



Friends of
Windmill Hill
Windmill
Newsletter

Number 46
Winter 2017

Review of 2017

We began 2017 looking forward to the first season that we would be open to the public as a fully working windmill – milling flour for sale to visitors. That didn't happen because of the problems with the cogs on the brake-wheel but, even so, we have had a great season in terms of visitor numbers – and plenty of positive feedback.

"Fantastic!!! The best windmill visit I have ever done – and I have done lots of them"

"Very helpful explanations from your volunteers"

"Very informative volunteers"

"Loved it, thanks"

New layout

The new layout, with a separate entrance and exit, meant that we needed at least three guides to be on duty at any one time. Thanks to the commitment of the volunteer guides we were able to open as planned – and we were delighted that other volunteers from the maintenance team were often able to come in to help, talk to visitors and, when possible, turn the sweeps.

Virtual Tour

The new virtual tour, funded by Wealden District Council, has been a real success. Designed for use by people who are unable to climb the steps to the upper floors of the windmill, the virtual tour has also been

used by guides when explaining how the mill works. We have asked users to complete feedback forms and some of the comments are below.

"It was very clear to see and really good, especially for disabled people"

"Very impressed with the panoramic views... lovely to be able to look up at the ceiling as if I was actually standing there"

"A wonderful idea especially for the older visitors"

"It was lovely to be able to see the parts of the windmill too high for me to reach"

Visitor numbers

This year we decided to open every Sunday in July and August, provided that sufficient numbers of guides were available. This has meant that we opened on 26 Sundays/Bank Holidays from Easter until 15th October, had over 830 visitors and took about 90% of these around the mill for the 'full tour'. Mills Day on 15th May was a particular success with nearly 200 visitors in one day; and making a feature of the opening for Heritage Day on 10th September also saw an increase in visitors to over 100. Visits by schools and groups brought the total number of visitors to the mill this season to over 920.

Maintenance

As always, the maintenance team members have worked hard to keep the mill in good order. They were, of course, disappointed

not to be able to get started on milling but have all learnt new skills as a result of having to replace the cogs on the brake-wheel. Just to recap, the cogs of the brake wheel were vibrating due to an incorrect profile, so they have all got to be replaced. The volunteers are working as hard as they can but there are 104 cogs and each one must be individually fitted – there is no quick fix!



Sponsor a Cog

The *Sponsor A Cog* scheme is proving popular – and 25% of the cogs have already been ‘adopted’. If you would like to sponsor

a cog – for yourself or as a present for someone else – then just make a donation of at least £10 and we will enter your name in the cog register and send you a certificate.

Focus on volunteers — Simon Allen



Simon Allen has been a volunteer since 2012. We asked him how he first became involved with the windmill and he told us:

‘My original involvement came by accident. I had been visiting my brother in Bodle Street and on driving down Victoria Road I saw the sweeps of the Windmill turning. I had thought that the Windmill was derelict. Curiosity caused me to pop in. I met Rhys Clatworthy, we had a chat and I discovered that far from being derelict the mill had been restored to a high order but there was much more work to do. Rhys told me that the Mill was looking for volunteers. I have experience in many areas including carpentry and metal work. So shortly after that I turned up on a Wednesday.’

That was the first of many Wednesdays at the mill for Simon. He immediately became involved in helping with the smutter restoration, storm door, brake hook and the brakewheel – all problem areas. The Windmill Hill Windmill Trust sent both Rhys and Simon on a course at SPAB (The Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings) which Simon describes as ‘invaluable’.

Simon’s up-bringing was in a building business. His father was a general builder in Bexhill. His

brother succeeded to the business which still runs to this day. Meanwhile, Simon pursued a career in Criminal Law and continues to work part-time.

As well as helping with restoration and maintenance Simon is also a guide and, behind the scenes, keep records – *‘I carried out a survey of the mill over a longish period and documented what I found. One of my skills is in forensic work from the interpretation of crime scenes, and that skill proved useful in trying to discover how parts worked.’*

Simon likes writing and has written a book on the mathematics of triangles for children. He has a wide range of interests from industrial archaeology, mathematics, physics, electronics, horology, astronomy, theatre and performing arts, magic, gardening and molinology – but stresses that *‘I would not claim to be expert in any field and I am happy to listen to other people’s views’.*



Above: Volunteers from left – Andrew Terry, Rhys Clatworthy, Simon Allen and Peter Goodman

100 club prize draw

The recent prizewinners:

August 2017		October 2017	
1st	Lynda Primrose	1st	Shirley Price
2nd	John Izzard	2nd	Robert Girling
3rd	Christopher Wigfield	3rd	P Carey

Front cover photo:

An arial view of the Mill, September 2017
by Adrian Gates

Diary Dates

Saturday 9th December 11am to 1pm

Come and join the volunteers for mince pies and meet Father Christmas at the mill.

Friday 12th January 2018 – 7 for 7.30pm

Sussex Transport Memories in the 60s - Film show presented by local transport historian John Bishop in the main hall at Herstmonceux Village Hall.

Saturday 10th February 2018 Dance

The return of Recycled! With Ploughman's Supper.

Friday 9th March 2018

Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Windmill at Windmill Hill, 7.30pm in Herstmonceux Village Hall. Followed by a talk on 'The Giants of Brede'.



We now have a MyDonate page so that donations can be made on-line.
mydonate.bt.com/charities/windmillhillwindmilltrust

Find us on 

www.facebook.com/Windmillhillwindmill/

YouTube 

See us on YouTube Channel
[WindmillHill Windmill](#)

Windmill Hill Windmill Trust

Old Bakery, Windmill Hill, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 4RT

Tel: 01323 833033

Email: admin@WindmillHillWindmill.org • www.WindmillHillWindmill.org

Registered Charity No. 1054504

Beatrice Frost BEM (01323 833033)

Trustees: Crispin Freeman (01323 870353); Paul Frost;

Lester Handley (07736 597013); Martyn Mitchell (01424 893158)

The newsletter is available electronically. If you would be happy to receive the newsletter this way, please send an email to admin@windmillhillwindmill.org advising your name and postcode.