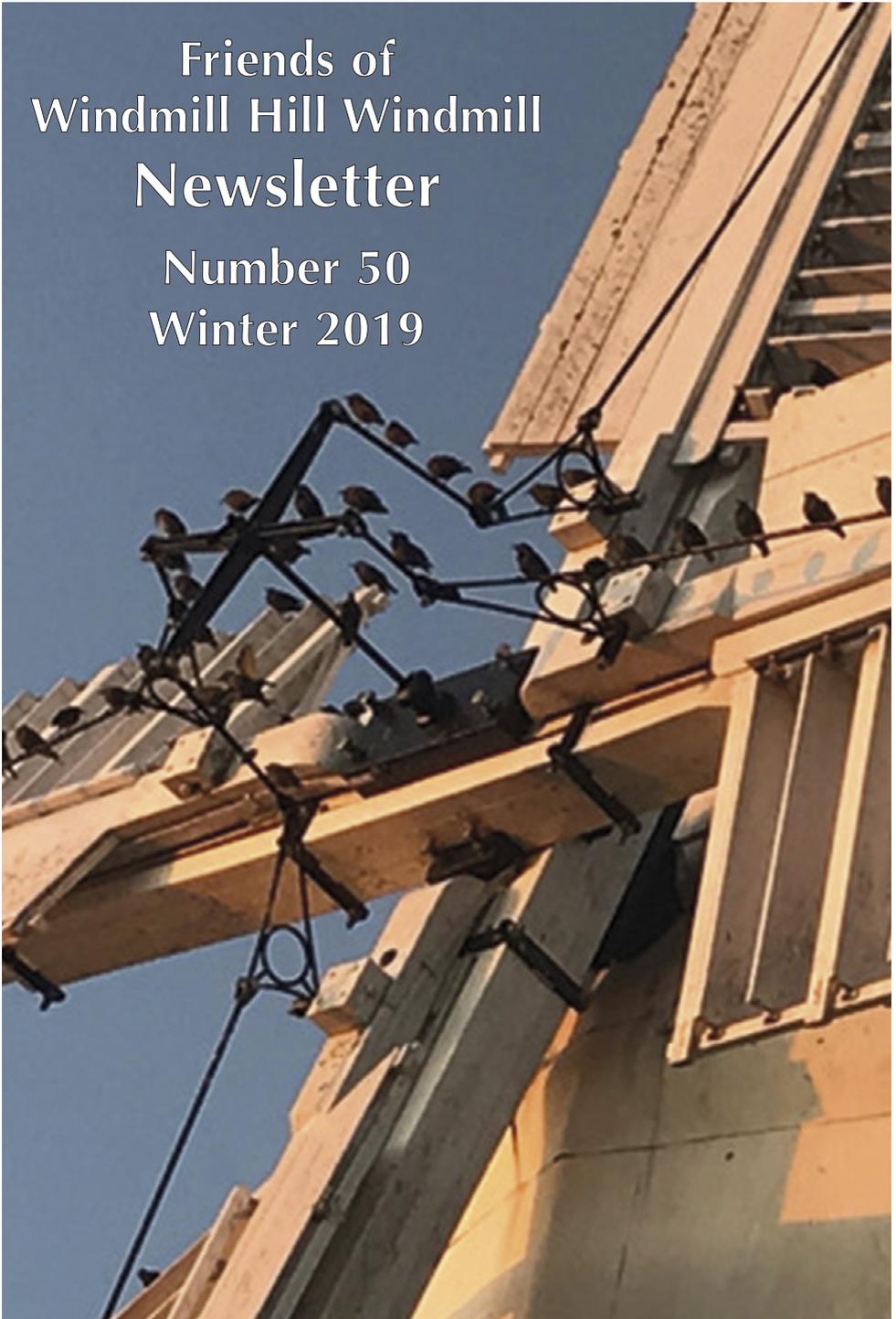


Friends of
Windmill Hill Windmill
Newsletter

Number 50
Winter 2019



2019 – a summer of sadness and setbacks

In our Spring Newsletter we were looking forward to beginning to mill again at the windmill at Windmill Hill. We reported on the completion of the re-cogging project (an article which was also published in the magazine of the Mills Section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings). Team leader Rhys Clatworthy was preparing a basic milling course for mill volunteers — and everything looked set for milling to commence.

