

The image shows the interior of a windmill. In the foreground, there is a large, circular stone millstone with a central metal ring. The stone has some markings, including a circular stamp on the right side. Above the millstone, there are several large wooden gears or cogs, some of which are partially obscured by other wooden beams. The structure is made of dark wood, and the lighting is somewhat dim, highlighting the textures of the wood and stone.

Friends of
Windmill Hill Windmill
Newsletter

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Michael Chapman – a tribute

We decided to wait until the Spring before publishing our full tribute to Michael Chapman, who sadly died last August. It is fitting to talk about Michael just before the windmill re-opens for the new season – as he was always so enthusiastic about engaging with the public.

Michael Chapman was a professional mechanical engineer specialising in instrumentation and control for APV until his retirement in 1995. He was a member of the International Molinological Society, The Sussex Mills Group and the Mills Section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). In 2004 he was awarded the prestigious SPAB Mills Section Conservation Award for his work at Stone Cross Windmill. Since 2006 he worked with the Windmill Hill Windmill Trust, providing technical advice on preserving and maintaining the building.

As mentioned above, Michael was a staunch member of the Sussex Mills Group – and we would like to quote from the tribute published in the SMG newsletter last year:

“Unquestionably his strength lay in his ability to source funding for the restoration work both at Stone Cross and Windmill Hill mills and he worked tirelessly to secure what was best for every aspect of the project.

There were instances when he was not the easiest person to get on with but this was simply because he just wanted what was right for the mill and was determined that authenticity be adhered to. Mike was a true follower of the old adage ‘if a job is worth doing it is worth doing well’.

He also helped out at Cross-in-Hand Mill.



Next on his ever-busy agenda was the possible restoration of Hellingly Watermill, but regrettably this was not to be.

Mike was a mechanical and electrical engineer plus he was a self-taught radio ham, all of which stood him in good stead when he did his National Service in the RAF. He was always keen to ensure that as many of our mills were ‘on air’ on National Mills Day.

The Guide Dogs for the Blind also benefitted from Mike’s attention and over the years he, along with his wife, raised in excess of one million pounds for the training and welfare of these wonderful animals.

Mike, we admire you, we thank you for your invaluable contribution to the Sussex mills scene and will miss you dearly.”

The Windmill Hill Windmill Trust echoes those sentiments. Michael, we thank you for all that you did for our windmill.

Front cover photo:
Profiled cogs,
28 February 2018

100 club prize draw *The recent prizewinners:*

December 2017	
1st	Gillian Beecher
2nd	Rhys Clatworthy
3rd	Ray Dixon

February 2018	
1st	L Primrose
2nd	P Frost
3rd	J Izzard

Annual General Meeting 2018



The AGM was held on 9th March attended by 39 Friends and guests. We were delighted to sign up two new Friends at the meeting as well as four new members of the 100 Club.

Paul Frost chaired the meeting and made presentations of Life Memberships to Brian Holdstock (pictured right, who retired as a trustee in 2017) and John and Maureen Bishop (above) who retired as members of the Friends Committee in 2018.

Trustee Lester Handley presented the Trust's strategic plan.

The Rules of the Friends Committee were amended to increase the number of elected members. Jenny Alder, June Axon, Rhys Clatworthy, Sally Dickinson and Philip Price were elected to the committee. Copies of the amended rules can be provided on request.

After the AGM business, Barbara and Stan Atkinson gave a fascinating presentation on the Giants of Brede, the story of the Hastings water supply.



Latest on cogs

The maintenance team have now profiled 11 cogs. These have been tested by running them through the stone nut. This was done by installing the quant, bringing the brake wheel into mesh and turning the sweeps by hand to check that (i) the centres were correct and (ii) that the meshing was running in and out smoothly. The team are now satisfied with the profile and are working on the remaining 93 cogs.

There is still time to Sponsor a Cog. Just send a donation of at least £10 and we will send you a certificate and record your name on the virtual brake wheel.



Members of the maintenance team with the cogs fitted into the mortises

The windmill re-opens to the public on Easter Sunday and Monday (1st and 2nd April) and is then open on the first and third Sunday of the month until October, on bank holiday Mondays and every Sunday of May, July and August.

Sunday 13th May 2018

Mills Day is on Sunday 13th May 11:00 am to 4:30pm

Sunday 10th June 2018

National Garden Scheme: The windmill is the venue for teas and refreshments for the Herstmonceux Parish Trail on Sunday 10th June. There will be teas, coffees and cakes from 12 noon until 5pm (with a BBQ from 12-2).

Saturday 8th September

Dance to the music of the 50s and 60s performed by popular local band *Recycled*.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

From 25 May 2018 the law is changing and we need to inform you of how we are using and storing your data. The Friends of Windmill Hill Windmill (Windmill Hill Windmill Trust) holds basic personal data for the purposes of administering your membership, managing volunteering, distributing the newsletter, keeping you informed of events and activities and making gift aid claims. We keep this data electronically. We hold the data securely and your data is not sold or shared with any third party. You can ask us to stop using your data whenever you like.



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The newsletter is available in hard copy or electronically. If you have received a copy by post and would be happy to receive the newsletter by email instead, please send an email to admin@windmillhillwindmill.org advising your name and postcode.