



**The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service**

*The MBE for volunteer groups*

## Issue 18 Winter 2018

### Review of 2017

by Jamie Duff, Green's Windmill Trust Heritage Officer (image 14)

The year 2017 has been such an up and down year for the windmill that it's felt like a rollercoaster ride of emotion. The major highlight was, of course, receiving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service; the MBE for volunteer groups, the royal stamp of approval and the highest of all accolades.

#### Remembrance

Sadly, we lost two inspiring and wonderful individuals linked to George Green in 2017. Firstly, Sir Peter Mansfield passed away in February. Amongst other things, Sir Peter was responsible for the development of the MRI scanner. He used Green's function for calculating the complex systems which were central to the design and working of the actively screened coils in the MRI scanner. Then in March we lost Professor Lawrie Challis who started the campaign to save the mill in the 1970s. If it wasn't for Lawrie's vision and enthusiasm the mill might never have been restored and the science centre created and so we owe him a great deal for championing George Green and his mill. *[There's more on a commemoration of Lawrie later on in the newsletter - Ed]*

#### Visitors and events

On the numbers side we enjoyed a record summer with trading, donations and footfall all up compared to the same period in 2016. Overall, however, trading and footfall across the year decreased by a very small percentage compared to 2016. Much of this could, perhaps, be due to delays to the work on the mill cap early this year, as two weeks of work turned into six. The mill was out of action during this period and we saw our worst footfall and income across February and March since 2012. However, if you ignore the first three months and compare the remainder of the year to 2016, income is up while footfall has been maintained. Despite the frustration caused by the delays, the work will safeguard the cap for many more years and secure the integrity of the building. This was all at no cost to the Trust as Nottingham City Council, who own the mill, funded the work.



**We had our one millionth visitor at the Carols in the Millyard in 2008. Since then we have had another 220,000 visitors.**

During the busy summer period the children's activities regularly had 50+ attendances. The pizza making session in particular hit 99 children taking part, at which point we realised the activities had become so popular that running them as 'drop in' sessions was no longer viable. Over 50 children 'dropped in' during the first hour and despite the sterling efforts of our volunteers, some people inevitably had to wait – some up to 45 minutes. This was the catalyst for change; since October half term we have been running the activities as timed, booked sessions and I'm pleased to say it's working well. People taking part no longer have to wait and we can plan accordingly, for example, if we know how many people are attending we can buy the correct amount of ingredients. How far we've come; five years ago if we had ten children taking part this was deemed

a success. Better promotion of events and the positive reputation created by our volunteers have enhanced the activities to a level that I never dreamt possible.

### **A record flour milling session**

The 'Storm Brian' weekend stands out as a defining moment of the year. Much of the hard work was done on the Friday; lifting sacks of grain to the top floor, cleaning the grain and loading the hoppers full. And it was certainly worth it, over 900kg of flour were ground across the two days during a combined 17 hours of milling. On Saturday alone half a tonne was produced, a record for this mill in one day since its restoration. It should be noted that retired miller and now volunteer David Bent ran the mill largely single-handed during the storm, so much of the credit should go to him. It was magical seeing the mill working nonstop for so long and seeing the flour produced at the end of it. The sacks seemed endless as we weighed it all out. It's definitely a memory I will never forget.

### **Nottingham University**

The Trust was again successful in its application to take on a student intern from the University of Nottingham. MSc Genetics student Abigail continued the brilliant work of our previous student Rachel in developing ideas for an overhaul of the Science Centre. Her outstanding research and contribution have given the Trust further direction on the project which will, we hope, come to fruition over the next few years.

### **TV stars**

Along with our miller Andy I was excited to make my national television debut during the summer on the popular BBC One cookery show *Saturday Kitchen*. The production team visited the mill and filmed a short feature about the milling processes and the work of the Trust, giving us nationwide publicity.

### **Our volunteers**

The wonderful community garden has now been open for 18 months and our volunteers successfully grew their own grains this year, demonstrating the full process of grain to bread, a great example of 'field to food'. And the funding has finally been secured to complete the engine project, which will help make Green's Windmill even more environmentally friendly.



Our new trainee miller, Leigh Evans

Finally, 2017 has seen the opening of the much needed volunteers room, a project I've had on my agenda for many years. It provides a private, quiet indoor space for our volunteers to relax in and enjoy lunch.

