CBeebies from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2006.

**Programme:** Summerton Mill – 13 x four-minute episodes

**Channel:** CBeebies

**When:** Every Saturday and Sunday at 8.10am, and repeated at 2.10pm, starting from Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup> 2006, up to and including Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2006

Summerton Mill is a tumbledown watermill set in a very beautiful valley. But, when it rains up on the hills, the old waterwheel starts to turn, and a ‘little bit of magic takes place, and, for a little while, everything goes back to how it used to be’. It’s always a lovely day as Dan and his faithful companion Fluffa, Dr and Mrs Naybhur who live in their pretty cottage a little way up the track, Francoise the French cow, the spectacular yellow spinning chickens and Mousey-Tongue, the laziest cat in the world, go about their daily lives. But then, as the water level drops, the waterwheel slows down and, eventually, stops. And Summerton Mill goes back to being ‘a home just to the wild animals, the birds and the plants’.

The series is a twenty-first century stop-frame animation, produced using similar but updated techniques to those used in classic children's television series such as 'Camberwick Green', 'Trumpton', 'Bagpuss' and 'The Magic Roundabout'. Adding to this classic flavour, the Summerton Mill character voices and narration are provided by Silas Hawkins whose father, Peter Hawkins, supplied the voices for the original series of 'Bill and Ben, The Flowerpot Men', 'Captain Pugwash' and 'The Woodentops'.

Conceived in 2001, Summerton Mill is the brainchild of two Oxfordshire-based animators, Pete Bryden and Ed Cookson, who set out to create a timeless children's animation that would appeal not only to children, but also to their parents. With its realistic sets, intricately detailed models, charming stories and wonderful mix of lovable characters, Summerton Mill is set to go down as one of the UK's classic children's programmes.

-ends-

#### **Notes to editors**

For further information including production stills, please visit [www.summertonmill.com](http://www.summertonmill.com)

A preview DVD and print-resolution production stills are available on request

Pete Bryden - [pete@summertonmill.com](mailto:pete@summertonmill.com) +44 (0) 7831 153044

Ed Cookson - [ed@summertonmill.com](mailto:ed@summertonmill.com) +44 (0) 7967 018908

Summerton Mill Ltd

The Colin Sanders Innovation Centre

Mewburn Road

Banbury

Oxon OX16 9PA

+44 (0) 1295 817644