But sadly, it was not to be. Instead, 2019 was a summer of sadness and setbacks. Not long after running the first milling course on 18th June — and on the very day that Friends gathered to unveil a plaque to mark the completion of the re-cogging project — Rhys passed away after the return of the cancer that he had overcome a few years before. The Friends went ahead with the unveiling ceremony on the 26th June — we hoped this was what Rhys would have wanted.

Rhys had been a volunteer at the windmill since 2007 both as a member of the

maintenance team and as a guide. He was a key player in the decision to restore the milling machinery. In 2016 Rhys took on the role of team-leader of the maintenance crew and inspired the members to work together — not least on the project to replace the cogs on the brake-wheel.

Rhys was a fantastic advocate for the windmill, an inspiring leader of the maintenance team and a wonderful guide, instructor and speaker. His delight in talking about the mill to visitors, especially children, was obvious. He is greatly missed.

We sadly also lost Martyn Bidgood, who passed away in June. Martyn loved the mill and was an enthusiastic, willing and helpful volunteer who carried out all the electrical work in recent years.

The volunteers who had attended Rhys's course planned to continue to learn how to operate the mill, but this was brought to an end when it was realised that the framework of the sweeps had deteriorated. Although not visible to the naked eye, it became apparent



Left: Cogs plaque presentation, 26th June.

Below: Rhys Clatworthy.





Left: Tower scaffold to access the sweeps.

Above: Cleaning the mill.

that some of the wood was rotting and would have to be replaced. Of course, this meant that the sweeps could not be turned by the wind until fully repaired and, consequently, the commissioning of the milling machinery has once again come to a halt.

Needless to say, fixing the sweeps is now the priority. The team have done as much as they can from the ground using a freestanding scaffold tower but will soon need to undertake a full inspection using a cherry picker; and it may be that the sweeps will have to be removed to complete the necessary repairs.

Meanwhile, other work has been completed. The buck was completely cleaned earlier in the year thanks to an anonymous donation to cover the cost of the cherry-picker and very hard work by David Richardson of Extreme Clean Pure Water Window Cleaning, and Alfie Poland of Mayfield Cattery, supported by maintenance volunteers Andrew Terry, Peter Millington, Michael Farrant and Richard Kemp.

A new pathway around the mill to the north door, repairs to the steps to

the buck and improved lighting in the outer roundhouse have enhanced the facilities for visitors. And numbers have increased this year — we had over 1,000 visitors who came to open days or as part of a group tour. Mills Day in May attracted over 100 people, as did Heritage Day in September — and our new pop-up tea tent proved popular in July and August.

Sally Dickinson

Summertime tea at the mill.



Christmas opening

The windmill will open for Christmas from 11am until 1pm on Saturday 7th December.

AGM

The 2020 AGM will be on Friday 6th March at 7.30pm. We are looking for new committee members for the Friends Committee and welcome expressions of interest.

Opening dates 2020

The windmill will open on 12th April and then on every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday to the end of August, plus the first and third Sundays in September and October.

Front cover photo:

Paul Frost

100 club prize draw *The recent prizewinners:*

April 2019	June 2019	August 2019
1st Ray Dixon	1st K Hopper-Young	1st Shirley Price
2nd Peter Millington	2nd Hue Mead	2nd Mary Murphy
3rd Rhys Clatworthy	3rd Robert Girling	3rd Sally Dickinson

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We now have a VirginMoneyGiving page so that donations can be made on-line. <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?uniqueVmgCharityUrl=windmillhillwindmill>

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