### **Our New Trainee Miller**

We are delighted to have appointed a new trainee miller. The post has been vacant since former trainee Andy Hallam took over as head miller in July. The position is funded by an Arts Council grant that has previously been administered by Nottingham City Museums. However, the remaining balance of the grant, which will cover the next six months, has been passed to the Trust to administer.



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Advertisement of the role caught the imagination of the local media, with BBC East Midlands Today, BBC Radio Nottingham, Notts TV and the Nottingham Post all running pieces about the job, which

generated lots of positive media coverage about the Trust and the Mill.

We are delighted to have appointed Leigh Evans as trainee miller. Leigh volunteered at the Mill during 2014-15 prior to working at Wollaton Hall which he will be leaving to start at Green's Windmill from the 1<sup>st</sup> February. We hope that the duration of the post will be extended beyond the initial six months, but this is dependent on the Trust finding the funding to do so.

Please do pop by the Mill and say 'hello' to Leigh in February.



## Green's Windmill Trust is a Co-op Local Cause!



Green's Windmill Trust has been selected as a Co-op Local Cause. Every time Co-op members present their Co-op card when they shop, 1% of what they spend on selected own-brand products and services goes to the Co-op Local Community Fund. This may not sound like much, but if enough of our supporters choose us then it could add up to a tidy sum . . . And at no cost to yourselves.

The scheme runs until 27 October 2018. If you live within 15 miles of Green's Windmill, please help us receive as much money as possible by going online to:

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/13543>

and selecting Green's Windmill Trust as your cause to support.

## Nottingham Civic Society and Crowdfunder Donations to Complete Engine Project

As featured in the previous edition of the newsletter, the Trust was successful in their application to the M&S Community Energy Fund for a chance to receive funding to complete a 'Green Energy' project. The project is to use a 1950s Ruston Hornsby engine running on recycled chip oil to power a set of millstones that currently run on mains power to produce flour on days when the wind doesn't blow. Money saved when running the electrically driven millstones will allow the charity to invest in community participation, widening the Trust's public engagement across its core themes— science, heritage, environment, art and maths. Unfortunately, the Trust didn't receive enough votes and so were unsuccessful in their bid to raise the required money through the scheme. However, £163 was raised from crowdfunding which was facilitated by M&S.



Jamie Duff, Tom Huggon, Hilary Silvester and Andy Hallam

Then, very generously, Nottingham Civic Society agreed to grant £2,500 to the Trust to complete the project. Ian Wells and Hilary Silvester of the Nottingham Civic Society presented a cheque to staff and trustees at the mill on 21<sup>st</sup> December. This is the latest of many donations that the Civic Society have made to Green's Mill over the past 40 years or so.

Even though raising money through the M&S scheme was unsuccessful, the awareness raised for the project has been invaluable. As well as eventually raising the money through different avenues, large quantities of recycled chip oil have been sourced, positive media coverage has been gained and a web-hosting organisation, themselves powered by green energy, have kindly agreed to design and host our website and email for free [*more about that in the next edition of the newsletter - Ed*]. Work will now begin to complete the engine project, with a launch date pencilled in for Easter. Plaques to commemorate donors and the Civic Society will also be unveiled at that time.

## Oh, no! Not another Award!

Green's Windmill Trust volunteers have received two more prestigious awards to add to their Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the Marsh Trust Regional Award and the Nottingham City Homes Award won earlier in the year. Firstly, on 9<sup>th</sup> November at a ceremony held at Nottingham Trent University, the Trust received an East Midlands Heritage Award, winning in the 'Heart of the Community' category, recognising heritage projects that have had a positive impact on people and/or communities. Staff and volunteers were presented with the award by Aly Stoneman, poetry editor at LeftLion Magazine. Aly visited Green's Windmill as a



'secret shopper' in advance of the awards and wrote a poem about the windmill which she read out at the ceremony. You can read Aly's beautiful poem below.

Following that, at the Nottingham City Museums and Galleries Annual Volunteer Awards on 4<sup>th</sup> December, the Mill volunteers won 'Top Team',

in recognition of all the efforts and accolades they have won over the last twelve months. Receiving these awards is a testament to the commitment and dedication of the team in what has been such a special year for them. Well done all!

