



Friends of
Windmill Hill Windmill
Newsletter

Number 51
Autumn 2020

Windmill sweeps

In our Winter 2019 newsletter we reported that the windmill sweeps had deteriorated and we expected that they would have to be removed for repair. In fact, following closer inspection from the top of a cherry-picker it became clear that the condition of the sweeps was such that they would have to be replaced — some ten years before expected. This was, to put it mildly, a blow! The trustees had been building up reserves for sweep replacement, but on the basis that the full sum would not be required until 2030. Initial estimates showed that the work would cost at least £45,000 (excluding the £20,000 value of volunteer input) and less than a quarter of that sum was available. More funds were needed and a programme of fundraising to grant-giving trusts began in February 2020 with view to starting the project immediately following the 2020 visitor season.

Of course, we all know what happened in March 2020. The need to contain the COVID 19 pandemic meant that the windmill could not open to visitors. Nor was it possible to arrange local fundraising activities and events. So, we pushed ahead with grant applications — now, not just for the sweep replacement project but also for the essential running costs normally funded from visitor donations.



We were fortunate to get help with operating costs from the Heritage Fund and the COVID 19 Business Support Grant; and have raised some funds for the sweeps from the Leche Fund, the Ian Askew Charitable Trust and the Garfield Weston Foundation. We are still hopeful that the project will be able to start before the winter — but will put back the date to September 2021 if this is not possible.

Opening in 2021

When the windmill next opens to the public there will be new arrangements in place to ensure the safety of visitors and volunteers. With a grant from the Heritage Fund we have

purchased PPE and sanitising products ready for next season — and we are looking at new ways of arranging tours. If possible, we will trial these new plans with a small group of visitors next month.

Visitors to the windmill

In our autumn newsletter we would normally report on visitor attendance and special open days held during the year. Just before lockdown we were delighted to welcome children, parents and teachers from the reception class of Herstmonceux Church of England Primary School but, since then, sadly there is nothing to report.



For the first time in twenty years the windmill was not open for National Mills Day, and for the first time since 2006 the mill has not welcomed visitors on a regular basis. So, instead, we hope that you will appreciate these photographs of the windmill from 2006.



Left: The first guided tour.

Top: The first visitors.

Below: Visitors ascend to trestle floor.



Steam engines on Mills Day 2001.

New status for the Windmill Hill Windmill Trust

During 2020 the Windmill Hill Windmill Trust has been making plans to change its status from an *Unincorporated Association* to a *Charitable Incorporated Organisation*. These plans have also been affected by COVID 19 but it is hoped that the final arrangements will be in place before the end of September. WHWT will then have a new registered charity number and we will have to update all of our documents and forms — including gift aid declarations. When we send the new forms to you, please complete and return them as soon as you can.

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Missing being able to visit the Windmill?

Why not buy something to remind you of it?
All profits go to the maintenance and preservation of the windmill at Windmill Hill.

Slate fridge magnets 6.3 cm – £2.00

Slate coasters 8.5 cm – £2.50



100 club prize draw: *The recent prizewinners*

October 2019

1st Peter Millington
2nd Shirley Price
3rd Peter Carey

December 2019

1st Peter Carey
2nd Shirley Price
3rd Ray Dixon

February 2020

1st Ray & Sylvia Burlton
2nd Ray Dixon
3rd Alan Mead

April 2020

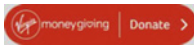
1st Jean Bewick
2nd Karl Hopper-Young
3rd Roger Wintle

June 2020

1st Edward Frost
2nd Karl Hopper-Young
3rd Lynda Primrose

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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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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.