Complementing these awards, we retained both our Green Flag Award and Britain in Bloom Level 5 status for the community garden as well as our Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence. It's been a bumper year for awards and accolades.



## GREEN'S MILL

Aly Stoneman

In Green's Mill garden  
a terrier chases a ball  
among fallen apples,  
notes of balm and sage  
sing through autumn leaves  
cleared from turned soil  
and plans are laid  
for spring planting.

*We are willing*  
affirm the windmill's sails;  
inside the brick tower  
machinery rumbles,  
soft flour permeating air,  
dusting every surface  
as it did two centuries ago  
before derelict years  
as Nottingham grew –  
houses and factories  
advancing over farmland.

Yet Green's Mill remains  
a place for milling and baking,  
a space to draw breath,  
sow seeds, spark ideas –  
the core of Sneinton.

*We are willing* –  
white sails turn again;  
a kettle whistles *ready*  
inside the garden shed  
and wheat whispers  
in a rising breeze  
*plant to grain to bread.*





At a ceremony during the Green's Mill

2013	Shaun Hughes	232 hours
2014	Leigh Evans	451 hours
2015	Ellie Powner	269 hours
2016	Peter Fowles	270 hours
2017	Dave Pitt	353 hours

Green's Windmill Trust  
THE  
CHALLIS CHALLENGE

2013 SHAUN HUGHES  
2014 LEIGH EVANS  
2015 ELLIE POWNER  
2016 PETER FOWLES  
2017 DAVE PITT



The Trust were delighted to raise over £700 at the annual Green November. Almost 400 visitors attended the three-hour event, which featured 22 stalls, windmill tours and pizzas made in the community garden pizza oven. Then, at the annual Carols on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 750 visitors sang along with the Nottingham Ukulele Club and the Arnold branch of the Salvation Army. Hot dogs, mushy peas and mince pies, made with Green's Mill flour by our friend Baz at Bake Off and Pie, were enjoyed by the large crowd, while mulled wine kept the chill at bay. Almost £1,100 was raised for the charity, which is a great boost during what can otherwise be a slow month. The money from both events will help us to keep the mill open and operating. Again, a huge thanks to all the stall holders who attended, all the people who visited and donated and all the volunteers that helped make these two events such a great success and ones to remember.



## Carols in the Millyard

## More Work on the Windmill

Some of you may remember that back in June we had some repairs carried out on the fantail, replacing some of the tie rods which keep the individual fan boards rigid. This was a temporary measure to ensure the mill could continue to operate over the busy summer period, but in the longer term each individual fan board would need replacing as they were rotting. This work was pencilled in for the Autumn/Winter period and has now commenced, with Traditional Millwrights Ltd returning to remove the fan boards and mechanism.

The fantail mechanism turns the sails into the wind automatically for optimum milling, so is a very important part of the windmill. The sails can still operate without it, but it requires staff to either crank the cap round by hand so the sails are facing the wind, or hope that the wind is blowing in the right direction. You might be surprised to hear that it is generally no windier during winter than in summer - it can be totally random.

The Millwrights also discovered rot on the fantail platform which will need repairing before the replacement fantail can be attached. Obviously there's no good time to have work like this carried out, but it shouldn't have too much effect on the production of flour. Completion of the work should take place early in the New Year.

## A Special Guest Visits Green's Windmill

Green's Windmill received a visit from a very special guest on 8<sup>th</sup> November when the one and only Pudsey Bear dropped by accompanied by BBC Radio Nottingham's Verity Cowley. He was going to have a ride on the sails, but unfortunately there wasn't enough wind to turn them. His visit was part of the BBC Radio Nottingham staff taking Pudsey out and about across Nottinghamshire to raise awareness for BBC's *Children in Need*. As part of the visit Verity interviewed the Trust's Heritage Officer Jamie Duff for her radio show. Thanks to Verity and Pudsey for dropping in.



## Green's Windmill Maps its way to a Donation . . . of Maps!

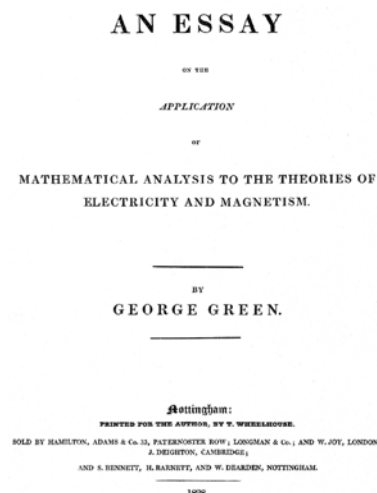


Nottingham Civic Society have kindly donated to us a large quantity of historical maps of the city and county. These reprints are a valuable resource for students of local history, look good on noticeboards or walls and make excellent gifts. Maps by Badder & Peat, Henry Moses Wood and John Speed feature amongst many others. The maps are being organised and sorted and will be on sale in the New Year. Look out for a rundown of the full collection in the next edition of the newsletter. We are very grateful to the Nottingham Civic Society for this generous donation, the latest of many donations from the Society over the past 40 years or so. Also thanks to Civic Society trustee Alan Bates for his help during the collection and moving of the maps to the windmill.

## Reprint of George Green's Essays

At last we are reprinting all of George Green's scientific papers. There will be

three volumes; one is the famous 1828 Essay on Electricity and Magnetism and the other two are all his other papers collected. These are publications we have wanted to print for a while, but it is only now that we have received the funding to do so. One hundred copies of each volume will be printed and they not currently available anywhere else. They will be priced at £10.00 each, or £25.00 for all three. They are likely to be printed early in the New Year, but if you would like to reserve any copies in advance please do so by emailing [info@greensmill.org.uk](mailto:info@greensmill.org.uk) or by calling 0115 915 6878.





## Coming Events

The events programme is as packed as ever over the coming months with events and activities taking place for children and adults. For further information about any of our events please call 0115 916 6878 or look online at our website or Facebook page.

13 <sup>th</sup> January	Textiles Class
28 <sup>th</sup> January	Candlelit Memorial for Holocaust Memorial Day
14 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Festival of Science and Curiosity - Discover George Green
17 <sup>th</sup> February	Salt Dough Modelling
18 <sup>th</sup> February	Festival of Science and Curiosity - Afternoon Talk: George Green Mathematical Physicist and the Mill
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	Biscuit Making
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Mini Pizza Making
10 <sup>th</sup> March	Sweet Treats for Mother's Day
14 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week
30 <sup>th</sup> Mar - 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Eggciting Easter Eggstravaganza
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Biscuits
7 <sup>th</sup> April	Cheese Straws
12 <sup>th</sup> April	Children's Bread Baking
14 <sup>th</sup> April	Windmills on a Stick



## Some Nottinghamshire Windmills

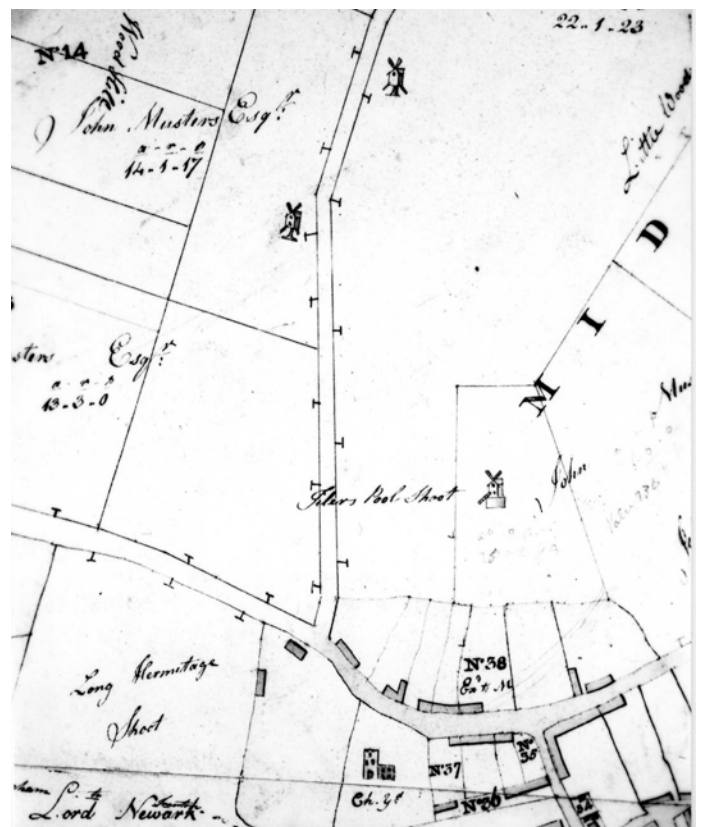
### The Mills of Windmill Lane, Nottingham

As has been noted before, teasing out the history of particular mills can be intriguing as they can change their names, be knocked down or otherwise destroyed and rebuilt or even be moved to new locations. The windmills that once stood on Windmill Lane in Nottingham are no exception.

A map of Nottingham dated 1805 shows three mills on Windmill Lane. The most southerly is depicted as a postmill with a brick-built roundhouse around its base. Further up Windmill Lane, on the left (approximately now the site of the Queen Adelaide pub) is a postmill without a roundhouse and there is another such on the right (more or less the site of the present primary school)

The first of these mills is on the site of the present Green's Mill. In 1807 Mr Green, a Nottingham baker (and father of the mathematical physicist George Green) bought the plot of land on which to build his mill. The postmill that occupied the site was not included in the sale and was dismantled and re-erected further up Windmill Lane. The Doncaster Gazette of 14 October 1836 records its fate;

On Tuesday morning very early, Nottingham was visited with a very high wind which at seven o'clock blew down a windmill at Sneinton, in the occupation of Mr Marson of Wood Street, Nottingham. The miller was inside at the time and was very severely hurt. The mill is very old and the centre or king post was quite rotten.



The Nottingham Review added further details, particularly noting the mill's migration from the site of our mill. (It also adds a little confusion to the tale by saying that the mill belonged to a Mr Pepper whereas the precious account names Mr Marson as being 'in occupation').



A detail of a painting by Henry Dawson mid-19C  
To the left is the tower of Sneinton parish church and to the right Green's Mill.  
Rather indistinctly between them is a postmill.

We can glean information from the records of insurance companies as windmills were often insured against fire, a continual risk to wooden structures that could ignite if the miller was inattentive and allowed the millstones to rub one on another, causing a shower of sparks. Mills were also susceptible to being struck by lightning. In 1787 the Sun Insurance Company issued a fire policy to  
*'Thomas Day of Bottle Lane in the town of Nottingham, baker. On his dwelling house, Bakehouse and stable adjoining situate as aforesaid brick and tiled £250. Post Windmill and stable under situated on Sneinton Hill near Nottingham aforesaid £300'*

It seems that 29 years later Mr Day put his mill up for sale, as the Nottingham Journal notes on 2 March 1816:  
*'To be sold by Auction on Wednesday March 13, 1816. That capital Post Wind Mill very advantageously situated in Sneinton Field, now in the occupation of Mr Thomas Day, who will show the same, and give further information to Persons wishing to purchase it.'*

Another Sun Fire Insurance policy, dated 1778, was issued to  
*'Adam Wagstaff of Snenton in the Co. Of Nottingham, Miller, and Francis Beck of Wollaston in the same county, grocer. On their Corn timber windmill with the going geers and utensils therein situated in the parish of Snenton, £200.'*

We cannot be certain to which mills these policies refer.

In 1904 local historian James Grainger wrote that:

*'At Sneinton, and not far from the upper side of the church, is a thoroughfare known as Windmill Lane, which leads to the high ground in that part, and near to it about fifty years since were two post windmills, the approach to which was from the lane. The first to be reached when going up the hill was in a field to the left and probably 400 yards from the bottom of the lane. It was for many years occupied by Mr. George Parkins, baker, who at one time carried on an extensive business at the lower end of Goose-gate. It was probably in his possession until its removal.'*

Mr Grainger then notes that:

*'A little higher up the lane (Windmill Lane), but in a field on the opposite side (i.e. right) was another mill, which for many years was occupied by John Bennett, and known as Bennet's Mill, but the last in possession of it was the late William Oakland, who has previously been mentioned as being connected with assisting at the largest post mill on the Forest. This mill also had a pair or set of patent sails similar to the one at the top of Back-lane (Wollaton Street)'*

So Bennett's Mill became Oakland's Mill. William Oakland had been the last miller at Green's windmill before it ceased to work c. 1865. In 1881 the Stamford Mercury advertised  
*'Post Windmill to let, situate at Sneinton, Notts. Apply to W. Oakland, Windmill Hill, Sneinton'*

This mill was the last Nottingham mill to work by wind power.





Two views of Oakland's Mill